



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. GREEN BAY PACKERS

Friday, August 24, 2018

Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum

Postgame Quotes



Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: “Good evening. I am happy to win, it is fun to win no matter what the stake of the game is. Proud of our players, obviously a lot of penalties. Excruciating amount of penalties. But, I loved the way we started out offensively. We came out aggressive, I wish we could have punched it in. I thought our defense played pretty well all night. Obviously Green Bay didn’t bring in any of their starting offensive lineman, but it was a challenge.”

Q: You talked for a couple of weeks now about Erik [Harris] being a potential starter on this team? What did you see in him tonight?

Coach Gruden: “I have to look at film. He has been consistent. He is a good communicator on the backend and has made some plays on the ball. He also shows leadership and has been very consistent. I think he did some good things tonight.”

Q: Why was Derek [Carr] taken out of the game early?

Coach Gruden: “I have seen enough. There isn’t much more for me to see. The battle for us is who is behind Derek [Carr]. I wanted to get Connor [Cook] first team all offensive line for a couple series. But we have a pretty good idea who our starters are on offense. I was really pleased with Derek [Carr] on how he started the game.”

Q: Do you think you will put two backup quarterbacks on the roster?

Coach Gruden: “I don’t know. We are going to continue to work and see who is available. There were some good moments tonight and there were some moments tonight that were not good. It has been too inconsistent, but I am not going to say much more tonight until I see the tape. But we are going to continue to evaluate.”

Q: Has the defensive line been steady since training camp?

Coach Gruden: “I think they have benefitted from the inside rush. I think the edge rush is better if you can get some inside pass rush. I think Arden [Key], Fadol [Brown], Shilique [Calhoun] has done some things, Bruce [Irvin] wasn’t with us tonight because of a personal matter, but I think the edge rush is going to be better if the inside rush is better. I think that is what we have seen from the preseason.”

Q: Where is Donald [Penn] physically? Does he have the ability to play confidently in all four quarters?

Coach Gruden: “He played pretty well. He had one snap today where he was power rushed. I am going to watch the tape before I make too many specific comments. It is a working progress. He has been out for a long time. Doing rehab on the side with the trainers is one thing and coming out in these games and blocking rushers is another. He has ways to go before getting back to being 100 percent, but we do appreciate his hard work.”

Q: What did you like about Dominique [Rodgers-Cromartie]?

Coach Gruden: “I just like having Dominique [Rodgers-Cromartie] out here. We have had a number of corners go down and we need somebody to come in here and make a play that hasn’t. With the history in this league he has a lot of clout. A lot of people know who he is. We are hoping we can rejuvenate him, get him accumulated into our defense and potentially utilize his skills. He has been improving for a long time. He can play.”

Q: Do you understand the lowering of the helmet penalty better now?

Coach Gruden: “I am going to be supportive of all the rules and everything else. I don’t want to confuse these football players. This is tackle football. I am not sure if I understand that call tonight. I do understand the rules, I have been coaching for a long time. I am totally in the players safety, but that doesn’t mean I understand that call tonight.”



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Q: Can Eddy [Piñeiro's] injury possibly go till the first game of the regular season?

Coach Gruden: "He is going to have be evaluated this week and I don't know how long the injury is going to take for him to get well. In the meantime, due to his kicking, I thought Nugent did good things tonight,"

Q: Even though the Green Bay Packers didn't play their starters, do you still find value in this preseason game?

Coach Gruden: "Well I don't agree with playing a team you are going to open up the season with in a preseason game. That is tough on the Rams and that is tough on us. I don't want to comment on that tonight. I think that was an eight hour game, I am tired."

Raiders Quarterback Derek Carr

Q: Play action is a big part of John Gruden's offense. What does that do for you?

Carr: "Well we're going to run the football. I don't think that's a secret, we want to run the football and so off that you need the play action pass. Being able to do both will really put a lot of stress on linebackers and safeties."

Q: How would you assess the way Connor Cook and EJ Manuel have played this preseason?

Carr: "I think they're battling. They both have had flashes of plays where you think, 'Man, they're on it,' but they've also had plays like we all do during the course of three weeks where you think, 'Man, I want that back.' I don't think that they've made any terrible decisions. I think they're right there battling each other. It's fun to watch. I love them both, and our quarterback room is awesome. That's another thing that makes it easier on them because they know, 'Hey, we're supporting you.'"

