



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: "Alright, got Buffalo coming in. Hope to have a good Thursday, a preparation day so we can be ready."

Q: Do you feel like you need to get the run game going?

Coach Musgrave: "Definitely, definitely. We want to be as balanced as we can and looking forward to getting the run game going more than we have the last two weeks."

Q: Does the offensive line retain its confidence even when things aren't going well and they're executing at key moments of the game?

Coach Musgrave: "They do. They do, and we like that portion of it. We'd like to be more consistent and establish the run game earlier. But you're right, when we've needed to be efficient, not necessarily explosive, but we were more efficient in the run game definitely when we needed it. So, we're thankful for that."

Q: How important is it going to be to have Clive Walford involved in the passing game moving forward and how much has his role changed since you lost Lee Smith?

Coach Musgrave: "Clive was injured that same game in Baltimore. When we lost, Lee, Clive got hurt down there. He got saw tackled there right before 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree] made his catch to win the game. So, he's just getting back to I think feeling somewhat healthy and so, we're eager to use him more and realize his contributions."

Q: Has Walford had to take on more blocking?

Coach Musgrave: "Yeah, definitely. Yeah, he's doing a nice job, doing a nice job with the blocking and definitely with the receiving part. But, it is important. We know our receivers are deep and skilled, but to have he and Mychal [Rivera] out there really helps us."

Q: Have you seen the blocking portion of Walford's game develop or did he come in with that naturally?

Coach Musgrave: "He was asked to block a bunch at Miami in school, so he has ability, but he's definitely improved the last two years."

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: Have you been surprised with what Khalil Mack has been able to do these last few weeks?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Not at all. Khalil is never surprising. The kid is amazing. He's fast. He's strong. He's that basketball player that fills out the stat sheet. Everybody just sees the stats, or the sacks I should say, but he's in meetings early. He's a leader. He's a guy that the young guys can really lean on to teach. He's always improving. He practices hard. He's the player that everyone loves to coach."

Q: How do Bruce Irvin and Mack feed off each other?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well you have to watch the games. You can see that they're two very competitive people. When you put two competitive people together, you get a high level. One is always trying to outdo the other. Those two working together, they're making each other better, which was our plan from the beginning. Now at this point in the season, you can really see that they've taken it to another level."

Q: What was it like to watch Mack play every defensive snap?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "That's special. That's every week. We see it every week, every day. He doesn't miss a practice. He doesn't miss a day, doesn't miss a meeting. He's on time. He does all the things that the good players are supposed to do. When you see the performance on Sunday, you're not surprised because he's already made that



Oakland Raiders Transcript

performance ahead of time. He's already put that performance in the bank by the way he works during the week, the way he practices, the way he watches film, the way he showed up every day, the way he works. He's supposed to play well because of the way he prepares himself."

Q: What are the issues with facing Tyrod Taylor and his ability to run?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well you can see he's a hard guy to catch. He's fast. He's elusive. He extends plays. He has a great arm. It kind of comes for us right after playing Cam [Newton] with Carolina, so it kind of falls into that category. At the same time, he's having a heck of a year. They're leading the league in rushing. Big plays, they're throwing the ball really well, so we have a really big challenge ahead of us."

Q: How do you guys plan to be effective with slowing down the rush?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Playing together. Everybody understands it's a disciplined type game plan. It's a disciplined type team you're playing. You have to be connected across the board. [LeSean] McCoy is a type of runner, he can start to the right and he could end up on the left. It kind of reminds you of the old days, Barry Sanders. He could be anywhere. It's important each player who's involved in the defense and in charge of the gap, you have to be solid, you have to sound and you have to be disciplined and understand that we're all connected. Everybody plays together. Not one guy tackles him. The whole unit is responsible for the running game."

Q: What does it say about this defense that when you really need to get off the field late in the game, you usually do?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "That's the great thing about this game. It's always something to improve on. There's always really good things that we're doing. There's always things that we can get better at, but there are a few things that we can hang our hat on as a defense. We love getting after the ball. Third down is really important to us. Rising up and making plays with the big players that are supposed to make them. Scoring defense, those are things that we really, really care about. The guys have really taken to it. They understand what's important, and it's about winning games."

Q: Do you see your defense as a work in progress? What's the final product that you'd like to see?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "We're not at the final, so we don't really know exactly. You're always working. You always have the goals. You always set a lot of small goals to reach. When it comes down to it, we want to be on the field when the game is on the line. We want to be depended upon to make the plays that we're supposed to make. We want to play at the highest of our ability. We have some really good players. We've assembled some really good players together. Why not go for it? We're going to for the best we can possibly be in all the situations. Football isn't about how many yards a team scored on you. It's about the points. It's about the situations. It's about the two-minute, the red zone. It's about the first down. It's about third down. It's about getting turnovers. All those things make up your win, and it's about winning at the end of the day. That's our emphasis."

Q: Do you think this is a Super Bowl defense?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, we won't know that until we're in the Super Bowl. Right now we're the defense that has to play the Buffalo Bills this weekend. We're just obsessed with improving us and playing well this weekend. That's all we have our focus on."