



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Coming off a Merry Christmas. Hopefully y’all had a Merry Christmas. It was good to get a big win the other day on Christmas Eve. We already talked about the unfortunate news, but the other part is that we have a good team. We remain on a mission and we’re looking forward to this week and the last chapter for the regular season. We’re excited to kind of put last week behind us and move ahead as a team and get ourselves prepared. Every week I sit up here and tell you the same thing. It’s about what’s most important is next and how we approach it with recovering the best we can from the previous game and putting together a heck of a plan then going full force with a lot of energy into the game and competing. That’s what we’ll do again this week. Questions?”

Q: Is the “next man up” mentality any different when it’s your quarterback or is it still next man up?

Coach Del Rio: “Next man up.”

Q: Was there any remorse when you left the game Saturday or because you’ve been in the game so long you’ve learned to ignore all that?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, I don’t know if I’d quite characterize it like that. I think certainly appreciative of getting that 12th win. The idea is to stack up as many wins as you can. At the end of the year, you’re looking to see if that’s enough to place you where you’d like to be placed. Then you go from there. It’s a tough game. Things happen in this game. It’s all about the team. It’s all about us moving on with the next opportunity and pulling together as a group of men and being unselfish and sacrificing for each other. All of those things. It doesn’t change. It doesn’t change regardless of who it is. It’s about the team. It’s about us winning. That’s not in any way meant to be insensitive. You always show love and appreciation for anybody who was banged up or has an unfortunate event happen, but the team does carry on. That’s what we do.”

Q: What has stood out for you about Matt McGloin?

Coach Del Rio: “Really competitive guy. Really attacks his preparation. A little bit fearless. I think he has a little bit of a chip on his shoulder, I’d say.”

Q: Does he shows that in practice, in the meeting room?

Coach Del Rio: “Oh yeah. Absolutely. He’s true to who he is and that’s who he is. He gets comfortable with who he is. I feel like [quarterbacks coach] Todd Downing has done a great job with that room. That’s a healthy room, obviously, with Derek [Carr] and that relationship and Matt and Connor [Cook] coming in as a young player learning and growing in the room. I really like the way Todd has managed that room and worked that room. Matt is kind of the elder statesman in that room even though he’s still a fairly young player. He’s handled himself very well. Been prepared to go all year in the case that anything were to occur. He’s ready to step in and take advantage of his opportunity.”

Q: Did you see that fearlessness on that third down throw to Amari Cooper when you needed a first down?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, it went well. I mean, we expect our guys, when they step in to play, to play and play well, and we expect to win with them. He made a couple of nice throws at the end there. One to Andre [Holmes] there on the sideline and then one to ‘Coop’ [Cooper] up in the seam there to give us that first down that basically iced it.”

Q: What did you see from McGloin upon your arrival in Oakland?

Coach Del Rio: “Having almost two full years with him and then obviously preparing a couple times a year to go against the Raiders when I was in Denver, so getting a sense of who he is and what he is, what he likes and what he does and how he competes and all those things, you’re always learning about your guys. I wouldn’t consider it a closed book with any of the guys. We’ve been here two years together and we’re learning about each other all the



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time. But, he's a competitive guy, he loves ball, loves to compete and prepares hard. I think his teammates know that."

Q: How would you describe your first meeting with McGloin with that being said?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know that I can recall it to describe it like that, you know? I think what we tried to establish when we got here, I think we did a pretty solid job of establishing that, is that everybody would have a chance to express themselves, be who they are. We just ask that they be good teammates, that they'd be about the team, that they work hard every day and I think he's done all of that."

Q: Is there any better sense of Derek Carr's timeline?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not really going to shed any more light on it. I think at some point there may be more details to follow, but I don't have any for you today."

Q: Have you talked to Carr and what have his spirits been like?

Coach Del Rio: "Yes. Excellent. I mean, a very positive young man. He's all about the team and being there for the team. Wishing us the best and he'll be back as soon as he can to be there vocally for us. But, he was outstanding."

