



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jon Gruden

**Opening Statement:** "I would just like to thank the Raider fans, they were awesome. I am proud of our team. That hurts. I will answer any questions that I can."

#### **Q: What do you make out of the running back losing fumbles consistently?**

**Gruden:** "I thought the 4<sup>th</sup>-and-1 play in the opening possession where we converted it and had a holding call, it turned out it was a turnover that I did not agree with. Three fumbles and a 4th and one conversion called back into that field possession, that was like four turnovers against the Kansas City Chiefs, that is going to be tough to overcome."

#### **Q: What was the atmosphere in today's game?**

**Gruden:** "We are playing good football. We played good last weekend in Baltimore. They are a good team. I don't know how they did today, but we were close with them going into the fourth quarter. I am proud of our coaches and players. We had a chance. We got beat by a hell of a football team."

#### **Q: Thoughts on Patrick Mahomes?**

**Gruden:** "You can look at the tape. It is a credit to the guy, he made a 3<sup>rd</sup>-and-15 play that was right on my sideline. I was so outside myself, I was upset. He made so many plays today. I was proud of our quarterback too. It was a shootout of two great young quarterbacks."

#### **Q: Is there a common denominator on tonight's fumbles?**

**Gruden:** "Somebody said earlier that we haven't fumbled the ball all year. They are making good runs. I think one of them was on 1st and 10, the other was on 2nd and 2 and another one was after a long run. Sometimes when you're in traffic you have to put the ball away. It goes on me and it's another loss. I am responsible."

#### **Q: Can you talk about Travis Kelce?**

**Gruden:** "He hurt us obviously. He gets open. He can line them up everywhere. He is like our tight end. It was a battle of two great tight ends. I thought Cook had over 100 yards today. I think they couldn't stop him today either. Travis (Kelce) and Patrick (Mahomes), they must live together or something. They made some incredible plays. Give some credit to those guys. You can't do anything sometimes, but tip your hat."

#### **Q: Has Daniel Carlson shown consistency as a young player?**

**Gruden:** "Yeah, he is a the real deal. He was pretty high draft pick for a place kicker. He had his struggles in Minnesota. But, he has found his rhythm here and hopefully he is a long-term solution for us. He had a great outside kick and he gave us a chance. Perhaps it didn't go the exact 10 yards, but it was a hell of a kick there to. Hopefully he is a long-term solution for us, it will solve a huge need for us as a franchise."

#### **Q: What happened on the onside kick?**

**Gruden:** "It was a thought. We had them backed up and that we could kick and cover and we knew we had one spot. You have to credit that young quarterback, this is his first year starting in the NFL. He ticked me off today."

#### **Q: Talk about Jordy Nelson.**

**Gruden:** "He's been hurt. What he has been doing for our team is unbelievable. I am really proud of what he did today. He is feeling better and hopefully Martavis Bryant is feeling better to get him back next week. Marcell (Ataman) had a couple of chances early in the game, signature plays that he has to make. He did it in the end to make it 33-30, but Nelson is a special dude, a special guy, a special player."



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### OAKLAND RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

**Q: At some point during this game, did it start to feel like last season?**

**Carr:** “Oh yeah. In my mind, there was no doubt that we were going to win. It did feel eerily similar. I think to all of us it did. Great game. Give credit to the Chiefs. They’re really good. We play the Chiefs a lot of times and they have one heck of a team this year. It did feel similar in some aspects, but I don’t like this side of it. I’ll tell you that.”

**Q: Are you looking forward to playing Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes twice a year for several years to come?**

**Carr:** “Oh absolutely. I think he’s a great player. I think we all know that. You can tell a lot of the stuff that he does now, early on in his career – extending plays, he’s really athletic, those kind of things. He has a crazy good arm. As he continues to hone those skills, he’s going to play even better than he is now – which is crazy to say. He’s a heck of a player. Nothing but respect for him. He’s a great man, good guy, nice to talk to, very respectful. I wish him the best, I really do. Except when we play him.”

**Q: Do you think today’s game felt like a shoot-out type of game?**

**Carr:** “For me, it does not. There are so many things going on in my head – blitz wise, so many things on my plate. Emotionally, early on in my career – absolutely. Oh my goodness, it’s so and so. It’s me and Philip Rivers, that kind of thing. Now, I have gotten to the point where there are so many other things on my mind that I’m thinking about nowadays besides when I was younger.”

**Q: Is it frustrating to just barely make those long passes today after the criticism about throwing short passes?**

**Carr:** “We’re averaging a pretty good clip on our passes right now. There are going to be games where we have to throw short and people hate it. I won’t say any names, you turn on some of these other guys and they’re throwing the ball behind the line of scrimmage or 5 yards and they’ll get 15 or 20. Those are schematic things, game plan, trying to get people in space and so that kind of stuff doesn’t bother me. When I go to Coach Gruden’s office as soon as the game is over and we talk, I just want to make sure I execute exactly what he wanted. Throwing the deep ball, we knew that we were going to have chances based on the coverage they play. We had a couple where the play got extended and I was able to point and try to hit [WR Marcell Ateman] Cel in the back of the end zone. We almost had that one. The cool thing about that – I love moments like this. Young kids can learn from search a great moment. He wasn’t having his best day, right? But I just kept telling him man, I’m going to keep coming to you so keep fighting. And he kept fighting and he ends up catching a big touchdown for us. I don’t get concerned with how far we throw the ball and things like that. I just make sure I execute what Coach wants.”

