



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening statement: "We look forward to a good week of prep, traveling to Kansas City and taking on the Chiefs. Big divisional game for us. Obviously, I heard the news from this morning that Andy [Reid] is going to suspend or has suspended Marcus [Peters]. We treat that a lot like we did last week with Eli [Manning]. A decision like that is similar to an injury occurring. We're preparing Raiders versus the Chiefs. Nothing really changes in terms of us putting a plan together and making sure it's about us going in and playing good football. Questions?"

Q: What have you seen from Bruce Irvin over the last few weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "I just think overall playing well. I think Bruce and Denico [Autry] and Mario [Edwards Jr.] and some of the guys, there's a little better effectiveness of getting after the quarterback. A little tighter coverage, which obviously helps as I've talked about."

Q: What kind of an impact does Peters make and what does his absence mean?

Coach Del Rio: "You do what you can to adjust. This time of year, you're typically adjusting to injuries that occur. We'll treat it very similarly to that. We're trying to get our own group of guys healed up as best as possible for this game. That's part what we do in this league is the next guy plugs in and you keep rolling."

Q: Any updates on Amari Cooper?

Coach Del Rio: "No."

Q: What does Peters throwing the ref's flag say about the frustration of the team?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not going to get into those types of discussions. To me, it's about us preparing to play them. We're going to focus on the things that we see on the football field that pertain to us playing good football."

Q: Q: The last couple of weeks you've played well. Does that resonate and is there a confidence with that?

Coach Del Rio: "We're human beings. I think certainly, there's a better feel when you're winning and doing things well. For us, it's about the next game. We have to take them one at a time. We went through, we had our stretch. I talked about it the other day. The Chargers had theirs the first four games. We had ours four in a row after winning two. The Chiefs have had a little bit of a spell. Yet we all sit here at 6-6 with an opportunity. Which team takes the most advantage of that opportunity is sitting there."

Q: Does this game kind of feel like a 'this is why we play' type of moment?

Coach Del Rio: "It's good stuff. It'll be exciting, be a great atmosphere. It'll be very loud there. Always is. It'll be great competition. Really looking forward to it."

Q: Is the plan to continue going with Jalen Richard as punt returner?

Coach Del Rio: "I trust Jalen to do a good job."

Q: Do you think things are starting to open up on punt returns?

Coach Del Rio: "I'd like to see that. We come out of a lot of meetings saying, 'Oh, we're one block away.' To me, you have to take advantage of these opportunities. We're getting those opportunities with the defense. Forced some three and outs and doing a good job of getting the ball back. Getting off on third down. We have to take full advantage of our return game when we do."

Q: Is there anything about Marshawn Lynch that you know now that you didn't know when he first came here?

Coach Del Rio: "You're always learning about each other through experiences, but nothing really sticks out."



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Q: Are you surprised at the way he's kind of taken the young running backs under his wing?

Coach Del Rio: "It's been my experience in the league that typically guys that have played end up wanting to share some of that knowledge, some of that wisdom that they accrued through their time and share it with the younger guys. The question is are the younger guys willing to learn and listen? I think in our case, we have guys that are definitely paying attention."

Q: Donald Penn said that the offensive line just kept working and that they haven't reinvented the wheel. What have you seen from the offensive line as the year has gone on?

Coach Del Rio: "I think we've done just that. I like our group. I think we have a good group. They're big, they're physical, they protect our quarterback, they open holes for our backs. Yeah, they're responding exactly how we want to respond. Sometimes things don't go exactly how you want, but you persevere, you stand for the things you believe in and you maintain good character, you continue to work and that's what we've done up front. That's what we've done as a team. So, we should expect to play our best football down the stretch here."

Q: Do you think there is room for Derek Carr to use his feet more?

Coach Del Rio: "All he's got to do is be himself, that's part of it. He's athletic. It wasn't long ago, I was trying to talk to him about not straight-arming somebody on the sideline and not doing the Superman routine jumping over the top. *(laughter)* But, we do like him to use his feet, that's a weapon for him."

Q: How have you seen Cory James handle the difficult situations this season with regards to him not being healthy, but still giving the team everything he can?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, that's exactly what he's done. He's battled through it. He's been hobbled a little bit with injuries. I think he's been questionable most of the year on the injury report. So it's been something he's been battling throughout the year. We're trying to do what we can to get him as healthy as possible, but at the same time he's trying to be there for his teammates. Yeah, I love the grittiness and the effort that he's given to the squad."

