



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: What have you seen from Darren Waller thus far?

Coach Olson: “Tremendous athlete. I think it’s very rare that you find someone with that height and weight that runs as well as he does. So, he’s got a rare combination of height, speed and the fact that he was a college receiver, he’s got tremendous receiving skills as well. He’s a pretty lucky find.”

Q: What kinds of guy is he to deal with considering his past? He seems very positive and thankful for this chance.

Coach Olson: “Our interactions here with him, he’s been outstanding. Just an outstanding person, been very open and honest about what he’s gone through and I think he’s very deserving of a second opportunity that he’s getting here and I think he’ll make the most of it.”

Q: Will Denzelle Good stay at right guard and what were your impressions of him from last game?

Coach Olson: “That’s the plan right now. Again, we like him. He’s a natural guard. He’s now been in the system here for a couple weeks, so he’s getting more comfortable with that position. But, we see a future for him here at guard.”

Q: Have you gotten more out of Jared Cook than what you thought, or is he exactly what you thought he was? Did you learn things about him that made you say wow?

Coach Olson: “I would probably say the latter. He’s gone beyond what we thought he could do and that was kind of just based off of what he had done in different places with he different teams that he had played for. Some of it was due out of necessity based on where our wide receivers were at. He’s certainly one of our best targets on the field right now, and he just got better throughout the season. Again, we found out that he could do a lot of things very well, much like a wide receiver. Again, he’s really a wide receiver in a tight ends body so we’re fortunate there.”

Q: I would imagine he did some of that stuff in Green Bay at least.

Coach Olson: “And with the Rams, Tennessee. He’s just a great athlete. Again, I think he was maybe not given the opportunities or maybe did not have the quarterback at times. There’s a lot of factors that go into a guy having a season like that and I think it’s a combination of him being paired with Derek [Carr] and some of the injuries that happened at the wide receiver position or lack of playmakers there I think have helped him.”

Q: What do you think the next step is in the growth process for Marcell Ateman?

Coach Olson: “Fortunately for him, he got a lot of experience this year as a rookie, and very few guys get there, especially at where he was drafted. I think experience will help – a chance to go back through and look at the season and dissect every route that he’s ran. I think that will help him tremendously, being here in the offseason program will help him, so nothing but positives in the future for him in regards to that. But I think probably, the most important factor for him this year was getting the experience of playing.”

Q: Do you see Rico Gafford as more of a defensive back or wide receiver and what does he have to offer there?

Coach Olson: “I think we’ll keep him on our side of the ball I believe. Tremendous speed. When you find those late-round picks or street free agents they have to have some redeeming quality and his certainly is his speed. I think he’s one of the fastest players on our team, so we’ll find ways to try and get him on the field and see what he can do once he’s on the field and has the ball in his hands.”

Q: Did he pop out to you guys on scout team?

Coach Olson: “Yeah, you notice that again. I think that’s where you kind of notice some of these young players or some of these rookies, undrafted rookies that you don’t know much about, is on the show team.”



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If you have a good one, usually they'll make one or two plays every week that stand out to you. He's shown some flashes there."

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Q: What have you noticed about Phillip Lindsay when you watch tape?

Coach Guenther: "He's not big by measurements, but he plays big. He's strong, keeps his feet active and he's a good cutback runner. He's good on the perimeter and they utilize him in the passing game. He's been a good surprise for them and I'm not surprised, after playing him earlier in the year, that he is having the kind of year that he is."

Q: With all the Broncos injuries on offense, how different is the preparation for facing them this time around?

Coach Guenther: "Well, obviously, they are a little different at receiver. They got young guys in there now and couple new tight ends. It's a little bit different but when I looked at our tape there were some guys on our film that, when we were playing them last time, are different too. You just got to prepare for the guys you see on the tape currently, and I'm sure they are doing the same."

Q: Where have you seen growth from your young middle linebackers?

Coach Guenther: "I think [Jason] Cabinda has done a pretty good job in the base. He had a couple errors in the ball game the other day which we got to get cleaned up. [Nicholas] Morrow, he's a guy that has been playing a lot of snaps in both lead downs on three receiver sets and nickel. He's been a good cover guy for us. Same thing, again, we are just trying to cut back on the errors that those two guys are having. The more snaps you have, the better chance you have of being a little bit off here or there, so we just got to make sure that each week they continue to make the corrections and understand the big picture."

Q: How much has Maurice Hurst grown since you drafted him?

Coach Guenther: "He's grown leaps and bounds. We knew we drafted a good player when we took him, and he has not disappointed. He was a little dinged up last week coming off the last ball game. He's done a good job in both the run and the pass. He's been able to push the pocket some on third down, so he's going to be a great player for us."

Q: Has Hurst taking over a leadership role on this defense?

Coach Guenther: "He has. Really, a lot of the younger guys have because that's what we got. Mo is certainly special that way, as far as preparing. He cares a lot and is working out all the time. He's all football, so I think his energy and stuff leaks out to the other guys."

Q: What have you seen from Damontre' Moore given that he had been out of football for some time?

Coach Guenther: "He's a veteran guy and he's been in a lot of ball games. We are just trying to see what we got with him. He's done some good things in the running game. We got to get him going a little more on third down to get back in the pocket. Hopefully, he will have a chance this weekend to do that."



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Q: What have you seen from Rico Gafford, who is making the transition from practice squad wide receiver to defensive back on the 53-man roster?

Coach Guenther: "The guy is a good athlete. I know somewhere down the road we are going to utilize him, whether it be on offense or defense, because he's gifted. He can run, and he's got great foot quickness, so he's maybe a guy for us that maybe we can use on both sides."

Q: What have you seen from the second-round draft pick P.J Hall?

Coach Guenther: "He's played a lot of football and he's come from a small college. Again, this whole year for him has been an eye-opening experience. Every week is, so he's just got to continue to get better each and every week, both in the run and the pass because he's playing on first, second and third down. It's a lot like Maurice, just continuing to develop your repertoire in there. I think he is going to be a fine player too. I think we got two good players, along with Arden [Key]."