



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Q: How important was it to re-sign Donald Penn in the offseason?

Coach Del Rio: "Donald Penn? Yeah, it was really good to get him done, extended. Obviously, having a veteran presence on the blindside of our quarterback, keep our line strong and kind of solidify it going forward. [We were] able to add a guy like Kelechi Osemele and really build on the core group that we had. It was good to get him done."

Q: When you signed Kelechi, did you talk to Gabe Jackson about moving him over?

Coach Del Rio: "We didn't talk to him ahead of time, no."

Q: How has he handled the move?

Coach Del Rio: "He's handled it beautifully. He's done a great job. We just talk to him about trying to do what's good for us and also for him. He's such a big, powerfully man – great kid. I think he's handled it beautifully. He's like, 'Whatever I can do for the team. Whatever makes us better.' Those type of things are what he said and indicated and that's great, that's great news for us. Obviously, you're taking a guy out of his comfort zone, but at the same time, we feel like it's a natural spot for him. He's a big, powerful man and that right guard spot is really a natural [spot] for a lot of the movement things we want to do. He helps us take it to another level."

Q: Do you think there's a lurking danger with the hype around the team?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, I think too much of anything is not healthy. Whether it's paying attention to criticism or whether it's paying attention people tooting their horn. I think for us and for good football teams and good football players, I think it's about staying grounded, staying humble. Respecting everybody and fearing nobody. It's all about the preparation that you put in. It's all about the work that we put in and the commitment. It's about executing when we get our opportunities on Sunday – it's about execution. Those are all the things we focus on. Whether you hear, whether you don't like it, whether you like it, it really doesn't matter. It should not deter from your mission and what you need to get done. Maybe there are more of those stories where you actually kind of [go], 'That's cool of them to say.' But at the end of the day, whether you're ripping on the team or whether you're praising the team, it doesn't have, it should not have anything to do with the work that's being put in. That's where our focus has been. I think our guys have been spot on the way we're approaching it."

Q: But you do mention it to them at times?

Coach Del Rio: "No, the way I talk about it is whether it's good or bad, it does not matter. We set our own agenda. No offense, but you guys don't set our agenda. Our fans don't set it. Who sets the agenda is we set our agenda and we determine what our goals are. Collectively we commit to those goals. That's what I'm all about and that's what we're going to be about."

Q: What is it about Derek Carr that instills confidence in you?

Coach Del Rio: "Well I think a lot of different things. I think Derek is a natural leader. When you have a quarterback that's smart, he's tough, he's accurate. He really understands the game. He has the ability to put the ball where he wants to put it. He's a great teammate, great worker. Work ethic is spot on. You have to have it. If you don't have the work ethic in today's NFL with all the work that's required, I think you're going to have a hard time. He has it. He has the work ethic. He has a sense of humility about him that I appreciate. I think he's a grounded young man. I just think the sky is the limit. For us, we just want him to continue to grow and develop. That's a theme for us with all of our guys. As coaches, we take pride in helping guys be a little bit better. You get talented players you help get a little bit better and as a team, we collectively try to do that for each other, then great things happen."



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Q: Does Bruce Irvin come as advertised?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, he's been awesome. He's been great. He's tough. He's physical, he's very determined. He takes a lot of pride in what he does and what we do. Yeah, I'm sure glad we have him."

Q: Is the familiarity that Malcolm Smith and Irvin possess with Ken Norton, Jr. a huge positive?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, absolutely. Those are two guys that played on the league's best defense over the last four or five years, or one of the best. Obviously, Denver played pretty good last year, but I think Seattle has been doing some spectacular things up there on defense in particular. You know, we get a couple guys down here that are familiar with Kenny [defensive coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.]. So yeah, it definitely helps."

Q: How much has it benefited Clive Walford to workout with Derek Carr and others in the offseason?

Coach Del Rio: "I think that when you take the time to get on the same page with your quarterback if you're somebody that's going to catch the ball and be involved in the offense, I think that's a positive thing. Obviously, those guys take it upon themselves to do something like that. That's a great sign for our football team."

Q: Are Amari Cooper and Carr an odd couple at camp being roommates together?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I don't have a whole lot to add to that story. *(laughter)* You know, young players are young players. They're roomed up and you know, they wanted to room together. So, that's pretty cool."

Q: Will rooming together only help their chemistry?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, for sure. I think, you know, you talk about being on the same page with your quarterback, certainly seeing him every night has to help."

Q: Have you ever thought about the idea of a football team in Las Vegas even before the Raiders were considering the relocation?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm loving it right now in Napa, and we're looking forward to playing in the Coliseum this year. You guys who were around me last year know I didn't spend any time talking about those stories. For me, it's about being here, being in the moment, being respectful of the position that I'm in and I'm very appreciative to have this opportunity to lead this great franchise."

G/T Kelechi Osemele

Q: How are things going getting yourself acclimated with this group?

Osemele: "It's going great."

Q: What are the biggest challenges to get yourself on the same page as the rest of the offensive line?

Osemele: "I wouldn't say that there are any challenges, it's just going to take time."

Q: Did it feel like today is a day that the offense came together with more movement and you guys were able to get some things done against the other days?

Osemele: "I feel like the offense has been coming together every day."

Q: What are you most impressed with by some of the other guys you're working with on that line?

Osemele: "A lot of athleticism."

Q: Is that why you think they brought you here, they see a guy that fits with them athleticism wise?

Osemele: "Yeah."



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Q: What do you think your greatest assets are in the regard are?

Osemele: "Power, just strength."

Q: What do you see from the other side, that defensive of line you guys are going up against, does that look like a good group out there?

Osemele: "Yeah, good aggression, good athleticism and good power."

Q: How does that help you guys to go up against them?

Osemele: "You see it every day, so it's going to make you better. You get used to it consistently."

Q: Mike Tice was saying between you, Rodney Hudson and Gabe Jackson, that he doesn't think he has ever coached a group of interior line men that has as much talent and potential as you usually see and that you guys can kind of impose your will. Are you excited about what the three of you can do together?

Osemele: "Definitely, they are strong, athletic and have a lot of attitude and they don't like to get beat. Anytime you have that, you're not going to get beat often."

Q: What's it like working next to Rodney? It seems like he's a really smart and a real good player?

Osemele: "Yeah, he's very intelligent and on top of that he can actually play and he has athletic ability. On top of being an intelligent player, he can also play ball so that's good."

Q: What have your impression been of Mike Tice as a line coach?

Osemele: "He played like 14 years, so he has a lot of experience. He's more realistic and he knows exactly what he's talking about when he is coaching steps and placement, so it's good to play for a coach that has been there and done that. It's great."

Q: Is it good to have him out of the golf cart?

Osemele: "Yeah, yeah, yeah. It's good that he's walking around, limping around now. He's one of the guys again. It's good."

Q: When you came here did you see this team as one that was on the verge of doing something great?

Osemele: "Yeah. Definitely a young team, definitely a team that has a lot of talent. I'm a young guy myself, so it's good to be a part of it. Jump in there and be a part of something."

Q: What is it about Khalil Mack that makes him so special?

Osemele: "I would definitely say athleticism and power. A rare combination ability to be flexible and bend around players and also be explosive at the same time. I've only ever seen one player like that and that's Von [Miller]. So, he's in rare air. He's good."