



## **DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES**

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### **DENVER BRONCOS vs. OAKLAND RAIDERS**

***Broncos Stadium at Mile High • Sept. 16, 2018***

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#### **Postgame Quotes Summary (click links for easy navigation):**

**Broncos Quotes:** [Head Coach Vance Joseph](#) (press conference); QB [Case Keenum](#) (press conference); OLB [Von Miller](#) (press conference); OLB [Shaquil Barrett](#); TE [Jake Butt](#); RB [Royce Freeman](#); CB [Chris Harris Jr.](#); RB [Phillip Lindsay](#); [K Brandon McManus](#); WR [Tim Patrick](#); NT [Domata Peko Sr.](#); WR [Emmanuel Sanders](#)

**Raiders Quotes:** [Head Coach Jon Gruden](#) (press conference); QB [Derek Carr](#) (press conference); TE [Jared Cook](#); WR [Amari Cooper](#); DE [Bruce Irvin](#); ILB [Derrick Johnson](#); T [Donald Penn](#)

### **BRONCOS HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH**

#### **On injuries from today's game**

"We had one injury. One guy didn't return. That was [T] Jared Veldheer. He's in the protocol for a concussion. So, we'll see about him tomorrow."

#### **On his thoughts at halftime**

"At halftime, it wasn't good. [Raiders QB] Derek [Carr], I think he was like 13-for-14 maybe. It was crazy. The ball was coming out so fast and he was really hot. They ran the ball on us. Offensively, I think our first three or four drives we were three-and-out. They played good football in the first half and we didn't. In the second half, we thought offensively, we had to be more aggressive—take more shots down the field—and that made them a little softer in the second half. Our guys kept fighting, kept playing and played through adversity and won a football game."

#### **On QB Case Keenum and the offense's composure on the final drive**

"It wasn't just Case. It was [TE] Jeff Heurman getting out of bounds. It was [WR] Emmanuel Sanders bringing the ball into the ref, into the hash. The clock's running. '81,' [WR] Tim Patrick, running out of bounds. That was a huge play for us. We meet every Friday about two-minute offense, being smart with the ball and our guys came through. It was fun to watch."

#### **On the defensive stop in the fourth quarter and the challenges trying to tackle Raiders RB Marshawn Lynch**

“Marshawn’s a load. One guy can’t tackle him. It took three or four guys to get him on the ground, and we got him. We finally got them into a third down and we pressured him and the ball came out and we tackled him. He was 3-out-of-10 on third downs, but in the first half, he only had five and was 0-for-5. We didn’t put them in third down enough in the first half.”

**On if the decision to go for it on fourth and goal was tough**

“No, I told Billy (Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave), once we got inside of the 10-yard line, it was four-down territory. Taking the points there wouldn’t have worked. It would have been a loss for us today. Obviously, Case is a tough guy and he wants to win and that was the best play to call.”

**On if he was nervous when Patrick made an inside move with only a few seconds left and no timeouts**

“No. We had time. He was told. He had time to get vertical because the next play was going to be a spike anyways. He obviously got more yards for us and then got out of bounds. For him, that was a big-time play. He knew what he was doing. Going back inside with 18 seconds, he’s OK there. We can still spike it with probably three seconds and kick the field goal. He was right on. Again, our guys, on that drive, played with really, really good smarts. I was very impressed with those three players.”

**On Sanders not having any targets in the first half**

“They were playing a bunch of shell coverage—cover two and cover four. The thought was to run the football, but we couldn’t do it. They were playing really stout up front, and again, that defense played good football for them today. In the second half we got some runs, so it forced them to play more single-high. And when they played shell and played cover two, we went more vertical down the field. Our plan kind of changed. We became more aggressive versus the zones.”

**On the Raiders’ offensive performance**

“I think offensively, they had a great plan in the first half as far as running the football, and the tight end [Jared] Cook had four [catches] for 49 [yards], so we lost him a couple times. But they were moving us up front and we held them to two field goals—thank God—in the first half. That was huge for our defense and that kind of saved us because they were moving the ball and he was really hot. He was 18-for-19. That was the number at halftime and that’s amazing for a quarterback to hit that many passes on a man-to-man team. He was hot and they were playing well. They were blocking us, so holding those guys to two field goals was a good job by our defense.”

**On the team’s ability to win despite not leading until the final six seconds of the game**

“I think two weeks in a row our guys played through adversity. We talked about that last night: it wasn’t going to be easy. We came in as a favorite, but it’s a divisional game. It’s never going to be easy. Those guys had a hard loss on Monday night, so we knew they were going to bring their best shot. They played good football over there. That team came and played inspired football. Again, kudos to them.”

**On the play of RB Phillip Lindsay**

“He had 14 [carries] for 107 [yards]. He had a big run for us and finally broke a play for us. He is a good football player. Not only as a running back, but as a guy who covers kicks for us and a guy who catches the ball for us. He is a total package as a football player. He’s been impressive. He’s been really impressive.”

**On starting 2-0 the past two season and what is different about this year**

“Last year is last year. Last year, we were really 3-1. Last year, that’s over. I don’t remember last year, but this year, our team is different. The culture is different. To watch our team play these last two weeks, I’m not worried at all. My only focus is really Monday—Monday, and then obviously Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and then Baltimore on Sunday. Last year is over. We’re a different team through and through.”

**On the poise of the young players**

“Those guys are qualified. We’ve got a lot of young guys playing, but they’ve shown us in the last two weeks that it’s not too big for them. They’re just doing their jobs. They’re good players, they’re good athletes and they’re tough guys. Our young receivers are still

learning how to play the game. We had a couple nine balls that were too close to the sideline. That's just inexperience. We'll fix those things, but again, those young guys who are playing for us. They're all qualified."

