



**ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. OAKLAND RAIDERS
NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening statement:

“I’d just really like to say I’m proud of our team, and it’s fun to win again. We overcame a lot of adversity, maybe as much adversity as I’ve seen a team overcome with the injuries and the lack of practice. I really credit our guys for finishing a football game and finding a way to win.”

On the locker room after the win:

“It’s great. We have a combination of 13 rookies. A lot of guys made great contributions. A lot of veterans, guys like Frostee Rucker, Leon Hall, guys we’ve talked about, have shown them the way. It’s a really cool locker room, after some of the locker rooms we’ve experienced lately.”

On WR Marcell Ateman’s late catch:

“He gets a game ball today. (Daniel) Carlson, Ateman and Frostee Rucker get game balls. But Ateman, we needed somebody to make a play. We lost Brandon LaFell to an Achilles injury, Martavis (Bryant) and Jordy (Nelson). We’re shorthanded. Somebody had to step up, and we had a long way to go. That was the signature play of his career. It helped us win a football game, and I’m happy for him. Edgar Bennett, I have to give Edgar Bennett, our receiving coach, a lot of credit on that. He’s the one that pushed for him in the draft out of Oklahoma State, and he stayed in his corner the entire time.”

On if he was impressed by the defense’s stops on the final two drives:

“Yes. We had them in a predictable run-it situation. I thought that we did a pretty good job. We let (David) Johnson get out of there on a big run to really change the game earlier, but I thought those two drives gave us a chance, gave us two chances. Give Derek Carr and the offense credit for doing what they needed to do.”

On QB Derek Carr’s performance:

“I thought he did pretty good. I thought he played well. He made a great audible on the opening possession, threw a double move to (Jared) Cook for a touchdown. I thought he was pinpoint to (Brandon) LaFell on another score. We had a couple big balls dropped, I think, on third down that really hurt us. Arizona’s pretty good on defense. They can get after the quarterback. The noise is a little bit more intense than people think. He brought us back to win in the fourth quarter. That’s the sign of a great quarterback. ”

On the game balls for WR Marcell Ateman, DT Frostee Rucker and K Daniel Carlson:

“Well Ateman, just because he set us up for victory. He waited all this time to play, and we had nowhere else to go. He went up and made a big play. Happy for him. Frostee Rucker is a former Arizona Cardinal who has given us so much leadership and so much energy. It doesn’t count for much on that stat sheet, but it counts a hell of a lot for our football team. And Carlson, we’ve been looking for a kicker, a guy that can make critical kicks, a guy that can help us change field position with kickoffs. So far, we’re really happy with him.”



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On WR Brandon LaFell's injury:

“We think it’s bad. We don’t think it’s good. We think it’s an Achilles injury. That guy’s playing great football for us. It’s just really almost tragic what’s happened to our receiving corps here. We’ll have to do everything we can to see who’s available, and what contingency plan we need to put in place.”

On the two interceptions early in the game:

“It’s big. We’ve been talking about field position all year. I think we came into this game with three possessions all year, in nine games, that started on the plus side of the 50-(yard line). That’s no way to win, at all. I’ve never heard of that statistic. To get field position, obviously, it’s a lot easier to score. That’s improving with all of the analytical data that everyone is looking at these days.”

On his discussion with QB Derek Carr on the sidelines:

“That’s the first time you’ve seen it, but it isn’t the first time it’s happened. We’re both competitors. We’re competing hard there. We had a man-to-man situation, and he went for the big play. We had a mild disagreement. But you know what? That’s part of this business. We’re going to have times where we clash a little bit. We’re also very supportive of one another. I’m really proud of him. He’s been through a lot this year, and I’m glad he’s our quarterback.”

On the choice to use RBs Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington more than Doug Martin in the second half:

“Doug hurt his ankle. He had to get shot up at halftime, and then down on the goal line, I think Kolton Miller got hurt. You look up to the skies and say, ‘When is it going to end?’ But we had so many guys step up today, from Marcell Ateman to Jalen and DeAndré. David Sharpe came in and played some critical snaps for us. Great win for us. We got a long ways to go, and we’re going to get there.”