Q: Last week against the Rams you guys didn't play any of the starters and tonight you only played one series. Is it different for you not playing as much in the preseason?

Carr: "Obviously, it's different because I don't play as much as before, but we get so many things done in practice. It's very tough, it's game-like and the kind of things I need to see and feel. Going out there today and being able to get hit a couple times, move in the pocket and find throws. You don't need too much of that in the preseason, but just to get a few plays in here and there is good. If we practice at speed the way that we do, I feel that you can go out there in preseason and play a couple plays and be ready for the season."

Q: What do you think of this league-wide trend? Week 3 used to be the dress rehearsal and now some guys are playing half a series or not playing at all.

Carr: "Well I think that you're seeing a lot of guys getting hurt. You see a lot of key guys getting hurt. I turned the TV on yesterday and Tyrod Taylor, a starting quarterback, dislocates his finger, so is it necessary? All those things, it's tough. It's for everyone above me to decide. I planned on playing a lot but you know coach said, 'That was good.' You start to see the trend which is to not play people, and I think that's going to be a trend that sticks. They'd rather have their guys week one of the regular season."

Q: Because you're not getting a lot of preseason snaps, do you feel like you're in good synch with the guys you're throwing to like Jordy Nelson and Amari?

Carr: "Yeah, I do. We get a lot of practice reps, especially the way Coach Gruden designs his practices, it's all around the quarterback. He's setting it up so I can be the most prepared in his mind, it's not my mind. I feel good about it and if the coach feels good about it, you can guarantee the players feel good about it. I feel in good rhythm, I feel in synch with those guys. I have guys that are easy to throw to, they're easy to talk to, so it makes it a lot easier."

RAIDERS LB SHILIQUE CALHOUN



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Q: Are you always critical of yourself when you watch your film?

Shilique Calhoun: "Just for now. Understanding myself as a player, I understand the good I can do. But I have to minimize the bad so that at the end of the day they realize I can contribute to the defense at a high level and be accountable at the same time."

Q: Is there something about this coaching staff that you've developed well working under them?

Calhoun: "I think they style of defense they run really fits me as a player. It allows me to be aggressive, allows me to be the person that I was before I got here. It lets me be the person I was in high school, the person I was in college. It allows me to be aggressive and make plays."

Q: It's also the alignment and what you were playing at Michigan State.

Calhoun: "It definitely matches Michigan State. Not staying back on your heels, punch you in the mouth football."

RAIDERS WR JORDY NELSON

Q: What did you think about the game today?

Jordy Nelson: "I had some fun with it, I was glad to get in and out with it."

Q: You took some passes from Aaron [Rodgers], what was it like seeing him again?

Nelson: "We just took one.. We thought it'd be ironic since Derek [Carr] and Davante Adams played together. Derek threw Davante one, Aaron threw me one. It was a nice set up. It was fun to see those guys and joke around again."

Q: Happy with the workload tonight?

Nelson: "Yeah, we were fine. I think any time you can get in and get out of a preseason football game you're happy about that. We're putting in the work each week, that's what makes the difference. In practice you get more reps there, more situations. Once you get in a game flow it will be game time."

RAIDERS DE ARDEN KEY

Q: How do you feel about your performance tonight?

Key: "I missed a sack so I got to get better with that one. It was a learning curve for me because different things I did today, I usually did in college and you can't do that these days. Froste Rucker coached me up on some things but we got better today."

Q: Did you feel any different today than you felt the last game?

Key: "Oh yeah, definitely. Ankle was way better than it was last week. I was able to move around a little more, things of that sort. I got more snaps than usual so I got comfortable."

Q: When Derek [Carr], Khalil [Mack] and Gabe [Jackson] came here they identified themselves as part of a draft class that will help turn this around. Do you look at your draft class the same way with PJ [Hall] and Maurice [Hurst]?

Key: "Yes sir. We are all in the defensive line room, things of that sort. We all look at it like this is where we are going to be and stay for our whole career. We are trying to change the dynasty here."



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RAIDERS DE FADOL BROWN

Q: It's time for guys to fight for their roster spots. Do you feel you've taken advantage of your opportunity?

