



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Q: What's your reaction to Darius Latham being out for the next few weeks?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's unfortunate. He'll do the things he needs to do to get himself back."

**Q: What are your thoughts on the incident where Donald Penn and a Raiders fan got into a disagreement after the game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, [Senior Director of Media Relations] Will [Kiss] just told me about that. Told me there was a video or something available which I have not seen. I don't think that's anything we want to be a part of. We want to concentrate on playing good football on the field. Respect the fans. Appreciate them coming out and supporting us."

**Q: During a rough patch, do you stick to your process or do you change it up?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No. We always look to freshen things up, but the process remains paramount. It's the best you can do. You recover from the last. This week we have quite a few guys recovering. Quite a few guys are banged up, but you recover the best you can. Then you prepare and then you go compete. That's the best way to perform consistently at a high level. We just haven't played well the last few weeks out, but the process, you have to remain true to it."

**Q: After watching the film, was there anything you didn't notice?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Not really. Not really. I thought they were better than us in the trenches. I thought they were a little more physical yesterday, which is unusual. We have really good offensive and defensive lines, but they were more physical than us yesterday. They sacked us. We didn't sack them. They threw some long balls over the top of us. We didn't throw any over them. They got a turnover for a touchdown. We didn't get a touchdown. They got us yesterday. Nothing really changed from what I saw last night live."

**Q: Are the injuries for the four guys who left the game long-term?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I hope not. We'll gather more information as we go here and we'll see who's able to make it out Wednesday. Not anything that I'm ready to report on right now."

**Q: Is it more upsetting when you're losing in the trenches?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well it bothers me not to win. We're about performing and winning. We lean on our trenches. I thought our linebackers and D-linemen, I thought their offensive line got the best of us. Our offensive line gave up some sacks. We generated some run game, but I don't think we're playing quite to the level that we expect. That's at the core of what we're going to be."

**Q: Was Amari Cooper creating separation?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah. I saw five wide open, shook his guy, was open in space. I would have loved to see that ball get delivered to him there. Not every play is designed to go to him. You can't see everybody at one time. Sometimes you start with your read somewhere else and you don't make it back for whatever reason. He was doing his part to create space and opportunity for the quarterback. We just missed him a couple of times."

**Q: What did you see on the two deep balls given up? Obviously, everyone blames Sean Smith. Was there more to it than that?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, the very first play, nobody can help him on that one. He's got a buzz player coming underneath him, he's got to stay on top. You just can't start the game that way, but the second one, Reggie [Nelson] should have intercepted that ball. That ball's thrown inside the numbers told the middle of the field, we have to go make a play on that and give him some help there. Either way, he's got to be on top, that's his job to be on top on both of those plays. But, the second one he should have had more help."



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**Q: Do you get a feeling that this year's team is not quite as hungry as last year's team?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, no. Not at all. It's really not that. I know it's probably natural for some to kind of figure things out. It really comes down to, you're at a moment, you're seven points [down], you just closed it to seven, you need a stop. You just closed it to seven, the fans are getting into it and the offense just scored, we're seven points away after the way the game started. And we just have not made those plays at that moment to go snatch that win and that's sitting right there, you know? You have to get a stop on defense, you have to get a turnover on defense, you have to come up right there and be opportunistic, get the ball back to the offense and continue to score. So, you know, it didn't happen. The hunger for it; that's there. It's just a matter of making your plays. You get these opportunities. Would've, could've should've doesn't get it done. You get these opportunities, you have to take advantage of the opportunities and make the plays that you have that are there to be made. You do that and then you're a little happier on a day like today."

