



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Todd Downing

Q: What takeaways did you have from the Washington game?

Coach Downing: "Just have a lot of areas that are room for improvement. We're excited to take the next step and get back on track."

Q: It seemed like they knew what you were doing ahead of time.

Coach Downing: "I don't think so. I don't think so. I just think it was a matter of execution and not really staying ahead of schedule and staying ahead of the chains."

Q: What have you seen this week in terms of response from the offensive line?

Coach Downing: "I don't think any position watched that Washington game and felt like we put our best foot forward, so we're just really looking forward to getting to our identity and coming out and playing good, clean, solid, high-effort, high-finish football."

Q: How would you describe Derek Carr's play against Washington?

Coach Downing: "You guys know how prideful of a worker he is. He's worked really hard this week to clean up some things and do his part. That's permeated our whole offense. Nobody has looked at that game as I said, and thought, 'Man, I'm really pleased with what I put on tape.' Everybody from Derek all the way down to quality control coaches has looked for ways to improve. That's going to be what propels us going forward."

Q: Why was Marshawn Lynch only out there for a third of the snaps? Is that just the way the game flowed?

Coach Downing: "Yeah, it's a little difficult to stay in your normal game plan when you go 0-for-11 on third downs. When you're behind the sticks on second down and all of that. It kind of threw us out of rhythm out of plan a little bit, but Marshawn knows he's a big part of what we want to do offensively. We look forward to using him."

Q: Do you have to warn your receivers to not get caught up in talk on field with opposing secondary or is that just part of football?

Coach Downing: "You know, it's definitely part of football. I didn't see or hear any of the stuff that he was talking about. I don't pay too much attention to it, respectfully. We're at our best when we just go do our job. If we keep the blinders on and just stay focused on our job and executing our techniques, we're going to be alright."

Q: Do you change your calls with Bill Musgrave being on the opposing sideline?

Coach Downing: "No, we've adjusted enough schematically and verbiage-wise. We don't really pay attention to who's on the other sideline as much as we do just doing our job to the best of our ability."

Q: As a play caller, did you feel comfortable with your rhythm?

Coach Downing: "I'll tell you, we alluded to it earlier, but when you're not able to sustain drives and when you're not able to stay on schedule on first down, it kind of throws everything out of wack a little bit. Whether it be the types of plays you can call to be successful or the personnel groupings that you can run out there. We look forward to this next week to staying on schedule better and opening up the game plan a little bit."

Q: If you do too much to try to stop Von Miller, does the rest of the defense get to take advantage?

Coach Downing: "We have a luxury in that department in that we have No. 52 [Khalil Mack] on our team, who gives us a pretty darn good look at that kind of stuff in training camp and OTAs. Really talented guys that give us looks on the show team and such as well. We feel like we have a good plan. We excited to go out and execute it."



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Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: What did you see on the third-and-19 play? What went wrong?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Ah, shoot. You work so hard to win on first down. Then get them in second-and-long. Then anytime you get them in third-and-long, we’re like jumping for joy. You never expect something like that to happen. I think everything went wrong on that play. I think everybody really understood. We had our third-and-long plan, just wasn’t execute very well. It’s just a matter of just execution. As we go through a lot of our third-down situations, as we really dissect it and take it apart piece by piece, it’s all about us and execute and doing the things right. Guys are in the right place. It’s about making plays and execution. I think that is our next step. We’ll look at our growth. We’ll look at our progress. A lot of really good things that we’re doing and there’s still more. There’s still more. That’s the great thing about it. As hard as we’re working, there are a few things more. Once we get those under wraps, those third down thing, I think everybody will be very happy with the end result.”

Q: How much does the familiarity factor into the game with Menelik Watson and Bill Musgrave being in Denver?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “I think the familiarity part of it, it really heightens as big of a game as it is and our rivalry, it really shows the closeness in the players and the coaches and the guys really know each other and spend some time together. Competition and bragging rights and guys really working hard, really have a great place in this game, but at the same time, it comes down to execution. They are who they are and we are who we are. It’s a matter of really working hard. Understanding we’re on the road in a hostile environment with a really good team, just like we were last week. We have to bring a lot of energy and bring a lot of defense.”

Q: What do you think about getting together with opponents and trading secrets like at Von Miller’s camp?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Well at that point in the offseason, it’s not opponents. It’s just really good, high talented skilled people and players getting together and kind of sharing notes. Learning from one another. The only way you get better is continue to learn and grow and progress. It’s just hats off to how competitive they are that at the top of their game, Khalil Mack and these top rushers are at the top of their game and still trying to get better. That’s what you want. For them to all get together and share notes and work together and find ways to help each other become better players and look more skilled, that’s an amazing thing.”

Q: Do you ever work out with other players on other teams?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Oh absolutely. A lot of times in your hometown in the offseason, a lot of guys workout together. You want to workout with guys who are skilled and do things very similar to what you do. A lot of film that is watched. You share different ways and tools in how to use your hands, your feet, your mind, film study. Different techniques. A lot of things that you share.”

Q: You see the players making plays, but it’s hard to get the players off the field. That’s the next step?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Well the step is, like I said, there’s so many different situations of the game that you have to master. Our situation that we’re talking about now is third down. After just really watching it and going through all the film and really trying to dissect it and take it apart, it’s a matter of our guys making plays and executing the defense. I think we all know that. They all know that. That’s why we’re out here doing all the work that we’re doing. We’re doing so many good things. So many good things on first down and second down. Our missed tackles were the second less missed tackles in the league. Our guys really focused, working really hard. The progress and the growth that you see from day one to now is amazing. What’s next? Next is third down. Let’s master that.”

Q: What have you seen out of Nicholas Morrow this week?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “It’s a competitive league and competitive team. If he’s playing more, that means he’s out playing someone else. He’s a guy that really, with his speed, his smarts, his ability to work together with Cory James and the rest of the group, we have a high expectation of him. He has a high expectation of himself. We’re excited about his growth. Same time, he’s really young. A lot of things that he’s seeing is for the first time. We’re going to continue to coach him. He’s showing up every day, excited, ready to go.”



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Q: Did you like his cover skills coming in?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "At his age, they're going to grow. They're going to get better. He's going to cover tight ends better. He's going to blitz better. He's going to have his pass progression better to read different formations. Everything is going to get better for him. This league is a lot different than the league he just came from in college. It's going to be a learning curve for him. He's pretty high level learning curve to be playing and starting on our nickel team or our sub team for the Oakland Raiders. He's pretty good."