#### **On WR Courtland Sutton have two receptions overturned by instant replay**

"I don't know. I thought Courtland's touchdown was a touchdown. Obviously, I challenged it. The second catch, I guess he didn't finish the catch. We'll figure it out. It's a tough game to officiate. There are so many rules right now and hopefully it's fair on both sides."

#### **On K Brandon McManus' game-winning kick**

"I knew he was going to make it. His 'make-it line' was 44. So, it was obviously closer than that. B-Mac (McManus) has had a great training camp and a great preseason and a great first two weeks. I was confident that he was going to make the kick for us. I was."

### **BRONCOS QUARTERBACK CASE KEENUM**

#### **On the conversation he had in the final huddle prior to the final scoring drive**

"I think we were 25 [yard line], right on the touchback. I need to get a better completion on the first play and get the ball in my hands. I put the offensive line in a tough spot. We had to push back and then we are running at the 2-yard line. [Offensive Coordinator] Bill [Musgrave] made a great call on that second down. [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] ran a great route. I thought the offensive line did an incredible job on that last drive. We just needed time. We talk about it all season. We are talking about it all during the week, during those two minutes—we just need time. They brought the kitchen sink out. The whole line just played their guts out and got some plays down the field. It was fun to watch."

#### **On writing a new chapter in his career with Denver**

"Anytime you have a game where you drive in the fourth quarter, it feels pretty awesome. Last week was fun. This week was a lot of fun. They are all special. This is incredible—starting my first two games at Mile High. Wins like that, when you catch them in person, when you are not playing well in the first half, to come out and play as we did in the second half, with our defense making huge stops—I do not think [Raiders QB] Derek [Carr] threw an incompleting. I never saw the ball hit the ground when he was out there. I think that it is unbelievable to play a quarterback like that. We just kept fighting. They are all fighters in that locker room. We just want it bad. We want it for each other. We want it for the fans. We want it for the team. "

#### **On the team sticking together late in the game and the hits he took in the second half**

"I took a second on walking off of those drives. I have not had many. Just enjoying that moment and knowing me and my teammates are all bloody. We are all hurting, but we walk off the field knowing we left it all on the field. Every single guy in the locker room did that today, from [K] Brandon [McManus] on the last kick there to everybody. [OLB Shaquil Barrett] blocking that extra point. Who knew that would be huge? It is incredible. It's little plays like that. You never know in this league. Special teams, defense, offense was great."

#### **On Broncos WR Tim Patrick's catch on the final drive of the game that set up K Brandon McManus' game-winning field goal**

"I was really glad he got that catch because we had the one called back earlier in the game. But it is trust. He has made plays like that all preseason, made plays in practice and in camp. When it comes down to it, in the fourth quarter, we are tired and we need everybody. We have to roll guys who have been all trust. Just being extremely smart and knowing where we are out in the field and knowing how much time is on the clock. Get as much as you can, but get out of bounds. That's great preparation on the coaches' [part], great job getting us on the right page when it comes to, 'What's the situation and there are no time outs, about 20 seconds left...' Be ready for a spike, get out of bounds if you can. It feels great as a play-writer."

#### **On the message the team received at halftime**

"For us, we were just a tick off in the first half. I think there were at least two third downs where we were almost within a yard of converting. Had a great play call and they just made a tackle, made a play. Little things like that made a difference. You get one first down and it leads to more and that's what happened in the second half. Just little things. We have the great run by [RB] Phillip [Lindsay] in the first half to get down there and then I make an idiotic mistake in throwing [an interception], especially when you

have points on the scoreboard in the red zone. We just came in and said the flood gates are about to open. We just need one little play, one little thing to get it going and we got it going.”

#### **On how much he enjoys playing at a quick tempo**

“I love going fast break. It kind of brings me back to my roots, going back to [the University of] Houston. I don’t think we ever huddled. It’s good. It’s a good change of tempo and we have some great-conditioned guys on offense so we try to keep them on their heels. I thought it was a good mix-up today.”

#### **On his rushing touchdown on 4th-and-1**

“I knew the safety was going to be in block and the line obviously took care of the linebacker. But the safety, I was trying to look him off on a little quarterback draw. I tried to go low at the goal line. Unfortunately, I went right up the back of [C] Matt’s [Paradis] knees. Luckily, he’s alright but I felt really bad. The offensive line are my guys. I love those guys. They played their hearts out today and I think I could probably have scored without running into the back of my lineman there. Great play call. Great execution by everybody. I was just lucky to be the one that got to carry it in.”

#### **On what his message was in the huddle before the final drive**

“We were all on the same page. There were a lot of guys talking. D.T. (WR Demaryius Thomas), Matt (Paradis) was in there talking. We had a lot of time. We had two minutes left and with our kicker. We’re in great shape because all we need is a field goal. We had a lot of time. Just being smart with the football and taking what they give us. Just being ready for the situation at hand.”

#### **On not being able to connect with WR Emmanuel Sanders in the first half**

“I don’t think I connected with many people in the first half. Emmanuel is obviously a great player and someone I want to get the ball to a lot. It’s hard to get the ball to anybody when you don’t have many plays. Going three-and-out those first couple times was tough. Just couldn’t get anything going.”

#### **On whether he was worried about getting out of bounds with 40 seconds left in the game**

“I did not think I could get out of bounds at that point. I know we were close to it. I knew with our kicker, any yards that we could get near midfield, especially here at elevation, makes a big difference. I’ll go back and look at it on tape and I’ll probably wish I ran out of bounds, but we’ll see. We’ve got some great film to watch and I think we’ll learn a lot.”

#### **On having two consecutive games with fourth-quarter comebacks**

“We’ve got a great locker room in there. There are some incredible guys that never quit. Never quit. I love that about them. We have great, great chemistry going right now with those guys. No matter what, I don’t think anyone points a finger at any one person. We just keep plugging along. We’re capable, we know we can do it and it was just a testament to everyone’s grit and the hard work we put in. We put in a lot of investment and when you put in a lot of investment in the offseason and training camp and working hard, you get to pull on that investment when the pressure turns on and the heat turns up. It’s pretty special though.”

