



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. DENVER BRONCOS

Sunday, November 26, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO

Opening statement: “Alright, always good to get a big divisional win. Get one at home. It’s been five weeks since we’ve been back here. Nice to be able to deliver and come out with a hard-fought victory. I’m going to go ahead and talk right away about the ugly incident early in the game where Aqib Talib and Michael Crabtree got into it. It escalated. I think that they have a little bit of a history with the chain snatching from years back. I think there was an additional chain snatched from what I understand. Bottom line is we can’t afford to lose one of our top receivers and then our starting guard because he went over there to help his buddy. We can’t get two guys tossed like that. I have not had a chance to talk to him yet. I will address it the best I can, but I like to count on my guys to do the right thing there and keep their poise, keep their composure. Not get tossed. It’s just too much. We were fortunate we were able to lose two guys like that and overcome and come out with a win. I’ve talked about complementary football. I thought tonight was a really good example of that. We had all three phases contribute to the win. When you’re dropping four punts within the 10 like we did tonight, that’s a good thing for field position. Offensively when you’re able to rush it 37 times. Marshawn [Lynch], I think, had 26 of those. Eighteen completions, that means we were possessing the ball, time possession around 36 minutes. Defensively, five sacks on the night. Good on third down, especially until the last couple of drives. We had about 60 yards late in the ball game. Overall, really, really pleased with the complementary effort that allowed us to jump out to a 21-0 lead. Got a little interesting at the end. You’d like to not let it get that interesting, but at the end of the day you want to come out of here with a win. We’ll go back and correct some of the things that lead to it being a little tight there. A little tighter than it should have been at the end. Questions?”

Q: With all the ups and downs, what’s it like to go and tell your guys you basically control your destiny?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah it’s good. In a certain respect you always do by what you get done. Obviously, we need to get hot. We need to play good football. We showed glimpses of being a good football team tonight in all three areas. Certainly, when you add it all up, you look and say, ‘There’s still a lot that needs to be corrected and worked on.’ We’re not going to pretend...take every opportunity to enjoy. You have to. Winning is hard in this league. You need to enjoy the victories. We got No. 5 tonight. We need to get ready to turn our attention to next week to get No. 6.

Q: Is this the way you want the defense to look?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, for three quarters it was pretty good.”

Q: In terms of scheme?

Coach Del Rio: “I just thought there was certainty, decisiveness. Play fast. Played very fast. I said three quarters, it was a three quarters effort.”

Q: What’s the key to pass rushing?

Coach Del Rio: “I talk about it all the time, the keys to sacks are the combination of rush and coverage going hand in hand. If you’re getting the rush you want and the coverage is tight, then the quarterback doesn’t have anywhere to go safely with the ball and then you’re going to be able to get him on the ground. We got that done five good times and we spread it around a little bit. Denico [Autry] got involved a little bit. Obviously, Bruce [Irvin] got a couple and Khalil [Mack], who is always going to show up. It was good to see a mix of guys.”

Q: Was it a bit of a relief to get that interception?

Coach Del Rio: “It was relief. I’ve never seen anything like it. Even later in the game we still had both hands on a ball that ended up not only not being intercepted, but caught by the other team. I’ve never seen it. I’ve never seen it, certainly not as many times as we’ve seen it this year. Hopefully we’re getting all of that out of our system. We’re going to start catching the ball a little more consistently.”



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Q: How were the receivers without Crabtree and Cooper?

Coach Del Rio: "I thought they played pretty well, yeah. I think the one with [Jared] Cook was out of bounds on the side. Johnny Holton played big, came up with a couple of really big plays. Obviously, CP [Cordarrelle Patterson] came up really big for us. That play at the end where Derek [Carr] gave us some time, what a beautiful throw that was. We wanted to play to win there. We didn't want to punt it and hope to hang on. I told [Offensive Coordinator] Todd [Downing] let's go win this thing. Derek made a great play. Todd gave him a great call. CP went up and got that ball and then tried to go score with it. It was a nice way to aggressively go win."

Q: With testing the middle like that at that point in the game, is it pretty much a gamble?

Coach Del Rio: "There's always a little risk. We understand what they wanted to do in that situation and attacked it, I thought, very well. The bottom line that makes it all happen is a quarterback makes a good throw and the receiver makes a strong catch. That's what makes it all go. Then we get the guys blocked up enough for the quarterback to see that guy because they brought us zero pressure. There was nobody left in the middle."

Q: What's it like coming together after a tough few weeks? The defense played about the best they have all year. Is that just a natural result of coming together after everything that's happened?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know if there's anything natural about it. I think our guys earned a solid performance. They prepared very well. There was decisive play and the first three quarters of the ball game was exactly how we'd like it to look. It doesn't mean you're going to have those kinds of results, but we want it to look like that. We know where we're going and go fast. We go with intensity and go with purpose and understanding. Those are the things we're going to build on."

Q: I assume Amari Cooper is in concussion protocol?

Coach Del Rio: "That's all I heard, yeah."

Q: Have you heard anything besides that?

Coach Del Rio: "No. It was a vicious hit. The kind we're trying to remove from our game, quite frankly. You see less and less of those. I'm sure the league will take a hard look at it. Those are the kinds of impact hits that don't need to be a part of our game right now. The guy is clearly defensive less and got targeted right in the head. There's a chance to hit in the strike zone and be somewhere else and not be there like that. But he is OK, but he is in concussion protocol."

Q: Was the focus going in to give Lynch more carries?

Coach Del Rio: "We want to possess the ball. We want to be able to run the ball. We didn't run it as well as we'd like in terms of number of yards, but we ran it the number of times we'd like to. Very purposeful about it. I thought that was well executed."

Q: Did you prepare for the weather today?

Coach: "We did. We said we needed our mudders. That this was going to be that type of ball game. It was a little misty. It never really got out of hand. The amount of rain that came down wasn't ever very substantial. It was a little slick at times. I thought for the most part we did a good job of operating in those conditions."

