



Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018 Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Postgame Quotes



## RAIDERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

**Opening Statement:** "That was a great effort by our team. We've got a lot of contributions from people that didn't expect to have the type of day that they had. I thought Brandon [Parker] came in, a rookie off the bench and played really good football for us at right tackle. There were a lot of peaks and valleys in the game. We finished today."

## Q: What did you learn about Derek [Carr] today?

**Gruden:** "I have the same feeling I always have. You continue to raise the bar with Carr. It's not good enough yet. He has spectacular talent, he is a great kid. He's going to be fine in this offense. We keep raising the bar with him and try not to ever get satisfied. It's a pleasure coaching him. He showed a lot of great recognition. That is a hard defense. They were blitzing and not blitzing, they're disguising. They have every look known to man, and he hung in there and played his best when we needed him the most."

## Q: How do you feel about your first win in 10 years?

**Gruden:** "It feels like my first win in 100 years. It's great to be back. I thank our fans for hanging in there with us. There was a lot of ups and downs, but to get that field goal from our third-string kicker, back-up snapper. I've never been so nervous on a 29-yard field goal in my life."

### Q: Did you have feeling you had to be closer for any usual field goal?

**Gruden:** "Tried to. Obviously you try to do that in any situation. Put the ball in the left hash. We gave him a great look, he did a good job for us today. The kick-offs were also pretty good."

### Q: It was a rollercoaster the whole game, what can you say about the character in the locker room?

**Gruden:** "We have a lot of character. I think they have proven that. The way they came off to the loss of the Rams on a short week up in Denver. We fought on a hot day and then we went to Miami and fought for 60 minutes on a terribly hot day again. Coming off of a three-game losing streak, it doesn't look good we are down by eight points. We hang in there and we keep playing. That says a lot about the football character. A lot of those veteran players that we brought in here, delivered in spirit today. I think the attitude has a lot to do with the leadership we have on our team."

### Q: Did Marshawn [Lynch]'s run give a lift to the team?

**Gruden:** "It's big. We did not run very good for a while. We had a long toss for a 60 or 70-yard run. We got stuffed on 3rd in 1. It was hard. Cleveland did a great job giving us loaded boxes, a lot of movement up front, but we were persistent. We had some big runs when we needed them. Lynch is unbelievable. What a great competitor. I thought Jalen [Richard] Came in and made some big time plays for us in the 2-minute drill. But, when you have some balance and you can get the third mediums, then you can call some plays that are aggressive."

## Q: Jonathan Hankins performance on the defensive end...

**Gruden:** "I have to see the tape. It was great to see the turnovers. The turnover margin is usually a deciding factor. We are plus two today and Hankins has come in quickly and learned the defense and he is a good player for a couple of different teams. He continues to do well for us."

### Q: What did you learn about the young players on the team?

**Gruden:** "We are playing rookies on the d-line. There is not a lot of rookies playing on a d-line in the NFL if you really look carefully. We are playing a rookie in right tackle we have a rookie punter. We have five or six rookies making major contributions. Those guys have to play better. They have to keep getting better.



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They have to learn some tough lessons the hard way. There's no redshirt for them this year and we are looking forward to tough offensive teams won't he coming weeks."

Q: How do you approach the team for the rest of the week? Do you celebrate or do you keep them level headed?

**Gruden:** "We are going to celebrate tonight, but we have to get ready for Philip [Rivers] and the Chargers. We are really happy, we are proud, we are excited. There is a lot to be thankful for."

## Q: What are your thoughts on Baker [Mayfield]?

**Gruden:** "I love Mayfield. The way he plays, the confidence that he has. He got out of trouble and made some unbelievable throws under fire today. He has a bright future, and I think Cleveland found their quarterback. They have been complaining about not having one for awhile, but it's pretty obviously they got one."

## Q: As a coaching staff, what does today's win do for the team?

**Gruden:** "We have a long way to go. Obviously there are things we have to do better. Its fun to win, we felt that we had a couple of victories slip away, but to close out the first quarter of the season with a win. At least we got paid, at least we made something. We have a long way to go though. We have to get back to work."

## Q: Is today's win something Derek [Carr] can build off of to help the rest of the team?

**Gruden:** "I think Dereck has played great all year. He's had seven or eight plays that people can talk about all they want. Four or five of those bad ones that he has had are my fault. But he's played great. This is his first year with this offense. We have a rookie left tackle and rookie right tackle. We have a lot of receivers that are in and out of the lineup. Martavis Bryant is using a lot of different guys. I love working with him."

### Q: Mulitpe guys catching passes?

**Gruden:** "That's a good thing we have going. We were hoping Martavis was going to have a huge day today. We mis fired it and I didn't think he could handle that long pass. I felt like we left a lot of plays out there when we looked at it early in particular. We did not handle the ball great, but we have good weapons. If they all play good together, we can have a full bulk of the group I think."

### Q: After the first drive in overtime, what was the thinking in conversation with the team?

**Gruden:** "I wanted to make Cleveland use another time out. I didn't have a time out left myself. I didn't want to run the kicking team out there in a desperation field goal. I was going to run one more play but I changed my mind. We had the ball where we wanted it on the left hash on the grass. Extra point there, but I chose to let Cleveland use another time out just in case something went wrong."

## Q: Do you feel that the team fixed the problem of losing momentum in the fourth quarter after today's win?

**Gruden:** "We haven't fixed anything yet. We have a lot of things we have to get better at. I think it is pretty obvious. We played some good football for stints. We played good football in Miami. We played some good football against the Rams. We had some really good tape against Denver, but we have tape that needs to be fixed. That's the same thing that I think we will see today. We have some guys that are really eager to work, we have good leadership and we going to continue to do it. It was really fun to score and win a game and to get that monkey off our back."

## Q: Was the defense able to get Baker [Mayfield] out of rhythm?

**Gruden:** "The big thing is for us to keep him in the pocket. Playing quarterbacks that are not tall you have to make the 5'11" or 6'0" status matter. Whether that is Drew Brees or Russel Wilson or even Mayfield. It doesn't mean you can do it thought because they can change their launching spot and they're quick and

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can get out of there in a hurry. But, keeping them in the pocket with our hands up is a big part of it. We just need to get home more and to put more pressure."

