



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: “Thursday is upon us. Another long, grinding day after yesterday getting ready for New Orleans.”

Q: What are the challenges preparing for a road game in a dome where you know it’s going to be loud? What are you going to do extra?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, you can’t be surprised by it all. It’s going to be very loud there. The fan base is very supportive. Tough place to go into, but we’re looking forward to getting ready to cut it loose this week. We’ll try to replicate the noise as best we can out here at practice so we’re ready for it.”

Q: How much can continuity help with non-verbal communication?

Coach Musgrave: “It’s a factor just as Derek [Carr] stated. It helps to have some familiarity with the cadences and the system to go into such a tough place on the opening weekend.”

Q: From watching the preseason, do you think the Saints are making strides in their defense?

Coach Musgrave: “Anytime you have an offseason, you can address areas where you want to get better. I know we do that here, and I’ve worked really hard to get better at some areas that we felt we were deficient in last year as well. New Orleans will be no different than us. So, we’re looking forward to putting our best foot forward. I’m sure they’ll come out and play well. We’ll need to play well to come out with a win.”

Q: How has Menelik Watson made strides over the summer?

Coach Musgrave: “Yeah it’s good to have Menelik back after getting hurt in the preseason last year. He’s part of our offensive line that has been somewhat rebuilt a little bit. Gabe [Jackson] has never played right guard before, of course Kelechi [Osemele] is new and Menelik is back. Three out of the five will be new. We’re looking forward to seeing how they gel.”

Q: How does it help the entire team to be with the same coaching staff for a second year?

Coach Musgrave: “Continuity is a good thing, both coaching and playing. I know we have a tremendous staff that [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] has put together. I know I enjoy coming to work every day with our coaches. We have a lot of synergy in our game plan meetings and out there on the field we have a bunch of great teachers.”

Q: What is the opening game like with having looks that you haven’t seen and giving them looks that they haven’t seen?

Coach Musgrave: “There are definitely some unscouted looks on both sides of the ball. An opener is exciting. There’s nothing like it; excessive butterflies and also the unknown, like you’re saying, in an opener. I know we’re looking forward to it. It’s a great matchup between us and New Orleans.”

Q: Was it reassuring to see your first-team offense succeed in the third preseason game?

Coach Musgrave: “What’s reassuring is to see the way the guys work – each day at practice, OTAs, up in Napa, this week getting ready for New Orleans. We have a bunch of workers on our team and they want to get good at their craft. They put in the time and effort, so it’s a pleasure to be around them.”

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: How good is Drew Brees as a quarterback?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Well, you can see as you watch the film and you’re watching plays. He’s really, really good. He understands how to get rid of the ball, really accurate. He has really good tools around him and he’s certainly going to be a challenge for us.”



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Q: What does Karl Joseph need to do to keep improving?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Karl just needs to continue to compete just like everybody else. We made sure that they understand that it's all about competition, all about our practice, all about improvement. We want everybody to be obsessed with improvement, getting better every time they come on the field in practice. And, improvement is very, very important. We're talking about Karl [Joseph], but that's every single person on this defense."

Q: Are you confident in the group of defensive linemen can fill in well with the absence of Mario Edwards Jr.?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Absolutely. The guys wouldn't have made the team if we weren't very confident in them. We have a really good group of guys who have really made a strong commitment to our growth as a team, their growth as individuals. They are really committed to playing this game at a very high level, so we're very, very confident in our rotation."

Q: What has impressed you the most about Reggie Nelson?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, the fact that he shows up every day. Reggie really is obsessed with playing ball. He really cares about winning. He hasn't stayed around this long, he's played a long time and has a lot of ball under his belt. He hasn't stayed around this long without loving what he does. He has a real strong passion for the game, always trying to improve and it's recognizable. When you have success like that, people are attracted to it, they really understand. A team that's as young as ours is, when you have a veteran that's played at a high level for a long time, come in and approach work the way he does, it's attractive and you can really recognize it."

Q: How are Ben Heeney and Cory James different?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, they're both very good. Cory [James] has done a great job of, first, making this team, first showing up every day and really showing us that he has a future of development for us. But at the same time, he's still competing to play, still competing to find a role on this team just like everybody else."

Q: What are the tangible assets by having this entire coaching staff return from 2015?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, the players being comfortable with what we're learning; a lot of carryover to Year 2 from Year 1. A lot of players understanding what is expected. They get a good feel for who we are, what we want and what we're looking for. And for players, it's always been, 'Just let me know what my role is, let me know what's asked of me.' And then they'll take care of the rest of it. But, if you keep changing it on them, it's hard for them to really put their claws into something. So, they have a great familiarity with what we're doing, who we are, our personalities and as we go into the second year, they know what's expected."

Q: Charles Woodson picked you to win the Super Bowl. Do you appreciate the confidence?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Absolutely. Charles [Woodson], you know we have a lot of respect for Charles. He's certainly implanted a print on what we're doing here. He's put a finger print and hand print on the young players here and he's really set a high standard. We can only hope to play at the standard he plays at."