



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jack Del Rio

**Opening Statement:** "Alright, good to see everybody. Excited to get on the road and take on the challenge of the Titans at their place. Playing good football, they came back last week, pulled out a victory on the road in Detroit. It's impressive to see. They were up 10-0 at the half in Week 1 against the Vikings. They're playing good football to start the year. Looking forward to the matchup. Questions?"

**Q: How was Marcus Mariota gotten better in his second year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's progressing like quarterbacks do. The good ones, they should. He's more decisive in his reads. Probably a little more accurate with his throws. Obviously, he's a tremendous athlete and had a great career at Oregon, but he's progressing nicely. He's done a nice job. He's a good young quarterback."

**Q: What is it about Andre Johnson that makes him so good?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "For a long time he's been really good. He's one of these athletes in the league that he's taken great care of his body. He was blessed with a lot of ability and he's worked at it. He's been a good pro for a number of years."

**Q: What are some of the challenges in playing in the Titans in the preseason?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think both sides have a little familiarity. It's not quite a division game, but we have played them twice in the last year. So I think we both have maybe a little more familiarity with each other."

**Q: How has the addition of Kelechi Osemele aided Derek Carr's safety so far?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think the O-line group is doing a great job looking to keep our quarterback clean and open up some holes for our running backs. Kelechi has been really a great fit for us. He's done a nice job of coming in and learning our system and becoming a good teammate. He's a powerful guy. He's done a nice job. First two games into the year, he's got off to a great start."

**Q: Was it a pretty seamless transition for him coming into the scheme here?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "There's still work in learning a new system and becoming familiar with the guy you're lining up next to on either side of you. I think he's worked hard at doing that, but he's settled in nicely and he's playing good football."

**Q: Is David Amerson still going through the concussion protocol? Is he cleared or is he still working his way through?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, he's still working his way through it. I think we get him in a limited capacity today. We expect he's going to be fine for the game, but he has to go through the proper protocol."

**Q: What are some of the challenges your defense will face going against Mariota this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "With zone-read? You want to talk zone-read, huh? (*laughing*) So yeah, he brings some of that element, the zone-read element and the ability to scramble and hurt you with his feet. There are challenges every week. What we do is focus on our preparation. Understand the things they like to. They've got two really big backs that are really talented. They've got a big offensive line that they've invested three first-round picks in. They've got a quarterback that can move and will do things with his feet, bootlegs and playaction passes that extend plays and things like that. It's a good team. They're playing really good on defense. I think they've only given up one touchdown on the year. A lot of different things they're doing well right now to start the year."

**Q: How has the defense responded after the last two games?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think they've been outstanding in that regard. I think there's accountability here. I think we all recognize the obvious, but we're not going to dwell on it. We're not going to sit around and wait for somebody to



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come by and feel sorry for us. I think the guys are very purposeful going about their work. We've got a good group. We're going to play good ball and starting this week will be great."

### **Q: What makes Delanie Walker such a dangerous guy?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "That's a good question, and why is he not still across the Bay? The guy's a good player, man. He's one of these guys that can be a mismatch in the secondary. He's big enough to cause problems for safeties and he's fast enough to cause problems for linebackers. It's hard to put a corner on him all the time. He's a good player. I have a lot of respect for his game. I think he's been a good player for a number of years."

### **Q: Has Stacy McGee gradually worked his way into being a part of different rotations?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, and Stacy is playing well. If you're looking at the tape, Stacy played pretty well last week. He was effective with knocking people back and he got pressure on the quarterback. What we try to do really throughout our squad is give guys a chance to compete and play and show us who they are and play guys and then kind of get what you earn. As he plays well, he'll get more time."

### **Q: Given the problems the defense has had with tight ends, do you give special attention to Walker or does that play into the problem of not keeping your eyes right?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, well if you don't have your eyes on him then he's wide open, he'll catch it and run. I don't think there's any major issue with really anything other than having our eyes right. I think he is a good player. We're going to give him the attention he deserves, but beyond that, it's kind of, 'do your job.'"

## **QB Derek Carr**

### **Q: How do you think Marcus Mariota has handled the start of his career?**

**Carr:** "I've tried to keep up with him a little bit, because I just like the way that he plays. I think he's a good guy too, from the times that I've talked to him and I think that he's done a great job. I really do. He's in a great situation there with an organization and team that believes in him, that has built around him. I think the sky's the limit for him, because we can all see the physical abilities. I mean, he can do anything you ask him to do. I think he's handled himself really well and I'm a big fan."

