



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: "We did make some roster additions to our team. Olsen Pierre, a defensive lineman, Eric Tomlinson, a tight end, we activated Nick Nelson off our practice squad, and we got a lot of work done today, and we need to get work done."

Q: There were reports that Josh Jacobs got favorable MRI reports?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I'm glad the reports say that. I wasn't totally aware of all the facts, but I do know that Rod Martin has cleared him to practice, and we'll see what happens in the next couple days. It doesn't mean he's going to play, but I'm glad the reports are positive."

Q: What do you ultimately think it would come down to for him to play?

Coach Gruden: "I just listen to the medical staff and Josh [Jacobs], and today he's made some improvement, but he still has to go out there and move explosively tomorrow and Friday and do the things a running back has to do to play in this league and protect himself in this league. So, we'll see what happens in the next 48 hours."

Q: What is Trent Brown's status this week?

Coach Gruden: "I don't know. It's been tough on Trent [Brown] and tough on our offense, but Brandon Parker right now will be prepared to play. David Sharpe will continue to get reps. I think Trent [Brown] is getting a little bit better, but he's not ready to roll yet."

Q: With D.J. Swearinger now out, what are you going to do at the safety position?

Coach Gruden: "We're going to continue to...no disrespect to D.J. [Swearinger]. He was in a tough spot. You know we've lost safeties. Daryl Worley is a guy that's going to take some shots inside. Dallin Leavitt will get some opportunities, and we're going to play better on defense."

Q: It's the final Raiders game in Oakland. Does that move the needle at all for you?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, it does for me. You know we're trying to again manage a lot of turnover on our roster. It's hard right now to really think about what it's going to be like stepping in there for the last time ever. The last time of the season is one thing, the last time ever really hits a tone with me and I'm sure a lot of people. Really want to do a great job of providing the best effort that we can. Can't make any guarantees, but we want to try to give a memorable effort to our fans, and it'll be emotional for sure."

Q: What are you seeing from Gardner Minshew and the Jacksonville Jaguars right now?

Coach Gruden: "They've got a good defensive team. They've struggled the last couple weeks a little bit. They still have Calais Campbell. They still have some heat off the edge. They've had some injuries like we do, but [Gardner] Minshew can scramble around man. He scrambles around a lot, and he's able to make plays. He's had some really good moments. We've got to find our identity on defense. We've got to find our way, and try to find a way to win a game. That's all I care about."



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Q: Last week you mentioned Derrick Henry was a guy that runs really hard and is hard to bring down. Leonard Fournette is kind of the same way. Do you agree?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah. I mean everybody has one. I don't know anybody that doesn't have a back that doesn't run hard. [Leonard] Fournette is a guy that's a centerpiece of their offense, and we've got to do a much better job on first down if we want to try to unleash some things on third down. That's for sure."

Q: What was the appeal for Rod Smith for you guys?

Coach Gruden: "He's a guy that can run the ball. He's a big back. With Jacobs' status uncertain, we need to have somebody that in the goal line, short yardage situations, can give us a candidate to make the tough yard or two. Not that DeAndré [Washington] and Jalen [Richard] can't do that, but he gives us another big back that can catch it and contribute on special teams. I think he has the long-term versatility to play a little bit of fullback, so we like that about him, and [assistant head coach/special teams coordinator] Rich Bisaccia had some familiarity with him in Dallas."

Q: How would you assess Clelin Ferrell's rookie year so far?

Coach Gruden: "You know we talked earlier, he had a sickness right around the London game and he lost a lot of weight. He's starting to get his strength back. He's had some really good moments and he's had some tough rookie moments. But he's a 4-3 defensive end. He's not a specialized pass rusher that comes in 30 snaps a game and cuts it loose. A lot of the production that we've got from Ferrell is production that no one really knows about. But he's had some really good moments, he's had some tough snaps and some tough, tough moments, but he's hanging in there and I'm proud of him."

Q: Do you feel like he understands what his position is in regard to what you just alluded to, despite the thinking that a guy picked as high as he was is supposed to get 15 sacks and so on?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah probably. I'm sure he does. That's something he's got to get going on. He's got 3.5 or 4 sacks I think, but we think he's got the potential to get more than that."

Q: You mentioned the safety spot. Is there any thought of moving Lamarcus Joyner to safety rather than having him play the nickel?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah I mean we've moved everybody around quite a bit on this team this year, but Lamarcus [Joyner] is a valuable part of our team as the nickel, and I don't want to break in a new nickel either. You know, rob Peter to pay Paul. Once you move your nickel, you've got to find a new nickel, and those guys don't grow on trees either. We've lost two really good safeties, and you know in fairness to our team, we're going to put Worley in there. We think Worley has some game changing ability, and we think he can play corner and safety. I think he's got a little Malcolm Jenkins in him. I think he's got some skill that we need to use more of. We need to see these young corners to be honest with you, more of these two young corners and Nick Nelson included."



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Quarterback Derek Carr

Q: When a rookie like Josh Jacobs has got to gut it out the way he has to, does that resonate in the locker room at all that he's fighting to play the way he is?

