



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: What does this week's rivalry mean to this area?

Carr: "I know it means a lot to our fans. I know it means a lot to everybody. So of course we want to go out and win this game. That's every week. But we know how much it means to our fans and how excited they get for it. We're aware of that, but it doesn't change anything for us. We have to go out and just play well."

Q: How does Thursday Night throw the schedule off with the quick turnaround?

Carr: "100 percent. It's a quick turnaround. We can sit here and talk about Thursday Night Football a whole bunch. It is what it is and we have a game to play. [Fresno State] Coach [Pat] Hill always told me anybody, anywhere, anytime. We're going to be ready to play."

Q: Did you play on Kyle Shanahan's team in the Senior Bowl?

Carr: "I was with Gus Bradley."

Q: That was against him?

Carr: "Yeah, I was with the Jaguar staff."

Q: How would you assess the game on Sunday?

Carr: "We played efficient and everybody just did their job. That's what's crazy is [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden tells everyone do your job all the time. You hear, it's so cliché, but the weeks prior not everybody has been doing that. It just reaffirms when we're all doing our job, every little detail those are the things that popped up when everybody did the right thing, we were able to get points and do those things."

Q: You went into a game without Amari Cooper and without Marshawn Lynch and still had success. Was it the offense getting more creative or was it everyone doing their jobs?

Carr: "It was 100 percent guys just doing their assignment correctly. When you turn the film on, it wasn't anything heroic, it wasn't anything like, 'Oh my goodness, what a route' or 'What a protection.' It wasn't anything. We did what Coach expects us to do on every play. We were running some of the same stuff. It wasn't anything where we had to come up with anything new. We just had guys that were doing exactly what Coach asked us to do. When you get 11 guys to do that, you can move the ball and score points."

Q: How comfortable have you gotten with Brandon LaFell? Do you feel like you guys have something there?

Carr: "Absolutely. He can play with any quarterback. It doesn't matter who, because he practices really hard every rep. He doesn't take one off, even if he knows he's not getting the ball. He's friendly to the quarterback. He always runs friendly routes. He can play with anybody. I'm glad that we had some time to work and all those things, but he's the kind of guy that you can just throw him in and just play. When quarterbacks, when we watch the film, obviously we're looking at a lot of things, but you always also notice, when a guy knows a ball isn't coming to him, how hard does he run. When a guy knows they don't play that coverage but only 4 percent of the time so I'm probably not going to get it. You watch him and he's always running his tail off. That's not the case with everybody. You can always trust him to 'Oh man, here it is, here we go. Here's your number.' He won when we needed him."

Q: How much do you think the Bye Week helped Kolton Miller and Brandon Parker? How much do you think it helped them?

Carr: "I think it was good for everybody. Just to get away for a second, be with your family. Get your mind right coming back. Get healthy, a lot of guys, right? Get as healthy as can be. I think a lot of that compounded with just being a man and wanting to get back out there and play again, prove yourself kind of thing, I think it helped him a lot."



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Q: How much did the offensive line's play on Sunday help you execute?

Carr: "100 percent. When they roll, that's anybody. You have to be able to have time. That's why I was able to get to the third guy or fourth guy in some reads. That's all the offensive line. Whenever we have time, we can execute at a high level like that. That's always going to help for sure."

Q: Is there a sense of relief among the team that the trade deadline is today, knowing that what you have now is pretty much what you'll have for the rest of the year?

Carr: "Yeah, honestly that's every year, too. Obviously some things have happened this year that have sparked even more conscious about it, makes us even more conscious about it. I will say that yes, we know who we have going forward. It's on us to go out there and just execute the play well and try to stick around. You want to keep proving yourself every year. James Jones told me, he said, 'You have to prove yourself every snap, every year.' That's the NFL. It doesn't matter who you are, what you do, you have to prove yourself. That's what we're excited about. We have a group of guys that care about one another. Honestly nobody cares about who gets the ball or things like that. It's easy. You just go out and just play. It makes it nice."

Q: Has it been tough these last two months seeing players be traded?

Carr: "I think just as a football player for everybody that's tough. I don't like speaking for everybody, but I think it's easy to say yes. You want to make sure that you're around. What's the plan? All those things. I think it was on a lot of guys minds. Just knowing that that's almost over with and all those things and we're just playing ball, I think it's nice for our guys."

Q: How big of a shock is it when a guy retires?

Carr: "You're talking about DRC? Obviously, football-wise has had a great career. I've played against him. I've thrown him the ball in the Pro Bowl and he doesn't play offense so it wasn't good. He's one of the best guys. I had a great conversation with him before he left today. Him just saying it was an honor playing me and vice versa. It was fun playing against each other. Memories, those kinds of things, and wishing him well. When something like that happens, I'd rather it happen that way than halftime of a game. I understand what he's doing, I understand why. Coach addressed it with us and told us to text him and show him love, congratulate him on a great career. There are no hard feelings at all."

Q: Is there any sense of vindication for the offense after the Indy game?

Carr: "Yes, absolutely. I think it reaffirmed in our heads that if we just do our job, we can do this. Even if we don't have Marshawn or Coop. If everyone just does our job and wins against the guy they're going against, we can do some good things. Hopefully guys continue to study and hopefully guys continue to learn and compete their tails off. We want to score some points and win some games. It definitely showed us that if we do those things, we can do it."

Q: Was this the best pass protection you've had?

Carr: "It was pretty good. I think I only got touched one time. Absolutely. I thought those guys competed their tails off. We had a good plan and all those things. We were able to get open, so we didn't have to hold onto the ball. It all works together."

Q: Was there a noticeable difference in the two rookie tackles?

Carr: "Oh yeah. They did a good job. They looked healthy. They looked good."



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Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: Do you think going into your first game without Marshawn [Lynch] and without Amari [Cooper], that you approached the game differently at all in terms of creativity? And was it maybe beneficial in a way?

Coach Olson: "We really like the locker room and we felt like Doug Martin still had a lot left in his tank. We mentioned that several times throughout training camp and early in the season. We knew he still has fresh legs and he is a tremendous back, so we were excited about that. Brandon LaFell has been a true pro since he's been here. He's versatile and we can do a lot of things with him. He plays in, he plays out. Accomplished player that has done some good things in this league, so we didn't feel like the drop off was quite what maybe the outside people thought it was going to be. Again, we are excited about those two guys. They stepped up for us last week and we foresee them doing that again in the future."

Q: You mentioned that you have a different set of plays that work for Doug [Martin] than what you would use for Marshawn. Was that a different look on Sunday?

Coach Olson: "Yeah and we will continue to do that again. We've always tried to do that when we are game planning as a staff, is that let's try and decide what our players do best and try to put them in a position to do what they do best. That kind of fell into place last week with those two players."

Q: What did you make of the difference with what you guys were able to do with a healthier and rested offensive line last game?

Coach Olson: "We always believe that a fresh player is going to play better coming off some time off. We were still missing K.O. [Kelechi Osemele] who we feel is a big part of what we try and do on the offensive line. I feel like [Jon] Feliciano did a good job for us filling in, but we still haven't had a chance to play with those five guys on a consistent basis. Once we get K.O. back and he's healthy, then hopefully we will see the arrow still going up."

Q: With [Brandon] LaFell not playing too much for the first six weeks he was here...Do you feel like that helped him get more comfortable in the offense?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, from the fact that he wasn't here and was recently required, I think that helps. He had a chance to come in and learn the system. Again, he's a real bright player and has played in a number of different systems since he's been in the league. He picked it up quickly. His work ethic, his preparation since he's been here has been outstanding. We knew there wouldn't be much of a fall off just based on the preparation part of his game."