**Q: Can you talk about the running backs and the 3 fumbles today?**

**Carr:** “Yeah it’s weird. Like you said, they’ve been good. Honestly, since I’ve been here for 5 years we’ve been pretty good at the running back spot and the pocket – obviously, never want to do that. We know things happened, can’t see people and all that. When we’re running, that hasn’t happened for our guys. They’ve been solid. I never saw any replays on any of them. I don’t know if they got punched, ripped. I don’t know. I don’t really have much to say about it, but it was definitely different. I know they’re beating themselves up for it.”

**Q: During one of the late touchdowns and you had WR Jordy in the corner – do you think that’s progress for you guys?**

**Carr:** “100%. I’m glad you saw that. Usually, I try and force it in there. Especially in a game like that. Thank the Lord. I give credit to my coaches, they drilled me over and over again. It’s 1<sup>st</sup> down, you don’t have to force it. We end of scoring, like you said. Those are things that you take away and you say okay yes, the



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coaches are awesome. It's registering in the heat of the moment. You don't have to force it, that kind of thing. I give Coach Gruden, Coach Callahan, Coach Olson – if I could break down every play, they have a hand with something that they've taught me or something to get better at in that game."

**Q: Do you think WR Jordy Nelson was feeling healthy today?**

**Carr:** "Absolutely. He felt better. He was able to practice and we were able to get some throws together. We were able to build our timing and our chemistry. It was a good week for us to do that. The night before the game, last night - Coach told us hey we have to get Jordy the ball and we have to let him win and give him the ball. He's healthy and running good – to win this game, we have to give him the ball. So whenever we had the match-up, we were able to check things and go through progressions to get him the ball. It was good to have him back."

**Q: What mean for you to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Raiders' all-time passing list?**

**Carr:** "It's very humbling. Again, my dad was a Raider fan growing up. Kenny Stabler was his favorite and I got to grow up watching Rich, Jerry Rice and Tim Brown. To be able to be up there, it means a lot to me. Don't get it twisted. You guys know me. I just want to win, I hate losing. For those things to be there, in my heart – it means a lot. It does. Now, can we just translate it into some wins? I would give all the yards back for some more wins. At the same time, it's very cool and very humbling. It just shows me that I haven't done anything yet and I have a long way to go."

**Q: Can you talk about the "My Cleats, My Cause" initiative for you and your teammates today?**

**Carr:** "Mine was Children's Health with my son. We all know that story with Dallas having 3 surgeries – representing Valley Children's and raising awareness for them. Some were diabetes, childhood abuse, protecting lions – animals. Something that means a lot to other people. It's such a cool thing. Not everyone has to wear one color or one thing. Everyone has a story on why they did what they did. It's something pretty cool that the NFL does. I don't know if they do it, I'm sure they do – if they go around asking people the story of why. We're all human. We all have family and things we've been through, that family members have been through or people close to us. To do that, really means a lot to us. It really sticks. And I hope it's something they do for the rest of the time that the NFL is running."

**Q: Were you and Coach Gruden communicating well today?**

**Carr:** "I only yelled at him once today, I'm just kidding. Like I said, he's yelled at me about 27 times this week. I'm firing myself, but it's all out of him trying to get me to this place that he thinks I can get to. I've told him and I've told you guys that when he got hired, can I handle him? Will I get along with him? We've talked about how sometimes wins or losses, I'm trying to be the same. Even though it's hard and all that. That doesn't I don't care or that I'm not competitive, it wasn't something that we talked about. I think our communication and the level we understand each other. He's looking at me, he calls a play and then sees a sub and then he calls something else. I just give him a thumbs up. I already know what he wants me to call. We're building chemistry, this thing that we have. So, we don't consciously sit down and say we're not going to yell at each other anymore. We may do it again, who knows. I can probably guarantee that we're going to do it again. We had great communication today and that was good."

**Q: Is the coaching tree between Gruden, Reid, McVay, etc. similar?**

**Carr:** "100%. Him, Coach McVay, Sean Payton a little bit too. You see it's eerily similar. Even when he first got here, things I do with Coach Olson. Coach Olly was here with him. Where did this really start? There's definitely similarities. But again, you watch that Chiefs' offense – they're explosive. They have some speed I haven't seen before. It's fun."

**Q: Seems like the team was having a lot more fun today, do you agree?**

**Carr:** "100% - that's something I've taken really seriously. Just reminding the guys that when we have fun, we play better. When we're all uptight, worried about what Coach is going to say, getting cussed out or



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yelled at – nobody is going to play well doing that. It's been an emphasis in practice. I'm glad you said that because it's translating to the games. Obviously, it's no moral victory but we should play like that no matter what the score is, what our record is. You want it to always look the same. Hopefully, we can continue to grow that and instill that in our young guys."

