



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Some tough stories coming out of the North Bay. Thoughts and prayers for the people that are affected up there, lives that were lost. It’s a pretty devastating fire and series of events taking place up there, so hopefully we can get those flames out and things can settle back down and people can start rebuilding. Our thoughts are there, thoughts are prayers for the people that are affected up there.”

“We look forward to Chargers week, division opponent. They are playing good football. They’ve been in close games throughout and they’re doing a great job of sacking the quarterback. Philip Rivers remains one of the top quarterbacks in the league and does a great job with their offense, so big challenge coming in.”

Q: Is there any concern about practicing in this air quality?

Coach Del Rio: “We think we’re OK to work today in this. We’re monitoring the different levels of smoke that is here and we’re going to make sure we do the right things with our guys.”

Q: How do you monitor it?

Coach Del Rio: “I don’t, so I can’t really answer scientifically how it’s being done, but we’ve got people that are checking all the data.”

Q: In hockey when teams need to win a game, they say that the more desperate team will win the game. Is there an analogy here with these two teams that really need a victory this weekend?

Coach Del Rio: “Perhaps. I know for us, it’s a division game, which makes it big already. Obviously, we need a win. For me, it’s about us preparing, coming out there and playing good football. That’s all we want to be about is play good football. Whatever it takes to get you motivated, for us, we recognize the need. We need it pretty bad. If there’s a desperation meter, we want it pretty bad.”

Q: Will you be watching Derek Carr today or his he good to go in your mind?

Coach Del Rio: “Always watch our quarterbacks very carefully. We think he’s ready to go. We’ll see how practice goes and monitor as we go through the week, but I think things are encouraging.”

Q: Is there anything that still surprises you about how impressive Philip Rivers continues to be year after year?

Coach Del Rio: “Not really. I’ve seen him long enough. I’ve got a lot of respect for him. I think he does a heck of a job. Even when he’s had receivers hurt in the past, he’s just always remained very dangerous and really a capable guy. Now, obviously he has receivers all healthy and they’re doing a great job once again. He leads the way with the way he can read defenses, get them in a good play and throw the ball.”

Q: How does Joey Bosa compare to some of the other pass rushers you guys have faced?

Coach Del Rio: “[Melvin] Ingram and Bosa both are big challenges. Different styles. Sometimes the pair them together and they work together in combinations, but they’re both very good at what they do. To me, they’re two guys you need to know about.”

Q: What are the challenges when they do put them together?

Coach Del Rio: “Obviously, you are taking two really good players and putting them on one side. You’d like to be able to give each of them some attention. It makes it harder to do when they put them on one side.”

Q: With Derek Carr’s injury, does it give you any extra pause going up against two elite pass rushers like that? Does it make you think a second longer about if he can go or not?

Coach Del Rio: “No. We have to make good decisions, sound decisions, for the quarterback, for all of our players or for Derek in this particular case. Nothing changes. If the doctors give him the green light and he’s prepared to play well and protect himself, then he’s going to go.”



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Q: Did you see some encouraging things from the running game against Baltimore?

Coach Del Rio: "Sure. There were definitely good things that occurred that we want to build on and go forward with. I think for us, we started to move the ball on third downs, better conversions. You convert on third, you're going to get more opportunities to run it. I thought for the most part, we did a better job of running it. Even despite getting down in the last game, I thought we stayed with it and didn't abandon the run, which was good to see."

Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: Are you playing Sunday?

Carr: "We'll see. I was ready to play last week in my head. I think that's how I always think. We'll let coach make that decision. My job is to show up every day. Nothing changes for us. He monitors the quarterbacks like he does every day, just like he does each position. We'll go from there. My job doesn't change. I just have to go out there and practice hard, show him that I'm ready."

Q: How have your symptoms declined or stayed the same over the last couple of days?

Carr: "I mean it just hurts. There's really nothing much more to it. It just hurts. It's not like anything that's like, 'Oh man, if I take a hit, I'm worried.' It's not like a worry. It's just one of those things you have to deal with. Just like everybody in the NFL right now."