On the decision to punt it on fourth-and-one:

“We had a six-point lead. Our defense had been playing well. I wanted to pin the rookie quarterback (Josh Rosen) back. They had to go all the way against our defense who had already forced two turnovers. We had done a nice job at that point, and I really don’t regret it. Fortunately, it didn’t come back and haunt me.”

On the two consecutive timeouts used, which resulted in a penalty:

“There’s a lot going on behind the scenes there. We have to get out of the huddle faster. We have to get our substitutions. I think we ran amuck a little bit with all of the injuries we had. We use a lot of different types of personnel groupings – three receivers, two receivers, one receiver, different receivers and backs. Our communication was a little bit chaotic, and we weren’t quick enough coming out of the huddle. It’s a combination of a lot of things. It’s intolerable, and it’s sickening. Our short yardage and goal line offense is a tragedy. I can’t get over it. I can’t wait to get back to work and figure out how to make one yard on the goal line.”



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On if RB Jalen Richard was injured:

“I don’t think so. He might be sore.”

On RB DeAndré Washington:

“Good player. We have to get him on the field more. We have to make sure we get both of those young halfbacks out there more.”

Raiders OB Derek Carr

On the first two attempts in the fourth quarter:

“So, after those first two where we knew we were going to get the ball back, it was funny, déjà vu. I looked at C Rodney (Hudson) and I said, ‘Hey man protect it up. We’re just going to play catch outside.’ And, I’ll say this, the mood was everyone knew we always had a chance. The guys that have been around understand that we’ve done this a lot of times over four or five years. Five years now. But in the NFL, we’ve been on the other side of things too where all the games are so close. And it’s almost like every week you turn the TV on and see someone win it later. You know, that kind of stuff. And so, we all believed, there was never a doubt. There have been times where we believed and we didn’t win. But it was the same feeling, the same look in everybody’s eye. And if it was different I’d let you know, but it was not. Everyone’s, that look in their eye, it was just a little different when it’s, ‘Hey, it’s probably our last chance kind of thing.’ It was good though.”

On the throw to WR Marcell Ateman on the last drive:

“At that point it doesn’t matter who’s on the field. I’ve got to just do my job because the game is on the line. It’s not like, I could throw to this guy, I could throw to that guy, let’s go Jordy (Nelson) or Brandon (LaFell), or I’ll throw to Jared (Cook) and he can get one later. Game on the line, for certain coverages, I’m trying to manipulate defenders and he, whoever’s out there, they just have to win, that’s their job. And he did his job. He made a heck of a catch, keeping his feet in, I didn’t see the replay but it looked tight. For him to do that in his first start, first game, all of it, and everything going against him. He didn’t get the two-minute drill, we didn’t get to run that live this week, he didn’t get his red zone reps live, all these things that would mess with a rookie’s head didn’t affect him. He did his job, he got to his landmark when I wanted him to be there, and it was all him, man. He made a heck of a play. He got a game ball for it, it was awesome.”

On having déjà vu from training camp with the same play down the sideline:

“Yeah, it was. Because again, that’s the trust, right? It’s the game on the line, doesn’t matter who’s out there, I know he’s out there. I think I threw it to him three times on the two-minute drive. A lot of people probably think you’re crazy man, he’s a rookie. Especially the first one, on Pat P, I mean what are you doing, work somewhere else. But I trust him, you know, I really do. I trust him, he’s proven it over and over again, he’s tough, he loves football. Obviously he had some mistakes, little things that he’ll want to clean up, but for him to go out there and do that, I mean it was awesome. It was a little bit déjà vu, but this time we got to hit him in stride and not the jump ball, so it was good.”



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On disagreements with Head Coach Jon Gruden being caught on camera:

“It’s funny man, I’m surprised it’s the first time they’ve caught us. It’s not the first time him and I have been that way. We’re both very firey. A lot of people don’t see that in me, right? All the time. We’re both very firey, we’re both very competitive. Minor disagreement on something and the beautiful thing is that when we do that, it’s never like a demeaning thing, or pointing a finger. It’s just, we’re both yelling the same kind of thing almost. It’s us both saying let’s fix it kind of deal. Again, it’s not the first time, I doubt it’ll be the last time, but everything’s good I promise.”