### **RAIDERS RB JALEN RICHARD**

**Q: Despite the loss, what was the team's mindset coming out of this game?**

**Richard:** "Yeah, we're getting there. Continuing to grow and continuing to move forward. Obviously, we didn't take care of the ball today, so I feel like that's the reason why we didn't win. At the end of the day, the work that we put out there against a team like that definitely gives the team a little confidence."

**Q: Were the three fumbles today uncharacteristic of this team?**

**Richard:** "Yeah, that ain't never happened. It was some fluke stuff. We just got to take care of the ball. That's definitely on us. Got to have two hands on it in traffic and even with all that we still had a chance to win it at the end of the game, which was cool. If it would have got even worse, it would have made us feel even worse, but we just got to get in and continue to improve on carrying the ball better. I like what I saw out of the team today, playing against Kansas City."

**Q: What did you see out of your team that was a little bit different today?**

**Richard:** "These division games, it's a different atmosphere. Different from other games, especially with KC [Kansas City]. The, not love-hate, but the kind of hate. Raider Nation doesn't like KC, and obviously [Jon] Gruden wanted to beat KC real bad. What I saw from the team today was continuing to fight, which we have been doing all year, but today it looked even better. We just steadily continuing to play together. The defense is playing their tails off. Offense, we are clicking good. We scored points today, so we just want to continue to capitalize on that and go into next week and continue to do the same thing."

**Q: What happened on your fumble?**

**Richard:** "Yeah, just going down. I think I had made a couple guys miss and I was coming back across the middle. Actually, the guy that I was stiff arming actually got me with his other arm while we were going down to the ground. I just got to make sure to keep the ball high and tight. Other than that, I feel like I had a decent day."

**Q: Were you almost down on that play where you fumbled?**

**Richard:** "Yeah it was pretty close, but I can't make it close. Coach Jemal [Singleton] talks about it all the time whether it's first-down runs or touchdown runs or even holding the ball, you never want to put it into the referee's hands. You don't want to give them the opportunity to mess up a call. I just got to hold on to the ball, period."

**Q: How encouraged are you by what you saw today?**

**Richard:** "I could just tell you that guys on this team and in this room to this point, from what you all have seen, is who they are. Everybody in here loves football, everybody in here is committed to the coaches and we just out there having fun playing for each other. We aren't going to lay down for nobody. We got some dogs on this team. We got some dudes that's not going to back down."

**Q: Is that the foundation you guys need?**

**Richard:** "You got to have confidence. It's almost like a gladiator sport, you run out there and see somebody 280, chiseled and you better have some confidence in yourself. Small-guy, big-guy or anything like that. We got a lot of guys that are confident in themselves and even when they get hit in the mouth, they are going to be like, 'I'm coming back the next play,' and I like that. I like what we got with this team."



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**Q: Did this game feel a little bit like last year's game against Kansas City?**

**Richard:** "Yeah, it definitely felt that way. It didn't fall through, but I wish we would have got them today. We played our [expletive] off, we really did, and they played their [expletive] off too."

### Raiders WR Marcell Ateman

**Q: You guys didn't give up in this game, you were down early but you battled back.**

**Marcell Ateman:** "That's what it says about our team. We're not going to give up, we're not going to get down, we're going to keep fighting. That's what Coach [Jon] Gruden keeps pushing toward. We made a couple mistakes as a team and we can't make those mistakes, but we were battling."

**Q: I guess that's the obvious, against a good team you can't turn the ball over.**

**Ateman:** "No, not at all. Not an offense like that that can score at any time. As a team we can't afford to make mistakes whether it's offense, defense, or special teams. Like you said, we fought back this game."

**Q: What does it say about this team that you never gave up today?**

**Ateman:** "That's our character, we're never going to give up. Coach [Jon] Gruden pushes us to put out our best effort and we're going to go out there and play strong no matter what."

**Q: I know you would rather have a win, but you got a touchdown, so that's got to feel pretty good, right?**

**Ateman:** "Yeah, it's a blessing. I'm thankful for that, but we still lost. We just need to keep it rolling and keep getting better."

**Q: On your touchdown, how electrifying was that?**

**Ateman:** "It was big because it was during a crucial time in the game. If we had gotten that stop down there on that third down and five play anything could have happened. We were moving the ball on them, so we just need to keep pushing going forward."

**Q: What have you seen in yourself as you've continued to grow as player over the past few weeks?**

**Ateman:** "I just got to keep going. I missed that catch in the back of the end zone because I didn't get my feet down. I told myself I'm going to just have to come back and make a play. That's what Jordy [Nelson] preaches to me and that's what all the veterans keep telling me, I just need to keep playing. Derek [Carr] gave me another shot to make a play and we just need to keep going."

**Q: On that touchdown grab, did you get to keep the ball?**

**Ateman:** "Yeah, they gave me the ball. Derek [Carr] made me keep it."

**Q: What does that say about your connection with Derek Carr?**

**Ateman:** "We're continuing to build our relationship. That's just reps, once I'm in a game and we can start feeling each other out we'll get that timing and we'll be unstoppable."

### Raiders TE Jared Cook

**Q: Was this a battle of two great tight ends?**

**Cook:** "Yeah, for sure. [Travis] Kelce definitely balled out today. What did he end up with? 150? He definitely had a great game, but like you said it's definitely bigger than that, man. It's a team effort and we didn't come out on top today."

