



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: “OK, quick turnaround. We get on the flight tomorrow and head to Missouri.”

Q: What goes into compacting everything into a couple of days and how much does it help being an opponent you’ve faced already?

Coach Musgrave: “It helps to a certain extent. We’ve done some work on them when we had a couple of moments, whether it be during the bye week or even last week just to be ready to hit the ground running as of Sunday evening.”

Q: Do you look back at the last game against Kansas City much? Or have you evolved as an offense since then?

Coach Musgrave: “I think a little bit of both. I think we’re better than we were early in the year. We continue to improve, and that’s our goal, each and every week regardless of the opponent. We definitely want to see what happened back there versus this common opponent. There’s a lot to study and a lot to grow from.”

Q: Do you worry much about that last game considering how much time has passed since then?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, we definitely want to learn from what happened, good, bad and indifferent. We’re looking forward to having another shot at them.”

Q: What does having Justin Houston back add to their team?

Coach Musgrave: “A lot. A lot. They already have a ton of good players. You add him to the mix and it makes them even better.”

Raiders Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: With a shortened week, have the hours been crazy for the coaching staff?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “It’s crazy, but they’re always crazy. We’ve done this before. Again, it helps that we’ve played them before. There’s some familiarity. The same with them. We’re excited. You wouldn’t want to be any place else or play anywhere else or be in this type of position. I think just the excitement and the fact that the guys love playing ball so much, it’s going to be a heck of a display of football.”

Q: You guys seemed to draw from your love to play on a Thursday.

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Right, no questions. Anytime the lights are on us. Now Thursday Night is like the new Monday Night. The guys are really excited to play. They’ve put themselves in the position to fight for the division lead and that kind of thing. It’s going to be real fun to watch.”

Q: Do you remember starting Thursday games sore?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “No, you lose the soreness probably on Wednesday. You kind of really get your mind right. You’ve already talked to yourself about what the week is going to be like. You’ve already prepared yourself about how to take care of your body during the week. You’ve already mentally gone through all the reps, you understand what’s asked of you and you’re professional. Anytime you love what you do. Anytime you’re really passionate about your work, there’s no pain.”

Q: Does this defense have an identity?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “Yeah, I think that we’ve done some really good things. That’s the great thing about these games that you’re always improving. You’re always trying to get better and I think that we’ve started off really well. We’ve shown last week that we can finish really well. We’ve done really well on third down. We’ve done really well in situational ball and getting the ball. Now it’s a matter of... I think it’s important that we have a complete game. Start it, come out of halftime really fast and then finish strong like we did last week. I think that as



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we go, as we continue to grow, our next step is play a full game. Let's finish from start to middle to finish like the good defenses do."

Q: Can you talk about Nate Allen's ability to come up big on defense when you need him?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "That says a lot for our depth. Nate is really, like you said, has been professional. He understands his role. He's a guy that has always made us aware that he's available and ready to play. Now, next man up. Now he has an opportunity to really show what he can do."

Q: Is the Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce a key matchup?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "No question. He's a premier player in this league. You see he's high targeted. He's a guy that's really hungry for the ball. We're going to have to deal with him."

Q: Chiefs seem to be really good at play action. Is that a real challenge with them?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "They're good at a lot of things. They wouldn't be in this position if they weren't. They have a lot of weapons. The quarterback is really good. The running back is running really hard. The skill players, the defense is outstanding. They do a lot of things well. That's why we're here practicing, getting ready for them."



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Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid Conference Call

Q: What do you see from Derek Carr that has made him so successful so quickly?

Coach Reid: "I think he's passionate about the game. I think he studied with his brother at a young age. His brother showed him some of the tricks of the trade, nothing like getting it from a peer, and then, if it's your brother, that's even better. I think he loves to play the game, that's what I think."

Q: What are the biggest challenges with a short week?

Coach Reid: "I think it's probably more for the players, the recovery part of it, that's a tough thing on them. For us, it's just a matter of putting in the hours to get the game plan together, but the players have got the mental and the physical part of it that they have to deal with."

Q: Did you start preparing the game plan before this week or did it all happen this week?

Coach Reid: "No, we get a little jump on things. Yeah."

Q: Does the rivalry game help give the players a little extra pep on a short week?

Coach Reid: "I'm sure. I'm sure it does. That would be human nature, I'd think."

Q: How do you instill playing for a complete 60 minutes in a game?

Coach Reid: "Listen, it's probably the locker room. I think [Raiders General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] and [Raiders Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] have put together a good locker room there. I think [Chiefs General Manager] John [Dorsey] has put together a good locker room here and so, the guys, they all stick together which I think is important."

Q: Can you talk about Nate Allen's professionalism after spending some time with him in Philadelphia?

Coach Reid: "You bet. As good of a player as he is, he's that type of person too. He's a great kid, very smart. He was banged up just a little bit, but you know he's always going to come back and he's going to play hard. He doesn't make mistakes and that whole deal, so, and he's a good athlete."

Chiefs S Eric Berry Conference Call

Q: What was Sunday's game like for you?

Berry: "It was amazing. Just to be able to help the team out like that in that fashion and to do it at home, it was truly special. I will always remember that game. I'm thankful for it."

Q: Do you see the Raiders and the Chiefs having similar qualities in terms of being able to grind out wins?

Berry: "Yeah man, you just have to play the whole game. Sometimes things don't go your way in the beginning. We see that on film. With us, we just try to make sure we can give our best efforts regardless of what happened previously. We just try to move forward in that way."

Q: What do you think the atmosphere will be like on Thursday night?

Berry: "I think it's going to be wild. You can't get too involved in that because our fans are amazing. Our supporters are amazing. They bring it week in and week out. It's going to be our job to just stay focused and be in tune to the game."

Q: What have you seen out of the Raiders' offense since you faced them?

Berry: "They just do what they do, and they're good at it. They're a good offense. They have some good players. They play hard. We just want to make sure we're at our best when we come in on Thursday."



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Q: What makes Derek Carr so tough to intercept?

Berry: "He's a big time competitor. You can't coach that. You can't teach that. A lot of people don't put a lot of value on that or they forget about that. That's one thing that he does, he competes very well. He also has a good skill set as well. Just that part of it, he comes and brings it every snap."

Q: Do the players get into the rivalry?

Berry: "I mean we recognize the history of it. It's a very big game and a lot can be decided out of the outcome of the game. At this point it really is what it is. You can't do anything about it but go out there and give it your best effort. That's what I'm pretty much focused on."

Q: Do you feel like you're overlooked?

Berry: "We're not too concerned about that, man. The only thing we want to do is come in and keep putting in good days. Maximize our time here and keep on giving our best. If somebody talks about us, it's OK. If they don't, it's OK, too. Either way it goes, we're going to keep getting in this building and giving the best effort we have."

Q: Did Jack Del Rio's comments about Alex Smith after the last game resonate with you and the team?

Berry: "I can't really tell you because I don't even know what he said. I'm not really too interested in what he said to be honest with you. Like I said, we're not in tune to what's going on outside of this building. We look at the film. We're very frank, very upfront on what we need to correct and what we see we can do. We just go at it that way. Everybody is entitled to their opinions. Whatever he said, that's his opinion. Everybody's reality is different. We have our own reality here."

Q: What do you see from Latavius Murray on film?

Berry: "I feel like he's a solid back. Big body, good speed, finishes runs and he can take it a distance. He's a good back."