



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

Opening Statement: “I am really proud of our team’s effort. It is hard to lose. It takes a toll on all of us. I apologize to all Raider fans, just to assure you we will keep working and I will answer any questions that I can.”

Q: What happened on the last fourth down play?

Gruden: “We tried for a big play. It was a play designed for man-to-man, we were trying to generate a pick for our half back. Give credit to San Diego, they made a great play. We were looking for a big play in that situation and the Chargers smothered it out. I take credit for that play call there. I have to see what happened. The play was designed for Jalen Richard, from where I was standing I wasn’t sure how much pressure there was. But, it looked like Melvin Ingram III was beating down on him. That was one play amongst others that cost us the game today.”

Q: Thoughts on the team’s offensive possessions?

Gruden: “I really felt good about our plan. We took the opening kickoff down to the one-yard line. We had another great possession that I think that we mishandled the ball on the third down. I thought we had another great drive that ended in a turnover. We fumbled the ball right outside the red zone. When you are playing the Chargers, one of the best teams in the AFC, you can’t do those things. They doubled on us again, we have been doubled up way too many times when opponents score on the last possession of the first half and the opening possession of the second half. It is a lot for us to overcome right now, when we want to become one dimensional.”

Q: What did you think of Johnny Townsend’s performance?

Gruden: “I have always said that I really believe in that kid. In that fake punt you can see that he is one of our fastest players. He is a tremendous athlete. He took his medicine for awhile like a lot of us, but he is going to be a really good punter for us.”

Q: Talk about Brandon LaFell going from being inactive for most of the games in the season to now being a number one receiver for the team?

Gruden: “Well, he had a lot of injuries. Jordy Nelson hurt his knee today and missed four series and Martavis Bryant hurt his knee and we are really concerned about him. LaFell has come in here and given us a lift. We are going to lean on him for the last seven weeks.”

Q: Why wasn’t there a lot of big breakaways plays defensively?

Gruden: “I felt pretty good. I thought we had a lot of rookies play and play well. I thought Jason Cabinda had extended action and made plays. I thought Nick Nelson made some plays. We had pass rushes at times. So we did make improvement, but we have a lot of improvement to make. And it starts with me.”

Q: What are your thoughts on the program having the third worst start in franchise history?

Gruden: “We are just going to keep working hard and practicing. Preparing as hard as we can and keep developing the players that are here. Hopefully it translates into wins. We have a lot to play for, we have seven weeks to spend with these players. Some of these guys are getting better and better and the future is something we will talk about later. Right now it is hard to lose but we are seeing progress in our young players. Some of these veterans are giving us what they have and I am proud of them.”

Q: Thoughts on Doug Martin’s performance?

Gruden: “He is pretty good. Running and catching, he is doing a lot of good things. When we get behind on two scores or when we can’t get out of normal situations, we become one dimensional. It is hard to run the ball when you are behind two scores, but he has done a lot of good things.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Have the veterans helped establish the foundation of this program?

Gruden: “Yes, I do. This will be a year that a lot of us will never forget. It is painful, it is hard. It will be hard to sleep again and get up in the morning, but we are going to keep working hard. This will be the foundation that this program will lean on, mental toughness and physical toughness. We will do everything we can in the eye of adversity, I know it sounds corny to some people, but that is the grit of toughness this organization has built on and that is what we are going to continue to strive for.”

Q: Update on the Martavis Bryant injury?

Gruden: “It is really concerning to me right now. It looks like his knee. It’s just hard, you’re losing Jordy Nelson and then our X receiver. It’s tough right now. It doesn’t look good, I am really concerned about him.”

Q: Were the players affected by the weather in today’s game?

Gruden: “No, I think a lot of us had friends, relatives and loved ones that are going through a lot right now. Most important let’s just hope the fires end and hopefully we keep things into perspective. It’s been a tough week here in California.”

Q: How far do you think the Chargers will go?

Gruden: “They are good. They are a good football team and well put together. They have two of their best players in the locker room right now. I am impressed with them. They are very good on all three levels. I saw Seattle score a couple of touchdowns, but I thought Russell Wilson was a magician in the way he got out of trouble and made those plays. Offensively, Philip Rivers and the balanced offensive scheme with these receivers, they are going to be a handful.”

RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

Q: Describe what you saw during that 4th-and-5 play?

Carr: “We had the play designed for Jalen [Richard] versus their coverage. And they just covered it well. I wish I had a better answer for you, but they did. Stuff happens.”

Q: Is there another option during that play besides Jalen?

Carr: “No - with the look they gave us, Jalen is the guy. We’ve seen it on film work against them a whole bunch of times. We just didn’t get it.”

Q: When you look back at that play, do you think you should have just run it yourself?

