



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

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

**Opening Statement:** “We’re busy recovering, preparing and getting ready to compete Sunday night. Looking forward to that opportunity. Obviously, it should be a great football team on a national stage. We’re excited about the fact that we’ve earned the opportunity to be on Sunday night and Monday night when we come out of our bye. Those are things that happen when you play good football. That was kind of a result from last year. We picked up and we’re playing good football this year, so you earn that kind of exposure. We’re looking forward to it. We anticipate having a lot of these kinds of games. We have a great opportunity at home. Our fans are tremendous and look forward to having a good product out there for them Sunday night.”

**Q: What do you think about Derek Carr’s name being thrown into the MVP discussion? Does he deserve to be in that discussion?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I think that’s all great for you all to talk about. We’re on to the next game. I think for Derek, he’s had a tremendous start to the season, led our football team. He’s really all about his preparation and the way he’s gone about his business and been a good leader for us, done things not only on the field, but off the field, in the locker room and what not. For us it’s about continuing our process. We have a good process. Recover from the last one, prepare during the week and then go out and compete. He’s been excellent at that.”

**Q: Do you have any concern of the mental side of having all this praise being thrown at him?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “No. No, because he’s not feeding off that. For him it’s about what he can do for his teammates. It’s about understanding the protection issues, being accurate with the ball, making great decisions. I think that’s one of the reasons that we are where we are is, I think we have a fairly mature approach in terms of handling our business and understanding what the issues are and being very purposeful in our week each week.”

**Q: What is the biggest sign of growth that you’ve seen from Carr this year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I think it’s a collection. Sorry about that Gatorade bottle. (*laughing*) I think it’s a collection of things really. For him, the maturing process, the time in our system, the time with the same set of skill people that he’s throwing to and being on the same page, and I think the offensive line. It always starts up front. The big guys open holes and they give the quarterback time. He’s not been sacked a lot, not been hit a lot. That’s a credit to the offensive line, [offensive line] coach [Mike] Tice and the backs and tight ends and all that we’re doing to protect him. Obviously, you get a big test going against the number one pass defense this week. It’ll be a great opportunity for us to show who we are.”

**Q: What is it about the Denver defense that makes them so good?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Just a collection of good people, good players. They play hard. It’s a good group.”

**Q: How much have you worked on Khalil Mack’s variety of pass rush moves in the last couple of years?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “When we got here, we really sought to bring him forward more often. We feel like he’s going to be at his best going forward, not that he won’t drop occasionally. Previously, I think he was spending a lot of time in drops. He would be in skelly. He’d be dropping. He wasn’t working one-on-one pass rush, wasn’t developing that skill level. You can have all the talent in the world, but it takes skill to rush a quarterback along with that talent. We’ve just been working at that skill level. He’s growing and growing and getting better and better. He’s a good football player.”

**Q: Where does the Broncos’ ability to rush the passer come aside from Von Miller?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “You said it right, a lot of different players are capable. DeMarcus Ware is one of the more decorated pass rushers of the last 10 years or so. They have a bunch of guys that can get there. They have good cover people. Rush and coverage make up good pass defense.”



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**Q: Can you talk about the production of Amari Cooper, Michael Crabtree and Seth Roberts, and are you surprised they're playing so well?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Not surprised. I think it's a credit to the hard work that they put in with the timing with Derek. For us, it's really just about continuing and putting together good weeks of preparation leading up to the ball game and then going out and playing well. That's really what we've been able to do to start the year, halfway through it now, and that's what we'll continue to do."

**Q: They all bring something a little bit different to the position.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "They do. Yeah, they do. I think they're all unique in what they do and what they bring, but they're all talented."

**Q: What did you see from Mychal Rivera on Sunday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "There was a touchdown to the tight end position. Yeah, it was big. Good to see Mychal [Rivera]. He's been a pro the entire time. He was called on to step up and play well for us and did a nice job for us."

**Q: Is there a common reason in the home games that have contributed to the results not being the same as the road games?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No."

