



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jon Gruden

**OPENING STATEMENT:** "I'd just like to say we are very sad about losing one of the great Raiders and great people that I've met, Willie Brown, and our heart is really torn up. This is one great guy, great player. One of the reasons I came back to coach was to be with Willie Brown, so our condolences go to his family and all the Raider players that played with him and knew him. I'm sure they share in our grief. God bless Willie Brown. But, I'll be happy to answer any questions I can. We're anxious to finish this road trip, it's been a lot of fun with this schedule that we have here. It will be a great challenge here with the Texans, another playoff team in a hostile environment. I'll answer any questions I can."

#### **Q: How is Tyrell Williams looking for the game?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I thought he looked pretty good. I mean, he's still questionable. We'll see. We'll give him one more day to go out there and test that foot. Trent Brown was limited on the practice field. Josh Jacobs did not practice. Gabe Jackson did not practice. Rodney Hudson was out today, so we are in the process of seeing who's available and who needs to step up."

#### **Q: Is Jacobs not practicing a deal of monitoring him or is his shoulder a problem?**

**Coach Gruden:** "When you brought that up yesterday, Jerry, we decided to rest him. You're the one that was wondering. *(laughter)* No, he hurt his shoulder. He's got a legitimate shoulder. He got hurt in the Green Bay game, had it shot up. He's still very sore and we'll list him as questionable for the game."

#### **Q: With Gabe and Rodney, is that just getting those guys some rest or are they dealing with things?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Oh, they're dealing with stuff. Gabe, not only did he come back and play, he played the whole game. He played really good. He's got some swelling in there, he's sore. Rodney has got a foot ailment. He's sore, so I don't know. We purchased our own MRI machine, so at least we can find out."

#### **Q: What do you like about the defensive end you signed?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, we signed Kasim Edebali. Obviously with Clelin Ferrell, who missed a game a couple weeks ago, and Arden Key out. Edebali has played pretty good for a couple different teams. He's got some pass rush to him. He's a really good, hard-working kid, so we're happy to have him."

#### **Q: What have you gotten out of Ferrell so far in these first six games?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, if you watched tape you know he's not playing defensive end very much. He's playing inside more than outside. Part of that is out of necessity. We hope at some point to get him some more snaps at defensive end, but he's doing pretty good. He's a good run defender and hopefully we can get him some more at-bats rushing the passer. I know a lot of the statisticians are just looking for stats, but he's done a lot more than just have one sack."

#### **Q: What about Hunter Renfrow have you seen in terms of growth so far this season?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Great. I love the guy. I mean, he's running good routes. He's a very good blocker, it's really important to him. He plays mistake-free football and he's not playing an easy position. I'm really proud of him. I like our Clemson Tigers. Trayvon Mullen is going to get a chance this week. I know those guys are looking forward to competing with DeAndre Hopkins and Deshaun Watson. I'm sure [Clemson Head Coach] Dabo Sweeney is a proud man."



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### **Q: How different of a challenge is Deshaun Watson than Aaron Rodgers ?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's a similar challenge in that he's got a lot of freedom at the line of scrimmage to fix plays. He's a great athlete. He can escape, he can run for touchdowns, not just first downs. He's throwing the ball better than he's thrown it at any point in his career, and they're using a lot of different receivers. I know Hopkins and [Will] Fuller have caught a lot of passes, but they're using every eligible receiver and they've got a good running game, and they have a lot to prepare for. Bill O'Brien is a great coach."

### **Q: How do you think Trayvon Mullen will respond mentally to his increased workload?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think he's going to be fine, I do. I think he's going to be challenged, I know that, but I think his makeup is perfect. I think he's a very confident, well-prepared kid. We'll see what happens."

### **Q: Do these games take on more importance knowing that it could be a tie-breaker situation with Houston?**

**Coach Gruden:** "They are all important. I try not to get into the playoff hype right now. We're more interested in making the corrections from last week and finding a way to win another game against a good team."

### **Q: Where have you seen Mullen improve from Week 1 until now?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, he's played. It's not like he hasn't been on the field since that moment. He has been in every game and he's played better. He's prepared himself, I think better. He's healthy now. Remember he was hurt in training camp for a while, but I'm not going to make any predictions. We'll get what we deserve at every position, including corner. I know he's going to be tested and I'm anxious to see him compete."

### **Q: With the amount of Raiders that have passed away in the last several years (Cliff Branch and Willie Brown), how difficult of a time is this for the organization right now?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's been hard, especially for [Owner] Mark Davis and his mom that grew up with these guys. I mean, these are legendary players and great people. And it's hard to swallow losing Cliff, certainly, and losing Willie, and as you mentioned several of the other men we have lost, but that's life. None of us are guaranteed the next day, that's why you live for the moment and pay your respects the best way that you can."

## **Quarterback Derek Carr**

### **Q: What have you seen from Hunter Renfrow from training camp to now?**

**Carr:** "You know, it's really funny, when [General Manager] Mr. [Mike] Mayock picked him, we were talking about Hunter, and he said, 'I just wanted to get you a guy that you could have on third down. A guy you could go to.' And sure enough, that's what he's been for us, right? Been able to run different types of routes with some unorthodox releases and things like that. Picked up some crucial third downs for us in this last game and has been key for me, really all year, in some key situations. He's very savvy, very smart, works his tail off, all the cliché things about Hunter. He's a really good football player and we knew it from the beginning. He's still learning and he's still working really hard at it. Usually you get some rookies and then they grow and get better by this time and then that's kind of where they're at and they'll



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differ a little bit. He, his ceiling is so high. He's just down here, just scratching the surface on what he can do. Ran a great route early in the game that I missed him on, which happens, but just little things that you start to see. You're like, 'Oh man, I can definitely trust this guy.' He's proven that."