Carr: “I would have definitely got sacked by 54, but I wish – absolutely, yes. We could have had something different to pick that first down. It hurt.”

Q: Win or loss – you usually come out with a positive attitude, you seem different today. Are these losses wearing on you?

Carr: “No – something happened that just frustrated me. Deep down, I’m good. I promise. It just kind of bugged me. Nothing to do with me and I’m not going to tell you.”

Q: What’s the difference between the 0-10 team in 2014 and this year’s team?

Carr: “That team – we had no clue what we were doing as rookies. I’m just speaking for myself. I had no clue what I was getting into, people can only tell you so much. You just hope one day; I hope it’s not like this forever. Whereas now, I have faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for. I know it’s going to get better. There’s no doubt in my mind. I’ve seen it. I’ve been around guys, coaches – I have faith that it is. Obviously, it’s not doing that right now but in the future I know it’s going to be a good place to play.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What's your takeaway about your teammates from today's game?

Carr: "Without talking about each person, there were guys that Coach [Jon Gruden] challenged in the team meeting. Those guys battled their hearts out. When you have guys that can handle tough coaching and then they go and show you I heard you Coach and I'm going to better – that's another thing. It lets you know that we have some right guys. 5 years in this business – that's not always the case. We have the right guys. They answered that call. Were they perfect? Obviously not, but with that said – they battled and they fought. That's sometimes what you need out of some guys and we saw it today."

Q: In that 4th-and-5 play – isn't throwing it up for grabs a better option?

Carr: "Well – I wish I could tell you all about that play. But no, not in that case. There's literally – it's Jalen. The coverage they play and everything, the way we designed it – it's Jalen. I wish there was something else I could have done. You know that. I don't want to lose. Obviously, it sucks. We'll talk about that this week. It's really designed for Jalen and they covered it."

Q: Did the 4th down sweep in the opening drive (in the red zone) impact the rest of the game?

Carr: "The effect – obviously, that's gut-wrenching because we moved the ball straight down the field. I felt we moved it pretty well all day. I think we didn't in the red zone and touchdowns, 0-3 in the red zone – that's terrible. We have to work on that. But that right there, we've seen multiple teams score on that play. They had trouble at first lining up to it, just like we saw on film. As I'm sitting there, I'm thinking this is going to walk in and then it didn't."

Q: Do you think you've trained yourself to see the small victories?

Carr: "Oh yeah, absolutely. You have to. I was always taught – in college from John Baxter. We had this special teams call-out at Fresno State and one of the things you would say is to celebrate all wins. It doesn't matter how good it is, how bad – you celebrate all wins. So anything where a guy triumphs in something, you win on a play, or you win a game, you celebrate all things. It's so hard. This business will test your character. A lot of our guys are finding that out right now. It will test you, it will humble you really quick. I think that when you have little victories like that, you have to celebrate them. You pat the guy on the back and you tell them that you're proud of them, but you just say we need more."

Q: It's been two straight games without a touchdown, what do you guys need to do?

Carr: "Score. Gosh man, the frustrating part is – without seeing the film, from what I can remember is we got some similar looks of stuff that we liked and they were playing similar coverages and those coverages were passed off differently. They did a good job. As I'm standing there I'm thinking this is a touchdown, but that's not the case. We just have to keep fighting and keep working. I think – me, just trying to extend a play here and there like we talked about in the red zone. Not on the one play, but in the red zone. Just trying to find something else, I don't know. I'm saying stuff, but I haven't even watched the film yet. I'm just trying. I'll do whatever they tell me, every time I go to the sidelines. I look at my coaches and say tell me what you want me to do better and I'll do it."

Q: On the sack and fumble in the second quarter, what did you see?

Carr: "We just had a miscommunication in the thing. Obviously, we don't want him [Chargers DE Melvin Ingram] coming for you. It caught me off guard. I didn't want to just go down, I tried to slap him by to keep the play alive. The chances of me doing that aren't very good, but I tried. He put his hand on the ball and got it out. We just had a miscommunication. It should not have looked like that. He made a play."

Q: Did you feel the impact of the fires during today's game?

Carr: "I want to say this the right way. Obviously, yes you feel it and all those things. We can play a football game. People are losing family members and houses. And we're playing a football game. I think we're alright. I want to say it in the most respectful way. Obviously, yes you feel it. You can see it. You can see the ash in the air. We're playing a football game; it brings things into perspective. We're playing a



Oakland Raiders Transcript

game. A lot of people care about [it]. A lot of people put time, money and effort into, but at the end of the day, people are losing their lives. When it comes to the fires, I'll do whatever the league says. Play, don't play. I'm more concerned with helping those people."

Q: The drive that led to the fourth-and-5 and you've only had a couple field goals, are you feeling confident at that point or were the frustrations piling up?

