



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sunday, November 27, 2016
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “What a great victory here at home against a really good football team. Ron Rivera, Mike Shula, a bunch of guys on that staff. It’s a really good team. We knew we’d get their very best. Just proud of our guys for hanging in there and finding a way. That’s been the theme for us this year. The first half was really good. The third quarter was really tough and then we came back and finished and won the game. Really proud of our guys for keeping their poise and staying with it, and making enough plays to win today against a really good football team. Questions?”

Q: What’s the status on Derek Carr’s finger?

Coach Del Rio: “Status... he jammed it on that snap. He was able to return. Went and got X-Rays and made sure it wasn’t anything significant and it wasn’t, so we think he’s going to be OK. He came back and played and obviously helped us win the game, so it’s a welcomed sight.”

Q: Was this the first ever shot gun victory for the team?

Coach Del Rio: “Maybe not, you see a few of those in college where they don’t know how to take a snap. We did what we had to do with the snap, obviously. Not having him under center after aggravating that.”

Q: What did you think of Khalil Mack’s performance?

Coach Del Rio: “He’s a really good football player. That’s what I’ve been saying. Earlier in the year there was discussion about what about his numbers and I said, you know what I said. I think you were there. He’s going to get his numbers. He’s a good football player and he brings great energy every day. He’s a wonderful teammate. He’s a talented guy that works his tail off. Those guys tend to get their numbers.”

Q: What’s the feeling on the sideline during a close game? Is there a feeling of confidence that you’ll somehow find a way?

Coach Del Rio: “I thought we had that late. I thought there was a stretch there where as things were kind of unraveling a little bit. That third quarter there was three, four possessions by them in a row and we weren’t moving it and I actually tried to make sure to say, ‘Hey, let’s remember if we keep fighting and we keep believing and we’ll go from there. Then whatever happens, we can deal with.’ I thought we snapped out of that and got our energy back and continued to fight and then found a way.”

Q: When Carr went to the locker room did you know he was going to come back or was it a question?

Coach Del Rio: “Before they ran the test there was no way I could know anything.”

Q: When did you know he came back out?

Coach Del Rio: “When the crowd started to roar. It was a roar too, so I knew it was good. It’s only No. 4. It’s either [Charles] Woodson and he’s in the booth now or it’s Derek Carr [*laughing*]. Maybe Khalil Mack, but I saw Khalil.”

Q: Did you know Mack had those kinds of hands?

Coach Del Rio: “Absolutely. Yeah, he’s got good hands. He can throw it, too. He can do just about anything that he wants, really.”



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Q: Was there a sense of relief when Carr came back?

Coach Del Rio: "Oh, for sure. For sure there was. Obviously, he's our leader, one of them, and he's a heck of a football player. For him to come back, it certainly gave us a lift and then he played well and made plays to help us come back and win."

Q: Was there a specific point when you knew you were back in the game?

Coach Del Rio: "No. I thought it was a gradual thing. I didn't know if it was any one moment in the game. There was a point and we kind of collected ourselves and rode it out. It's a really good football team. You have to remember that. I think that can get lost. It's a really good football team. Ron Rivera does a great job with their team. They've won a lot of football games over the last several years. It's a proud group and we got their best effort."

Q: Was Carr's interception connected to his injury?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't think so."

Q: Can you talk about Michael Crabtree's performance? It seems like whenever you need a big play, Crabtree is there for the team.

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, Michael has been really good for us. He's done that for us really the whole time he's been here. He's been really reliable. He's been a great teammate. He's come in here and there were questions about some of those things when he got here and I still don't understand why because he's been great for us. We're certainly glad we have him. He's one of our playmakers. One of our guys we know we can go to in tough situations and he's going to find a way. He played big for us today."

Q: What did you think of Crabtree's 49-yard catch with pass interference?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I mean that's another example of it, making a great play. He got behind the guy, came back for that ball and found a way with his helmet getting knocked off, the whole bit of being interfered with and he came down with that ball. That's typical Crab."

Q: Has this team developed into one that won't accept an excuse?

Coach Del Rio: "I believe that and we're not going to accept excuses. If it didn't finish the way it did, I wouldn't be up here giving you any. I think you know that about me. We're going to man up. It was a tough set of circumstances, OK, but my belief is you know whine about it. You go to work. You do the best you can in the situation you find yourself in and as a football team, that's how we're going to do it. We bounced back, we did all of those things and found a way to battle and won the game. You know what, we're going to get ready for Buffalo. It's going to be a heck of a game there. It's going to be a tough opponent. That's what we're going to do. That's how we're going to do it."

Q: Can you talk about Seth Roberts performance?

Coach Del Rio: "The reason I talk about them as a group is because they do so many things selflessly. Like a key block. Last week when Coop [Amari Cooper] takes off on that touchdown, that's Seth making that key block right there. When you see Latavius [Murray] pop on one of those runs, you might see Seth in there making the key blocks. It goes beyond having stats on the stat sheet and receptions and yards and touchdowns. Certainly, that two-point play was about as big of a play as we had in the game and Seth came up huge for us there."



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Q: Do you pause to reflect on having a winning record right now?

Coach Del Rio: "Not really. No, I think we have work to do. We just want to keep stacking up wins as best we can and then prove as a team the best we can. I think you saw glimpses today in the first half of what we think we can be as a complete team. The whole idea is to stay in that. It can't be for a half. It can't be for three quarters. It has to be 60 minutes. That's what we're fighting for and we're going to keep fighting for. Certainly it's a great thing to be 9-2 right now after 11 games that's what we've earned, but we're going to focus on the work in front of us."