Fadol Brown: "I feel like. Last season, the coaching staff didn't really give me a chance. I came out this year and we have guys like Bruce [Irvin], [Justin Ellis], Mario [Edwards] Jr., older guys that have been in the league a while a push me every day. I got a new coaching staff, a chance to start off with a fresh slate"

Q: Walk us through your strip sack.

Brown: "I saw my guy over setting a little bit. I tried to stick my long arm out there and got him off it a bit. I saw the quarterback trying to get the ball up. I tried to get the defense a little momentum for the Offense to try to get some points up on the board."

Q: At this point last season you thought you were heading for the practice squad, maybe another team would put you on the 53-man but that didn't happen. What was your thought process, going through that and a new coaching staff, a fresh set of eyes?

Brown: "I love these guys. I love the new coaching staff. Since the first day they got here they demand what they demand from everybody. A second-year guy or a six years in the league. It doesn't matter. They demand the most out of everybody. And it gave me a shot. I have a lot of respect for this coaching staff."

Q: Obviously, you guys want Khalil [Mack] here, but with his absence does it give you guys a chance to show what you can do?

Brown: "I try not to focus on him being here or not being here. I just need to go out there and do my job. I would love for him to be here, he's a great guy. He's a great person outside of football. I just pray that everything works out in his favor. I pray we get him back."

Q: With him and Bruce [Irvin] not here, did you feel like it was an opportunity for you to make an impact?

Brown: "I talk to Bruce [Irvin] just about every day. Like I said, he demands the most out of all of us, especially all us young guys playing defensive line. So you just have to come out and do your job."

RAIDERS RB CHRIS WARREN

Q: How do you feel about your increased workload?

Warren: "I feel like that is how preseason games go. The vets come out and the younger guys get more reps. That has been the trend the past couple weeks, I'm cool with it."

Q: The goal for you, as far as technique-wise, this preseason was to lower your shoulder pads. Do you feel like your touchdown run was executed the way you wanted?

Warren: "Yeah, but goal line football is mentality. There is technique to it but it is definitely a mentality."

Q: What was your mentality?

Warren: "To get in the end zone. It is just one of those things you just got to make sure you really impose your will on the other team."

Q: How do you feel about your performance this preseason in terms of what you set out to do?

Warren: "I feel like I set out this preseason to prove I can be on a roster. I know that this is the preseason and there aren't starters out there when I am in but I do believe that I have a shot. I do believe that I am showing that I have the potential to definitely be on the 53-man roster."



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PACKERS HEAD COACH MIKE MCCARTHY

Q: What's the status of Ty Montgomery?

McCarthy: "Ty Montgomery left the game, he was examined but I'm told it's not of serious nature, so I don't have an exact diagnosis for you."

Q: What happened with Oren Burks?

McCarthy: "Oren was injured in the drills in pregame so he'll need continued evaluation, I don't have a diagnosis for you."

Q: Did you get anything accomplished that you wanted to see from the quarterbacks given the offensive line that you had in front of them tonight?

McCarthy: "Well I mean we came out of here as a football team we wanted to get some things done offensively, we didn't accomplish that. I think the obvious is that the penalties kind of were the theme for the evening. You know, it was a sloppy football game, I thought our quarterbacks managed it very well. I really liked the way Brett Hundley started the game, but we were in second [and] long, just way too many long down-and-distances and obviously, didn't overcome it. But DeShone [Kizer] went in there and also made some clutch plays, but yeah it was clearly not a very good evening for us up front."

Q: J'Mon Moore dropped a few passes tonight but it seems like he has his hands all over everything, how important was it for him and his progression to have an evening like tonight?

McCarthy: "He played really well tonight, he did a lot of good things, he's been doing a good job [with] route running and releases. He just needed to finish it on the back end and I thought he did a really good job and had some excellent catches and definitely took a step as a young player."

Q: 18 guys out tonight, I know it's a preseason game, but does it hold everybody?

McCarthy: "Well everybody who was held was pretty much of medical nature, there were a couple guys that were not in that category and that's a normal thing to deal with this time of year."

Q: Mike, the first string defense was on the field for a stretch there in the first half, what did you think of them?

McCarthy: "Well I mean there's some good things, once again this is our third game and the system of communication it looked really clean between Mike [Pettine] and the assistants. We still have some substitution things we will continue to work on but once again it helped keep the point total down and they did a really good job with getting off the field and things like that. You know once again we're going to have to watch the video I don't really have any opinions for you right now."

