



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Q: Seems Antonio Brown is all in since he's here?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Was that a joke or what? Yeah, he's all in. That's what he said."

**Q: Did he practice today?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yup."

**Q: Did he practice with a helmet on?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yes he did. Yup."

**Q: Was it a new helmet?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's a certified helmet, Vic. So, he's all in and ready to go. That's my understanding and really happy to have him out here. He's a great player."

**Q: How is he running and cutting and where is he in that part of his game?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Good. He's really good. He's shown great retention of what we are doing. He didn't miss the offseason program. He's been here and out of here in meetings and it's just good to have him back. But he's in great shape, he's running hard and running good routes."

**Q: Are the feet no longer an issue for him at this point?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't think so. You'd have to ask him that."

**Q: I think Tyrell Williams has been out the last couple of days, is he dealing with something?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We have a bug going around here. We got a lot of guys that aren't feeling great. I don't know that he'll play or not play right now for the Canada trip."

**Q: Do you plan on taking everybody to Canada?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Everybody that's going to, I think, play. We're still looking at our list of injuries and our rotations and finalizing who's going and who's not going, because I don't have any final answer right now."

**Q: So front line players that aren't going to play may not go?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I didn't say that. No, I didn't say that."

**Q: Do you have an emerging competition for who's going to be the swing tackle?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, David Sharpe has had a good camp. I think Brandon Parker has done an excellent job. He struggled a little bit one series against the Rams, but he played very well against Arizona playing both positions. He and David are both flipping sides which is good for their, I think experience, and their role that they are competing for."

**Q: Do you expect Derek Carr to play on Thursday?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Don't know yet. Do not know. Like I said, it will all depend on the health of our team, who's in and who's out."



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**Q: Have you guys sent someone up to Winnipeg to look at the turf?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We have, yes."

**Q: What's the word on the turf?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I heard it's field turf. I didn't examine it myself, but it's a new stadium. It's a great opportunity for us to make some friends."

**Q: Is there anything you will be watching and want to see from this team?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, we've got a lot of players that have worked really hard to put themselves in position to make the team and this will be the biggest game of their careers in that regard, so we've got a number of guys that are on the cusp of making it and they need to play well in this game to solidify their position. So, yeah there is a number of guys that we're anxious to see."

**Q: With Hard Knocks and all the headlines going on, how would gauge the mentality and the mindset of this team?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Great. I wouldn't read into all the Hard Knocks being a distraction or the Antonio Brown distractions. There has been no distractions. We've had 89 guys working hard. Our film is out there for you to watch. Our first two games, if you see a distracted football team then I disagree with you. So, I'm not going to make any more of it than that. There is a lot of teams that are missing star players. My brother is missing one. The Cowboys are missing one. The Texans are missing one. That's part of this league. Every year there are exceptions that you got to deal with, and I like our team, man. I like the way we are competing, and I like the way we are working."

**Q: Would you like to go against a guy like Aaron Rodgers in the preseason?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I think you'd love to see him play. He's a great quarterback, one of the best and you never know what they are thinking, what they are going to do. You never do know in the preseason, but it'd be great for our young defense to see the best in the business."

**Q: Is J.J. Nelson still dealing with the ankle?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yup, he's got a slight ankle. Did not practice today. Don't think it's serious, but don't know that he'll play. It's just hard to give you any real, concrete information because we do have a slew of players that are lingering after the three weeks of training camp."

**Q: It looked like Johnathan Abram had a cast on his hand?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, he's got an irritated wrist. Maxx Crosby is another guy that has a wrist problem, so we're banged up a little bit. We've had a physical training camp and hopefully some of these guys are able to make the trip."

**Q: Is this trip going to be any different because it is in Canada?**

**Coach Gruden:** "No, not really. We'll treat it like a normal road game. Like I said, we have to respond to a tough schedule. We are going to fly a lot of hours this year and we are going to play home games in foreign countries. It doesn't sound right, but that's the facts."

**Q: Are you relieved that the Antonio Brown stuff is behind you?**



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**Coach Gruden:** "It's not been a distraction to me at all. I mean I hate to break it to anybody, but we've known what the status is regarding his feet. He just showed up with frostbite. I've never had a guy show up with frostbite and fortunately we got that thing under control, and this grievance thing is no laughing matter. It's something that's important to him and there is nothing wrong with supporting your players on things they believe in. We also understand the league's position, but I'm confident that he's going to be a heck of player for us and be ready to roll."