### Q: Who was the player of the game?

**Gruden:** "Rodney Hudson. He was unbelievable today. People have no idea what the center does. Gregg Williams was blitzing from everywhere. Every possible look known to man. Rodney Hudson put our offensive line and our backs into position to at least have a chance to drop back and throw it. Those are hard blitzes to pick up and I give our captain a lot of credit."

## OAKLAND RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

## Q: HC Jon Gruden had high praise for C Rodney Hudson – can you talk about what it's like to be around a player like him?

**Carr:** "My goodness, Rodney Hudson is not only one of my best friends, one of the smartest people I've been around – football wise. He's probably the best player I've ever played with. I know that's hard to say for a center, you know. When the top 100 comes out, he won't be a top 10 guy. But he should be. What he has to deal with on a weekly basis and me changing the call sometimes – he has a lot to deal with sometimes. I guess I'm just trying to give you the very best thing I can say about the guy. He's awesome. He's a pro bowler, should be every year, should be an all-pro. He's the man."

## Q: You're down eight points, game is on the line - what do you say to your guys in the huddle?

**Carr:** "Man, win. I've been through a lot of things in 5 years. The start of this year and half of this game has been some of the hardest stuff I've ever had to deal with, because it's frustrating things. I feel the best - physically, mentally, all of those things that I ever have. But then I screw something up somewhere along the way. I'll tell you this though – one thing I just said and looked to our guys and said fight. Whatever we do, we're doing to fight. However, this thing turns out, whether I throw three more picks or we go win this game. I promise you I'm going to fight. To be able to sit there and tell our guys that and then win the game, it feels better. It makes for a better story, I guess. But even if it went the other way, I'm just going to fight.

### Q: What did you to say after the win to the team?

**Carr:** "I just hugged everybody. I sat in my locker – I tell you guys all the time, I sit in my locker and I like to watch our team celebrate. I like to see our owner in there, excited. Our GM, our head coach with smiles on the coach's face. The smile on our new kicker's [Matt Crane] face. Imagine how his heart felt, imagine how he felt before that last kick – he probably felt pretty bad. We just kept telling him don't worry about it, just fight, it's going to turn eventually. For him to go make that kick and for us to be able to celebrate, he's the real man. Our kicker, he's the hero. He battled, he fought through getting booed, battled through people looking at him funny at the sidelines. All that stuff. He was nailed force at the end."

### Q: How do you celebrate a win like this?

**Carr:** "I am not a partier. I like to celebrate with my wife and family, that's how I like to celebrate. I'm not a partier, I'm not going to be out there on the streets in Oakland or Jack London Square. We celebrate, we like to sit down – honestly, I'm just so tired. I want to go sit down. I think one day when we win the Super Bowl, that's when we'll have a party and they might see me dance."



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## Q: It looked like there was a miscommunication on that 4<sup>th</sup> down, can you describe what happened there?

**Carr:** "You want to throw up because that's always on me. I just got to be better for [WR Amari] Coop. You just feel sick that it didn't work out. You just go to the sideline and pray that you get the ball back. I think our stadium emptied out about half way after that. The people that stayed got a fun show."

## Q: What was your perspective of that 2-point conversion to WR Jordy Nelson?

**Carr:** "When I got to the line, when we initially called the play – we had something else. But our coverage dictated that that could be a match-up. I just have so much trust. Over the years, you've seen Aaron [Rodgers] throw so many times down the red zone and it works. Maybe he's onto something. I'm glad he [WR Jordy Nelson] caught it."

### Q: Are you amazed that RB Marshawn Lynch doesn't tire out by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter over time?

**Carr:** "It's amazing what happens. Not to get philosophical for the kids. When you are tired, on the outside – it just doesn't look like it. Maybe he is tired. He doesn't say much in the huddle. For him to consistently run the way that he does, give the effort that he does – he's a hall of famer. The guy is one of the best running backs to ever play this game. You can't tell a football story without Marshawn Lynch. To be one of his teammates and be in there with him. For all the kids out there, they should just watch his effort. They should watch our kicker today miss some things and mess some stuff up, but get it out and be tough and finish and win the game for us. Those are the things that hopefully our game can do for the next generation that wants to play football."

## Q: Did today feel like last season in the way that you guys have to push at the very end?

**Carr:** "Again, I'm not going to lie to you. Every game where we've had to do that – Miami, in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter it felt the same to me but the outcome just didn't happen. This felt the same, we went out there and we're going to win this game no matter what. When you lose those types of games, that's why we get so emotionally drained. It's hard to win these games. The Browns are a really good football team. You saw what they did to Steelers. Goodness, man they are a really good football team. For our team to close one out the way that we did, it did feel like old times to say in a long way – yes. It helps our team going forward. Now we know what it takes, we have to go and put everything out there to finish all three phases."

### Q: What is it like to play with 4 wide receivers that are evenly distributed throughout the offense?

**Carr:** "With Coach Williams, he plays so many different coverages. He wants to confuse me, he wants to confuse our center and myself with the protections. He wants to mess with our eyes on the coverage and things like that. You drop back and you try to read it out, but you get the ball to where coach designed it. And that's why it was so evenly distributed. It wasn't like we're just going to play this coverage and take this away. He does so much. I'm more mentally fatigued than I am physically and I think I'm pretty physically fatigued. Just trying to decipher what he's trying to do at all times and make sure I'm on my role and the plane coach gave me. He does so much, it just works out that way – the distribution worked out."

## Q: What are your thoughts on that early pass to WR Jordy Nelson?

**Carr:** "It sucked, that's what my thought was. I had to move in the pocket and anytime you get towards the line of scrimmage – in the back of any quarterback's head is uh oh, here comes the guy coming to take it. I tried to throw it quick to him and he was running as we've done it in practice and I screwed it up."