Q: Did you have to change anything?

Coach Del Rio: "You always adjust a few things, but nothing dramatic."



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Q: What does it do for the defense when you use Khalil Mack inside on third downs?

Coach Del Rio: “Well just move him around some. Not to get into game plan things, but I think he was moving around a little bit with the idea that they wouldn’t be able to lock in on exactly where he’d be. Obviously, they like to give him extra attention.”

Q: Did you see a difference in Lynch today from the last time you faced Denver?

Coach Del Rio: “I think I made the statement earlier in the week and I’ll just reiterate it that Marshawn since coming back from that time with that one game suspension, I feel like he’s come back with even more purpose, resolve, whatever it might be. He’s come back operating in a way that I think is good for us. Very decisive and very purposeful about his running and his approach.”

OAKLAND RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

Q: Can you take us through that last play to WR Cordarrelle Patterson?

Carr: “They went cover zero on us. A lot of our football fans know what that is, but if you don’t, it’s where nobody is deep. So they’re trying to pressure and get the ball out of hand fast. It happens a lot, people like to come after the quarterback which happens a lot. Bring one more than you can block kind of thing and make you throw the ball fast – that kind of thing. Coach [Todd] Downing does an amazing job preparing me for that, saying hey they’re going to think quick in this kind of situation, which is how the game was going, so this is the play we’re going to go in and we’re going to have a great shot on it. Great call.”

Q: We saw you celebrating with OT, Donald Penn after the play – can you take us through the emotions?

Carr: “A lot of relief. I think everyone in this room knows that we have a good group of guys that work really hard. So we’re not going out there and trying to lose games. When we’re able to go out and beat a division rival, a top five defense, to be able to run the ball, and through it on them – which is not easy, trust me. What we were trying to do – it’s not easy. But being able to do that, it’s just a lot of relief. And now, we sit where we sit and we know what’s ahead of us. It was just a lot of relief getting this win, getting back on the right track, and hopefully we can go on a run.”

Q: How did it feel to have guys like WR Johnny Holton and WR Cordarrelle Patterson step up?

Carr: “Preparing for games, I’m mostly throwing to Crab [WR Michael Crabtree], Coop [WR Amari Cooper], Seth [WR Seth Roberts] in practice and some game plans specific to those other guys. But for them to be able to come in and me not throw a lot of balls to them – timing wise, for them to be able to step in and not miss a beat. There’s things that we’ll clean up, you know – timing wise and things like that. But for them to be able to come in and make the plays that they made. Johnny is an amazing person, let alone a player. He’s fast and sure as heck knows to let me know when he’s in the huddle. He’s good at that. I have all the confidence in the world in those guys. With Crab, you never want to lose him. I love him to death, he’s like a big brother for me. You guys see us at stretch, laughing and joking at practice. And then Coop – anytime I throw a ball and I feel like I had anything to do with it, it rips my heart out. I’m not even going to lie, I had to hold back the motions of him getting hit and thinking it was my fault. The way the linebacker played it, I had to throw it where I had to throw it. But anytime he gets hit, I feel terrible. Rodney [Hudson] saw it on my face and said hey man shake it off, we gotta win this game. I was like you’re right, I’ll be good, but that’s my brother. I hope that he will be okay, I know he will – I talked to him. Looking forward, we have a lot of guys that make plays and we got to have guys step up.”

Q: Can you discuss your perspective of the fight early in the first quarter?

Carr: “I took off running over there. You know the whole situation, how it was building, and things like that. It was getting chippy early. When the fight broke out, I just ran over there and tried to calm the situation. Usually at practice, if there’s a fight, they tell the red jerseys to get out of the way. I did at first. That was my natural reaction.



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I kind of stepped away, but as soon as I saw it – it went to another level. We could all feel that. It wasn't just push and shove kind of thing. I took off over there and just tried to get my guys out of there, everyone out of there. It's football. It's chippy. It's a violent game. My hope is that, with what happens, it stays here. We're all about when things go down, we got to do things a certain way, but this is a violent game versus a heated rivalry. Hopefully everything just stays here today. We can just move on and be better next time."

Q: Do you feel energized knowing where you stand in the division after today's game?

Carr: "To be honest, we're always energized. We knew that coming into today, we had to win. This is was must win for us. Like they all are. But situationally, a must win. After the game, we find out other things. What happens around the league, and you kind of know where you sit. It doesn't mean anything if you don't take care of business. It's an exciting thing because we're right there. We know where we stand, but at the same time we have to go take care of business ourselves."

Q: Did you need a game like this to prevent outside perspectives from creeping in?

Carr: "For me, no. Just from my point of view and the relationships I have with all players on this team, I don't think so. We have a good mix of vets and a good group of young guys that get it. We understand that it's hard to win in this league and the only way to win is to turnaround and stay together. Did it help us to win and make everyone feel good? Absolutely. I agree 100% with that. Do I think if it went the other way – would it have torn us apart? I don't think that at all. Just based on the relationships and the time we spend together."

Q: How do you sustain momentum during close games?

Carr: "We stick to our process – everyone recovering, start on the next game. We stick to our process. We stick to what got us here. We stick to what we know works. We got a pretty sweet culture around here – on how we work. If you don't put the work in, you're not going to get the results. We stick to that. You just go out and compete. At the end of the day, we came out and competed our tail off on all three phases. I thought we played well. This was one of the first games where all three of us were working together. Was it perfect? Absolutely not. We have to hang onto the ball, even when I'm getting hit. I have to hang onto the ball, I was trying, but maybe I have to do some more curls. I got to hang onto that ball so they don't poke it out. There's thing to clean up, but I thought we played well together. As long as we continue to do that, we'll be good."

Q: On the last pass to Patterson, do you think that was a safe play?

