



Oakland Raiders Transcript

LB NaVorro Bowman

Bowman: "I thought Jack was a great guy and a great coach. I enjoyed the time that we had together. He wanted me to be here and we ran into each other before I made my decision so I knew it would be a smooth transition."

Q: Were you surprised?

Bowman: "Yeah, a little but I don't know what all went into it. I was only here for nine or 10 weeks. A lot goes into that decision. We as players have to produce, him being at the helm of this whole thing, he understands it's a production business. When you don't do that, the guy above makes changes. You never want to see that happen but definitely want to see him land back on his feet. I wish nothing but the best for him."

Q: We talked to you on Friday and you said you were really interested in coming back with John Pagano and Jack Del Rio. Does this change things now?

Bowman: "Now, yeah. You don't want to separate the three phases of the game, but I just feel like if we were able to get this thing started end of training camp full time and understanding each other, I think Pags would do a great job of getting us on the same page. Just wait and see where everything falls. I enjoyed my time here."

Q: What do you know about Jon Gruden and the potential for him to come here?

Bowman: "It's exciting. You know what he's done in the past. You know that he understands the game of football, both sides. He's studied the quarterback position inside and out. He's a guy that is a well-known critic in this game and coach as well. I look forward to seeing what happens."

LS Jon Condo

Condo: "What Jack has done to bring this organization back to life, so to speak, and give his three years, we built a good team and some good games. Obviously, this year was a disappointment. I think everyone in this locker room would agree to that. It's unfortunate, it's the nature of the business. You build relationships with all the coaches and for something like this to happen is tough. Life goes on."

Q: You've been thorough a few of these but usually on this day it hasn't happened yet.

Condo: "Yeah, it's usually this 'Black Monday' thing. It's crazy. How many coaching changes do you see each and every year? People want to do it fast so the coaches that they want to hire can start getting their staff together and it's all about having openings come up. I don't know if that had something to do with it or not, how quickly it was done. I don't know."

Q: You just said that it was surprising seeing the reports come out the day before about Jon Gruden. Was that a distraction for the team?

Condo: "No, we don't really discuss it. I've been here long enough that there have been two or three other times where it was like 'Gruden is coming.' That was back in 2009 or 2010. You can't really look at that. You've still got a game to play. You play the game of football to win. The guys went out yesterday and we played and we did our best. We couldn't make plays and that's just the frustrating part about this season. Seemed like we needed plays on all three phases and there were some here and there but we just didn't do it enough."

Q: What are your thoughts now about Jon Gruden coming?

Condo: "I don't know. I'll believe it when I see it. From all the reports and previous years, he may do it, he may not. It looks like he is but I don't know. It'll be interesting to see him back on the sideline."



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Q: What's next for you?

Condo: "We'll see what happens. I still want to play the game of football. I love it. I still feel young and this is the healthiest I've been. I haven't had any trips to the training room this year and I took care of my body. We'll see."

Q: Jack came here and changed the culture, as you mentioned. Do you think Gruden is the guy that could take this team to the next level?

Condo: "I don't know. We'll see. Whoever the new coach is, if it is Gruden, we'll see. I've met him a couple times but I don't know what he's like as a coach. I know what he's done 15 years ago. It'll be interesting to see. He's been a part of the game and stuff like that. He knows the game. I don't know."

LB/DE James Cowser

Q: Any thoughts about the coaching change?

Cowser: "It always hurts. You love those guys. You have to trust that the front office and the staff that they're going to do what's best for the team, but we love those guys. Part of you really hurts."

Q: What would you say about Jack Del Rio?

Cowser: "I have so much respect for that man. He reminds me a lot of my college coach, who I attached to, just the way he goes about his business. He's very professional about what he does and he's very true to himself."

Q: Were you guys surprised by the move?

Cowser: "I wasn't paying attention. I was just trying to beat the Chargers. It was kind of a shock to me. That's part of the business, and it's a sad, sad part of the business."

