



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: What did you make of the first-team offense in the two-minute drill?

Coach Gruden: "I thought it was going to be well. We mishandled a pass, perhaps a game-ending pass. Should have been caught, wasn't caught. That hurt us. And then we had a false start and usually that'll cost you, so we learn from that. I thought the second offense did a nice job and it's an area that we'll continue to work on against the Rams when they get here tomorrow. We'll have another two-minute drill to end practice.'

Q: It looked like there was some miscommunication from the first-team offense today?

Gruden: "We had one where Derek [Carr] changed the play late and probably had a little misunderstanding there with his wide receiver. We got to make the corrections."

Q: Going live at the goal line and having Josh Jacobs jumping over the pile, that has to get the juices going for these guys as far as hitting?

Gruden: "Yeah, we have a lot of new players here on offense and defense. Two new tight ends. We got to have point of attack blocking, obviously. [Vontaze] Burfict, middle linebacker. It's not an easy yard to make down there, so it's a good run by Jacobs. He's doing a lot of things well. We're pleased with him."

Q: Do you feel like either the offense or the defense has had the upper hand in the team sessions?

Gruden: "I think it's been a combination of both. We make some plays on offense and then they make some plays on defense. And I'd be anxious to see where we are against the Rams tomorrow, a very good team coming in here."

Q: How excited are the players that they are going to get face another team tomorrow?

Gruden: "I think they're excited. I think anybody would be excited to break the monotony a little bit. Hit somebody else, see a different scheme and play some situations, see what we've learned."

Q: As a coach and evaluator, what is the value to you of two days of joint practices with another team?

Gruden: "Well, you get a chance to see a great team, number one, and you get a chance to take a look at your young corners against talented, veteran receivers. You get a chance to look at different aspects of your football, your red zone offense, your red zone defense. We already talked about two-minute. We are going to take a look at our pass protection. Have we improved it? Or have we not? Tomorrow will be a great gauge because they are loaded up front."

Q: Was Darren Waller still not ready to go?

Gruden: "I don't think Darren is going to practice against the Rams. He still has a mild shoulder problem. We are being smart with him, but he's still able to do some individual. Good to have Jalen [Richard] back. Quinton Bell returned today for the first time in over a week, so hopefully we get some healthy



Oakland Raiders Transcript

guys out here tomorrow. Paul Butler made his return to practice today, so we'll see what happens, but I think Waller will be out until after the preseason game against the Rams."

Q: While you are evaluating your own roster during the joint practice, are you also evaluating the other team's roster?

Gruden: "Yeah, that's a good point. Absolutely. We'll take a good look at the Rams. They'll take a good look at our players. That's why you have all these personnel people watching the scrimmage from different angles and different responsibilities, so personnel evaluation is big for both sides."

Q: Nevin Lawson announced on social media last night that expects to be suspended for the first four games of the season, is that something you guys were expecting?

Gruden: "We haven't heard officially from the league. I did not see Nevin's post, but we haven't heard anything official from the league and that being said I will be respectful of that and not say anything else."

Q: Is there anything new on Antonio Brown?

Gruden: "I have nothing. I have no new news."

Q: Can you say whether or not he is on the premises? Is he going to meetings?

Gruden: "No I can't. No, he's gathering information and I'll bring you up to speed when I know something, but I'm not going to sit up here and speculate anymore."

Q: Are you confident that he will be where he needs to be Week 1 on the field and ready to go?

Gruden: "I'm not going to answer any more questions. I have no information until I hear, so I am just going to continue and get ready for the scrimmage tomorrow."

Q: What have you thought of Keelan Doss out here?

Gruden: "I like Keelan. I've said that all along. He's playing three positions and he's making some difficult catches against very good defenders, doing a good job. He's in the mix. He's going to play a lot in these preseason games. He'll get a great opportunity."

Q: Is there anything you've tried to urge Jacobs to learn from Todd Gurley these next couple of days?

Gruden: "Watch him. Just watch him work. Watch him work, watch how he handles the blitz protections and the audibles. They do a lot at the line of scrimmage, in different tempos and he is a sharp guy. He's very sharp. He's not just a great runner and he's not just a stat machine, this guy does a lot of great things without the ball and I hope Josh gets a chance to witness it."

Q: How will you guys handle tonight, the debut episode of Hard Knocks. Are you guys watching it as a team? Are you telling them to leave it alone, ignore it?



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Gruden: "Maybe some guys will put it on, I don't even know what it's called where you can record it and watch it whenever you can, but we are not going to be eating crackerjacks and peanuts and watching it. We got meetings, we got the Rams coming in here and I know players I'm sure are excited to see the show and they've done a good job, the Hard Knocks people, putting together. I'm not going to say anything further because I'll be in a meeting."

Q: As the Head Coach have you already seen the episode?

Gruden: "No I have not. I know [Senior Director – Media Relations] Will Kiss has seen it, so if you want any sneak previews, Will Kiss, I think Mike Mayock saw it, but no I have not seen it."

Q: What is the upside for Johnathan Hankins? What do you see from him?

Gruden: "You know what, he was a heck of a player coming out of Ohio State and a second-round pick. Did some good things with the Giants now. Got a big contract to go to Indianapolis and the system change probably didn't fit him. He was on the street, we got him in here late last year, early last season after training camp and you're right, he has arguably been are most improved player and most impactful defensive lineman so far. He has got much better stamina. He can play hash to hash and I really like where he is a lot."

Q: How have you seen Ethan Westbrooks catching on?

Gruden: "Look, he's got a history in this league and I liked him a lot when I was studying football. He's a grinder. He is a Gruden Grinder kind of guy. He can play the 6-technique. I think he did that today against our tight ends in the run period. He's a good inside rusher. He's been well trained under the Rams with [Former Rams defensive line coach] Mike Waufle, a great defensive line coach. So, he's an Oakland kid, he's got a lot at stake and his versatility is going to put him in the mix."

Q: Do you think Hankins can get his sack numbers back up?

Gruden: "Yeah, I mean I hope so, we are counting on that. We need to get some inside rush, we need to get some outside rush, we need to get some more rush."

Q: One of the underrated camp battles is probably backup linebacker. What have you seen out of (Marquel) Lee, (Jason) Cabinda and (Nicholas) Morrow so far?

Gruden: "Morrow, to me, has stood out. Morrow is really playing well. He's finding the ball and he is fast and I'm really impressed with Nick, and Lee has also gotten better. So, I think the addition of Burfict, the addition of Brandon Marshall, the fact that they are in their second-year of the system we have seen some improvement. And I think one of the biggest battles is the punter. This A.J. Cole came out again today and has really put himself in position to win the job. And I'm not saying he's in the lead or he's going to win the job, but he's putting himself in position for one hell of a battle here in the next couple games."

Q: Where is A.J. Cole as a holder?



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Gruden: “Good. And he’s a kickoff guy. He can kickoff, he can hold and he can punt. He’s got a great leg, and Johnny Townsend and A.J are going to have a real battle in these first few preseason games.”