### Q: Do you think today's game was an indication of the rest of the season?

**Carr:** "Yes - I can do so much better. I'll do better for them. I can do so much better, it's crazy to see that we can move the ball so well. I've been on teams where it's hard to get a first down, you guys have been



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here, you know. We're moving the ball really well. Everyone takes a turn doing something. I figure we can move the ball and do the things we're doing – it just shows that we can do even more."

### Q: How have you leaned on your faith through the first three losses of this season?

**Carr**: "I lean on my faith through everything. When my son's having surgeries, when we're 0-3, 0-10, 9-1 at one point during that year. I've been through a lot of things. I always try to be the same person for my teammates every day. Just being an example that way. I believe in something and I believe that my God is good. No matter what I go through, I believe that he is good. I still have a wife to go home to, I still have my babies to go kiss on and now we have number 3 on the way. My wife's going to kill me for telling you."

## RAIDERS CB DOMINIQUE RODGERS-CROMARTIE

## Q: They were ready to flag you for the unnecessary roughness call on that hit, what were you thinking as they waved off the flag?

**Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie:** "I was nervous. At that time, overtime, they were in good field position. They would have been in field goal range. I would have felt pretty bad about that."

#### Q: When you came into this game, there was a lot of hype about [Browns quarterback] Baker Mayfield. As a defense, were you all like 'Look we can't let this rookie come in and get off on our field?' Rodgers-Cromartie: "Definitely. We knew he had talent, we knew there were things he did well. Our main thing was just trying to get after him, send as much pressure as we can. Try to confuse him in our coverages and disguises. For the most part, we knew he was young. He stepped up in a major way."

### Q; What about the play by [Raiders cornerback] Rashaan Melvin on the deep ball. He saw Baker [Mayfield] scrambling around and knocked it away from Duke Johnson as it looked like it was going to fall into his hands.

**Rodgers-Cromartie:** "The best thing he did as a DB was get his head around. He was in position, got his head around and made the stop."

### Q: How does it feel to get the win?

**Rodgers-Cromartie:** "It feels great. I've been around a long time, wins are hard to come by. To finally get one and get rolling."

## Q: Can you speak about the collective ability to keep it together in the fourth quarter and go down and get the touchdown and the two-point conversion.

**Rodgers-Cromartie:** "Our main point was to finish. You can't think about three weeks in a row where you had the game won and you didn't finish. Our main focus was to go out there and no matter how we do it, get it done."

### RAIDERS WR AMARI COOPER

Q: Coach [Jon] Gruden talked about Cleveland being a team that throws so much against you that it's hard to look good against them. There's times where there's plays made, but there's also times where they make you look bad. Did it feel like that kind of game to you?

**Cooper:** "It definitely was that type of game. They came at us with a bunch of different looks. They have something good going on over there. We just had to persevere and overcome. Play our game, stick to our game plan. But they definitely had a lot of different looks. It was hard to adjust to it but we did."



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## Q: How good does it feel to finally get a win under your belt?

**Cooper:** "It feels great. You have to celebrate every win in this league. I'm really proud of the way we fought out there. It feels good to get a win, it really does."

## Q: [Raiders head coach Jon] Gruden talked about how you have to get proof for all the hard work. Do you feel that, that there's evidence now?

**Cooper:** "Absolutely right. We don't want to come in on Monday every week and be disappointed in a loss even if its a close game. Like you said, it puts us down after a loss. I'm glad we got this win, now it's time to stack them up."

# Q: There was one play where [Derek] Carr got pressured and wasn't able to hit you and one where it seemed like you weren't on the same page, is that just part of the game, putting those plays aside and moving on to the next play?

**Cooper:** "Coach [Gruden] talks about playing the next play whether it was a good play or a bad play. That's what we try to do every day."

## Q: After that fourth down play, how good was it to get that ball back again? How fired up were you?

**Cooper:** "In this league, you can't get too high or too low. You don't know what to expect. I'm sure in all four games this year you didn't know how the outcome was going to be. We don't know either. We just have to stay calm and stay ready for anything."

## Q: To fight back in the fourth after struggling a bit, how did it feel to come together?

**Cooper:** "It feels good. The team that's most prepared is going to win the game. We really prepared, we wanted to win this game. We locked in, I'm glad we were able to get the victory."

## Q: Jon [Gruden] said a rookie kicker, long snapper and holder, he's never been so nervous for a 29-yard field goal. Did you guys feel that way?

**Cooper:** "Man, I felt that way. It was awkward to be kicking that field goal, we wanted to kick it on second down but kicked it on third down. I was looking at coach Gruden. He didn't even look to see if he made the field goal. I guess when he heard the crowd, that was his acknowledgement."

## RAIDERS C RODNEY HUDSON

### Q: Is there some reinforcement that comes from winning the game?

**Rodney Hudson:** "Yeah, they have a good team. They did a lot of things schematically. It was a tough team but we found a way to win. It wasn't always pretty ."

## **Q:** Those pass plays to Marshawn Lynch, is that something that took advantage of what they did? Hudson: "The coaches did a good job of game-planning for this weekend. We saw something there and we

caught it at the right time, then Marshawn [Lynch] had a great run."

## Q: There was a point in the first quarter where Marshawn Lynch gathered you guys as a whole offensive line, was he giving you a pep talk?

**Hudson:** "He was trying to focus us in. There were things that we weren't doing, little things. He had us focus in. We were able to get the touchdown."

## Q: We see Marshawn Lynch from the press box running, what's it like from your perspective seeing him shake guys off?



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**Hudson:** "He runs hard. He knows how to get into that second level and finish. He never goes down initially. He tries to get to that second level and keep pushing."

### Q: What types of different things were the Browns throwing at you guys to keep you off-balance?

**Hudson:** "They brought it all. They brought a lot of pressure and they did it from a lot of different ways. They have a really good scheme, great coaching. This is a really good team. Thank God we used overtime to find a way to win."