## **BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER**

#### **On the Broncos’ late defensive drive that forced the Raiders to punt**

“We were just trying to get off the field. They had been doing a great job of running the ball and following it with play-action passes and quick passes. So we just wanted to get off the field, and we were able to do it.”

#### **On containing Raiders RB Marshawn Lynch**

“We’ve just got to tackle him. There was one play I’m trying to tackle Marshawn [for] about seven yards. He really is ‘Beast Mode.’ I was trying to tackle him for like seven yards. I looked up, hit him at the line of scrimmage and they needed two or three yards for a first down. Marshawn is a hell of a player. We all know that. He was in full effect today. Whatever yards we kept him to, it was a great job by us too.”

#### **On Broncos QB Case Keenum leading a game-winning drive**

“That’s our guy, ‘The Case Keeman.’ I love that guy. I know his name is Keenum. It was just a joke. Nobody laughed, but it’s all good.”

**On Raiders QB Derek Carr’s ability to get rid of the ball quickly**

“We already knew what we were getting into when we came into the game and (Broncos ILB) Todd Davis owes me a steak dinner or something. I don’t know what Todd was doing. That’s my cousin. I’m going to see him right after this. I’m going to ask him (laughing). It’s just a part of football. I felt like we did it right in the pass rush. Whenever we got the pass rush started, he [Carr] was just throwing the ball. It’s the DBs’ game now. Derek is a great quarterback. We already know how fast he throws the ball and it was no surprise in today’s game.”

**On the Broncos getting clutch contributions from both the offense and defense today**

“I agree with you 100 percent. We’re feeling pretty good just about the overall win today. Whenever you win, especially a team win like this, it’s just a great win. It’s great for the organization.”

**On the Broncos not losing faith during halftime despite trailing**

“It’s the pros. It’s players on both sides. You can never lose faith. You can never lose faith, especially when the game is 12-0 at half. All we need is a touchdown and we’re right back in the game. If you look at, it’s really four field goals. We just needed to get going. Offense went out there and scored and then we let the Raiders go out there and score. It was a hard-fought game. The Raiders played well today and we were able to get the win late in the game.”

**On the difference between the Broncos’ defensive packages in the first and second half**

“We just wanted to get off the field, and honestly, it took us all half to be able to do that. It took us all second half to be able to do that. We just wanted to get off the field. We just wanted to get a three-and-out. We wanted to make the Raiders punt and give our offense a short field. We weren’t able to do that until when it mattered the most. It’s all good. That’s Bronco Country football right there.”

**On Davis’ penalty negative his strip-sack of Carr early in the game**

“Todd Davis, probably more than a steak dinner. I don’t know what he has. I’ve got to talk to him. Why does he owe me a dinner? Did you watch the game? It was early in the game. I had Derek Carr. It was one of the few plays that he held the ball. I was able to get in and get a sack and that forced fumble and we recovered it. But we had to go back because Todd was doing these walks with whoever it was out there (laughs). It’s all good. That’s my brother. That’s my cousin. After today, it really won’t matter. And that’s the same for this win, too. It was a great team win. We’re going to celebrate this one tonight and move on to the next one tomorrow.”

**On not having to face former Raiders OLB Khalil Mack**

“I really didn’t think about Khalil. I mean, yesterday, yeah a little bit. We’re not going to be playing him today. But he’s on a whole another team in a whole another division in a whole another conference. It would’ve been, but they traded him away. Good play by the Raiders.”

**On the difference in mentality between this year’s team and last year’s**

“There are more laughs. Everybody is doing their homework now (laughing). We’ve always been on time to work and respectful in the locker room. But I guess we’re winning now, so I guess the culture is different.”

**On if he rallied the defense with a speech ahead of the Broncos’ late defensive drive in the fourth quarter**

“No, not really. I wish I did have a speech or something, but no. We were just out there. We looked at everybody. You know, the special thing about this team is we’re all one. Like, we all know, when somebody messes up, we all know what happened. It’s not really cloudy. We know exactly what’s going on. There’s great communication on defense. If they get three yards on a run, we know exactly where it hit. We know exactly the problem to fix. It just shows you the type of defense that we have, the type of speed of the core and the type of connection that we have with each individual on defense. There wasn’t really a speech or anything like that. You could just feel it, and that’s a special thing. That’s a special team. You’ve got to have special guys to be able to achieve that.”

### **On the Broncos' overall team leadership**

"We've got great leadership, but I don't think it's just the leaders in particular. It's the whole team. It just shows what type of team. It's not really about the six or five captains that we have. Honestly, the rookies and the new guys that we have, they are playing lights out. They gave us a hell of a boost on offense and defense. If we look at some of the things that [Broncos RB] Phillip Lindsay did for us today, and [Broncos WRs] Tim Patrick and Courtland Sutton, all those guys, they weren't here last year. So we did a great job of going and getting playmakers and big-time guys that help lift everybody around them. That makes a captain and a leader's job a whole lot easier having guys like that."

## **BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHAQUIL BARRETT**

### **On how the pass rushers impacted the game with Raiders QB Derek Carr's quick release**

"Run defense. It's literally almost nothing you can do because I was pass rushing, going around the edge, and he'd step up a little bit and get the ball out. I probably had like two good pass rushes this game where he held the ball a little bit. Other than that, they did a good job. We just had to affect the run and try to affect the quarterback and get him off his spot or something. I think we did a pretty good job."

### **On if blocking kicks is rare for him**

"No, it's not a rarity. I've been blocking kicks for a while."

