



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: "We are going to list [Lamarcus] Joyner as out of the game and we'll list David Sharpe out with a calf injury. Trent Brown is questionable."

Q: With Joyner out, do you know who is going to be sliding in there?

Coach Gruden: "We'll see. We'll get a good look at a couple people. Probably Nevin Lawson, and [Daryl] Worley will be ready to go. So, it will be a great challenge for us."

Q: Do you anticipate D.J. Swearinger and Dion Jordan being up on Sunday?

Coach Gruden: "Yes. Yes, I do. We are going to get those guys up and start the process. We need them."

Q: What were your thoughts on Dion Jordan once the intensity cranked up at practice?

Coach Gruden: "I thought he did well. We had a couple live rushes for him and we looked at him as an inside and outside rusher. I don't know what his overall football shape is without OTAs, training camp, missing 10 weeks of the regular season, but he did come in and really look the part. And we are going to try and ease the boat into the water and give him as much as he can take. He's a talented kid."

Q: How do you feel like the rookie defensive ends, Maxx Crosby and Clelin Ferrell, have handled everything?

Coach Gruden: "I think they've done well. I think like we've talked about, Ferrell had sickness. He lost a lot of weight for a few weeks, wasn't playing at his normal weight. We asked him to do a lot. He played inside, he played defensive tackle. I don't know what Football Focus says, but if they focus on the numbers I bet he played inside quite a bit and that's a real challenge for a rookie that is undersized and under his playing weight. So, we probably compromised him a little bit by asking him to do a lot, but I think last week seeing him at the outside position I think you really saw him at his normal playing strength, playing weight, playing position and played better. So, hopefully we can see more of that."

Q: Have you coached many games where you coached both the opposing head coach and quarterback?

Coach Gruden: "No. And the coordinator. [Brian] Callahan is the new coordinator, and the running back coach I think was here. I didn't coach Callahan. No, it's strange. I got a lot of respect for the Bengals. I can care less about point spreads and all that stuff. I think it's the first time we've been here that we've been the favorite, but we got to really concentrate on playing good football. The Bengals are dangerous. They took Seattle to the brink in Seattle. I've seen them play well and I know they're well coached because I know those guys."

Q: When you get somebody like Brett Favre saying you're the mid-season Coach of the Year in the NFL, what is your reaction to that?

Coach Gruden: "I love Brett Favre. I'll leave it at that. I've always loved Brett Favre. If it wasn't for Brett Favre I think Andy Reid and [Steve] Mariucci would probably tell you none of us would be where we are without Brett Favre. So, appreciate the nice words. It's nice hearing nice words now and again. You don't hear many, especially from you guys. *(laughter)*"