**Q: What was it like going toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the NFL?**



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**Cook:** "You know what, after three turnovers today, I feel like we put ourselves still a position to win the game. We were minus two in the turnover battle and that kind of hurt us, but you saw a lot of resilience from this team to keep fighting and just to keep putting points on the board. After a game like that, where you give yourself a chance to win at the end of the game...that's a good team you just lost to, so you have to give respect to the guys in this room that helped us stay in it."

**Q: Did this game feel a little bit like the game against the Chiefs here last year?**

**Cook:** "I was thinking that in the third quarter. At the end of the third, I was like, man, this is just like last year's game. Especially, when it was 33-30, I was thinking if we hold them to a field goal right here, we can go down and get some points and win the game. Like I said before, I'm thinking this is just like last year's Kansas City game. We got to see them again, so we just got to be prepared for that day."

**Q: Does this battle or rivalry feed you to push harder?**

**Cook:** "No, that fuel is already in me. Your preparation going up to the game and your energy going up to the game is always the same. It's the same for me each and every week, no matter who I am going against. That fuel is always there, man."

**Q: Coach talked about the chemistry between the Chiefs QB and TE, but are you and Derek [Carr] working on that a lot?**

**Cook:** "Yeah, we've been working that for two years. That's just part of being in this game. We build on each other, we believe in each other and we got a good rapport with each other. You could never have a good enough rapport with your quarterback, so we are still working on that, of course."

**Q: Any chance that chemistry will carry over into next year? Would you like to be in Oakland next year?**

**Cook:** "Yeah, I mean I hope so. I feel like it's been carrying over since last year...Yeah, of course. Who don't want a job? You don't want a job next year? *(Laughter)*"

### RAIDERS RB DOUG MARTIN

**Q: How did it feel going toe-to-toe with one of the best teams in the NFL?**

**Doug Martin:** "It felt good. We'd like to have those fumbles back, the lead back. I look at those fumbles, I had three. I had three fumbles. As a running back I have to set the tone, and the tone was to fumble the ball. I took responsibility for those two fumbles as a running back that we had. To be so close in as game like that shows a lot about what this team can do when we play together. We're proud of everybody."

**Q: What did you make of those fumbles? It's hard to put a finger on it but that hasn't been a problem all season. You've lost one football all season but it happens three times today.**

**Martin:** "It's one of those fluke things but we need to take care of the rock. I take responsibility for not correctly setting the tone. It's one of those things you wish to have back but we'll learn from it and come back against the Steelers next week."

**Q: Is any part of that people trying too hard because you're playing against a tough opponent and see yourself right there with them?**

**Martin:** "No, no one is trying too hard. Jalen [Richard] does what he does, makes people miss. He's shifty. It's just a good team, a good physical team. They go for the ball. When they saw one person fumble the ball they smelled blood. They just kept getting the ball. We'll take care of it and get up for the Steelers."

**Q: Do you talk about ball security before every practice? Is coach [Jemal] Singleton tugging on that thing?**

**Martin:** "Every practice, every practice we do ball security. We have a great coach, he really tells us how important ball security is."



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**Q: This late in the season, what does it say about this team to be where you were today, are the players disappointed you didn't win today?**

**Martin:** "We're disappointed. It shouldn't have been that close. We should have been on top. The turnovers really hurt us. Who knows. The better team won, the better team who didn't make mistakes won."

**Q: You take away those turnovers we'd be talking about a different game.**

**Martin:** "Exactly."

**Q: You've talked in the past about consistency on offense, where would you put today?**

**Martin:** "We had flashes on offense where all cylinders were firing. Derek [Carr]'s passing game, the running game was flying off, spreading the ball around to Marcell [Ateman], Jordy [Nelson], myself, Jalen [Richard]. That's where I thought this offense would be."

### Raiders Kicker Daniel Carlson

**Q: How have you felt about your play so far this year?**

**Daniel Carlson:** "I'm trying to prove to myself and my teammates that I deserve to be here and I'm taking it one kick at a time. I'm not trying to get too excited just because I've made a few in a row, but I'm going to take it one kick at a time and keep trying to get better each and every week. Hopefully I can play here a long time and Coach [Jon] Gruden can have faith in me going forward."

**Q: Do you think you could have played that inside kick any differently?**

**Carlson:** "Yeah, it got the bounce that I wanted because it hopped over one guy and it was kind of a scramble to get the ball. But, it would have been nice to have a little bit more speed and get the ball 10 yards so our guys would have had a better shot at the ball. That's my responsibility to give them the chance to make a play on it and the ball was just moving a little too slow."

### RAIDERS S KARL JOSEPH

**Q: How are you going to look at this, you hung tough against maybe the AFC's best team. Is this an opportunity missed?**

**Karl Joseph:** "Sure, I'm proud of the way we played all four quarters. We had some turnovers and we were still in the game. It's disappointing but definitely something we can build on. We played hard, we didn't give up, we kept fighting the whole time. We just have to be better off this and get ready to play them again."