**Q: Just a coincidence?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah."

**Q: Is getting ready for a prime time game and playing on a stage of that level at all any part of the week for the team?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, I don't think... For us, we put ourselves on display each week. I get it'll be more hyped this week, but it won't be any different in terms of preparing for it and then going out and playing good football. I think what we recognize as an organization is as you become relevant, as you play good football, you're going to have more of these opportunities. This is the natural progression in building a good football team. We should expect to be in these games. We're going to expect to win these games. Then we're going to move forward and have more of these kinds of games."

**Q: Is Carr's ability to cut down on turnovers just natural maturation or was it a point of emphasis?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's clearly a point of emphasis. We want to win the turnover battle. This is a team that we're going against this week that really feasts on the mistakes that you make and the turnovers. They have close to 50 percent of their points came off turnovers. It's definitely an emphasis point for us. We want to take the ball all the way. We don't want to give it away. I think Derek has embraced that, but yet remain aggressive. We're taking our shots. We're moving the ball. We're scoring points. There's a fine line there and I think he's been on the right side of the line for us."

**Q: Do you feel like you need to run the ball more this week going against the number one pass defense?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We like to be balanced. Each week, we look to be balanced. I think running it, throwing it, we expect to be able to move the ball and score points."

**Q: Any updates on Sean Smith?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, no updates. I mean Sean has the shoulder. We'll go through the week and put out the injury report as we always do."



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### **Q: How much were last week's penalties a discussion this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, we're just going to go onto next and play. Corrections have been made. Each week we address that on Tuesday and then we're all about our preparation going forward for the next opponent. That's been discussed. All that needs to be taught has been taught. We're moving on for our next opportunity."

### **Q: What were your thoughts on Devontae Booker in the draft? Was he a guy you looked at?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah. Yeah, he's a good player, good back. Had a nice career there in the Pac-12. Yeah, we liked him."

### **QB Derek Carr**

#### **Q: Do you hear the conversations about you as an MVP?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, when people come running up to me and things like that, but halfway through the year, it means nothing. It's cool to be, you know, as a little kid thinking about those kinds of things, that's cool, but that's probably where it ends for me."

#### **Q: Is it fun for you or do you try to tune it out?**

**Carr:** "I would rather not hear anything. I would rather just go about my business and hangout with my family, to be honest. But, it's a part of this business, it's a part of this job so... Trust me, I'm very honored and thankful, don't get me wrong, but at this point in the year, that stuff is, it's cool but it's not for me."

#### **Q: What do you think about the Broncos' defense this year?**

**Carr:** "Oh yeah, everything that you guys think, they're one of the best defenses in the NFL, let alone this year, but for the last however many years, they've been one of the best we've ever seen in this league. So, they're always a good challenge for us, but we're definitely looking forward to it."

#### **Q: Does the time clock in your head change with how good their pass rush is?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, you definitely want to make sure your feet lead you to completions. You try and train in the offseason to where you're on a clock all the time, so not just when you need it or things like that. That's why you train your feet to make sure you're on time to your throws and things like that then you don't even have to worry about it."

#### **Q: Do you consider yourself a patient person or are you eager to move on to the next game?**

**Carr:** "I never really saw myself, put myself in a list or a ranking or anything like that. I just wanted to get better, I just didn't want to be the same and that's not only in football but just in life. I always want to get better at everything I do, so to see that the hard work is paying off because you spend a lot of hours that people don't see that you go put in, especially in the offseason. You put the work in, you get up in the mornings before anyone else wants to and things like that. It's cool to see it paying off, but there's still so much on my mind and in my heart that I want to do and get better at, so I'm just not going to stop."

#### **Q: What have you learned from your past games against the Broncos and can you look back at the tapes from your past games against them?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, you can look at them to see if they're doing any similar stuff, but usually when you go back and look at games it's more for personnel type things. Having played them so many times now, you can get a good feel of who they are and what they're doing. But, I do my same process whether it's Denver or a team that's not in our division. I'm going to study the same exact way and get ready the same way that I do. But, you know that they're super talented, everyone knows that. Everyone knows that, like I said, they're one of the best defenses that the NFL has ever seen. So, we look forward to competing against them and it's going to be fun."



