



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

**Q: What did you take from the first game against the Chargers and how do you apply it this week?**

**Olson:** "I think any time you are playing an opponent twice in one season, you tried to gather what worked and what didn't work in the first game. You go off of that, but they've played three games since we've played them. They'll change some things up as well. Every game is different, but certainly you try to pick out what went well and what didn't work."

**Q: As an offense, you guys have had 80 drives this season, 77 have started in your own territory. What is the difficulty that comes with that?**

**Olson:** "How we approach everything with the players is you control what you can control. Our job every time we take the field is to score points, whether it be field goals or touchdowns. That's their mindset. Whether it has to be an 80-yard drive or a 30-yard drive. It's unfortunate we haven't been able to have many of the short ones. We'll control what we can control. Whatever field position we've got before we take the field, the mindset is to score points."

**Q: How is AJ McCarron coming along?**

**Olson:** "I think he's been up to speed. He's met a lot on his free time with our quarterbacks coach, Brian Callahan. He's done a great job with him. He's really up to speed with the offense, as well as you can be without being here for OTAs and training camp. He's doing some extra work after practice with a lot of our young wide receivers. We like where he's at right now and we feel we'd be in capable hands if it came to that."

**Q: What happens mid-game when you learn you aren't what you'd hoped you'd be upfront?**

**Olson:** "There's a lot of conversation involved amongst the coaches, with Tom Cable specifically when it comes to the offensive line position. I think we've had five different right tackles, four different combinations right now with the possibility of a fifth this week. When it happens in the game, it's usually that position coach and, all of our position coaches do a great job of playing players at multiple positions. We practice those situations in practice. Coach may call out during one of our practice periods 'hey, Kolton Miller is down, who has to go in?' so we practice those situations. It would be the same thing at wide receiver, 'hey, Jordy Nelson is down, who is the next X up?' So, we do practice those situations. So it's not a surprise on game day when those things occur."

**Q: David Sharpe said he retained a good amount of information.**

**Olson:** "Yeah, I thought he had a good practice yesterday. Did a nice job with the one-on-ones. That's the possible fifth tackle that we're talking about playing. He's done a nice job. A little bit rusty on Monday, but was better yesterday."

**Q: Do you think defenses are approaching Jared Cook differently?**

**Olson:** "Everybody defends him differently. Certainly he's at the top of a lot of tight end categories, receiving tight end. I think people realize that he's certainly a threat for us. We haven't seen the double coverages as much as them maybe putting one of their better defenders. We're seeing sub-defense to our 12-personnel with Jared in the game. That's because of his ability to catch passes. That would probably be the difference that we've seen, a little more sub-defense when Jared is out on the field."

**Q: Do you think the dropped passes are a little high because of the lack of time to throw the ball?**

**Olson:** "I think that's more than anything. I attribute that to that."



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**Q: Brandon Parker seemed amped up last week. how do you work with young players through that sort of thing?**

**Olson:** "It's calm and confidence, really. It's a difficult way to learn about this profession. It's a results-oriented business. We just wanted him to take a series or two off to relax and calm down a little bit. That's part of the game, what he's seeing now. It's a lot faster on Sundays than it is on Monday through Saturday. He's a young player. We see a high ceiling for him. I just think with experience he'll get better. He still has a ways to go."

**Q: have you seen some strides along the way from him that have been encouraging?**

**Olson:** "We have seen some strides. With an athletic tackle like himself, you've got to have a vision of what he's going to be like in four to five years from now. When we drafted him, that was it: we had a vision. We knew he wasn't as thick as we'd like him to be right now, but we know there is certainly going to be some growth along the way. He's getting invaluable experience right now. We didn't initially think he was going to have to play as a rookie, we had Donald Penn. That's part of this business. He got thrust into action. He's giving us his all right now. We have really high expectations for him and we'll expect him to get better for the future."

**Q: A couple of your versatile reserves manage to player center. Do you think playing center does a lot for players to have better understanding?**

**Olson:** "No question. You just have to have an overall knowledge of the scheme part of what we're trying to do. Whether it be in the run game part, where you're making run game points, or the protection part of the game where you're having to make those protection points along with the quarterback. He's the quarterback of the offensive line, per say. Your overall knowledge of what the other four positions are doing is critical. It takes an intelligent player to play that position. You also have to be versatile in how you move, you have to be able to handle a nose guard by yourself when you play that position. A lot goes into it. It certainly would help with their overall understanding of the scheme."

