



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Wide Receiver Tyrell Williams Press Conference

Q: What was this process like the last few days and why did you end up choosing here?

Williams: "It was definitely long, a little bit stressful, you know? But, it was exciting to finally in that opportunity to be a free agent and kind of go through that process. I think choosing here, seeing 'A.B.' [Antonio Brown] come here and seeing the things they were doing on the offensive side of the ball, it's just excited. Derek's [Carr] an awesome quarterback. Being able to go against those guys for the last four years, it was kind of an easy transition I guess you could say, being able to make that decision."

Q: What does it do for you as a receiver when you have someone else on the offense to take some of the pressure off of you?

Williams: "I think it will be big. I feel like I definitely used these last for years, I tried to take a lot of things from a lot of guys' games. When I first got to the Chargers it was Malcolm [Floyd], I watched a lot of his stuff and then Stevie [Johnson] and then watching Keenan [Allen]. So, I'm excited to learn from 'A.B.' as well as Jordy [Nelson] and just take stuff from their game that I can and I feel like it's going to be able to help take my game to the next level."

Q: Some receivers shy away from going to a team that already has a big-time receiver, did you have the opposite reaction?

Williams: "Yeah, for sure. Everybody wants the ball. If you're a receiver, you obviously want to get as many catches as you can and as many opportunities as you can. I feel like in this offense, all of us are going to get a really good opportunity to get the ball and be able to make plays. If you get the opportunity to learn from one of the best receivers in the game right now, why not do it? I'm definitely excited to take some stuff from his game as well as Jordy, just watching those guys and seeing how they work every day, I'm excited for that."

Q: You said Carr is an awesome quarterback, what makes him that in your estimation?

Williams: "I just think the leadership that he brings. Like I said, going against him for the last four years and just watching how he goes about the game. I watched a lot of film on [Michael] Crabtree when he was here, so I got to see Derek play. He's just a really good leader and the way he just commands the offense is awesome. I'm excited to be a part of that."

Q: Why do you think this team can turn it around this season and have success?

Williams: "Obviously the pieces they're bringing in and [Head Coach Jon] Gruden bringing in his guys and getting that culture together. I think it obviously takes time. I think all of those guys together and then we'll be able to get that chemistry going as time goes. I just think it's an awesome opportunity for all of us."

Q: What did you know about Coach Gruden before signing here and what were your first impressions?

Williams: "I didn't know much. Obviously, as a fan I was a Buccaneers fan that year they went to the Super Bowl and he was coaching, so that's really all I kind of knew of him. But, you obviously know Chucky, Jon Gruden, you see all of the pictures and all of that stuff. So, I feel like it's kind of been the same. My expectation so far has been exactly what I thought. He's been awesome. I'm excited and as well as [General Manager Mike] Mayock, just being around those guys for the little time I have been has been awesome."

Q: Right now with you, Antonio Brown and Jordy Nelson, where do you think this receiving corps ranks in the league?

Williams: "I don't see why we couldn't be [the best]. Obviously, it's going to take some time to get used to each other and get the offense down, but I don't see any reason why we couldn't be the receiving group in the league."

Q: Brown talked a lot about holding the receiving group accountable. How important is that to have a leader like him in the room?



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Williams: "I think it'll be big. Coming from the Chargers I feel like we kind of had the same thing. We all held each other accountable. We wanted to be the best receiving group in the league. So, everybody was holding each other accountable. I know it's going to be the same way here. You see how hard Antonio works. I feel like throughout the season it's going to be the same thing. We're all going to hold each other accountable. We all want to win. We all want to make plays. You have to do your job at the end of the day."

Q: Having you and Brown on the field at the same time, do you think that's going to create a favorable matchup for you? Is that something you're looking forward too?

Williams: "Definitely, definitely. I think that'll be big. Obviously, he's going to command a lot of attention. When they're doubling him, I'll have an opportunity to get a solo. I'm looking forward to that."

Q: Do you see any similarities to Philip Rivers and Derek Carr? They're both clean-speaking, family men, but have an edge on the field.

Williams: "For sure. Phil is kind of crazy when he gets on the field. He's so competitive. Obviously, I have had the chance to play with Derek, but from the outside looking in you can tell he's super competitive and will do anything to win. I know they definitely probably have that in common, the competitiveness. I'm excited to see what it's like, be in the huddle, be in the game, go through everything with him and just see what it's like. You can see how Phil goes crazy sometimes. You see Derek, he's more composed I think in that way, but I definitely think they're both competitors."

Q: Do you know the name of all of his kids?

