



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "Alright. Excited to be back at home this week. Another divisional opponent coming in. Good football team, a lot of talent in all three phases that we see a lot of challenges. We're busy at work with our preparation, getting ourselves ready to go for Sunday. Questions?"

Q: What has allowed Andy Reid to get his team ready to go coming off a bye week throughout his career?

Coach Del Rio: "Good time off; time off well spent. I think we all like to put together a plan and come out of our byes and play good football. He's done a good job of that."

Q: People are attributing Derek Carr's success to having the right coach at the right time. How much do you agree with that?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not really concerned with statements that are out there. For us it's about just kind of going through the process of preparing every week and understanding the challenges that are in front of us, then getting our team to go out and play well and do enough to win. We come back each week and we say, 'OK, these are things we can do better. These are the things we did well.' Just try to grow as we go forward. For me as a coach, I look at everything and analyze decision making; look at the whole league, see trends, and things like that. So we study it and work situations. It's situational awareness. Then for our quarterback, that's what we ask him to do. Do his job, work his process, get himself ready to play as well as he's capable of. To me, I'm more of staying on track with doing those things and less on trying to answer how a guy feels, whether it's good or bad."

Q: How encouraging is it to know that you still haven't put it all together and you're 4-1?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, it's great to be, after five games, 4-1 and have a share of first place. I think as we look at ourselves and we're honest with ourselves, I think we see a lot of things that we can do better that we need to do better as we go forward. I think that's a healthy perspective for us to have. I'm happy with that because anything short of that would be unrealistic."

Q: Bruce Irvin was saying after the game that the thing that was bothering him the most was the lack of communication. Are you seeing the same thing and are you surprised that it's still an issue?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, what I would say is, I would say that until you eliminate those things, you have those issues. Communication is so critical to what we do. Being able to share information so that if I'm going to count on you to do what you need to do, you and I being on the same page is imperative. I think that's a great place to start. I think the next place to start is then once you know your assignment, have your eyes where they belong. They're really basic fundamentals that we have to do better and we will. I think for anybody that's expressing a sense of frustration or maybe agitation, I think so long as that goes back into what can I do individually, myself to make sure I'm doing all I can and doing my job because that's really where it starts. What can happen is when teams start talking about how they're going to fix things, we don't need a lot of people with a lot of answers. The answer is really simple. We need one thing to occur. We need great communication. We need our eyes where they belong, and we need each man doing his job. It's really that simple."

Q: Where is the communication issue? On the field? Between the plays? In the huddle?

Coach Del Rio: "No, it's really to not delve too deeply into this topic, I would just say the ability to communicate and be on the same page is imperative to play good defense. That's just where you start. Then we get into the shedding blocks and tackling and proper leveraging and all the other basic fundamentals of playing good defense. We believe in our ability to teach. We believe in the guys we have, and we believe that we're all in it together. You hang onto all of those things and you keep working and then things will get better in a hurry."



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Q: How much does trust factor into that, too? If a guy believes he's doing his own job, he's got to trust that the guy next to him is doing his job, too.

Coach Del Rio: "That's right. It's trust and then you build confidence and then it starts snowballing in a positive direction."

Q: How do you prepare for the matchup with Marcus Peters?

Coach Del Rio: "To me, I look at him and say, 'Really good football player.' Grew up here locally. We liked him coming out of the draft. He's done a great job. He's one of many good players on their defense and on their football team. Certainly you need to know what you're doing when you're going his way."

Q: Do you still carry the rivalry with you?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't carry a lot about it, [Ed] Podolak, any of those greats, Lenny Dawson. I don't think about any of those guys. I'm thinking about all the Raiders. There have been some great games over the years. I think for it to be a really good rivalry, I think both teams have to have success. So we're looking forward to having some success because that's what our part is. Have some success, do well, play a good game against a good team."

Q: When you played for the Chiefs, was it that intense for Raider week?

Coach Del Rio: "I love the Silver and Black."

QB Derek Carr

Q: How much audibling are you doing?

Carr: "They have stuff built in where I do it a lot."

Q: Just an automatic check?

Carr: "Some of that. Some is just like they call a play, and then you can check it at the line. There is a whole bunch of different stuff. There is a lot of stuff though [inaudible]."

Q: How much more comfortable are you getting in this system? Do you feel comfortable getting up there and making those changes?

Carr: "Absolutely. That's the way I love to play. I love having a lot put on my back. I like having... Any quarterback does. [Offensive coordinator] coach [Bill] Musgrave talks to me about his time with Matt Ryan, how he loved that and how we're similar in that way. We just love that kind of stuff. I absolutely love it."

Q: How much confidence does that give you, to know that they have that confidence in you?

Carr: "It's cool. It's a good feeling. It shows we're headed in the right way. Any quarterback would feel that it's cool that they trust me to do that stuff."