Q: Do you have to wear any extra protection or padding?

Carr: "You know we've talked about it. We've talked about putting something on there. Maybe. Just depends how it feels going through the week. It's nothing where I think I need to right now to protect it or anything like that. I'm really not worried about it."

Q: With your situation, is it one that wouldn't be made considerable worse by taking a blow?

Carr: "You know, I think anytime you take a hit like that there's always a chance for anything. That's the risk that we take every time we take the field. It's a violent game that we play. More violent than people realize just watching on TV. But with that said, it's a risk every single week. You could get hit. You could break your ankle, too. You could break your finger. You could do a lot of things. It's just one of those things. You take a risk every time you go out there."

Q: Are you restricted on making any types of throws because of your situation?

Carr: "No. If it was restrictive, I wouldn't put my teammates in a bad spot. That's for sure."

Q: What were you expecting from the initial diagnosis?

Carr: "I knew it hurt really bad. I'll be honest with you, it hurt so bad that I was like, 'I kind of hope it's something rather than a muscle.' I hope my pain tolerance is a little better than that and sure enough it was. When I first hurt it, I was shocked. First of all, I didn't even know what that was, I think like a lot of people. My brother actually did the same thing. It's good to have a big brother that has broke his back also."

Q: Tony Romo and Cam Newton have also had this injury and were back within a week. Did you reach out to either of them?

Carr: "No, no, no. I have my own doc. I have our trainers and our doctors here. Anything that ever goes on, those are the people that I cling to."

Q: What was it that gave you the confidence to push to play?

Carr: "The thing that pushed me to want to play is I wanted to win. I wanted to show my teammates and my coaches that no matter what I'm going to do anything I can for my team. Show our city and our organization that it doesn't



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matter what happens, I'm going to do everything I can to be out there. Those are the things that motivated and pushed me. It wasn't like a moment or anything like that. Those were the things from as soon as I was told and heard it could be up to six weeks, I said, 'OK, we'll see.' Maybe there's something wrong with me. Maybe there's something wrong in my head that thinks, 'No, I can come back faster than that.' I don't know. I serve a big God. I'm glad that he can help me there."

Q: What did you see from the sideline last week that you guys need to improve on offense?

Carr: "We just have to be efficient. I'm sitting there watching the game, when you watch it from the sideline it's really hard. To sit there and see certain looks and see things going on with all those kind of things. I think that if we can just be efficient, and each man has to do their job. We talked about that, actually before I got hurt. When we went into the Denver game I couldn't do too much. I'm just going to do my job. Take what they give us and when the big plays are there, you make them. I think that goes for everybody. If each man just does their job and doesn't worry about anything else, I think we'll be better off."

Q: This is kind of a make or break week for the team. Does that factor into your decision making at all?

Carr: "I don't think it's ever a make or break week to be honest until it's really eliminating."

Q: But you understand the importance of this game?

Carr: "Yeah, but it's never... Any athlete will tell you that, but I do understand the importance of every game. That's why I tried so hard to get back for last week."

Q: Why were you apologetic to Coach Del Rio about your injury? Was it because of the offensive struggles?

Carr: "It was just my love for this team. When I found out, I just told him, 'I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I won't be 100 percent right now.' I felt bad because I care so much about this team and this organization that even though I had a broken back I still felt bad that I couldn't be out there to help because as you guys know, I sat there for two games last year and had to watch knowing there's nothing I could do to help. It is a lonely feeling. It hurts because I see the sacrifice all my teammates make and I just want to be out there to help them because I believe that I can."

Q: Do you see opportunities to get the run game going this week?

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. Watching the run plays from the Baltimore game, you can see like, oh man, we're doing some really good things. Then you can see a couple where man, we're a hair away. We're just a right step away or a footwork away or a quarterback boot away. I think a couple in the Denver were, man if my boot was better or if I could hold the backside guy. I always see those kind of things too, where maybe it'd be a bigger play. We see some good stuff, but we also see some 5-, 6-, 7-yarders that could be 12-, 15-, 20-yarders. I think that's what motivates us and pushes us throughout the week."

