



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening statement:** "Great to be back on the field with the players in Oakland. Off to a good start. It's a teaching camp. Very, very happy with the results of today. We got a lot of reps. A lot of people got to showcase where they are in terms of learning our system. We obviously have a long way to go, but I'm very pleased with the first day. I'll answer any questions I can."

#### **Q: What do you want to see out of these three days? What's the goal?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well obviously, we're finishing Phase 1 of this offseason conditioning program. For the most part they have been with the strength coaches getting in shape, learning the new routine. They've also spent an hour a day basically learning our system. So today was a little bit of an examination. We get a chance to see who can learn this stuff fast. Who's a quick study and who isn't. That may perhaps impact how we go into draft."

#### **Q: What did it mean to you personally to be out there?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's great. I came back to coach. I'm excited to be here. I've said that from Day 1. I consider it a great responsibility. The practice field has always been a laboratory for a coach. That's where we earn our pay, I think. We have to develop this team. We have to learn a lot about them quickly. We have a lot of things to teach. A lot of areas to improve. It was fun to be out there. I don't want to be too deep or philosophical. I might start crying."

#### **Q: What made you guys comfortable signing Daryl Worley?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well we looked into it, and obviously it was an unfortunate matter. We have a lot of intel on Worley with Karl Joseph here who was his teammate at West Virginia. Bruce Irvin played at West Virginia. We have a lot of insight in him. Talked to some of his previous coaches. We think he deserves another chance. We're happy to give him one. I think he's learned his lesson. He has to prove that. And he can help us if he's right."

#### **Q: What does it look like at corner moving forward?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It looks like it's going to be competitive. We got shut out in free agency. We lost TJ Carrie, a guy we really wanted to get back. We let [David] Amerson go. We lost Sean Smith. We lost our top three corners from last year. We had to do something. [Gareon] Conley is still not 100 percent, so we had to look at our budget, who was available, how many guys we could acquire. I credit our coaching staff. I credit [director of football administration] Tom Delaney, [General Manager] Reggie McKenzie, honestly, for helping recruit these players. A lot of them didn't come for big contracts. We think Rashaan Melvin can be a really good player. We think Conley can be a really good player if healthy. We have a lot of competition right now behind him, and usually that breeds success."

#### **Q: What do you see in the 2017 tape of Derek Carr and what have your early sessions been like?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well I got really excited out there today. You can have a real creative imagination with that guy at your quarterback position. He can make every throw. It comes out of his hand fast and accurate. He's mobile. He's sharp. He's a great leader. He choked this situation today, he was all over it. We tried to give him some audibles, different situations on the very first day, he didn't blink. He's a real, real good player. We just have to do our part as coaches, and we have to improve the positions around him."

#### **Q: What impact are you expecting defensive backs coach Derrick Ansley to have on the younger players?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We expect a lot of him. I'm excited to have added him to our staff. I just don't want to focus on coach Ansley, I want to focus on all these coaches. I mean [wide receivers coach] Edgar Bennett, the former coordinator of the Packers this year. [Offensive line coach] Tom Cable has been in Super Bowls. We have [assistant head coach/special teams coordinator] Rich Bisaccia and a number of other really good coaches. I think it all starts at [defensive coordinator] Paul Guenther. This is not going to be a scheme on defense where it's dial it defense. Guys are going to know what to do. They're going to play hard. I know Ansley is going to coach them really well."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: Have you been in contact with Khalil Mack?**

**Coach Gruden:** “No, I don’t have any updates on his situation. I’m sure Reggie can update you if you have any questions. We’re just focusing on the men that are here. That’s all we can do right now.”

**Q: Do you see Gareon Conley and Obi Melifonwu as close to being back?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah, I think so. They participated in the morning session, the walk-through. They did some of the individual work this afternoon. They’re real close, but for obvious reasons, we’re being careful with them this early in the process.”

**Q: How quickly can a guy like Jordy Nelson step into a leadership role?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think his leadership style will be unveiled as time goes on. Right now, he’s learning the offense. He’s getting the rapport with Derek Carr. It’s a little bit different, obviously, from playing with Aaron Rodgers for all those years. But I think right now he’s totally focused on learning our system. He’s playing two, three positions today already. So, I think once that happens, I think he’ll be a real asset behind the scenes for this football team. I have no doubt about that.”

