



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

#### **Q: How much of a benefit is it to have a few days off?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We just try to take advantage of that part of it, to get a couple of days for the guys to kind of rest up and recharge a little bit. Then we have a big push starting with a trip down to San Diego."

#### **Q: Did you see the pass to Amari Cooper hit a wire?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "The angel in the outfield. I mean, it moved. I don't know if it hit a wire or the angel in the outfield moved it, a gust of wind. I don't know. It moved. To me, it was like one of so many plays that could have gone differently. I'm certainly not sitting here hung up on that play."

#### **Q: How's is Mario Edwards Jr. progressing?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Pretty good. Pretty good. We'll get another look at him this week and see how quick he gets up to speed and conditioning and all of that. He stayed behind and conditioned through the weekend. We should get him on the field this week."

#### **Q: When did you know you would be without Kelechi Osemele?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We were hopeful up until the game. I have to submit a list right before I meet with the officials, an hour and a half before the game. We were kind of hopeful, but it wasn't going to be a go. We kind of bought time and were hoping, but at the end of the day, it was pretty clear that he needed to stay out for that game."

#### **Q: How did Vadal Alexander do in his place?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He did pretty well. He did pretty well. We ran the ball well. We gave up one sack. That's a good front. Overall, I thought he was part of a pretty solid effort up front."

#### **Q: Is there any update on Michael Crabtree? Does he have a finger issue?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think he had a finger. Him and Derek [Carr] both had similar type of deals where the finger kind of bent the wrong way. Both of those guys are playing through it."

#### **Q: How do you expect Carr to respond from Thursday's game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He'll bounce back. I'm not worried about Derek. Really for us, I felt like I would have like to see us play a little more big boy ball in that game with the weather, the fact that he was having an off night. We have that big line, I would have liked to see us hand that ball off a few more times behind that line. Going back, Vic [Tafur] I think you asked me about the third-and-1 right after the game. Emotions of the games, I wasn't fixated on that particular instance, but we had three third-and-1's during the game. The first two, we ran it and got it and yeah, it would've made a lot of sense to run right there. As we look at it as a staff we're going, 'Geez, what the heck?' In fact, during that moment, we had previously taken a timeout. Not one I really wanted to take because you know end of the game, you're trying to hang onto your timeouts. So when that call came across the airwave, I actually started to make my way down there and call it. Then we would've been down to one. I let the play ride and thought we'd be able to get it on the next snap if we didn't get it. It's one of those things. When you play the game, you get these opportunities and you look back 20/20, looking back always. At the end of the day that was one as a staff we say, 'We really would have like to hand that ball off.'"

#### **Q: How difficult is it to balance saving your timeouts and getting the right play called?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's tough. Tough, yeah. You have to go with your gut. I went with it trying to keep both options alive figuring that worst case we'd go on fourth and get it. Then we went a delayed cadence and just really missed an opportunity. That was one of several... There were several throughout the game. You just don't know which one is going to be the one. We had many opportunities in that game to make more plays. On the day, we ended up plus three on turnovers. That was nullified a little bit by that big punt return and then the botched field goal when



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we have an opportunity to get points there. So those were two major turnarounds. You typically win games when you're 3-0 in the turnover battle."

**Q: Your defense has played very well in the second half the last few weeks. Why do you think your defense is playing better late in games?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I like what I see when they're doing it right. To allow that ball to go over the top of us... Tyreek [Hill], very fast. Just don't let him run by you. That was a tough one to let them have early in the game, but I think we've settled down and played pretty solid when guys are just locked in, doing their jobs and communicated well and being physical and tackling. I think it's been pretty solid, so you're seeing it for stretches. Obviously, it's getting to be very critical for us to start playing a whole lot better for 60 minutes there."

**Q: Now that you're number five in the playoff picture and need some help, some of the players after the game were saying they couldn't believe they let that slip away. Are you concerned at all about their...**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, my approach is really simple. I tell our guys, 'We're not going to lay around and bathe in the adulation of a win. Look how good this is.' We're also not going to sit and wallow in misery when we lose. We're going to be matter of fact. We're going to learn the lessons – and there are lessons to be learned in every ballgame, win or lose. And we're going to learn the lessons, gain that experience and then go forward and begin our preparation for next."

**Q: You've been very supportive of Marquette King's antics throughout the year. Did that change at all after Thursday night?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He can't have another penalty. Cannot have another penalty. I've allowed him to have his freedom. I want him to express himself. I think that's when he's at his best. We can't have routine 15-yard penalties out of our punter. We've got two in a row, two weeks in a row, and that's got to come to a stop."

**Q: Did you tell him yourself?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I've already talked to him. I've talked to him. It's unacceptable. I played a long time and didn't have one in my career, that I can remember. I started to go around the staff today. I'm not going to tell you which coaches, but I didn't get very far. I just gave up on it. I was like, 'Well, you never had one, right?' He was like, 'Well... yeah.' *(laughter)* I said, 'You didn't have one, right?' He was like, 'Well, I had a couple too.' *(laughter)* It can happen, but we don't want to see that. We want to be under control, want to play smart, tough football."

**Q: You're just talking about personal foul-type penalties, right?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Right, right. Unsportsmanlike, yeah."

**Q: Not to say you never had a penalty in your career.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, no, no. I had a couple." *(laughter)*

**Q: How is Karl Joseph doing?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I don't have an update on Karl. The way I like to handle it with them is when he's ready to go, then we go. Until then, we keep healing."

**Q: How did you think Nate Allen did in his place?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I thought Nate played well. I thought he got turned around on a ball that really should have been intercepted. They through to [Chiefs TE Travis] Kelce right in the middle at him. It's like, a pass that really should be intercepted. But, Kelce made the play and we didn't. Other than that, I thought he was pretty solid throughout the night."



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**Q: How about TJ Carrie? He had the one interception.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Pretty solid. Made a nice play there. It's a matter of consistency and not allowing those explosive gains in the passing game."