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### **Q: Do you block out the hype in this game or use it as fuel?**

**Carr:** "Honestly, I block it out. It's cool, it's all fun and it's cool to talk about, but when it comes down to it when the ball's kicked off, you just want to win. It doesn't change anything and that's with any game. Whenever the ball was kicked off last week, I don't care how we did it, I just wanted to win. The same thing this week, that's all we are doing, this hard work and weight lifting and practicing and studying, we just want to win the game. So, once it's kicked off, that kind of stuff, even if it meant something to somebody, it doesn't really matter."

### **Q: How much easier is it to block out all the outside noise this year in comparison to years past?**

**Carr:** "It's so much easier because as a rookie, you're swimming. You're seeing blitzes and speed that you've never seen in your life. That's for any rookie, whether they're playing good or they're struggling. It's going to be fast, it's going to be new. You're going to get blitzed, it's all of those things. And then, all of the stuff that happens off the field, press conference every week, signings, there's a whole bunch of stuff that just comes with the territory. But, now it's just, it's easy. I got my process down, I got my way I go about things and I surround myself with good people around me and they've done a great job of protecting me."

### **Q: Where are you in your self-evaluation during Year 3?**

**Carr:** "I don't know. That's for other people to talk about. I'm happy with where we're at with six wins. That's the main thing to me. We won seven last year, we already have six at the halfway point. If you would have told me that, I would have been excited, but I would have wanted two more, you know? That's always going to be my mindset. To see where we're at as a team, that's really what fires me up. Because, we can go out there and if we ran the ball 59 times last week and won, I would have been the happiest person in that locker room, so I just want to win."

### **Q: Did the franchise record 513 yards mean something to you because of all the Raider greats that have played quarterbacks in the past?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, that's why it's crazy to me. I still think of myself as a little kid, just a fan of the game. It's still kind of surreal and I don't think it will be real to me until I'm done playing and I can kind of look back. For now, I'm not going to look back. I have too much ahead of me. But, someday I'll look back at it and it's just one of those things, it's like surreal. You can't believe it. It's like a video game. Your name's up there but is it really yours? So far, it doesn't mean anything, but I'm sure someday it will."

### **Q: How many of those plays in the fourth quarter and overtime did you audible to?**

**Carr:** "Oh man, we had some. We definitely had some, to be completely honest, I've already forgotten them. I've been studying so much on the next one. I forgot, I'm sorry. *(laughter)* But, there were some and it's all within the confines of what my coaches want me to do."

### **Q: Are you audibling more now than you were a year ago?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, I would say we're starting to do a little bit more of it and they're trusting me to do those things. It's just a different style of offense. I'm just trying to run it the best way that I can, however they want me to do it."

### **Q: How have you eliminated turning the ball over as much this season?**

**Carr:** "Honestly, all the hard work in training camp and the offseason, I focused on it a lot. I knew that we had a good team. I knew that we'd be growing and getting better, especially as the years go on and we're all playing together. I really wanted to make an emphasis of not turning the ball over. Sometimes it's going to happen and we know in this league, there's going to be days where it happens and things like that. But, as much as I can prevent it with a mental decision, with working on my timing and accuracy, I just worked on it then to where now, I can just go play. It's more something you think of in the offseason and then when you get to the regular season, you try and go play."



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**Q: How would you describe going against Von Miller? Is that a unique experience? What does he do that's special?**

**Carr:** "Von, I have the utmost respect for, obviously. The Super Bowl MVP and all of those things, and rightfully deserved. He knows, after every game, after we talk – we always sit there and talk – there's a great deal of respect. He's one of the best players that we've ever seen in this league, especially pass rusher. It's so funny being in the division and playing him so many times, you watch non-divisional teams play against them and see their game plans to run at him or try to do certain blocks. It doesn't matter what you try to do, eventually he's going to make a play. It's fun to watch him play. It's fun to compete against him because he's one of the best. I love that. He's just a special talent, he really is."

