



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Q: What did you take away from the three days of mini-camp?

Coach Del Rio: "I think for us the biggest thing is to continue what we've been doing. In the mini-camp setting, what we really try to do is show them what a typical day in camp is going to be like. So when we came back on Tuesday and worked in the afternoon with the walk-through and what that would look like in training camp, the structure of it. I think we did a great job, as a group of men, really understanding what the Raider way looks like. With the young guys, we really have to teach them. I think the veterans have done a great job of stepping up with that leadership part. It's one of the questions we had coming into this offseason, right? Who is going to replace 'C-Wood' [Charles Woodson]? Who is going to replace Justin Tuck? We had guys stepping forward. Khalil Mack and Derek [Carr], obviously, two guys that are stepping forward, but guys like Bruce Irvin, guys like Sean Smith, Rodney [Hudson], those guys have been filling that void and doing a great job."

Q: What have you seen from the duo of David Amerson and Sean Smith and the rest of the corner group?

Coach Del Rio: "They're long. They're aggressive. I think they've done a nice job of developing and working and sharpening their skill level. We're really pleased with those guys. Really, DJ Hayden had a really good spring. He really did. He got a little tweak yesterday, but nothing major. I just gave some information. *(laughing)* I'm loosening up. But he's going to be fine in short time, but he had a really good spring. I'm excited about his development. I saw a point earlier in the offseason where Sean was being questioned about the other DBs and I think he said, 'Hey, you have a chance to redefine yourself.' I really believe that. As a player, it's never too late. You can redefine yourself, turn the corner and peel labels off that maybe people have for you and create your own. I feel like he's on his way to doing that this year."

Q: Does playing in the slot fit Hayden's skill?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, he has terrific foot quickness. He's intelligent. Those things are definitely factors that help you in that slot."

Q: What are your early impressions of Jimmy Hall?

Coach Del Rio: "Jimmy's done a nice job, obviously, being out there and healthy and being able to work again. He's a big, physical guy. Seems to be picking up the system well. I agree with you, I think he had a nice spring and I look forward to getting him in pads in training camp. I think for us, overall, our secondary, obviously, with both of our safeties that we added are both on the mend. I think, getting into training camp and getting our secondary on the same page is going to be key for us. That'll be one of the challenges. We've obviously fortified ourselves in the front and we feel like we have in the back end as well. I think as we get into training camp and we're able to come together and gel and spend time working on the nuances of being special, the communications and being on the same page and all those things you have to do in order to be really good in the back end."

Q: Do you think Karl Joseph has had a good experience watching practice while not participating in it?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I mean, we've made the most of the situation. Ideally, he's doing everything right. Short of that, what we can do is we can do the walk-throughs, we can do the meetings, we can spend extra time with him. So, those are things that we've been doing and we'll continue to do. As we go through this period here where they're on their own, it'll be more about physically getting himself in tip-top shape. But, mentally, being able to go back over the tape and being able to spend time [reviewing tape]. It won't be with us, it won't be with coaches, but he can get that done. He can spend time looking at stuff, and I know he will."

Q: Do you still feel good about Joseph being ready for camp?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, yeah. I think we feel good about the whole team coming into camp being ready to work. Obviously, we'll see when we get there, but that's the anticipation, that we'd have a healthy team going into camp."



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Q: Did you have a full attendance for mini-camp?

Coach Del Rio: "We did, yeah. Guys were locked in, doing a great job. I feel like, again I speak to the leadership part, because up until this week it's all been voluntary, but we've had tremendous participation. Really, everybody's been here and they don't have to. It's a situation, where, we ask them to be here and the commitment level is there. That's a good thing for our football team."