### **On how he blocked the PAT**

"[Special Teams] Coach [Tom McMahon] called in the play and it was for me to swim and come around free. The guys inside, [DE Derek] Wolfe, and I think Philly (S Will Park) outside, they got the eyes of the tackle, the tight end and the guard. I swam, and I was free."

### **On the significance of his block given the one-point win**

"It did help out a lot (laughs). Coaches always say, 'You never know what play can end up being a game-winning play.' That's why you've just got to play every play like that. When I'm out there, that's what I'm trying to do, and I'm pretty sure everybody is trying to do it too."

## **BRONCOS TIGHT END JAKE BUTT**

### **On today's comeback win**

"It's huge. This league, it's hard to win in this league. It's not always going to be pretty. As you could see in the first half, we just weren't clicking, but we stuck to it. We came in here at halftime and everybody looked each other in the eyes and nobody was worried. We just had to find a way to win."

### **On the feeling in the offensive huddle during the Broncos' game-winning drive**

"Calm. No worries. Everybody, just business as usual. It's something that we've been practicing all the way back to Spring, the two-minute, these kind of situations. V.J. (Head Coach Vance Joseph) has done a hell of a job at putting us in bunches of different situations: down six, down three, down two. We've been in this situations like this before, so everybody was calm. Let's just find a way to win. That's what we did."

### **On fixing some of the offensive mistakes ahead of next week's game at Baltimore**

"It's always good to get a win. We're not going to get too high on it. We're not going to get too down about the mistakes we made. We've got a good team in Baltimore that we're facing next week. We're going to enjoy this night but it's back to work tomorrow. We've got to find a way to win next week."

### **On the Broncos advancing to 2-0 at home**

“It’s big. I think we have the best home-field advantage in all of sports. Playing at a mile high, it’s tough. When I first came here last year, it took me a few weeks to get used to this altitude. We should never lose at home. It’s big for us to stay undefeated.”

#### **On the Broncos’ resolve in their comeback win**

“It just shows that we’ve got a strong team with a lot of heart. We’re going to fight until the very last second, even when we’re stumbling a little bit throughout the game, but that’s exactly what we did. We fought to the very last second and found a way to win.”

### **BRONCOS RUNNING BACK ROYCE FREEMAN**

#### **On the atmosphere today at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

“The fans are second to none. They were behind us the whole game and were a big part of getting us going.”

#### **On winning on a day that the offense struggled in the first half**

“Just don’t flinch, persevere, persevere. It’s a four-quarter game. I believe in our offense and we were confident that sooner or later things were going to click. We have the guys to make plays happen.”

#### **On the experience he’s gained over his first two games in the NFL**

“I feel good, especially with the camaraderie we have on this team and the way we practice and the way we come out before the games. It’s definitely exciting.”

#### **On the composure of Broncos QB Case Keenum during the game-winning offensive drive**

“A1. It was great. He didn’t flinch. He’s been through many situations like this. He’s not new to it. To have a quarterback like him is definitely comforting for a last drive like that.”

#### **On the Broncos’ offensive line’s performance today**

“They’re the tone setters. They make this team go. We always give credit to the offensive line because they’re the guys that have the tough job day in and day out. Without them, we really couldn’t do much.”

#### **On adjusting the Raiders’ defense in the second half**

“Just stick with the plan. Don’t get too out of character and just focus on what we have to do. Focus on the now.”

### **BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.**

#### **On the offense’s game-winning drive**

“It felt good. That’s the first time in a long time. I was happy. B-Mac (Broncos K Brandon McManus), it was a perfect kick. We knew that once we get to the at least the 45, B-Mac can make it. We were confident we could win that game.”

#### **On the confidence he had in the offense**

“We had confidence. Once we get that stop we just had to give them around two minutes to go score. I realized once we got that stop, it was over for them. They couldn’t guard us.”

#### **On the resiliency of team**

“We put so much work in as a team. We just decided together that we were going to play as one. Regardless of what adversity happens, we’re going to stick together and always have full confidence. Offense only had one first down in the first half but we knew they were going to come back in the second half and put on a show.”

#### **On slowing down Raiders QB Derek Carr**

“We just knew that was going to throw dink and dunks all game. He threw a lot of now routes, a lot of screens, things like that. We just worry about the points. We tried to kind of change our mentality a little bit. We’ve always been about yardage here but last year our points per game number was too high. As long as we can hold anyone to 19 points, we should win every game.”

#### **On winning close games**

“We just have to start fast. Games (are) going to be like this all season. Every week is different. Everybody has ball players that can make plays. It’s the NFL and it’s the AFC West. When you play in the AFC West rivalry games, it’s up in the air. You never know who is going to win. We just want to get that mindset back and we started off with a win today.”

### **BRONCOS RUNNING BACK PHILLIP LINDSAY**

#### **On his first 100-yard rushing game**

“The offensive line was moving it, that’s all I can say about that. They were working their butts off. The receivers were out there blocking and I was just doing my job.”

#### **On the team’s mindset when they were down**

“It’s the NFL. Our running backs coach, coach [Curtis] Modkins, told us, ‘Don’t flinch.’ He told us yesterday that it was going to be a hard game. We are a young running back crew so me and [RB] Royce (Freeman) haven’t really seen anything like this, so we just kept going.”

#### **On the team’s fight**

“That is football for you. That’s the vets. The vets were keeping us in line. It’s just about going out there and playing football. It’s about playing the whole entire game, not just for one half.”

#### **On what the team was thinking on the final drive**

“[Broncos QB] Case [Keenum] was going to do what he had to do. He is a vet. He has been in a lot of situations like this. We trusted him. For us, it was about getting out of bounds, making our plays, picking up all of the blitzes we could, and getting our kicker in the best possible situation he could thrive in.”

