



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jack Del Rio

**Opening Statement:** "Alright, back at work. Short week with the Seahawks Thursday night. Obviously, we had some moves to make, and I know we'll be clearer by the [53-man] deadline and do what needs to be done in terms of completing our evaluation and making the decisions going forward from here. Anyway, good day back out there. Questions?"

**Q: How hard is it numbers-wise going into this last game with wanting to rest some of your starters but only having 75 guys?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, it's a delicate balancing act. We'll have a plan. We'll meet on it, determine relative health and discuss exactly how we want to go through that. We need to finish our evaluation. We have a lot of guys that are in competitive situations. Whether it's a role on the team or whether it's a spot on the team. We need those competitions to play out and some of those evaluations will go into this last game."

**Q: Is there anything you can pinpoint as the problem with the run defense or is it just little things?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Oh yeah, we've got a handle on it. I'm really more pleased with some of the positive things than I am overly concerned on things that I know we will fix. So yeah, I'm actually more pleased with some of the positive things that are going on right now. Look, we have to make improvement as a team and that will be from start to end and that will be not only as we finish this offseason, but once we get into the regular season as well. So, that'll be important for us."

**Q: Which things have pleased you so far?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, really happy with the way Derek Carr has shown command of the offense. The other night, I thought the whole world got a little glimpse of it. I feel like watching him conduct himself in meetings throughout the offseason and the way he's taken charge. We've given him more freedom in the offense and he's really taken that and done a great job with it. [He's] super prepared and the timing on some of the throws and the decision making and those things. I'm just very pleased with that. I'd start there. The way the team works, I think we have a good work ethic. I think that's important to have. Those have been real positives for us."

**Q: What are your thoughts on Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington and what they've done so far?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, DeAndré has a little more experience throughout this preseason, but both he and Jalen were sharp the other night. They did a nice job in their opportunities. They're both exciting young men. They're built similarly in that they're not huge guys. I had a guy that was pretty good in Jacksonville name Maurice Jones-Drew and 'Mo' played out here. I know it was toward the end of his career, but he was a dynamic guy that could give you some tremendous impact. I'm not putting that label necessarily on these guys, I'm just saying it doesn't matter the stature as much as it does the skill level that you bring to the team and some of the abilities that you bring as a player."

**Q: Maurice was short, but he's not small.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's not small. (*laughing*) One of my all-time favorites. I mean, I love 'MoJo.'"

**Q: These guys are pretty stout too right?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, well they're not at that point. 'MoJo' looked a lot like that his first year, and he got a little thicker as he's gone. Yeah, but in terms of giving you the explosive playmaking ability, I think you see some of that in both these young men."

**Q: How are these guys adjusting to the NFL as blockers?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "OK. I think they've made progress from Day 1. Neither one was really involved in it much at the collegiate level, so there's an adjustment just in terms of learning who to block. Then being smaller guys, people



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are going to try you. You get a chance to put your helmet under their chin and let them know you're serious about protecting the quarterback. I think both guys are eager in doing that."

**Q: Do you have anything you tell your players about what you want to see out of them during the national anthem?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I've never had to address it. [It has] never come to a point where I've had to address it. It's always been understood. I mean, you know, you stand at attention, you pay respect to our flag, our country, so it's always been kind of an assumed thing. I've never really had to talk about it."

**Q: Do you feel a need now, with everything going on, to talk about it?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think the best way to look at it is in America, as individuals, we all have freedoms. That's one of the things that makes our country great. You may not always like or appreciate the fact that somebody's expressing themselves. For us, I think it's more about recognizing you're part of an organization and you're representing our organization and our organization believes you should pay respect to the flag. So, you'll save those individual decisions to express yourself for an individual form. That's how we feel. In talking with Mark Davis, kind of how the football team feels about it, how our organization feels about it, and that's right in line with my thinking as well. When you look at the Raiders, you look at an organization that historically has been at the forefront of civil rights and social movements. [The Raiders] hired the first African-American head coach, hired the first Latino-American head coach, hired the first female in the front office. I think clearly, the Raiders organization has always been at the forefront of that, but our organization believes that you should act as a good teammate and a good organizational member and do the right thing."

**Q: What can you tell us about the play of Dan Williams and Justin Ellis?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Big guys, big powerful guys. Dan has come along slower than 'Jelly' [Ellis] has. I think Justin has really had a really strong camp, done a really nice job throughout, and Dan is coming on strong at the end here."

**Q: Is run defense alignment positioning easier to fix in practice than tackling?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, you can work on those things and those are really things... It ends up being right now, it's coming out of camp, preparing for the regular season. You get these opportunities in preseason to kind of tighten things up. I expect we'll be ready to roll when the regular season gets here."

**Q: What went into your decision to make Dan Williams a captain on Saturday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "[He's a] Tennessee boy. Playing the Titans, a couple of guys from Tennessee and an older veteran were our captains for that day. That was the thinking behind that."

**Q: Is right tackle still a spot that's being evaluated?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, I mean we don't have to declare anything at this point. I think Menelik [Watson] has had a really good camp. I think Austin [Howard] has come back and had good offseason as well. I think soon that'll be declared, but right now we're still working both guys."

**Q: Do you want to see Cory James play middle linebacker a little more in the game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, we'll see how that plays out. I felt like we're developing a good young player there in Cory. You saw Ben [Heeney] last year come on and play well as the year went on and he got opportunities. I think both guys are guys we'll count on to play a good amount for us this year."



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### **QB Derek Carr**

#### **Q: What's new?**

**Carr:** "Nothing's new, just got my workout in. I feel good. Watched film today. That was good to get the corrections done. Now we're moving on, man. That's how quick it goes. Just in one day, we flip like that."