Carr: "Definitely I was getting frustrated at things, but that never changes my belief and thinking if we can win. I'm always saying, we're down 11 - we need to get a field goal, get a touchdown, go for two. Fourteen- two touchdowns. That kind of stuff always goes through my head. We care a lot. It's definitely frustrating at times, but it's never a disbelief. It's never like that."

RAIDERS P JOHNNY TOWNSEND

Q: How did the fake unfold?

Johnny Townsend: "I completely blacked out on the play. I can't even tell you what happen during it. We prepared all week and did a great job of seeing the look and reacting to it. The edge came inside and we took it outside. The guys gave me a great running line so props to them."

Q: Was it a look, is it a play call, was it instinctive?

Townsend: "It was a play call. It was a fake we practiced the last couple weeks. They gave us the look and we took advantage of it."

Q: Were you aware you were the leading rusher in the game until close to midway in the second quarter?

Townsend: "I saw that. It was pretty cool. As a punter you don't really get opportunities to make plays like that. So having the chance to get on the field and take off with one was a special moment."

Q: As you were running, you said you blacked out. There was daylight in front of you.

Townsend: "Those guys did a great job in front of me protecting me on the field. They gave me a great running line down the sideline. They did their job so they get all the props."

Q: With all that speed, why are you a punter?

Townsend: "There's guys on the field that have way more speed than I do. So I don't know about that."

Q: You had a couple career best punts. Did you think that you were overthinking things? What was the difference?

Townsend: "Just simplifying the game as much as possible was one of the biggest benefits. Trying to slow the game down and seeing things better. That's something that comes with experience and something that comes with learning how to mentally preparing the right way. Today was a good day, I'm happy about that one."

Q: Do you think your success with the ball, running with the ball, had anything to do with your success punting the ball?

Townsend: "It was a nice confidence boost. It's fun to have bright spots and feed off it."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS S MARCUS GILCHRIST

Q: You didn't get the final result you wanted, but in terms of points allowed, third downs, the outward enthusiasm displayed by the defense, the amount of good tackles did you guys see this as a step in the right direction?

Gilchrist: "I think there's always room for improvement. We did some good things, There are some things we need to improve on. There's always room for improvement. It's like every week. We do some things good every week but we're not doing enough to get the end result that we want."

Q: It seemed like you guys were pretty stung after the 49ers game, did you feel like you could walk out with your head a little higher after this one?

Gilchrist: "I don't know. For me it's all about that 'W' and that 'L' column. Obviously we want to be able to do enough to put a 'W' in that win column. We're just not doing enough to where we can do that."

Q: When you look back at that big play, it always seems to be one or two plays that take away from what was a solid effort. Is that frustrating?

Gilchrist: "Most definitely. That's part of the things I'm talking about that we can do better, that can possibly change that 'W' and 'L' column for us."

Raiders Defensive Tackle Maurice Hurst

Q: With how frustrating this year has been so far, do you see a silver lining going forward with all you young guys?

Maurice Hurst: "Yeah, you can see even from the first quarter we were lights out on defense which is exactly what you want to see from us. We're trying to figure out how to do it for four quarters right now, that's the most important thing. That's one of the best teams in our conference, so if we're able to do that for four quarters, we're going to be a hell of a team in the future."

Q: How has it been as a young guy coming in and trying to keep a positive attitude?

Hurst: "It's tough, but that's why Coach [Jon] Gruden brought me in here, to lead these guys and try to lead by example. We're trying to get this thing turned around as quickly as possible."

Q: Do you and the other young guys talk about it at all?

Hurst: "Yeah, I mean we talk all the time. I talk to Arden [Key] and P.J. [Hall] all the time and every single one of the rookies. He [Jon Gruden] brought us in here for a reason, so we're working to the point of being able to turn everything around. That starts by going game-by-game and rep-by-rep, just trying to get better everyday."

Q: What do you learn from playing two games against a guy like Philip [Rivers]?

Hurst: "He's really smart, we had to prepare for him all week. We got him to call a timeout on one of the plays because we understood what play he was checking to and that comes with preparation. We're just trying to come in every week prepared to play."

Q: Did the smoke affect you guys out there at all playing in those conditions?

Hurst: "No, not really. Once I play in the game, I'm laser focused on the game and not too worried about the smoke."

Q: How close is this young defense?

Hurst: "I think we're extremely close, but it's hard to say much without results. We're just going to keep believing in this team and believing in each other. We're focused on what we can control."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS LB SHILIQUE CALHOUN

Q: The difference was really a few plays here or there, what did you guys see?

Shilique Calhoun: "We're a couple plays away from competing. Last time we played them I think we had three plays for 130 yards. Otherwise we played very well, our defense was top notch. We just have to pull it together, those few plays. We need to make sure we're all focused on our common goal which is to stop them on that down. I think then we'll have the production we're looking for for a win."

