



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: You had a few interceptions today, but what has camp been like so far?

Carr: "It's been actually really good. We have a system of how we chart things since I've been with [offensive coordinator] Coach [Todd] Downing. Every camp, every OTA, all those things and I've progressed. The percentage that I've progressed from last year to this year, it's awesome. I want to always stay on that trend. Now that kind of stuff, that's going to happen. TJ [Carrie] made a great jump. He read the play and he jumped it. That kind of stuff is going to happen. As long as I'm going to the right place with the ball, I'll be OK. But if I'm making dumb decisions, then I'll be mad. As long as we're going in the right direction, which based on the charts we are, that lets me know. OK, I'm doing the right things in the offseason. I'm doing the right things film study wise and so on and so forth. But I have to make those better."

Q: You talk about progressing, is it more about decision-making or accuracy?

Carr: "Both. Decision-making, accuracy, just giving guys catchable balls. That's always the main thing. That's a wide range of things. Not throwing a heater and bouncing it off the running back's chest or too high. Those kind of things. It's knowing the game and knowing who can do what. Obviously, that takes time. The big thing for me is we have an accuracy percentage that we go off of. I just always want to make sure that number is always going up. That comes from footwork. That comes from timing and all those things."

Q: In your system can you throw a pass that is caught but still inaccurate by your standards?

Carr: "It'll be a completion, but it won't be a two. A two is a perfect ball. A zero means bad throwing, incomplete and it was incomplete because of the throw. A one is yeah it's catchable, but we could have better."

Q: So that's the chart?

Carr: "Yeah, that's it."

Q: Have you noticed a difference in the fans this year opposed to in the past years?

Carr: "It's no surprise. It always makes me wonder how did they get out of work to get over here. That's our fans man. They're loyal. They're here. That's why we love them. That's why we love playing for them. I can't say it's a surprise because that's what we expect."

Q: You've always played with an edge, but in what ways did that reach a different level after the Christmas Eve game?

Carr: "Yeah, no doubt. Like you said, I've always been someone that is so competitive, so passionate when I play. But when I broke my ankle, I think we talked about it last time, it made me realize just how thankful I am, and I'm a pretty thankful guy. It made me realize how thankful I am. Not for the football stuff, but to be able to walk my kids and put them in bed. To be able to have my son bump his knee and I can go walk over and pick him up because there were times when I had broke my ankle, he had fell down or did something and I couldn't get there. That's the stuff I'm thankful for. Now to be back out here going into our first preseason game, I'm just having so much fun. That's all I tried to do this camp. Honestly my main focus every day coming out here is just have fun because like everyone knows, it can go just like that."

Q: Will you talk about the connection you're building with Jared Cook?

Carr: "Yes. It's fun. He's a guy that creates the biggest mismatches because safeties typically aren't fast enough and good enough cover guys. Linebackers are too slow. You can't put a corner on him because he could just muscle you out of the way. He's an amazing matchup to have especially complimentary, once we get all of our pieces out there."



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I don't know the last time we had a practice where all our offense is really playing together. Once we're all out there and rolling together, that's going to be fun to see how much of a mismatch he has been."

Q: What does it do for the offense as a whole when you have a mismatch like him?

Carr: "It takes a lot of pressure off 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree], takes a lot of pressure off 'Coop' [Amari Cooper]. It makes people decide who do they want in the football game. Do they want a safety playing linebacker? Do they want another DB? Do they just want to zone it off? What do they want to do? The type of personnel that we have, dictates a lot of those things."

Q: What do you attribute to your progress with Downing's chart?

Carr: "Goodness. Everything. It's a constant work in progress. There will never be a time that I stand up here and say, 'Hey man, I'm perfect on the whole thing.' Now I'm going to try my best, and he's going to grade me really hard to make sure I don't get there. With my decisions, my accuracy, my completions, I just want to make sure that number is always going up. Make sure that it gets to a point where we're completing 90 percent of our passes throughout a whole training camp."

Q: Anything specific that has really helped you this offseason?