**Q: How are the draft preparations going? What have you learned from working with Reggie McKenzie?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think this is probably the craziest schedule that anybody could have where you have a mini-camp Tuesday and Wednesday. Then you show up and have the Draft on Thursday. I’m really proud of the job he’s done, the coaches have done. The scouts and coaches have met together and collaborated. We’ll be prepared, and we’ll see how the board falls as Reggie always says.”

**Q: What’s the significance of building through the draft?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Well it’s always significant. Every year it’s significant. I’m not closing the book on last year’s draft of two years ago draft. Our job is to develop players. That’s what coaches are here to do. We’re not here to draft people and sign the contracts and do all that stuff necessarily. We’re here to develop the players that are in the building. We need to do a better job getting more out of those three classes. At the same time, we have to hit some home runs in this draft. We have to get some players that can come in and help us.”

**Q: Was there anything new you learned about the organization that surprised you when you started here?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Not really. I had done my research on the Raiders. I’ve never really been in the dark about what goes on.”

**Q: Was there anything new you learned about the players that surprised you?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I just like the team. I like the work ethic that they put forth in the first two weeks. I’m not going to make any predictions or any statements other than that. I know we have plenty of doubters and critics out there, but I like the way we started this process.”

**Q: Did you get some new Raiders gear or did you have to go into your closet?**

**Coach Gruden:** “No, I got some new stuff. I liked the old playing stuff. You know the 1998 stuff you’ve been hearing about. Some of this new stuff with all the stars. Somebody gave me a hat with a blacked-out logo, I said, ‘Get that the hell out of here. I want the old logo.’ I’m really proud of being here. I’m proud of the tradition of the Raiders. We are going to try to restart it and bring it back to teams that the Raiders fans were proud of.”

**Q: Can you talk about the video screens you had a practice?**

**Coach Gruden:** “That was for me, so I could see myself on TV. You know what happened over the course of time, it’s been brought up, what did you learn? What did you learn as a broadcaster? How has it helped you? We’ve made some additions to the strength and conditioning program to the way we formatted practice to some of the technology in the building based on what I discovered. When we go out on the practice field, you run a play, not everybody gets that rep. So, they can turn around after seeing the rep and they can see the replay of the rep and



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

the coach can make points. So, it's a great teaching tool for our team. I think it'll be better when we have one huddle going at a time. Today we had two huddles going at once, so it was a little bit chaotic. That'll be, I think, a real great tool for our players to learn."

**Q: Had you seen that screen elsewhere?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah I did. I sure did. First time I saw it was from [Jim] Harbaugh at Michigan. Then I saw the Miami Dolphins. I think Miami stole it from Michigan in the Capital One Bowl. I like it. So, thank you Coach Harbaugh."

**Q: You look like you've slimed down. Is that part of getting back into coaching shape?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't know, man. I didn't know I was that fat. I'm getting old. I'm getting old, so I have to watch myself."

### **QB Derek Carr**

**Q: You've seen Jon Gruden in meetings, on TV. What's it like to see him on the practice field like you did today?**

**Carr:** "Man, it's awesome. I've known him now for like four or five years. I'll say this: He's never changed. He's been the same guy all the time with me. He's hard on me. He pushes me. He challenges me. It's everything I want, because it's everything I do for myself. I challenge myself. At the same time, he'll tell me, 'I love you, man,' so you know how he feels about you. When he pushes you, you don't care because you want to do anything for him. You want to go through a wall for him. I think our whole team feels like that. You can feel a little bit of difference around him. It's really cool."

**Q: Did you get challenged more today than you would have in any other previous April practice?**

**Carr:** "Yes, especially for Day 1. He threw everything at me. He tried to get me, see if I was listening to him in the meetings and those things. We had a lot of fun doing that. It's always fun to accept his challenge and hopefully do good at it and look at him and wink at him. We have fun together because we know we both have the same goal in mind and that's putting the ship in the water and hitting this thing running. We're trying to do that right now. Obviously, we're getting after it and trying to work really hard with each other. It's been a lot of fun."

**Q: He seems pretty vocal on the practice field.**

**Carr:** "Marshawn [Lynch] said he's so vocal that he's starting to talk like him. We'll see how that goes. I think the Texas in me will not let that happen. Him being vocal is nothing new. That's just who he is. You guys have known him longer than I have, but he hasn't changed at all. He's a great mind. When you get out here, if he's yelling or saying something, he knows exactly what he's talking about so everyone is alert, paying attention and trying to learn. He's won a Super Bowl. He knows exactly what he's doing."