Q: Are you guys still peeling back layers of the offense to show everything you have?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, I don't think we are, in terms of holding it back. I think you're seeing a lot of different dimensions that we can bring. I think there are a lot of different people that can contribute. We're not fixated on one guy has to do it. I think it's free flowing. I think we understand we have a lot of playmakers that we want to get involved that [offensive coordinator] Bill [Musgrave] and the staff do a great job of designing things to get a lot of different people involved. Derek will throw it to any of them. He believes in whoever is on the field. Johnny Holton makes a nice play today. From Johnny [Holton] to Crab to Coop and whoever's in between, he'll throw it to any of them."

Q: Is there something special about this win?

Coach Del Rio: "I like them all [*laughing*]. I really can't make it any more special. I love winning. I love competing. I love this group of guys we have here. We're going to keep getting after it and keep trying to deliver these type of performances where we come out on top."

Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: What happened during the snap where you injured your hand?

Carr: "A lot of pain. I'll let our doctors and coach get into all that stuff. I was able to come back in and play. Something happened with the snap. To be completely honest, I don't know. I haven't seen a replay. I'll have to see a replay of it. Something was different than normal. Rodney [Hudson] and I, we put a lot of hard work into center-quarterback exchange, so that nothing ever happens. I'll have to see a replay, but something was different. Something was definitely different."

Q: You had a bandage, but I see you don't have it now.

Carr: "I'm good. I'm good to go."

Q: Did you feel pain when you got the ball?

Carr: "Yeah, probably some of the most pain I've ever felt in my life."

Q: Did you feel relieved once you could come back into the game?

Carr: "Yes, definitely. I had a lot questions first. Once I asked those questions and they gave me the answers, then there was no doubt in my mind."

Q: Was it painful to readjust once you got back in?

Carr: "Obviously, it hurt. As much as I could deal with the pain of it, that was it."



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Q: Which finger was it?

Carr: "Just my pinky."

Q: Was it a Willis Reid moment?

Carr: "You know what's hilarious, my coach said Willis Reid to me on the sideline- just to make me laugh and get me in the mood. I looked at him and was like who? What's crazy is that I know who Willis Reid is, I mean, he came in and dropped like 40. Who knows. I was like can you tell me that story? Then I realized and said never mind I got it..."

Q: Why were you wearing that glove?

Carr: "Just so it would help me."

Q: Whose idea was the glove?

Carr: "To be completely honest, I don't remember."

Q: Where did you get the glove?

Carr: "This is good stuff man. Our equipment room. Our equipment manager was up here and we were just trying to come up with ideas, the best ideas to make sure I was the safest and it was the most effective. And that was what we came up with. "

Q: Did it still hurt to play with the glove?

Carr: "It still hurt, it definitely still hurt."

Q: Any foreseeable issues with the finger?

Carr: "You guys know me. It doesn't matter what happens. I'm going to practice. I'll play next game. I don't imagine anything will happen, it just sucks."

Q: Is there a "no excuses" personality with the team now?

Carr: "I think the personality of the team is this- I've said it before and I'll say it again, because I really believe in it and mean it, Coach Del Rio taught us how to compete last year and we learned that. This year, we're learning how to win and what it takes. There were so many PowerPoint presentations we saw in the off-season of just little situational football- and that matters. What it takes to win in those situations, decisions you have to make during that time, I really believe in that process he created. I believe that our identity is just a team that works hard and believes in one another."

Q: Were you surprised when they punted the ball to you?

Carr: "I don't know if I was surprised. I was happy they did. I really don't remember my emotion at that moment. I do remember I was extremely happy."

Q: What did you see during that key pass to WR Michael Crabtree?

Carr: "Their safety got flat-footed and doubled Rivera on the left side, and had Crabtree one-on-one, with their guy and his back turned. And you know me, I'm going to give my guys chances to make plays especially in that kind of yardage and situation. Those are tough ones to get, when you get a matchup like that, you've got to take that chance."



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Q: What was the attitude on the sideline like when you guys have 25 unanswered points?

Carr: "It was crazy. I came up here and the only reason I knew they had the ball was because I looked back and saw their offense running up there. I didn't know the whole situation when I was up here [in the locker room]. When I came back, I was trying to ask questions like did they score, what happened, what are they doing, all these things. To be completely honest with you, I don't really know the mood. I was just trying to get back into the swing of things. I wanted to make it seem like I didn't even leave. I wanted to make sure I knew every situation, what blitzes they brought, all those things- just to be ready. It looked like guys were still good and believing, and that's what I expect from them."

Q: What was the mood like after you threw the interception?

Carr: "It was kind of like last week when I threw the pick. It was like 'man, that sucks' obviously. Thomas Davis should be a Pro Bowler, one of the best players I've ever seen in my life. Sorry, I had to say that, just to give him credit. The mood was 'hey, we've been here before.' We don't like that we've been here before, but there was no doubt in our minds that we could move the ball, win, and score. There's never a doubt. You clap your hands; it's not what you wanted. We have to go get the ball. We have to go."

Q: How does it feel to clinch the first winning record in 14 years?

Carr: "I really feel like that's more for the fans. Obviously, we can't celebrate anything yet, but I'm happy for my fans. I know the heartache that they've had. Trust me, I've been a part of that heartache. I've given them heartaches during games in my short three years, but hopefully we've given them a lot of happy moments. I said when we won the championship in Fresno, I was part of a 4-9 team, got the head coach fired, all those things—when we won that champion the first time, I said the thing that makes my day is watching the fans celebrate, to be honest with you. Winning 9 games, having a winning record for the first time in 14 years, I'm so happy for our fans because I know how much joy that brings to our city, I know how much life that brings to the city of Oakland. And that's what I'm about. You guys know me, I love to make other people's day and I'm glad they get to go home happy."