#### **On his long run in the first half**

“I am here to be our spark player. I am here to make sure that I get my teammates going, whether it is on a punt, if it is on a kickoff or kickoff return, anything. I am going to do what I have to to get our team moving.”

#### **On what he was thinking on the final field goal attempt**

“It was a surreal moment. It was a great feeling. It is just a great opportunity to be here. I can’t thank [President of Football Operations/General Manager] Mr. [John] Elway enough for letting me be a part of this.”

#### **On being the first undrafted rookie in NFL history with consecutive games with 100-plus scrimmage yards to begin a career**

“I am just playing football. That’s it. I am just playing football for our team. I don’t think of things like that. For me, it’s just a great opportunity to go out there. I am just happy that we got the ‘W.’ It’s on to the next. We have a big game next weekend and we are going to go away. It’s a further flight than usual.”

### **BRONCOS KICKER BRANDON McMANUS**

#### **On his game-winning field goal**

“The offense made it easier for me on that last play. I still think we would’ve kicked a long one, kind of similar to that Kansas City game with a 62-yarder. Tim (Broncos WR Tim Patrick) and Case (Broncos QB Case Keenum) made it easy for me and I can’t thank my guys enough blocking and protecting me.”



**On if he was thinking about kicking a 60-yard field goal with the game on the line**

“No, you don’t want to be thinking about a 60-yard field goal when you have to kick whatever it was, a 35-yard field goal. [P] Marquette [King] did a great job [holding].”

**On his emotions after watching his game-winning kick sail through uprights**

“I stay pretty even keel. You know me and you know my counterpart (King), he gets excited. He’s more excited than me. I just try to go out there and perform my best. Last year I had a down year.”

**BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER TIM PATRICK****On being ready for his opportunity to make a play**

“Stay ready. [We were] told we are going to a two-minute situation, so two-minute situation guys get tired. I just made sure I stayed ready on the sideline when my number was called.”

**On what this win meant for the team**

“It just shows how good our team is. We have been going through adversity the past two games and we still come out with the ‘W.’ It just shows once we put it together, we are going to be a very dangerous team.”

**On his decision to go out of bounds after making his catch that put the team in field goal position on the final drive**

“I knew I had plenty of time to go up the field. The whole purpose was once I went up the field, I just wanted to get as much yardage as I can while getting out of bounds at the same time.”

**On if he felt like he redeemed himself on his catch after a missed touchdown opportunity**

“Coach (Vance Joseph) talked about impacting the game one way or another and I feel like I’m an impact player today.”

**BRONCOS NOSE TACKLE DOMATA PEKO SR.****On the catch from Broncos’ wide receiver Tim Patrick to set up go-ahead field goal**

“That was awesome. Big play by Tim, he’s a young guy. It’s really good to see our team doing that. Playmakers making plays from the youngest guys to the older guys. It’s amazing. It was a big win for us; division game, being down, fighting our way back up, and climbing back up for the W. Those are the type of wins you really love. When you are down and everyone thinks you’re out, but you climb out of it and you push and everyone believes in each other. It was a great win for us. Big shout to my defensive line, every one of them. We all played our tails off today. Defense did a good job and it was really good.”

**On finally being able to overcome the deficit**

“It’s just one of those days when you are fighting. They get a couple of punches on you and you get reset. That’s what we had to do. We had to get reset and that’s what we did at halftime. Coach (Head Coach Vance Joseph) gave us a good pep talk. We made some adjustments defensively. He [Oakland Raiders QB Derek Carr] got the ball out really quickly on us. We made some adjustments to help with that. I am really happy with this win, 2-0. It was a big division win and a great job from all of my teammates.”

**On today’s heat on the field**

“It’s still hot – I’m sweating right now. It was a hot day today but the game was won on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. That’s when we won this game. It was hot like this all week so we knew what we had to do. We were hydrated. We were ready to go. We knew that the Raiders were coming in off a loss, so, they were coming in here swinging. This team right here is going to be a special group. We are just barely scratching the surface and getting started.”

**On the progression of the Broncos since last season**

“A year makes a lot of difference especially with our new quarterback and all of the weapons. [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] is on fire. We have Rolls Royce [Freeman] and the pit bull, number 30, [Broncos RB] Phillip Lindsay. Just keep handing the ball to those two

young guys – they are doing great. Big shout out to our offensive line. 160 yards rushing, that’s amazing. That’s what they do. Big team win for us. Thank you to Broncos Country. Big shout out to my defensive line and big shout out to God, much love.”

## **BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER EMMANUEL SANDERS**

### **On the team’s comeback in the second half**

“That was a tough first half. Obviously, we want to go out, we want to perform, we want to start fast, but we did not. The good thing is, we were able to pick it up. We were able to score on four-straight drives, so I am happy about that. I think we came into the game and wanted to run the football. [Broncos Head] Coach [Vance] Joseph told me, in the second half, ‘We are going to sling the football.’ I think that is what changed. We started slinging the football. We started gaining some momentum. [Broncos QB] Case [Keenum] was walking up and down the sidelines saying, ‘Once we get started, it’s going to be hard to salvage.’ We understand that. It is obvious we have to start faster. I will tell you what: we struggled in the first half; we balled in the second half and got a win. Now we’re standing 2-0.”

### **On Broncos QB Case Keenum running the ball multiple times**

“Case should play running back. He is a competitor. We played high school football in Texas. [When you play] football in Texas, you become a football player, not just a quarterback or a wide receiver. It showcased tonight.”

### **On WR Tim Patrick going out of bounds on the game-winning drive**

“That is all coaching. I think [Broncos Head] Coach [Vance Joseph] has done a great job of giving us a lot of two-minute examples when I called the ball. I got up and gave it to the back... [Broncos WR] Tim [Patrick] makes two guys miss it... runs out of bounds... That is the stuff that we preach all the time in our room: watching other guys mess up and other guys do it right. That was just a good job on Tim’s part.”