On the relationship between Gruden and his quarterbacks:

“Absolutely, because he just wants everything to be so perfect. His thing is just he wants me, him and I, this stretch of games, we’re just trying to be on the same page every play. Not just this is the game plan, this is the idea or philosophy. No, every detail, everything, you know, he calls this and I know that that’s what he wants. But, it’s the same thing for me. I’m checking this, I’m checking that or you told me this. But then he’ll be like listen, you know. A lot of back and forth. So, we’re just learning. Again, no one wants to hear it, but it is a process. It is, it takes time. And we were able to communicate and the beautiful thing about that is people saw that happen, and then we went down and won the game. We still communicated and we still hugged it out, all that kind of stuff. But even if we didn’t win the game, we’d be fine. I’d go in there, we’d talk, we’d get on the plane and we’d talk again. Everything would be fine, so yeah it’s good.”

On TE Lee Smith being a peacemaker between and if he’ll get a game ball:

“You’re talking about Lee? Was he a peacemaker on that? See I blacked out. No, I’m just kidding. I’ll give Lee two dollars. I’ll give him two dollars.”

On the nature of this game:

“I think the last two weeks, our defense is playing really well. We have to correct some things, but we are playing good football. For us, we are playing a really good defense. Their record doesn’t show it, but when you turn the tape on, you’re like, ‘How do these guys only have two wins, my goodness.’ They’re really good. They have Pro Bowlers everywhere, and I say this being honest, one of the best corners to play the game in Patrick Peterson. One of the best edge rushers (Chandler Jones). I think he has 40 sacks since he’s been here. They have guys, first-round picks everywhere. Guys who have made plays in the league, 13-year vets. They are good players. There are going to be ups and downs; that’s the NFL, but to see our team grind through when it didn’t go well, just like this year, grind through when it didn’t go well and keep trusting and believing in each other, and good things will happen. It was really cool for our team. I think the biggest thing I took away from the game was after doing all of this, all these things are happening, it’s all out of love and trying to win and then we go and win the game. People are like, ‘Yes, we just have to believe in one another that’s all.’ And we did, and it was really good.”



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On if his first reaction was to go for it on fourth-and-one:

“At first, it was because I had to go back and check the clock. I checked the clock, and I was like, ‘OK,’ then I understood. At first it was like, ‘Hold on,’ but then I understood. At first, I was surprised, but being backed up too, that’s hard. We don’t want them to kick a field goal because now a field goal doesn’t win the game for us, and so, I completely understood. Initially, you are in the moment then see it and are like OK.”

On running backs stepping up:

“They stepped up big time. Not only running the ball. Obviously, we saw that, but making plays and extending plays. DeAndré (Washington) running physical like he does. Again, DeAndré reminds me of Dominique Davis. I don’t know if you guys remember him in Houston. Just stocky, great balance, always falling forward, and he’s such a good player. We’re glad to have him, I’ll tell you that. I love him. He’s from Houston, so we have that going for us, but he’s a good back. That’s this league now, as we are finding out this year. Guys go down, and guys have to step up, depth and how important that is to continue to sustain and play well. We have two good backs that came in and they were great on their assignments. Blitz pickups were great.”

On seeing his top wide receivers go down in the last couple of weeks:

“It’s like Thanos snapped his fingers, and they all vanished. It’s good though. It’s all good, and I love my guys no matter what.”

On if he saw what happened to QB Alex Smith:

“Yes, my goodness. My prayers are for Alex. I was praying for him before the game. I love Alex, great guy, great person, great family. So, anybody that sees this, just let him know the Carr family is praying for him. I’ve been there, and it’s tough. Alex is a great guy, and he didn’t deserve that. Nobody does, but Alex is a great guy, and I’m feeling for him and praying for him for sure.”

Raiders K Daniel Carlson

On the last few seconds of the game:

“I was just ready. I stayed kind of ready those last two drives because I didn’t know when it was going to happen. I had a feeling it was going to happen eventually. The team set us up and put us in a great position to knock a short one through, so we just ran on and did our job. It’s awesome. A lot of hard work has gone into this and to finally get a big win for the team is huge.”