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. Like I said, we've known for so long. Like when it happens, we all know and that's why everything he's done is even more impressive than just what it is. The way that he's fought and he's one of my favorite people. We have great conversations all the time off the field, on the field, that's my guy. We have some good talks about all that kind of stuff and the process and how people last in this league and all those kinds of things. He reminds me a lot of Kolton Miller last year. Although, it's hard to see at left tackle the things you're doing well. They only look at when you give up a sack, but he is another guy that just gets it. They're football guys. If they get hurt, it doesn't matter to them. They are going to do whatever it takes, like a lot of guys in our building, whatever it takes to play in those games."

Q: Do you have an appreciation in the fact that you played on the same field as Ken Stabler, Jim Plunkett, Daryle Lamonica and Tom Flores, all those guys?

Carr: "Absolutely! Just to put in perspective, like a little kid from Fresno, California is playing somewhere where his dad's favorite football team did. Like let's be real about it, it's pretty awesome. That was a dream come true. Every kid that I've ever talked to that's on a football team, 'Who wants to be in the NFL?' Everyone raises their hand. How many of those kids actually get to do it, right? There is very few. It's hard. It's a hard business to do and do for a long time, and so to be able to be here and play on the same field as all of those legends played on and to actually know some of those guys, talk to those guys, call those guys friends, like that's kind of weird, but it is a really cool thing."

Q: You've been through a couple of these possible last games at the Coliseum, how different is that knowing this is it?

Carr: "Yeah, I think we talked about it last year, right? We played Denver, it was like maybe, so try and soak it in and all those kinds of things. So, I guess you erase those memories and take on these ones I guess because all of the players that have played here, this organization's history, all of those things. I was here for [Charles Woodson] 'C-Wood's' last game. There was some pretty cool memories that I have just of my own being on the team, but I think this one will rank right up there. I expect it to be crazy and loud and all those kinds of things, so we're going to go out there and give our best effort. I promise you that."

Q: As you've prepped for the Jaguars, what stands out on film about that defense?

Carr: "They're very fast, very fast on defense. They fly around, run to the football and that's all three levels. They got speed everywhere, so they got Pro Bowl guys all over the place. They got some really good talent and high draft picks. Their rookie is playing really well [Josh Allen], he's a good player. And they're led by some good veterans that have played some good football at a high level for a long time. So, we got our work cut out for us there. They're a good team. Turn on the film though the thing that sticks out is just the speed."

Q: You guys have had so many good opening drives in the game, are you a little perplexed this year on what is happening in the third quarter or why something like that would happen?

Carr: "Yeah it's crazy. We sit there and coach talks about it with us and things like that. He addresses it and the adjustments, what is it? I'll let him talk about those kinds of things, but yeah it comes up



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because it's something that's not being said, something we're not thinking about. Are we too casual coming out? You look at all those things. Are the mental errors up on those drives rather than at the beginning of games? You look at all that. Trust me, especially with coach, we try and look at everything and try and improve on that stat or however you want to say it. We definitely have to and need to improve on that, especially this week against this team."

Q: How terrible is it to see a guy like Foster Moreau go down for the season?

Carr: "It's tough because we are all so close – friends – and he's a part of our family and it's tough to see him go down and be out, especially with the kind of year he was having. Great year, great start to a young career. But knowing him, he'll be back faster than they tell him he'll be, and he'll be ready to rock."

Q: Do you have a favorite Oakland moment?

Carr: "I got a couple of them for sure. One I really enjoyed, obviously, was the first win. You never forget that first win, in the rain, pouring down, Latavius [Murray] running for all those yards and throwing the game-winner to James Jones and the celebration that took place and we needed to call a timeout. 'Please, don't take away the first one like this.' But, I'll leave their two names out of it. *(laughter)* I remember C-Wood's last game, a fan running on the field and trying to grab him and things like that just to say thank you. The comeback wins, the injury I've talked about obviously. Breaking my ankle, that was crazy. Breaking my finger was probably cool, it looked like a French fry and then got to tape it up and come back out and finish the game and we end up winning, so that one. I could sit here and talk about all the fun times, but there will be a time and place for that. We'll have a time for that."

Q: Have you ever looked in the stands during the game and have seen something that made you laugh out loud?

Carr: "100 percent, yes. Without calling out what I saw, yes. *(laughter)* There has been multiple times that has happened."

Q: Last week you said, two weeks ago we were a great story and now all of sudden we are not so great. Now we are three weeks in, have you had time to sort of digest what's going on or what's different about the last three weeks?

Carr: "Our details, the lack of execution on the little things. When you get on a roll, it's easy to just to be like, 'Oh yeah. Keep flying through, we got this kind of thing.' And we're learning through that. We are hitting some adversity and our mental makeup is being challenged right now. We had a whole bunch of guys dealing with...When it's good, it's easy to go on the field and stick to your process and all that. When people don't like you as much, can you still stick to your process and get all the details right on coach's game plan? Because there is always going to be both in this game no matter what happens and so you try to your best to echo that throughout and hone in on those little things, because really that's all that's lacking. It's not a lack of effort, it's not a lack of want-to or anything like that, it's just little things which sounds cliché, but if I sat here I could break down one play for 30 minutes."

Q: With it being the last home game, will you find yourself during the game maybe stopping and thinking what does the Coliseum mean to you?

Carr: "Oh yeah, there will be a time for that hopefully. But, at the same time it will be a better memory if we win. They got some cool blitzes and some good players I'll be thinking about before that."