### **On watching Broncos K Brandon McManus’ game-winning field goal**

“It felt so good. The whole game I had to stay level. I had to stay levelheaded. The whole first half I had zero targets. I walked up to Coach Joseph, not mad like I used to be—I have to stay calm within myself, stay humble within myself—and I just told Coach, ‘I haven’t had a target in the whole first half.’ He told me he was going to give me the ball and he gave me the ball. I made the most of those opportunities.”

### **On the team needing consecutive fourth-quarter comebacks to start the season 2-0**

“It really doesn’t give me too much confidence. We are sitting here 2-0, but we are struggling. I would not say we were struggling, but it is one of those games I just want to win easy. We all want to win easy. It does feel good to win a hard game, the heartfelt games. I cannot wait until we win one of those smooth games. We are going to keep pushing. I am sitting here, 2-0. I’m going to wake up in the morning and stretch my arms saying, ‘Ahh this feels good to be 2-0.’”

## **RAIDERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN**

### **Opening statement**

“A tough loss, I’m really proud of our team. We had opportunities, I think, to come out of here with a win. I credit Denver, I’ll answer any questions I can.”

### **On if he felt the defense was tired at the end**

“Everybody was gassed, all four sides of the ball. Their guys, our guys, everybody’s guys. That’s part of this league. It comes down to conditioning. It comes down to all of that, especially at the end of games.”

### **On DE Bruce Irvin and his unsportsmanlike conduct**

“No comment on that. There was a verbal disagreement of some kind.”

### **On QB Derek Carr's performance**

"He did well today. He did what we asked him to do, protect the football, move the football team. We had a critical fourth-and-one, we didn't make the play, and then at the end of the ball game, we had second-and-four. I don't know, we had a false start, that really hurt us. We could've put them away right there. I thought Carr played great today. He's a great player, I think he's going to be an outstanding player. I look forward to the days ahead. Hopefully there's several."

### **On what the defense needs to do to pressure the quarterback more**

"We've got to do something. We've got to get there, we've got to win in some one-on-ones and maybe call up some more blitzes. We've got to figure something out, we will."

### **On WR Amari Cooper**

"Cooper is involved every week. You see the Rams are pretty good with what they did. You don't have to be a genius in this league to figure out it's hard to make first downs. Some weeks you're hot, some weeks you're not. Teams can take away one player if they want to, somebody else has to step up. He's going to be involved every week. I hope everybody is happy."

### **On an injury update on WR Dwayne Harris**

"Hope to have him back next week. That was a tough blow again. Our special teams have suffered with losing our long snapper (Andrew DePaola) and our returner [Raiders RB DeAndré Washington]. And not only that, our number one cover guy, he wasn't able to go, but hopefully we'll have him next week for Miami."

### **On CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie**

"He did good."

### **On the second half**

"You take some shots. We did take a couple of shots. We hit a couple in the second half. We had one called back for offensive pass interference, if you recall that. Can't hold the ball very long when their blitzing like that, with the rushers that they do have. We had balance today. I don't know what Derek was throwing the ball, but he didn't have very many incompletions. The ones that were incomplete, hit the ground or hit our receivers in the hands. I think he could've hit every pass."

### **On winning multiple challenges**

"I came through for that. That was great. That was the highlight of my day."

### **On the process of challenging the play call**

"We have people working up there and they try to relay information to me as soon as possible. Our guys upstairs did a great job, they get credit for that."

## **RAIDERS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR**

### **On the offense not being able to close out the game**

"I thought we had a couple of good drives in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter of picking first downs up when we needed them. Obviously, they keep the clock moving and put pressure on their offense to score quicker and things like that. I thought we did a great job of that, but obviously you want to end with the ball in your hand. You want to end taking a knee, making them use their timeouts which they were doing with about 2:55 and 2:40 left. We wanted to waste their timeouts and, 'Hey, let's get the first down, game over.' It hurts to not be able to do that, but I still thought we moved the ball decently. We took some time off the clock to help the defense out and then the last play, they brought a pressure and I had to throw it hot to [WR] Martavis [Bryant] and we're one missed tackle away from the game really being over. That's how close this game is, right? That's why I'm not going to sit here and be too up or too down, honestly. The first two weeks, we've done some really good things and we've also had some things where you're like 'Man, I wish we had done that better.' We have the recipe for the right stuff I think, with [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden, with our offense and [Defensive Coordinator] Coach [Paul] Guenther. I think we're on the right track, but have to—there's no excuse—we have to finish and win football games."

**On if he thinks the offense took a step forward today**

"I just remember so many times playing these guys, I just know it's such a struggle just to complete a pass on these guys. Trust me, I know from experience. It's a struggle to get two yards on these guys and obviously they did a great job last week of playing defense and they did another great job this week making it tough on us. Every completion is tight, every run is earned every yard. We're happy with those things, but then we're going to go look at some third downs and say, 'Man, we're that close to being a high percentage on third down or we're this close from another explosive and maybe that could've ended the game.' It's just little things like that. Trust me, I've played this game long enough. We're going to have days where I'm going to throw three picks or I'm going to throw five touchdowns. I've done both. We have to play level-headed, and as a team, stay together, push forward and grind this week in practice. There's no other recipe for getting better. That's how we have to do it and we need to learn as a team through this experience, and next time we're in that spot, finish the game."

**On why the offense was able to play better this week**

"We've had, myself, a couple of bad plays, like two bad plays that you want back last week. But, I thought we still moved the ball against a really good defense. Again, that's why I don't care what anyone has to say. In the nicest way, I really don't care. I know what the people in our locker room think, I know what the people we play against think—your peers, and that's the kind of stuff that matters. The fact we were able to move the ball well the last couple of weeks was good. It's a good sign, but that doesn't mean we've done anything yet, because we have another good defense that we're going to get ready for this week. We've got to get back to work and keep pushing because again, like I said, we're doing some good things, but we're this close to being more explosive and I think with more practice, more detail and more time together, I think we can accomplish that."