Williams: "Of Phil's? No (*laughing*). No chance, no way."

Q: Was being close to home part of what drew you to sign with the Raiders?

Williams: "Yeah, for sure. I'm really big with my family and stuff. They're all up in Oregon, some are down in California. Just having them close and be able to come to all the games and just be right here, that was definitely a big draw for me. It's going to be awesome to still be able to have them come to all of the games and be around. My dad grew up in Oakland, is from Oakland. Went to the same high school as Marshawn [Lynch]. I know he's excited. His parents are both passed, but I know for him in that regard he's going to be ecstatic. It's going to be awesome."

Q: As the season was winding down, were the Raiders on your radar or were you too focused on the rest of the season?

Williams: "I mean definitely it's impossible not to think about it. I really wasn't thinking about what teams I would go to. It was more just kind of thinking about what was to come. Since we had made the playoffs, it kind of kept me really focused on how it was my first time going to the playoffs. So, I was pretty focused on that and doing well there and helping us win. I never really thought too much about what teams or anything. It was more just...it's always in the back of your head that free agency is coming."

Q: To start off as an undrafted free agent and get a contract like the one you signed today, how gratifying is that?

Williams: "It's just awesome. Words really can't describe it, being able to hit this mark. One of my goals was just to get to free agency and get a good deal done, coming undrafted, was definitely one of my goals to hit that and be in this moment right now. It's awesome. It's crazy."

Q: Being on the other side of it as a Charger, what was your impression of Raider fans?

Williams: "Definitely crazy. Exciting. One of my favorite games was coming here in 2016 and playing. It was my first time playing in the Coliseum. Just those fans going crazy, the music that they were playing, it was awesome. It was always one of my favorite experiences."



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Q: Was your dad a big Raider fan growing up?

Williams: "He was. Big Raider fan."

Q: Was it hard for him when you were with the Chargers?

Williams: "It was, it was, but he was juiced. You can't go against your son on the team. He was excited, but he's on his way here right now, so I know he's excited."

Q: He's still in Oregon?

Williams: "Yeah, he's up in Oregon now."

Q: You eclipsed 1,000 yards in the 2016 season. What did that show you to be able to be so productive over an entire season?

Williams: "It was big. My rookie year I was mostly on the practice squad so I was really just looking for that opportunity to be able to get on the field and unfortunately Keenan had gotten hurt in that week one game and Stevie had gotten hurt in training camp, so it kind of propelled me into being that starting guy and I just knew I had that opportunity and I couldn't let that opportunity go. It helped a lot obviously having Philip, a great quarterback and the coaches we had were awesome, so it just made it an easy transition. I just didn't want that opportunity to pass by, I wanted to be able to prove that I could play. I was really intentional about every single day doing whatever I could do to the best of my ability on the field."

Q: How do you see yourself complimenting Antonio Brown and Jordy Nelson?

Williams: "For me, personally, I think I'm a guy that can take the top off anytime so that's really what I want to bring, just being able to stretch the field and allow guys to have more stuff underneath. Obviously, it opens up the play action a lot, but I also can do a lot of stuff underneath with my quickness and running routes, so I feel like I'm getting to the point where I can be really a complete receiver. Obviously, that's going to take more and more pressure off other guys. That's my goal every offseason, to sure up the things I feel like I need to get better at and just translate that to the field."

Q: Do you take a lot of pride in your blocking ability as a receiver?

Williams: "Yeah, for sure. Early on my rookie year I kind of got threatened to not be able to play if I didn't block, so I just do not like coming off the field. So, if it's a third-and-one and it's a one receiver set, I want to be that one receiver that's in and trusted to block. A big thing for me is to be a really good blocker because they are blocking for us down the field and I've seen Mel (Melvin Gordon) take big blocks for me when I catch the ball so I want to do the same thing for him. I don't want my guy to be the one that stops an 80-yard touchdown run for him."

Q: Jon Gruden likes receivers to know every position and to be able to move around, is that something that you are able to do?

Williams: "Yeah, I want to be able to play every position. If somebody goes down at any point I want to be able to be that guy that can fill in. I always want to be the one that can play F, X, Z or whatever it is. I always want to be that guy that can play them all."

Q: Did you line up more in the X receiver position with the Chargers?

Williams: "Early on I was an X, played more Z when we got Mike [Williams]. I played F whenever Keenan went down or needed a break, so I feel comfortable anywhere."

Q: Do you remember who the Buccaneers beat when Gruden took them to that Super Bowl?

Williams: "I do, unfortunately. My dad was a Raiders fan, so we were both in the house kind of going at each other."