Q: How did you find out?

Cowser: "I was told by a buddy. That's kind of how I found out."

Q: In the locker room?

Cowser: "Outside the locker room. Just outside, just after the game. I was with my family and I got told."

Q: Do you trust that Mr. Davis is going to make the right moves for the team going forward?

Cowser: "That's what you do when you sign up. You put your trust in their hands. The same goes for players. I've lost good friends who have gotten cut. I've been cut before. It's tough. It's a sad part of this."

Q: How different is it going into the offseason with the unknown?

Cowser: "That's part of it. I don't know. I don't know what's going to happen. What I do know is the quality of people that these coaches are and that the players are. I know that we'll move forward and they'll move forward with strength and doing the right thing."

Q: What are your thoughts on Jon Gruden?

Cowser: "Shoot, I don't know. I don't know anything about him. I just know that he's a good commentator, cool guy. All this stuff, I'm young in the league. I don't know much. I haven't been around like that, so right now, I'm just sitting back and trying to prove myself and do what I can to be better."



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DT Justin Ellis

Q: Do you guys take some responsibility for what happened?

Ellis: "Yeah, for sure. We're always in it together. So, we're going to take some responsibility for it too."

Q: What are you looking for this offseason with free agency and such? Have you thought about that at all?

Ellis: "No, I mean, whatever God brings to me, I'm going to be grateful for it. I left it all out there on the field this year and we'll see what comes with it."

Q: What do you know about Jon Gruden?

Ellis: "He knows the game, for sure. He's for sure like a mastermind of this game. It would be an honor."

Q: What would you say about Jack Del Rio?

Ellis: "He was a great coach. Like I said, it was a surprise to me. We went through a hard time this year, but I still think he did a good job with us. Some of the same things we did last year when we went 12-4. I feel like he was a good head coach and I wish him the best."

Q: Did you get a chance to talk to him at all?

Ellis: "Not really. Everything was going on. So, everybody was you know, staying in their own lane?"

S Erik Harris

Q: What are you going to remember about Jack Del Rio?

Harris: "Just the character and the man he is. The integrity he holds. I can't say anything bad about the man."

Q: Any thoughts on the chances of Jon Gruden being the next head coach?

Harris: "You know, I don't know him. I see him on TV and stuff like that. I don't know how he is as a coach. All I know is him as a commentator or whatever. He seems like a great guy. Obviously, knows football. Whatever the future holds here, I'd be excited about it."

S Reggie Nelson

Q: What was your initial thoughts on the news that Jack Del Rio was let go?

Nelson: "My initial thoughts? I was just numb. Like I said, coach drafted me and he was my coach. I think everybody felt bad. It's a production business, and we didn't produce yesterday. Production business, man."

Q: What did Del Rio mean to you?

Nelson: "He meant a lot to me. What do you mean? He wouldn't mean nothing less."

Q: What kind of coach?

Nelson: "He's my coach."

Q: Do you think it was fair?

Nelson: "I'm not going to get into fair or not. That's not my call at all. I'm here to play football. I don't make those big decisions. I think that's a question you can ask upstairs. I'm not going to get into that."



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Q: You said he drafted you.

Nelson: "I said that's my coach. I came here to win and like I said, we fell short this year and things didn't turn out the way we wanted them to. At the end of the day it's a production business and we didn't produce, like I said."

Q: What are your thoughts on the potential of Jon Gruden coming in next?

Nelson: "From what I heard, he's a great coach. I mean whoever they bring in, they have a great team here. I loved all my teammates here. Everybody was a pro and stuff. Whoever they bring in has a great team they're coming to. There's a lot of athletes, young guys, egger to play football and want to play football."

FB/RB Jamize Olawale

Q: What would you say about Jack Del Rio?

Olawale: "I mean, I love him. I love him as a coach. I think he came here and changed the attitude of the whole program, the whole atmosphere. For a while there, we didn't have any winning seasons. He came in here and we were able to turn things around. I think moving forward, the future is bright."

