



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Opening Statement: "Alright guys, Happy Thanksgiving. We got some good Thanksgiving weather here. It's good to feel. Big challenge for us this week. Obviously, Kansas City is a really good offense. They have all their pieces in tack, so we have to be ready for the challenge."

Q: How does Lamarcus Joyner look?

Coach Guenther: "He looks good. He came through practice. He was pretty good last week, we just felt like sitting out one more week he'd be at 100 percent and that's what he is now."

Q: What does he add back to the defense when he's out there?

Coach Guenther: "He plays such an important position for us in the nickel. You got to know the run fits and different routes. You get in there, combinations, the blitzes, all that stuff. Obviously, Nevin [Lawson] was in there in a pinch for us the last couple of weeks. It's good to have him back. He's a great communicator, he's one of our captains, so it's good to have him."

Q: You shut them out three of four quarters last time you played the Chiefs. Is there something you can take from those quarters that you didn't do in the second quarter?

Coach Guenther: "A couple of plays we gave up were blown coverages, really. Guys were out of position on a couple of those touchdowns. We just have to stay on top of the receivers, do a good job of the communication and change of strength and all that stuff. That's really what we're concentrating on this week."

Q: What are your thoughts on how Daryl Worley has played over the last few weeks?

Coach Guenther: "He's done a good job. He's really battled. The guy can play multiple positions for us. He does whatever you ask of him. Daryl is one of the best note takers in our room. He's very prepared every week. He's a guy that our young players look after. He's a guy that can play all the spots."

Q: He said that during the offseason program you guys challenged him to raise his level of play. How do you think he's done?

Coach Guenther: "I think he's done a great job. He'll do anything we ask him. All he wants to do is win, like most of the guys. He does it at a higher level with some of the things we've asked him to do. He's done a really good job for us so far this year."

Q: Is there something you do to keep communication strong with all the new faces in the backfield?

Coach Guenther: "It's not all communication, it's just understanding the little details of the job really. When things change or whatever happens out there, that was some of the things that the new guys we had in new positions this week and this week we're back to what we were earlier in the season."

Q: Now that you're just starting to work with Dion Jordan, are there ways you'd like to see him grow?

Coach Guenther: "He's been a really good piece to add. He's a guy that can play the run. He can rush the passer. He can move inside, outside. The more he learns what we're doing here, he's going to be a really big part of our future if he continues on this level. We just have to get him, he's playing a lot in the nickel, get a couple more at bats. We didn't have as many last week as we should have."



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Q: How is Preston Brown looking?

Coach Guenther: "He's doing good, picking it up. Obviously, he was down last week. This is going to be more of a nickel game, so we're just keeping him learning. He's getting some reps in at practice. He's done a good job for us."

Q: Where is Isaiah Johnson right now? He's gotten minimal snaps last few weeks.

Coach Guenther: "We try to put him in in some packages. Obviously, we play with two corners in Daryl and Trayvon [Mullen] and Lamarcus in the slot. He's getting better. We have him spotting some snaps, a lot like Trayvon was doing at the beginning of the year. That's kind of the plan with him. Getting him some snaps, getting him some experience out there."

Q: What's the toughest challenge about going against Travis Kelce?

Coach Guenther: "He's a big body. He really tries to separate the top of the route, whether he's nudging you or pushing you. He does a good job of leaning away from leverage or breaking away. And he has good hands. He's a big receiver really playing in there. We have to make sure we minimize him this week."

Q: Was there any common theme you saw with some of the bigger passing plays the defense let up against the Jets?

Coach Guenther: "The ones where they're catch and run plays, we can't have those plays. They hit a bubble screen on us, the guy catches it between two defenders and we get out run. The other one was a little flee flicker from the guy from the backside. Those are some plays we have to eliminate. That's the thing, against this team, you can't give up explosive plays. If you do that, hopefully you'll be in good shape."

Q: After last week's game, is there any unique thing you need to do with your team to come back this week?

Coach Guenther: "I think they have to learn you can't let last week affect this week. That's game and it's done with. That's why we say in the Monday meetings and made the corrections of what we needed to correct. We need to move on. We have five more ball games and that starts with Kansas City this week. We have to focus on that. Make the corrections, try to be positive, there's a chance we can learn from it moving forward so things like that don't happen again."

Q: Did you like their response?

Coach Guenther: "I love their response. I have a good group of guys. They work, they study, they do everything you ask of them. I'm really happy with our group."

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Opening Statement: "Had a really good practice today with ideal weather conditions, seriously. When we came out, we looked at the weather report and thought it's very similar to what the conditions say they are going to be on Sunday, so it was good work for us."



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Q: What have you noticed about what teams are trying to do to Darren Waller to shut him down?

Coach Olson: "Well, they're always trying to put their best safety on him, we've seen that. We've seen corners try to cover him at times, but I just think again, it's an awareness. We've seen them try to double him off the line of scrimmage to affect his release, but we expected that and we'll continue to see that I'm sure as long as he continues to have success."

Q: Are Zay Jones and Derek Carr still in the process of getting together and are you going to need him to step up and make some plays?

Coach Olson: "Yeah. I think a number of players we talked about their roles will increase this week and not just Zay, but Zay certainly is one of them. Again, there is that relationship between the quarterback and the wide receiver that's so important that they didn't get a chance to forge during the offseason. So, they do a lot of work together during practice, during the course of practice and special teams so they get a better feel for that, but he'll be more involved, as will Trevor [Davis], as will the running backs. When you lose a playmaker, other playmakers need to step up, so we'll get other guys involved this week."

Q: Are we going to see Jones in the slot more?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, you'll see some Zay as well in the slot this weekend."

Q: Rushing numbers have been down a little bit over the last few weeks, is there anything that you're seeing in terms of opposing defense and the way they're trying to stop the run?

Coach Olson: "No. All the respect in the world to the teams that we played, but we kind of like to look at us and let's just focus on us, look at what we're doing and we think there's some things that we can do better and we'll continue to work on. It's nothing at this point for us that jumps out at us that's a glaring weakness, but kind of be more in tune in what we do best going forward."

Q: What have you seen in Rico Gafford this year and what does he bring?

Coach Olson: "Speed. Since he's been here that's probably his most redeeming quality has been the speed factor and we're looking for more speed all the time, but he gives us that."