**On if he listened to any criticism of Head Coach Jon Gruden's offense**

"It's funny to me. No I didn't. If you don't believe me, but I didn't listen to anything so it's hard for me to believe they didn't like his offense last week. That's kind of funny to me. We had well over 300 yards, we had near or over 100 yards rushing and I think you'll pick that every week against that defense. Right? And then this week we moved the ball well again, again against a defense, everyone just says, 'Hey, you moved the ball well,' no we did some good things against a defense that doesn't allow anything. I think that we're doing just fine. We have to stay the course and keep pushing. Again, we have to work our tails off. That's the only thing that's going to get us over that hump of, 'Hey, we're doing some good things, but man, hopefully no one stops us.' We just have to keep working hard."

**On the fourth down incompleteness to FB Keith Smith**

"We had a great play call. We had him open and I had to throw it quick before his eyes were fully ready because of the pressure and you know we just didn't connect on it. Again, he will be thinking about that, I'll be thinking about that obviously the whole plane ride home. I'll be thinking about it when I lay my head down to sleep like I do always, and I'll probably have to get up and do some push-ups or something thinking like. Maybe I could have done something better, I don't know. Those are the little things that we are talking about, you know like we were this close to everyone just high fiving and being happy. And again, like Coach Gruden says, he just feels bad for us players because we are giving great effort. We don't have a team that is lacking in effort, or lacking in talent, or anything like that. We have great guys, veteran guys that work and grind through tough times and the good times are coming, I've been doing this too long. I know they are. We have a good group and we are working too hard for it not to happen."

**On WR Amari Cooper's performance today**

"Again, in coverage, obviously [TE] Jared (Cook) didn't have 200-yards or whatever, so coverages were dictating like, 'Oh here, they're going to let Coop (Cooper) go. They're going to trust their guys to cover Coop? Well, we are going to trust Coop.' And I mean that's the NFL, that's not saying anything against those guys. They're the best there is, you know. But we just believe in Amari to go in and go hard and he did that today for us consistently. When he can win consistently for our offense, it doesn't only help the passing game for our guys, it helps the running game as well."

**On his high completion rate during the game.**

"Honestly, I'm not going to lie to you, I have felt last week and this week like I have all camp all offseason, like the same kind of there's no being in the zone. I'm just trying to run Coach Gruden's plays to the best of my ability the exact way he wants it done. I think even after a timeout, they called a time out on one and I said, 'What do you want here if they give us a certain look?' You know

I always say, 'I want to do it how you want it done.' I feel like there's nothing to say, I wish I had something better for you, but I just feel like we are just executing the way that we should.

**On how Coach Gruden has interacted with players the past two weeks.**

"He's always positive. Always positive, always demanding, as you guys know. He's just a problem solver. He is not a problem creator if that makes sense. He comes up to me like, 'What do you think we could have done better in such and such situation. What do you think about this?' And I would say something and we would just have a dialogue that's just great, it never stops us from trying to go forward. I would say obviously this week was down, but there wasn't any anger or anything like that. Honestly, he just felt bad for us players, you know because he knows how hard we work and he knows how hard he pushes us. He's not shy about that, he's going to push us and make it extremely difficult during the week, not a lot of sleep kind of a deal. But, that's where I think it's almost like as a dad, you know if something happens to your kids you more so just feel hurt for them. And so I think that's mostly what I saw from him."

**On if the temperature on the field affected the team.**

"I'm from Fresno, so no. That was a nice cool day for me. No, that's funny though, I'm lying to you, it was definitely hot. But, it wasn't a Bulldog Stadium day that's for sure."

**On what the team has seen from RB Marshawn Lynch so far this season.**

"I've seen the same tough mentality, even when they do try to load the box we still have ways of getting certain angles to get in the run lanes knowing that he's going to get hit in three or four yards. But, if he can take it six or seven, or maybe even 40, then it's just those little things that make him great. So his mentality never changes. I think that he's running great and is in great shape, honestly. I think we saw it in the preseason, I mean he was moving. He spent a lot of time working hard in the offseason to make sure he was in shape and to make sure he was ready for the whole season. I think he has done a great job of that."

**On the balance of running and pass plays in today's offensive strategy.**

"Again, against these guys you have to be balanced. If you just get into a passing game, you'll see [OLB] Von [Miller] will get back there and rip your head off eventually. So you've got to be able to run it, you've got to be able to throw it and mix up the looks for the DB's also. We also forget how good their front is and how good their secondary is. So making them tackle and things like that helps your passing game."

## **RAIDERS TIGHT END JARED COOK**

**On how he feels after the loss**

"It don't feel good. We put in a lot of work. To come up short, especially against a divisional opponent when you know you could have won that game, I think that's the hardest thing to take. We'll go back to the drawing board and go back to work. We have another opponent, and another away game next week that we have to be prepared for."

**On what happened in the fourth quarter**

"Penalties. We were rolling, but penalties got us. The one that backed us up on the false start, on me, hurt us bad. We had momentum and then we just got too far back to be able to overcome that."

**On what they have to do to close out games**

"You have to revisit your fundamentals. It is important in this league that you win all your home games and you try to win all your divisional games. We are 0-2 on both of those right now. You have to revisit your fundamentals and go back to the basics and figure out a way to buy a win."

**On what he will remember about this game**

"A lot. We left a lot of plays out there on the field where we thought we could be better. It is just those plays that you wish you could get back, but you can't. All you can do is learn from them right now."

## **RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER AMARI COOPER**

### **On being targeted more this week**

"Last week, [TE] Jared [Cook] was the guy, he went for 180 yards. Today, we didn't necessarily put an emphasis on throwing me the ball, it's just how the game unfolded."