Q: Where has DE Khalil Mack taken his career with games like this?

Carr: "It's crazy. He's so young. He's only been playing the same amount of time I have. He's already done things no one in the history of the league has done. He's been an all pro at two positions. He's making these clutch plays. Every time there's a two-minute drill, I come up to him and say 'Now it's your turn, go end it.' We're just having fun, but I'm dead serious. And he says, 'end the game, ok.' We hope every time it will work out, obviously. I don't think we can put him into a category. I think that he's here, and he's progressed to here. He's in a class of his own. I'm not saying he's better than anybody, I think he is. I think he's the best football player I've ever played with and seen. I think he's done things that no one has ever seen before and I don't want to just put him in a box. I think the sky's the limit for him."

Q: Did your hurt finger have any impact when you threw that interception?

Carr: "No, that was just me. Like I said, Thomas [Davis] made a great play. "

Q: Are you amazed at the way you guys have won these games?

Carr: "God is good. We've done it every single way. It's crazy. I'm just going to keep on believing. I'm going to keep working hard. Hopefully, we'll have more ways for you. To be honest, I don't care how we do it. I hope we keep doing it and come up with some new ways."



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Q: What happens to you specifically during the 4th quarter of a tight game?

Carr: "I've been put in those situations so many times in practice. Coach Del Rio makes the two-minute drill as hard on me as possible in camp, OTA's, mini-camp, training camp, practice. He makes it as hard as he can on me. When you have success at it, it gives you the belief that it doesn't matter the situation. We just went from 30-seconds, no timeouts, from our minus whatever and got a touchdown. It's things like that, that gives us so much [to] believe [in], to be honest. Like I always said, I grew up a Kobe [Bryant] fan, that Mamba mentality. Those killer instincts. Sometimes he hit the game winner, sometimes he didn't. Our o-line, something happens to them, they know nothing can happen. Our receivers, they make these amazing—I mean, that catch Crab [Michael Crabtree] made with the guy draped all over him, that's amazing."

Q: Do you think it's okay to support Kobe Bryant in Steph Curry's territory?

Carr: "Absolutely. He's a Panther Fan."

Q: Did you know he was here today, wearing your jersey?

Carr: "Oh did he? Steph, thank you man for wearing my jersey. I'll come out to a game and support you."

Raiders WR Amari Cooper

Q: For [Derek Carr] to get injured, his pinky finger dangling. He just put a glove on and went back out there and engineered a scoring drive. What does that say about your quarterback's character?

Amari Cooper: "He has a lot of toughness. I didn't doubt he would come back out and play. I asked him, 'Are you going to play?' He was like 'Duh'."

Q: This team continues to win ways to win even though you gave up a 17 point lead. What does that say about the resilience of this team?

Cooper: "We're a resilient group. We go out there and prepare in practice. Every week is going to be close. We know that. We just compete."

Q: When they came back in the third quarter was it a shock to the system on your part?

Cooper: "It was a shock to me, it all happened so fast. We stepped in there, competed and came away with a big win."

Q: What was going through your mind when you were standing on the sideline and the defense needed to make a stop to win the game?

Cooper: "I was watching Khalil [Mack], I wanted to see what he was going to do on potentially the last play of the game. This guy is unusually talented and he made a play."

Raiders T Donald Penn



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Q: First winning record in 14 seasons, what does it mean to this franchise to finally be there? I know you have bigger goals but...

Penn: "We still have a long way ahead of us. We haven't played our best football yet. We're just going to try to keep stacking these wins, add them up at the end of the season. I'm going to take this win, just win baby. Like Khalil [Mack] says, 'by any means'. We won, but we still have a long way to go. We're a long way from playing the football we want but we're going to keep stacking these wins and that's all that matter."

Q: What was it like when Derek [Carr] went out?

Penn: "Next man up. That's how I got my job. Somebody went down, I've been playing ever since. Next man up. Derek is a big piece, he's our captain, our leader. He is our offense. I knew [Derek] was tough, I wasn't afraid. I said 'Are you going to be good?'. He said 'I'm going to be'. You all don't know [Derek], he's a fighter, he's a beast. He came in that second half and didn't miss a beat. I don't know what you guys are watching but that dude is a beast."

Q: Is it just adding to his legend coming back from injury and leading a comeback?

Penn: "It doesn't have anything to do with his legend. He's in his third year now, he is going to do so much stuff in his career. It's not even funny. Not just this year but years to come. He has a hell of a career ahead of him."

Q: What did it mean to have a huge lead, see it slip away, then come back?

Penn: "It's showing our growth as a team, showing our maturity. It's showing us growing as an organization. We're starting to finish these games. We put ourselves in a bad spot. We could have finished them but we put ourselves in a bad spot. We were able to dig ourselves out. We have to show the growth. We're growing. We're still not playing the best football we want but we're winning. We're finding ways to win. I'll take that any day. These guys are out there fighting their butts off trying to find a way to win."

Q: Was it strange from the time [Derek] Carr strained his finger things started to go south in the third quarter.