Carr: "No, it's just continuing to do the things coach Downing tells us every day. He drills a lot of the same things. Just making those so muscle memory that every single throw is 10 out of 10. We're at the point now where, yeah it can be nine out of 10 pretty much every day. Eight out of 10 on a bad day. Getting it to a point where we have days that are 10 out of 10 and once we do that, getting it consistently all the time like that. That's something that just takes time. It's going to take years to get to that point. As long as we're heading in that direction, it's a good thing."

Q: Do you think you're going to play against Arizona and is it important that you play?

Carr: "You know, I don't know. They haven't talked to us about it, honestly. Usually I think, what is it today? Is it Wednesday? Yeah, usually around today or tomorrow they'll let us know those kind of things. I hope I do. That's up to the coaches. I don't think I've shown any signs of anything all offseason and then now. I hope that I'm out there, but we'll see. When coach comes up and tells me, he'll let me know."

Q: You haven't been out in a game without Donald Penn there to protect you.

Carr: "That's funny. I really haven't, have I? Wow. It'll be different in the fact that we haven't done that in a game yet, but it won't be different because we've been doing that all of training camp. That's the thing, too, is in the offseason as he is an older guy in his career, they were giving him some time and letting some other guys develop at that spot. It won't be something too new, but it will be a little different."

Q: You got a little taste of Eddie Vanderdoes a couple of days ago.

Carr: "Well, he never brought me down." *(laughing)*

Q: What do you see out of Eddie Vanderdoes as a rookie coming into this team?

Carr: "Very explosive, great hands. He reminds me a lot of the way [Justin] Tuck can get skinny and shoot a gap. The way he plays with his hands, and if he gets beat the first time, he's going to counter again. If he gets beat then he's going to counter again. His mind never stops. His motor never stops. That kind of player inside with Bruce [Irvin] and Khalil [Mack] rushing the outside, it's going to be a problem. It really is. I'm really happy that we have and he didn't go to another AFC West team and let them add another pass rusher."



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Q: What message are you giving these rookies heading into the first preseason game?

Carr: "Don't worry about anything but just playing hard. The production takes care of itself. Honestly, I can't go out there and control that I'm going to be able to throw for 300 yards and three touchdowns. We can't control that. He can't control going out there and getting five sacks. But he can control his motor. He can control his effort and his preparation. That's what I go to in every game. I may sound like a broken record after some games, but that's all I think about. That's just me. That's how I do things and it's worked out so far."

Q: What have you seen out of DeAndré Washington so far this camp?

Carr: "He's doing a great job. Not only in running the football. Obviously, he had a good touchdown for us in the red zone period, but he's doing great things in pass protection for a guy of his stature. Usually you think a smaller guy, I don't know, but he's real stocky. He's strong. So when he gets his hands on guys, he does a pretty good job. I think that he's had a phenomenal camp."

Q: What have you seen from Cordarrelle Patterson?

Carr: "Fast. Super fast. Super competitive. He's fun to be around. He's got crazy talent like you said. He's a crazy athlete. It blows my mind sometimes thinking of guys that big that can run that fast. It's really weird. It's not normal. To add someone like that to the offense is a good thing."

Q: Why are you at your best in the fourth quarter?

Carr: "I'm not sure. I wish I had a secret or something to tell somebody. It's just those moments, you just go back to your training. Like today, we had a two-minute drive and we didn't convert. TJ picked the ball off. But it's moments right there where I just, 'OK, I'm on to the next one.' It wasn't like I gave any less effort there than I did in New Orleans. It wasn't like I tried to do the right footwork and put the right balls against a team like Carolina or Tampa Bay. It's just TJ made a great play. Understanding the process of everything. I'll go watch the film. I'll learn what I can do better. Then I'll just go to the next day and concentrate on that next time. All of those things add up and over time you just have so many reps at it that you just keep getting better."

Q: Why do you look so comfortable throwing to Crabtree?

