



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

OPENING STATEMENT: "First of all, it's nice to be back home and play a home game. It seems like forever since we've had a home game, but we got another good offense coming in in Detroit. They are playing at a very high level, so we are going to have to play really good to beat these guys. Like I said, they're running the ball good, [Matthew] Stafford is playing at a high level and the receivers are explosive."

Q: What are your impressions of Brandon Marshall so far this week?

Coach Guenther: "He looks good. I mean he was close at the training camp. He was in the discussion to keep him around here, so we had the injury at linebacker with Justin [Phillips]. He was an obvious choice. Both he and Will Compton have really been impressive out here on the practice field. They've been picking up the defense. Two veteran guys, so it's good to have some guys that have played and have some skins on the wall and understand what this stuff is about, so we are glad to have them both."

Q: Do you plan on using Marshall in the middle?

Coach Guenther: "We'll work in different combinations because obviously we don't have the numbers at linebacker let's say, so it's the next best guy that's going to play so there's going to be a combination of a little bit of everything in there."

Q: What area of his game has Trayvon Mullen made the most progress from Week 1?

Coach Guenther: "I just think his confidence in the system, the techniques that we are teaching him. I think that when he became a starting player last week, you really saw him come out of his shell a little bit. He was a lot more vocal. Communication with the safeties and linebackers was really good, so he's a good, young prospect and I'm looking forward to working with him a lot."

Q: Coach Gruden mentioned he had an IV last game; did he just get dehydrated?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, I think he got a little bit excited his first game. You get a little bit worked up your first game, so he had to get an IV. He came back and he played 58 snaps and he did a pretty good job for the most part."

Q: Is the linebacker room a little bit different because of how many guys you have coming in and out, maybe there is more teaching going on than there would be in Week 9?

Coach Guenther: "Sure. Well Brandon knew the system. I think it's a little bit different in regards that we have a couple more veteran players in there that have played and understand concepts of coverage and those type of things rather than younger guys that haven't really been through that, so that's good. And both Brandon and Will have picked up the defense really good. Obviously, Brandon has seen it all spring and training camp, but Will has done a really good job. Both of them are smart guys."

Q: How in tune is Marshall with the defense still?

Coach Guenther: "Well the nice thing is, when you're in training camp putting in the defense install after install and you're just building it, building it and you have a laundry list of calls in there where as in a game plan it's kind of a tailored list. So, it's a lot easier once he sees a tailored list to study that stuff."



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Q: What goes into being a defense that can put up a stop or get a turnover after the other team scores?

Coach Guenther: "We just got to play better really at the end of the day. It doesn't matter whether the offense goes three-and-out and punts or they score a touchdown. For us, it's all about keeping good field position, trying to get turnovers and obviously not letting a team score, and if a team gets into the red zone, we got to hold them to three points. That's our job each and every week regardless of what the offense does. There's going to be sometimes where the offense scores a lot of points and there's going to be sometimes where they struggle to get points. It's my job to understand how the game is going in that direction, but it's the players' jobs to stop the offense."

Q: Since you are trying to stop them every series, there is no sense stressing that, right?

Coach Guenther: "That's our job every series. That's what we kind of try to do every series, regardless of what the offense is doing."

Q: You have faced 4-of-5 top rated passers in the league currently. Is there anything to be learned about your defense from those games or are they all so different?

Coach Guenther: "They're kind of different in a way. The guy last week kind of did a lot of stuff with his legs. [Matthew] Stafford will move around and run around. [Aaron] Rodgers, obviously, he can throw off different platforms. [Patrick] Mahomes is a different animal too, so it's really each week and what the systems are and what they do within the systems. But they are all good players and you're going to face one of these guys every week for the most part, so you got to be ready."

Q: What's been better about your pass rush and what still needs to be improved?

Coach Guenther: "Well, the one thing is we tied our sacks from last year in seven games. I just think we continue to push the pocket. There's times you can take chances in the pass rush and there is times where you got to kind of be disciplined in there depending on who you are playing and what the coverage structure is behind it, so I just think the more they understand that within each game plan, the better off we are going to be."

Q: What has made Benson Mayowa so efficient when he plays?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, he is. That's the reason kind of why we brought him in here. We knew that he could rush the passer. You could see that early on in Arizona. He had a real strong start last year and then the guy came back, and he didn't play as much, so we are going to need him a lot on third downs this week for sure."

Q: What sort of unique challenges does Matthew Stafford present your defense?

Coach Guenther: "He can throw the ball into tight areas. That's the thing I see a lot, whether it be slants or balls over the middle where the windows are closing, he gets it in there and he'll challenge the coverage. We had an opportunity to practice against him last year in training camp, which you stand back there behind him and you see how he kind of operates the offense. It's impressive."



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Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

OPENING STATEMENT: “First of all, congratulations to Josh Jacobs. Certainly deserving of the honor, and we’re excited as a staff to see how far he’s come. We’re certainly excited about what the future holds for him, so congratulations to Josh Jacobs.”

Q: Is it surprising to you that he’s finally getting the accolades for things you’ve been seeing from him before you drafted him?