Q: Was it nice to get your snaps?

Calhoun: "It's always nice to be out there. Being able to get a feel for the game allowed me to go out and play my game which was good."

Q: As a pass rusher, does just getting into a rhythm help?

Calhoun: "I think so. I think that being able to get into that rhythm, understand what your offensive tackle is giving you, left or right really helps you create a game plan for being successful as well as watching film. I need to focus on maximizing my opportunities, even if its three snaps, I can't take a play off. I need to make sure I'm on top of my game."

Q: Do you think the film is going to show you guys are making strides?

Calhoun: "I think the film is going to show we competed. We're a play away from competing, from having a complete game, defense and special teams. We're right there. We just need to, when we watch the film we'll see the small plays we need to critique and make sure we're alignment and assignment sound."

Q: You got in there for that sack and it was taken away by that rushing the passer call. How frustrating is that?

Calhoun: "IT's one of those things Where you look back on it and I just needed to get to him, get him down faster. If I get him down quick enough, I don't have to worry about that penalty. It's on me to make sure I complete the play and finish the play out. I'm frustrated with the loss, above all else. Not the sack, I want to win the game."

Raiders Linebacker Marquel Lee

Q: What did you say to your guys out there today?

Marquel Lee: "I told them it's about time we get back on track and we need everybody with full support and willing to help. It's a team game and I talked about the smoke, because we want all of it."

Q: We want all of it? What does that mean?

Lee: "It means whatever comes our way, we're going to take it, and we're going to persevere."

Q: In terms of points allowed, the enthusiasm, some of the tackles you guys made, it seemed like a pretty dramatic step up from the 49ers game. Do you guys walk out of here feeling like you got better today?

Lee: Yeah, I feel like we had our best week of practice this week and on defense I feel like you could see it carry over to the game. When it comes down to it, we need to keep getting better as a defense.

Q: Is it frustrating playing pretty well and then give up one big play that kind takes away the momentum?

Lee: "It's always frustrating to give up a big play and we don't want anybody to score, obviously. It's definitely frustrating, but you need to have that next play mentality."

Q: Do you think when you look at the tape that you're going to see that strides were made?

Lee: "There's still a lot of improvement to be made, definitely. I feel like we made strides today, though."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: How do you as a professional keep focused on the season ahead of you and trying to accomplish what you set out to do?

Lee: “These hard times are going to bring us closer as a team. Battling through adversity, together, is only going to make us stronger and once we get back on top. That notion that we can be a good team, we can be a great team.”

RAIDERS RB JALEN RICHARD

Q: When you are in the moment, are you aware of the boos that are coming from the fans?

Richard: “You hear them, but that’s football. The fans are going to be the fans. They are going to boo, they are going to awe. They are going to be with us when we are high. They are going to beat you down when you’re low. It’s all good. That just comes with the game. That don’t ever bother me. I just go out there and try to play and do what I can to help the team win.”

Q: When you are down by so much you become one dimensional and the running game kind of has to go away. Is that frustrating for the running backs?

Richard: “Well, it’s frustrating for the whole team. When you are able to run the ball, you are able to control the clock. You are able to control the time of possession and everything like that, so when you do have to get out of that and have to play from behind it kind of does put you in like it’s only so many plays that you can call. Obviously, you have to go to the passes and then you are stopping the clock more and more. The more you get stopping, the more they have the ball and the more they really hike up the score. It just makes it a little difficult, but you got to do what you got to do. I’m pretty sure there’s been games where guys have had to get away from the run and been able to win the game, so even in that sense, if we have to get away from the run we still got to find a way to win.”

Q: It seems like you are able to move the ball, what do you think is happening when it gets down there in the red zone?

Richard: “We just got to finish. We just got to finish in the red zone. We are getting down there. Started off the game real good. Definitely today, I feel like, it was one of the best games that the defense has played all year. To me, really, today came down to the offense and us not finishing in the red zone. We just got to figure out what that is. We just got to lock in. I don’t think we had any penalties down there in the red zone. We just couldn’t get in. Had to settle for field goals and field goals just ain’t going to win it all the time.”

Q: Does coming up short on the one-yard line on the opening drive take a little bit out of a team?

Richard: “Not necessarily, but it is like dang! Like you know what I am saying? The cool thing about going for it on fourth-and-1 when you are down there on their one-yard line is the fact that, if you don’t get it now they have bad field position and potentially it could put you back in good field position if you can get a stop. We just got to get in, you know what I am saying? When we are down there, fourth-and-1, down in the red zone period, we just got to get in and score touchdowns. That’s the only way you can win this game. There is only so many teams that you are going to be able to beat by just kicking field goals.”