### **Q: What have you seen from Trayvon Mullen?**

**Carr:** "Trayvon is ultra-competitive. With a lot of corners, if they get beat in a practice, they get super mad and then they're grabby, he just kind of stays even keeled but at an ultra-competitive level if that makes sense. Proven over time he's not afraid to stick his face in there and hit somebody. He did it a lot in college and he's done it for us in the short time that we've seen him be able to stick his head in there, he has no problem with the contact, which is a lost art these days at that position, and he has no problem doing it. He reminds me of just an old school, grimy, tough kind of corner. I think he's...he's a rookie so he's going to have his plays where he wants them back, but at the end of the day I think he can be a really good player."

### **Q: Are you going to throw at Gareon Conley or away from him?**

**Carr:** "(laughter) I don't know, is he playing? I don't know, I don't know how this thing works, man. Is he playing? Good. If we have to. I love Gareon, I'm going to miss him. I really enjoyed our time together. He'll like Houston a lot, there's no state tax there, he'll like that. I enjoyed my time living there, he'll enjoy his time living there, that's for sure. But I mean, there's no bad blood or trying to go at anybody, he's just on their team now. He's a really good football player and he's a good friend. I wish him the best, except this week."

### **Q: Does a game like this take on added significance because a potential playoff spot between these two teams could come down to a tiebreaker down the road? Do you think about that at all?**

**Carr:** "I didn't know that until now. I honestly very rarely know anybody's record when we play them. Because when you turn the tape on, the records lie sometimes, you know? You don't ever want that to skew your view of anything. But, obviously, it's very important, there's no hiding that. The simple fact is that, that is very important for us to try and go get a win there. That's no secret. But, we don't have to heighten our urgency or anything like that. We know that for anything that we want to do, postseason wise, we have to take care of our business."

### **Q: What are your thoughts on the passing of Willie Brown?**

**Carr:** "The first time I heard was when I saw Scott's [Bair] tweet where he had passed away. It was kind of surreal because Willie was one of the first people I ever met as a Raider. He obviously called my name, reminded everyone about Mother's Day. I remember getting the call and I see this guy get on stage talking about Mother's Day and I was, 'Man, hurry up. Say my name!' Just come to find out, getting to know the guy, just how loving he is, just how passionate he was about this team, the traditions that he carried on that are still carried on in our building. Anybody who's been here over the last however many years, they have a story that they can tell about Willie. A lot of us have some good memories. Me, Marcel [Reece], C-Wood [Charles Woodson], I remember a time him coming up to us and talking to us about some stuff that I'll leave privately. It's just stuff you don't forget. Just some funny things. Willie was always funny. Always laughing. Always had a great sense of humor and was a true Raider. He was family. He loved this place, I'll tell you that. I think anyone that knows him, knows how much the Silver and Black meant to him and how much he didn't like the Broncos. I'm going to miss Willie. Pray for his family for peace through this situation. We're for sure going to miss him."



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### **Q: Is it good to have Tyrell Williams back on the field?**

**Carr:** "Very nice to have 16 back on the field. A familiar face. I've thrown a lot of passes to him, so that's good to have him back and hopefully have him out there. We don't know if he'll play, we'll see. But if we do, it'll be nice to have him."

### **Q: What are your impressions of Foster Moreau?**

**Carr:** "The thing I'll say about this whole rookie class is they're just professionals. I've been around a lot of rookie classes now, six years of them I guess. Very few of them I could say top to bottom are like this one with regards, of course, to the 2014 class. That was a pretty good one. But besides that one, I think these guys are pretty solid as well. They get it, and you know what that means. Football wise, being a pro, taking care of your body, knowing your assignment. They're not here for the cameras and the money and all those kinds of things, they're here to win football games. You can see that in all of them. They know that they're here for a reason, and that's to win. Our future is in good hands with those guys."

### **Q: What do you see in the Texans defense? How would you assess them this year?**

**Carr:** "They're really good. They're doing enough to win their football games. Be competitive. They're making plays, making stops. Getting off the field when they need to. Obviously, they have one of the best players on the planet in J.J. Watt. He's been terrorizing this league for however long he's been in it. Great player. Hall of Fame player. I feel like we play one of those every week pretty much, but this guy, he's special. They all feed off his intensity, his energy. He plays with great effort, great motor. You can tell they all feed off of it. They have some very veteran guys. Again, this group, there's some guys on this defense that have been together for a little while. Good continuity. Not as much as pass defenses we've played, but a good amount. You can tell that their leadership, that there are veterans on that side of the ball leading those guys and it shows."

### **Q: To be in the last road game of this long stretch with the record you have now, how does it feel?**

**Carr:** "It's nice. This is like a little bit of a home game for me, too. I've been at that stadium more than some of their players in my lifetime. It'll be fun to see some old friends in the stands. I'm sure some of the same old fans are sitting there in the end zone, that I remember going down and hanging out with every game. Hopefully they'll say hi to me and not throw anything at me. I have some good memories there, so this is a little bit of a home game for me. It feels like finally, we're almost there. I almost get to sleep in my bed a couple more days in the week. But it is nice knowing, like I said after the Green Bay game, that we just need to handle business and then when we come home Raider Nation will be ready for us to make a run."