Carr: "Yes – absolutely. For him, he's a receiver. It's just tracking the ball; he sets kind of an angle. You know where about, but since there's no one deep, there's no threat of someone coming on this side of him. He just knows that he has to beat this guy and run under it. It's the plan, the play's job to make sure that no one is running into each other because that's where you get guys falling off certain receivers and picking the ball. Especially with a guy that returns kicks, I don't throw it that high. For him, it's just one of those pat and go, run under it kind of things."

Q: Can you talk about how it felt to execute the last play?

Carr: "You know I like that. That's why you asked, you know me. Anytime your coaches believe in what your offense can do, you get excited as a player. When they believe in you and say here you go. Stop the clock and we're going to let you guys go in. It's always an exciting thing and your coaches say hey, we're going to go with this play, this is what they might do. We go out there with so much confidence. We have such amazing coaches. For us to play fast and execute in a situation like that, that's not everybody's first call for cover zero. Most people say, let's throw it short, let them tackle it, that kind of deal. Coach trusted us to do it and it gives you a lot of confidence."

Q: How does RB Marshawn Lynch impact the offense's play action?



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Carr: “It definitely, definitely helps. Marshawn – you all know him; he’s going to run hard regardless. We go back to week 1 against Tennessee, we all remember that run. He’s going to run it hard. We’ve just been able to hit some passes to soften the defense up. He’s been able to hit some holes and get the tough yards – plays that are 3-yards, turned into 7; plays that should be losses, he’s turning into 2-yard gains. That’s huge, especially with that the coaches call in certain situations. It definitely helps me to be able to turn around and hand it to somebody for 20, 25 times and just say alright I get a mental break for a second. Even though I’m looking at things for the pass game.”

Q: What is the impact of losing key players early in the game?

Carr: “It shows that our staff does a really good job of preparing people because to play Denver [Broncos], if I would have told you that both of our starting receivers and our right guard would be out for the game, I’m pretty sure the feeling would have been a lot for people on the outside. I mean that in a respectful way, but it is what it is. Anytime you lose starters, it hurts. That’s why you have to give credit to our staff. Coach Rob Moore to prepare those guys. Nick to prepare those guys. Coach [Mike] Tice, Tim [Holt], to be able to prepare. Vadal [Alexander] had to come in for a play. Marshall [Newhouse] had to go to left tackle, he took every rep on the other side because he had to go to left tackle. To do that against a top-five defense, the odds aren’t usually in your favor when you have to do those things. So, the coaching staff deserves a lot of credit for those guys being able to mentally come in the game and not miss a beat, and for us to play ball. The deep one to Johnny [Holtan], wasn’t even for Johnny this week. We were putting someone else there. It just happened to be that he had to run, he went and made the play. I give a lot of credit to our coaching staff. From the big picture, I thought our game plan was fantastic. I thought the plan was really good going into the game. Obviously, that showed today because we executed. That’s on us players. I’ve told you a couple times that the plan was good, but that we screwed it up as players. Today, the plan was good again and we executed.”

RAIDERS DL DENICO AUTRY

Q: Did you guys blitz more than you normally do this game?

Autry: “Nah, we just worked on our pass rush all week. We knew it was a big thing we had to work on so we worked on it and got it fixed.”

Q: Did the loss of Coach Ken Norton Jr. give any spark to the defense today?

Autry: “It gave us fuel. It hurt but it gave us fuel to push on.”

Q: The defense stepped up more than it has in the past, what do you attest to that?

Autry: “It was just time. Coach always talked about all week it was time to make plays.”

RAIDERS SAFETY REGGIE NELSON

Q: Did you guys feel like you were fighting for your life?

Reggie Nelson: “It was a division game. We knew what it was coming into it. We had a sense of urgency this week and we showed up.”

Q: With what happened, changing defensive coordinators was this a challenge to you guys as a defense?

Reggie: “It’s a production. Everyone has a job to do. We had to show up this week. Coach did a great job calling the game.”

Emotionally with what happened with Michael Crabtree in the first quarter, did that give you guys a boost?



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Reggie: "I don't condone any of that but it definitely lit a fire on top of the fire we already had coming in. It was a good game, we made the plays we needed to make."

Q: I know you say you don't condone it but is there a point where there's only so much as a man, as a player that you can take?

Reggie: "I didn't see what went on, I just saw a scuffle so I can't really comment on that. That's something that you have to ask [Michael] Crabtree and [Aqib] Talib about. I just saw a pile of people over there and that was it."

Q: When you're facing a quarterback that hasn't played a lot is the key to get to him and knock him off his marker, don't let him find a comfort zone?

Reggie: "I think that we did a good job making him feel uncomfortable today. Everybody did their job and showed up to work today. We came out with the win."

Q: Take us through the interception.

Reggie: "It was a good play by [NaVorro Bowman]. It was a nice play. We got a turnover and that's what we've been needing out here. We got it."

RAIDERS RB JALEN RICHARD

Q: Did the incident with Crabtree and the loss of Amari help propel the running game?

Richard: "We have a lot of respect for those other guys in the wide receiver room. We know what they can do and that they will do their job but that wasn't really the reason. We just got into the running game and we got things going, gelling. That whole fighting situation just brought a whole other intensity to the game, it is a division rival. That made the intensity of the game go up. Denver was coming at us full speed, we were going at them full speed. It was a real traditional, hard-nose game today."

Q: Is there hopes to still get into the playoffs?

Richard: "We are in control of our destiny right now. A lot of things are going on in the league, a lot of people are getting beat. It is still open for us so that is a blessing. So even though the things we went through early on in the year we still have a chance right now. We are just focused on that, taking it game by game."

RAIDERS LINEBACKER NAVORRO BOWMAN

Q: How does it feel to get the team's first interception catch?

NaVorro Bowman: "It was good. I was 0-fer 0-fer in that column too so to bring the morale to the defense, I'm sure all the veteran guys were trying to get an interception too since the season started, so it was great to knock that one down."

Q: It was a bang-bang thing, take us throw what you can, what you remember.

