



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** “We’ve got a little family day, as you can see, set up. We’ve got a little barbeque for our guys. Families have come up, enjoyed practice, and I think it’s just one more thing that the organization is doing well. Really appreciated having a lot of the Raider greats, a lot of the guys that came before us here opening weekend and then to have the families out this weekend, it’s a nice touch. Tip of the hat to the organization, the front office, that made this happen, [Team President Marc] Badain and [Senior Vice President – Community Relations and Public Affairs] Rosie [Bone] and all those people.

“We’ve got a lot of guys stepping up and doing a good job with the opportunities they’re getting. We’re going through that with some of the guys that are on the mend and not able to go. You know my philosophy, I don’t talk a lot about it this time of year, but obviously we have a few guys that are mending, so we’ve got a lot of others that are getting a lot of opportunity. So it’s good exposure for them and fortunately at this point, we don’t have anything that’s extremely significant. Guys are going to be on the mend, but they’ll be back.”

**Q: For the rookies from this past draft class, what impact does that have on them to miss valuable time here in camp?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Everybody is different. For us, we do the best we can to work the guys that are able to go and the guys that aren’t, we get them schooled up and we let them work with the trainers and the strength staff and get themselves healthy and involved in everything they can be as far as meetings or walk-throughs and everything. They plug in the best they can. To me, there are a lot of different situations that come up through the course of the season with training camp and we’re just going to, matter of fact, deal with it and handle it and move on. It’s part of what you have to do with a football team is build that ‘next man up’ mentality and we’re just getting an early start on it.”

**Q: What have you seen from the cornerback group?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “We’re rolling them through. We’re looking for the kind of effort and intensity and play that we want to see on the field. I feel like we’re showing flashes of getting that. It’s coming. As a group, we’re giving a lot of guys opportunities and so I think it’s a healthy situation. A few guys are banged up and on the mend, like I said, but the guys that are out there working are working hard and making improvement.”

**Q: How has Sean Smith handled his different role in the rotation? Is he handling it like a pro that you’ve seen?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, I think he is. Obviously, everybody wants to be the guy and we love that. We love that about our guys. We also understand that there is a certain amount of competition that is going to take place out here. I am a big believer in you get what you earn, and as a team you do, as a player you do and so it’s just there for us to decide as we go through camp and we get ready for the season. But in the meantime right now, we’re just lulling a few of the guys through there and making it ultra competitive and making it more than something to say when you back it up by letting other guys get a shot in the rotation. And, I know that’s noticeable, but there are other spots where that’s happened and it just hasn’t been asked about, which I’ll leave that, it’s OK. *(laughter)* We don’t need to talk about it all over the roster, but we’re going to have a competitive camp and I told the guys when we opened, ‘I don’t care how you got here. It doesn’t really matter if you’re undrafted, a high pick, a low pick or if you weren’t picked or if you’re a veteran...’ Certainly a veteran, we’ve seen a certain amount before, but still we want to make it competitive. We want to make it real. We want to make the competition real. That’s what we’re having.”

**Q: What do you want to see from Smith in a situation like this?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “What we want to see from all of our guys is to come out every day with positive energy and a great desire to get better and just work at it. It’s no different than anybody else. Everybody is basically in the same boat in terms of what we’re looking for, the standard that we have, the way we want to practice, the effort, the energy,



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the attention to detail, the focus, all of those things is what we're looking for from everybody. I wouldn't make it about any one guy, I really wouldn't. I know you guys are asking a specific question about a specific guy, but I'm trying to tell you generally, that's how we do it here."

### **Q: What went into deciding to line the guys up for conditioning at the end of practice?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "A little extra conditioning before they hit the barbecue. (*laughter*) Nothing punitive. It's OK, they're going to have barbecue, they're off tomorrow. So, they're lifting their legs right now so it was a good way to kind of finish up, get a little extra conditioning, work their legs now and then they get tonight and tomorrow off and be back at it Tuesday."

### **Q: Do you try to ramp up the physicality as you move closer to the games here?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think it's natural on a day like today. You can almost feel it walking out here. It's Family Day, so there might be a high school coach here or a wife or kids or something here. Everybody gets a little more excited for that and I think they knew Jerry McDonald [Bay Area News Group reporter] was here and that always raises the level. (*laughter*) No seriously, it's a little bit of the cameras are here, and the families are here. They know that the last time we worked before a day off I wasn't real happy about how it went down. I think they just bounced back and did the right thing and practiced really hard today."

### **Q: How fine is the line with getting ready and protecting the players?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, it's football. So a certain amount of injuries will occur. We want to prevent as many as we can. We work hard to condition and prepare our squad. Hitting is part of the game, so there needs to be some hitting. That's the one beauty about practicing with yourself is that you can take care of your teammate a lot better than you can if you're working with somebody else."

### **Q: Have you seen a steady rise in the play of Marquel Lee or has there been peaks and valleys?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think he's been fairly solid since the time he's been here. Marquel has done a pretty good job. He's battling every day, trying to soak up as much as he can. He's a conscientious kid. He has good size and movement. He shows up in the run periods maybe a little more now than in some of the past periods, but he's making progress."

### **Q: What has Breon Borders shown you?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think Breon, some guys just come in with a serious, no nonsense approach to their game and their preparation. It strikes me that way, as a guy that's very conscientious, works very hard. I think Breon is having a nice camp. Obviously, he's running with the ones right now a little bit. He certainly hasn't won anything. Things are far from settled. He was doing so well against the Two's and Three's, I wanted to see him against some of the better guys. It'll give us some good tape to evaluate. I think he's done a nice job of coming in here and being kind of a serious guy that has some competitive grit to him. He's done a good job so far."

### **Q: It looks like your defense is starting to catch up to your offense.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, we'll going to be a good group. We took the ball away well last year. We take the ball away. We got off the field in two minute situations last year very well. We want to continue to be good at those things. The consistency is what we're looking to develop right now. It's coming. It's getting better."

### **Q: Do you expect to see Donald Penn before camp breaks?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "You know, really, I don't think about it like that until you posed the question. For me, I'm going to focus on the guys. All my energy on what we're doing here with the guys that are in camp. When we break away, then every few days I catch up with [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] and we talk it through. Beyond that, I'm just coaching and waiting. I'm doing what I need to do with the guys that are here."



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**Q: How has Marshal Newhouse done?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Good. He's a pro. Good pro. Good player. Vadal [Alexander] has got a ton of snaps. Doing a nice job with his reps. He goes up against the guys pretty good over there with Khalil [Mack]. Those guys are doing well. The O-line, we have a good group of men."

**Q: What's your philosophy with when you make guys do push-ups, sprints, etc., during practice?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, if we're in a move the ball period, I typically don't do them because they're going to feel the effect by us moving the ball up and it being second-and-2 instead of second-and-7, or second-and-15 instead of second-and-10, so whatever it might be. When we have scripted plays, just as a reminder that when you're making that kind of mistake and it's a focus mistake that we're making it a lot harder on ourselves. Whether it's offensively. Whether it's defensively. The chances of that being a successful drive just went up or down based on that penalty. So where we can condition the mind, condition how we react and how we respond to the adversity and a little bit of conditioning, that's what we do."