**Q: How much of a challenge was [Patrick] Mahomes and his ability to extend plays with his legs?**

**Joseph:** "He did a pretty good job of that, getting out of the pocket and making some key throws. He's a good player."

**Q: Do you expect when you look at the film that you're going to see 'we did the right thing' a lot of times and he still made the play?**

**Joseph:** "Exactly. He just made more plays than we did. They made more plays in key situations than we did. I'm proud of the way we fought."



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**Q: Do you really feel like you're starting to come into your own, stacking good games together?**

**Joseph:** "Sure. I'm just trying to get better every game, every week, every practice. Just keep growing as a player. I'm starting to establish myself more as a role in the defense. Just have to keep building on it. Everything is about wins in this league. We just have to keep getting better, build on this. I think this was a stepping stone for us, a building block for the defense to see we can play with one of the top offenses in the league. We have to grow from it."

**Q: Jon [Gruden] has mentioned a couple different times that you have some physicality up front. Do you pride yourself on being a tone-setter?**

**Joseph:** "For sure. That's always been something I take pride in since I started playing football. I want to be known for more than hitting though. One of my things is being a great all-around safety. I just need to keep growing, getting better. It was close today but not good enough. We just need to keep growing."

**Q: Do you feel in the last few games it was you stepping up in this defense or them getting a better feel for you?**

**Joseph:** "It's just one of those things where I was just getting an opportunity to go out there and play the game I love. It was a fun game. I'm just getting an opportunity."

**Q: Are they using you any differently than they have in the past?**

**Joseph:** "No. It's a new scheme this year. It's just about getting an opportunity."

**Q: What did you do to keep your mind intact earlier in the season when you weren't playing as much?**

**Joseph:** "Staying focused. Knowing everything happens for a reason. Letting God control everything I can't. That's all it was. Staying positive, staying focused. Keep working, knowing that everything was going to work itself out."

**Q: How close were you to that Mahomes pass?**

**Joseph:** "The one that he fit in there? I was close. I was beating myself on the sideline because that could have been a game-changing play. I hesitated a little bit. He has a strong arm, he fit that in. I was impressed but I should have made the play."

**Q: From our perspective it looked like it would have been an amazing play, you feel like you should have got it?**

**Joseph:** "Yeah, I feel like I should have got it. I had that split-second of hesitation where I was just waiting for him to come to me. That was a smart play by him, a great throw by Mahomes where he just sent it down in the zone. I was impressed he got it in there, I thought I was going to tip it in there at least. It should have been a pick, it definitely should have been a pick."

### Raiders Wide Receiver Jordy Nelson

**Q: Jordy, you guys were right there in the game the whole time but it just wasn't mean to be there at the end?**

**Jordy Nelson:** "We had opportunities and we made some plays, but we made too many mistakes. We capitalized on some opportunities and didn't on others. They're a great team over there and we battled but we need to fix our mistakes and keep trying to get better."

**Q: 73 points scored in this game, did that surprise you lighting it up like that?**

**Nelson:** "No, not if you've seen their games all year."





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**Q: [Kansas State Head Coach] Bill Snyder announced his retirement this weekend, what manner of man is he to you?**

**Nelson:** "He's a great coach and a great person. My first three years at Kansas State were with him and then he retired the first time, but since then what he's done for that program and that school, words can't explain what he's done. I'll look forward to reaching out to him and talking to him. He's one of the best coaches to ever coach in college football. When he came into that program they were thinking about shutting down the whole program and not even having football there. To then turn it around so quick and to be good, and consistently good, for so long says a lot about him. He's an incredible coach and an incredible human being, and I know he'll be missed."

**Q: When you're not getting the results you want each week, how important is it to show you guys still have that fight?**

**Nelson:** "When you're successful out there and battling close throughout the game, it shows improvement. You see guys making improvements like Marcell [Ateman] with his big touchdown late in the game and the young guys on the offensive line on the outside stepping up, too. The key is when you start to show improvement and keep getting better, you start to see the light come on. It makes it easier for the young guys to stay after it, and older guys as well. We're here to win every game. I've been in this league long enough. I played Kansas City the year after I won the Super Bowl with the Packers and we were 13-0 going in there and they were 1-12 or something, and they beat us. There's an opportunity to win every week. You just need to go out and play good football, and we didn't play good enough today."

**Q: Speaking of the Packers, they made a move today.**

**Nelson:** "Yeah, all my coaches. Coach [Jon] Gruden better watch out [*laughing*]. It's shocking though. I think the timing of it is a little shocking. What he did in Green Bay for however many years he's been coaching there, winning a Super Bowl, two NFC Championship Games appearances; all the guy has done is won. He's been great in the community, great with the guys, but I think everyone knew it was coming. I was a little shocked they didn't let him finish it out but as we all found out, it's a business."