Q: Obviously, the season hasn’t gone how you expected, but what do you have to do to keep going as a professional and look towards to the future?

Richard: “Just continue to have fun with it. This is a sport that I’m one of the best in the world at what I do, in my profession. There is a lot of guys that want to be in the league and want to be in my position and want to be in our position, really. We just can’t take none of that for granted and just continue to have fun with it, man. Go out there and play a sport that we’ve been playing since we were five years old. It’s frustrating because the competitor in you wants to win. I want all these cool things to happen. I came into



Oakland Raiders Transcript

the Raiders and we went 12-4 my rookie year, so I experienced how fun it can be and the atmosphere here in Raider Nation when we win. It's frustrating to not have that feeling right now, but it's definitely motivating. I'm just going to continue to work hard and go out there and have fun."

RAIDERS CB DARYL WORLEY

Q: Was it just a matter of time before [Philip] Rivers was going to get it going like that?

Worley: "I felt like we were playing well for most of the game. For the most part, we eliminated the big plays. That's really what had been killing us, so we were able to stick around in the ballgame for most of the time. Just really got to continue to execute and that's starting with me. I felt like that out I gave up on the goal line, in the red zone, it's a play like I feel like I should make."

Q: Do you feel like you got better today as a defense?

Worley: "I feel like we took a step in the right direction. That's really what we are fighting for. We wish the outcome could have been different, but we definitely took a step in executing some of the things that we wanted to execute."

Q: After the way that the 49ers game went, was it important to go out and have a better effort this time out?

Worley: "Yes, each and every week. The record, it doesn't reflect anything that we want it to be, but at the end of the day we know that we can't fix anything that happened in the past. One thing our coach said is, 'two days you can't control is yesterday and tomorrow.' We are playing for today, each and every Sunday when we show up. Just the chips aren't falling our way."

Q: Is this a place you look at and say, 'Yeah I want to stay here, I like this place'?

Worley: "Yes, definitely. I believe in what's going on. The culture, the coaches, everything that is going on. The players around me. I love my teammates. This is definitely a place where I would love to play my career at."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn

Opening statement: "It was a physical football game. I feel like I've been in a fifteen-round boxing match. It was a very similar game to the first time we played them. It was pretty tight there up until the half. We got the chance to score before the half and come back out and score again in the third quarter. That kind of opened the game up a little bit, gave us a little breathing room, but I take my hat off to them. Jon [Gruden] got those guys ready to play. They played hard. It was physical, and we were fortunate to come out of this game with a win against one of our rivals."

Q: The Raiders offense had the ball for most of the first half. How was the defense able to change the tide in the second?

Lynn: "Yeah, the first half I think they had the ball the whole time. We may have had it three or four minutes, I don't know, but our defense did a heck of a job of holding those guys to field goals and not touchdowns. It was just outstanding. It's what they've been doing all year. That's the type of defense Gus [Bradley] has built and those guys respond every time when they get in those situations, so I was proud of them."

Q: The Melvin Gordon touchdown seemed to break things open to start the second half. It seems like he's been doing that all year. How big was that touchdown?

Lynn: "It was a huge play, because they brought blitz-zero. Philip knows exactly what to do with the ball. He got it to Melvin on the checkdown and it turned into a big play. Check downs aren't designed for that, but that's what we did. I thought Melvin did an outstanding job on that play."

Q: It seems like he's doing that on a consistent basis.

Lynn: "When your quarterback knows where to go with the ball, those guys get out quickly because they know they have a chance to get it. We talk about touches, carries. Those are just extended runs for those running backs. They look forward to getting those checkdowns and they make plays."

Q: Can you talk about Derwin James in the first half?

Lynn: "I'll have to watch the tape to see how he played. I was not pleased with the penalty he got at the end of the game. He plays hard all the time. He's good in space. The plays he makes doesn't surprise me anymore. We expect those plays out of DJ. I'll see how well he played once I watch tape."

Q: How do you feel about the direction you're going right now?

Lynn: "I like what we're doing every single week. I like the guys' focus and concentration. Their ability to start over and pay the price every single week to try to get a win. That's what we'll do. We'll forget about this one after tomorrow. We'll get on to our next rival game with the Broncos and start preparing for that one. These guys have a unique skill set to do that."

Q: After two three-and-outs to start the game, did you guys start to get into a rhythm?

Coach Lynn: "Give Oakland some credit. There was a reason why we started slow. Once we were backed up and that's tough, but we got to stay on the field on third downs. Once we got the offense rolling, I felt good about it. Like I said, those plays that Melvin [Gordon] made, like with the check downs, you don't account for those plays going 50 to 60 yards for touchdowns, but that kind of opened the game up."

Q: Did you guys sense the air quality at all?