**Q: Would you say Jalen Richard is a bright spot?**

**Olson:** "Yeah. Real excited about Jalen. He's a guy that... having a vision of what this team is going to look like, he's certainly part of those plans. Valuable in pass protection. Valuable route runner, runs excellent routes out of the backfield. Also, has enough punch in his game that he's an excellent pass protector. We're happy with him and we certainly see him as part of the future."

**Q: Has what you've seen from Doug Martin reaffirm what you've felt in preseason?**

**Olson:** "Still feel really good about Doug Martin. Don't know if it was the second or third carry on the hip flexor and he continued to try to play, which is a credit to him and his toughness. Still shows great vision and speed in the hole. He's just got to stay healthy."

### Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

**Q: What do you think Kony Ealy can bring?**

**Guenther:** "These guys have played in a Super Bowl, played on a couple different teams. He's a physical guy, big guy as a defensive end for us that has some experience. We're trying to find the right mix of guys, churning the roster a little bit to find some guys that fit us not only now but for the future."

**Q: How do you expect to work those guys in, Ealy and Jacquies Smith?**

**Guenther:** "We'll see how they go. They had a great job yesterday in the beginning phases of practice. They really picked up the system. It's all going to depend how much they can pick up. They've done a nice job with that so far so hopefully by the end of the week we'll have them caught up."



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**Q: What have the last two months been like for you, personally?**

**Guenther:** "I've really never been through anything like this before because when I took the job there were a lot of guys that were either up for free agency or that I thought were going to be on the roster. Obviously, there was a lot of changes. Guys got signed to other teams and we had to fill those spots in with some of the veterans with the cap money that we had. It's been a challenge. Obviously, we're trying to build this thing to get it the right way. That's going to be a moving part the rest of the year, to try and find the right fit of guys, not only for this year but moving down the road. We have a vision, Jon [Gruden] and I, of what it's going to look like down the road. Hopefully we can just keep getting better every week. It's certainly been a challenge."

**Q: At some point did you kind of have to change gears?**

**Guenther:** "It's the NFL. Obviously, there is going to be changes every year on every team, that's just part of the business. Having our vision was to bring in some young guys in the draft, we did that and they're playing. We're going through some growing pains with the young guys. Hopefully the more and more snaps they get, the back end of the year here and going into year two we're going to see massive improvements."

**Q: With the young guys, now that things have changed dramatically with them, is that something you have to address with them?**

**Guenther:** "The main thing is that they don't press. There's a certain maturation process with rookie players that I've been through since I've been in the league. You take certain steps but here it's a little bit different because these guys have been thrown into the fire since the beginning. Maybe we're asking more of these rookie players than we would typically when you had a veteran team that was in place. Those guys have to understand that. We're treating them like veteran players. They have to step up and play for us. Hopefully they will."

**Q: When it comes to Arden Key specifically, where do you think he's made progress?**

**Guenther:** "His progress is... playing on first and second down a lot. That was something that when we took him, that was our vision for him to play in third down, but with the situation we had to play him more on first and second down. I thought he's done a pretty good job with that. Same thing, it's not going to be something where you turn the TV on and he's going to have eight sacks. It's going to be a building process through it all."

**Q: What has driven the shift from three-technique to five technique for Clinton McDonald?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Just to get a little bit of a bigger body on the tight ends. Clinton [McDonald] has been a versatile guy for us. When I had him in Cincinnati he played nose, he's played three, he's played five-technique. He was guy we felt like could handle that position move, but he's naturally an inside guy."

**Q: Do you want him playing this much five-technique or ideally would you slide him down to three technique in the nickel?**

**Coach Guenther:** "That's our plan moving forward, yes."

**Q: What happened on that [George] Kittle touchdown last week?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, it was a little bootleg and we were a little bit off in the coverage. I thought on the long one, shoot, we had three guys standing around. That's just kind of been the story of the year. I mean, the other night we were in man coverage and our corners got dirty eyes and doesn't cover the guy. They throw a ball over the middle and there are three guys standing there and it's a touchdown. That's just kind of been the story of the year. Those are the kind of things we got to eliminate moving forward. It's some of the growing pains I'm talking about right now with some of the guys we have out there. A lot of these guys are starting for the first time on this defense, so you are going to have to bite your lip a little bit on



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some of it. My expectations of this thing is a lot higher. What I told the players, I want their expectations to be higher than mine. That's going to be important moving forward."

**Q: What do you see from Eddie Vanderdoes at this point?**

**Coach Guenther:** "He looks pretty good in there. It's his first time back in pads. He's another guy we spoke about. Before I took the job, I saw Jelly [Justin Ellis], I saw Vanderdoes, [Khalil] Mack and the linebacker. I had all those guys out there, so I watched Vanderdoes closely last year and he did some good things. He's a natural fit for our system. It's just that we got to get him up to speed to make sure that he is ready to go, and we will see by the end of the week how we feel about that."

