



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: We haven't seen Trent Brown out at practice for a couple of days...

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, he's been excused today. He has a personal matter that he is taking care of, but everything is fine. Everything is okay, he's just excused."

Q: What can you tell us about the progress of Gabe Jackson since he's been hurt? Is there any chance he can be designated for a return guy on IR?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, he's doing good. I see him walking around, which is a great sign. Rehab is going well. I don't know when he's going to be ready. I don't even know if we are going to put him on IR, honestly, but his progress has been good. We'll see where we are after the Seahawk game and make that final determination."

Q: Are you intending to play just mostly guys who are challenging for jobs?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, pretty much. We won't play everybody. There will be some guys that have a full slate ahead of themselves and some guys will not play at all, so everybody's role is a little bit different, but the guys that do play will be given a great opportunity to improve their resumes and we're excited about that."

Q: Are you in the same boat with Justin Ellis as you are with Gabe, basically wait until after the Seattle game to see where he's at?

Coach Gruden: "I know he's out this week. Don't know when he's going to be ready, so we'll have to gather all the information obviously after the Seahawk game. See who's available, see what we are going to do, but right now he's not ready to go."

Q: Is there an update on Eddie Vanderdoes?

Coach Gruden: "Not ready to go. He's been hurt the whole training camp basically. It's unfortunate, we haven't really had a chance to see Eddie in pads since I've been here."

Q: Is it a concussion?

Gruden: "Yes."

Q: Is Maxx Crosby coming along with his hand?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, he is. He got the cast off. He's wearing a big ball on there now. It looks really bad, but hopefully when the season starts we'll be able to fit him with something that allows him to use his fingers. We just got to let the stitches come out before we do that."

Q: What have you thought of the progress of your three first-round picks throughout camp?

Coach Gruden: "I got to remind myself who they are...I like them all. They are good football players, they are smart, they are into it, they have leadership skills, mental toughness and I think they are all physical, every-down football players. I'm really happy with them."

Q: Where have you seen Nathan Peterman make the most progress from the start of camp until now?

Coach Gruden: "I'm afraid to bring up Peterman's name with the media today. I mean look at it yourself. I don't know what...He's hitting 75 percent of his passes. The ones that are incomplete are dropped. I



Oakland Raiders Transcript

mean he runs, he passes, he's making audibles, he's getting better and he's getting some confidence. So, he's in the mix. I like him. I know other people that do too."

Q: Where do you draw the line on having quarterbacks give their guys a chance to make a play downfield and also being secure with the ball? Is that a tough line for you to draw as a coach?

Coach Gruden: "If you watch us practice, at the beginning of practice we work on the red line, the 50-50 balls, and when you have Antonio Brown and Tyrell Williams you have to commit yourself to throwing them, and same with [Darren] Waller. We got to throw the ball down the field and if it's incomplete or we get the catch, we can always challenge [Al] Riveron [Senior Vice President of Officiating] in New York and see what he thinks. It's going to be a very, very subjective call this year, but we are trying to be more aggressive. The better your receivers are, the more aggressive you are. And the better your line is, the more vertical shots you can call. We think we are better on the line. We think we are better outside, with that being said we are going to take more shots I hope."

Q: Are you happy with the progress Antonio Brown has made since returning to practice?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah. I mean we've been in constant contact with them and with modern technology. I don't believe in all the technology, but I do believe in iPads and sharing information and he's been all over it. He's had access to our meetings. He's had access to our film and cut-ups, and he's taken advantage of it. He's a good player and he'll be great."

Q: As this preseason starts to wind down, how much more comfortable have you seen Derek Carr in this offense in his second year?

Coach Gruden: "I think you got to ask him. He looks comfortable to me. I think he's had a great OTA period, he's had a great camp. He's only had one drive, but he's got great rapport I think with his receivers. He showed a lot of leadership and command and I think the better our defense plays, the better our offensive line and receivers are, I think the better he'll be. And I just hope I don't screw it up."

Q: Do you feel like in your three preseason weeks you've gotten a better sense of when you might or might not challenge a pass interference call?

Coach Gruden: "Not really. I've always felt right or wrong. A pass interference should call itself. We should all be sitting there watching the game and go that's a PI, and if it's close you don't call it. I know a lot of people don't see it like that, but Gerry Austin, who's on our staff, who was the white-hat in three Super Bowls I sat next to in the both, that's how he looked at it. You only make that call if it's pretty obvious. I don't want to split hairs and watch super-duper, quadruple slow-mo to see if it is or isn't, and to me that's irrational and insane."

Q: How many roster spots are up for grabs on Thursday night?

Coach Gruden: "That's a good question. I think the big part of that is the injury status of our team, and who becomes available. We've been talking to a lot of teams, a lot of teams have been talking to us about roster changes, etc., so there's a lot that goes into that right now."