Penn: "Things went south because we fumbled. The good thing is the defense stood up and gave us an opportunity. We went down there and did what we've been doing all year. It sucks that we had our back against the wall. We need to stop doing that. But the good thing is we came out victorious. I'll take that as long as we come out victorious. We have a lot of stuff to clean up. We haven't played our best football yet, we have a long way ahead of us. But you know what we're going to do, we're going to be in that building on Tuesday working hard like we did this week. I like this film, everybody in the locker room is going to like this film."

Raiders LB Bruce Irvin

Q: You guys always seem to find a way to come back in these games. What did it take in this game to come back and how did it feel to be down?



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Bruce Irvin: “The Panthers were in the Super Bowl last year. We knew those guys weren’t going to just lay down. They’re 4-8 but they’re not 4-18. They’ve just been on the end of a lot of bad breaks. They made a run but we kept our composure and made the stops when we needed to.”

Q: You’ve been in big games, you’ve played with great players before. How do you describe what Khalil [Mack] did out there today?

Irvin: “Pick-six, sack forced fumble, fumble recovery. I’m just blessed to be in his presence. The guy is one hell of a player. We feed off each other. On that last drive we told each other ‘It’s on us, it’s on us to put the team on our back and end it.’ That’s exactly what we did. I’m just blessed to be in such a great situation playing with a future Hall of Famer.”

Q: You were close to the quarterback on that last play. Did you see Khalil flash in front of you to get him?

Irvin: “There’s been a few times where we both got there at the same time. It’s no fun if the homies can’t get any. I always tell Khalil I’d rather he have a sack and me have a sack than me have two and him have none. I’m just happy he was able to get home and happy to come out with the win.”

Q: Did you see his jump into the Black Hole there?

Irvin: “That was fun. I was jealous, I was like ‘Dang, why didn’t I think of that’. It was a great play, a great celebration for a great player.”

Q: With Cam [Newton], it didn’t look like you didn’t put a spy on him, you just had to go and get him.

Irvin: “You’ve got to. Cam is a hell of a player. I don’t know if you guys have ever stood next to him but he’s a pretty big individual. We had to rush him and get to him.”

Q: You had a couple of sacks in the last set of games, you had that pressure late. What have you found the last couple games to put you over the top?

Irvin: “Just keep digging. I was getting close, but I wasn’t finishing. These last couple games I’ve been fortunate enough to bring a quarterback down.”

Q: When you hear Derek Carr is coming back into this game, what is the reaction?

Irvin: “It’s like Jesus rose from the dead.”

Raiders DE Khalil Mack

Q: Can you talk about the fourth down sack?

Mack: “Man, you’re talking about trying to get there. That was the one. You want to end the game at that point. The offense was rolling late in the game and we needed a stop. We needed a stop. That was the stop we needed.”

Q: What went into your interception?

Mack: “Instincts and seeing, knowing the things that were going to happen based on the film that you watched. Instincts and getting my hands up and getting ready to catch.”



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Q: Did you know you had good hands?

Mack: "Oh yeah, come on, come on, come on. I got good hands, baby (*laughing*)."

Q: Then you jumped in the Black Hole.

Mack: "Yeah, I've been waiting to do that for three years."

Q: That front row was scared.

Mack: "Nah, they looked like they were ready, they looked like they were ready for the impact. I had to make sure I could make it up there first (*laughing*)."

Q: Did you plan the reverse spin there too?

Mack: "Yeah, yeah, yeah man. That's how I see everybody else do it. Seth [Roberts] do it and everybody else do it and so I knew I had to jump in and turn my back."

Q: Did you feel someone grab your facemask?

Mack: "Yeah, it was all love. I got love for them, man. I'm trying to do it some more."

Q: Bruce Irvin said he was jealous you got to jump in the Black Hole.

Mack: "Yeah, he told me throughout the game. He was like, 'Man, next sack I get I'm jumping in the Black Hole. I was like, 'I don't know if it works like that.' Yeah, but it is what it is."

Q: What's happening now that the defense is finding success after struggling?

Mack: "You can tell there's a lot of things we need to work on. I'm a perfectionist. Whether it's communication, whether it's coverage and filling holes on run downs. It's all those things that you think about and I can't help but think about that even though we did get the win. There's a lot of corrections. We have to help this team defensively a lot more."

Q: What does it mean to be the first player with a sack, interception, force fumble, fumble recovery and a touchdown since Charles Woodson in 2009?

Mack: "That's great company right there. C-Wood, that's big bro. We talk all the time. He tells me, 'It's time for you to take over games.' Fortunately, I was in a position to do a little bit of that today."

Q: Do you tell yourself that?

Mack: "You have to have that on your mind. You want to change the game by any means. Knowing it's fourth down and they're going for it and it's late in the game and they could possible tie it up, you want to make that play to get the ball and end it."

Q: What's it like on the sideline when Derek Carr is leading a fourth quarter drive?

Mack: "Talk about clutch, MVP. Coming back after having that little knickknack and throwing strikes. He's a hell of a player and I'm glad he's my quarter back. All you can think about is his toughness. How tough he is. He's a hell of a player."

Q: What were you thinking about when Carr went into the locker room?



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Mack: "Oh man, I just immediately started praying. Even though it's football, that's my homie. You want to make sure he's good at the end of the day even though you're in the midst of a game. So yeah, I immediately started praying and asking God for healing power."

Q: What's it like to go 0-10 your rookie year to 9-2 now?

Mack: "We've come a long way. Even then you can't really think about the past. All you can really focus on is stacking these wins up. That's all we really care about as a team. You can tell when we're out there on the field."

Q: How tough is Cam Newton to take down?