On what it’s like to have the winning feeling in the locker room:

“It’s been a long time coming. We’ve had to grind through it and that’s kind of been the message. Just keep chipping away and eventually that rock is going to crack. It felt really good, really sweet today to finally get out of there with a win.”

On how he keeps his nerves at bay in that situation:

“That was actually my first official game winner I’ve ever hit. I’ve had a lot of game tying field goals with similar pressure. You make them and miss them sometimes but either way you try to



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go out there and be calm and treat it like any other kick. I knocked two other ones through earlier in the game, felt good throughout the game, pregame and stuff. I wasn't trying to make the moment too big and just do what I could for my teammates. It is fun to celebrate after a kick like that."

On how much his 49-yard field goal helped on the last kick:

"That one felt really good. I hit it really clean, I hit all of them really clean. It kind of feels good to have those kicks in a game leading up to that. You kind of convince yourself that it's the same thing as the last kick. Derek (Carr) and the offense set me up in great field position, defense did a great job stopping them. We were able to knock it through and it was a big win for us."

On if this is a step in the right direction of proving himself:

"Yeah, that was almost a little redemption. The one I missed in Minnesota was probably from 35 yards and I think this one was too, so it was kind of cool to get an opportunity again like that, to be able to pull through for the team. I'm happy to be here. I love getting to know these guys and they've welcomed me. I'm just excited to keep building for the future."

On if this run of kicks has built confidence:

"I think I'm learning a lot just as a rookie. Me Trent (Sieg) and Johnny (Townsend) are all three rookies so we are all in this together. We've all had different paths, but I think you learn a lot this first season. Hitting a kick like this and continuing to get more experience continues to build confidence going forward. I'm just out there every time not doing anything any different than what I do in practice. I'm just coming to work and trying to be consistent and the same every single rep."

Raiders DT Frostee Rucker

On the defense on the last two drives:

"It was huge, it was huge. The defense stepped up, guys made plays and then the offense and DC (Carr) got the ball, went down there, couple big plays. Marcell (Ateman) made a big play, Seth (Roberts) made a huge incredible play. We can't forget about the snap and the hold and the kick that won it. I'm happy, just excited to be a part of this right now, we needed this win to get over the hump. With too many distractions going on back home with the air quality, not being able to practice and losing the close games. We needed this one and it's just a sweet day."

On crediting young players:

"You got to, you got to. Like I said, the snap, the hold and the kick, it won the game for us. We're counting on these young guys to make these plays and guys are stepping up. The words 'next man up' never seemed truer than with this team. I'm proud to be their captain and we're going to get back to work and string a couple more of these together."

On emotions when the clock hit zero:

"It just hits you sometimes because we've been in this situation before. We finished and that's the best part about it. We couldn't practice on the field, we had to be more mental at work watching



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film. The guys came out here and competed. Those guys get paid too, they've got a heck of a team. We fought, we fought, we fought until we won this game. It means so much to me to be a part of it."

On the postgame locker room:

"It was just huge. We haven't won many and that's the obvious, we haven't won many games, but guys never quit and guys keep fighting. With all the distractions, all the guys that aren't on our team anymore that we started with. All the guys that we thought were going to be here and never made it, we won a game. We played in Arizona in a hostile territory, the crowd was loud, and it was just a huge win for us."

Raiders TE Lee Smith

On breaking up the altercation between Jon Gruden and Derek Carr:

"Oh man, you know coach Gruden and me are a lot alike in the fact our best quality can sometimes get a hold of us. We're both extremely emotional and we get fired up easily. So, him and Derek, that's their relationship, and they are the two most important people on this football team for our success. I don't think they were arguing or getting into it, or anything like that, I think they were doing just what head coaches, coordinators, and quarterbacks do. They were both fired up. I wasn't trying to be a peacemaker, I was just as fired up as well. I'm pretty sure I had a smile on my face. Coach Gruden is a wild man and he's a lot of fun to be around, so I told him the way he's going to go to the grave is having a stroke on the sideline. It was all in fun, it was all good. There was definitely no intent behind it to be angry at anybody, it was just our head coach and our quarterback being competitive. Both of them want to win so bad. Like said they are the two most important people on the team, so there's nothing but positivity from that. Those guys will be sitting together tomorrow morning laughing about it, and I probably shouldn't grab the head coach but I got a little fired up. But it was all in good fun and it was good, no negativity at all."