Bowman: "I was in panic mode. The play-fake that came up, I realized it was pass so I used a guard to push out of there and run and find the guy that was open. That wasn't my man, I just dove to break it up and landed on my back and the ball was there. It was on of those crazy plays but as coach says 'Just run to the ball and great things will happen'."

Q: Did you tip it first?

Bowman: "I did and then it came back."



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Q: How does it feel knowing you guys are still right there in terms of the division?

Bowman: "We feel good about it. There's still some things we have to go out there and clean up. Our motto has been 'Just Win'. It's going to get harder down the road. You have to understand that as a team and not make those mistakes as a team. When you have the lead like that you can't let those things happen. It was a good win but we definitely have a lot of work to do. Guys need to get back at it."

Q: There was a big change with your coaching on defense. Do you think that had an influence on you guys having the best defensive performance in a while?

Bowman: "You know, I really don't know. I've only been here a couple weeks. I think Ken [Norton Jr.] did a good time in the short time I've been here to work with him. That's stuff we can't control. As players we focus on what we can control and what the coaches want us to do."

Q: What did you think about the big fight?

Bowman: "They have some history. It worked its way into this year. Hopefully those guys hashed it out and can be able to play a full game."

Q: What's it like seeing one of your best players going after one of their star players?

Bowman: "It doesn't happen. We're professionals. We have people that look up to us. You just want to remember that when you're facing those situations."

RAIDERS WR CORDARRELLE PATTERSON

Q: You were a man possessed on that last play, take us through it?

Patterson: "They went cover zero, I don't know why they would do that. I guess because we were down two receivers they thought they could get pressure on Derek but he did an excellent job seeing man coverage and just seeing me one-on-one with the free safety or cornerback or whoever it was. He just put the ball so perfect there was no way I couldn't make a play on that."

Q: It seemed like Derek had time to throw and find guys open. Did you feel more comfortable with the way you guys were handling your defense?

Patterson: "Of course. We had a lot of guys go down, offensive line and receivers, but it is the next man up mentality. Hats off to the whole offensive line and the whole team for stepping up. Everybody knows their position, you never know when your time is coming so hats off to all those guys."

Q: Did you guys get any extra juice off what happened to Crabtree?

Patterson: "I think the fans got a lot of extra juice. We don't never want to see no man go down. We all love Crab around here and we need him. Things happen, we all knew it was going to happen it was just a matter of time when. Everybody was ready, prepared for it. Johnny did a hell of a job coming in and I had to step up and it was good for all of us."

Q: What does it say about this receiving corps that you guys stepped in?

Patterson: "We all can make plays starting with the guys on practice squad. They show up each and every day working hard for our defense, getting them good looks each week. Without those guys what would we be? We take good pride in our practice squad players and everybody on the 53-man roster. We just stepped up and did what we are supposed to do. We know what we can do that's why when people go down its next man up."

RAIDERS LINEBACKER BRUCE IRVIN



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Q: You guys have had some ups and downs this season, but you now control your destiny in the division. What's that make you feel like?

Bruce Irvin: "That stuff we can't control. The only thing we can control is going out and practicing our butts off this week. Go out and get the win. You win, it takes care of everything. You just can't worry about that type of stuff."

Q: What was the key to getting pressure on the quarterback?

Irvin: "Guys just let it go. We've been hearing all year about how we're last in sacks and I think guys just got fed up. We did a great job as a d-line as a whole getting to the QB and affecting him today."

Q: One of the things coach [Jack Del Rio] said to you guys was that he wanted you to play fast. What does that mean to you?

Irvin: "I think just be more aggressive. Fly around, guys run to the ball. Guys run to the ball good things happen. Just look at the interception with [NaVorro Bowman]. Guys ran to the ball, surrounded the ball and we came up with our first interception."

Q: You guys were lining Khalil [Mack] up on the inside a bit more. Does that open stuff up on the outside when you do that?

Irvin: "He's always opening stuff up. They focus on him, the other three guys need to do a good job of winning their one-on-ones. We did a good job today."

Q: You wanted to come out with fire but things got a little crazy. How do you walk that fine line of playing with fire?

Irvin: "Those guys have a history of going back-and-forth with each other but we have to keep our composure and just play football. At the end of the day it's about winning and taking care of yourself and getting ready for next. It was an unfortunate situation but I'm just happy we got the 'W'."



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Broncos Head Coach Vance Joseph

Opening Statement: “Alright, we’ve got three injuries from the game, guys. We’ve got Derek Wolfe with a neck injury. He did not return. Paxton Lynch with a right ankle. He did not return and Domata Peko Sr. with a left knee. He did not return. So that’s where we were with sports injuries in the football game.”

Q: Will all those guys undergo further testing?

Coach Joseph: “Absolutely, absolutely. They have MRIs tomorrow just to see how serious the injuries are.”

Q: Was Paxton’s injury just the case that he said he couldn’t go back in? He seemed to be limping before he exited.

Coach Joseph: “Right, right. The training staff said he could not go. So we put Trevor [Semian] in and on we went.”

Q: How did you think Paxton was doing before the injury?

Coach Joseph: “I thought Paxton was doing OK. We had a couple plays that we missed with Paxton. Obviously like our first seven out of 10 drives were three-and-outs so it wasn’t good enough but I was proud how the guys finished. We had two 70-plus touchdowns in the fourth quarter to get us back in the football game. Guys making plays. Trevor making plays with his legs and his arm so that was fun to see.”

Q: What did you think of the Aqib Talib incident? You lost one of your better players out of it.

Coach Joseph: “I don’t like it and it’s unacceptable. We can’t lose our best players because of personal battles. That’s a personal battle. This is about the Broncos, so it’s unacceptable. We can’t have it. It’s nonnegotiable. Obviously losing one of our best players and playing a young guy, it hurt us tonight so we can’t have it. We talk about those things all the time and we can’t have it. Unacceptable.”

Q: Would you discipline him further?