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### Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid

**Opening Statement:** "Alright, as far as the injuries go, really not much to mention. Anthony Hitchens has a little bit of a quad but that's about it. Overall a good win against an opponent that's on the rise here. I think Jon [Gruden] is doing a great job. He's doing it the way he wants to do it and the organization wants to do it. I'm close with Jon and I know what kind of football coach he is, so he's, again, getting guys going in the right direction and doing a good job with it. I know you're probably going to have some questions about Kareem [Hunt], so I'm going to help you forget about those questions right quick. Listen, we made the decision that we made. We put out a statement to explain that situation. And as we've done in the past when things come up, that's where we go. We handle it within and we handle it with the person that has been affected, so we've done all of those things and I'll leave it with you with that. I don't want to get away or anything to distract from how tough a place this is to play. The guys, my locker room leadership overcoming the situation that we had there, which can be a distraction, handled it the right way and stepped up today in a place that we haven't always come out with this kind of result, so I'm proud of the guys in the locker room and the coaches for doing that."

#### **Q: Was it a difficult decision to let Kareem Hunt go?**

**Reid:** "Listen, I answer yours and I have to answer everyone's [question] but I think you guys know me well enough to know that those kinds of things are never easy, so yes. Let's move on and hit a little bit of the Raiders-Chiefs, which is a phenomenal rivalry here."

#### **Q: How do you feel your running game and particularly Spencer Ware did today?**

**Reid:** "We came out with over 100 yards rushing. We kind of did it by committee with the quarterback involved with that also and some of the coverages they were playing allowed us to do that with the quarterback, which ends up being important when you talk about the overall run game down the road. It was great to get Spencer back in there and working on more of a full-time basis as opposed to being a relief pitcher or a third-down player. Then [Damien] Williams, he steps in and he had a couple nice runs too, so it was good for him. And then obviously [Travis] Kelce, not necessarily running the football but catching the football, he and Patrick [Mahomes] had something going today and it was special and did a real nice job with that."

#### **Q: Going forward, do you expect Spencer to be the featured running back or is it going to be a more running back by committee situation?**

**Reid:** "I'm sure we'll continue to rotate him. I'll go back and look at it. I mean that's what we were doing today, trying to keep everybody fresh and going."

#### **Q: How do you feel about that group's ability to get the job done?**

**Reid:** "The hands are not an issue, so I'm good with that. We're able to pound it when we need to pound it. You saw down the stretch we laid it down there a little bit and ran the ball and I thought the o-line did a nice job of that too."

#### **Q: Coach you talk every week about [Patrick] Mahomes' development and maturation, that final drive, drawing the offside, some of the plays he got outside of the pocket, how does that go along with the different things you've seen?**

**Reid:** "Yeah so you look at that last touchdown and you saw how excited he was. And that's how he comes to work every day, you know that, and so he's all in all the time. He makes plays, and makes everyone around him better. So those are important qualities as a quarterback, if you want to be great then you've got to have some of those qualities. And you know he just keeps working [and] everything will be fine and so far he's come to work every day with the great attitude and relentless habit."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: You mentioned the coverages, were they [Raiders] doing something that was causing Pat [Mahomes] to hold the ball a little bit and preventing him from releasing the ball as quickly as usual?**

**Reid:** "Yeah, so they played a little bit of two – cover two, and so that can disrupt your timing a little bit and you have to hang on to it. But that's okay though, it's not a bad thing, I mean as long as you complete the ball, that's the good thing."

**Q: Can you describe how the team handled this news [Kareem Hunt] from the time they got it on Friday until now?**

**Reid:** "Yeah so I thought they did a great job, the locker room in particular. You've got to bank on the strength of your locker room and those veteran players and really some of the young players too. Some from his class, which is a big thing for these players being in the same draft class, so some of the guys from his class, I thought really stepped up and kept things positive within the game and their feelings for Kareem [Hunt] in a different area, they separated those two things."

**Q: The decision to go for it on fourth down with Spencer [Ware], what gave you confidence that you could get that and then how difficult of a decision was it?**

**Reid:** "Yeah so Spence [Spencer Ware] was a high school quarterback and ran the option so we've done that before. [I've] got to give credit to Coach Heck, he called that one and the guys executed. So he designed it and called it and it was a perfect time."

**Q: Andy how crucial was the fumble recovery in the first quarter?**

**Reid:** "Yeah I tell you that was important so any turnovers that you're able to capture, those are good ones."

### Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes

**Q: How different strategically was it without Kareem Hunt?**

**Mahomes:** "It wasn't very different. I thought we kept the same game plan. I thought Spencer [Ware] and Damien [Williams] played really well when called upon. Oakland had a great gameplan for us which made it difficult for us, especially at the beginning of the game. We found ways to adjust and score some points."

**Q: How were you guys able to come through the distractions that occurred the last 48 hours?**

**Mahomes:** "The mindset of this team is whenever you get your opportunity, you make the most of it. I feel like every single game someone else steps up. We kept our mind on that and playing football, the game we have loved since we were little kids to keep this season going."

**Q: The last drive, the third down to Travis Kelce, can you walk us through that?**

**Mahomes:** "First off, the o-line blocked tremendously for me the entire game. They were giving me a lot of extra time. I was able to really extend plays. They were blocking well. Their defense had put a lot of guys in coverage, so they had sort of taken my read delay. I had scrambled out, and the guy almost got me. He kind of baited me like he was going to come up and then he faded back. I got in between running and throwing and I threw it up there. Kelce made plays all day long if I gave him chances. He made a great play on it."