PACKERS DL KENNY CLARK



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Q: Final score aside, were you pleased with the Packers overall effort against the running game?

Clark: "I felt like we played the run pretty well and I think we had great situational defense. They started off with a big play the first play of the game, and then we settled down and stopped them in the red-zone which was good and is encouraging for our defense."

Q: The Raiders like to think they have the best interior three in football. Does that fire you up when you're facing a team that's got some of the best guys?

Clark: "Yeah definitely. You want to be good against those guys. They have three really good players on their front. You always want to do well when you hear how good their offensive line is to build your confidence and help you get better."

Q: Chances are that you won't play a lot next week. Are you jacked up for the regular season?

Clark: "I'm excited to get it rolling. We've got one more preseason game and then the games count. When the games count, the numbers count, the score counts. I'm happy where we're at as a defense and I'm excited for week one."

PACKERS CB Jaire Alexander

Q. It is preseason, how does it feel to get that first pick in a live game action?

Alexander: "It was lit! I mean that's what you want, you want those picks. Especially early, it builds your confidence. So it was lit, it was cool."

Q. What does that do for your confidence?

Alexander: "So, it just put a staple on what I've already been working to get to. It lets me know that I can play with these guys out here."

Q. How do you feel about this guy right here, Josh [Jackson]?

Alexander: "That is my little bro right there. He is a beast, don't throw it his way."

Q. How does it feel with you guys [Josh Jackson] being the top two draft picks, and what you guys have been able to do so far?

Alexander: "It is pretty cool. Every team outing we are together, we share the same hotel room, the whole nine. We draw up plays together and we watch film together, so it is pretty cool to see him out there making plays."

PACKERS LB Blake Martinez

Q: "What have you thought of Greer [Martini] and what he's shown since OTA's?"

Martinez: "I think just his ability to go out there and just know what he needs to do is extremely helpful, and then his communication and just play style is really good."

Q: To have a guy like him that's a bigger body and then you can sub in Amhad [Thomas] in some coverage situations, what is it like you can sub in a lot in some coverage situations, I know that might not be the ideal pairing, but what is it like having a guy that can cover, and a guy that can thump a little bit when you need to?"

Martinez: "No definitely, It's nice. And they've done their job when they're out there and they've just been getting better since the first week of training camp."



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Q: How'd you feel about the rushing defense tonight? Did you feel like it was a step up?

Martinez: "No yeah, definitely. I think the D-Line played amazing, I know Kenny did really well tonight once again. I think we got a lot of good things rolling, and there were a lot of moments where I was like 'Oh, a tackle? Nope, the D-Line got it again' so it was good to see."

Q: (About) Are you concerned about the contrition at that inside linebacker spot?

Martinez: "I mean, it's one of those things where the next guy up is the best guy up, and I think the guys we got in our room right now are the guys we need and they're getting the job done when they're out there and so, I have trust in us and I think we'll be good to go."

Q: All the more pressure on you though? As the main guy who is going to be playing a lot of snaps no matter what?

Martinez: "No yeah, I think... I mean I like the pressure, the more pressure the better I think, for me. I think its just gonna help me out that much more, I can handle that load, whatever they need me to do."

Q: Were you planning to take that whole first half or was that an adjustment?

Martinez: "We talked about it, the starters were wanting to get a full half in to kind of get that role going throughout this game."

Q: Working with Amhad, obviously you two spend time in the base, and some of the things you do in the sub packages?

Martinez: "He's been one of the cover guys, covering tight ends and doing those types of things. He's done well, and he's once again gotten better every week and it's cool to see."

Q: Blake, your Rookie Corners, Jaire [Alexander] had the pick, [Josh] Jackson had the one called back that he wasn't called on what did you think of their performances this week?

Martinez: "They're awesome players and they've grown just like everybody else, every single week, and keep getting better and better. Josh [Jackson] definitely has been amazing throughout the entire training camp. Jaire [Alexander] coming off that injury, definitely making plays and it's been awesome to see."

Packers WR J'Mon Moore

Q. You came down with four catches today. The big one at the end they called leading with the helmet. What does that mean to come down with one of those when it is contested after all the ones have been so close?