**Q: As a quarterback, you've got to love your group of wide receivers. They all bring something different.**

**Carr:** "Yes, I love them. You said it for me, I love them. I'm happy that they're here. I tell Mr. [General Manager Reggie] McKenzie thank you all the time."

**Q: What is it about the group?**

**Carr:** "Their competitiveness. I tell everybody that there are a lot of people with talent, but I wouldn't trade this group for anything because they compete their tail off. I'm the same way. I'm sure there are guys that can run faster than me, throw it a little farther and things like that, but we're just going to compete our tails off. That's the number one thing I look for in someone, is what kind of dog do they have in them?"

**Q: Different atmosphere playing under the lights this week. In the hype of it on Sunday, do you like that?**

**Carr:** "I do. I think we've had a few in my career. We've played Thursday nights at the Coliseum. It's awesome. It's cool to play under the lights. It's stuff you think of as a kid. I've already referenced that, but it's true. You always dream of those kinds of things and it's always fun. But throwing the ball and those kinds of things, it doesn't change anything. It's just always cool to play under the lights."

**Q: Against this pass defense, could your running game be your best friend here to balance it out?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, and that's really every week. You always want to have a good average. You want to make sure you're popping off efficient runs. When you're doing that, you can kind of dictate things. You always want to stay on schedule, too, with the down and distance. It'll definitely help us, not just this week but any week."

**Q: You've said the playoff road goes through Denver and you have a lot of respect for them. Do you find it difficult to not place extra importance on the matchup?**

**Carr:** "No, and I don't think you guys believe me because everyone keeps asking me, but I honestly treat every game the same. I really do. By treating every game the same, that means I treat them all with the utmost respect. I treat this game with the utmost respect. I treat each player and each team and every defensive coordinator the same exact way: I give them the most respect. They're professionals and the best at what they do in the world. If you have to treat it a different way or act a different way during the week, I don't think you're doing enough in the beginning."



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### **Broncos Head Coach Gary Kubiak Conference Call**

**Q: What have you seen so far from Derek Carr this year and how has he progressed throughout his career?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "I think [Raiders offensive coordinator] Billy [Musgrave] has done a great job with him and [offensive line coach] Mike Tice has protected him very well. Anytime you see a guy throwing it as much as they've thrown it, and yet how well he's protecting the football, and I think he's only been sacked nine times, that tells you about his growth right there. And understanding what's going on and keeping his team in good positions, so very impressed. Obviously, Derek is playing as good as anybody in football right now."

**Q: What have you seen out of Khalil Mack on film this year? Does anything jump out on film watching him?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "No, I see the same guy. Obviously, he got after us last year. We really struggled with him. He's a great player. He's a great effort player. They're very balanced on their edges now, getting [Bruce] Irvin on the other side, so very, very difficult to deal with. He played extremely well last week."

**Q: What have you seen from their offensive line this year? How much of a difference has Kelechi Osemele made for them?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "They're probably the biggest group we'll play, so very big group, strong. I was with him [Osemele] in Baltimore. He's a great kid. Tell him I said, 'Hello.' Really playing well. Like I said, as much as Derek has thrown the ball, he's only been down nine times, so that tells you how well they're playing. They've got three really good backs, playing them all and probably as balanced of an offensive football team as you'll find right now – run and pass. They can beat you both ways and it always starts up front. Mike's a hell of a coach and does a great job."

**Q: What challenges do Michael Crabtree and Amari Cooper present for your defense?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "Balance. That's the key. It's not like the ball is going to one guy. It's very balanced in what's going on. Billy plays them both all over the place, so they're moving around. That's a credit to them being smart players and making it very difficult on a lot of people because of their versatility, and like I said, the fact that the ball is being spread out evenly."