### **Q: What is your relationship like with Andre Johnson?**

**Carr:** "I've known 'Dre' [Andre Johnson] since I was little. He's a good friend, man. Every time I see him, we stand there and we talk pretty much the whole time after the postgame. He used to come to my high school games back in Houston. So, I've known him, I've known his uncle for a long time. I love Andre and hopefully I get a jersey from him."

### **Q: Have you ever had a chance to throw to Johnson?**

**Carr:** "Oh yeah, I've definitely thrown to him. It made throwing to my high school teammates a little easier throwing to him back in the day. *(laughter)* But, yeah man, that guy's a first ballot [Hall of Famer], if he's not, that's crazy. But, he's one of the best receivers to ever play this game."

### **Q: What do you see out of your defense that we have not?**

**Carr:** "To tell you the truth, it's super competitive. They're getting in our face, they're making plays, all those things. All the things you want to see, you know? I've been on teams, not just in the NFL but in my life where you go out to practice and the ball doesn't hit the ground one time, you know? And, it kind of worries you a little bit, but that's not the case. It's super competitive. I don't know what's going on in their meetings, I'm not in there. But, I just know that I have a lot of confidence in them."



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### **Q: How enjoyable has it been for you to see the running game come to life?**

**Carr:** "I kind of get myself in trouble sometimes not finishing my boots because I want to watch it. And, that's a good thing, except if you ask [quarterbacks] coach [Todd] Downing. I love handing that ball off and all of the sudden you just see them going. I remember, my rookie year for whatever reason, that wasn't the case. It's gotten a little better and then this year it's taken off here in the first two games. So, I hope it continues. Like I said, I hope we run for 40 touchdowns, I don't care. As long as we're winning and moving the ball, I'm good with it."

### **Q: Has the complement of running backs helped Latavius Murray this year?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, I think you're right. I think that with regards to him being fresh throughout the whole game. That's huge because he's our guy. He's our guy, he's our Pro Bowl running back that we're going to give the ball to when we need it. To see the way that he's run, he's running so physical and putting his pads down and hitting people. It's fun, it's fun for me to watch because I don't have to tackle him. But, I think that having him fresh in the fourth quarter, and I told him when we had all of these running backs start to play well in training camp we'd sit back there and watch and I said, 'Man, that's the best thing that ever happened for you.' And he would just laugh because as a competitor he wants every rep. But I said, 'Man, just remember that's the best thing that happened to you.' Because every ball he gets he's going to be 100% fresh."

### **Q: Are you saying when the Raiders drafted Connor Cook, that was going to make you better?**

**Carr:** "I was going to help him get better. *(laughter)* No, Connor's [Cook] awesome man. I honestly, I just told him the other day after the game, I said, 'Man, I'm thankful for you.' And he looked at me and just kind of laughed. I said, 'You're a joy to be around.' During the game, he's really helpful. During the meeting room and all those things, we get on him and have him do rookie things and he takes it so awesome. So, he's been great to have around and he's going to be a great football player too."

### **Q: Do you want to take more deep shots?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, I mean, it depends on the coverage. And, I'm not going to ever change no matter who comes up and says you have to throw it deep. Well, I'm going to do what's best for the team in those situations. Obviously, you want to push the ball down the field and in the first two games, we have. We've had some big plays. Obviously, they come in different forms and fashions, but as long as we're staying explosive, I think that that's the main thing that we want. Not just the ball traveling 80 yards in the air, but making sure we're staying explosive and moving, getting big plays. I think that's the most important thing."

### **Q: What have you noticed with the left side of the offensive line?**

**Carr:** "Kelechi [Osemele] is super physical. It's not just them, it's everybody. I turn the film on and watch the game, there's pancake after pancake. I mean, these are one-on-one blocks too. It's not like two guys on one, it's one-on-one. Our guys are just finishing. I love it, obviously, you know? Because they're on my side. It's better than them coming this way. So, if that can continue, I think it's going to bode well for us, especially as the year goes on."

### **Q: How easy of a transition from Baltimore to Oakland was it for Osemele?**

**Carr:** "It was awesome. He's the perfect mentality because all of our guys have that nasty, fiercer, strong mentality when we get in that huddle on gameday. When he came in, it was a perfect fit. So, I think that's the best way to say it, is he fit in just fine."

### **Q: Do you believe that with today's pass interference calls that teams should try to take big shots down the field more often?**

**Carr:** "No seriously, I forget what offseason it was but I did a study on that, just throwing it. Sometimes you just get the P.I. [pass interference]. You find out that there's a lot of pass interference calls. *(laughter)* There really is. Now, obviously you have to be efficient, because they're not going to call it every time, and sometimes when you don't throw it, they don't call it. If you throw it up, you don't know if he's going to fall into him and those things and all



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that, but it's funny to watch because some of the biggest plays you see are those P.I. calls. But, it's the rule, can't push guys in the back, you got to look back for the ball. It's tough on corners, it really is."