Q: When is his surgery scheduled?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know the details."

Q: How do you coach your guys from overcompensating or have you had experience with them overcompensating with the loss of other players to injuries and such?

Coach Del Rio: "No, we're going to do what we always do. I think there's a natural feeling of stepping up and rallying around whoever is playing at whatever position it is. I feel the same about it being the quarterback. I think it's about us as a team going out and competing against the other team."

Q: Did you have a hot-hand approach to the running backs on Saturday?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, DeAndré [Washington] was hot Sunday. I don't think we go in saying, 'We're going to have it go like this today.' We know they all bring certain talents to the game and we like to utilize them all and when a guy like DeAndré gets it going like he did Saturday, I think it's obvious we want to feed it, and we did that."

Q: What did you see from the DeAndré in the few weeks he was inactive? What did you see from him with the work that he did to stay ready and be in a position like he was?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, he did just that – he worked and he stayed ready, and I thought there was just a little bit of urgency, not just offensively. Whether it's on the scout team or whether it's getting reps within our offense, even in a special teams role. I think that's the beautiful thing about it, when a guy responds. And it wasn't like we didn't want him up. We just had choices we had to make, but I think he wanted to make sure that he really put in a little extra and let it be known that he really wanted to be part of that active group, and whether it be special teams or offensively, he wanted to make sure that he was putting his best foot forward. I thought he had a couple of really good practices leading up to the last couple of weeks, actually."

Q: At some point during the third quarter, Michael Crabtree went out and I don't know if he came back. Is he OK?

Coach Del Rio: "He's been banged a little bit, but he's been making his way to the ball games, so I don't have anything to add to that right now."

Q: What did you see out of Mario Edwards Jr. in his first game?

Coach Del Rio: "Good to get him back. Really good to get him back. He got just under 20 reps. We wanted to cap it at 20, 30, somewhere in there. We didn't end up taking a ton of reps on the day. I think we had in the 50's



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yesterday. Solid first outing and I know for him, he had a big smile on his face. He was just happy to be back in the action and get a chance to play again.”

Q: Right after Derek Carr got hurt, the cameras caught Mark Davis seemingly pretty clearly saying run the ball. Did you see that and any second-guessing on that play or just the way you played it out with Derek?

Coach Del Rio: “No. I think when you end up looking at the final score, we won be eight points. We won by one score basically. Andrew Luck, people here in the Bay Area, I think, have a pretty good understanding of what he is capable of. I know I do. We felt like you had to keep the pedal down on that opponent, that quarterback in that game. You’re talking about a team facing elimination. We knew we were going to get everything they had to close the game anyway they could, and we were prepared for that. No, I think the question would be a little different if it was like, ‘Coach, don’t you think you got a little conservative there? What the heck? You let them come back.’ And we were sitting here talking with a frown on our face because we hadn’t won our 12th game. I’ll just leave it at that.”

Q: Menelik Watson hadn’t started since Week 3. What did you see to elevate him back to the starting role?

Coach Del Rio: “I trust [offensive line] coach [Mike] Tice on that. He’s been grading out pretty well. He’s been working very hard. We felt like it was justified for him that he had earned his way back into the starting lineup. We didn’t give it to him. He came out of camp the starter and got injured and other people played and played well. It’s kind of like the running backs. We just played the guy that was playing well and giving us a chance to win. We just felt like, at this point, he gives us the best chance to win, so we made that decision.”

Q: In terms of Austin Howard being inactive, is that more of the other guys having that experience of being the sixth lineman?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, more time as the extra tight end and backing up multiple positions and things like that.”

Q: Did Menelik play well?

Coach Del Rio: “He did. He did. He graded out well. I think we had a couple of penalties [Saturday], but it wasn’t from a lack of effort. He is a powerful, athletic guy and did a pretty solid job.”