Coach Lynn: "In pregame we could, but once the game started we didn't even think about it."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Did you guys take any extra precautions on the sidelines?

Coach Lynn: "No, not really. Just didn't want to give that too much attention because then it could really play a mind trick on you if you are out there thinking about the air quality. I'm pretty sure we wouldn't be out there if it wasn't safe enough."

Q: How big of a play was it that Melvin [Ingram] made with the sack fumble?

Coach Lynn: "It was a big play too on defense. We talk about points from everybody and Corey [Liuget] picked it up and I thought he was going to get him his first touchdown, but that was a heck of a play by Melvin Ingram."

Q: Was the wind affecting the passing game at all?

Coach Lynn: "Early. We didn't know which direction it was blowing. It was going at you, it was going the opposite way. Philip threw a post and it kind of hung in the air and it might have been 20 yards short, so we had to play more short game, more screens. We had to do that on some drives because of the wind."

Q: How did Michael Badgley play?

Coach Lynn: "I thought Badgley did just fine. He made his field goals, his extra points. He kicked off fine. The hang time on his kickoffs is something that he needed to improve on, and I felt like he did that."

Q: Are you concerned about the distance there?

Coach Lynn: "You know I'd love him to kick it through the endzone sometimes because you're play those All-Pro returners like we have coming up with Kansas City. If he can get us the hang time, at least we can cover it."

Q: What about your confidence on him splitting the uprights?

Coach Lynn: "Oh absolutely, on his field goals, I have a lot of confidence in those. No doubt about it."

Q: What does it say about Melvin Gordon to have the ability to stop a blitz?

Coach Lynn: "He's a complete back. He gets paid to stop linebackers. We work blitz pick up all the time. He's a really good blocker in this league. Some guys you have to take out in those situations, but with Melvin, you can leave him in every single down. He can run it. He can catch it. He can block and protect the quarterback. Austin [Ekeler] can as well. They do a good job."

Q: Any sense of Denzel Perryman's injury?

Coach Lynn: "No, right now I have no idea. I just know it was his knee. It didn't look good on the field, but Denzel is a tough guy. We'll see."

CHARGERS QB PHILIP RIVERS

Q: Philip that play to Melvin [Gordon III] in the second half seemed to kind of break things open a little bit there, did you think that was going to go the distance?

Rivers: "It was just a weird game the way the whole thing started, you know. Obviously D gets a huge stop, fake punt, another huge goal-line stand right there. And then, you know, we go three-and-out, and then they get three and then go three-and-out again, I think in like three plays or six plays in the first quarter. So it was weird how it started, but yeah, that play was huge. I knew they were bringing the house; wasn't sure if their linebacker was going to peel out Melvin or not, and when he didn't, I wanted to get it to him when he felt the corner fall off. Once he made the corner miss, I knew there was nobody left. So it was a huge play in the game and we had a couple other opportunities where we could've made it over sooner. But never bad to win here, [it] always feels good to win here and if this is the last time in here, it feels good to finish the way we did."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: How did the wind affect your ability?

Rivers: “Early, early I mean the one long with Tyrell [Williams] looked like I threw it, you know. It was so short. But early a little bit and then – so couple of those overs we had even later in the game, [I] tried to just drive them, not let the wind be a factor. Little more than lay them – I like to kind of lay them with a little air on them so I had to kind of drive those. We made enough plays, [we] weren’t great on third down again, we had the big fourth down conversion, made some big plays and you know took care of the football again. Except the one there on the third down, it was just kind of – I was hoping Keenan [Allen] or nobody and it ended up being Gilly [Raiders S Marcus Gilchrist]. I told him to send me a gift for that one. But [it was] a good team win. Again, I felt like this was a good challenge for our team for how we handled the week. We felt like we should win the game, we also had respect for the opponent. We see across the league today some teams that won who maybe weren’t projected to win and any of the teams in ’06 and ’09 and even late in ’08, and in ’13 at the end when we got hot, you’ve got to win these games. You know, just find a way to win them, it doesn’t matter, I don’t care how pretty they are, I don’t care what the ratings are and all those things – third down percentage. Yes, we acknowledge those, we know we have to improve in those areas, but it’s just find a way to win and we were able to do that again tonight.”

Q: You scored at the end of the first half and at the beginning of the third quarter. Psychologically, how big is that?

Rivers: “It’s huge. We’ve been great at it. We’ve been great at scoring at the end of the half and really starting in the second half, and I think it’s huge. That’s what you want to do when you defer. When you defer, you say OK, let’s score on the last possession of the half and let’s score again. Let’s say you score 10 points. You score 10 points without the other team touching the ball. We were able to score 14 today. It goes from 3-3 and next time their offense takes the field it’s 17-3. Obviously, they had the two plays right before the half or whatever, but that’s huge. Obviously, we get the holding call and who knows right? As they say, if you throw it on every play, who knows, but that would have been huge to make it 24-6 and ended it then. We kept it kind of interesting for a little while longer.”

