



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders S Erik Harris

Q: Considering the path you have taken to get to this point in your career, is there a certain measure of validation for you in signing this contract?

Harris: "I mean, yeah. It's been a long journey and I think the validation is just continue to work hard no matter what it takes to get to where you want to be."

Q: What does this contract mean to you and your family, knowing that you have security of knowing where you will be the next two years?

Harris: "It's huge because I was up in Canada for three years, so every six months I was moving from Canada back to the United States. After I got released by the Saints I got picked up by the Raiders – just a lot of instability. My family, they've been staying in Louisiana when I've been in Oakland. Just to have the stability and just know that my kids are set up for life, it's just life changing."

Q: I think I saw that you weren't able to really enjoy the moment because your children were sick, is that correct?

Harris: "Oh, man. So, it was eight or nine o'clock at night, we're trying to get a family picture, get everybody together, put jerseys on people and have a picture of me signing, send the contract over. We ran out of ink in the printer, so then a friend saves us and prints it off for me, runs it over to our house, I sign it, scan it to send it in. The scanner is not connecting to the computer, so that's not working. It's 11:30 p.m., I'm trying to figure it out. Finally sent it over, get to bed around 12:30 a.m., wake up about three in the morning to my son throwing up all over the stairs. Then the other twin starts throwing up. Yeah, it's been great. *(laughter)* My wife found a puppy yesterday at Sam's Club's parking lot. Somebody had just left puppies in the parking lot, so my wife being the animal lover that she is, she brings the puppy home. So, we have a puppy at home that's peeing and pooping in the house, kids throwing up, printer and scanner aren't working. *(laughter)*"

Q: Will your family stay in Louisiana for the upcoming season?

Harris: "They'll come out and visit, but we're looking to start settling down in Florida actually, become residents in Florida. We're going to try to stick with the warm weather. I'm from P.A. (Pennsylvania), I'm tired of the snow."

Q: What was your timeline in terms of signing with the Raiders?

Harris: "I mean, we knew there was interest and we wanted to try to get something done. In the past five years this is probably the best safety free agency group there has been, and I knew that, and I took that into consideration. I also took into consideration the way the locker room and the organization views my character. I'll be 29, so I took that into consideration. Money isn't everything. Obviously, it's nice and this is life-changing for my family but being somewhere where people respect you for your character and leadership – that means a lot more to me as well."

Q: What does it feel like to be able to perform in front of Raiders fans one more time?

Harris: "I'm thrilled to be back. I'm glad we are working something out to play one more year in Oakland and I'm really excited to be staying in the Silver and Black."

Q: Are you going to be monitoring what the team does in free agency?

Harris: "I'll be looking around, but there is nothing I can control. What I can control is how I prepare right now in the offseason and continue to try to be a leader within the locker room. I know my role and I'll do whatever they ask me to, so whatever they think of me and whatever role they ask me to fill, that's what I'll do."

Q: What are the ages of your four children?

Harris: "The twin boys are five, my little girl, she's two and then we have a five-month boy. I left that out. He peed on me this morning. I was changing his diaper and he peed all over the bed, so there are lots of covers to wash."



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Q: What did the fresh start last season and to have your role defined by your ability mean to you?

Harris: "It was huge. The first thing when I got to Oakland, I just kind of walked in and this league is all about timing and opportunities. There is a ton of guys out there on the street right now that can play. They probably just didn't get the opportunities. It was great to have a fresh start, new faces as far as the coaches and everybody kind of had a clean slate. It was huge that they believed in me and that I made the most of my opportunities in OTA's to kind of put myself in a position to have some playing time on defense."