Q: How do you explain the lack of production from Amari Cooper?

Carr: "You know, I really don't know. It's one of them things. He's ran some really good routes, to be honest. He's ran some good routes. He's obviously put some on the ground that he's wanted back. I've missed him a couple of times. I think everyone on our team is a little frustrated at something. That's just one thing. The frustration, that part of it is what we have to get rid of. We just have to go out and let it loose. I don't think there's one thing where it's like, hey, it's this or it's that that leads to that. I think if we can go out there and cut it loose and just trust what we have and what God gave us, I think we'll be better going forward."

Q: Is it easy to say, 'They have to get Cooper the ball,' from the outside looking in?

Carr: "Yeah, I mean obviously it's a lot harder, and they know, it's a lot harder to do when you're on the field. They know that. Obviously, outside looking in we feel the same way. We want to get it to him, too and all those things. They're right. They're definitely right that we want to get it to him. But at the same time, we can't force something and try to be something that's not there also at the same time."



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Q: When you see Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram on tape does your back flare up a little bit?

Carr: "No. No, no, no. *(laughing)* They know how I feel about them. They know I think the world of them. Obviously, I've played Ingram a couple of more times than I played Bosa. We always enjoy competing against one and another. It's just one of those rivalries that it's fun. Obviously, they're probably sitting there in their meeting rooms, 'We have to hit him in the back,' and all those things. *(laughing)* I think we'll be alright."

Q: Even before you went out, the offense was stalling. In a weird way, with you sitting out, does it help diagnosis what's going wrong?

Carr: "You look back at Washington and I felt like that was an anomaly. Then you look back at the Denver game. We actually did some really good things against a really, really good defense. We had a chance to win the game at the end. Against that defense, that's all you can ask for is a chance to win. Then I look back, me sitting there watching. Anybody sitting there watching, standing there not inside the lines can be like, 'Oh man, that looks good or this looks good.' You have to go out there and do it. It did help in a sense for my body to have seven more days of rest, but mentally I'm still locked in. I prepared for that game like it was the Super Bowl. Just like I do for all of them. Nothing changes mentally, I think more physically I think just another seven days coach felt was good for me."

Q: How much do you notice the poor air quality when you're practicing?

Carr: "The air, it smells like someone's barbequing to be honest. That's what I thought. I didn't know that it would travel like that. My heart really goes out to the families though. When something like that happens and then someone tells you what it really is, you just sit there and think you're fortunate, you're blessed. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the families that have lost houses, loved ones. That kind of stuff, that's real life. That's hard. Being 2-3 is not hard when we really think about it. Doing that kind of stuff, that's what's really hard. Our prayers are with them that they can have peace and encouragement."



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Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn Conference Call

Q: What was it like as a staff coming home from your first win this past Sunday?

Coach Lynn: “It was nice. We all felt like we needed to get that first win. We feel like the guys need to see the fruit of the labor and then hopefully they’ll come in bunches. But, you have to go out the following week, you have to prepare and focus and go do it all over again.”

Q: What do you need to see improve with your run defense and what do you expect going up against guys like Marshawn Lynch and Jalen Richard?

Coach Lynn: “Well, the run defense has to improve quickly, because they have a superior offensive line and they have a really good backfield and a quarterback that can deliver the ball down the field to some weapons at wide receiver. So, I mean, not just the run defense but the defense has its hands full with a lot of different matchups. We have to be stouter versus the run this year and we plan on it.”

Q: Do you believe using Melvin Ingram as a true defensive lineman has elevated his game?

