



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening statement:** "I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can."

**Q: What's impressed you about Keith Smith so far?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think the most impressive thing is his awareness. His ability to play tight end, full back, in the slot, cover kicks. He's just a natural football player. He's got great instincts. He learns extremely fast. He plays physical. Just what we want in a fullback. Smart, physical, durable and versatile."

**Q: Do you think those instincts are why he became a fullback?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, he still brags about picking off Derek Carr in college at linebacker. He earned his way into the league with the Cowboys. That's not an easy team to make. Became a really good special teams player. He's going to be quite a fullback I believe."

**Q: Has Doug Martin shown you what you need to see at practice?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's showed us a lot. We think he's a really good back. I don't know how much he's going to play against Green Bay, honestly. We're going to play the starters on offense, I believe, into the second quarter. We're not going to play them a whole lot, but they will get some time. Hopefully they have some success. Defensively, it'll be about the same. Doug has done a heck of a job for us. Hopefully we can utilize his strengths this season."

**Q: From 21-personnel do you think it would be fair to say, across the NFL, it's as physical of a 21 grouping as it gets? Just with the offensive line and the backs that you had, mentioning Keith as a fullback?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We like that personnel grouping. We like a lot of our personnel groupings. Whatever package helps us win a game is where we're going to go. We think we have some components in that grouping, two backs, one tight end and two receivers will be pretty good."

**Q: DeAndré Washington, how's he? What's his status?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He had a minor scope on his knee. He will not play against Green Bay. I don't know that he'll play against Seattle either, but he's recovering quickly."

**Q: Is there any update on Khalil Mack?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't have any update, no."

**Q: Do you expect to see him before preseason is over?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I hope so. I don't have anything to report other than I don't have anything to report."

**Q: How does that issue or injury with DeAndré affect things?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We like DeAndré. I think the running back position from top to bottom could be the best group on our football team. Marshawn [Lynch] has had a great camp. Doug's had a great camp. Jalen Richard is a superb back. He can do a lot of things. Washington can do a lot of things. You saw him in the Detroit game. You saw him the last couple of seasons. Chris Warren has a lot of people's attention around the league. And we have a fullback. Hopefully we find a way to keep all our backs."

**Q: Did you find Derek Carrier to be a quick study because of his connections with your brother?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah. I can just remember going to training camp and watching the Redskins. Everybody liked Carrier. Talking to my son, he liked Carrier. Then when [Sean] McVay went to the Rams and [Greg] Olson joined him, they like Carrier. Then when free agency came around, I liked Carrier. I think he's going to be a really good player for us. Some guys take four or five years to find their niche and get their opportunity. He'll get his this year."



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**Q: What are you going to be looking for from the tackle position with Donald Penn at right tackle?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well he's obviously getting himself back into playing shape. Certainly, he has to get acclimate to playing right tackle, but he's played it before. He can play it again. The big thing we just want to see is some progress in his conditioning. We want to see progress in Kolton Miller and our entire offense, honestly. It's been a while since they played. Detroit seems like a long time ago."

**Q: Do you think it's likely that Eddie Vanderdoes will begin the season on PUP?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's getting to look that way. I mean I don't want to say right now, but he's had no offseason work and hasn't had one day of practice yet. He's getting better, but it's been a slow process."

### **RB Doug Martin**

**Q: How much preseason work do you need at this stage of your career?**

**Martin:** "In the previous years I've had some work in the preseason, but I guess I am getting a little older now. [Head Coach] [Jon] Gruden is taking care of his 'vets' and his running backs because I know the type of season we're going to have and the type of work that we're going to produce, it's actually a good idea that we get less in the preseason. So, he's going to take care of our bodies during practice and after practice and make sure that we get our conditioning in after practice."

**Q: What have been your takeaways from Chris Warren III this preseason and offseason?**

**Martin:** "I've seen a lot of progress from Chris. He's done a good job. He still has some rookie mistakes and he's still learning the playbook and being consistent, but he's a hard worker. He's a big back, definitely a bruiser and I can't wait to see what he's going to do for us."

**Q: Do you feel like you can be ready for the regular season without many reps in the preseason?**

**Martin:** "Yeah, definitely. But, there's nothing like that live contact though. This upcoming preseason game that we're going to have, not sure how long that I'll play or any other backs will play, but I can't wait to get that live contact."

**Q: Height wise, are you about 5-foot-9?**

**Martin:** "I'm 5-11 in the morning, you know. *(laughter)* By the end of the day, I'm probably around like 5-10 maybe... gravity. *(laughter)*"

**Q: Does height have an effect on the pad level of a running back in relation to Warren III's tall frame?**

**Martin:** "Definitely, he's just not tall but he's heavy, about 255. Once he gets running, that's a lot of force. That's a lot of weight. I'm about 5-10, whatever, so my advantage is I have leverage, so that's the advantage I have."

**Q: Are you making the type of progress that you would expect at this point in preseason and are you comfortable with where you're at?**

**Martin:** "I do, I do. You know, I came into a new system this year, so OTAs, being in camp until now, I've gotten accustomed to the offensive line and doing camp with pads and practice. So I definitely feel like I'm where I need to be."

**Q: What have been your impressions of Keith Smith thus far?**

**Martin:** "Good impressions, he's our full back. We want a nice hard-nosed, tough, mentally tough full back who is going to stick his nose in there, go into the trenches and move guys out of the way for us. He's a great catcher, he's physical and he's smart. Definitely happy to have him with us."



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**Q: How much 21-personnel did you run in Tampa Bay?**

**Martin:** "Quite a bit, quite a bit. I'm a Raider now, so it's something that I don't really think about."

**Q: Is there anything you have to adjust with the new helmet rule?**

**Martin:** "That's a tough question. With these new rules, I'm not sure. Haven't got a lot of live reps, so we'll see. I view myself as a hard-nosed, tough runner. It's something that you don't really think about while you're playing. If they call it, then you just have to be mindful of it. We'll see what happens, because there's a lot of new rules and we'll see how it goes."

**Q: You seem very comfortable since the day you arrived. How has this been for you thus far?**

**Martin:** "Well, yeah, when you go home to your house, do you feel relaxed? This is my home. I was born in Oakland. I got a lot of family around here, a lot of guys who live around here – friends, cousins – so, it's comfortable. They do a good job of having that vibe around the organization that it's a family vibe."

**Q: What does your free time look like now, now that you have many people in the area that you know?**

**Martin:** "It's cool to call my mom, because she's about an hour away, my friends are about 30, 40 minutes away that I grew up with in high school, cousins that live in Sacramento. So, it's nice to have people, my grandpa lives right up the hill. It's about like 14 minutes away. It's nice to have those types of people around me. So, when I get bored I can just go to their house and call them."

**Q: Is your grandpa in Oakland?**

**Martin:** "Yes."

**Q: Coach Gruden said he would be okay with not seeing too much of you and Marshawn in the preseason. Do you feel like there may be an element of not wanting to reveal too much of what you guys are doing and are you okay with that?**

**Martin:** "Yeah, I'm okay with that. Gruden is a smart guy. He knows what he's doing."