Coach Olson: “Well it says, not only about him, but the offensive line. Really that entire group as a whole. When you take a player in the first round, certainly you expect success early on. He’s given us that. His work ethic, his preparation, we just like the player, certainly the person as well, but we liked the player that we drafted.”

Q: Does he do a good job of staying patient in his runs and waiting for the blocks?

Coach Olson: “Again, I think [running backs coach] Kirby [Wilson] and [offensive line coach] Tom Cable, they do a great job of explaining it and installing the run game. He has been a patient runner, but certain schemes require certain pace in the run and he’s shown that he can do that. Again, his preparation and his willingness to learn and listen has been great.”

Q: Is Richie Incognito working at center again today?

Coach Olson: “Yeah we worked Richie there again today. Fortunately, as we’ve said from the get-go, to have a veteran group of offensive linemen that have all played different positions. Him having played center and his background, he played center when I was with the St. Louis Rams, a long time ago. And he played it very well. He got some work there today. That’s a credit to the people that assemble the team to have so many versatile linemen.”

Q: What’s your level of concern regarding the center position?

Coach Olson: “Really not that high, to be honest with you. Both Rodney [Hudson] and Andre [James] were out there today. They both felt good. They looked good walking around. They’ve given us indication that there’s a good chance they’ll be out there tomorrow.”

Q: When you have a new guy come in midseason, how much falls on the assistant coaches to get the players up to speed like Zay Jones?

Coach Olson: “Yeah a lot of hours and again credit goes to [wide receivers] coach Edgar Bennett. He’s spent a lot of time with these new wide receivers that we’ve had in here. We’ll have some guys that will be playing in the Coliseum for the first time. Zay Jones, really, and Trevor [Davis] have not played a home game in the Coliseum. Two of our players that we’ll be counting on for us moving forward and a big part of what we’re doing right now, but they’ve never played in the Coliseum, so that’s kind of an interesting note today from talking to those two guys. There’s a lot involved in it. Certainly a lot of hours involved in coaching, but when you bring a player in midseason, it just puts a little more on the coach, spending a little later hours in the evening.”

Q: Is what you guys do on offense in terms of install extreme?

Coach Olson: “It’s a tremendous amount of volume, I will say that. I think our players appreciate that. Stimulation, the motivation parts, it’s easy to feel stimulated when you come into work when you know



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every day you're going to get something new and challenging. I think that's a big part. As you know, his personality, he likes to challenge people. I think our players appreciate it. I think it says a lot about the guys that we've brought in in terms of their intelligence and their football IQ because they have come in, especially the new receivers and some of the newer offensive linemen, and picked it up very quickly. That says a lot about that type of player that we brought in so far. It is a challenge."

Q: When Bill Callahan was here, he would say, 'If you teach him four plays, he will learn four plays.'

Coach Olson: "No question. I think that's a big part of it. Again, we've got kind of a veteran staff on our side of the ball when you look at Kirby Wilson's been a coordinator, Tom Cable has been a head coach and has coached a long time. I think that helps as well. We've got guys that, in the coaching staff, have gone the extra mile and have the experience to integrate guys quickly."

Q: How have you seen Derek Carr benefit from the strong pass protection you have had this season?

Coach Olson: "You'd ask him, but I know he's very comfortable right now in the pocket. That's a really good feeling for him. Lessens the anxiety, certainly post-snap. But, we're certainly happy with where Derek is coming this season and where the offensive line has been so far."

Q: His yards per attempt are at a career high right now. What have you seen from Carr as far as getting the ball down the field a little more?

Coach Olson: "Again, shots, we'll talk about that and understanding situational football and understanding [Head Coach] Jon [Gruden] on the play calls and when he's looking for a shot. That's still a process but I think he has a better feel for – situationally – when Jon's looking for that shot play down the field and the play design and understanding the intent of the play is a big part of it. He's getting better at that and when those opportunities are there, we'd like to see him take advantage of them."

Q: Your wide receivers have had so much turnover within their position group, are you starting to feel like the group is becoming more stable and that that can be a good thing for the offense?

Coach Olson: "Well, we'd say competition brings out the best in everybody and now we have a competitive room in the wide receiver room. We have a competitive room in the offensive line room. We have a competitive room in the running backs room, tight ends as we have mentioned in the past. We feel really good about our tight ends based upon our competition within that room and the standards that they set within each position group. I think it makes everybody better to have that kind of competition and those types of standards that they set in those rooms."

Q: What does it say about the offensive line to know that the projected starters have only been on the field together for 10 snaps thus far in 2019?

Coach Olson: "We kind of made a big deal at the end of the week last week that it was going to be the first time that we had the original five guys that we expected to start the season together. Unfortunately, it was a quick exit for Rodney [Hudson]. We would like, at some point, we get those five guys together and really look forward to that day. However, with that being said with the injuries as we said earlier, it's nice to have guys that have played multiple positions and are veteran players that the game is not too big for them and that still have very good football left in them. I think we have had a number of guys come in and have played along the offensive line and yet it's not a very noticeable or glaring weakness for us. We're fortunate in that way, the depth that we have built up right now on this team."