**Q: This is your fourth playbook in five years. Has it gotten any easier?**

**Carr:** "In a weird way, I guess yes. Learning his plays, again, it feels like we do this every other season but it's the same picture, but you're calling it something completely different. We have some different pictures and things like that, but really the number one thing was speaking the same language. We're about 90 percent there, where we're speaking the same language. We've got the gist of each other. We know what we're saying. Once we get that and we're rolling and growing with each other, it's going to be awesome. It already is. I love every part of the process. Really just the language part of it, that barrier. He has a background, his staff has a background, I have a background. We're all just trying to figure out how to communicate things. We have to, there are teams that have been in the same system for 15 years. We have to do that in a hurry."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Q: How would you rate your Bay Area tour guide skills for Jordy Nelson?**

**Carr:** "Tour guide? I feel like I knew a little bit of what I was doing. He knew my buddy Davante [Adams] really well, so we FaceTimed him. We FaceTimed James Jones. They were all talking to him. I thought I did a good job. He's here!"

### **Q: Is that a fun process, getting on the same page?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, it's really cool. It's fun because when I was in college, I would watch Aaron [Rodgers] play all the time. I'd try to have some of the same mannerisms, getting it out quick, stuff like that. Now listening to the mental side of things, how they worked together and him coming up to me and saying, 'Hey what do you think about this, or this depth,' learning that stuff has been really cool. Getting on the same page. For the first day, we were on the same page but there were a couple that we missed. That's just us saying 'I thought you were doing this' but that's the fun part. That's the growth process. Hopefully we can do it faster so we can win."

### **Q: Was there anything that Greg Olson put into the offense when you were a rookie that has any carryover?**

**Carr:** "Yes, that's what has made it easier for me. I don't know about the guys that weren't here with Oly, how easy it is but for me that's made it easy. The terminology, the way they call certain things, that has been kind of similar. Obviously, Coach Gruden brings on his own stuff doing it that way, but Oly naming things... Let me say it this way, it's pretty much the same mindset but just different things here and there. But, yes, there are similarities."

### **Q: Are you happy that Marshawn Lynch stayed in the fold?**

**Carr:** "I think our whole team is. Any time we can keep a guy like Marshawn, who is not only a great football player, he's a great teammate, he's a good friend. He's someone that does so much for our community here in Oakland. There's nothing wrong. Those are all plusses. To have him here, it fired me up."

### **Q: With Khalil Mack not here, have you been in contact with him?**

**Carr:** "Absolutely. When it comes to somebody else's money, I don't get in their pockets or go anywhere near it. I just check on him as a person, make sure he's doing good. Let him know that everything is fine here, keeping him updated on things. My role in his life is to be there as a friend. I have talked to him."

### **Q: It's a huge undertaking to do a new contract, you went through it last year.**

**Carr:** "I know, that's why I know. I know the feelings. I know the emotions, while still getting ready for a season. I've been in contact with him to make sure his emotions are good, making sure he's good, that we're here and we love him. I don't want him to be worried about any of that."

### **Q: Is there any chance Coach Gruden was mic'd up today?**

**Carr:** "I was mic'd up but that was for my sake. No, we weren't mic'd up."

### **Q: How did your trip to Haiti go, and what was important for you to accomplish there?**

**Carr:** "To spread Christ's love. To just go somewhere where you show up, they're like, 'Why are you here?' The people are like, 'Why would you come here?' We played a couple of soccer games, which we didn't win, but the second game I blame Latavius [Murray]. It was his fault. We had a great time. We love to go down there and just spend time with the kids, spend time with the Haitian people down there. You think that when you're going down there that it's going to make an impact for them or whatever – some guys think that, but every time I come home, I feel like the most blessed person in the world. They bless my life, their love that they have for each other. I'll tell you a quick story that blew my mind. We got to feed this village their first hot meal in three weeks. We had the honor to be there that day to serve it. We're out there passing them out and all this, and not one person took a bite until everybody got something. And they didn't eat for three weeks. It blew my mind. It's just stuff like that. Their honor for each other, their respect for each other. It was awesome. It really touched me."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: Have you noticed that the new veteran free agents are catching on quick?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, absolutely. Obviously, with guys that have been in the same system, you can see that. But also just guys that can pick up and learn quickly. We went out there and we practiced and it didn't feel like a Day 1. We felt like we had been in it. We felt like we had been grinding. We felt like we kind of knew what we were doing, and then just making little corrections. It wasn't like, 'Hey, this is brand new,' it just felt like, 'This is what we do.' I thought that that was the coolest takeaway from today is that it didn't feel like a Day 1."