**Q: Most of the guys on the team were here for the 12-4 season last year, so they know how to have success, and it might be more about just recreating it. How is collective confidence built?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, I think it's built by having success, making plays. I mean, the bottom line is football games in the National Football League typically come down to who makes plays when you're at those key moments. The teams that make those plays win. I'd like to see us play with a little more situational awareness. I think we missed some opportunities yesterday to do that. I mean, it's third-and-4 and we're 10, 12 yards off the receiver and allow them to throw a quick-out for an easy completion and a first down. Plays like that have to be made. You have to make them. Those are your opportunities. You get them right there, you're in a situation to which you're going to get the ball back, you have to make those plays. That's situation awareness that productivity in those situations, that's the difference between winning and losing at this level."

**Q: What did you think of the job that EJ Manuel did?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Nothing changed from how I felt last night. I spoke on it. I think EJ handled himself, did a solid job. I think that kind of performance, play good defense, run the ball the way you're supposed to, you win a game with that kind of performance. He didn't put us on his shoulders, but he was solid and that's what we needed from him. We didn't get the other part done."

**Q: When it comes to David Amerson and Gareon Conley, were they close to being able to play?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I don't really want to get into all that. We didn't play them. Hopefully we'll get another look at them this week and see if they can go."

**Q: What did you think about Dexter McDonald? This was the second straight game he's had increased snaps.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We're a little thin right now with two of the top guys banged up right now. The other guys are filling in. [Antonio] Hamilton went out early in the game yesterday so we were very thin. I thought overall it was OK. I would have liked to have seen tighter coverage on that third down. He's given us solid reps."

**Q: Keith McGill II seems like he almost had a game-changing play in the third quarter. He might have even protested for a call that wasn't there. What did you see? He seemed like he felt like he got held.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think he was close. It was pressure, opportunity to go after them. We had a shot. It would have been great if we would have gotten our hand on the ball. To weigh in on a call, I'm not really going to go there."

**Q: Are you optimistic Derek Carr will be able to go on Wednesday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I pretty much said that. I anticipate he'll be ready to go. he was pushing pretty hard last week."

**Q: You guys have 37 points the last three games. Are you happy with the play-calling?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I thought the plan we had yesterday was pretty good. I would have liked to see us have more opportunities. What did we have, 55 plays? That's us getting the ball back, defensively getting the ball back for us. It's about complementary football. At the end of the day, it's special teams, offense, defense, do enough as a football team to win games. Each phase helps the other phase. I believe as we create more turnovers, get off the field more



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on third down and continue working and developing special teams-wise, then we, as a football team, will have shared success.”

**Q: How did you think Jon Feliciano stepped in at right guard?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “He did pretty well, did pretty well. He graded out well, handled himself well. I think pretty solid.”

**Q: You wake up this morning and you see the news about the fires in Napa and Sonoma. You guys are a big part of that community for three or four weeks every summer. What are your thoughts?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I smelled the smoke and was wondering what it was, and then I was told... I haven’t done anything but look at film all day, so I’m really not sure exactly what all has taken place other than there’s a fire that’s kind of on the loose, so I don’t have a lot of detail right now on what occurred, I apologize. You’re hitting me with something I’m really not prepared to answer.”

**Q: At risk of asking a follow-up question of something you haven’t looked too deeply into, the air quality conditions are pretty poor in the area. Is that something you are evaluating that as something that could affect practice schedule at all?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Like I said, it’s all new to me. I’m aware of it because I smelled the smoke, but I didn’t dig, I didn’t get much of an update... Will, you could’ve helped me out. *(laughing)* I apologize, I don’t have much information. I hope everybody is safe up there. I hope we’re not losing lives or anything and hope they get it under control.”

**Q: To follow up on Gareon Conley, last week you said he was sore. Is that the case again this past week? Was it a case of soreness?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, there’s a certain amount of pain that’s involved that keeps him from doing what he needs to do. And when that is under control and he’s able to go, then we look forward to having him, but until that is under control and he’s able to do the things he needs to do, then he’s going to remain sidelined.”

**Q: You’re not sure if it’s a long-term thing or a short-term thing are you?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “It’s going a long-term. I would hope that it would be resolved at some time in the near future but I think this is an issue that we’re doing the best we can to manage.”