



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening statement: “Alright, here’s what I know: As players and coaches, we’re are as frustrated and pissed off about what occurred yesterday as you can be, as anybody out there is. Losing a game like that hurts. There are no words that I can say here today that are going to take away that pain or make those that care about the Raiders feel better. I’m really not going to try. We have to coach it better. We have to execute it better. We’re tied together, players and coaches. The head coach and the quarterback get a win-loss record off the performance of these games. We won a bunch of games over the last three years and we’re going to continue to win a bunch of games going forward. Yesterday was a disappointment. We can’t go back and do anything about that. I tell the guys all the time, you get what you earn in this league. What we’ve earned is a 6-7 record. What we have in front of us are three football games. What we have to do is take them one at a time and play good football. Win the next game. See where that takes us. That’s it. That’s what we have. It didn’t go the way I wanted, like I said. It didn’t go the way any of us wanted. We have to man up, step up, go on to the next one and control what we can, which is our effort, our energy and our focus and our determination in the next ball game. With that, questions?”

Q: Is there an update on Amari Cooper?

Coach Del Rio: “No, he tweaked his ankle again yesterday and didn’t return after that.”

Q: He was in traffic with the run going that way.

Coach Del Rio: “It was a toss, a crack toss. He was involved in it.”

Q: What was his assignment out there?

Coach Del Rio: “He had an assignment to block. It’s football. He was involved in a play.”

Q: What can you do to get the energy you see during the week applied in the game?

Coach Del Rio: “Make plays. Be accountable. Take what you did in practice, you did it correctly, and do it on Sunday correctly. Then when you’re making plays, it’s a lot more fun.”

Q: And you’re seeing things done correctly during the week?

Coach Del Rio: “Yes.”

Q: Is there an update on Mario Edwards Jr.?

Coach Del Rio: “I laid out there yesterday the injured guys, what their status was coming out of the game. As you know, we take today and tomorrow and kind of see where we are and we’ll have a report out on Wednesday. I went through all the guys who were hurt yesterday.”

Q: Derek Carr was very purposeful after the games in terms of putting the blame on himself. Is that a little unfair for Derek to put it all on his shoulders?

Coach Del Rio: “I don’t think anybody should, but the head coach and the quarterback are where usually... We’re the ones that have our won-loss record tied to it. We’ve won 25 games together here and we’re going to win a bunch more going forward. At the end of the day, execution of basic plays is what has to be better. You get an opportunity to make plays, you have to make plays. We had some opportunities that we didn’t make. We had some others where we can do a better job, so like I said, coaching, whether it’s what we’re doing, how we’re calling it, when we’re calling it, what the design is, the execution of it, all that comes together, it’s all players and coaches sharing it. That’s what it is. One guy can try and take it all. I’ve said it before, ‘Hey, put it on me.’ It always comes back to the head coach anyway, ultimately. I understand that. I’m not afraid of that, and I know Derek is not. But the bottom line is we as a football team get these opportunities to go out and play and it’s a game we’re very passionate about that we love. Yesterday was one where we came up short and it stings.”



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Q: Do you think Derek Carr is playing tentatively? Do you worry that he's lost confidence in his offensive line or his receivers?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't believe so. I don't believe that he's lost any confidence in his line. I think that there have been many examples throughout this season where we have not played boldly to go make the plays. I would really like to see that. Because at the end of the day, if you kind of go halfway, it's not good enough anyway. So, I'd love to see us just let it rip, OK? And go play. Talked about hair on fire, talked about that kind of effort and energy, playing fast, that's what I believe in, and I'd love to see it more often."

Q: What does playing boldly and letting it rip look like as an offense?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, I would say as a football team – to sit here and try to describe it in front of you is harder than maybe just putting on the tape and showing you, but we've had glimpses of it throughout the season. We just haven't been able to do it... I mean, look at the fourth quarter. Look at the way the fourth quarter played out. Where was that in the first three quarters? I mean just, look at that. I thought we played with more urgency and intensity and all of that. It's a little late when you're down 26-0. But you saw glimpses of it there. I mean, guys were making plays, getting off the field on D, offense moving the ball, throwing the ball, making guys miss, running, all the things you got to do to come alive. So, we didn't do enough of that early in that game."

Q: Is there any sense why you have started slow this year when you look at the tape?

Coach Del Rio: "I mean, I would say that you're saying like in the previous couple years it's all been perfectly early – I don't think so. What you're talking about, you want to make it this year. I'd say that's something that all teams are looking for, you know? You want it all the time, OK? The bottom line is it wasn't what it needed to be yesterday and that's what we're here to talk about."

Q: Is that mindset of 'let it rip' something that has to come from you or the leaders on the team?

Coach Del Rio: "Like I said, we share in it. It's obviously what I'm looking for and I've got to do the things necessary to pry it out of our guys. I'd love for it to just be what we do and how we do it. For it to just be part of who we are."

Q: It was kind of who you guys were last year.

Coach Del Rio: "Last year we won a lot of close games, right? You feel a little different about it when you win a couple of those close games. If we win, instead of 16-10, we win in Denver in that close game, we have a chance at the end and it feels different, right? If it's 17-16 and the Chargers sneak out with a victory, we win that game, it feels different. Those are close games we didn't make the play in. You come up a play short, however you want to look at it. That's the difference between feeling good and not feeling good. Are you, as an organization and football team, are you trying to grow beyond close games that you're pulling out and start dominating games? Yeah, that's what the goal is. Just hasn't manifested itself yet."

Q: How would you assess the wide receivers on Sunday?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't like to sit up here and grade positions, so I'm not going to today. I thought they competed hard and we played a lot of guys. Obviously without both of our guys in [Amari] Cooper and [Michael] Crabtree, we didn't have Coop very long. We filled in and battled. We'd like to get more production there."

Q: Michael Crabtree had a pretty nice snap count in that game, but on a couple of your late drives, there were some key plays where he was not in the formation. Was there anything to that health-wise or conditioning-wise?

Coach Del Rio: "No."