**Q: Was the study you did from college?**

**Carr:** "No, I just did it for fun. *(laughter)* That's fun to me."

**Q: Is there still a sense that your offense can do even more than it has?**

**Carr:** "Yes, absolutely. You know, we turn the film on and we want to be so perfect on every play. I think that's what drives us and drove us all offseason, is that we see like, 'Man, we've ran this before and we've done it perfectly and we've seen the outcome. Why didn't we do it this time?' That's where the corrections come in and those things, so it just keeps us hungry. We didn't come out here today in our walk-through and be like, 'Oh, we've scored some points, we're going to take it easy today.' I mean, everyone was locked in, no mental errors. That's the big thing, guys are staying in there plays, especially earlier in the week. The less mental errors you can have, it really shows. Guys are taking time before they get here to spend their time in the playbook and game plan and those things and that's good to see."

**Q: In what ways do you believe Amari Cooper is better this year?**

**Carr:** "I think he's healthy, you know? I think he feels good. I think he's playing extremely fast, extremely confident, and I think that he's making me look a lot better than I am sometimes. *(laughter)* With some of those catches, we all held our breath a couple of times. I think that he's just playing like the guy that everyone knows that he is."

**Q: What did you think of his hang time?**

**Carr:** "I was happy he stayed in the air. *(laughter)* There were two white jerseys standing there like this behind him. So, that's the kind of stuff that I'm talking about. I threw that ball going down and you try and put as much on it as you can but you can't help it and you're just kind of praying like, 'Please, stay up in the air.' And he did, it was awesome."



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### **Titans Head Coach Mike Mularkey**

#### **Q: What did getting that comeback win last week do to give your team a boost?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "I think it showed what we're capable of doing. I think we thought we could win on the road and I think we thought we could come back. I think we know now we can. If we can do it on the road, we can do it in a tough environment, and we can do it after a tough loss the week before. There are just a lot of things that answers itself by the way these guys stayed together."

#### **Q: How nice has it been to have two dependable running backs playing so well?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "Well you have to realize we've really have been ineffective running the ball my first three years here and I had a lot to do with the run game. I was involved in it. We struggled to really establish it consistently. We lost a couple of games because we couldn't finish games in the four-minute segment. Now you have a couple of players that are... And again we like Antonio [Andrews]. We have a good backfield. We're very pleased with it, the upgrade we've done. We believe in the run. We believe in balance. It's a different backfield from years past and it's very much potent, not just running it but also catching the ball out of the backfield."

#### **Q: How has Marcus Mariota improved in his second year?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "I think it maybe slowed down a little bit for him. I think that first year, there was a lot thrown at him. He's injured early in the year, really never was healthy the whole year, went through a coaching change. He just had a lot of things, obstacles that made it difficult for him. We came back in the second year, tried to simplify some things offensively. Not just for him, but for the whole offense. And again, with protection schemes and everything, we just tried to make it very more user friendly. He's taken it and run with it. He's very good with the command of our offense on the field. Whether it's no-huddle or in the huddle, he puts it in the right place in most all cases."

#### **Q: How did Mariota handle all the craziness of having a coaching change in the middle of his rookie season?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "Nothing really bothers this guy. He's very level-headed the way he approaches life and about this game. He doesn't let a lot affect him. If you watch, in the last couple of games, he threw a pick, came back and still was... He didn't hesitate, he was throwing them into tight holes. Things don't affect him very often. He's such a competitor, you'd think it would, but it does not alter his game whatsoever. He comes right back and is at full detail of what we want him to do."

#### **Q: How are you guys trying to go about preparing for the Raiders' defense considering they've given up so many yards in the past two weeks?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "It's a good defense. I've been in the league a long time; I know better than to let my guard down. I know [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] and [defensive coordinator] Ken [Norton, Jr.] and those guys will do whatever they have to do to get it back up to the level that they've had them. We're not going to let our guard down on this one."

#### **Q: Having recently played this team in the preseason, do you think that's going to have any sort of impact on this game? Anything that can be taken from that tape or taken from going up against the same personnel?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "I think it's more personnel than it is anything. I'm sure they did, we did, we used the game in the breakdown and what you're doing is looking at tendencies really in all phases – if there's something that's consistent with the regular season game and our game. You just add those numbers up to just confirm what you think. Again, players already have played against some of these guys. They know their personnel, we do too. I think that's the advantage for both teams."