Q: Any thoughts about Jon Gruden potentially being the next head coach?

Olawale: "You know, I'm just focusing on this offseason, trying to get back healthy and worrying about myself."

Q: Not performing to expectations, is that just on the coach or the players as well?

Olawale: "No, it's not just on the coach. Clearly, you look at our record and we didn't produce. So, we have a lot to fix moving forward."

Q: What has the last 24 hours been like for you?

Olawale: "It's been rough. You know, you never want to end the season on a sour note, but again, I'm just trying to focus on moving forward."

K Giorgio Tavecchio

Tavecchio: "It's a tough business. I think he handled himself really well, given the circumstances. I know that in my own selfish way, I will always have an affinity for him because he gave me my first shot."

Q: How do you feel your season went?

Tavecchio: "There was good, there was bad, there was ugly. But I can sum it up in one word and that's gratitude. That's the first thing that comes to mind now that I get a chance to process things. I am reminded of an Enrique Iglesias song called The Highway. It's a journey. I'm so grateful that I've gotten to share it with the men in this room and the people in this building. It's been a special ride. I hope I did them proud. I hope I was able to give what was expected of me. I know that I'll forever cherish these moments because when it comes down to it, you want to make a living by what you take but make life by what you give. I feel like I gave everything. There's nothing more I can do."

Q: Is it too soon to think of next year and training camp and battling for this spot again?

Tavecchio: "I feel like I can take a deep breath now and start to look and process at this season. Things I did well, things I'd like to improve. I haven't really looked far ahead into the future. Right now, I'm just staying on the gratitude that I have bubbling out of me."



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Q: What are your thoughts about Jack leaving?

Tavecchio: "As I said earlier, I respect him as a man and as a coach. I know I'll be, in a way, forever indebted to him for giving me my first shot. I wish him and his family the best, I really do."

Q: Do you feel like you showed this year that you deserve a job in this league as a kicker?

Tavecchio: "I think that's for other people to decide. I'm pleased with the overall experience. From a human standpoint, it was so rich, that's something that I look for. I could have done a few things better but that's how the cookie crumbles sometimes."

Q: This is your first opportunity, even though you've been around the league for a while, to have a full season that you can use as a foundation. What's the value of that and how much will developments throughout this season dictate how you devote your attention towards your craft?

Tavecchio: "It comes down to the intangibility of the experience. Once you go through things a bunch of times, consciously or subconsciously, you know how to handle them, how to deal with them and how to prepare for them. I think, in a way, I'm going to let the other currents of everything build into this experience moving forward. I know that good, bad or ugly, life goes on. Teammates still care about you, coaches still support you, whatever happens on the field. You can only prepare as best you can and once you let it rip, you just kind of let it rip. That's one of the biggest lessons I learned this year."

Q: You never know when a coach comes in, who on the current staff will stay and go. What has Brad Seely meant to you?

Tavecchio: "He's been a great mentor. I think he's been in my corner every place I've been with him. I consider him like a father figure essentially. Him and his assistant, Tracy Smith. I think they've both been very honest with me and straightforward with me. That's something that I really appreciate in this business. I feel like they overstep and care about me as a person because they've been on this journey with me and they feel a part of it as well. I can't speak to that, but I feel that from my end. With the amount of times they've stood by me and helped me through some tough times and the ebbs and flows of my personal journey, it's something that I am forever grateful for."

Q: Can you talk about playing for the Raider Nation?

Tavecchio: "It's special, man. There's only one Silver and Black out there. International brand. It's the hometown team so it's been an unbelievable experience. When you get in the locker room and see that black jersey with the silver number. These are some tough guys so to be able to don the silver and black in my hometown... I've driven past the Coliseum hundreds of times growing up, it's very, very special. I go back to the word I used earlier: gratitude. So grateful. I hope I made the Raider Nation proud."