### **On the double pass interference call**

"I've always been the type of player to try and look at what I could have done better. On that play, the sun was kind of in my eyes, so I had to wait for it to come down instead of going up and attacking it [the ball]. But, I've never seen that."

### **On having a bigger game than last week**

"It feels great. You want to get into a groove, you want to do everything possible to help your team win. Unfortunately, we came up short today, so we just got to make more plays out there if we want to win games."

### **On not closing out the game**

"It is very frustrating, it leaves a bad taste in our mouth. We know how hard we work. You have to understand, every week in the NFL, the team that's most prepared is the team that's going to win the game. Luck plays a factor sometimes, but we need to go out there and find a way to win."

### **On if he feels the team has the right pieces to win**

"We know we have the right pieces to win. We know we can come out here and play with anybody. We just have to play better towards the end of the game, so we can win."

## **RAIDERS LINEBACKER DERRICK JOHNSON**

### **On Coach Jon Gruden's message after the game**

"Coach believed in us. He told us after the game that he's proud of us. He's always going to take ownership, and that's what kind of guy he is. But, at the same time, us players need to put a little more pressure on ourselves to pull it out [the win]. I know it's a hostile environment, we know it's a tough place to play and it's a divisional game, but we got to find a way to win."

### **On adjustments made by the Broncos in the second half**

"[Broncos QB] Case [Keenum] was doing a better job of standing in the pocket and waiting for his receivers to get open. He wasn't panicking as much. They kept staying with the run. They even hit us on a couple of runs. But, when you have a chance to shut them out... they had that drive down the field, on a two-minute scenario, as a defense we need to be licking our chops and saying, 'Hey, let's go.'"

### **On Keenum's performance**

"Case did a good job, that last drive particularly. We had him bottled up the first half. They [Broncos] did a great job with adjustments in the second half. We made adjustments too, but they made more plays than us in the second half. Regardless, we need to find a way to pull it out."

### **On finding a way to bring more pressure defensively**

"It's tricky. At times, you want to play coverage, so you can let your front four rush. The more you blitz, the less coverage there is. Whatever you do, you have to do it at a high level."

## **RAIDERS DEFENSIVE END BRUCE IRVIN**

### **On not being able to close out the game**

“You’ve got to just finish. In this league, you’ve got to play until the triple zeros in the fourth quarter. I think we’re learning, we’re starting out pretty good, but we ain’t finishing and that’s something we’re going to continue to work on and I think that’s something we’re going to get corrected.”

#### **On how the team can make adjustments in season to learn how to close a game**

“It’s got to be more about desire and will. Guys have to dig deep and try to fight whether we’re tired or dealing with an injury, we’ve got to just dig deep and finish the game. I think it’ll get better though.

#### **On Oakland Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden’s message to the team after the game**

“Just keep playing, keep chomping and keep working at it. He said he was proud of us, how we competed coming in on a short week. Guys busted their tail, guys were out there straining and at the end of the day that’s all you can ask for is you guys go out there and leave it on the field for us. It was unfortunate, but it is what it is.”

#### **On if the Broncos did anything different on offense after they shut them out in the first half**

“No, I just think they came out with more urgency. That first drive, they were running the ball a lot. They tried to get out there and establish the run, they went fast tempo and I think they went and made a couple of adjustments, but for the most part it was the same. They just came out with more energy.”

## **RAIDERS TACKLE DONALD PENN**

#### **On how he felt he played at RT**

“I am still getting used to that spot. That was a good test going against [Broncos OLB] Von [Miller]. On the second one (sack), the one that actually counted, I got tripped up. But it doesn’t matter. I gave up a sack. Point, blank, and period, I have to get better. I am mad at myself too. I messed up on that extra point. It was a one point game. It could have been tied going into overtime, so I put that on me. I am very pissed about that too because in my whole thirteen-year career I don’t think I’ve ever had a kick blocked over me. That was the first time. I just have to be better. I have to find a way to get better. I’m out there fighting. I don’t want no sympathy or nothing. I’m out here to play and I’m out here to battle. I have to get better and find a way to get better. I am going to get back on this thing tomorrow. We are just losing stuff so close. It keeps just slipping away. The last game we played great in the first half. We haven’t put a whole game together yet. Once we do that and get this thing rolling, we are going to be a pretty tough team. We have to get going.”

#### **On what happened on the blocked extra point**

“They had an overload. I went and did what I always do, but I felt my arm get slapped down. I guess he came through that way. When I saw the replay, he came through that gap. I just have to try to get wide and try to get a hold of him next time. Most of the times, I usually get a hold of them, but this time he knocked my hand down. I am mad about that play. Even without that play, we should have closed out that game. We had many opportunities to. We have to find ways to get better. That is what makes good teams or mediocre teams. Right now, we are a mediocre team. We haven’t been able to find a way to close out games. Once we do that, we are going to be able to really get this thing going. We have good talent. We have a good thing going, we just have to get more consistent.”

#### **On the difference between this loss and last week’s loss**

“Every loss is hard. It is tough. No loss is different. All of the losses are hard and tough. This one hurts a little more for me because if I didn’t get that extra point blocked, we would have had a tie game going into overtime. We’re trying to win games.”

#### **On Head Coach Jon Gruden’s postgame response**

“He should be pissed. We should have won that game. I am pissed. He should be pissed. He’s our head coach and he should hold us accountable and he should hold us to a high standard, as he does. He should be pissed, I’m pissed. We had more than enough opportunities to win that game. We gave that game away at the end of the day. We gave them all the opportunities and they capitalized on them. We had a chance to finish it and we didn’t. I’m with Gruden, he should be pissed too. We’re a good team and it doesn’t show. We’re 0-2 right now. Once we get these nicks together, we’ll get rolling.”

