



Oakland Raiders Transcript

LB Jelani Jenkins

Q: Were there other teams that were interested in you?

Jenkins: "There were a few teams that were looking at me. The Raiders just kind of seemed the best fit for me. It's something that me and my agent sat down and said it'd be the best thing to do. It's something I'm definitely excited about."

Q: What about the Raiders makes them a good fit for you?

Jenkins: "It's definitely a team that's getting better and better every year. They have a defense with a lot of talent on it. They play fast. They play hard. They play tough. They play with a lot of energy. You can tell by looking at film that they have a lot of fun. That's something that I pride myself on, is energy and just enjoying the game. It seemed like a great fit."

Q: Which players are you looking forward to playing with?

Jenkins: "(inaudible). Just that wow of what he's capable of doing. Reggie Nelson being a guy from the University of Florida, seeing his film from when he was at Cincinnati, he's a guy that's always around the ball. Bruce Irvin as well. I could keep naming them. (Derek) Carr, the quarterback, (inaudible) somebody who I looked at. It's somebody with a lot of confidence. It's excited to be on a team with (inaudible). Just all that being said, it's something that I'm very excited to meet these guys. I'm excited to grow with them and get to playing some football."

Q: How did last year's injuries during a contract year help you grow as a player and person?

Jenkins: "Yeah, I would say that was one of the most frustrating years in my life, especially regarding my career. It just kind of taught me how to be resilient, not get my head down but just keep working, keep trying to get back out there on the field and helping the team as much as I could. But, that definitely taught me to just be resilient and I definitely got a chance to learn my body more and more and what it can take, what it can't take, when it's time to relax and when it's time to keep going. All of that definitely helped."

Q: Is weakside linebacker your primary position?

Jenkins: "Primarily I've been the weakside linebacker my whole career and also in the sub package. So, I have to talk to coach for exactly where they see me, but I'm pretty sure if I compare it, my size and abilities to Malcolm Smith, that's probably where they are imagining me playing at. It's something I'll have to see when I sit down with them."

Q: Is covering tight ends and running backs out of the backfield a strength of yours?

Jenkins: "Yeah, I think so. It's something I've had to do even since my time in college. It's something that they asked me to do and so... (inaudible) I've been on teams with a lot of great tight ends and running backs. So I've had to cover them every day in practice. I think that helps."