Q: Do you feel extra pressure when you make a decision on a fourth down?

Carr: "No, I just know that as soon as the ball goes up, I laugh because I know what they were thinking like, 'We didn't call that.' (*laughing*). It's just funny. It's nothing outside the framework of what they want me to do or being aggressive and those kinds of things. I would never do that kind of stuff, be an insubordinate. I'm not like that. I try and stay in the framework and run the offense the way coach Musgrave and [quarterbacks] coach [Todd] Downing want it."

Q: How much audibling did you do your rookie year?

Carr: "[Former offensive coordinator Greg Olson] 'Oly' let me do everything at the line, he did. That was just his system. He's big on the quarterbacks. You watch the Jaguars play, Blake [Bortles] is handling a lot of stuff at the line of scrimmage. That's just the way that 'Oly' had things."



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Q: When Jack Del Rio gets the reputation of being a gambler during the game, does that trickle down to you guys? Do you feel like the team really is a reflection of the coach?

Carr: "To us, I've said this before, it just gives us confidence. I don't know if it makes us feel any certain type of way but it definitely gives us confidence that he trusts us in fourth-and-2, fourth-and-short, backed up, two-point conversions. He trusts us to execute. There's a lot riding on us to execute, but there's no heightened sense of, 'Oh, we have to do this.' It's just like that's how coach wants it done."

Q: So it is a heightened sense of confidence?

Carr: "Absolutely. Definitely a lot of confidence instilled in us that he trusts us that much."

Q: In what areas have you seen Amari Cooper make the most growth from his rookie season?

Carr: "It's hard to say his route-running because it was good when he first got here, but he's cleaning everything up. We were actually just sitting there having lunch together talking about how he and I can practice better together, just trying to figure out anything. That's the way we've grown the most is our communication. That stems from obviously being together, being around each other for awhile, growing in that way. We talk about how we'll do things today and how we'll go about our business. It's those kinds of conversations that we didn't have last year. We were both still trying to figure it out. We're both still young, so we're both still trying to figure it out, but now we're having conversations that are helping us get there faster."

Q: Has he always been a confident receiver?

Carr: "Oh yeah. I would say it's grown, but you know, that's just me not really knowing him on the inside how he feels. But, I would say it's grown, because as you get older in this league, especially against the defenses that we play year in and year out, you're just going to gain confidence, you're going to gain more. And him being able to go to the Pro Bowl last year and playing half the year hurt, that's a lot of confidence for him. To say, 'Wow, I didn't maybe have my best at all times, but I can still make it there.' I would assume that that would give him a lot of confidence."

Q: With Kansas City sweeping you guys last year, is that another team you guys want to have the ability to beat?

Carr: "Absolutely, like I said, everyone in this division knows, it goes through Denver, because not only are they the division champs, they're the Super Bowl champs. We know that, but also on our side of things, we finished third and we didn't even beat Kansas City last year. So, there's nothing for us to hold our chest out about or think highly of ourselves in anyway. We need to go out there and we need to compete and try and get a win against a team that we didn't beat last year and we know how tough it is to play them. But, that's the mindset that we have is, yes the records are what they are right now, but that that means absolutely nothing. We didn't beat them last year but this is a new year and we have a new opportunity."

Q: What are the challenges of playing against an aggressive guy like Marcus Peters?

Carr: "You said it, you know, he's aggressive, a playmaker, great hands, great ball skills as DB [defensive back]. Anytime a corner has great ball skills, you have to be careful with those 50-50 chance balls. You have to be careful in that aspect, but it's the same way whenever we play all of those top corners, which he is one of. I'm just going to go out there and play my game regardless of who's standing where. But, you just know and you have that respect for him about what kind of player they are, but you still got to go out there and just play ball."

Q: Does he try to bait guys into throwing?

Carr: "Absolutely, he definitely does. You try and study that and learn those things but he absolutely does."

Q: How much do you think about getting your first career win against the Chiefs here in Oakland?

Carr: "Obviously, it was my first win ever, took about 78 weeks to get to it. *(laughter)* It felt good though. It felt good and so I'll always remember that, but I don't go back to that game and recall on it like, 'Oh this is what we



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did.' It's a different offense, they got some new pieces also. We stole Sean [Smith] so that's awesome. It was a double whammy for us. You look back on that game and it's exciting but nowadays, we're so far past that, everyone's different players. So, we've kind of got past it."

Q: Has Sean Smith presented the blueprint then?

Carr: "I mean, he's had like little tips, but it's like anything man. You come out here, you learn a new defense and those kind of things. It's like you're so much into that, you're like that other language is now foreign, you know? So, obviously when he first got here I picked his brain and have notes on all of that stuff, but I've played them a whole bunch of times now. You got a feel for who they are, but you be ready for anything that coach can bring because he'll bring it."

Q: What did you take away from their loss against Pittsburgh?

