



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: Is it a blow to lose Marshawn Lynch for such a stretch? Do you think Doug Martin is ready to be a feature guy?

Olson: "It's certainly good that we have Doug Martin here. He's an experienced football player that's had a lot of success in this league. I think we're fortunate to have him backing up Marshawn. Marshawn really caught everyone by surprise. Throughout that game in London, it wasn't until after that we found out and we didn't find out how significant the injury was until later. It's always a blow to lose somebody but it provides an opportunity for someone else to step up."

Q: How have you seen Doug maintain his fitness?

Olson: "I think I've said before, he's a real high-energy guy. If you ever watch him on the practice field, he's constantly moving. If it's the special teams period, he's over with the quarterbacks running routes or working on protections. He's just trying to improve his game all the time. He's a real high-energy guy. I think he's being a real pro and he'll wait patiently until his opportunity comes and it's here now."

Q: Are there runs designed for Marshawn and for Doug?

Olson: "A different style a little bit, between those two runners. Marshawn has a package of plays that we feel suit his skills. Doug has a package of plays that suit his skills. Both will fit within the system. We're excited to see what he can do."

Q: Could you tell Martin still had juice left when you saw him in camp?

Olson: "We thought he was healthy from day one, since he's been here in Oakland. He's looked healthy. He's looked fast on the practice field. We've seen the speed he possessed early in his career. We're looking forward to watching him play."

Q: What has Marcell Ateman shown you?

Olson: "Tremendous hands. He's a guy that's constantly making plays against our defense. He stands out as a practice squad player. Every day it seems like he's making a contested catch. He possesses great size, great hands. Another opportunity for one of our young players to show what he can do."

Q: It was probably somewhat of a disappointment that he did not make the initial 53-man roster. How do you deal with that situation? Practice squad is not exactly what he probably had in mind, but you still have to get out there.

Coach Olson: "No, but again, a young player. We have a good group there, we feel like, with that wide receiver room. A number of talented players that are in that room. He's worked hard at it to get to this point and he deserves the opportunity here to play. We're excited to see what he can do."

Q: As a coordinator, what is your reaction to Amari Cooper being traded?

Coach Olson: "We'll do whatever is best for the Oakland Raiders organization and I think that's part of this business in professional football. Decisions are made, you roll with it and it's a next-man-up mentality. Again, every decision that is made, you just trust that it's made for what's best for this Oakland Raiders organization and I believe that."

Q: Are you looking to one player to take most of Cooper's snaps?

Coach Olson: "Every gameplan is different, it's no different here. It's no different that you lose Marshawn Lynch, you lose Amari Cooper, it's a next-man-up mentality and we'll designate carries and touches for the different players that we have. Each game is different, this is another game here that we'll see who's got a hot hand throughout the course of the game. That plays into it, who are the matchups on the outside. But again, we feel like we have a number of guys at different positions that can step up and take place."



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Q: Is there more to be had out of Martavis Bryant?

Coach Olson: "We think so. Losing him and then bringing him back, I think he's such an explosive player. I think it will help him the more he's in the system, the more he's here and is able to be around and stay within one system. In time, I think that helps a player like Martavis Bryant, because he's got tremendous skills, tremendous size and speed and he's still really kind of learning the system."

Q: Can you see where the Bye Week has potentially freshened guys up?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, I think everybody really. That's the beauty of having a Bye Week after Week 6. We talked about it last week after the four preseason games and the six regular season games, it's really a halfway point of the season, so it falls at a great place I think for guys to not only refresh themselves up physically, but mentally as well."

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Q: What kind of unique challenge does Andrew Luck bring?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, special talent. I played against this guy many times. He knows where to go with the ball. He's very efficient that way. He can move around in the pocket and run. He's a big guy. Very accurate thrower. It looks like he's back to form, so it'll be a good challenge for us. He's a good player."

Q: What has Jason Cabinda shown you?

Coach Guenther: "For some reason or another, when I've been in the league on defense, we've been able to get some free agent linebackers that have been smart guys. From the very beginning, Cabinda showed that he's a smart guy. He understands the whole picture, not just his spot. We just kind of brought him in as a free agent. He flashed some in the camps. As the practice has gone on, he's working in the scout team and you see him flash around. This guy can be a really special player because he can be the guy who orchestrates everything for you in there. We felt it was time for him to get up to the live action and see what he can do."

Q: Do you expect Cabinda to play this week?

Coach Guenther: "He could play some snaps, absolutely. We're trying to get a lot of these guys some time in there. See what they can do. Trying to mold this thing. It'll be our seventh game together. Again, we're still trying to put this thing together. Understand who's the best fit. He's done a good job for us up until this point. He's earned a spot."

Q: What did you see as the strength of the defense so far?

Coach Guenther: "I think we put together, in a 65-play game, we put together 60 good snaps. We have four or five plays [where] it's a head scratcher. Whether we're out of position or we can't get the guy to the ground, give up a big play. We've had touchdowns scored on us the last two ball games where the quarterback fumbles the snap. That can't happen. We looked at those plays and tried to evaluate what some of the issues are. We addressed some of those issues and we're actually practicing some of those issues. We actually we had probably our best practice of the season yesterday. So, those were kind of the things we looked at."

Q: Is it encouraging to have Karl Joseph back from injury and is he continuing his development?

Coach Guenther: "I do. Actually, we were trying to get him up there in the London game. We tried to work him out before the game. He wasn't up for what we were going to ask him to do in that ballgame, so we decided to give it another week. He got hurt in the Miami game, so he was on the mend for a couple weeks. Hopefully he can get out there this week and show what he can do because he is progressing."



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Q: Do you like the [Daryl] Worley and [Dominique] Rodgers-Cromartie tandem going forward? What does [Gareon] Conley have to do to get back in the rotation?

Coach Guenther: "I've said this every week, I'd like to get to two starting corners and Conley is in that mix. He's going to play a lot in this ballgame. Just trying to find what's the best combination of guys and you can only do it when they are out there, so Conley's played a lot in the first four or five ballgames. He will continue to play a lot more as we go because we need to continue to see what he can do. This is the first time as a defensive coordinator where it's kind of like 'hey, who's going to be the starting corners, who's going to be the linebackers, defensive line?', because there has been a revolving set of guys in here which makes it a little difficult for the communication of everything. Conley is a guy that's going to play a lot for us in this stretch and hopefully he plays good."

Q: Do you need to get more from [Tahir] Whitehead than you've gotten so far?

Coach Guenther: "I think he's got some good snaps and I think he's got some snaps he'd like to have back. Again, like I said, it's really our first five or six ballgames together and I'm still trying to figure out some of the things. I looked at some of the things he needs to improve on and he knows that, so he's just got to continue to play better every week."