## RAIDERS T KOLTON MILLER

## Q: Anything you learned from tonight about your game?

Miller: "Yeah you know just [go] a little bit lower and to not open up as much."

### Q: How does it feel to get the first win of the season?

**Miller:** "Oh it feels great, feels great. I mean, there were times where you know it was questionable and we just kept on. I think we have a really good team, a really good team."

## Q: Marshawn Lynch was kind of saying something to you guys before that touchdown drive in the second quarter, what did he say?

**Miller:** "He was saying basically that we're putting the game on our backs. They're running behind us, it starts with us, he gave us really encouraging words. He said 'I'm going to run with y'all' and that really boosted us."

## Q: What did you think of his [Marshawn Lynch] performance today, it seemed no one could bring him down?

Miller: "Yeah he was running, just kept running and running."

### Q: This win kind of represents all the hard work paying off, just how hard is it to get that win?

**Miller:** "I think it was huge. I just think we weren't meant to lose the game we just buckled down and stuck to it and got the win."

## RAIDERS CB GAREON CONLEY

### Q: How does that feel when you are streaking down the sideline with the ball in your hand like that?

**Conley:** "I mean it was just a gift. Marcus [Gilchrist] made a good play on the ball. The ball just came right to me and it felt good to get that first pick. It felt great. My eyes just got real wide when I saw the end zone. I was just really excited and really happy. Honestly, I just thought about my son when I got that pick. It felt like I did all that for him. That moment, I just thought about him."

## Q: What does a win like this do for this team?

**Conley:** "It gives you more confidence. I mean we always got to have confidence going in. Just getting that win we know what we got to do, we see how we clicked. We see the good stuff and we still had some plays we left out there, but just getting a win builds more confidence and chemistry for our team."

### Q: Are the takeaways this game a start of something for this defense?

**Conley:** "Yeah, for sure. It builds more confidence, like I said. Seeing all those turnovers and getting a win just helps out."



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## RAIDERS WR JORDY NELSON

## Q: What changed today with how you guys finished the game?

**Nelson**: "We just made plays. I don't think anything drastically changed. It's not like the first couple weeks we didn't want to finish. We just made the plays, which we didn't in the first. Now we need to talk about starting fast and finishing and we'll be a good team."

## Q: Take us through the two-point conversion.

**Nelson**: "Yeah I had a one-on-one matchup, with just a fade backside. There was a concept on the front. Obviously, Derek (Carr) makes that read and gave me a ball that I could catch. I bobbled it a little bit and was able to bring it down and then stand up."

### Q: What did you make of Derek Carr today?

**Nelson**: "Battler. Took some hits. Obviously, we didn't help him out very much. We made some plays, but I think we feel like we left like a 100, 200 yards out there just with drops. Everyone kind of had their turn, unfortunately, but we were able to battle through it and we'll learn from it. It's the best when you can learn and get better after a win. It makes it that much more enjoyable."

## Q: How does it feel to have a win finally?

**Nelson**: "It's good. That's why you play the game is to win. We'll still *come in*, correct the things that we need to correct, be proud of the things that we did well, and then go to work on Wednesday because Sunday will be right around the corner again. It's week by week and this win will be fun tonight, but it's not going to do anything for us next week."

### Q: As a team, you guys talked a lot about field position. What did that do for you guys in the second half?

**Nelson:** "The defense played great, getting the turnovers and then Dwayne Harris on the punt return. It gives us a huge relief, obviously shortens the field for us, allows us to be a little bit more aggressive, pushing forward instead of maybe being conservative, make sure we get out of our end zone first and then go make plays. It's a tough game to go 75, 80, 90 yards and sustain those long drives, so it was great. The defense played incredible. We didn't help them out early, but they kept us in it and then we made some plays late."

### Q: You guys got a chance after the fourth down. What was that moment like?

**Nelson**: "Being in this league for so long, all you need is time and downs. That was part of a game, one time we didn't have any time, we just had downs. As long as you got shots, you just keep taking them and keep battling until they say you can't play anymore. Like Coach (John) Gruden said the other day, he doesn't believe we lose, we just run out of time. Luckily today we didn't run out of time and made enough plays to get a win."

# Q: Derek had a lot of games two years ago where it seemed like as long as he had the time and downs, he made the plays. For him to have a game like that today where he was able to make the plays and get you guys a win, do you think that's something he can build off of?

**Nelson**: "I think it's something we all can build off of. Especially for him, like I said, the way we kind of struggled as a catching unit I think all the way across the board with drops and had opportunities for big plays and didn't make the most of them, but he didn't get down on us or get mad. He stayed with it and then some guys made some big plays and we got a win. That's all that matters."



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## RAIDERS DE BRUCE IRVIN

## Q: Bruce, what did you see when the offense initially stalled in overtime and then you guys came up and you forced them [Cleveland Browns] to give the ball back?

**Irvin:** "Well, we just immediately went out there with a mindset of only worrying about what we can control. You know we knew offense was going to come through for us sooner or later, we just had to do our thing and get them the ball back and that's what we did.

## Q: Now you guys were able to get pressure on Mayfield and force him to make throws he didn't want to make, how was this defense different and really able to disrupt?

**Irvin:** "It's just it feels good, man. Just have to keep taking the steps in the right direction. You know, Baker [Mayfield] is a hell of an athlete and we ended up with two sacks - three sacks? I was told it was four or five but you know 'cause he's so good you know he got out of two of them. So we just have a good team and work man, keep getting better each and every week and I think this thing is really starting to come together."

## Q: What was going through your head when you saw the officials throw the flag on that hit by DRC [Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie]?

**Irvin:** "Oh man, just praying they would pick it up. It was a clean hit, his head was out of there, it was off shoulder, so I think the referee did a great job of getting together and picking the flag up."

## Q: Was there any concern in your head when in regulation Carlos Hyde ran the ball for the first down and then they moved it back?

**Irvin:** "Oh man that was one of the biggest plays of the game. You know our defense though we buckled down and we made the stop; I think that was a big moment in the game. It gave us the chance to go down and tie it up, take it to overtime."

