



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **C Rodney Hudson and G/T Kelechi Osemele**

**Q: To have three guys from the line make the Pro Bowl and have a fourth as an alternate, what does that say about the season you're having?**

**Hudson:** "Guys put in a lot of work. A lot of work to stay together, stay focused week to week, day to day, and just lean on each other. Not only us, but the team. It takes a whole group to put together good performances. We just stayed focused day to day and worked hard and lean on each other."

**Osemele:** "What he said." *(laughing)*

**Q: What has it been like to have two standout guys on the left side?**

**Hudson:** "It's awesome, man. Like I said, those guys are smart and experienced. [They] pay attention to detail. They come to work every day and work hard, study. That way we can anticipate and play faster."

**Q: What does it mean for each of you to make the Pro Bowl?**

**Hudson:** "It means a lot, man. It's a great honor to be recognized for what you do. It's very humbling, very great. I give a lot of thanks to our teammates because you can't do any of it by yourself. I thank all my teammates for being there with us and ultimately helping us have success."

**Osemele:** "Yeah, what he said. *(laughing)* I mean, yeah, it's an honor and a privilege. I know that's something that as an offensive line, you're trying to make it every year. I know personally, I had a chip on my shoulder to try to get in there. To have guys like Latavius [Murray] on your team and pretty much a supporting cast like we do, it makes it a lot easier because everybody just works so hard. It's just great. It's a great honor."

**Q: Is it cool to have seven guys on the team?**

**Osemele:** "Yeah. Is that the first time that's happened here? 1977? Yeah, I mean that's crazy. Obviously, we're focused on trying to win a Super Bowl, so hopefully we're not playing in this game. Just the fact that you have seven guys on the same team, that just kind of shows you the work that we've put in from OTAs on forward. It's been awesome."

**Q: Do you think people have any idea what it takes to get an offensive line to mesh and be a unit?**

**Osemele:** "No, I don't think they do. *(laughing)* It's a lot different than basketball or anything like that. To get an offensive line playing well together, that takes a lot of work together. Then you also have to be lucky to the point where you guys gel off the field, too. I think we just have a really good group so it makes it easier."

**Q: What did Osemele's nastiness on the field bring to the offensive line this season?**

**Hudson:** "Just that, you said it. Plays hard, plays aggressive no matter what part of what game it is or what, he plays physical, aggressive and he's a great player, obviously. Brought a lot to our room. So, we're happy to have him."

**Q: Does it have a ripple effect when you see him picking guys off right through the whistle?**

**Hudson:** "Yeah, yeah I think so, man. Everybody, everybody feeds off of him. Everybody feeds off him. We always have this thing in our room trying to get the most knockdowns. So, he gets a lot. A crazy amount. *(laughter)* So, it's good for the room, good for the room."

**Q: What's it like playing next to Donald Penn?**

**Osemele:** "It's great, he's passionate. It's funny playing next to him because you know, some of the stuff he says during the game just makes it fun. We just have a good group. We just have a good line, man. We have a good group and we just make it fun. We like to compete, so playing with a vet [veteran] like Donald, that's what you want. You want to be playing next to a guy like that then playing with someone that you're constantly trying to



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pick up or anything like that. With me and him, it's like constantly elevating each other's level of play. It's been dope, it's been good."

**Q: Was there any part of you that wanted to step out on your own after playing with Marshal Yanda?**

**Osemele:** "Yeah, I'm over on the other side like, 'Yo...' (*laughter*) So, it's awesome because for a while, like I said, I've been chasing this and it's a bucket list thing. It's pretty cool. I mean, it means a lot to me."

**Q: Can you talk about the confidence in Derek Carr and the growth he's shown this season?**

**Osemele:** "Oh man, he's been phenomenal since the start of the season, for a while now for the last couple years. For him being such a young quarterback and already showing the type of leadership that he shows just kind of shows you the amount of growth that he's had and kind of like the sky's the limit for the dude. You give him time to throw and he's the type of dude that's going to carry you to the ship. So, yeah."

**Q: Is it nice to have somebody like Hudson who can orchestrate things and make the right calls?**

**Osemele:** "Yeah, exactly. It's like having two quarterbacks out there. By the time we come in for our meeting on Wednesday, these guys have already met like a few times and the coaches are sitting there asking these guys how they want to handle things. So, from a standpoint of awareness of like what's going on with the defense and stuff like that, he's got to be probably one of the sharpest centers I've ever been around and on top of that an athletic one at that, that can get out there and play and make blocks too, not just a guy that's a smart guy. He can play the game, too. So, yeah, we have some weapons."