



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Opening Statement: "Alright guys, looking for another home game. The atmosphere's been tremendous in the stadium. Hopefully the fans will come out and be loud again. That was a big help last week against Los Angeles."

Q: What allowed your pass rush to be so effective?

Coach Guenther: "I just think the rush and the coverage element, it always works hand in hand. I think we did a really good job both areas. Guys played with a lot of energy. We got them in some good situations to rush really first and foremost. And then you know at the end of the game you're looking to close out the game. The third game we've been on the defense we've closed the game out. Once in Chicago, really Indianapolis, Detroit and really, that game, so it's good to see."

Q: How will you guys handle the slot corner job if Lamarcus Joyner can't go?

Coach Guenther: "Nevin Lawson's been playing in there, Daryl [Worley] can play, so we'll have multiple guys in there. We train those guys to play inside and outside so it shouldn't be much of an issue."

Q: Are you looking to get Isaiah Johnson more playing time?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah with so many guys we have down, he's going to have to come in and play some more. Obviously, we were able to get him in at the end of the game. Guys were getting worn out a little bit at the end. So, we put him in there and he did a good job for us."

Q: What are your first impressions of Dion Jordan?

Coach Guenther: "He's a good-looking rascal. This guy is big, long, you know he's getting into football shape. He should really help us out. He's real smart and he's picked up the playbook quick. So, he's been in there working with the first time with some of the stuff today, so he's been impressive."

Q: Considering you guys got after it today more so than yesterday (Wednesday), what did you see from Jordan today specifically?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, you know, we basically get a lot of reps on Wednesday, a slower teaching tempo. And then Thursday we really ramp it up with some different situations. First and second down, third down, so we were able to rush one-on-one's today, which was good for him."

Q: How has D.J. Swearinger looked in his first couple practices with the team?

Coach Guenther: "He's done good, smart guy. He's been in this system kind of. You know, coming from Arizona, Vance Joseph is the defensive coordinator there. He was my secondary coach when I was in Cincinnati, so he's used to kind of the same terminology. When we got him here I was like, 'hey this is this coverage, this is that coverage,' and he shook his head, 'yeah I got it.' So that was helpful. And he's a smart guy to begin with so he's picked it up really good."

Q: Do you anticipate D.J. Swearinger playing this week?

Coach Guenther: "I do. All hands on deck this week with the guys we got."



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Q: How does the quarterback look in the offense with Zac Taylor as opposed to what you've seen in past years?

Coach Guenther: "The quarterback, you know we had him at the Senior Bowl. He was impressive there you know, he did a pretty good job there against Baltimore. So, you know he's made some good throws under duress. He can move around the pocket some. He can check some stuff at the line of scrimmage. It's going to be a good challenge for us. They got a good team over there. I don't care what their record says."

Q: Joe Mixon is coming off a pretty good game after a slow start and Melvin Gordon had some success against you guys last week. Is there any concern there that you saw?

Coach Guenther: "Different team, different setup really. You know we just got to do a good job stopping the run. He's one of their biggest weapons on offense so we got to be aware of where he's at, when he's in the game, and just handle the runs and some of the play action passes that they have."

Q: Was there anything that Clelin Ferrell can build upon off the success he had in the game on Thursday against the Chargers?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah he needs to keep it going. [Head] Coach [Jon Gruden] just got done saying you know, 'with Michael Jordan's height, you've got to get him the ball.'" He's coming off his best game. I really think the light came on for him in the second half of the Detroit game. Walking off the field with him I was like, 'I think the light just came on for you. Really.' And then he went out against the Chargers and played really good. So hopefully he can keep playing at a high level and we can have the wave of guys that we've had. That was really impressive the other night with those guys."

Q: What was it that made you feel the light came on for Ferrell at that time?

Coach Guenther: "You can just tell with the look in a guys' eyes. You know when he starts making plays, you can start saying, 'hey I'm starting to figure this out.' It's the look in the guys' eyes and the way he's handling himself and he came out the other night and played really good, so hopefully he can keep that up."

Q: I saw the last two games Ferrell was playing the majority of time on the outside with Kyle Wilber shifted in a little bit. Was that a decision you guys made?

Coach Guenther: "Well with Arden [Key] down you know he went out some and we had four ends up, so we were just rolling them through, keeping those guys fresh. And you know we got to do a good job on first and second down to get them at bats on third down so hopefully we can continue to do that."

