



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening Statement:** "I'll be happy to answer any questions. We took the pads off halfway through practice. Obviously, very, very short turnaround. We're getting ready for Arizona. It'll be a great opportunity for some guys to see the field for the first time."

**Q: What do you think about the transition Andre James has made from playing tackle in college to center here?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Man, he's been really impressive. Not only making the transition, but handling all the communication. He's learning every day. His accuracy in terms of the shotgun snaps is getting much better. He's getting more comfortable in there. He's got a great role model in Rodney [Hudson] and Jordan Devey, two veteran centers. Behind the scenes [offensive line coach Tom] Cable's done one of his best jobs with Andre."

**Q: What does it mean to have Antonio Brown back today? Is there a timeline for him yet?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We'll work him back in. Obviously, it's great to have him back. We've had a pretty good understanding in spite of what people think. We've had a pretty good understanding of what's going to happen. Now we're ready to get rolling."

**Q: Do you expect him for the regular season opener?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Oh yeah."

**Q: Do you think he'll play any at all in the preseason?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't know. That remains to be seen, but we're going to try to get a couple of starters some work in Arizona. We're still in the process of thinking things through with the Canada trip."

**Q: Was it important to you to have Brown come out here today?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I'm not going to really talk about it anymore. We've had a pretty good understanding of the foot injury. We know where he's been. We know what he's been through. We're thrilled to have him back. Obviously, we think he's a great player. We're anxious to get the men together and get rolling."

**Q: What sort of camp has Curtis Riley had?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Good. He's a good coverage safety. We want to see him be more impactful on special teams. He's off to a really good start. He's definitely in the mix here."

**Q: A.J. Cole is officially your punter.**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, it was hard to let Johnny [Townsend] go. We had a couple of injuries at corner. [D.J.] Killings suffered a (pectoral) pec injury, he's out for the year. [Dylan] Mabin has a hamstring, so we needed to sign some corners. To sign some players, you have to let some players go. Hate to see Johnny go. We still think he's a really good punter. A.J. Cole deserves to be our guy at this point."

**Q: Can you tell us the severity of Maxx Crosby's injury?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He broke a bone in his hand. He probably won't play in Arizona. He'll be ready to go for the opener and probably against the Packers. We just have to let the surgery heal a little bit and get the proper cast, the legal cast that he can wear and see how that goes."



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**Q: Do you have any idea which starters are going to play this week?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, we expect Derek [Carr] to play a little bit. How long, I don't know. We like to see some of the starters play a little bit in Arizona."

**Q: What did you see on film from Anthony Rush?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It was good. Anthony Rush is a 340-pound guy that really took advantage of his snaps. He's only been here eight or nine days. Caused some tackles for lost, made a couple of plays and pushed the pocket pretty good. We like him. We're going to try to keep working him into great shape and looking forward to see him play here against Arizona."

**Q: Was Rush on your radar early in the offseason?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well [General Manager Mike] Mayock and his guys have done a great job. He was in the Philadelphia Eagles camp. On his way to another camp, and we had an intercepting airline go in there to steal him away. It was a great job by our scouts, really, getting him here."

**Q: When it comes to the defensive tackles in general, are you going to have some tough choices there?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well [Ethan] Westbrooks is a good player. He's playing well for us. We have to get P.J. Hall out here. We have to get Eddie Vanderdoes out here at some point. And we need Gabe Wright out here. So in the time being, these guys are taking advantage of their turns. It'll be hard to get rid of them if they keep playing like that."

### **WR Antonio Brown**

**Q: How does it feel being back out here after being gone for a while?**

**Brown:** "Well, I'm extremely grateful to be here. Been dealing with a lot of adversity. It's on the up and up on things, and I'm excited to be back and see my teammates and get in the groove of things here shortly."

**Q: Have you found a helmet yet that you are comfortable with wearing?**

**Brown:** "Well, we are working with the NFL in regards to the helmet and I'll make sure I put on the right equipment, (an) approved helmet and be ready to go shortly."

**Q: Have you been told that if you find a newer version that is less than 10 years old, you will be able to wear it? Or will you have to have it certified first?**

**Brown:** "Yeah they have to certify it and do all the procedures, but we are working with the NFL to make sure we are following all the procedures to be out there in the right equipment."

