



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Special Teams Coordinator Brad Seely

Coach Seely: "That's what's always exciting about a new season, we have to find some new guys. We have suspects and prospects. It's early, so we'll see what happens when the games start. That's why we have these preseason games, to find out what guys do when the lights come on because sometimes they change."

Q: What can you see during the practices opposed to the games?

Coach Seely: "Oh, I think you find out a lot in practice. No. 1, you find out about people's work ethic. How hard they work. What kind of passion they have for football, because this is hard. This is hard work, and sometimes it's not fun. They have to show that they enjoy the grind. So that's No. 1. Then I think you can always find out about guys athletic ability. We go out there and we try to compete against each other every day. So, we try to make comparisons on which guys move better in space. That's what special teams are."

Q: What value has Johnny Holton provided on special teams?

Coach Seely: "No. 1, he's fast. He has one thing that nobody can coach, nobody can teach. He can run fast. I think the best thing about rookies is they become second year players. He's learning a lot of stuff about football. I think he's learned a lot of stuff about life in pro football. Obviously, we're expecting him to be much better this season."

Q: Would you say he was raw last season?

Coach Seely: "I think raw is a kind word, OK? I think he was very raw. It's totally different than college football. It's a different game than college football. Obviously, a lot of the rules are similar, but you're playing against men. The men in this league, you got to be a man. I think there's a lot of growing up for guys to do when they come out of college."

Q: What's it been like have Cordarrelle Patterson?

Coach Seely: "It's been great. There's a guy that has a ton of talent. Like we were just talking about, his work ethic is outstanding. He works hard. He wants to be really good. Those guys are fun to coach. Fun guys to coach because you can see them come out here and try to do what we ask them to do, and he's really good at it."

Q: Who do you look to for special teams leadership?

Coach Seely: "Well, I think you have to go to the other guys who have been here like Jamize Olawale. There's a really solid person. Keith McGill [II], another guy that's a real solid person. You have to look at our specialists, the kicker, the punter and the snapper. Those guys have been around a long time, so we ask those guys to be leaders. I think we'll find out more. That, to me, is one of the things we'll find out in these games. Which guys will step up when there's adversity, when something bad happens or when something good happens and how do they react to those things."

Q: What type of vocal leadership does Patterson bring?

Coach Seely: "I think he's a guy that, he leads by example because he's a good worker. He doesn't have to be a rah-rah guy. He'll speak up when there's a time to speak up. I think we haven't had any of those times yet. I'm excited about having him on our team because I just think he's a pro."

Q: When Terrell Davis first entered the league, he caught the eye of the team with a big play on special teams in Tokyo. Is that a well-known story among special teams coaches? Have there been other stories like that?

Coach Seely: "You know, it's interesting you say that because we were playing Denver that year in the preseason. I can't tell you where I was at, but we were watching preseason games and I had to look him. Who is Terrell Davis? He made every tackle on their kickoff team. It was like, I don't know where they got this guy, but he is really a good



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football player. You could see it right away. I think about that all the time when they're talking about this guy is a great runner. He's a great football player."

Q: Can you think of someone who jumpstarted their career standing out on special teams?

Coach Seely: "Let's go with Lorenzo Alexander. There's a guy that, shoot, he's in top five sack players this past season. He made all his bones on special teams. He started out as a defensive lineman. This guy just changed his body to be a football player in this league. Now he's a very good linebacker and a really good special teams player. There was a guy that he made it because of his effort and his abilities in the kicking team."

Q: What are your thoughts on Jaydon Mickens' improvements from last year?

Coach Seely: "Again, the games will show that but in practice he's done a really nice job. We're trying him as a cover player. Always, he's going to be a little bit lacking in the size area. So, you always worry about that aspect. But again, like I've told Jaydon, there's nothing he can do about that. That was God's decision. All he can do is work with what he has and he's done a great job of working with what he has. He's really done a nice job in the return game. I think we have good returners, but he's also a guy that has showed up in practice."

Q: You're 60 years old. Your kicker and long snapper are in their mid to late 30s. Are your conversations with Sebastian Janikowski and Jon Condo different than your conversations with the rest of the special teams players?

Coach Seely: "I think that's a really gentle way of putting it. That we are all old. OK? We like to look at it as we are all experienced. You're right. We have a whole different set of things happen to us in our career that changes our perspective from maybe some of those young guys. Yeah, the conversation can be very different. It's a fun conversation because it's fun having these guys that, man, they've seen just about everything that you can see. It's amazing that every year in football, we see something that we haven't seen. It's fun talking to those guys like, 'I've never seen that before.' We always get a good laugh out of it."

Q: What are your thoughts on Steve Tasker making the Hall of Fame?

Coach Seely: "I coached against Steve. He was one of those guys that was fantastic football player. Again, people say the kicking game is a third of the game, well then that should be part of the Hall of Fame. This guy, in Buffalo now, he created a lot of advantages for the Bills. Just by field position, by what he did. So there's a guy that is extremely worthy of consideration to go to the Hall of Fame because he was a difference maker in that area. That's what the Hall of Fame is supposed to be about."

Q: Does Janikowski have to do anything special to maintain his level of performance?

Coach Seely: "I think as a guy gets older, it's like everybody in life. You have to keep yourself stretching. You get stiffer as you get older as I well know. You have to stretch more. I think he's done a nice job of maintaining his weight. He's a heavy lifter, so he's always keeping himself strong. Every year I think he realizes more and more how important those aspects of his game are. He has really worked hard at the physical part. Maybe much more so than he did when he was younger."

Q: Did you have to talk him into doing more film work?

Coach Seely: "No, no, I didn't. It's just kind of what we've always done wherever I've been. We watch film with the kickers and the punters and go over their technique in ways that maybe we can help them a little bit. Really just try to be another set of eyes for them. They know what they're looking for, but sometimes they don't always see it. I think watching film with them is a good way to give them another perspective from just their own."

Q: Did anything strike you about that 56-yarder?



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Coach Seely: "That it went through. That was the best thing. Out there, all we care about is let's make them. It doesn't matter how it looks. Just let's make sure they're good."