Q: How much extra time is involved for the position coaches to get the guys you are bringing in mid-season to get them ready as fast as possible to play?

Coach Guenther: "More than you think. When you really look at the first game. You had [Karl] Joseph and [Johnathan] Abram as the safeties and you had [Gareon] Conley and [Daryl] Worley as the corners. You had [Vontaze] Burfict as the mike linebacker. Arden Key is in there at the end. We've had a lot of guys at all three different levels that we had to get and bring in and get ready to play. You got safeties, you got [Will] Compton, you got Dion Jordan coming in here. The coaches have done a tremendous job getting these guys ready to play. Getting them to understand how we do it. The technique, the footwork, all that stuff. Not just the call and, 'hey this is where I go,' but how to do it the right way. So, the coaches deserve a lot of credit for that."



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Q: Could you see Dion Jordan playing on Sunday?

Coach Guenther: "Absolutely. I think it's a very good chance he makes his Raider debut."

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: What's your experience with Zac Taylor?

Coach Olson: "Great guy. I think he has tremendous leadership skills. Natural communicator, I thought. Very intelligent, understood his role in L.A. and very hard worker, so nothing but good things."

Q: How do you feel like he's equipped to handle what they are going through right now, guiding a team through a rough start like they are having?

Coach Olson: "Well, it's never easy, no matter whether you're a young coach in the league or you're a veteran coach in the league. It's not an easy situation, but certainly through experience I think you become better equipped on how to handle those situations and how to address the team and looking for different ways to motivate and stimulate your guys every week. So, certainly not an easy task."

Q: You went through this with the Raiders a few years ago, an 0-10 start and Derek Carr was a rookie then, how did you get guys to keep trying?

Coach Olson: "Well, that's the challenge. It's every week. It's more of the above-the-neck work on the players to keep their minds in it and to let them know there's something better coming at the end, and again it's easier said than done. But, that's part of your job as a coach, is to continue to motivate your players to try to play to the best of their abilities, so just trying to find different ways and some positives to build upon each week."

Q: Are there any common themes between the last four games of what Carr has been able to do? Is there anything he's been doing later in the year that has allowed him to be so consistent?

Coach Olson: "Again, I think it's comfort within the system and I know we've said that. It still is only his second year in the system and I think [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden would agree he's gotten better, and if you can just kind of focus on the improvement within the system, not worrying necessarily about the results and certainly we know we're judged on wins and losses, but in his mind just continue to grow from within the system and be the best Derek Carr that you can be and that will be good enough for us. But, I just think more than anything it's experience within the system."

Q: That game on Thursday was kind of different in that you struggled to run it more than have in the past and Carr got pressured more than he has. Yet, when you had to have the drive, you made the drive. What does that say?

Coach Olson: "That was very encouraging. I know if you spoke to our players, I think they are playing with confidence right now and again that comes through playing through experience and having success. And I think we are a pretty confident offensive group right now and that helps. We were unable to get into a flow early in the game. We had very few possessions there in the first half, but I think they all believe in one another from position group to position group and certainly they believe in Derek Carr and that makes it certainly easier."



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Q: How have you been able to be so efficient on third down specifically?

Coach Olson: "Well, a lot of it as we talked about with our players, a lot of it begins on first down and trying to stay on schedule on your first- and second-down plays to where you're not in third-and-unmanageable situations. So, a lot of it is being aware of the situation and understanding on first and second down what the intent of the play is. That's a big part of it and I know that's a big part of Derek learning the quarterback position too, is understanding the intent of the play and where it's at in the particular situation."

Q: Carr's stats on third down are very impressive. Is that a result of being in more manageable situations or is he playing particularly well in those situations?

Coach Olson: "Every Thursday we are out here we emphasize the third downs and the third-down pressures, but it's really a group effort from the protection up front to the wide receivers running precise routes and understanding the timing of the play, and again the intent of the play on third downs. I think they are getting a better feel as a group overall, but again they got a lot of confidence in one another, both in terms of the protection part of it and the execution part of it from within the passing game, so good feeling right now."

Q: What have you seen from their run defense right now?

Coach Olson: "It's stout. This is a veteran group on defense now and our players, we are in no position to overlook anybody, but they have a defensive line that you can take a look at and recognize those names and you watch them on tape and they're playing hard. So, I think our guys in no way would say that this would be a group you can overlook now. So, very impressive defensive group."