Mack: "That's a big dude. It's a big dude, man. He's tough to take down. He's a tough quarterback and he's a great leader for that team. We've seen that he was put in a position to win that game. You could tell down the stretch he made some great plays for that offense."

Q: What are you thinking on that last play with the game on the line?

Mack: "At that point, you've just got to forget about everything that happened early on in the game – anything that happened in the game – and focus on the moment. That's what everybody knew. We had to focus in on the moment. I grabbed [Raiders CB Antonio Hamilton]'s helmet. I told him, 'All we need is three seconds. All we need is three seconds.' Fortunately enough they were able to hold it down, coverage was able to hold it down, and we got the stop."

Q: What happened on your pick-six?

Mack: "It was just instincts. On that situation, they switched the guard and the tackle, and they were doing everything to lighten up the pressure with screens, draws, quarterback runs, running the ball. We know they're going to do things like that. Instinctively, I saw the back sneak out and I tried to separate and get my hands up. That's what we're taught to do from [Defensive Line Coach] Coach Jethro Franklin."

Q: Any interest in playing offense?

Mack: "I'm like a fifth-string QB I think. I can get in there, we can run a couple read zones, throw a couple screen balls. That's it, that's all. I'm limited."

Q: This team seems like they don't make any excuses?

Mack: "No doubt. No doubt. By any means. By any means necessary. That's the message every week. Whether we have to pull them out in the fourth [quarter] or overtime... we need those wins. That's the message. Luckily we were able to pull this one out."

Raiders RB Latavius Murray

Q: Tough running out there today?

Murray: "Yeah, especially towards the end down there, keep possession, eat up the clock definitely helped us out to [inaudible] the game."



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Q: What does that say about your quarterback, pinky dangling, comes back and leads the fourth-quarter comeback?

Murray: "He's tough man, he's tough. He's a competitor, the way he's been playing all year. Doesn't surprise me at all."

Q: How big is this win for you guys, having the winning record and leading the AFC West?

Murray: "I think every game from this point obviously has been big for us. Every team is standing in the way of our goals, so we got to take care of business week in and week out and keep finding ways to win, so I think that's what's great about this team."

Q: What were the emotions when Derek Carr went down? It seemed like you guys played like you might have been a little bit shaken up. What changed it back?

Murray: "We weren't shaken up at all. We believe in Matt [McGloin]. He's going to be in there, we believe he can make plays to get it done and lead us. We believe in every man on this team, so we weren't down at all. Obviously, we feel for Derek, but we're going to rally behind whoever's in there at any position because that's what a true team does."

Q: What was the emotional rollercoaster like, you guys were up and looked like you were going to boat race them in the first half and then you look up and they're winning in the fourth quarter?

Murray: "I think it helps the fact that we've been in situations before where we have to come back and find a way to win and when we get down, I guess we've been in this situation before, so we don't get rattled whatsoever and so again, we've been in that situation and we know that we just need to go out there and make a play, put a drive together, get the win and we were able to do that."

Q: This is the first time this team has unraveled like that even with a 17-point lead, so what does that say about the resilience of this football team?

Murray: "It says a lot. Again, the fact that we keep finding ways to win like you said, 24 unanswered points or whatever, I'm just excited to be part of this group of guys. I love these guys. We continue to fight and continue to fight for each other and I think that's why we continue to have success. Every man believes in each other, every man plays for each other and when you have a group of guys that can come together and do that, things like that happen."

Q: You know it hasn't always been that way here, but there's a feeling in here that it's different.

Murray: "And it hasn't. The culture has changed here, this is a different team with a different demeanor and we're a team on a mission right now. We're headed in the right way to get our goal."

Raiders WR Michael Crabtree

Q: Big moments, big plays. Take us through your 47-yard "go up and get it" grab.

Crabtree: "By any means. I feel like I've had a couple bad games. I wasn't going to let this game go by without making a few plays. I came out here with one thing on my mind."

Q: You get some style points on that. You went up, came down and held on. Helmet came off and everything.



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Crabtree: "They ripped my helmet off. I thought there should have been a flag. They made it tough. By any means, man."

Q: Michael, how dangerous is a team that just finds ways to win, not always pretty but finding ways to win?

Crabtree: "Just win, baby. We take that motto seriously. We're going for it by any means. We've got dogs."

Q: Is this a game you guys would have won last year, or is it this year's team that developed that toughness?

Crabtree: "We're going to worry about this year. We're not worrying about the past, what the Raiders did. We're worried about today and tomorrow, this year, what we can do better and try to take it to the next level."

Q: What did Derek Carr show coming back from injury?

Crabtree: "He's is a competitor. He's going to compete with everything. I knew he was going to come back into the game. I love that dude. I love my team. We're just working every day."

Q: I know the season has a long ways to go, but you guys have nine wins for the first time since 2002.

Crabtree: "I think it's important not to count those. I think it's important to think about the next game. I don't think it's really important to worry about the past. You can get caught up in that. I've been on some winning teams. This team right here is special. We have to focus on what's in front of us."



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Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera

Q: Can you evaluate QB Cam Newton's performance today?

Rivera: "Well I'm not going to evaluate until I get an opportunity to watch the tape, but I do think he did some good things. He gave us a chance to win the football game at the end of the day. He did some really good things, but again we as a football team have got to play better in that first half."

Q: Your team came in banged up and got more banged up but turned it into a chance to win in the second half. What do you think of the effort of your guys today?

