



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Opening Statement: "Big divisional game this week. It's always fun to play within the division on the road. So, big challenge for us this week."

Q: Is there a chance you get Daryl Worley back this week?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah. He's practiced today, so he'll be a go for this Sunday."

Q: What are you looking for out of Worley specifically in the new role that you and Head Coach Jon Gruden have talked about?

Coach Guenther: "Like I've said, he plays all the different spots: nickel, corner, safety for us. So just moving him around, being able to matchup on some guys is always a good thing for him. He's been able to handle all of it, so he'll continue in those roles."

Q: You guys switched things up at the linebacker position little bit last week. How do you think Will Compton did?

Coach Guenther: "I thought he did really good. He played every snap. He made all the calls. Obviously, the other linebackers assisted with those and the rest of the defensive guys, but the communication was real clean and I thought he did a really good job for us."

Q: Why did you make the switch?

Coach Guenther: "We don't have a lot of linebackers. So, it's just getting those guys rotated around some to even out the snaps is the biggest point there. Obviously when you do that, you got to decide who has the green dot, all that stuff. That's the main part of it."

Q: What did you like about the new linebacker Ukeme Eligwe?

Coach Guenther: "He's real athletic. He can run. He was with the Jet's coming off their practice squad. We did him coming out of college, so we really liked him. He was available for us this time of the year to bring him and get him some work, so it's a good addition."

Q: Can you touch on facing Philip Rivers this week?

Coach Guenther: "He's just a great competitor and I can't tell you how many times I've been going up against him, both here and at Cincinnati. He does a lot of stuff at the line of scrimmage. Getting in and out of plays, you see him make each and every week. He's a competitive guy. He'll try to stick the ball in there. It's always fun to go against him for sure."

Q: What problems does Austin Ekeler present?

Coach Guenther: "He's a good player. Yeah, he's real good. He does some of the jet sweep motions. They'll put him out there in the flank, run routes. Put him in the backfield, run the ball with him, run some screens. He can do all of it. He's a really good player, really good player."

Q: How do you think Clelin Ferrell has done against the run specifically?

Coach Guenther: "I think he's done a good job. I think he's gotten better this year doing that. Just with his technique and his hand placement understanding where the runs could go. And he's a stout guy in there. I think he's done really good. He's a good fit for us."



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Q: Do you think there is room for growth in other aspects of Ferrell's game?

Coach Guenther: "Sure. It's his first year in the league. You know obviously you like to see the rush and both in the run. He's just not a pass-rush specialist guy. That's not why we brought him in. He's an every-down end and he's gotten better every week for us."

Q: Ferrell's snaps have been a little lower than the last three weeks. Do you guys want to scale things back for him a little bit or are you just asking him to do something a little different?

Coach Guenther: "No. Again we're just trying to even out the snaps. I think last week we only had fifty-eight snaps on defense. We were getting a lot of three and outs there. It wasn't really till the end of the game where there were extended drives. It's just the nature. Sometimes he's going to have more in games than others depending on the situation and how the games flowing."

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: How do you think Darren Waller has grown over the course of the year?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, we still believe that he's getting better every day. Again, he's not a finished product and he'd be the first guy to tell you that, but he works as hard as anybody that we have on the team. He's as talented to me as any tight end that's in the league and he's just got a real high ceiling, so we are looking forward to working with him here in the future."

Q: Head Coach Jon Gruden has mentioned maybe he is the best or can be one of the best in this league, do you see that type of ceiling for him?

Coach Olson: "Yeah we see that. Again, his size will allow him to ascend that type of a player, but the athletic abilities that he possesses and really the strength that he has and explosiveness that he's shown. So, he's at the ground floor really of playing the position after being a wide receiver in college and just a few years of playing the tight end position. Again, we see a real high ceiling, but we think that he has certainly the physical abilities to ascend to be the best."

Q: What's the difference in getting Hunter Renfrow back make in some of the third down issues you've had in the second half of games?

Coach Olson: "Well, again, you'd like to believe anytime you lose a starter and he returns that you're upgrading your roster and he was a guy that we talked about earlier. We felt like he had been getting better every day as one of our young players that was improving every contest that he was out there. To lose him certainly hurt us, but to know as competitive as a player he is, to want to come back and finish the season, we're excited about that, but certainly he'll help us."

Q: He looks pretty good?

Coach Olson: "Oh yeah. He looks fresh. There wasn't an issue to be honest with you, he's been able to run out here in the rehab process without any pain, but because of the injury and the rib and where it was at, they were just concerned it could reinjure. But he's been running now for a couple weeks and has looked very well."



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Q: How are the young offensive linemen coming along?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, we talked about early on in the season, we felt like we had great depth and now we've lost some players, but thankfully we do have some depth. We have some guys that have played but also have some new guys this week that will be up that haven't, but again we'd like to think that was a strength of ours that will continue to be a strength of ours as a franchise going forward. I think we have planned on building it inside-out on both the o-line and d-line, so it hurts to lose all those guys but thankfully we're developing some young guys as well."

Q: With Josh Jacobs out, are there some situations where you could see Rod Smith helping in the backfield?

Coach Olson: "That's why we signed him and we've had a chance to look at him. Certainly, we've never been able to go live. We don't practice live here, but we have some coaches on staff that have a background with Rod and [offensive line coach] Tom Cable has had a chance to study him and [running backs coach] Kirby [Wilson] has had a chance to study him on tape before we signed him. So, there are some things there that we saw that we liked and certainly size is one of them, so we may have a chance to take a look at him this weekend."