**Q: What did they do defensively to cause you to buy time?**

**Mahomes:** "They have a lot of talented guys on that team. They were doing a good job of putting a lot of guys in coverage, guys like Tyreek [Hill], the fast guys. So other guys stepped up and made plays. Once I settled myself down, I was kind of trying to do too much at the beginning of the game, I took what they gave me, kind of like we've been doing all season long and guys made a lot of plays."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: Did you have to work to stay focused?**

**Mahomes:** "Not necessarily. You saw everything. At the same time, in this league, it moves fast. You have to make sure you're ready for every single week. There are no off weeks. I was glad to get back on the football field. We had been on a bye week after a loss, so to get out here and get a win against a team that you've had a historic rivalry with is always a good win."

**Q: You didn't feel like you had to take any measures to get everyone together and reset the last couple of days?**

**Mahomes:** "We've been trying to get ready for the Raiders, that's the biggest thing. We knew it was going to be a tough game in any circumstance. Just playing a team like this who is going to compete at home in a tough environment."

**Q: Do the veterans talk to you guys about situations like this and tell the rookies to talk to them?**

**Mahomes:** "I feel like with this team, we've had that open line of communication. I think the league does a good job of giving us resources. If you utilize those things, you can keep yourself in the right position to play football."

**Q: You and Kareem have a close relationship. What was Friday like for you and have you been able to talk to him?**

**Mahomes:** "I've talked to him. I'll keep it between me and him. We had a close relationship. I saw the stuff that happened and we don't do those things. At the same time, I just focused on our organization, the Chiefs. I know we have to move forward and keep going out there to win football games if we want to have success this season."

**Q: You have seen the video right?**

**Mahomes:** "Yeah having Twitter and stuff like that I have. You have to just keep going. You know this season is a long season and we want to keep having success so I'm focused on the guys here and going out there and winning football games."

**Q: Talk about that complementary football.**

**Mahomes:** "They played their tails off and played great situational football."

### CHIEFS RB SPENCER WARE

**Q: How was it out there for you today?**

**Ware:** "It was good. It was exciting for me. It was good to play with my teammates. We came in here and handled business."

**Q: Have you had a chance to talk to Kareem Hunt since everything went down?**

**Ware:** "No, we had work today. We had business to take care of. So, we tried to stay distraction-free over here."

**Q: Can you describe what it's been like trying to stay distraction free?**

**Ware:** "I mean, there's no try, you just have to do it. We came out here, we played hard, and we had our mistakes. We just have to continue to get better every week."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: There are reports that Patrick Mahomes had a player meeting before the game. Can you tell us anything about that?**

**Ware:** "I don't know who told you that. What we got going on in the locker room is what we got. Regardless the team is close, and we won't let anything that happens on the outside dictate what we have inside."

**Q: How tough is it to not have Kareem Hunt here with you?**

**Ware:** "I mean, that's my brother. It's a tough situation. But like I said, the men in this circle, the men in the locker room, the organization, we all have one goal. That is to win a Super Bowl. So we try to stay distraction free and I don't have anything else to say about that."

**Q: Was it difficult coming off an injury, getting as much playing time as you did?**

**Ware:** "Absolutely. I have been battling all year with the 18 months to 12 months to get back fully. The Chiefs came in, training staff; they've been supporting me. They've been behind me every single play. That's been building my confidence. I thank my teammates and the organization. It makes it easier for me when I'm out there and I can play with people behind me."

### CHIEFS TE TRAVIS KELCE

**Q: Talk about that win and what it means to this team.**

**Kelce:** "You know what, it's a big win for us. You see growth in this win. A lot of leadership, a lot of guys stepped up. Last year, we wouldn't have won this game. Flat out, we lost in on the last play. The offense stepped up; the defense did their thing. Some of them are knocked down and hanging their heads a little bit, but you can't take wins for granted in this league. Especially after what kind of went down during the week, a couple days ago. It's a big win for us."

**Q: What did you say to Kareem Hunt after he was released, if anything?**

**Kelce:** "I haven't spoken to him personally yet, I shot him a text. I let him know that we are thinking of him and that he's always going to be out brother, and to let a few things settle down. He needs to understand some things, how people are viewing him right now. I'll eventually get to him and get in his ear. He knows we love him."

**Q: What do you have to say about the loss last year on the last play?**

**Kelce:** "We blew it in this stadium to that team [Raiders]. It's tough to play in the black hole. For it to be our last game here, it looks like, it's good to get a win."

**Q: Was it quite an adjustment with Kareem Hunt out of the lineup?**

**Kelce:** "I think it was just guys making plays. I didn't have any drops today. There have been times in the past where I had a few drops or didn't have quite as good of a day. But I think our offense will keep leaning on each other. And whoever's time it is to make that play when the opportunity presents itself, will do that."