Rivera: "Well it's a grand effort. Again, let's be honest, we didn't play very well in the first half. We missed a couple opportunities in the first half. We missed that chance, but in the second half we came out and we gave ourselves every opportunity and that's all you can ask for is the guys come out and play like that. They believed they had a chance to win and it's unfortunate. We just didn't pull it out at the end."

Q: Did the offensive line hold everything together?

Rivera: "Yeah I mean it was tough. [Running game coordinator] Coach [John] Matsko and [Offensive Line Coach] Coach Ray [Brown] are doing a heck of a job trying to piecemeal a group of guys to go out and fight for us and that's what they did. They came out and gave us their best effort. They gave us some opportunities. With the piecemeal line to be able to do what we did and be that close to winning a football game against a very good Raiders team, again that's a credit to the players for fighting and the coaches for doing the best they can with those guys."

Q: What was the thought process behind going for two a couple times?

Rivera: "Well the first time obviously was to make up for the blocked kick and then it puts you behind now you're chasing points, which is unfortunate. In retrospect, you could say oh well let's just go with it and keep trying to kick them but again as I said we started chasing points and we were trying to make that up."

Q: LB Thomas Davis put you in a position to score and that led to a touchdown. How important was that?

Rivera: "That's huge. Again, we came out in the second half I think the guys were able to get past the slow start and that's the unfortunate part. We didn't start fast. We missed some opportunities. We turned the ball over at the wrong time obviously, but again coming out and playing in the second half you do that you give yourself a chance to win. That's the thing I really appreciate about our guys. They fought and they weren't backing down."

Q: Right before the pick six you were playing without any pace. Were you content for running it down?



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Rivera: "Yeah we were looking to pop something, but at the same time we didn't want to give them an opportunity to get the ball back. We had a screen pass call and Khalil Mack, credit to him, made a heck of a play because from what we saw it looked we had a little bit of running room there. You get that to Fozzy [Whittaker] and with his ability to run in open space who knows what happens and unfortunately Khalil Mack read it and made a hell of a play."

Q: Were you tempted to go for it on 4th-and-1?

Rivera: "Yes very much so, but again with five minutes in that type of situation I decided not to. I thought again we could get a good punt, get them down there, we still had three timeouts and that's what I was working with."

Q: Why was AJ Klein playing the majority of the nickel packages instead of seeing someone like Shaq (Thompson)?

Rivera: "Because AJ is a mike linebacker and Shaq's a will, or what we call the buffalo."

Q: Did it seem like to you in the first half that you weren't playing with a ton of urgency?

Rivera: "No I wouldn't say that. I'd just say that we didn't make plays. They made plays and we didn't. That's probably the biggest reason more than anything else. I thought our guys were trying just we didn't get anything done. I thought in the second half we came out we made a couple plays very early and gained some momentum. This game is a funny game when you pick up momentum and it gets things rolling, things kind of snowball and you create some positive energy for yourselves. Unfortunately, they made a couple plays that kind of stymied it and we were into a dogfight."

Q: Why was Kelvin Benjamin so upset when he threw his helmet?

Rivera: "Kelvin didn't want to come out and again you were a little concerned about his shoulder. They wanted to get him out right there and make sure he's alright and he wanted to keep trying to push himself through it and in fact it's funny, Kelvin and I just talked about that before I came out here and I told him, 'Hey, I appreciate you being passionate. You just got to learn to control it.' But he really didn't. He didn't want to come out. He wanted to get back out there and try and make a play for his team."

Q: Was his shoulder OK?

Rivera: "Well, he took a shot on it. So again, they just wanted to make sure he was alright. That's why they pulled him, just to make sure."

Q: Was he misaligned when you called the last timeout?

Rivera: "Well, we were trying to communicate a play and we ran out of time."

Q: What about the offensive line?

Rivera: "They were trying to communicate a play and they ran out of time."

Q: How do you sum up the frustration of suffering close losses?



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Rivera: "It's been very frustrating. I mean, the health of this football team is very frustrating. The missed opportunities are very frustrating. Now it's five games where you've lost virtually in the last few minutes. It's disappointing, but that's the nature of this game. Sometimes you win them, sometimes you don't. We had an opportunity to win the very first one this year. We didn't, so that's tough, but that's the nature of it, as I said. We'll just keep fighting, keep playing. Now we still have an opportunity. We'll see what happens. There's no reason for us to look any other way but there's a glimmer of hope. That's all you need sometimes."

Q: What are your impressions of Derek Carr?

Rivera: "Just very cool, calm, collected, good decision maker, quick decision maker. I think he handles situations very well. He's a very bright, intelligent football player and you can see that his teammates have a passion for him as well. I think that they've got something going on very nicely here. I think [Raiders General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] and [Raiders Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] have done a terrific job and it's exciting to see. Going forward, I thought this could be a formidable team for time to come as long as they keep everybody healthy."

Q: When things weren't going well for Cam Newton in the first half, what did he show you on the sideline?

Rivera: "I think the biggest thing was coming in at half time. I think his confidence was up and I think [offensive coordinator] Mike [Shula] did a nice job of talking with him. I think [quarterbacks coach] Kenny [Dorsey] did a nice job trying to keep him collected and he came up and started. Sometimes all you need to do is make a play and we made a play right after we got the turnovers and scored. We got a little bit of momentum going and the confidence showed. It's what we can be and as I said, we're in a position now where this absolutely no room and we'll see what happens."

Q: Was Vernon Butler a coach's decision?

Rivera: "Yes, very much so. It was all about strategy and the way we wanted to play this game. That's all there is to it. There was nothing else into that. We knew that was coming."

Q: What about the injuries up front?