Carr: "He's got great hands. I don't know why. I think he probably makes it look a little more comfortable than I do the way he catches the ball sometimes. Honestly, we get along like brothers. We'll argue about something and then 30 seconds later talk about, 'Just throw me the ball,' kind of thing. It's just our relationship is so cool, so fun because we're the same. Super competitive. We both know how things should get done and how we want them done. I think that that's what brings the best out of us. I know I can rely on him no matter what."

Q: What have you seen from Seth Roberts this training camp?

Carr: "It's the same thing that I tell everybody when I talk about our receivers. 'How's 'Crab?' How's 'Coop?' How's Cordarrelle [Patterson]? How's Jared [Cook]?' I'm like, 'They're great, but so is Seth.' I don't know why he goes under the radar so much, but that man has made game-winning catch after big-time play and all these things and it's because he works his tail off. There's no secret. This man goes out there every single day. He puts in the extra work when nobody is watching. He studies his stuff, and he asks me questions. He asks me all the time, 'Derek, how do you want this run? How do you want this thing done?' When we can be on the same page... Like we had a mishap today, me and Seth. We sat there, talked it out and then the next time we know exactly how we want to do it so we don't have that in a real game."

Q: What are your impressions so far of EJ Manuel?

Carr: "I think EJ being here, it looks like he's having fun again. It looks like he's enjoying football. I don't know how his situation was at his prior stop, but I can tell you he's having fun and he was a first-round pick for a reason. We



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look at the guy and it's like, my goodness, he's huge. He can run. He can throw it a mile. What's the problem? The guy is awesome. Being here with T.D. [offensive coordinator Todd Downing], myself, Connor [Cook], [quarterbacks coach] Jake [Peetz] and [quality control – offense] Nate [Tice], we have a great quarterbacks room. We keep it light. As long as I'm the quarterback, it's always going to be a light room because I want everyone to enjoy what they're doing. We're going to grind. I'm going to ask some tough questions and that kind of thing. I might ask too many questions, but I think that EJ is sitting in that room and having fun again. You can see it when he comes out here because he'll complete a ball and you see the fist pump and you see the joy and that's what it's about. I think that he's just having a good time playing football again with a good group of guys."

Q: How different does that offensive line feel with two new starting tackles?

Carr: "Oh yeah, we've got two of them, huh? You guys are on it. *(laughing)* I don't know, I've got to do my job. I'm not going to lie, those guys have had great camps. I watch them go against Khalil [Mack] and Bruce [Irvin] and it doesn't get much harder than that, than those two, right? You get some guys that are similar, right? But it's not going to be harder. They're doing a good job. Obviously, Khalil and Bruce, they're going to make their plays but for the most part, they are giving me all the time I need to get the ball out of my hands, and you guys know, I am trying to get the ball out like that. *(snapping his fingers)* I think that they've done a phenomenal job, so I really haven't noticed like, oh my goodness, Bruce is punching me in the back every time. It hasn't been like that."

Q: Coach Del Rio has said that the communication within the secondary is ahead of where it was at the same time last year. Is that something that you've sensed on the field and can tell?

Carr: "Yes. Another example was perfect today. That last play where TJ [Carrie] jumped the ball. He wouldn't have jumped that last year. They're recognizing things faster and that's why I just dropped back and threw it. They wouldn't recognize it that quick. They wouldn't be on top of their stuff. Sometimes we'd catch them slipping, miscommunicating and then we'd go. And that's not a fault, that's just them learning how to play together. That's us on offense. When we would start slow, it was because, 'Oh you said this,' or, 'Oh, I thought you meant this.' Well now we know each other. We've played games with each other. Same thing with those guys. They've communicate, they talk. They're always together, always communicating. As you just build that over the years... It's not going to happen like that. *(snapping his fingers)* It's never going to happen like that. We have an organization that is very patient. They take their time, they develop us and they let us grow together and it's been really good for our secondary because you can see it. They're communicating. They're on top of stuff, they're there on every play with their hand right there on the receiver. I think that they're poised to have a really good season."