# Q: Offensively, you had some guys make some key plays, Marshawn [Lynch] had some big runs, especially there in overtime to help seal the game-winning field goal. And of course Jordy [Nelson], Jared Cook - what are your thoughts on some of their efforts as well?

**Irvin:** "I mean I know what you get with Marshawn [Lynch], he's Beastmode, that's just his thing. I wouldn't want to give it to no other body, nobody else with the game on the line so you know. Jordy [Nelson] does what he does. You know we brought him in to make plays like that. Jared [Cook] has been doing that since he got here so you know, big time players make big plays and those guys stepped up and made a hell of a play for us today.

### Q: Derek Carr is facing some criticism lately, what about the way he showed up today?

**Irvin:** "He did, he did and you know he's a great dude and a great player. It's unfortunate that the criticism that he faces, but you know that's with any quarterback. But the best thing about DC [Derek Carr], he doesn't let it bother him, [he] comes to work early every week and he continues to pound away 'til he gets the results he wants to get."

### Q: How was it facing Baker [Mayfield] for the first time?

**Irvin:** Baker is a good player, he's going to be a good player. [He's] very elusive you know, great accuracy with the run, you know he's a rookie but he really looks like he's been in the league three, four years already. He's going to be a hell of a player for Cleveland and I'm just happy we could contain him and get out of here with a win."



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Q: 0-3 and getting the win has got to feel really good doesn't it?

**Irvin:** "Yeah we're out of misery. It was tough these past few weeks but you know we got it and we just gotta keep stacking them up."

# Q: You were with Marshawn [Lynch] in Seattle and apparently he gave a little speech on the sideline to the O-line, have you seen that side of Marshawn [Lynch] even back when you were both [Seattle] Seahawks?

**Irvin:** "Well, Marshawn [Lynch] only talks when stuff is really bad. So you know I've seen him rally the guys together a couple times in Seattle, but you know when the Beast needs to say something, he's going to say it. Obviously it worked, we got out of here with a win.

## RAIDERS K MATT McCRANE

### Q: Can you talk through the emotions you were feeling, especially at the end there?

**McCrane:** "I think that's the way kicking goes sometimes. And probably the way life goes too you know? You just learn from things. I got to go back in the film room and see what I did wrong on those and get it fixed for next week. Take it one kick at a time, reset, whether it's a miss or a make and move on to the next kick. To come out with a win the way that we did is pretty cool."

## Q: Can you describe what's going through your head and how you felt trying to go for that 29-yarder after missing a couple minutes before?

**McCrane:** "I don't say much goes through my head. I don't really try to play up the situation. I went to our long snapper and asked, 'is this to win it?' I didn't even really know. I was sitting at home the last 3 weeks hopefully waiting for a call. Then when the Raiders did, I came out on Monday and then kicked on the dirt on Friday. I got to get back out there and watch the film and get some things fixed. To have perfect snaps and holds between three rookies. Two rookies and then just got to do my part."

### Q: Are you on a high right now after the game winner or are you looking back on those other kicks?

**McCrane:** "I probably wouldn't say I'm on a high right now. My fiancé gets on me all the time for not having any emotion. You know I just kind of try to stay level headed because I know the ups and downs are going to come, that's just the way it goes with this position. I'm going to try to take it in tonight and go celebrate with my family and teammates. It's a good feeling."

### Q: Was Friday the only time that you practiced on the dirt? Have you ever kicked off dirt in a game?

**McCrane:** "Yes, sir. I told the media earlier in the week, West Texas dirt is about all I've kicked off...a baseball field is completely different. We came out and tried some different cleats. I just went standard with what I had. I was comfortable with that. I' m not sure what the issue was, I don't believe that it was the dirt. There were some things that I probably did wrong, pulled my toe. I got to go back and see what happened but, in the end,, I got to put the ball through the uprights. That's my job, so I got to g0 back and get that fixed."

### Q: What was the reaction from your teammates?

**McCrane:** "Yeah, on the 50-yarder I went out for first in overtime we were hesitant on whether to kick it...Derek said we believe in him, we trust him, let's go out there and kick it. We did and unfortunately I didn't make the kick. I went up to him after the game and told him I appreciate everything that he did, the way he was talking with Coach Gruden. I got to do my job and put the ball through the uprights and I didn't do that at the beginning of the day, but like I said to come out with the win is an exciting feeling."



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## Q: How exciting is it to be able to help a team that has been struggling like this?

**McCrane:** "I think it just shows the toughness of our team, honestly, to keep fighting. For the City of Oakland too. Our fans held in there and believed in us till the end. To get a win in overtime in the National Football League, a win in the NFL is hard in general, so to do that it's pretty amazing."

## Q: The movements between snapper, holder and kicker are so precise. How comfortable really are you feeling going into the game?

**McCrane:** "I was as confident as I've ever been. I don't think we had one bad snap this week. So to have two rookies do that, to come in and see that from those guys was a big confidence booster for me. I knew that I didn't have to worry about anything that they were doing. As I said before, they were perfect today. It's just something that I got to get fixed and go back and look at."

## RAIDERS DT JOHNATHAN HANKINS

**Q:** Talk about the defensive effort that this team put forth today to get the first win under the belt. Johnathan Hankins: "We did some good things out there obviously. We hit a lot of our goals, a couple big plays. Right now we just have to continue to get better and tighten some things up. Overall, it's good that we finally got our first win."

## Q; Two fumble recoveries for you, what did the rock look like to you?

Hankins: "It was there all day today. I wish it could be like that every week. I'd like to get some sacks with that but turnovers are what helped us out this game. I'm just looking for more next game."

## Q: How fun was it to get that win after a couple losses?

Hankins: "In this league it's hard to win. So when you get the chance you have to go out there and take it. I feel like we did that today."

## Q: Fourth quarter has been tough on you guys this season, but to win the way you did with the comeback, does that raise the confidence of this team?

**Hankins:** "Oh, definitely. Getting the win, the feeling in practice this week and scrimmages will be a nice vibe. Hopefully we can take this and get running."

