



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** "Alright, busy at work with our prep for Indy. Good football team, well coached, a lot of talent and looking forward to the matchup Saturday afternoon here at home. Questions?"

#### **Q: What did you think about getting seven guys in the Pro Bowl yesterday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Very, very proud of our guys. Well deserving. I thought it was awesome that all four of our captains were selected. Three of our offensive linemen. The line is so crucial to what we do. Obviously, some really good, young players in 'Coop' [Amari Cooper] and Derek [Carr] and Khalil [Mack], and then to have a guy like Reggie [Nelson], who has been a tremendous addition to our football team. He just loves ball. He loves life. He always has a smile. He's a great teammate. He's been a good leader for us. So I was happy for those guys."

#### **Q: Why is Nelson so good in crucial moments late in the game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's a veteran guy that loves ball, loves to compete. He's around it a lot. He led the league last year in interceptions. I think he's always been a ball hawk. He made a lot of plays down at the University of Florida coming out. He's been doing it a long time. Again, I think the biggest thing is when I think of Reggie, I think of a big smile on his face and enjoying the game and enjoying the competition and his teammates. I'm really happy for him."

#### **Q: How has Nelson grown since when you had him in Jacksonville?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's matured. I think we all mature. I think when we got back together he was like, 'Coach, a lot of those things you were saying were right on the money. I'm actually ready to do them now.' It was a good thing." *(laughing)*

#### **Q: What does it mean to be recognized by your peers with a Pro Bowl selection?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well that's the biggest part is just the recognition. I think guys work hard. Sometimes it doesn't go your way. You can play Pro Bowl level and not get in. For those guys, you're a little disappointed, but happy for those that made it in. Like you said, we prefer that we earn our way to a spot where they don't get to go [to the game]."

#### **Q: Do you have a timeline for Karl Joseph?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No. We'll have the injury report later. We'll do the best we can with that along with Mario [Edwards Jr.] and anybody else you might want to ask about."

#### **Q: How is Frank Gore able to still be productive at his age?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Some guys have just been able to prolong their careers and play at a high level, and he's one of those guys. Really talented. Has a great nose for that yard, that hidden yard. He knows how to make people miss. He knows how to run behind his blocks. I think he's a really good player. That's why he's been a good player for a long time. The other part is he looks fresh. His feet, his legs, he doesn't look like an older back late in the year. He looks like they've done a great job and he's done a great job with his conditioning and the way he's approaching it."

#### **Q: Was the Colts' last game against the Vikings an example of them finally putting it all together?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, that was pretty impressive. They were full of energy in all three phases, really, and they got after them. It was on the road, and they've won their last four on the road. This is a team that's very capable. It's a playoff caliber football team, and we're looking forward to a great battle."

**Q: You guys didn't get a touchdown down at the goal line against San Diego, but you have gotten touchdowns the last three times down there. Was not getting a touchdown in San Diego something you focus on as a one-time thing?**



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**Coach Del Rio:** “We just always recognize it for whatever it was and learn from it, good or bad, and move on. We’re not spending a lot of time one way or the other.”

### **Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave**

**Opening Statement:** “Quick week. Looking for a good practice today, yesterday was real quick, players came in at 10. Today’s a full day and try to get into our battle rhythm for a Saturday game.”

#### **Q: What have the three offensive linemen Pro Bowlers meant to this offense?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Well, the O-line is the engine to our vehicle. So, they’ve meant everything. I think all of our skill guys realize that they couldn’t make one play without the O-line getting it started and also finishing it late in the downs. They’ve done a terrific job. We’ve had to mix and match at times due to injuries, like every other team in the universe, and they’ve done a nice job of continuing to work together.”

#### **Q: Can you talk about how Rodney Hudson and Derek Carr work together week to week?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Those two are a dynamic duo, Rodney and Derek. Like having two quarterbacks on the field. They identify the defense, make the calls, work with one another. They both have veto power over anything that we send out there to the field and it’s just a tremendous combination between center and QB.”

#### **Q: Has your center always had that responsibility or is it something that Rodney’s earned?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Yeah, centers, in most systems, have a lot of responsibility. We’ve been able to grow our system each and every week. And now that we’re into the second year, it’s become evident that we can put a lot on Rodney’s plate.”

#### **Q: Is there anything you can point to as to why the offense has struggled in the red zone in recent weeks?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Oh, a number of factors. We’re ready to get back on track, that’s for sure. We want to come away with touchdowns when we get down there. It’s tough enough to get down there. We want to finish the right way. So, we’re working hard on that, count on being better moving forward. You say uncharacteristic, but a couple uncharacteristic mistakes. We don’t want to just sweep them under the rug. We want to address them, get them fixed and get back on track like you alluded to.”

#### **Q: How do you feel like you’ve ran out of the pistol and other formations recently?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “We’re doing the best we can to put us in the best position to win. Since Derek hurt his finger, we’re 3-1. We want to keep winning these games and one of the factors in winning these games is ball security. That’s a real vital issue. As we know the pinky and the thumb are really your locking mechanisms to hold onto a football and so when you got a pinky or a thumb that’s injured, you just have to be as smart as you can to secure that football, because that’s important to the way that we win these games. That relates to everybody, not just the Raiders.”

#### **Q: Are defenses doing anything different to take Amari Cooper out of games?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Well, I think we’ve been running the ball more, which is good. And Amari’s really been working. A couple plays were designed to go to Amari and they happened to be completions to someone else due to the coverage. That’s one thing we want to do each and every week is feature our premier guys and get him his touches. So, we need to make up for lost ground there.”

#### **Q: How limited are you near the goal line with not being able to run from under center?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “I think we went back and looked at the film. We’ve done a nice job of blocking both in the gun, pistol, under center, and San Diego played better than we did there on those plays. We’re going to keep doing what we think puts us in our best position to win. So, we always want to ascertain how his finger’s healing and



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make sure that ball's going to be secure first and foremost. But, he's a tough kid, as you know. He'll do anything. He's taking snaps before the game under center, at practice. He'll run through a brick wall for us. To come back like he did in the game four games ago when he got hurt... It has nothing to do with Derek's toughness, we're using our best judgement as we see fit."