



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

**Opening Statement:** "OK, here to recap the game and talk about my wife's tweet, whatever it is." *(laughter)*

**Q: You're the third Bay Area coach who has woken up one morning and had the President of the United States tweeting about one of your players. I was just wondering what your reaction to that is?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I have to admit, I wasn't aware of it until about five minutes ago, thanks to [Senior Director of Media Relations] Will [Kiss]. We've been busy going through the tape, correcting yesterday and getting ready to move on to the Broncos. I didn't spend a lot of time looking at the material. I'm aware of a tweet and then my wife being offended because I think she thinks there's so many things that go on that are good about the league and she'd like to see that get more attention. I think that's really what she was saying, but I can't speak for her. The bottom line is I'm here to coach the football team. That's my job, that's my role and that's what I'm going to do. But I'm aware of all those things. My stance on the whole thing with Marshawn [Lynch] and all of our players, I've told them how I feel. I love this country. I think it's a great honor to be able to play football, coach football for a living. My thought is that everybody should pay respect to the flag and stand at attention. That's how I feel about it. But it is America, and everybody can make their choice, and I've made that clear too. So anyway, that's that. I don't know if there is anything else to talk about on that subject, but I'd rather concentrate on football, but I wanted to go ahead and address that out front."

**Q: Should Marshawn Lynch be suspended as the President suggests?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I'm not going to get into all that. That's not for me."

**Q: There was a fourth-and-1 play in the third quarter, and Marshawn Lynch had been running well, but you guys gave it to Jamize Olawale. Do you have any second thoughts on that with the way Lynch had been running the ball?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, especially in the first half, I thought we ran it well in the first half; very efficient. Efficiency on the day was really good running the football. I think we were close to 80 percent efficiency, so that was way above what you're looking for. That was really good. I would love to see him in that situation. Jamize is very capable. He's a big, powerful guy as well. They stuffed us pretty good. I thought there was more – when I looked at the picture – than there really was when I saw it reviewing the game tape, but yeah, you always like to have your best guy there."

**Q: Do you think that you're close to catching that spark that you need to make a run?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think it's close and I think we're capable. We just have to find that spark where it happens. I mean, I think we get three or four drops in the first half that dramatically alter the way the first half looks. Then you add in the fumble down there at the end of the half there. Those are things that when you're making them and you're clicking, the entire game changes – the way it looks, the way it feels. We weren't good enough yesterday, clearly. But as you said, you look up. Where are we? In second place in our division. We're a game off the Wild Card pace. We're two out of the division lead. There's six games left, so there's a lot of hope. For me it's about going forward with today's opportunity to get better and just take it one day at a time. Look to get better. Keep our wits about us. Stay strong. Be men of character and show up and do the right things every day and keep believing that it's possible."

**Q: How can you change drops?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "You know we'll do what we can. We got some new balls that we're going to be using in the weight room. Throw it off the wall and be able to catch it. *(laughing)* We're going to try just about everything. We'll keep working at it. I believe they come in bunches. I'm shocked that we're not catching at a higher rate as receivers and as DBs. I mean we've had our hands on enough balls, we should have plenty in that interception category. We count on our receivers getting those plays made."



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**Q: A couple of weeks ago you talked about needing to go 10-6 to get into the playoffs. Do you still feel like you need to get to 10-6?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "The way I explained it then and I would say it again now is that's been in the history of the league, that is a good number that typically gets you in. It doesn't always. There are years when that's not good enough. Eleven might not get you in for sure. That's just a generally speaking a number if you get to you typically make your way in one way or another, as a division winner or a wild card. I said what I believed and that's, historically, I think that will hold up. But every year is different. We've got a very competitive division. The Chiefs haven't run away and put it away. With us and the Chargers and the Broncos all kind of hovering there still with a chance I think."

**Q: How do you view your secondary as a whole? It seems like that's a group that hasn't performed well and it's seemed to hurt you. Is that fair to say?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, I think that's fair to say. I think that's something we're working on. Two of our top prospects missed the first half of the year largely. [Gareon] Conley missed it and Obi [Melifonwu] is now back. Getting him caught up obviously. He played a bunch yesterday and will continue to play. Those are guys we're counting on heavily and they were hurt. That's part of our game. That's part of the National Football League. We don't make that as an excuse, but that is an issue that has been an issue. Our secondary hasn't played as well as it needs to. We're just going to keep working at it. That's what you can do and what we will do. Continue to refine how we do things, what we're doing and are ability to do it at a higher level."