## Q: There were a couple times where it seemed like you guys had Baker Mayfield but he got away. How hard is it to bring him down?

**Hankins:** "The guy is hard as nails man. He's a great competitor, great quarterback. Nothing but good things for him. I'm sure he can turn Cleveland around. He had a great performance today but we sacked him."

## Q: Do you feel like you're in a groove yet?

**Hankins:** "No, this is my third game. I've been getting my feet under me, trying understanding how guys play. How to react to the signals, the calls. I'm getting more comfortable with this scheme and everything. It's good to get back out there."

## **RAIDERS DE ARDEN KEY**

Q: You guys had a big emphasis on containing the quarterback?



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Key: "Yeah, containing the pocket."

## Q: How's it feel to get your first NFL win?

Key: "It felt great, I mean we've been needing this win. It feels great and we just have to move forward."

## Q: You talked about keeping Baker [Mayfield] in the pocket but he's like a video game quarterback, always running around. Is it fun for you as a DE to chase him around?

**Key:** "It's fun chasing him but it's disappointing when you miss. I mean it is fun game-playing with the quarterback like that because if you get him out of the pocket, you can easily get him. But if you keep him in the pocket, the interior gets him you know."

## RAIDERS TE JARED COOK

## Q: What do you think helped you guys secure the win today?

**Cook:** "We needed some persistence from the guys and to keep making plays and finish the game. That's what we needed to do to come out on top today."

## Q: Arden Key said about late in the third quarter there was a different energy with you guys and it carried over to the fourth quarter, did you feel that?

**Cook:** "Yeah absolutely, even just knowing we had a lot of time on the clock offensively, you know it was plenty of time for us to go out there and put up more points, and we did. Our defense helped us out a lot today by you know holding them in the short field and keeping them out of the end zone. We needed them, we needed those turnovers for sure today."

### Q: What did you see out of Derek Carr today, especially that drive near the end of regulation?

**Cook:** "Derek [Carr] was just resilient. He stood in the pocket even though he was getting blown up a few times. He stood by and made it and delivered those throws to us downfield. And Coop [Amari Cooper] came up with some big plays and Jordy [Nelson] came up with some big plays. So I'm proud of the way four [Derek Carr] played today."

### Q: Did you hear the fans booing you guys at first?

**Cook:** "Yeah absolutely and they left. But they can't cancel the game just 'cause they boo us, we still got a game to finish. It's about pride, it's about the men in this room on a journey together so it doesn't matter if they boo us or not, we still have to go out there and do our job."

## Q: Does it [ the booing] hurt at all?

**Cook:** "No we don't care because it's us against the world. I mean that's how we feel. They're supposed to be fans for a reason, fail whether or not. If you're riding with us, ride with us. If not, then we'll holla."

### Q: Did you learn anything new about Derek Carr from this game?

**Cook:** "Man we know what Derek [Carr] brings us and we know how important he is to this team. It was our fault as a team collectively these past three weeks by not finishing games. And we were in all the games that we were in we just didn't finish and that's our fault as a team collectively. But we know Derek [Carr], we know the talent that he brings."



## OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. CLEVELAND BROWNS Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018 Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Postgame Quotes



## **BROWNS HEAD COACH HUE JACKSON**

**Opening Statement:** "Congratulations to the Raiders. They made enough plays to win the game. We didn't. Obviously turnovers were the difference, in my opinion, in the game. Fourteen-point swing there in the second half to where they scored each time we turned it over and you look at the spread and that's the difference. Can't turn the ball over. That's kind of uncharacteristic of what we've done on offense. That was disappointing. Again, we just got to make more plays. Obviously we can't have those things get us but obviously we had our chances to win so again hats off to the Raiders. They won the game."

### Q: How would you assess Baker's day?

Jackson: "I thought he was good other than the turnovers. I mean I have to go look at the first one. I don't think that was on him. The second one, the right guard had some leakage. The ball gets knocked out of his hand. The third one, that's between him and the center. They got to work that out. I mean that can't happen. Again, I thought he made some plays. I thought he put the team in certain situations in position to win and we got to find a way to win these kind of games."

#### Q: Baker's first turnover was the interception deep. Was that his call?

**Jackson:** "No, it was a play that we had to pump on and obviously I think he thought, where Antonio [Callaway] was going, he thought he could get the ball there. Obviously he missed that throw. He should not have thrown that."

## Q: On the bad exchange, it appeared he (Baker) wasn't ready for the snap. Did he tell you that was the case?

**Jackson:** "That's what I said. That's between those two guys. I think he wasn't ready and the center may have snapped it too quick. Whatever that was. They have to get that worked out."

## Question: What did they tell you about that third down spot and did you give going for it any thought? Jackson: "No, we were backed up. We needed to punt the ball."

## Q: What do you tell Baker going forward in regards to there being a fine line between being super aggressive and being team protecting?

**Jackson:** "Yeah I mean obviously he's going to learn. I think football intelligence, as he goes through it, he'll understand and we've talked about it a little but just how important those things are. You got to be team protecting as you were saying in certain situations. But I don't want to rein him in because I like the things he's doing. Now I think the last throw he made to Antonio he can learn from that but all the other things, he's got to continue to get better. We have to get the right center snap. That can't be an issue. That should never be an issue."

## Q: How do you account for the defense? Was it just sure exhaustion? The Raiders end up running 90 plays.

**Jackson:** "Yeah they played a lot of play. But we have to make more plays and get them off. You know I think losing money Mitch was big. He obviously fractured his forearm. I had to move some guys around. I had to ask some guys to do some things they hadn't done in a while but that's pro football. You know that's the way it works. Next man up. The next guy has to step up and make some plays."

### Q: You said Mitchell broke his arm?

Jackson: "Yeah, fractured his forearm."



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Q: Is it season ending? Jackson: "Possibly."

## Q: In addition to the turnovers, there were some other meltdowns. A 52-yard run, a 49-yard punt return. What are your thoughts on that?