Q: Did you notice the smoky air?

Rivers: “I felt it early in warmups. It was stronger. Maybe, like anything, you get used to it as the game goes on. I didn’t think it was a factor as far as the game, but it was as windy as I can remember it being in here.”

Q: You chose to defer. How many coin tosses have you won now and is that the team’s usual preference?

Rivers: “Yeah, I don’t know. We’ve had a couple, especially late, but we’ve taken the ball a few times too. We kind of mix it. It’s not 100 percent. We kind of go week to week with that, but we have won the last couple and been able to defer. Sometimes it’s been really good, sometimes not. Last week we deferred, and they kept the ball for ten minutes it felt like to start the game and scored and then we kind of took control from there. I don’t put a ton of stock in how that goes down, but it’s still big to score at the end of the half and then score in the third quarter.”

Q: You only had two or three minutes of possession early on. Can you talk about the job the defense did to hold the Raiders to three points in the first half?

Rivers: “Yeah to be out there as much as they were, heck of a job. Look what the defense did in general, holding them to six points, two field goals. Anytime you do that, you almost count that as a shutout the way I think about it. Keeping a team out of the end zone is hard and they had a stop, again a fake punt, go right back out there, get it goal-line stand, and they held them to three in the first half. They got another one late when it was 17-3. I didn’t know if they were going to kick it or not. Had it have been a little closer they may have gone for it there so our defense was able to fill a lot. They did a real nice job.”

Q: Michael Badgley made all his kicks again. How much confidence do you guys have in him?



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Rivers: "We have great confidence in Mike. I think Mike has got a lot of confidence too, which is good. I know there has been a lot of questions about his kickoffs and everything, but shoot, he seemed to have to pretty good hang time and they were dropping right there on the one and the goal line. Our guys were covering like crazy. You see so many guys making plays in the coverage units. We tackled them inside the 25 quite a few times and then as you said, he drilled his kicks and it was good."

CHARGERS S DERWIN JAMES

Q: It seemed like things were getting a little chippy out there, what happened with that?

James: "It was just one of those things. The heat of the battle, adversity, everybody out there just going through the moment."

Q: What was the key to the defense staying away from a last second stand to win the game today?

James: "Getting off the field on fourth down, and third down situations. We got off the field on the fourth down. That was the main thing, and not letting them get into the end zone. I feel like that was big this game."

Q: What did you see in the Raiders game plan today? Was it everything you expected?

James: "Yeah. Our coaches did a great job preparing us. I mean everything we went over in film, they ended up running it. So, hats off to our coaching staff because they did a great job preparing us all week. We knew what they were going to try to do."

Q: You mind taking me through that last fourth down play where you stopped them?

James: "Basically, I was in man. I just see a guy come in motion. I just see him with the ball, and I mean I see he's trying to run a route. I just came off my man and made the play."

CHARGERS G MICHAEL SCHOFIELD III

Q: Melvin did it again, 165 total yards but it starts with you guys. What was the key?

Schofield: "I mean we started off slow, but later in the game he kept piling it up. Four-yard gain, four yard gain, and they add up. I think it's a testament to our play calling and just us grinding it out."

Q: Melvin's success seems to be a testament to the offensive line humming. He's been playing well the last five games and they're all wins for you guys.

Schofield: "Yeah I mean you get him going, it looks like we're winning so let's keep that going."

Q: You guy's head back to Stub Hub Center now where you face off against the Broncos. What's the key to getting to 8-2?

Schofield: "With Denver coming up, they obviously have a pretty good front seven so it's going to come down to the offensive line again. If you can't control those guys we should be alright. I think we're ready."

CHARGERS DE MELVIN INGRAM III

Q: After that fake punt did you guys get startled?

Ingram: "No, never. We never get startled. It was just another opportunity for us to go out there and make a play."

Q: Did the air quality affect you guys in any way?



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Ingram: "I didn't feel anything. I was good."

Q: Six in a row now. It seemed a little closer than it actually was.

Ingram: "It's a win. It's a win. That's all that matters. We won, that's all that matters. When you can stop any team in this league from scoring, that speaks numbers. It's hard as hell just to get a victory in this league. So you stop a team from scoring? That's big."

Q: It seemed like you guys had a lot of big stops.

Ingram: "Yeah we came up big. Everybody made hell of a plays. It was a great team win. We have a great group of young players. Those boys so special. They came up big. When you have rookies that can step up and make plays like that, it's big."

CHARGERS RB AUSTEN EKLER

Q: Next week is the Broncos. How important is it to come away with another division win?

