



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "As I said yesterday, we seek to win two out of the three phases each week. Typically it'll add up to a win and we didn't get that done yesterday. We didn't get it done yesterday and that's to get the win to get to 2-0. Anyway, we've made our corrections as a staff. We'll look forward to meeting with our guys tomorrow and moving on to next week. Questions?"

Q: Will you take over defensive play calling duties?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, priority number one for our staff is to make sure we get our eyes where they belong with our players. Who sends the call in is not what's most important. Priority number one has to be getting our guys to stop having eye violations. Get your eyes where they belong and do your job."

Q: How do you coach that?

Coach Del Rio: "Simply demand it. Find out the why. Make sure that we're teaching. I think all good staffs pride themselves on being good teachers. It's not a lack of effort. Guys are giving great effort. They're trying really hard, but we need to get to the bottom of why are the eyes aren't where they need to be so that we can just play together. When you don't play together, you don't fit it right and then all of a sudden, really a basic run that should be stuffed for no gain or a yard or two at the most turns into a 16-yard run through your secondary. We just simply have to close it and close that up and we will."

Q: They ran a lot of no-huddle yesterday. Was that a factor in terms of guys not being in the right place?

Coach Del Rio: "It could be. It could be. We do a share of that with our own offense. They had plenty of work at it. There are a lot of different alibis that are possible. I'm not really interested in alibis. For us, we're looking for answers. We're all accountable. It starts with me. I laid that out there yesterday and we'll work hard at it. We'll get this thing headed in the right direction on defense. There's some good things going on right now. It's just I'm not going to sit up here and try to... I'll let [Senior Director of Media Relations] Will [Kiss] talk about those things (*laughing*). He was bombarding me with all these positive things. I said, 'That's all good. I'm not going to go there.' We'll take our medicine and move on."

Q: Is communication something that is hard to practice?

Coach Del Rio: "Not really. Not really. I think we work at it. We'll hold the call. We'll set the group up to the line quick and make them work in a hurried environment. We'll use crowd noise at home when we're on defense because we know we're going to do that on defense. We're going to continue to do the things we know we need to do to prepare. Again, we're not looking for alibis. That'd be an alibi. Get your job done. Know what you need to get done, have your eyes right, get your job done."

Q: Are the calls getting out fast enough?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I think it's a shared responsibility. That's why I say priority one for us is to make sure our guys have their eyes right and have the call on time, all of those things. It's all shared. We're all in it together. We'll get it turned around."

Q: So is that a yes or a no on you taking over the defensive play calling or will you guys both share?

Coach Del Rio: "No. No. No. There's not going to be any proclamation made today. I think for us it's about us. It's a collective effort. We all share in it and so I'm not going to throw any one person under the bus. It's not any one person that's at fault here. Collectively as a group, we have to pick it up. We have to do our share."



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Q: There are going to be people who are going to question why Karl Joseph hasn't played on defense yet. Is Karl just not physically ready?

Coach Del Rio: "No, I think that's a fair question to ask. I asked that question myself. I really believed that he should have got in the game yesterday. We'll make sure that he gets in the game going forward. I think it's time to see Karl. Yeah, I think that's a fair question to ask. I think you can anticipate him getting some action this week."

Q: What kind of progress has he made since the regular season has started?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, he's had a little time to continue to develop himself, physically and mentally. He's been working hard. He's chomping at the bit. He's been doing what he can do. He's been working hard in practice. He's been working hard in the weight room, doing a little extra with [head strength and conditioning coach] Joe [Gomes], doing a little extra with the trainers. He's been on top of it. He's doing the things he needs to do. Quite frankly, I came out of the game yesterday saying, 'Why didn't we get him in?' Keith [McGill II] struggled. He had some struggles yesterday and certainly opened the door for Karl to get in there, but we didn't pull the trigger on it. I'd like to see him get his opportunities to get in the game starting this week."

Q: Do you want to see more of Cory James this week?

Coach Del Rio: "I would like to see Cory. I think both of those guys are guys coming out of the game that in my opinion, because we played during camp and it was close, there was competition, those guys were involved in competition and we elected to go the other way. But, I think if you don't make plays, and you're in there, you leave the door open for other guys to get opportunities to play. At the end of the day, we're just looking for production."

Q: Do you think the Falcons were targeting Ben Heeney at all?

Coach Del Rio: "No, I wouldn't say that. I think they ran their offense. They didn't have to get too deep into it, you know? It was pretty basic concepts that they ran over and over and over, and we didn't get them handled. So, you can't blame them for continuing to do a good thing. I'd take advantage of a good thing."

