



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "Business-like day, getting back after a day off. Had a few guys that weren't able to go. A few extra guys that maybe added to the list. For the most part, the team is staying healthy and getting a lot of good work in, a lot of good situational work. You know my philosophy on this stuff, but probably a larger number than even we expected coming off a day off. Should be short-term guys, a bunch of them are younger. We'll get them back as quick as possible."

Q: None of those guys were rest days for those guys? All of them had something?

Coach Del Rio: "It looked like a veteran rest day except it was mostly rookies. It was not by design. We're making progress."

Q: Is there any level of concern as you head towards games that you want to get these guys reps?

Coach Del Rio: "My feeling on it is that we cherish every rep that we get. We're going to work our butts off to get them out there whenever we can. Ultimately, it comes down to the player being ready to go. We're doing everything we can to do the right things by our guys."

Q: For training camp, it seems like EJ Manuel is ahead of Connor Cook for the number two quarterback. Is that finalized?

Coach Del Rio: "No. That's far from decided. I think we're having healthy competition at several spots on the roster and I think we haven't even played one down in a game yet. Really, it would be unwise to jump to conclusions about anything at this point with who's repping where. We want to give a lot of exposure, a lot of opportunity for guys to express who they are and how they can help us. Then we'll sort through that information and make good decisions. So, there's no rush on it. We're sharing the work. I think EJ has had some good moments, maybe a few more up to this point. But, we haven't even played a game a snap in a game yet. So, we're not in a hurry. We're not rushing to make some of those decisions."

Q: What are you looking for, specifically from the secondary, come Friday?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, really when we start playing games we want to be putting it all together. The biggest thing is to keep making progress, keep growing. We're getting a lot of reps out here, getting a lot of exposure, different concepts. Our system is being installed as we're in camp and we're getting close to where we're done installing and then we'll start refining. We just want to continue to improve. Looking for consistency and applying the techniques and be on top of things and minimizing the big plays. That's the biggest thing on the back end."

Q: Is the secondary on pace for where they should be right now or behind or ahead?

Coach Del Rio: "How do you gauge a 'should be?'"

Q: In terms of the install and feeling comfortable with putting them out there where they're at?

Coach Del Rio: "We're not ready to open the season right now. But, fortunately we're probably halfway through camp, so we've got always to go yet. We've got a lot of work to do yet."

Q: How tough of a position is Marshall Newhouse in to be taking reps at a position where he is likely not going to be playing in come the start of the season?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, you know, the shuffle that takes place whenever somebody's down, whether it be from injury or whether it be from contract squabbles, I think those are just realities of football. I think that guys that are capable of swinging like Marshall, will be asked to swing. Then working other guys as well, you know, that will be cross trained to make sure that we can take full advantage of the versatility."



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Q: How big of a day is it for someone like James Cowser with Khalil Mack out of practice?

Coach Del Rio: "That's exactly how it ends up working out, Jerry [McDonald]. Somebody's out, whether it's Donald [Penn], Khalil out, a guy that's not at camp. He's not out there for whatever reason. There are opportunities for the guys behind them. They're going to get reps, they're going to get opportunities and I think James Cowser's had a real nice camp. He's done a nice job so far. That's part of the benefit, that's part of the positive spin there if you look at it that way – when one guy's had something happen that's misfortune – another guy gets an opportunity that might not have been there."

Q: What does DeAndré Washington do that separates him from everybody else?

Coach Del Rio: "He's a guy that we really liked coming out. He's got some juice. He runs compact and is not always easy to get down. We think he's having a real good camp. As we went back and reviewed what he did last year when he got the ball, he did some nice things with the ball in his hands. We're excited for DeAndré to continue to grow."

Q: Have you seen anything through camp that's given you optimism that communication among the secondary is getting better?

Coach Del Rio: "Yes. Yes, I think we're a long way ahead of where we were last year. I think the communication has gotten better and will continue to get better. I see it. I hear it. I watch it. There's a lot of good work being put in."

Q: Does Marshawn Lynch look like a guy who sat out a year or does he look like he's ready to go?

Coach Del Rio: "He looks like a guy who's been out a year. (*laughing*) No, he's doing a great job working wisely. We're bringing him along. We've been smart about it the whole offseason. He's doing the things we're asking him to do. He's fully committed. I like the way he's progressing."

Q: Too soon to ask how many snaps he'll play on Saturday?

Coach Del Rio: "Too soon to ask how many snaps, yes it is."

Q: How much better is Karl Joseph mentally and with communication? Is communication going to be a big part of his game?

Coach Del Rio: "Well it is a big part. That's where it starts. The safety needs to be able to communicate to his corner on his side of the field and with the other safety. Some of those things I think are growing pains, maybe, with a younger guy. I think him having his health in being able to get full, complementary reps is definitely helping him. He's gaining confidence. You can just see it."

Q: Have you seen him grow with telling linebackers where they need to be?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, he's growing. He's growing where he can talk more and he is talking more. You need that out of your backend just for everybody to be on the same page."

Q: What have you seen from Giorgio Tavecchio that you really appreciate over the years?

Coach Del Rio: "He's a good kicker. To me, he's grown. I think he's right on the edge. We're happy to have him back competing. I think he's a good, young kicker. Those guys sometimes will bounce for a while before they finally catch on and get a career going. He has a lot of desire. He has a good leg. I like the way he's worked."