**Q: They threw the ball 59 times last week and ran it 24. Does that plan into your defense's hands a little bit?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "That's the kind of game they ran. They got down and they had to come back and Derek got them in position to do that. That's why those type of things get out of whack stat-wise and stuff. We have great respect for what they do. We know they're very capable of being successful in both the run and pass, as I just said, so we have to work it out for us defensively. We're just going to have to be really on top of what we're doing. It's a tremendous challenge for us as a football team to come into their stadium and play a team that's on top of the division and the way they're playing, so we understand that."

**Q: This is the first prime time game here in a while. What do you think it's going to be like in the Black Hole Sunday night?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "It's awesome. I love going there. It's a great place to play, great atmosphere. I've been a part of this football game many, many years, many, many times. That's what it's all about. Back half of the season, two good teams going at it and so we have a lot of work to do so that we can get ready to play. But, I have a lot of respect for them."

**Q: If Sean Smith can't go this week, how big of a loss is that for them? What have you seen out of David Amerson and TJ Carrie?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "Obviously, they're very deep as a football team, so you see that. That's a key in this league. When you lose players and stuff, guys step up and come in and play. We had the same situation last week. We lost Aqib [Talib]. He didn't play. We had to have some guys step up. So, that's part of the NFL, adjusting and obviously the Raider football team is a very deep football team and we're aware of that."



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### **Broncos OLB Von Miller Conference Call**

#### **Q: What do you see from Khalil Mack this year?**

**Miller:** "Yeah, he's a great player. I haven't really been paying a ton of attention to him, but whenever I do see him on the film, he's making plays. He's a great player, one of the elite linebackers in this league."

#### **Q: What were your impressions of his game last year with having five sacks? Was it a performance you enjoyed watching a bit?**

**Miller:** "He had five sacks in one half. That just speaks to the volume of the type of player that everyone know he can be."

#### **Q: What have you seen from the Raiders' offensive line this year?**

**Miller:** "They're solid. I think they're the second highest rated offensive line in the league after the Dallas Cowboys. They probably have the biggest O-line in the National Football League, that's for sure. They're probably one of the meanest, toughest O-line too with K.O. [Kelechi Osemele] and Rodney Hudson on the inside. Definitely a solid offensive line. I think they gave up the second fewest sacks in the National Football League. They're protecting him really well. They're having a whole lot of success up front."

#### **Q: Does anything jump out on film with Derek Carr? What strides have you seen him take this year?**

**Miller:** "Everything that he's doing is really not a surprise to me. He's had glimpses. He's had little windows of greatness and he's made a lot of plays. All the success that he's having this season is really not a surprise to me. I've seen it. I've seen it in him. I've seen the type of quarterback that he can be. He's coming out and having a whole lot of success and it's really not a surprise. That's what Oakland drafted to develop into, the type of quarterback that he is. Now I feel like there's still a whole lot more that he can do, but he's definitely great right now."

#### **Q: How has Trevor Siemian grown this season?**

**Miller:** "I mean every week he's taking steps on becoming a quarterback that we all know he can be. There's a lot of great players around him. Every week it's just gelling. With Peyton, you know it was Peyton Manning. He's No. 18. With Trevor, he's developing along the way, but every week he's been better and better. That's all you can really ask."

#### **Q: Do you watch other pass rushers in the offseason and see how they compare to you?**

**Miller:** "I don't really compare myself to anybody like that. I feel like that really helps me stay focused and keep my mind on the prize. I just go out there and try to be the best player I can possibly be. Of course whenever a pass rusher is having success, it's a copycat league. Everybody sees that and everybody tries to emulate that. Seeing Khalil, he's had a whole lot of success."

#### **Q: Are prime time games still a big deal to you?**

**Miller:** "That's what the National Football League is about. It doesn't get any bigger than prime time football. Of course I still get up for them. I still get the feeling I got when I was a little kid watching the National Football League game. It's still important to me. It will always be important to me. I'm looking forward to going out there and putting our best foot forward."