Q: What did you see of Cory James during the time he was in?

Coach Del Rio: "He's effortful. He's a guy that, last week in practice, I think he ended up with three turnovers during the practice. He's just a guy that [is] kind of a ball magnet. He's around the football, he's physical, he's fast. He doesn't have a lot of experience, doesn't have a lot of experience but we like his upside. And look, the two guys that I talked about that didn't really lock it down yesterday, they weren't alone. But, there were a couple of guys behind them that deserve to play a little bit and are going to get some time."

Q: Did Sean Smith have a better showing than in New Orleans?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, it was a little better, still need more. We'll keep pushing for more, but it was definitely closer to what we're looking for."

Q: Do you have any update on David Amerson's status?

Coach Del Rio: "No, he's in that protocol. There won't be any update until we get to practices and see if he's able to go and if he gets cleared, he'll go."

Q: Was this one of the best games Latavius Murray has played?

Coach Del Rio: "He played well. He played well. I think Latavius was doing a nice job. I think the offense in general was doing a nice job. The O-line opened holes and him being physical with his running. Yeah, I think it's a really good start. The first couple weeks, I think the way he's run the ball in there with authority has been a good thing for us."

Q: Has being spelled by other guys benefited him?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, possibly. We like our guys, we have a good group and we're playing them all. I think certainly, if you're not getting it 30 or 40 times, you better make those 15 or so carries you get, make them work. I



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think there's maybe a little heightened urgency there. Also, you have to feed the hot hand, so if he gets going, he's the hot hand, we'll feed him more."

Q: Are you saving the empty roster spot for Marcel Reece's return?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm going to defer to [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie]. I know Reggie doesn't come up here to speak about personnel, but really, I don't have that answer. I think that's an answer that Reggie has. Honestly, I'm not trying to duck it. I think you ought to ask Reggie."

Q: Do you anticipate Menelik Watson getting back to practice this week?

Coach Del Rio: "Don't know if that's been determined. I haven't been given that update. I know he did work out today and I think how the work out went probably will help us know a little bit more. But I have not heard the results of that yet."

Q: Do you have any second thoughts about the running back you chose for the fourth-and-2 play?

Coach Del Rio: "That's certainly something that we asked as a staff, you know? Do we have the right guy in there for that situation? We like them all, but we got a couple hammerheads that might have been a little better, between 'Maze' [Jamize Olawale] and Latavius. We come out of there saying, 'We'd like to have that one back.' Didn't really want to burn a time out there, you know? Thought it was important to keep them, but would have liked to have one of the big guys in there. That was one looking back offensively, like I said, there's things you clean up everywhere, we look back at that and say, 'Yeah, that would have been wise to have him in there, without having to burn a timeout.' Just get it done."

Q: As you were watching the film, was there a sense of frustration that some of the miscues were carried over from last season?

Coach Del Rio: "I think it's a little bit different, what we're seeing. I agree with miscues being at the forefront. Mental issues more than physical issues. Those are things that you should be able to rectify and clean up."

Q: Amari Cooper said he wasn't aware between the college and the NFL rules on the illegal touch.

Coach Del Rio: "He told me. He came over and told me, 'He pushed me out.' And I said, 'I know that.' If it wasn't illegally done, then you can't get that call. We're on top of it. I was aware of what transpired. We were out of the pocket at that time, so it would not have been illegal, and that's why I didn't use a challenge on it. I was aware of it. He came over right away and told me he had been pushed out. We actually work on educating our young guys, the differences between the NFL and college rules. We have an extra half hour meeting every morning during the week to try and get them up to date on some of the rules. That's one of the things we do to help educate our young guys. Obviously that particular rule slipped by Amari."

Q: I know the defense is the focus, but on offense do you want to see more shots down the field?

Coach Del Rio: "We're looking to push it down the field. They played a soft zone most of the day and stayed on top of the deep opportunities. We had some calls dialed up where we took a look down the field and then dropped it down to where it made sense. You have to push it down the field to a certain extent, and take what you want to a certain extent. But, you also want to be smart. I think Derek [Carr] has played good football to start the year. I think the first two games he's made really good decisions for the most part. I want him to continue to do that."

Q: Are you surprised that Khalil Mack hasn't responded well to the double teams and the chip blocking?

Coach Del Rio: "No, I think Khalil is going to be fine. Just keep being himself, keep expressing himself. He's a good football player. Sacks, fumbles and interceptions come in bunches. We've got a couple here and there but we'll make our mark."