Jackson: "Oh there's no doubt. We have to do better on special teams. Our punt team needs to be better."

### Q: Do you leave here thinking this was a game you should have won?

Jackson: "Yes. But we didn't. At the end of the day we didn't but I felt like we should have."

## Q: Are these the growing pains that you know that you are going to have to have when you install Baker Mayfield as your quarterback?

**Jackson:** "No, I'm tired of growing pains. I think we can do those things better. There's no question. Those things have reared their ugly head until now so we can do better. Baker can do better. Our offense can do better. Our special teams can do better. Our defense can do better. So we got to play better."

### Q: There seemed to be an unusually high amount of drops. What do you tell the guys?

**Jackson:** "I don't know what you want me to say. That's very uncharacteristic of us. We got to make those plays."

## Antonio Callaway made that big completion at the end but other than that he seemed to struggle. What was going on with him?

Jackson: "Young. Young. Got to play better."

## **Coach, you have a lot of fans that love you out here. Do you have any words for them? Jackson:** "Obviously I had a good time here. The people here are great. I appreciate them before the game, after the game. I wish them well."

### Browns Quarterback Baker Mayfield

### Q: Is this a game you should've won?

**Mayfield**: "Absolutely. You know, when you make that many mistakes though it's not going to happen. It's all the little things, from getting fundamental in our routes to me delivering the ball in the right place at the right time. Yeah they scored, put up points tonight, but we gave them the opportunity to do so. We turned the ball over way too many times, gave them a chance in this league, when you turn the ball over like we did, like I did, you're not going to win those games. So we saw the end result of that."

### Q: It didn't all to seem to be on you though?

Mayfield: "I'm the quarterback of this this team, it's on me."

### Q: Before you see the film, what do you think you'll see?

**Mayfield**: "Yeah we'll see a lot of potential. But we have to keep making this right you know. That's what gets you beat at this level, the games are so close and everyone's so talented, you have to do everything right, you have to piece it together: Is this a game you should've won?

Mayfield: "Absolutely. You know, when you make that many mistakes though it's not going to happen. It's all the little things, from getting fundamental in our routes to me delivering the ball in the right place at the right time. Yeah they scored, but we gave them the opportunity to do so. We turned the ball over way too many times, gave them a chance in this league, when you turn the ball over like we did, like I did, you're not going to win those games. So we saw the end result of that."

### RAIDERS vs. BROWNS – Sept. 30, 2018



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Q: What happened between you and JC [Tretter] on that snap? Mayfield: "Just a miscommunication, like I said that one's on me."

## Q: Were you looking at the guys in motion? There were two guys in motion on that play.

**Mayfield**: "No, we were set it, as long as we're set it doesn't matter who's in motion or not. Like I said it was a miscommunication and it's on me to get everyone on the same page."

## Q: On the last interception you went deep to get into field goal range, did you think [Browns receiver Antonio] Callaway had something deep there?

**Mayfield**: "Well, we were trying to get a shot downfield. That's one of those interceptions, you never like turning the ball over. We were trying to get the ball down in their set of territory just to get a kick off, but we'll look back at the tape. I probably could have checked it down, I had people open, but I went for the double move and it didn't work out."

# Q: Antonio [Callaway] really struggled today sort of from the start. He was slipping, dropping some passes, what was your role in keeping his head in the game to the point where he was able to make that big catch for you at the end?

**Mayfield**: "When you play on a field like this, it's not the dirt, it's the grass. The grass is so short on a baseball field that you need to be really fundamental in your routes and you need to really be over your toes when you're breaking. You can't cut off the wrong foot, there's just not enough surface to dig into for those guys. That's what we saw early, but we got used to it and I would have liked to start fast. I would have liked to have that first interception back that gave them momentum right off the top. We were able to battle back, but we need to realize the surface we're playing on and what we need to do to win."

## Q: I saw you go right up to [Antonio] Callaway right after that early pick six, what was your message to him?

**Mayfield**: "There's a whole lot of game to play. We talked about the surface. I just said, 'next time, we got to be more fundamentally sound and play the next play.' That's not the end of the world, we had many chances in that game to win. It wasn't going to be just one play that lost it for us."

### Q: This had to be an exhausting game for a defensive player, is that way for an offensive player?

**Mayfield**: "No, I feel bad for our defense. When you give an offense like that, with all the players that they have, how many chances will they need? We just kept giving them the ball, our defense played well, but we're on their side of the field too many times."

## Q: Could you talk about what happened with the fumble when you guys were up 14 and you were in your own territory calling a pass?

**Mayfield**: "Just trying to get the ball out of my hands. I didn't see the review whether my arm was going forward or not. They had good coverage, I was trying to check it down outside but they just made a play."

## Q: On that miscommunication play, were you thinking the snap was coming later than it did, or on a different count?

Mayfield: "Yeah, and I got to communicate that to our center."

## Q: "Going for two [point conversion] after that first touchdown, was that preplanned? Mayfield: "I think so, yeah."

Q: How many times did you think you guys won that game?



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**Mayfield**: "A few. It had to be a heck of a review to turn that over on that third down and short. Anytime you put the game in someone else's hands it's not always going to come out your way. You got to control what you can control."

#### **Q: That run by [Running back Carlos] Hyde, the run right in front of you, what did you think? Mayfield**: "I thought he got it. It's not the only play that put us in position to win though."

#### **Q: Before the game, any extra nervousness or anxiousness? Mayfield**: "No."

### **BROWNS RB CARLOS HYDE**

### Q: What's your reaction to that 3<sup>rd</sup> down run being overturned?

**Hyde**: "I definitely thought that we had the first down. But they changed the call. We got to get it right there. If we're going to win the game, we gotta get that one."

#### Q: Were you surprised they overturned that play?

Hyde: "Yeah I was. They called a first down, then I don't know what the hell they saw."

## Q: It seemed like you guys were getting a push in that drive too, does it make it that much more frustrating to be in it at the end of the game?