**Q: With your feet, is it taking longer to get back to normal than you anticipated?**

**Brown:** "It's a process. We don't make excuses. I'm here today just to get things on the up and up. I'm feeling a lot better. It's been a process through all the adversity, but I'm still here standing so it's an opportunity for me to do what I desire to do."



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**Q: Throughout this whole process what's it been like having the support of General Manager Mike Mayock and Head Coach Jon Gruden?**

**Brown:** "It was good hear. I'm battling with a foot injury, to see my face all over the news, all the talk, but these guys have been doing a good job with supporting me. Grateful to hear them come out about it and I'm excited. I'm here to just do my job."

**Q: What is the foot injury?**

**Brown:** "I think you guys already announced it, right?"

**Q: How did it happen?**

**Brown:** "You got to ask the doctor, man."

**Q: How are you feeling now in terms of being able to cut on your feet?**

**Brown:** "A lot better. Working towards 100 percent, so it's been a process with the feet. Anytime you got a lot of blisters, it's hard to change direction, cut and run and be able to do what I do naturally, but I'm going to start off on a good foot. I've been away getting a lot of work, so I'm excited to just move forward."

**Q: When do you think you will be able to practice on it?**

**Brown:** "I guess you guys (need to) stay tuned."

**Q: Where have you been over the past week-plus when you have been away from Napa?**

**Brown:** "Well, I've been seeing a foot specialist, Marty [Doctor]. He's a good guy, he's been taking care of my feet. Been doing all the rehab and procedures things to allow me to come back out here and do what I desire to do."

### **QB Derek Carr**

**Q: Is it good to see Antonio Brown back today?**

**Carr:** "Oh yeah. It's good to have him back. Obviously, we are excited to have him and can't wait for him to suit up and be out there with us man. It's always exciting when you get one of your teammates back, whether it's from injury or they are out for some other reasons, anytime a teammate comes back it always brings life to the team."

**Q: What did you need from him [Antonio Brown] here on out just to make sure you guys are where you need to be Week 1?**

**Carr:** "Well, I think he's here now, so we'll be ready to go Week 1. We got a lot of time until then. Obviously short week this week, playing a game on Thursday, but with that said we have so much time to get some game plan plays down, some routes, certain cuts that we are going to have him run and all those kinds of things. We have plenty of time, so the fact that he is here is a good sign. It's good for us."

**Q: How much game work do you feel like you need in the preseason to be ready?**

**Carr:** "At this point, not much. Obviously, I always need a lot to get ready. I'm not anywhere close to where you want to be, but any work you can get in a preseason game will help and it'll give you as much



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as a preseason game will give you, with neither team scheming or really running certain things that they run, but you go out there and it's always good to get out there and compete again. Anytime you put a jersey on and helmet you're trying to win the game, so that part of it. Just your routine and all those kinds of things."

**Q: Are you planning on playing Thursday?**

**Carr:** "I don't know. He never tells us until really like the night before, so we'll see what he says. He wants us always preparing as if we are playing, but I'm not sure."

**Q: When Antonio Brown walked over to practice, did he say anything to you all?**

**Carr:** "I mean, he said hi. Coach welcomed him back and he smiled and waved to everybody, but it wasn't like a hoorah moment. We are just happy he's back and we'll start working on some stuff."

**Q: With him [Antonio Brown] being away the last couple weeks what have you seen from the other receivers?**

**Carr:** "You know what's been really good, especially for those young guys, is they've had to go against the starters. Usually when you have a veteran group of receivers, those young guys you bring in have to go against the second and third string guys, and those guys are good players, but the starters are starters for a reason. You've seen them have to raise their level of play and they've done a great job with it."

**Q: What have you seen out of Hunter Renfrow this camp?**

**Carr:** "He's amazing. I'm really glad that we have him. He's a really good football player and I'm excited that we drafted him because he's crafty in the slot, great hands, great work ethic. I really love the guy."

**Q: What did you see out of the backup quarterbacks on Saturday?**

**Carr:** "Well, Nate runs a 4.3. I saw Nate's speed open up. I thought they managed the offense well, they did a great job getting us out of bad plays and running good plays, and really just took hold of the situation and choked it out. Mike (Glennon) did a great job, threw a whole bunch of good balls. I think he threw for 200 yards in the first half against a good scheme, that's saying a lot. Both of them, they are both experienced starters in this league, they've played a lot of games, played a lot of football and it shows when they were in there."