



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Q: Were you surprised when Jack Del Rio called for the two-point conversion?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, not surprised. We had talked about it as the game was going along. We had already gone for two twice before that. As we got the ball, there was almost five minutes left, so we had time to still run it and stay balanced and then get our thoughts together on what we would do for a two-point play once we did score. So, it’s good timing. Everyone was on the same page and in sync.”

Q: Was it good to see the maturity of Derek Carr in that there was no panic?

Coach Musgrave: “Yeah, well Derek has done a super job. We think back to the Pittsburgh game throwing that ball to ‘Crab’ [Michael Crabtree], the Baltimore game, finished strong there in Chicago, taking them down the field after ‘Crab’ was injured, so he’s having a terrific start to his career these first three years. Keep building on it.”

Q: What’s the versatility and leadership that Donald Penn showed with shifting from left tackle to right tackle?

Coach Musgrave: “Fortunately, Donald was willing to do that. It shows how team oriented he is and our whole team that something that he had never prepared for. As he said afterwards, hadn’t done for a long, long time if ever. So many of the guys on our team really all of them are just team-oriented people. He did what’s best for the team.”

Q: How do you game plan for Atlanta with what they bring to the table?

Coach Musgrave: “It’s difficult. They have a veteran coaching staff. They’re based a little bit in the Seattle tree of defense, but they’re very fast, physical. They play downhill. It’s going to be tough this week.”

Q: Does it worry you having four backs that you want to get all involved without forcing it?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, I think everyone realizes that there’s only one football, but we do have good balance and diversity back there where we have some size, we have some quickness, we have some brute strength in the form of Jamize [Olawale]. It’s great to devise different concepts that fit their respective traits.”

Q: It must feel good to go from playing in New Orleans to playing in front of Raider Nation.

Coach Musgrave: “It definitely feels great, really looking forward to it. Tough to go on the road. Tough to win any game home or away, but we much rather be at home. Looking forward to it.”

Q: When did it become common in the league to throw 35-40 passes a game and is it going to continue? It was once that you had to establish the run to make the pass, is it now to make the run you have to establish the pass?

Coach Musgrave: “It’s always best to be balanced, so they can’t key on you on defense. The rules are definitely lending toward more pass than run with the incidental contact, illegal contact, DPI back there in the secondary. Those guys playing in the secondary have a tough time with the way the rules are. For instance watching New Orleans and what they do week in and week out, I thought our defense did a super job. They got a turnover for us. They held them to field goals a couple of times. It’s just tough with the way the rules are set up to stop a passing attack like Drew Brees’ and Sean Payton’s and other people’s.”

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: Were there plays that should have been made on Sunday?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “No question. We made some mistakes and I think every game you’re looking for improvement. Guys have to continue, coaches have to continue to get better, defend better and I think each time we go out we’ll make improvement. At the same time, it is Drew Brees on the road and he makes great decisions and he’s really good. And, we have to match that ‘really good,’ with ‘even better,’ to shut a guy like that out.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What happened on the 98-yard touchdown?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, it comes back to our philosophy. You wonder why we're preaching it, we're talking it, and we're coaching it: no deep balls and rely on your technique. And, once you sit down and dissect that play, there were a few things that can obviously be done better by the coaching staff as well as the player. I think that as we go through it and we coach it up, coach it up hard, we have to make sure that those plays don't happen. Those are not good plays at all. We have to eliminate the stuff we know we can play. If you want to get us on something, get us on something that's outrageous, not the stuff that we know in our philosophy."

Q: What kind of message do you think it sends to other players seeing a guy of Sean Smith's caliber get benched?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "I'm not sure what it sends, I just know that he was having a bad day and we all have bad days as players and it's time to reset the button and now it's a new game. The position at corner, you have to have a really short memory. Learn from it, it's over. You win some days and you learn on other days. I'm sure he's learned a lot, and now he's on to the next game."

Q: What did you like from Keith McGill II that allowed him to make the start?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, Keith is doing a really good job. He's really studying, he's really competing. He's really taking to this new position. He's long, he's fast, he's strong, all the things, he's very athletic and he's making plays."

Q: Is his size something you plan on taking advantage of as a safety?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "That's the plan. He needs to continue to grow, continue to be more physical and shut down tight ends, show his body up in the front and be a physical, strong, fast player like we expect of him."

Q: Do you need to see more from the interior guys in the pass rush?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "The whole group. I think the D-line knows and defenses know that everything starts up front and they worked their tails off. Bruce [Irvin] had a good game last week and Khalil [Mack], you know, he's very capable and the young guys coming up have really shown up. We like our group and I think again, it's about improvement, being obsessed with improving. I think Game 2 will certainly be an improvement from Game 1."

Q: What will it be like going up against Falcons Head Coach Dan Quinn?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Exciting. Dan and I spent a lot of late nights drawing up defenses and learning defenses and learning the scheme together. It'll be a good challenge to go against him."

Q: What have you seen since Jihad Ward stepped in and has taken on more of a role with Mari Edwards Jr. being out?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Jihad has been amazing. Big, strong, fast, runs really well. He's probably the young player with the most enthusiasm and is very contagious. He's like a mold of clay just molding and every time he goes out, he gets better and better. So, we're really, really pleased with his growth."

Q: What do you need to see out of Karl Joseph for him to start playing more?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Just keep competing, continuing to grow, try to continue to develop. This is a developmental staff and we're just relentless about developing our players, the fundamentals, the blocking, tackling, being really smart, playing really fast, being really consistent with that, so just competing every day."

Q: Is he just a little bit behind because of what he missed with his injury in the offseason?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Yeah, just a combination of things. But again, it's about competing and Karl does a great job of coming out every day and competing."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Is Bruce Irvin's leadership a maturity you've seen in him?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Oh my goodness. Bruce has come a long way. Just watching him grow like I talked about developing, growing into a mature man, a mature player and leader and then coming out himself and helping others, understanding that it's about the team, the team doing well, and seeing how he's really grown in that aspect to try to touch others, it's just a wonderful thing to watch."