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**Q: What are your impressions of Derek Carr in these first two games? Do you see him making strides in his third year?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "I do. I really think he's a good quarterback. He's very confident, obvious in his body language. Some of the throws he's making are outstanding. He's throwing it into some tight windows. He's got a lot of trust in his skill players and he's got some skill players; very dangerous guys. I just watch his body language and the way he commands, even on film. I watched him in that third preseason game, he's a game wrecker."

**Q: The Raiders have been struggling with opposing tight ends. Do you think Delanie Walker can be a key factor in this game?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "Delanie is a special player. He's a good tight end, a very good tight end. Are we putting more of an emphasis on it? No. We're always trying to get Delanie the ball. There's no big secret about it. Defenses know that's the case. If they take him away, in some instances he's been eliminated because of the coverage, then we have guys now that we can get the ball in their hands and make a difference."

**Q: How do you go about stopping guys like Bruce Irvin and Khalil Mack when they come at you from both sides?**

**Coach Mularkey:** "We kind of have the same problem here with our two outside edge rushers. You have a plan of attack. We do when we practice. The good news is we've had work on it for a long time. It's easier said than done. They're both really good. Both really good in both, not just rushing the passer but setting the edge in the run game. We'll have a plan."

### **Titans QB Marcus Mariota**

**Q: What did the come-from-behind victory do for this team last week?**

**Mariota:** "Well, first of all it's huge. It's definitely a confidence booster. To be able to play and finish a game off and win in that type of fashion gives a lot of guys in this locker room confidence for the next few weeks."

**Q: How has the game changed for you now that you're in Year 2?**

**Mariota:** "Well, I think it's slowed down a little bit. Everyone talks about the speed of the game and you don't really realize how fast things are moving until you're kind of done with your first season and you start to prepare for the second one, so things are starting to slow down for me. I feel comfortable in the offense. I like where we're at, so I feel pretty good."

**Q: How do you think you dealt with all of the changes in your rookie season?**

**Mariota:** "Well, I learned it's a business. It's definitely merit-based. Your performance is going to dictate how long you last or how long you are on a team. For me, I just try to take it one day at a time and not worry about what's going on outside of things that I can control. I just wanted to focus on getting better every single day and trying to win games."

**Q: Do you have much of a relationship with Derek Carr?**

**Mariota:** "We talked a little bit, just purely on after-game types of deals. But you know every chance I've talked to him, he's been great guy, he's been very supportive and it's been cool to kind of get to know him a little bit."

**Q: What do you see from the Raiders' defense?**

**Mariota:** "I still think they have some of the best pass rushers in the NFL. Their two outside guys are guys that really can make a difference in the game. Part of that, up front they're really good. The back end, those guys have made plays. It's a tough game week in and week out. Sometimes it's just not your day, not your week. But, we know that come Sunday those guys will be ready and ready to play us."



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### **Q: How do you prepare for Khalil Mack and Bruce Irvin?**

**Mariota:** "You have to know where they're at because there are certain things they do on the defensive side where they get them the matchup that they like or they favor. But, for us, we just have to focus on what we're doing, make sure we're communicating and everyone's on the same page and do our best to stay on page."

### **Q: Were you and Amari Cooper able to build a relationship when you were both in New York for the Heisman Trophy ceremony?**

**Mariota:** "Well, just getting to know him a little bit from that standpoint. He was great, he was kind of fun to talk to, fun to hang out with for a little bit. He's had an incredible start to his career. He's fun to watch and he's that type of guy – from the few moments that I've kind of spent with him – he's a competitive guy. He's going to do everything in his power to be the best player he can be. So, I'm sure he's got an exciting future and I'm sure he'll continue to make plays."

### **Q: What's it been like having DeMarco Murray and Derrick Henry in your backfield?**

**Mariota:** "Incredibly helpful, whether it's pass protection, running the football, getting open. Those guys are very versatile. They're not just downhill running types of guys. They can get out and cause matchup problems for people because they're good route runners. They can get open, so for us, we're very fortunate to have them. We're going to try to find ways to continue to find touches for the both of them because they're both very good players for us and we think that they can really make a difference in the game."

### **Q: What makes Delanie Walker such a dangerous weapon?**

**Mariota:** "Physically, he's tough to match up with. He's fast, he's physical. To have someone like that, whether it's as a safety blanket or someone that can really get open and cause matchup problems makes our job as quarterbacks a whole lot easier and we're thankful to have him."