Carr: "It's tough man, because every single week anybody can beat anybody, anything can happen, so you don't look too much into the score, you just kind of watch the scheme. You kind of just try and watch each position, each player and just pick off things on them. That's it. I never look at the score unless it's a situation thing I need to be conscience of watching it, but I don't look at the score. If someone gets beats by a lot or wins by a lot and think, 'Oh, that's the kind of player they are.' You know? I try to get a feel for their scheme, I get a feel for who they are and I try to get inside their heads, that's really all it is."

Q: Who was your favorite wrestler?

Carr: "'The Rock.' I love 'The Rock.' (*laughter*) Yeah, I love 'The Rock.' I grew up watching that... Brett Hart. I wanted the Brett Hart glasses, couldn't get them, so if anybody's got them out there, I'd love them."



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Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid

Q: What areas have you seen growth this season from Derek Carr in comparison to previous years?

Coach Reid: "Well, he can make all the throws. I think he's always been able to do that. I think he's got a good offensive coordinator there and a good scheme I think he's very comfortable with."

Q: Are the Raiders much different from the team you faced last year?

Coach Reid: "Well, they're playing very good football. I don't know... I'd have to go back and try and analyze that one. But I'll just tell you right now, and that's really all I care about, is they're playing really good football."

Q: How has Marcus Peters been able to make an immediate impact since he's been drafted?

Coach Reid: "Listen, he's a good player. He's very instinctive, loves the game, studies, he's a good football player. He's got a passion about the sport."

Chiefs QB Alex Smith

Q: Is there any way to explain how Andy Reid's teams are so good coming off a bye?

Smith: "Yeah, you know it's hard to point to any one thing. I think certainly he does a great job of giving us some good time off and getting rested and getting back healthy. I think he's efficient with it. Then when we do come back, we dive right back into our normal schedule, which is really well thought out, and I know he puts a lot of time into. It's hard. Certainly, obviously, in any bye week you hope you're getting healthy, getting rested. I don't know if there's any one thing though that would point to that success."

Q: What's it going to be like playing against Sean Smith?

Smith: "It's always interesting any time you go against corners that you obviously played with for a long time. Sean and I, obviously both going to Utah and then played here together for three years. We have a really good relationship. He and I used to always go back and forth in the locker room. It'll be interesting to go against him. It's very similar to playing with Brandon Flowers here and him going to San Diego. It always makes for an interesting matchup. You know each other well. You went against him a lot in all of OTAs and camp and things like that. It'll be good. He's obviously a really, really good player. It'll be a good matchup."

Q: What jumps out about the Raiders defense this year? They're giving up a lot of yards per play, but also creating some turnovers.

Smith: "I think you said it right there as far as defense goes – flying around, a bunch of turnovers, running to the football. I think the yard thing, yeah, they've given up some yards, but I think some of that's kind of been blown... They've played some good offenses. That's kind of inflated that. They've been in some good battles though. You look at it, they've been in a bunch of close games, so they're certainly battle tested. I think more mature than last year. When you look at them, they were young. A lot of those young players have had a lot of experience at this point and more mature. You've seen them be able to handle those situations."

Q: Does it complicate things with the Raiders having both Khalil Mack and Bruce Irvin?

Smith: "They're both really good players. Certainly, as a quarterback, I'm trying not to pay attention to either of those two guys. Anytime you have two edge rushers of their ability, you have to be aware of it as far as all week and fundamentals in the pocket and things like that. When you're playing, your attention is down the field a lot, but you do have to be aware of those guys. You can't be done with them. They deserve that respect."

Q: Do you have any observations of what you've seen from Derek Carr and the growth he's made?

Smith: "Yeah, he's played so well from the jump, from his first opportunity; certainly a guy with a lot of tools. I think the thing that jumps out is just how fast he plays for a young guy and he continues to develop that. Plays fast,



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throws things early. He anticipates in the little bit that I have watched. I think that's kind of the name of the game at this level. You have to be able to play fast, anticipate things. Certainly, physically, he's got a lot of tools."

Q: Do you have any thoughts of Colin Kaepernick earning his starting job back? Do you have any knowledge of his interest in social issues?

Smith: "Yeah, I got nothing. I'm so far gone from that, I have no idea what's going on there. It'd be hard for me to even comment."

Q: How is Jamaal Charles coming along?

Smith: "It's good. He's been practicing for a while. Then got his first action two weeks ago, which was a good step for him. I think it'll only continue to increase. He's obviously a very unique player. I think as he continues to get back into playing form, he's role will just get bigger and bigger."

Q: What kind of dynamic has Jeremy Maclin brought to the team?

Smith: "It's been such a nice complement to have him outside when you have [Travis] Kelce and our backs. To have that three dimension, then to be able to move Maclin around, he's so talented, inside, outside, move him around. He's so competitive, so smart. It's been a big addition for us."