#### **Q: Do you expect to play the last game?**

**Carr:** "I'm not sure. That's up to coach. I will prepare until they say no, or until they say yes. It doesn't matter to me. I'll prepare like I am. If I do, I need to be ready. If I don't play, I need to be there for Matt [McGloin] and Connor [Cook]. I need there to be another set of eyes, someone to help. That's exactly what I would want. I'll prepare as if I am."

#### **Q: I'm guessing you probably spent a lot of time thinking about the one throw to Clive Walford from Saturday's game.**

**Carr:** "You know me, man. It doesn't matter how good the game was or how well we moved the ball, I'm always going to dwell on what I did wrong because I want to fix it. That's just the way that I am. That's what has gotten me here so far and that's hopefully what will keep me here."

#### **Q: One of the big questions coming into this year was who is going to back up Latavius Murray? It seems like potentially two rookies could complement him really well. What are your thoughts on DeAndré Washington and Jalen Richard?**

**Carr:** "I think that they've done a great job. Obviously Latavius has proven he's our guy, he's our starter, he's the one that's going to get all the carries. At the same time, he and I have talked and I've told him he can't take every carry. That's crazy. If I was in his shoes, I'd be the same way though. You want the ball every time. I told him that he's got to take a deep breath sometimes, especially in this league. The hits that those running backs take, that's got to be one of the hardest positions to play in all of sports is running back in the NFL. It's ridiculous. You've got to do all that and at the same time, you've got to pick up blitzes. You've got to be smart and pick up protection. That's what he does. That's where those young guys are learning. That's the only thing that takes young guys a little bit longer is in protection. They've come a long way from when they got here. I'm sure by Week 1, Week 2, they'll be fine with protection and stuff like that. Especially with the way [running backs] coach Bernie [Parmalee] and [offensive line] coach [Mike] Tice work with them, they'll be good. Running the ball, like I thought after postgame, I say the same thing after watching film: They weren't anxious. They weren't nervous. They went in there and put their face in there and broke a lot of tackles against guys that are a lot bigger than them and that's good to see."

#### **Q: Those guys are different backs than Latavius obviously. Coach Del Rio compared them to Maurice Jones-Drew. What do you think?**

**Carr:** "I remember a guy my brother played with, Domanick Davis, from LSU. He was my brother's running back. That's who DeAndré reminds me of. Jalen reminds me of a shifty type, the Barry Sanders type. Not Barry Sanders himself, but that type where he can jump side to side, see holes. If you pause the tape, you think there's no way they see that. Then, all of a sudden he makes something out of nothing. They're completely different but that's good to have. Teams have to get ready for all of that."

#### **Q: How good can Latavius be? What's the next step for him?**

**Carr:** "I'm not exactly sure what Bernie tells him, or what he needs to do but just from being with him and watching him, I think he can be one of the best ones in the league. He has the size, obviously. You see him walking around and you think, that guy plays running back? First day I got here, I was like, 'There's no way that guy is a running back.' But sure enough he was. He has the homerun speed that we've all seen. Now, it's just getting more reps. The in-game reps are, how do you say, you can't put a number on that. You can't put a price on that. The experience you have when you're hitting holes with live reps and the vision and all that, he's only going to get better with every carry he gets, as he's shown. The more carries he's gotten, he's gotten a better feel for the game"



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and he's done great. I think he can be one of the best in the league and not only just because of the way he runs, but he doesn't miss protections. He sticks his face in there and keeps me clean. That's the most important job a running back has. You've got to protect the quarterback."

**Q: After the game, you referenced the deep passes and repetition. Is that something that just takes time as far as knowing their speed and knowing where to put the ball?**

**Carr:** "Absolutely. You think back to my rookie year, all the questions were about why I didn't throw the ball deep. When you did, why'd you throw it out of bounds? I was like, 'Man I'm trying.' It takes a lot of reps, it takes a lot of practice to get those kinds of timing throws down. I've had guys in the NFL that I've talked to that ask me questions about deep balls. These guys have been playing football their whole lives and we all bounce questions because it's something different that we all need to work on. It's just one of those things we've put a lot of time into and reps at. That's the only way you get guys' speed down. [Michael Crabtree] 'Crab' likes the ball a certain way, [Amari Cooper] 'Coop' and [Andre Holmes] 'Dre,' they all want it in a different place. Learning all those things and then having to do it are two different things. It's just a lot of reps and that's what training camp and the whole offseason were for. It was nice to have an offseason this year."

**Q: The national anthem has become a national story over the last few days because of what Colin Kaepernick did. What are your views on that and did you ever cross paths with Colin in the central valley much?**

**Carr:** "Actually this past offseason, I texted Colin and he called me back and we talked. Colin has been a great guy to me. That's the only way that I can base it off of, is to me he's been awesome; nothing but genuine and nice and kind, very friendly to me. My whole stance on it is obviously we all have the freedom to do as we choose and that's the way that he's choosing to do certain things. For me, I've had some family that were in the military and things like that so I'll always stand and respect it. If he wants to do it a certain way, he has that right to choose what he wants to do. Whether people agree or not, he doesn't care. He's standing up for something he believes in. For me, I'll stand when it goes."

**Q: What are your impressions of K.J. Brent so far?**

**Carr:** "He really impressed me the first day I saw him. His route-running ability was really good. Coming in as an undrafted guy, you never know what the story was. He shows up and runs his first route and I thought, 'How did that guy go undrafted? At least not get picked up late!' You see the route running, he's really good with the ball in the air. We've seen that in practice a bunch of times but we saw Matt throw him the deep out-route and he went up and made a great play with the ball above his helmet. To see those kinds of things in a game situation shows that that's who he really is, because that's what he does in practice here all the time. He runs great routes, makes great plays like that, he's fighting for a spot. I think he's doing a great job. It'll be interesting to see how this final game goes."