Q: Is it a pretty routine conversation leading up to the game with him about how he's feeling?

Coach Del Rio: "We do what we can and work with him and make decisions that are good for him and good for us."

Q: Teams are actively avoiding Cordarrelle Patterson on kickoffs. Wow does he impact the game even without the football in his hands?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, you're describing exactly it. And when we get those short kicks and take them and put them on the 35, teams eventually get tired of giving us that extra 10 yards. That's the decision you have to make as a kickoff team – are you going to give him an opportunity to return it or not – and there are quite a few that are choosing not to. This is one of the better coverage units in the league, so we'll see how they want to play it. But, obviously we have to be ready to adjust as a unit."

Q: What have you seen from Kansas City special teams coordinator Dave Toub and his unit over the years?

Coach Del Rio: "Always fundamentally sound and Andy [Reid] has done a great job collecting returners in his time. He's always got guys that are explosive, dynamic returners."

Q: When you look back, what was it that turned your team around from the four-game losing streak?

Coach Del Rio: "The biggest thing was the lack of execution. The way we got ourselves out of it was to just work and believe and continue to do the right things."



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Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: What struck you most about how Clive Walford was able, when called upon, to respond to the opportunity?

Carr: “This league is definitely going to give guys opportunities with how long the season is. There’s always injuries, there’s always certain things that happen where certain guys have to step into different roles. It’s not a role that Clive... It’s not new for him, I should say. Clive has been my tight end the last two years and has done a fantastic job. I felt that that Indianapolis game last year is where we were finally hitting our stride together and really getting a good connection and chemistry, of how he ran routes and how I wanted to throw them. Clive is a great football player. We just happen to have two really great tight ends, route-running tight ends. Lee [Smith] is a different beast. He can do a lot of different things. Having those guys that can come in and do the route trees that they can do is huge for us.”

Q: He said he felt like, referring to the Indy game, it was just picking up where you guys left off. What goes into that since it has been such a while since then?

Carr: “Every route that Clive runs in an individual drill, I’m throwing it. When there are routes on there and things like that, I always throw Jared [Cook] and I always throw his. I know what kind of player he is and I think he’s going to be someone that is here a long time because of what he can do. He’s a great, special player and we’re blessed to have him.”

Q: As you go through your career and mark off things you want to accomplish, where does winning a game at Arrowhead rank?

Carr: “Number one! Definitely number one right now, especially this week! It’s definitely up there. It’s something that we have not been able to do since I’ve been here. We have to get on that. We have a tough task ahead of us because, although their record is the same as ours, we’re both pretty good football teams. We have to go out there and play hard.”

Q: It’s a pretty iconic venue. Do you enjoy the atmosphere there?

Carr: “Yes. I really do. I don’t know if I’m allowed to say I enjoy going to their stadium, but I do. It’s loud, it’s fun, and I’ve told you guys many times I like playing in the noise because you’re in your own little zone. You cancel everything else out. I do enjoy going there, but it would feel a lot better afterwards if we could win a game.”

Q: What have you seen from DeAndré Washington as the season has gone on?

Carr: “He’s got great balance. He reminds me a lot of Domanick Davis, who was my brother’s running back in Houston. Dominic was someone who had great balance, low center of gravity. When guys would hit him, he was really good at keeping his balance, like we saw on the touchdown and like we saw on his touchdown against Kansas City when we played them the first time. Those two, when I look at them, they remind me of each other. Domanick was a really good player. DeAndré is a great player, very smart. I love standing next to him and playing alongside of him.”

Q: How do you weigh whether to use your legs more or not?

Carr: “I’m good if the play determines that I should, but if not, I’ll give it to one of our 15 running backs.”

Q: Was that a lesson learned after you stiff-armed people?

Carr: “Hopefully that taught someone else a lesson, but no. No lessons learned. I think last time we played these guys we were able to find a big running lane. Sometimes they’re going to be there and sometimes it’s known, I’m going to try to make the throw happen before I take off to run. Until my coaches tell me to play differently, because that’s who I listen to, I’m going to keep doing my best. If it’s there, absolutely, I have no problem doing it, but I definitely am not going to be someone who’s trying to go out there and run the ball 18 times a game.”