Coach Lynn: “Well, I think he was poised to take his game to another level either way. He got his contract, you know he’s going to be a Charger for a long time, he works his tail off, his skillset with his work ethic, he has a chance to be as good as he wants to be. So, I’m not sure if it’s the scheme or what, but I believe no matter what scheme was in he would be highly productive right now just because of the person that he is. Now his coach is outstanding, [defensive line coach] Giff Smith, just being around him for the first time and watching him coach and seeing how he handles his players, he’s outstanding. So I know Melvin has benefited from that as well. He’s just a tremendous player.”

Q: With so many close games not going your way again this year, how do you change that mindset?

Coach Lynn: “Well, every play matters. Going into a game, you can’t waste plays. You can’t always come down to a last-second field goal or a drive. When you get guys thinking like that in the first quarter, I think you tend to play with a little more urgency. We’re trying to get to that point. Thank God we were able to do it last week.”

Q: Does having Ingram and Joey Bosa up front allow you to be creative?

Coach Lynn: “Yeah, because as an offensive line, you either block five one-on-ones or you slide the line to one way and you go one-on-one with one of those guys. So, you know during the course of a game they’re going to get their opportunities and that’s all you can ask for; opportunities to go one-on-one and win. We feel like we have a good situation because two good edge rushers. But I’ll tell you, the Oakland Raiders can say the same thing, you know? They have two really good edge rushers. They present the same problems to us that we’re going to present to them.”

Q: I don’t think anybody has expected to see the Raiders score 37 points in the last three games. Do you expect to get their best on Sunday?

Coach Lynn: “Well, I’m expecting them to be at their best and I saw them last year up close and personal in Oakland when we had a three-score lead in the third quarter and they came back and beat us in the fourth quarter. I know all too well exactly what they can do and how fast they can strike. What happened the last five weeks, that means nothing when it comes to Sunday.”

Q: What is your level of expectation for Derek Carr’s status and are you preparing for EJ Manuel as a possibility?

Coach Lynn: “Yeah, I just assume he’s going to play. That’s the way I have to look at it and he’s a competitor. He’s one of the leaders on that team and I know that if he can be out there, he will be out there. But if not, then EJ’s a fine quarterback – very familiar with him. I know he can lead the team down the field and win too.”

Q: Do you think the speed you have on the outside could work in your advantage this Sunday?

Coach Lynn: “Well you know, we have one speed guy in Travis Benjamin. But, people know how to play him. We do a good job, [offensive coordinator] Ken Whisenhunt does a good job of scheming for Travis to get behind the



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secondary. So we'll continue to try to do that. I'm sure they know, they're very familiar with his speed and most teams have a plan for him. But, their secondary is pretty good. I think they have two of the better safeties in our game. I don't think anyone has more interceptions than [Reggie] Nelson in the last two years and [Karl] Joseph is ahead at his position. I'm sure they'll be ready for us, but we'll have a plan."

Q: What do you see from Amari Cooper when you study him?

Coach Lynn: "You know, like I said I look at his whole body of work. I just know he's one of the better run-after-the-catch guys in this league at the position. He can stretch and take the top off a defense. I saw what he did last year to us and I know that he's capable of that. He hasn't forgotten how to play football and they haven't forgotten how to get him the football. I feel like our hands are going to be full."

Chargers DE Joey Bosa Conference Call

Q: How much of a benefit is it to have a second strong pass rusher to go along with yourself on the team?

Bosa: "It's huge, for team's not to be able to focus on one or the other one of us. I think it's big. Coming into games, disrupting offenses, having contrasting styles of pass rushing across each other I think is something that works in our favor when we're switching sides and guys don't really know what to expect."

Q: What does it do when you line up on the same side?

Bosa: "I think it's just a different look that may cause some trouble for some offensive linemen. We're just trying to get that two-on-two matchup, obviously. I think it just shoes a different look and gets the O-line thinking."

Q: Do you guys borrow techniques from each other?

Bosa: "I wouldn't say much until recently. We both like different moves that the other one is doing and we're slowly trying to add to our repertoire. It's fun. We're pretty different when it comes to how we pass rush, so it's good having a guy that has completely different moves than you."