Rivera: "It's tough. We'll see. You're down to your third or fourth center and at this time, you're moving your starting right guard to right tackle. So it's tough, but that's the nature of the game and we just have to keep working."

Panthers QB Cam Newton

Q: What happened in the first half?

Newton: "We've just got to find ways. You play a game like this...for most of this year we have to come together and win these close games. That's what it comes down to. The first half wasn't great, we battled back, took the lead – we just have to do better as a whole. It started with myself, that's just unacceptable. For the first half, I don't know what it was... I just couldn't get in a rhythm. Making a lackluster turnover late at the end in the first half didn't make it easy for us either. Needless to say, we've still got to watch the film and come back and be better."



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Q: What was the message at halftime?

Newton: “Just keep playing. I’ve been playing this game long enough to know that the tables will turn sooner or later. They did. We’ve just got to find a way to keep the table in our favor. Oakland is a great team. Hostile environment. This is why you come to the league...to play these type of games. Unfortunately, we got the short end of the stick, but it was fun. Like I said, you just have to find a way to win close games.”

Q: Looking back, were the two two-point conversions the right choice?

Newton: “You can’t really dwell on that. You still have to play the game. With how this game was going, with so many momentum swings, we took their best shot and they took our best shot. We knew it was going to come down to that type of finish, but that’s just what happens.

Q: Why can’t this team sustain momentum in the fourth quarter?

Newton: “I really don’t know. You don’t really know until you know. It’s a cliché saying, but... for us, I don’t think we were passive. We just have to find ways to have more methodical drives to lead to points, as well as keep getting first downs. [The] Third quarter was dominant for us, we just have to keep that same mentality and get ready for the next game.”

Q: Did you say anything to [Panthers’ TE] Greg Olsen

Newton: “You don’t say [anything] to Greg. Greg is a pro’s pro. He comes to work every single day and when the game is on the line, I think we all know who I’m going to go to. I’ve got numerous receivers that I feel very confident about... [Corey] Brown, Ted [Ginn] had an unbelievable day today, Devin [Funchess] and obviously [Kelvin Benjamin]. It really comes down to the confidence within ourselves, and we have that. As far as Greg, I do know you’ll have games like this where the simple stuff you don’t usually do. I know this is just one of those games and he’ll be prepared next game.”

Panthers LB A.J. Klein

Q: How did it feel out there today?

Klein: “It felt good. I know I definitely left some plays out there today: the deep ball versus [Michael] Crabtree and then giving up that touchdown. Those are plays that I wish we had back. But, I mean, that is how football is—you win some, you lose some. I know I just have to continue on my work, on my techniques, and get back out there. I know those plays were big plays in the game, and probably were a deciding factor. I take full responsibility for that.”

Q: On a positive note, you guys rallied in the third quarter and took the lead to make this a game.

Klein: “Yeah, we did rally. We had a great second half. We just started a little slow, unfortunately. But [Ron] Rivera has always had the “next man up” mentality. Some guys in the offense played positions that they weren’t used to playing, so it just goes to show a lot about our team. We are going to keep fighting. Unfortunately, I wish we could have come out with this win today.”

Q: It seemed like after that first long drive, you guys found something defensively, and created some turnovers.



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Klein: "Yeah, I feel like we had the good scheme. Coach put in the right calls, and everyone was doing their jobs. Then we were getting quick three and outs and turnovers. We just needed another stop, or another turnover, late in the game. And unfortunately we didn't get that."

Q: What did you see on that Crabtree play? Were you looking for something else in terms of coverage?

Klein: "No, I was just running high. That was my responsibility, to run high. I knew the ball was in the air when I heard the crowd, and I turned too early. But just got a little feet tangled up, a little physicality at the top of the route, and didn't get my head around in time. I tried to make a play on the ball, but that just goes down to technique. I have to be better."

Q: With all these guys getting injured today, how important is this preparation going to be for Seattle?

Klein: "It's going to be really big. It's probably a positive thing that we aren't traveling back to the east coast-- give us some extra time. Might have to travel back to the hotel tonight to kind of lay down, rest a little bit in these next few days and get back to preparing for Seattle."

Panthers WR Tedd Ginn Jr

Q: What are your thoughts going forward?

Ginn: We just have to keep fighting towards our goals. As long as we just keep doing the things that we did in the second half, we should be fine."

Q: Do you feel like you guys are starting to run out of time at all?

Ginn: "No, we just have to keep believing. As long as we keep believing, keep playing this game. They say any given Sunday. That's all you can worry about."

Q: There were some frustrations; it looked like Kelvin [Benjamin] was frustrated. Did you get a chance to talk to him at all?

Ginn: "Oh yea. I mean when you're playing this game, if you don't have any frustrations, that means you don't love this game. So for this man to come out and show his passion for this game, and then come out and catch a touchdown right after that, it just shows what type of player that he is."

Q: Greg [Olsen] was really hard on himself for dropping the two-point conversion, and having a chance to make a play at the end.

Ginn: "There's only two words you can say, he's a pro. When you're a pro and you know what you did wrong, nobody can tell you how to correct it but yourself."

Q: Does that kind of sum up the season for you guys? Guys who normally make plays, not making them?

Ginn: "I mean, you know, we lost a lot of stuff in the beginning, but we make up for it in the end. Or vice versa, we make it up in the beginning and we lose it in the end. But you have to just come together and play a complete game."



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Q: Are these the type of games that you guys were figuring out how to win last year?