**Q: Will Obi Melifonwu stay in the mix at cornerback?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah."

**Q: Do you feel like you need to bring in another body there?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's not a matter of bodies as much as it's a matter of guys that can help us win."

**Q: Gareon Conley posted that he was having surgery today. is that accurate?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Will told me about that also five minutes ago. *(laughter)* Thank you, Will. I count on Will for that. Yeah, so, he's free to talk about his injury and how it's going to be treated and all of that. Our guys are grown men, they can address that how they'd like. We typically keep things pretty close to the vest, pretty much in-house. But you know, there's going to be a procedure done and it gives us the best chance to have him at full strength next year."

**Q: Were you disappointed with how the team came out and played initially yesterday? There was criticism that the team was not prepared...**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think that's what it feels like when you look up and the chance you had to go 14-7 at the end of the half, even less than that, turns into 24 to nothing. They closed the half, they got the ball to start the half and they scored. That's about a 17-point swing and that's what occurred. So, no. What you can't do is lose your mind over things. You have to keep your wits about yourself and we're going to do that. I think would've, could've and should've's, you don't get those. But I will say that it's a completely different ball game if the third-down conversion they got by penalty on the hold on No. 50 [Nicholas Morrow], which is highly questionable in my opinion. That allowed them to continue on for a touchdown. We turned the ball over going inside the five. So those two plays right there, if you can just change those two, completely different feel at halftime. So yeah, you can make statements like that because of how lopsided it got. And it certainly got away from us, no question, but I think if you go back and as we do, study the film and look at the effort and energy being put forth, our guys were ready to play."

**Q: Was Melifonwu having trouble catching his breath early in the game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah."



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**Q: Did you have guys that struggled with the elevation?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, some of the younger guys that maybe hadn't been through that were probably the biggest problem. I mean, we were there last year, so the guys that were there they knew what we were in for. The altitude can be problematic and I think a couple of the younger guys, it was a little shocking for them. But all in all, I think we tolerated it – that part of it – OK. I wouldn't say it was great, but I think it's like anything – if it's cold, if it's the altitude, whatever it is you're feeling – if you're not playing as well as you'd like, I think you tend to pay a little more attention to it."

**Q: Would you change your preparation if you had to do it over again?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, no."

**Q: Bill Musgrave has been promoted to Broncos offensive coordinator. Your thoughts?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think Will missed that one. Nah, he told me, but he did tell me, that's how I found out again. I think, first of all, I think Bill is a good coach. I think Mike McCoy is a good coach. The reason that Bill is now calling is because Mike's not. That can be part of our business. You can't change dramatically what you've done with your system in Week 12 or Week 13. We'll prepare ourselves and be ready to go against the system. Understand that there may be some things that Bill likes a little more than what Mike might do."

**Q: After 10 games, how do you view your offense? Some games it really clicks, some games it doesn't.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Talent is a part of it. I think everybody in the league has talent. I think the biggest thing is execution. Some of those like-to-have-backs, you just don't get them back. You get one crack at it. Where we've executed and converted and moved the ball, we've scored points. We haven't scored points consistently enough this year at the level that we expect."

**Q: Derek Carr appeared to be limping at the end of the game. Is there any concern?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, he's OK."

**Q: You mentioned the Broncos shaking things up. Is it safe to say that you don't think any type of shake up is necessary here?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Anything that I feel or ever felt would help us win now, that's what we're going to do. They're going to make decisions for them. We're going to make decisions for us. We'll continue that way."

**Q: Patriots had some injuries on the offensive line. It looked like an area that could be an advantage, but it didn't turn out that way. Is that just their scheme or were you disappointed that you didn't generate more pressure?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "There were some times where we had a little coverage and could have had pressure. I would say that's accurate. They go hand in hand, I continue to say that. We had one sack yesterday. I think they did as well. Sacking the quarterback was not a big part of the game yesterday. They covered a little better than we did."

**Q: Do you anticipate keeping your staff together through the end of the year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We're not going to get into staff questions this week, although I know John [Elway] opened that up with his move this week."