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Q: When you played Kansas City the first time, the last drive was huge. Is there anything in particular that stood out to you?

Carr: "The atmosphere of our stadium was really sweet, especially it being at night and those kinds of things. It's the first time we ever wore white jerseys at home so that stood out to me as a cool deal. Really just our team's mentality going into that game. That's something that also stood out to me. I feel like if we all looked back at that moment, it was where a switch turned on for us. Now we've been growing since then and we're still growing. We're always going to be growing. That was a good moment for this team to kind of catapult us forward and get on a run."

Q: What will it be like to not have Marcus Peters on the field this week? Will it dramatically alter what they do?

Carr: "It's not dramatic. I have thrown at him, you know. I have no problem throwing it to certain guys but when a guy like Marcus... He knows how I feel about him. Super talented, likes to guess on certain routes but to him it's not guessing because he knows route combinations, he's a very smart player. You have to just be careful. When he's not in there, you study the next guy. Is he a guesser? There are a lot of guys that people don't know about in this league that will guess on routes and things like that. He just has a lot more picks than they do, so you go into the game knowing that about certain people. Definitely with him being out, it doesn't change what we do. We still have to go out there and execute our game plan. If anything, maybe we throw one or two more the other way. It just depends how they roll the coverages and do those kind of things. I'm going to play my position how coach [Todd] Downing wants me to."

Q: How important was it last week to get Cordarrelle Patterson, Johnny Holton and the rest of the receivers involved?

Carr: "We needed it, obviously. We definitely needed it to win the game, just being able to get guys involved. When you have two first-round picks ahead of you, it's tough. It's tough to get on the field. It's tough to fight for the ball and things like that. To have those guys both out and those guys get a chance to go out and play extended time... C.P. is somebody that has done that. He's a starting receiver. He's a great football player. But having a young guy like Johnny get some more reps, having Seth [Roberts] play some more base personnel-type things, it was really good for them. It shows that we can go out there and win a football game if we have to if certain people go down."

Q: Does this game have a little bit of a playoff feel?

Carr: "I feel like for a couple of weeks now all of them have, to be honest with you. Denver was one of them. This last one was one of them. I feel like from here on out, I think they're all going to have that feel to it. Hopefully we can just get hot and get on a run."

Q: How big is it going to be to get Michael Crabtree back?

Carr: "It's going to be huge. We've been through this a couple of times this year. Anytime you can get a piece back, it's nothing against anybody else, but those guys are starters for reasons. Those guys got all the reps. Those guys have seen the ball coming to them from me many times, for years now, which is funny to say, how fast it goes. With 'Crab' coming back, obviously it's no secret. I love throwing him the ball. I love 'Crab' and I think a lot of people know that. So being able to get him back, it definitely helps our team."

Q: That last series against Kansas City earlier this year, what were the emotions of that last few snaps?

Carr: "I've never seen anything, let alone been a part of something like that where, I don't remember how many untimed downs it was. It was crazy. We go from first it was Jared [Cook]'s touchdown. And then we hit C.P. but I saw the guy holding him, so that one didn't get my emotions much. We hit 'Crab' so I thought the game was over. And then again we stepped up and I saw them holding Jared so my emotions were like, 'OK, well we're going to get another play.' All of that sequence was just so weird. It got to a moment before that last play like, 'This has to be it.' We were like, 'We better make this one count.' My emotions were definitely like, 'What is going on,' kind of a deal."



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Q: How reliable has Rodney Hudson been this season and is there anything that you notice about him when you watch the film that maybe we don't pick up during the games?

Carr: "His effort down the field. Maybe you guys see it, I don't know. If you ever watch him when the ball is committed, meaning if it's a run or the ball is committed meaning I threw it a different direction or things like that, you watch his effort after the play and it's special. He's the best center in all of football. The things that people don't get to see is what he can do mentally. Obviously, you can't see that but when certain things happen and certain blitzes are picked up and things like that, that's a lot of hard work. I've never been around a guy that studies as much as a quarterback, you know what I mean? He's one of those guys. The way he watches film and prepares, not only for his individual matchups, but the way he can study a defensive coordinator, it's very special and he's the best in football."