Coach Joseph: “Well, we’ll see. I didn’t see the whole play. Right now, I’m dealing with the result of what happened and both teams lost two of their best players. It’s nonsense. It’s silly so I don’t know what exactly happened but I know it can’t happen to our football team especially.”

Q: Trevor nearly pulled it off for you. I know it’s shortly after the game but are you ready to go back to Trevor?

Coach Joseph: “I’m not sure. We’ll watch the tape and see where we are. We’ll see where Paxton is with his injury and obviously, we’ll do what’s best for our football team next week.”

Q: There have been guys that have been benched over the years who haven’t done the work leading up to the game sometimes because they’re frustrated. Does that say a lot about Trevor?

Coach Joseph: “No, Trevor was totally locked in and engaged this week and it’s been a hard time on Trevor. He’s had a couple weeks where he had to watch. He was not dressed last week, so I was very proud of Trevor, how he handled the week and how he played tonight. That speaks to Trevor as a person.”

Q: If Paxton has to miss practice time that’s not going to help him.

Coach Joseph: “Well we’ll see guys. We’ll see about who plays quarterback next week. We’ve got a full week of work so we’ll see. We’ll evaluate it.”

Q: You wanted Bill Musgrave to call a simpler game. How do you feel he called your offense?

Coach Joseph: “I know Bill did a nice job. The bottom line is, guys, we still have to block better and throw and catch better. I know Bill did a great job, especially in the fourth quarter to get us back into the football game. It was a great week of work and we’ll go back to the drawing board this week and see how we fare next week.”



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Q: On the last long completion the Raiders had, did you just go for the win or go for the chance to get the ball back there?

Coach Joseph: "Absolutely, absolutely. Yeah, we called our first two timeouts. We got them to third down, actually two times, in our four-minute. They converted the first third down with the flare screen to Marshawn [Lynch]. That would've been a big play after the onside. We had them pushed back and we gave up the other third down four-minute play into a zero coverage so we had chances. We had two chances to get them stopped and then to get the ball back probably midfield."

Q: Do you know what happened with Chris Harris Jr. on that play before the fight broke out?

Coach Joseph: "I'm not sure. I know what Chris told me, but I can't confirm that, so I won't say that. I can't confirm it."

Q: Did he say he was punched?

Coach Joseph: "I can't confirm that guys. I can't confirm."

Broncos QB Trevor Siemian

Q: Do you feel like if you had one more shot and you would have been able to tie the game?

Siemian: "Yeah, I think that's easy to say, right? We wanted the ball one more time. It just makes you think that first time we got it when we went three-and-out, if we got it rolling then but it's tough to live in a world of what if's, so it's not enough."

Q: How did you come back and seem like you didn't miss a step?

Siemian: "I think after that first series, I was just set on firing a bunch of completions in there and seeing what happens. The guys made a bunch of plays and got a little momentum and then you're in two-minute mode, so you're just firing away at that point and we were just one possession short."

Q: How are you doing mentally from last game to this week to going into this game?

Siemian: "I just think not dressing, you're out of it a little bit, no doubt. But when you're the backup, you're dialed in as much dialed in as Paxton was, so I'm getting as many mental reps as I can. And you're one play away and that's not just quarterback. That's all of our twos across the board so Vance [Joseph] has been good about that."

Q: How tough was it for you during the three to four weeks that you weren't up there as the starting quarterback?

Siemian: "I think it's just tough for all of us. We're losing a bunch of games in a row and it's frustrating, especially as long as I've been here. We're not used to that and that's why it is so it's frustrating for all of us and no doubt I want to play, but we're losing games and that's the worst part of it so we've got to figure it out soon."

Q: Do you think you will play next week?

Siemian: "I want to play. That's out of my hands, my job. Once I wasn't playing, I just said whenever my next opportunity is, that's what I'm going to worry about and make the most of it when the ball comes my way."

Q: Do you think that mindset helped?

Siemian: "Tough to say right now. Maybe in five years I'll have a better answer for you."

Q: You've been in the locker room for a while now. What can you do now? Seven losses in a row is tough.

Siemian: "Yeah, it's tough for everybody, I think. You look inward first, you look at yourself and you say what can I do to get it right? And I think that's the thing about us, is, it's frustrating because everybody is pouring everything in each week, and then not get the result at the end of the week stinks so we've got to figure it out. I think you look



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inward, you do the best you can, you work as a team and you're dealt some good days and give it your best on Sundays."

Q: How has it been working with Bill Musgrave this week?

Siemian: "Yeah, it was good obviously he was working with Paxton a lot more. It was really good. It's just a little bit different, we're all adjusting to it on the fly and that's what it is but it was good."

BRONCOS CB CHRIS HARRIS JR.

Q: What was your take with on what happened (the fight) early in the game?

Harris: "I mean I guess his [Michael Crabtree] initiative was to come out there and fight today, I guess it wasn't to play football. He came out there ready, just punched me in the stomach, I just lost my breath."

Q: What did you see go down with Michael Crabtree?

Harris: "I was getting attended to by the trainers, so I didn't see anything. I was in the far back, so I didn't see anything. I just heard the crowd."

Q: So he [Michael Crabtree] just punched you?

Harris: "Yeah he just sucker punched me. I have never seen that in the NFL. Today, he just came out wanting to fight. He didn't want to play football. It was the second play of the game. It was a run play, I was playing man, and I wasn't even doing anything. He just came in there, was like BAM, hit me right in the middle of the stomach and I just lost my breath."

Q: Is it hard to put your mind around what happened today? The game looked kind of winnable.

Harris: "Man, it was just bad. We just gotta figure out something."

Q: I guess we see again this Broncos/Raider rivalry is real.

Harris: "I mean we came out here to just play football man. I guess because we shut him [Crabtree] down pretty good every game since he's been here, he just wanted to come out fighting today."

Q: Do you get the sense he was just waiting to get a shot on Aqib [Talib]?

