



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: “Good morning. Week 17 headed to Denver and [they] have a tough defense, of course, to prepare for and then go compete against. Any questions?”

Q: Do you expect them to be a little upset that you were able to run on them so much when you faced them earlier this season?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, they’re an excellent defense. They come to play every week. They’ll study the Sunday night game just like we have studied it. I’m sure they’ll make adjustments, and we’ll want to play better than we did on Sunday night, also.”

Q: What did you see out of DeAndré Washington to go from inactive to explode like he did in last week’s game?

Coach Musgrave: “He definitely exploded. The quickness and dynamic speed that he showed, we definitely needed it. It was fun. He got the hot hand, and we just kept riding him. It was great. He’s done a nice job. He wasn’t active due to the numbers, only dressing 46 guys. Then when Karl [Joseph] hurt his toe a little bit and then special teams came into play. There were a number of factors on who you dress and who the 46 guys are that get a uniform. It’s great to have him out there, and he’s really contributing, obviously.”

Q: What is Matt McGloin going through as a backup quarterback? Can you kind of relate to what he’s going through this week?

Coach Musgrave: “A little bit, but it’s been a long time. I’m trying to think back that long. It’s a great opportunity for him. Even as a backup, you definitely have the butterflies. You prepare like you’re playing, and then a lot of times you don’t get to exercise those butterflies on game day. This week, he’s going to get to. He’s going to get a chance to go out there and cut it lose and immerse himself in the ball game, which is really what all players live for.”

Q: When you’re replacing someone who’s injured, how much of a difference does it make having a full week behind you going into the game?

Coach Musgrave: “Distinctly different. Distinctly different. You prepare and can anticipate the entire game evolving in front of you. It’s a different mindset.”

Q: The previous coaching staff really liked Matt McGloin. What about him jumped out to you?

Coach Musgrave: “Similar attributes; fiery, passionate, competitive, can really throw. Sees things before they happen. Great instincts – he’s played a lot of football. He belongs here. We’re glad he’s part of our team for sure.”

Q: How has Connor Cook come along this year?

Coach Musgrave: “Yeah, doing a nice job there with the scout team. Yeah, he’s been developing. Like a typical rookie, he’s trying to absorb everything. There’s a lot going on for the rookies, so he’s doing the best he can and we’re really pleased with him.”

Q: Is Connor’s role more difficult this week? Does he need to know Denver’s offense for the scout team and prepare to play?

Coach Musgrave: “Well it’s a little bit like Matt’s been doing the whole year. There’s barely enough work for two quarterbacks, let alone three during the week of practice. Connor has been getting just scraps the whole year. He’s been getting Matt’s scraps. Now he gets a good healthy dose of scout team reps, which is more fun than watching, obviously.”

Q: Will you be confident in Connor if he’s called on in the playoffs? Do you think he’s ready?

Coach Musgrave: “Oh, you bet. Yeah. He’s done a nice job of showing what he can do in practice. Definitely.”



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Q: Has his footwork on shorter passes been corrected?

Coach Musgrave: "Yeah, his footwork looks to be pretty sound."

Q: Are you doing a lot of the same things you would've done with Derek Carr with McGloin?

Coach Musgrave: "Yeah, I think we're going to stay pretty much with our stuff and the other 10 guys will be used to those concepts, too. Very similar. We may have a minor tweak, quarter turn here and there, but very similar to what we've been doing these previous 15 weeks."

Q: Is it a stretch to say that Denver is a good opponent for Matt to face because of the success you had running the ball against them last time?

Coach Musgrave: "I think Matt has payed attention to all the 15 games we've had previously. We're hoping to be able to run against each and every opponent, but we'd love to replicate what we've done the last four weeks, especially that Sunday night. Love to be able to stay balanced, that's the best way to attack each and every defense we see."

Q: Does Rodney Hudson have a bigger role this week?

Coach Musgrave: "Probably not bigger, but equally as important. Matt is in all of the meetings. Matt goes through all of the simulations that we do and the meetings on the field, the standup meetings, the sit-down meetings. He and Rodney already have a super rapport, just as Derek has with Rodney, too. It should be seamless, fortunately."

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: What have you seen from Paxton Lynch?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, you know, really good quarterback. Really good arm, mobile, good control of his throws, but very capable."

Q: Is it different preparing for the possibility of either quarterback playing?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, no. We have to really concentrate on us. I think we've been doing a great job of improving every week and really trying to get our game together. So, our focus is really on us and being ready to go."

Q: Why did you have the confidence that things were going to work out after a slow start to the season on defense?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "We've done this before and we love ball. You just know that if you do things right, you practice a certain way and you have a certain amount of players and the guys come in with the right work ethic, you know what the result's going to be, because you've done it many times. There's a certain formula, there's a certain process that you must stick to through adversity times, through the good times. You have to stick to the process and you'll get your result."

Q: What's the main thing about the process that works?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Just belief, focus, understanding your principals, knowing what you believe in and not wavering during any time."

Q: What did you think of Mario Edwards Jr.'s play last week and how is it something he can build on?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Oh man, Mario is a great addition for us. His talent, you know how good he is. He went into the game feeling good and the great thing is he came out of the game feeling good. So, it's only going to get better from here on out."



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Q: What has Nate Allen brought to the secondary the last few weeks?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Oh, you can tell. I mean, him being back there, everything's solid. Nate is solid, you know what you're going to get. His disguise, his coverage, the way he and Reggie [Nelson] work together has been really good."

Q: Were there any doubts about Allen after his injuries last season?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "No, we knew what we were getting when he came in as a free agent. There's no question about that. But, he had been set back by injuries and things that slowed him down. But, Nate is a fine football player as you see."

Q: With the loss off Derek Carr, do you still just focus on what you do or does anything change even though he is not on your defensive unit?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, we have to focus on what we do. I mean, we always go into it with a certain philosophy and a certain attitude about it. Nothing changes for us. Obviously, we have to continue to understand that Derek not being here is certainly important to how we play, but at the same time, we have to play ball. It doesn't change for us whether Derek's here or not. We have to make some plays."

Q: Do you draw from your experience when Troy Aikman got hurt before the playoffs during your playing career?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "There are a lot of things you draw on. You have a lot of experiences over the years and things that come into play that you certainly pull them out when you need them. But for us, you know, being really good at the start and being really good at the finish, playing really hard in the middle and continuing to get the ball, we're doing a great job of getting the ball and putting our offense in great situations and that doesn't change for us."

Q: How dangerous are the Broncos going into the final week of the season in a game where they are already knocked out of the playoffs?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "As dangerous as any team. Again, our focus is on us and how dangerous are we. That's what we're talking about, our ability to execute and show up and rise to the occasion. That's our focus, on us."