Ekler: "Just as important as this one was. We'll come into the week with the same attitude. You know right now we're in a spot where we're in a race to the top and we're in a position where we can do so that's the mindset, especially in these divisional games."

Q: You had a big potential touchdown and another big run for a first that was taken away from you. How annoying is that personally for you?

Ekler: "Not only for me but also just for the team, it hurts the whole team. But you know, stuff happens especially in a divisional game against the Raiders. You can expect things to get a little chippy. We need to hold our composure a little bit better."

Q: How fun is it to play in this kind offense?

Ekler: "I love it right now man because you don't know who's going to be going off any given day. It might be receivers. It might be us in the backfield. It might be a combination of both and tight ends. So it's exciting right now."

Q: How important is it having Melvin Gordon healthy so you two can work off each other?

Ekler: "I mean he's one of the best running backs in the league right now so anytime he's not on the field it's going to be a hit to our offense. When he's in there I feed off him, I always tell him, because he goes out there and sets the standard high and you know if you're on the field you have to stay at that standard to stay on the field."

Q: Philip Rivers is amazing with his side arm throws. Does he work on that in practice?

Ekler: "Yeah he does. You know coming in as a rookie, people talk about how Phil throws the ball but you don't actually realize it until you see it. He's creative with it and he gets it done but any means. If he see's a seam through the offensive line he might zip it through there. You just have to be ready for it."

CHARGERS C MIKE POUNCEY

Q: You guys got off to a rocky start, can you tell us about that?

Pouncey: "They got us with a fake punt early. Our offense started backed up, pretty much the whole first half. It put us in a little slump, but we came out in the second half and played really well."

Q: Did the touchdown to Melvin Gordon III for 66 yards break the game open?



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Pouncey: "Yeah, kind of. Melvin is an awesome football player. He was excited to go out there in the second half and get the ball. And when we got the ball in his hands, he made the play. It was huge for our football team. We just wish we didn't have that holding call to take back that long run that we had."

Q: What did you discover about Melvin Gordon III, that you didn't realize before he joined the team?

Pouncey: "I've always known him as a hard runner that runs through tackles. But, the way he catches the ball out of the backfield is unbelievable. And it gives our offense so much stuff that we can throw at different teams; because both of our backs can catch the ball out of the backfield. It's awesome to have him as a running back. He makes us look good. And he made a lot of plays for our offense today."

Q: Did you feel the air quality at all today?

Pouncey: "No not at all. We didn't think about it. It's something that we discussed as a football team, and we came out here today and put it in the back of our minds and went out and played the football game."

Q: How about the wind? It looked like that was a big factor, especially in the first half.

Pouncey: "Yeah it was a little windy in the first half, but I don't think it affected the football game at all. We just have to play better in the first half. We came out too flat today."

Q: It got a little chippy out there in the end.

Pouncey: "Yeah, that's just the way it is. This is the second time we've played this team. So, you know, guys got a little beef from the first game. And so it rolls over into the second. That's usually how these division games go."

CHARGERS WR KEENAN ALLEN

Q: You guys are rolling. What's been the key?

Allen: "Most definitely. That's six in a row. We're just feeling good and improving. Confidence is through the roof right now and we're just trying to keep it going."

Q: It feels like this is the best the offensive line has looked all year. What do you think has made the difference over the past five to six weeks?

Allen: "I think everybody has been on the same page. Knowing what we have as a team. Knowing how to work well as a team and everybody is just complimenting each other."

Q: The first couple drives were tough but then you guys got it rolling. Was there something you guys changed?

Allen: "I think it was just us getting in rhythm and waiting till we found our stride and taking advantage of it."

Q: Could you talk a little about Philip Rivers and what he's like as a teammate in the locker room and as your quarterback?

Allen: "Just the ultimate pro. He's our leader. He puts us in the best positions on the field and the way he prepares us during the week to get ready what we're going up against it's incredible and then once we get out to the game it's pretty much easy."

Q: Are you the best team in the AFC right now considering others are stumbling a little bit?

Allen: "No question. Like I said, if we just keep it going and stay consistent, sky's the limit."

Q: Could you win the AFC West with those Chiefs in the way?

Allen: "No question."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Considering how well Gordon and Ekler have been playing, how much does that help the passing game?

Allen: "It's tremendous. Any time you have a running back that can run like that and you have Ekler who can do what he does out there it's going to open up many things for us."

Q: Can you talk about how tough it is to come in here and beat a divisional opponent?

Allen: "Yeah I mean it's always hard to win in a rival game no matter what level you are on, middle school, high school, rival games have that much more intensity in the game. Teams are going to play that much harder no matter the record. Anytime you come to Oakland and play these guys in the hole, it's going to be tough."