Harris: "He took a shot at me first. So I guess he was coming at both of us I guess. I don't know. I think he punched Quib [Aqib Talib] too. We came in to play football, we weren't on no dirty stuff today."

Q: There was a lot of fire from you guys after that incident; did it wake the team up?

Harris: "I mean we try to come out and win man. It's a rival game and you try to play your best game, and we just weren't good enough."

Q: Can you tell me how you guys were feeling when you saw Trevor [Siemian] come in and get a couple of touchdowns?

Harris: "Oh yeah, Trevor came in and gave us a chance to win the game. We had a chance to get off the field in third and long, and we rolled the dice."

Q: How much of a challenge is it for you guys to stick together after the season you're having?

Harris: "It's definitely a challenge. Something that we have to do is keep everybody tight knit."

BRONCOS S DARIAN STEWART



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Q: There's no doubt you can see the bad blood between these two teams?

Stewart: "Oh yeah, I mean that's what we expected coming in; a rivalry. We played hard enough to win. We just, we didn't win."

Q: Did you guys have a resurgence of energy after the altercation/fight?

Stewart: "Oh yeah, absolutely. But we knew we had to step up for Aqib [Talib], and there were going to be some guys getting some big reps. We knew what we were walking into, and we ready to play. That last quarter, it hurt."

Q: You also stepped up for Talib when the fight ensued.

Stewart: "Oh yeah, absolutely. We are a team man. So I mean the Raiders stepped up for their players, and we stepped up for ours. But we just had to, I guess, mediate it and calm everything down"

Q: I guess the only positive thing coming out of another loss, is the positive momentum when Trevor Siemian came in.

Stewart: "Yeah, Trev came in and made plays for us. That was huge. I wish it would have come earlier. But I mean what he did, doesn't go unrecognized. He definitely came in and made plays for us."

Q: Do you guys have to battle together collectively as a team now?

Stewart: "I mean we're going to stick together regardless. It's rough man, I haven't been down this stretch man. And as a veteran, I'm just trying to keep these young boy's heads right and just keep working. Because it's going to come. When, I don't know. But we are going to keep working."

BRONCOS WR DEMARIUS THOMAS

Q: What is the level of frustration that you are battling right now?

Thomas: "You know we have lost seven in a row. You can't get no more frustration than that. We just got to keep fighting. We've got five more. We just got to keep fighting. Hopefully, we go out and do some of the stuff we did today. We scored two quick touchdowns. You know give ourself hope. Make it a closer game than what it was."

Q: Is it hard for this offense to get a rhythm when you don't know who the quarterback is going to be?

Thomas: "As the receivers, we just go and do our job, and you know hopefully, if we get a chance, we take the best opportunity available because you never know. We have played with three this year, and it has been ups and downs with all, so we just go out and do our job as receivers and go out and run our routes and try to get open. The ball comes our way, we just make the play."

Q: Do you have a preference for quarterback?

Thomas: "Just score points and try to get w's. It's been a long time since we got one."

Q: You have to give [QB] Trevor Siemian a lot of credit for what he did when he came into the game, right?

Thomas: "He came out and played great. I am happy for him. He [QB Siemian] got his job taken and he sat out for a week. And then, he is the back-up and then the starting quarterback got hurt. He came out and played a fairly good game. You know put fourteen points up, that's all we ask for. Before that, we didn't have no points, so he came out and did a great job."

Q: Wasn't the momentum turning in your favor with the two touchdowns, and what could have been with one more stop?



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Thomas: “You never know what would have happened. It probably would have been an overtime game, we probably would have won, but you never know. You know we lost and that spark, it helped us out to make the score look better.”

Q: Does that at least give you a little hope going into next week?

Thomas: “Man, I don’t know. I don’t know. They still tough man. Like I said, we have lost seven in a row, seven.”

Q: Does it feel at all like no matter what you do, it is tough to get something going right now offensively?

Thomas: “I guess. It’s tough. We did a lot and we aren’t able to do what we want to which is getting a win, so our main thing is getting a win and trying to put up points on the offensive side. We were able to do it at the end of the game, but it’s still frustrating because we are taking the L still. You know it’s football.”

BRONCOS LB BRANDON MARSHALL

Q: How did you respond with Aqib Talib out of the game?

Marshall: “That’s kind of tough. You know, a great cornerback. To lose him in the first quarter, that’s tough. I think we still held our own. I think [Brandon Langley] and Chris [Harris] and those guys held their own. But, it’s just tough.

Q: Talib did get his second chain though.

Marshall: “Wow. Oh did [Crabtree] have another chain on? Oh wow. Talib is a bully man.

Q: Did you sense it might go down after Chris [Harris] got punched?

Marshall: “Kind of. But I was just really just focused on the play. It was a run play. Then I just hear the crowd going crazy. And I just looked. Oh my God.”

Q: Can you talk about the spark you guys got when Trevor Siemian came in there?

Marshall: “Yeah man, we know Trev could drive the ball down the field. We know Trev is a good passer. He’s a really good quarterback, man. Kudos to him for not getting all the reps in practice, but still coming out here and executing.”

BRONCOS S JUSTIN SIMMONS

Q: Did you see Aqib [Talib] after the fight?

Simmons: “I mean he was pretty calm, honestly. He was just upset. Upset that one, Chris [Harris] is the furthest from a dirty player. I mean Chris is one of the most genuine guys that I ever met. So for him, he was walking off the field pissed, looking at he sideline yelling, so you know something was wrong. He said that [Michael] Crabtree had hit him, uppercut him on the stomach on his way out. So Aqib took that personal. So I don’t know what happened on their side. Aqib said [Crabtree] tried to do the same thing to him. And obviously Aqib is a little more... not as genuine as Chris when it comes to that type of stuff. So he took it into his own hands. I didn’t even really get to see it. I was on the other side of the field trying to get the next play called for the defense.”

Q: What’s the overall feeling of the defense right now?