**Hyde**: "Yeah definitely frustrating. That would have put the game away. To win the game right there, yeah, we needed that one."

#### Q: Carlos how do you sum up these first four weeks?

**Hyde**: "First of all, we can't turn the ball over the way we did. That put us in a bad position and put the defense in a bad position right there. So, I think if we do better on the turnover part, we will put ourselves in a better position to win these games. Yeah, we are starting to execute better. You know, we put up 42 points; the offense is definitely starting to click now. So, there's some positives, there's some negatives. Take the positives and learn from it."

### Q: Was it exciting watching Nick [Chubb] get it going?

**Hyde:** "That was exciting. I'm happy for him, definitely. He feed off of me, I feed off of him. We have to keep it going. I love when he breaks those long runs. It makes me anxious to get back out there. And then, when I break a run, it makes him anxious to get back out there. So it's good though, we have to keep it going."

#### Q: What did you think if Baker [Mayfield]?

Hyde: "Baker did good. You have to learn from it and keep getting better. Things will get better."

#### **Browns OL Joel Bitonio**

#### Q: What did you see on the run from [Browns RB] Carlos [Hyde] that they overturned?

**Joel Bitonio:** "I thought it was a first down. Honestly 100%, I didn't think there was a chance that it was overturned, I didn't see the replay. Afterwards, I was trying to watch it but it was a terrible angle. I was pulling around, I blocked somebody, I was a foot away from him, I thought he got a first down.

Q: That's gotta make this more frustrating, because that obviously would have put an end to the game.

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**Joel Bitonio:** "We had other opportunities, I mean we gave the ball away I think four times today, in their redzone, I think too most of the time. We gave them a touchdown, it shouldn't come down to that. It's frustrating but it shouldn't come down to that."

### Q: Joel how do you sum up these first four weeks?

**Joel Bitonio**: "Close, but no cigar. We had an opportunity to be 3-1 here, you know, 4-0. We were in every game, and there's little things every week. This week it was turnovers probably for us, we had kicks one week. Just things like that. We have to get over that edge though, we have to learn how to win as a team. We got one win, but we have to stack a few wins here."

## Q: What was it like seeing [Browns RB Nick] Chubb get those two big runs for you guys?

**Joel Bitonio:** "It was awesome, long runs are great for O Linemen, we love one play drives. It was sweet though, man he made some things happen. On the second one, they ran a nice blitz, and I think he made someone miss in the backfield which was a great play by him. And he had some breakaway speed and finished those in the end zone."

### Q: When was the last time you were in a game like this, in a shootout?

**Joel Bitonio:** "Probably college, I mean I haven't scored 42 points I don't think in an NFL game yet. So, definitely since college."

### Q: What did you think of [Browns QB] Baker [Mayfield] in his first start, how he handled it?

**Joel Bitonio:** "He did a good job, I mean he was always confident in the huddle no matter what happened, whether there was a turnover or a bad play he was ready to play the next play. He did some really good things and we gotta protect him, we have to make sure he's doing alright. I know he took some shots we didn't want him to take but he did good. He showed some promise, you know I know he wanted to win, but we're getting there."

### Q: Joel did this feel like New Orleans?

**Joel Bitonio:** "I think we had more opportunities here, on offense. You know we gave the ball away a lot. New Orleans came down to some kicks you know what I mean? Here it was more on the offense that I think we just can't turn the ball away that many times."

### **BROWNS WR JARVIS LANDRY**

**Q: Did you walk away feeling like you should have won?** Landry: "Yup."

**Q:** Anything you can put your finger on as to why you lost? Landry: "Myself. Just have to make more plays."

### Q: Are you referring to the one third down catch?

Landry: "Well, that, and the second down catch in the first quarter, the drop I made."

### Q: What did you think of Baker [Mayfield] and his first NFL start?

**Landry:** "It's good. He had a lot of opportunities. We missed a lot on the outside; we missed a couple. But we found a way to fight back and get up by two scores. And he kept us in the game, the whole game."

### Q: What did you think about the overturn on Carlos [Hyde]?



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**Landry:** "I mean, listen, it was an awful call. You know, at the end of the day we could blame the refs, we could blame so many things. It didn't work out. But that was a tough one. I was on the field, I was right there. The spot they made was past the first down, and they just moved it back."

**Q:** For a guy like Antonio Callaway who had some drops today, did you say anything to him? Landry: "No, I didn't say anything to him. He's a baller. He can play. You know, he mad e a play there to get us really going in the fourth quarter on that big end. We go down to the one-yard line and Carlos Hyde ended up scoring. So that was huge for us coming off a tie ball game."

## **Q:** [Antonio Callaway] had a tough day up to that point, what does it say to you about him? Landry: "Resilience. Just resilience. You know, everybody understands that about him and knows that about him. Obviously, Baker [Mayfield] has high trust in him, and everybody does. He made the play.

**Q:** You guys ran 74 plays. The Raiders ran 90. At any point did fatigue play a factor? Landry: "No, I wouldn't say that. I think it came down to execution. It came down to us not making enough plays."

## **Browns LB Christian Kirksey**

## Q: What were your thoughts on how the defense played?

**Christian Kirksey:** "When it's time for the defense to step up, we have to step up. It was a long hard-fought battle, they just came out on top. Some things we have to work on, some plays that we left out there. You know myself, a couple plays that I wish I could have back. But we'll just look at the film and just see where we're at."

## Q: Christian [Kirksey], how deflating was it to go out there after that third down was overturned and you guys had to go back on defense?

**Christian Kirksey:** "I thought that call should have gone the other way. You know, they didn't make that call and for us to go out there on defense, we just gotta make stops."

## Q: I know you missed a couple of games, so how do you sum up these first four weeks just kind of back and forth every game, game coming down to the end here?

**Christian Kirksey:** "We just have to look back at the whole film and just see what are things that are hurting us as far as big plays and find out how to eliminate it. I mean, you know, I thought it was a hard first quarter. Four games for us, even though I only played two, we're a good football team. We're a good football team and we're going to get better."