**Q: Jon Gruden joked that you guys go at it more on the golf course than what TV cameras caught on the sideline. Would you agree with that?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, it's funny because I went home that night. My sons, they look at all that stuff and it was some guy out of Cincinnati. Some Cincinnati.com put this thing out there. Cincinnati? I said they don't know any better. Jon and I fight everyday upstairs. Golf course, in the car, whatever it may be, on a player. That's natural. That's going to happen every Sunday. It has happened every Sunday, whether it's good or bad. Again, our expectations are higher than what we are showing, and we got to get our players to get their expectations as high as ours. That's probably going to happen 100 times again."

**Q: What are you fighting about on the golf course?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Strokes, you know. Gimmie putts. No, put it in the hole. We play it in the hole."

**Q: Who's trying to get the gimmie?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Both of us really (*laughing*). We both need it."

**Q: On that long touchdown run last week, what did you see? Did you question the effort?**

**Coach Guenther:** "No, we were out of fit. They're in the wide open formation, they run the jet sweep and our force defender went inside No. 2. He should've been outside turning everything back so that the pursuit is waiting for that guy to turn it back. He goes around the corner and the only guy left is the free safety. He's just trying to buy time for everyone to catch up to him. Again, that's just part of the thing. We just have to eliminate those big plays that we're giving up. That's been my charge with these guys in the room. There's 40 or 45 plays where I feel we're playing pretty good, then all of a sudden it's like, 'Did that just score? Really?' We have to eliminate those fasts."

**Q: Jet sweep, that's a phrase that I'm sure you guys use a lot inside the building. How is that coming?**

**Coach Guenther:** "It's the fad now in the NFL for these offenses. You go through the four wides. Then there was the zone reads. Now it's the jet sweep. Everyone is running the jet sweep and playing off of it. You're going to see it every week. We've seen it every week. It's just something that the NFL is going through on offense."

**Q: What do you see from the Chargers as far as how they've evolved with jet sweeps?**

**Coach Guenther:** "They're running a lot of it in certain personnel groupings. Whether it be three receivers or two backs, whatever it is, but it's funny because at the end of the Bye Week I did a study on all of the jet sweeps. When you see, you see New England, you see Cincinnati, you see Atlanta, you see all these teams running it. When you break it down, they're all the same plays. So everyone goes in, most of the offensive coaches go in and say, 'Hey, where are the big plays coming from. Oh that was a good one, let's put it in.' We just have to, on defense, you just have to stay on top of the curve. You have to trust your eyes and your technique in the defense and play it because it all fits together. Just as long as everybody is on the same page with all of those things, you shouldn't have those issues."



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**Q: Do you and Coach Gruden still carpool together?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, every now and again. Every now and again we will."

**Q: How is that?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Like I said, we did a lot in the offseason, because we're in here and it's like groundhog's day every day. I said if you put a camera in the rear-view mirror it would be like taxi cab confessions. *(laughter)* I mean, honest to God. The range from politics to football to lifestyle to where are we going to dinner or whatever it is, it varies."

**Q: You have to tell Raiders.com, that would be good.**

**Coach Guenther:** "That's right. You know, I love Jon, he's great to work with. Honestly guys, we're really trying to build this thing the right way. We have a vision for it and I know it doesn't look like that right now, but I'm confident in what we're doing."

**Q: Do you have to tell yourself to stay patient?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Every day. Every day, because obviously, I've been a part of and with a lot of good defenses in the past. There's certain things and breakdown that we're having that we should have – that I'm not used to seeing. And again, it is a patience thing, but I'm not the most patient guy and I want to get this stuff fixed quickly, because otherwise, that's part of the evaluation process with the guys we have now moving forward in the last eight games to see what guys we want to keep here and what guys we want to move on with."

**Q: Are you surprised in the breakdowns with the number of veteran guys on the field?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Um, well there are a lot of veteran guys. A couple of guys were familiar with the system, some guys weren't. Some of it was a mental deficiency, some of it was physical deficiencies on some of them. A couple of the touchdown passes against Indianapolis, we're just in proper leverage and the guy is jumping whatever it is. It's a little bit of both right now I think. Like I said earlier in the season, the first week, we got what we got right now and we have to do the best we can with the techniques and all the stuff going through within the defense. Otherwise, if there's any kind of breakdown it magnifies loudly."