Ginn: "Yeah, it's like they used to say back in the day; when you get punched, they come up punching even more. And so that's all we're doing, man. We just have to learn how to put our back against the wall and start punching out of the crowds. That's all we can do."

Panthers TE Greg Olsen

Q: What were the issues, if anything, in the first half?

Olsen: "We struggled, obviously, in the first half other than the one drive where 'Stew' [Jonathan Stewart] broke the run. We just couldn't really get any rhythm. We weren't getting open, weren't blocking. It is kind of a combination of things. We kind found our groove there in the second half. Obviously, the defense sparked us with those two turnovers, and obviously just came up short there in the end."

Q: This thing seems to happen a lot this season, those tough losses and not being able to finish a game. What do you think is going wrong this season compared to other seasons where you were able to finish games?

Olsen: "Obviously, chasing those points, that kind of [expletive] us on the two-point conversion. That really ended up being the difference. We would have been up 10. They score. Then, we are up three, and they go down and kick the field goal for a tie as opposed to kicking the field goal to take the lead, so obviously that was big. We ended up trying and came up short with those extra points really came back to hurt us. Then, we had a chance to make up for it, and I just dropped it."

Q: Do you feel that you should have had that one?

Olsen: "Yeah, I just went up and tried to get it. I couldn't quite open up the hands there high enough, and kind of let off the end of my fingernail. I would like to have that one back. It is usually a play that I make. I just couldn't quite get my left hand on the ball. I couldn't quite get enough of the ball with my other hand to hold it. It's a tough one obviously."

Q: The conversion play, same type of deal?

Olsen: "That one I just dropped. The third down play there at the end would have been a good catch. I didn't quite get up there enough to catch it clean, and the two point play, I just dropped it. It ended up in essence costing us the game."

Q: Have you felt like these are the kinds of games that you guys found out a way to win last year?

Olsen: "I think everyone is tired of comparing everything to last year. Last year is over. We have been saying that since the beginning of the year. We are done comparing everything to last year. The reality is that we are 4-7. It is a tough loss. Obviously, there are a lot of things that we could have done better to give ourselves a better chance. That is this game. It is not for the faint of heart, and you have got to make the plays starting with me."

Q: Do you think playoff hopes and aspirations are over?

Olsen: "We are just trying to win a game. We will let all of that sort itself out."



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Q: Do you think you guys starting chasing those points a little early?

Olsen: "That is not for me to decide. It would have all been for not had I just caught the ball on the second two-point try. If I would have just caught the ball, then we would have been up by 10. Then, their touchdown they would have gone for one and we would be up by three and that field goal would have tied it. The math is clear. I should catch the ball. I don't know what else to say."

Q: Why did you guys have to call the timeout at the end of the game right before that third-down play?

Olsen: "We didn't have exactly the right kind of group that we wanted for that play on the field, so it didn't end up costing us much. We had plenty of time. We were in a position where we could be out of timeouts and not attempt a field goal. We just came up a little short there."

Q: Did Cam Newton rally himself after getting down in the first half?

Olsen: "The way the first half went down, it was tough coming in here down 24-7. I think that we have shown over the years that we are not a team that is going to lie down and go quiet. We said that we are going to start with one drive. Obviously, the defense got us back the ball pretty fast and we were able to capitalize. Then, T.D. [Thomas Davis] got another pick, so the defense kind of spurt us there. We were able to take it down for a touchdown. I don't think anything out of the ordinary. The first half was just not that good."

Q: Do you think Cam Newton was a little off?

Olsen: "I think that we all were off. Our entire offense was off."

Q: That two-point conversion is really eating at you.

Olsen: "You have got to catch the ball. I have caught a lot of balls in this league, and the team relies on me to make plays, and come to me when [expletive] is on the line. You have got to make the play. It is what it is. It is just the reality. I don't know how many other ways to say it."

Panthers G Tyler Larsen

Q: You guys had some injuries today. How did you guys move forward?

Larsen: "We feel like everyone is a starter in this room. You know, you just have to go out and have that confidence and mentality each and every game. I mean, you hold yourself accountable because you are fighting for each and every one of your brothers that are inside that room. It's been a cool journey, and a cool experience today."

Q: What does it mean to you to be called upon today?

Larsen: "It means a lot. I mean, I love this game. I've been playing it since I was eight years old. I love this team. I love being a part of this organization, and the fact that I got to go out there and make an impact with the team, it was a great experience, and it means a lot."

Q: How will you approach this week now?



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Larsen: "Just like every other week. I mean, we just have to watch film, see tendencies and everything like that and stay on point. Like I said, everyone has the starter mentality, so you don't really change anything."

Panthers SLB Shaq Thompson

Q: What was the difference in how the team played in the second half compared to the first half?

Thompson: "Everyone just had to man up and check themselves. That is what we did in the second half. We came out and played our way of football. Obviously, we have to do that in the first half."

Q: When Thomas Davis made some big plays, and put the offense in a good position, the offense responded by scoring instead of being held to field goals. Is that a big confidence booster for you guys?

Thompson: "Yeah, we are going to make plays on defense just as they make plays on offense. We are going to help them get the ball back. We did a great job. TD [Thomas Davis came up on a pick.]"

Q: How tough is it going to be to be out here for the week after losing the first game of this road trip?

Thompson: "We just have to move on. That's it."

Q: Did you expect to be on the field more in passing situations?

Thompson: "It just depends. When my number is called, I just go out there. If not, I will be on special teams."

Q: Are you going to be able to get out and see your mom this week?

Thompson: "Yeah, that is where I am going right now. Time to shower and get out there."