Simmons: “Frustration. I think that’s the perfect word. There’s always one or two plays on film you want to take away. More importantly, we had one turnover, but we have to find ways to win the turnover battle for our offense; get them more opportunities, get them more touches. Overall, we did a decent job; I don’t even know what the numbers were. But we let up one too many plays. And even so, we had a chance to win at the end of



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the game. Obviously we had them backed up, no timeouts, like two minutes left on the clock, something like that. We just couldn't get the stop. As far as that goes, that falls on us to be able to get our offense one more go to tie it up or even go for two points and win the game."

Q: The defense has been giving up big plays, what do you attribute that to?

Simmons: "Just execution. We are going to have to find ways to finish those types of plays. And those are the types of plays that are showing up over the course of the losing streak that's been going on. There are so many plays that have been showing up whether it be the second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter. Wherever it may be. The game is all about getting the inches. And there's always that one play that, if we could take away, we would be in good shape. Unfortunately you can't take any of those plays away. So we just have to find a way to execute, starting with myself."

BRONCOS WR CODY LATIMER

Q: What does it say about the team that you kept fighting despite being down twenty-one to nothing?

Latimer: "You just said it right there. We is fighters. We are going to grind into the end. Everybody is stepping in and making plays to the very end until there is no hope left. It was good play calling. We all kept grinding, special team, and everybody. Like you said, not the outcome we wanted."

Q: What was it that changed when the offense started clicking?

Latimer: "Just our will. We didn't want to lose and refusing to lose. Doing whatever we can, so like I said we were all stepping up trying to make plays when we can hopefully get a win, but it didn't happen."

Broncos DE Shelby Harris

Q: What is your reaction to this loss?

Harris: "Any AFC West game, it's a must-win mentality and we came up a little bit short today, but we just got to keep fighting. There is really not much else to say, but keep fighting. It's not really much else to say. Just got to keep fighting. I feel like I keep saying the same stuff every week. Just got to keep fighting and keep grinding."

Q: How hard is it to stay together as a team and not fracture after seven straight losses?

Harris: "Not that hard. When you've got guys like this on the team, it's pretty easy to. Obviously, we don't enjoy losing, but with the guys that we have and the personalities that we have in the locker room, it's not hard to stay together. We'll be fine."

Q: Can you talk about the effort defensively? It was a stop, stop, stop, but then a big play and then another big play.

Harris: "Yeah, man. That is a theme this season. You know we always talk about cutting down on big plays, and it just happens. Go back to work on Monday and just keep grinding. Try to figure out, but the big thing is to stick together as a team. Shout out to my dogs, Adam [Gotsis] and Zach Kerr. We were in there in the second half with three D-linemen. Don't ever question our heart. We out there grinding 100 percent."

Q: How do you keep guys from getting angry or quitting?

Harris: "Well, our jobs for next year depend on this. What do you mean, how do you quit? Like, it's not like you can say the season is over. Some people have contracts, most of us, we're fighting for our jobs still, so that is why you don't quit. We got to stick together. We got to go out there and grind. I don't have a \$20 million contract. Every year, every game is just as important."



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Broncos OLB Von Miller

Q: What did you see with the situation involving Chris Harris Jr.?

Miller: "I don't know. I didn't see anything really, I just heard the whistling and when all the commotion started and I ran over there. It was a crazy start to the game."

Q: How disappointing was the defense on that last play?

Miller: "Yeah it was a bummer, but it wasn't the only play. We had more chances to get off the field and change the game. If you look at the first touchdown the Raiders had, fresh off our offensive turnover, if we could just hold them to the point right there, it's a different game. There was just little situations and moments like that we've been feeling all season. It's just been that all season long, every week and every game. It's just a tough deal that we have right now."

Q: How did the first interception by NaVorro Bowman set the tone for the rest of the game?

Miller: "Yeah, you kind of feel like man, you wanna push it and you wanna get in there. We've been preaching all year that it doesn't matter how we get on the field, we can't control how we get on the field. That drive there was just what happened."

Q: What did you say to Aqib Talib?

Miller: "I know both of those guys extremely well. [Michael Crabtree] 'Crab' is like an older brother to me and Talib is like an older brother to me. Those guys getting into whatever it is they got, it drags me in there because I know both of those guys extremely well. I mean it's unfortunate that we have that. Both of those guys are the main guys in Dallas. Both of those guys have a lot going on, they both do a lot with the youth. If we can get those guys together – I don't know how we're going to do – but if we get those guys together, it would be better for our city, the city that we call home."

Q: Did you feel like Talib hurt you and the team?

Miller: "It's tough. You want to keep your guys in the game, but some stuff you can't control. Those guys are superstars. Those guys really have a mind of their own and I could say whatever and it still would hurt us regardless. Of course it hurt us, we want to have our guy out there, but you know that's the way he wanted to approach it and I support him 100 percent. You want to have him in there. I wanted to play against [Michael] Crab [Crabtree] and have that type of game, but you can only control what you can control and those guys are going to do what they're gonna do."

Q: Are you personally frustrated by this season?

Miller: "Yeah, I can't really say that I'm not frustrated. Year seven for me, I feel it is the losses, it's just where I am in my career. I feel like this is the best shape that I've been in. This is the smartest that I've been and I feel like I'm on the top of my game and I just want the opportunity to go out there and prove that. That's the frustrating part, me being on top of my game like I've never been before and not being able to put it out there for everybody to see. Wasting a prime year, that's the frustration, but at the end of the day we still got another opportunity to go out there and all I really need is the opportunity to go out there with my guys and just play. I just want to go out there and show the great player I truly am."

Q: Thoughts on Trevor Siemian's performance?

Miller: "That's the Trev that we've believed in from the get-go. There's a lot of serious stuff that's happened over the season that's put Trev on the bench, but when he got out there he definitely was a star. Me being on defense,



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it doesn't matter who we got in there, we gotta move the ball and score points. We have to do a better job on defense in just being solid and being red hot and being the type of defense that we've been for years. That was 21 points that they scored on us. It wasn't offense put us there, it was us and how we played. Offense isn't better, their game is a different game, and that's just the story of the season."