Q: Knowing Michael Crabtree as you do and knowing how tough it was to sit out for a game, what does it mean for him to come out and give something extra?

Carr: "I know how much 'Crab' is a competitor and I know how much he loves football. I know just from having to miss a game this year because of my back how much that sucks. As much as we work hard and love to compete and be out there with our brothers, I know it just was hurting him because he just likes to be out there. For him to be able to come back, I can pretty much promise you he's juiced and ready to play."

Q: What have you seen from the offensive line as the year has gone on?

Carr: "It wasn't any like light switch moment or anything like that, it was just a steady growth of them knowing what they're capable of and them taking their coaching. You hear [offensive line] coach [Mike] Tice, he's got that loud voice in the hallway. You can hear him coaching them. And they would take it and just grow from it. Whenever you have a culture that accepts the coaching and just goes out and works their tail off out here and you just do that steady growth, good things are coming and it's hard because we all want the results now, especially with how the world is today, you want it now. Amazon has helped with that, but you look at how we are wired today and you take a group of guys and you see them just steady, keep doing it the right way, keep doing the footwork, keep doing it. And then when it starts to switch and things are going their way, it's really cool to see that hard work really does pay off."



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Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid Conference Call

Q: Have you noticed a difference in the way the Raiders' defense has been playing since the coordinator change?

Coach Reid: "Look, both guys are good coordinators. Ken [Norton, Jr.] did it a certain way, [John] Pagano does it a certain way. There's some overlap, but yeah there's some difference, yeah. I'm sure Jack [Del Rio] has some feelings on it, too. There's a little bit of all of it, which is they play well. They're playing very well right now."

Q: What's the biggest difference you notice on defense?

Coach Reid: "No. 51 [Bruce Irvin] and 52 [Khalil Mack] are playing at a very high level. They bring it every snap. So do the inside guys. They're playing hard. [NaVorro] Bowman is back, I think it was his first game the first time we played them. Now he's kind of in the mix there and understands what is expected. The front seven is playing hard and fast."

Q: How would you assess the division so far?

Coach Reid: "Yeah, it's a competitive division there and conference and all of that. The NFL is very competitive right now. That's a good thing. That's why we do this. We enjoy the competition. The AFC West, there's a competition, good football teams."

Q: Is there's a common denominator when things go bad or is it usually a lot of things at different times?

Coach Reid: "I don't think you put it in a box like that. I think every year is different. Every game is different. I don't think there's really a common denominator – the game is fluid. Things happen and normally it's different things. That's normally what happens."

Q: How does it affect your defense not having Marcus Peters this week?

Coach Reid: "I expect the other guys to step up and play. That's kind of how we roll here. I don't expect anything less of that. That's what we do."

Q: How would you characterize a film review on Monday where there was a large amount of success on a limited amount of plays?

Coach Reid: "You go through it. We have plenty of room to improve. One thing right now is that one week our offense is doing OK, and then one week the defense is doing OK. We have to put it together. That's what we need to do."

Q: Making the decision on Peters, how much consideration did you give to the fact that this is a key divisional game?

Coach Reid: "I'm not going to get into the whole thing there. I'll tell you the same thing that I told our media, I just did what I thought was best for the Chiefs. That's how try to go about my business."

Q: In the first meeting against the Raiders when they had all the shots to score at the end and then finally did, did that have a lasting impact on your team?

Coach Reid: "What plays were those?"

Q: The first game.

Coach Reid: "Oh, I was joking. Come on now. You have to be quicker than that. I got you. I don't think they did. Every game you have your hurdles you have to overcome. That was a hurdle and we didn't overcome it. We have to do better in that area."

Q: What impact have you seen Cordarrelle Patterson have in his first season with the Raiders?

Coach Reid: "You guys know him better than I do. He's a good player. Doing well in both areas."



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Q: What were your impression of Rodney Hudson when you had him?

Coach Reid: "One of my favorite guys. Great person. Good player. Raiders are lucky to have him. He's a good one."

Q: What stood out to you the most about the way Dave Toub prepares his unit?

Coach Reid: "This is one of those games where you have two really good special teams coordinators. Dave and I have been together off and on since college. We were coaching at the college level in UTEP. I think he's the best in the business. I know you guys have a good one there, too, who I have a lot of respect for. You're going to see two of the best special teams coaches in the National Football League going against each other."