**Q: Jon Gruden talked about the new video boards you guys have at practice. Did you catch yourself looking up at those at all?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, absolutely because you can take a look and see something right away. It's an instant correction, whereas there are some things where you guys know, even after a game, you'll ask me a question and I don't know, I can't answer it because I can't see it. Right there, after practice, you're like, 'Oh, this is awesome.' You can go talk about it right then. We're fixing things an hour before we usually would. I think that that's really, I'm not going to lie."

**Q: It doesn't affect your team, but have you taken an interest in this quarterback draft class?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, absolutely. I love football. So, I'm just a fan. I absolutely take an interest in them. I think they're all talented. I think they're all going to be really good. I really love Lamar Jackson though. I think in the right position and with the right coaching that he's a special, special talent. Obviously, for any rookie there is going to be a lot to learn. But just talking to him a little bit, I think that he's special. I think he can do a lot of damage, especially if teams want to play man."

### **WR Jordy Nelson**

**Q: Is it strange at all running around in a different uniform?**

**Nelson:** "Not really anymore. I think the first couple weeks, being here and working out, it was a little bit – just coming into a different locker room, obviously putting on some different colors. But, obviously just getting back out on the practice field, back to football, that's something that everyone's familiar with and it's good to get back to football and running routes and catching balls."

**Q: Coach Gruden talked about how today was about throwing things at guys and seeing how quickly they could learn. What was your observation, team-wide, how that looked today?**

**Nelson:** "I thought it went smooth. I think the coaches have done a great job of installing. I think the guys have definitely put the time in knowing the urgency that we have with the short amount of time that we have here in these couple months until the middle of June. That way, we're ready to roll come end of July, August. We know the time frame that we're in, guys are being professional; about it, putting in their work and you know it's your job. You have to be prepared mentally so that you can go out and play."

**Q: What is the process like, building chemistry with Derek Carr?**

**Nelson:** "It's going great. It's just communication and getting the reps on the field. It's no different than what Aaron [Rodgers] and I did for 10 years. We'll continue to grind at it. It's getting on the same page, understanding the playbook the same way and then getting the reps in on the field if it's on air, one-on-one, seven-on-seven, team, all of that. It all adds up – just being comfortable with one another."

**Q: What are your first impressions of Amari Cooper thus far?**

**Nelson:** "I think the first thing that stands out is just how explosive he is. You can see that just when we're working out. Obviously, I've been able to see him play the last two years – very explosive. But, in the film room, smart guy. I'll learn more as we get going obviously. We haven't honestly been in individual rooms that much. We've been more as an offense learning everything."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: What's your first take of Coach Gruden?**

**Nelson:** "It's great. The energy level that he brings is amazing. And somehow I think he's consistent with it day-in and day-out, which is pretty impressive. That's fun and I think we'll feed off of that. I think that's kind of why we're successful today and our tempo and what we were able to accomplish today, because he's bringing the energy and it feeds down to the rest of us."

**Q: Does having wide receivers coach Edgar Bennett here ease the transition?**

**Nelson:** "Yeah. I mean that's just one less person I have to learn who their name is and figure out what they're like. *(laughter)* No, that's great. I think that is one of the main factors why I chose to come here. We have great history together – been together in Green Bay for 10 years, as my coach for I don't know how many... quite a few though. We have a great relationship on and off the field."

**Q: Carr said that you facetedimed with Davante Adams and James Jones during your visit. How did that go for you?**

**Nelson:** "Well, those were the two guys I called as soon as Oakland called me, because obviously Davante played with Derek and then James [Jones] was out here for a year. So, we try to gather as much information as possible, because obviously free agency can go pretty quick as we've found out. I wanted to get some inside information on both Oakland and Derek as a quarterback and obviously they had great things to say. Davante and Derek had a great relationship and a great time at Fresno State. And J.J. had a great year and enjoyed Oakland the year he was here. So, they had nothing but great things to say and again, had an impact on my decision."

**Q: Besides from his energy level, what did you take away from Coach Gruden and how he runs practices?**

**Nelson:** "Just the amount of preparation that he wants us to have, the freedom I think with the quarterbacks at the line. But, everyone being on the same page and communicating and that's the expectation that he puts out there and that's what we'll continue building."

**Q: There is now a video streamed at practice for players, what value does that offer?**

**Nelson:** "None yet. I didn't even look at it. *(laughter)* So, sorry to whoever's idea that was."