Q: Do you look at other pass rushers from around the league and take stuff from them, like Khalil Mack or anyone else?

Bosa: "We're always watching film. We've got the sacks of the week in our D-line room. We always watch around the league. I wouldn't say that I study anyone specifically, I just study myself and try to correct what I know how to do."

Q: With your pass rush being so strong, do you feel that teams are going to rush the ball more until you can figure out how to stop it?

Bosa: "The message every week is stop the run and then get after the passer, but obviously when you can't do that it's going to cause some trouble for us. They're going to be able to run playaction and other sorts of things when we can't stop the run game. It's definitely an emphasis going into this week and every week."

Q: From the outside, people say this is a good pass rush going after a quarterback with a bad back. What's your reaction to that?

Bosa: "It's the Raiders and the Chargers, it's always going to be a big game. Huge rivalry. Guys on each team really bring out the best when it comes to this game. It's kind of a win or kind of go home mentality for us now that we have these four losses. We need to start racking wins up. It's a huge game for both guys. I heard quotes of Carr saying he would have played last week if he needed to. He's a tough guy. I'm sure when he's out there he's going to be making plays. It's still the same guy that just got the biggest contract in NFL history so."



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Q: How has it been down there? 0-4 is hard in any organization.

Bosa: "I think we know that we're a talented group. There's a lot of hardworking guys that want to win games. To be able to pull out a close game after taking four tough, close losses was huge for us. We knew it was coming if we kept working at it. I think getting the reward is big for our team to keep working toward the goal we have. Guys never started pointing fingers or got down on themselves. They were in here Monday after each loss ready to work. Says a lot about the team."

Q: How did you do with that?

Bosa: "It's definitely tough. There's no way around it. Obviously expectations coming in aren't 0-4. It's something that you just have to look past. Learn from it, obviously don't forget about it, but move on to the next week. It's not really something we dwell on."

Q: When he gets healthy, what are the Raiders going to have in Gareon Conley, based on your observation of him at Ohio State?

Bosa: "A rangy athlete that can make some crazy plays on the ball. What's wrong with him? I didn't hear."

Q: He has a shin injury and has been inactive the last two weeks.

Bosa: "Oh OK. I think once he gets healthy you'll have a playmaker on the ball. You could always look to him to shut down big receivers when we were playing in big games."

Q: Who do you think the closest back to Marshawn Lynch you've ever tackled is?

Bosa: "Playing [LeGarrette] Blount this year was maybe you could say was similar with the power, and I had a few missed tackles on him trying to wrap him up with my arms, it wasn't even close. He's the best at what he does. He's got a lower body that doesn't stop working, so you have to wrap his legs up and roll him to get him down."

Q: When you're playing a quarterback who has a bad back, do you put more emphasis on giving him a couple shots here and there?

Bosa: "I don't think that's really a mindset, at least of mine, to ever injure a player. I wouldn't say I'm trying to hit a quarterback more than any other day. I'm always trying to hit them as much as I can."

Q: What have you seen from Mike Williams on the practice field?

Bosa: "I haven't really seen much but that's because I haven't been looking. When I see him walking around, he's a physical presence. I see him running routes and catching balls. I think if we can get him healthy and playing at a high level, he'll be a very dangerous option for Phil [Rivers]."

Q: What have your impressions been of the offensive line?

Bosa: "They're a great offensive line. Big, mauling offensive line that can move you off the ball. Even for big guys they move relatively well. I wouldn't really point out one matchup in particular but I think it's going to be a good game, a good battle between two lines."

Q: Have you seen anything a little bit different from Melvin Ingram this year?

Bosa: "I think he's using his hands better, but I'm not seeing any big change. I think what you guys are seeing was always there. If you look back at how many missed sacks he had over the last couple of years, he would probably be leading the league in sacks. We have him in the D-line room, which is great. He was with the outside linebackers last year, so having him with the D-line and working those techniques of pass rushing with your hands and I think he's refining his technique as a pass rusher. I think the play you guys are seeing has always been there."