**Q: Talk about the confidence that this team has in Spencer Ware.**

**Kelce:** "Oh man. We have all the confidence in the world, and in 3-2 [RB Spencer Ware]. He's been doing it for a while now. And he's been a staple for this organization since he's been here. He's worked his tail off to be in the position that he is in. And he got back from an injury last year that set him back. He wasn't allowed to be a part of what we were doing last year. Just to see him back out there having success, bringing the energy every single run that he has because he's a vicious runner. I love him."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: What do you think of Patrick Mahomes being only one of nine guys to throw 40+ touchdowns?**

**Kelce:** "Just a confident guy. I think a lot of it has to do with Coach Reid's trust in him to be able to take full control of this offense. Then there are the guys around him; the offensive line has done an unbelievable job. They've kept him clean, and the times that he's had to get out of the pocket, I mean that's his specialty. SO just being able to make plays when the plays need to be made; that's Patty Mahomes."

**Q: Someone said Kelce and Mahomes must live together. What is it with you two and your connection?**

**Kelce:** "No. I think Pat is trying to find a home right now. I gave him a few pointers on where he should live. But that's as close as we have gotten. I think that this entire offense is very close. It's the closest it's been since I've been here. We all like to enjoy each other's company that's for sure."

### KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WR CHRIS CONLEY

**Q: Did you guys have to man together this game to get in your rhythm considering the circumstances the last 48 hours?**

**Conley:** "I don't think I would attribute it to that. I think we had a little bit of a slow start in all phases and we had to get things together coming off a bye and with the things happening we just had to pick things up. We came into the locker room at half time and made adjustments and had to go out there and really battle for a game like that. We're not really satisfied with the result but it's a win."

**Q: Is it good for you guys to have this kind of win where you had to scrap it out till the end?**

**Conley:** "I think wins like this are sobering. They allow us to go back to the drawing board and realize that there are still areas to improve. There's a lot of tape for us to go over today. Obviously we came out with the win but there's a lot of things that didn't go the way that we wanted them to go. A lot of plays we didn't execute and we have to finish stronger."

**Q: Do you guys have to do anything in particular in the wake of Kareem's situation?**

**Conley:** "I don't think that we really change anything. The way that we've approached it all year is the way that we are going to continue to approach it. It's next man up. That's just the way that we are here and that's the way that we practice. We're going to keep approaching it like that and it's about this next game."

**Q: You had a big game as well. Can you take us through your touchdown?**

**Conley:** "We just had a little bit of a stack look. Tyreek on the point. Tyreek went straight to the flat and naturally the defense flowed to him and I was wide open. It wasn't really that hard. Laser of a ball from Pat and we were able to score on it."

**Q: The Raiders clawed back into this one. What's going through your guys' minds on that final drive when you guys are able to comeback and convert?**

**Conley:** "For us on offense it's just about finishing the day. This obviously wasn't a pretty win for us. We had a lot of drives that we didn't finish. We had a lot of drives we didn't extend and in that fourth quarter when we got the chance to do that we said hey if it's got to happen anytime, it's got to happen now."

**Q: Obviously Kareem is not here anymore. You had that confidence in Kareem. Do you still have that confidence in Spencer Ware?**

**Conley:** "100%. Spencer Ware has been here. Spencer Ware has made those plays. Spencer Ware has won games for the Kansas City Chiefs so we have no doubts in his ability and in what he can do. We just expect him to step in and step up."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: When you first found out about Kareem, what was your reaction?**

**Conley:** "It was a little bit of shock. With the things going on, it came at us pretty fast here but life moves fast and it doesn't wait for anybody. I've reached out to him and I'm hoping he can the help that he needs and that he can grow as a man and really the focus is on Kareem as a person, not the football player right now."

**Q: What was the impact for you in regards to the news about Kareem?**

**Conley:** "For me, obviously Kareem being a friend of mine, the impact is just that, knowing Kareem as a person, I didn't think about football or how it would have an impact on this locker room or on our season at all because obviously this is secondary, and life is first. He has some things that he needs to learn and some time that he needs to take for reflection and I think he's going to do that and hopefully he has those people around him in that circle that are going to help him through that."

**Q: What was it like playing a game without him today?**

**Conley:** "It was just another game for us really. I think Spencer Ware stepped up and he had some big plays. Damien Williams had some big plays today too. We really on those guys as well. They were prepared and as an offense I think we all need to get better. We need to open up some of those lanes for them as well. We weren't very strong in the run game today and I think most of that was on us on the perimeter blocking and we can be better at that."

**Q: What impresses you most about Patrick Mahomes and his development as a quarterback?**

**Conley:** "I think Patrick is such a gamer. They played some stuff today that they haven't really played this season but they were ready to play this for us really taking away some of his options downfield. Making him wait. Making him take some throws in the zones underneath and he was able to adjust to that. He was able to use his legs and extend some of those plays and ultimately extend drives."

### KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WR TYREEK HILL

**Q: What was it like to play the first time without Kareem?**

**Hill:** "Obviously it's tough but at the end of the day and produce each and every week no matter who is missing. We just have to come out and keep doing what we did today. Fight through adversity and keep making plays."

**How were you guys able to cut out the distractions that have gone on the past 48 hours?**

**Hill:** "I think Coach Reid does a tremendous job helping us with that stuff. He just told us to put our head down and grind. That's what I've been doing. That's what this whole team has been doing. We are very fortunate to have great leaders on this team."

**Q: Did you guys have a player only meeting or anything like that before the game today?**

**Hill:** "No we did not"