Q: What are your thoughts on AFC being wide open?

Miller: "I don't even want to get caught up in that stuff. We just have to win. We just need to focus on winning one game at a time. If we can one game and then it's going to be two. Let's just play football like that. I don't want to worry about that, I just want to win. That's all it is."

BRONCOS OLB SHANE RAY

Q: Did you know that [LCB] Aqib Talib ripped off [WR] Michael Crabtree's chain and did you see it?

Ray: "I guess so. Nah, I didn't see none of that. I just saw the slam on the sideline, what do you do? What do you do? I tried to pull Crab out of there and then it was just chaos."

Q: When [QB] Paxton Lynch threw that tipped interception, it just seems that anything that can go wrong will go wrong, is that the case?

Ray: "Man, if you look at this season, there is a whole lot of things that we could say that has gone wrong, and you just got to keep playing. It's crazy. The ball lands right on his chest like that you know what I am saying. In a play like that, you never. There are so many plays that happened to us this year that you be like I would never expect this to happen in a football game. That has just kind of been what it is this season and we are still trying to fix it."

Q: Has it gotten to a point where it doesn't surprise you anymore?

Ray: "After one thing, you just okay, that is one time. Two, three, four, five, six, seven, your mentality switches from being surprised to okay it happened and we are past it. Now, we have to go out and try to get the ball back. It's just been our mentality. When stuff happens man, just got to keep fighting."

Q: What is your mentality after losing seven games in a row?

Ray: "Man, we just trying to find a way. Just trying to find a way to get back on track."

Q: Give me a sense for the level of frustration that you have in particular.

Ray: "I am just irritated man. I don't like losing. My teammates don't like losing. We come out every day in practice working as hard as we can every day to try to be the best that we can be. I am out there playing with one arm, one hand. I am out there playing with a sprained knee. We are doing everything that we possibly can try to do to be better and fight for our teammates, and you know it is frustrating when these losses come like this. You see the work of guys of what they are trying to do. It's just tough man. You know it's just tough."

Q: What was your perception with all of stuff with [CB] Chris Harris Jr. and the stuff with [LCB] Aqib Talib?

Ray: "I mean we all know that there is bad blood there between them. I don't know what happened on the play between Chris and [WR] Michael Crabtree. All I know was I was right there when I saw the tussle on the sideline with Talib. You know, that is my teammate. At the end of the day, I am trying to help my teammate out. Brawl happens, the sidelines clear. It happens like that, especially you have got two rival teams going at it like that, so it is expected man. It is Broncos versus Raiders, so it is always a physical, rough game when we play."

Q: As a leader on this team, what does your message need to be this week and for the rest of this season?

Ray: "Keep fighting man. Ain't no quitting me, ain't no quitting my teammates. Like I said, I am out here with one arm, so there ain't no quit in me. It doesn't matter. You know whoever strap up, whoever line up against us, it is what it is, we're playing. Ain't no quitting."



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Q: How did the energy change when [QB] Trevor Siemian came in?

Ray: “Man, I really didn’t even notice the change in energy to be honest. I didn’t know who was in at quarterback, I just wanted us to move the ball, so we could win the game, and we had a chance at the end. We couldn’t capitalize on one play to get our offense the ball back. We lost the game man.”

Broncos QB Paxton Lynch

Q: Was there contact on the play you got injured?

Lynch: “Originally, I think I had injured it prior to that. I don’t know the exact play, but I know I got hit. I don’t know if it was the sack. I can’t remember the exact play, but I think somebody rolled up on it. I didn’t think anything of it. A couple of plays throughout the game it kept bothering me, but I just thought I could keep playing, keep playing, keep playing. Then that play got to the point where it started to scare me a little bit. I mentioned something to the trainers and they thought it wouldn’t be smart to go back in there and possibly make it worse.”

Q: Was the emotion you were showing on the sideline because of the injury or the performance?

Lynch: “I was just more frustrated with having an injury and having to come out of the game after just recovered from one injury. The first game back, I hurt my ankle. I was kind of upset that I didn’t get to finish the game with my team.”

Q: Can you talk about the second-and-1 play down near the end zone that was intercepted? Can you just take us through it and what you saw?

Lynch: “Well, we had been working on it all week. It was a play... We were going to run off the first play. We ran down there. It was just Virgil [Green], either I was going to run it or throw it to Virg. After I faked it, I kept it and probably had a chance to get on the edge, but I saw Virg flash open. I had the confidence in myself to make the throw. I threw it to him and it just got batted around by a couple of guys and fell in his lap while he was laying on the ground.”

Q: How did you feel like you played today?

Lynch: “I thought I played pretty well. There were some plays that I had opportunity to make and I made. There were also some plays that I just missed. This was the first week I had played with all these guys in a while. It felt good out there to get out there and play with them, but obviously this isn’t the result we all wanted.”

Q: Was it mentally tough to come back when you thought you had that touchdown to Devontae Booker and it was down at the 1-yard line?

Lynch: “It was tough, but we knew that we had three downs, possibly four downs to go score again. We all had confidence that we were going to go down there and score. But that play where I threw the interception, obviously it just can’t happen when you have points on the board. You have a chip shot field goal at the least, and then you kind of force one and turn the ball over.”

Q: How much time will this injury take?

Lynch: “I’m not sure. I’m hoping that I can get back out there sometime this week and be ready to go next week. Obviously, I want to play. I don’t know the extent of the injury right now. I think tomorrow they’re going to get some pictures done on it and then we’ll go from there.”



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Q: Do you feel like you pressed?

Lynch: "I felt comfortable out there, but like I said there were plays that were there and I made the plays. Then there were some plays that I missed, but that's in every game. That's going to happen. You just have to battle from it."

Q: Do you want to play next week?

Lynch: "Yes."