Moore: "It is all about being able to make plays. It is high level, so when your number is called late in the game, a competitive game, you can make plays. That is what it is all about."

Q. Aaron [Rodgers] talked about this week you just need one big play, and that is going to jump start you and build your confidence. Do you think you got that tonight?

Moore: "Yea, I definitely had some confidence out there getting started early, and by making some plays. But yea, I definitely needed that jump start so I can start making some plays on a regular basis."

Q. Did you know that defender was there when you were going up for that last catch?

Moore: "Yea, I knew he was there. I knew I was going to have to take a hit. So it is what it is."

Q. Is that just the mentality you like to carry whenever you are out on the field?

Moore: "Yea, I mean shoot, this is the NFL. I can't not get that ball, I have to go get that."



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GREEN BAY PACKERS CB JOSH JACKSON

Q: The Packers have had some past defenses that haven't ranked as high in recent years. This year you and Alexander come in and make all these plays in the preseason with veteran leadership coming from Tramon, Davon and Kevin. How good do you really think these corners can be this year?

Jackson: "Shoot, I think we're all ballers. I think we can all play. We all work hard in practice. We all work hard in the film room. I think it comes down to the preparation part that all the corners put in."

Q: I know that great play that you made didn't count. But it was a spectacular play and you still made it. Do you still draw a positive out of that regardless of the fact that flags were thrown?

Jackson: "Of course, you've got to. Any time you ever make a play, you've got to look at it whether theirs a flag or not, and go back and see what happened and try to be better next time, but still a positive play."

Q: How did you feel about the overall defensive effort tonight?

Jackson: "Overall, I think we made some mistakes. I know I made a mistake. I think overall we can go back and look at the film and make some corrections and be better. We definitely wanted to come out and win this game even though it was preseason. We still wanted to put good things on film and that's the main reason that we play. We know we made some mistakes and we will have to look at the film and be better next time whether it's tackling or running to the ball or any type of defensive flags we had tonight. We need to be better overall."

PACKERS QB DeShone Kizer

Q: Talk about playing tonight.

Kizer: "It's good situational work for all of us. You got a lot of guys who are out here playing in their first game. With that being said, you can feel the crowd, you can feel the energy, you can feel the responsibility that comes in with doing your job every time you step out there. And I think that's good work. I think that's going to be an awesome tape for us to go back and evaluate, and I think it's going to be a good week of work."

Q: You talk about the tape through the first two games. Lots of numbers, lots of success for all the guys, all the quarterbacks etc, but a much more difficult time having that get done tonight. Can you put your finger on why?"

Kizer: "Yeah, you know, welcome to the NFL. People are going come out and you know, play good defense. You're not going win every one you get. But with that being said, it's on us to make sure we're doing whatever we can to execute, every time we get the chance to. I can't necessarily say there's a specific reason why we didn't have the same success we've had the last couple of weeks, and I think that's where film work will come in and figure it out. But as long as we can find some answers within Monday through Wednesday, I hope we can get back out there on Thursday and put on tape who we think we are."

Q: How pressured did it feel in the pocket today?

Kizer: "Yeah, they were getting around our edges a little bit. It definitely required me to step up here and there. You know, you're trying to avoid some sacks, You're trying to keep the ball.. you know, in play, and have some positive plays. But with that being said, that's part of the game, being able to fight some adversity, understanding you're going to have to play some good pass rushers. Once again, you're not going to win every play, you're not gonna execute every time you step out there, so it's about how you respond to that, and how you can learn from that."

Q: Talk about adversity, talk about J'Mon [Moore], everyone seems to be pushing for him and pumping him up there. Did that surprise you tonight, him coming through?



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Kizer: "No not at all, J'Mon [Moore] is a heck of a player, he obviously had a couple of plays that he wanted back in the first couple of games... but he stepped up for us. I think he showed he has that big play ability that it takes to be a receiver in this league. Now it's about finding some consistency, you know learning the ins and outs of the position, making sure that we truly understand the playbook at the level that we need to, to be successful. And obviously you try to become as big of an asset as we can for Aaron. Because, when you have one of the best quarterbacks in the league, obviously he's going to spray it around to each and every guy who steps out onto the field. And for him, it's going to be an awesome opportunity as a young guy to step into a team with a bunch of young receivers and hopefully he makes some plays."