On if he is the peacemaker on the team now:

"There was no peacemaking by me. I didn't feel like I needed to intervene. Their relationship couldn't be healthier, they work together very well and all of us see that everyday. There was no peacemaking intent, I just happen to be in the vicinity and saw the wild man's face red, so I figured I'd join the party. But it was nothing negative, nothing that I thought was a problem or anything like that. Those two guys couldn't be any more professional on and off the field together. Their relationship is what helps us thrive, and it's going to help the Raiders take a step up in the future."

On what the comeback win feels like:

"It's awesome, like I said we practiced on a lacrosse field all week with no hashes, no markers, no nothing. We have a young football team. I know coach Gruden, he's not scared to tell everybody how much he loves veterans and how much he loves having a veteran football team. I don't know how many rookies were out there playing today but I'm assuming a lot, 10 to 15, I don't know. For those young guys to step up, Marcell Ateman put the nail in the coffin, our rookie kicker put the nail in the coffin, I mean how special is that? There are solid rookies that are following the



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veteran's leadership, and our head coach and our quarterback are very special and they work great together. It's just fun to be here, it's fun to get a win. Especially after the conditions this week and all the tragedy going on down in southern California with people losing their lives. So, it makes football and the stretches in our day seem extra small. With everything that happened this week, coach Gruden talked about giving this win to those people, all the Raiders fans down there in turmoil, let's give them a win. Let's give them something to at least smile about while every baby picture of their kids is burning up. People are losing husbands, fathers, brothers, sisters, and Coach Gruden talked all week about getting a win for those people. That's the most important part to me that we hopefully put a smile on people's faces down there going through what they're going through."

Raiders DT Maurice Hurst

On the rookie contributions:

"Just trying to build that foundation. Kind of be a starting point for the Raiders, just learn what we can from all of the veterans we have and get better every week. Just trying to improve every time we get on the field and sticking together and performing."

On the influence of DT Frostee Rucker:

"He's been great. He's been a huge help. He's someone that knows a lot about the game of football. He's played all positions on the field and he's very knowledgeable of the field as well. He gives great advice, whether it's with football or life in general. He's just a great person to have in your room and as a leader of your team."

On his sack:

"They (Cardinals) just messed up their slot protection and kind of let me loose. Can't really do that. Just bad protection on their part."

On pinning their ears back against this offense:

"Definitely. We know they had some guys banged up and that they have been susceptible to a lot of pass rush this season, so we were just trying to get after them from the get go. We let up a few big runs, so we will look at film to correct those things and move on and try to get another win."

Cardinals Head Coach Steve Wilks

Opening statement:

"Disappointing loss to say the least. A lot of credit to the Oakland Raiders. The one thing we did tonight, we didn't play smart football down the stretch. We beat ourselves. Penalties hurt us. Lack of concentration within the play. Had a big play down the side line, we have to learn how to finish. The turnovers early, I think put us behind the sticks a little bit. Offense found a way to bounce back, move the ball some, was able to get the ball in the end zone. As well as the defense right here coming up with some stops on third down, we have to do a much better job."



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On what is going to sting the most about this loss:

“Just the way we beat ourselves, in my opinion. The penalty hurt big time. And just the mere fact of a lack of concentration right here and relaxing within the play on that long pass down the sideline. Unacceptable.”

On if Jermaine needs to be smarter in certain situations:

“All guys need to be smarter than that. Those guys were doing it all game. Keep talking to the guys about being smart, to just walk away. The guy as he explained to me was doing something at the bottom of the pile. Regardless of the situation, we can’t be enticed like that.”

On Bene Benwikere’s coverage:

“There’s quarters there. Outside leverage position. And again, you just can’t relax. You have to learn how to finish. We had our opportunity right there with the dropped interception to steal the game, had our hands on the ball. Josh Bynes, we have to come up with that play. We had different opportunities, the muffed punt, being able to have opportunities to get that. We just didn’t finish tonight.”

On what this loss does for the mindset of the team:

“Well, you know it’s definitely going to hurt but again, we just have to get over it. Sitting here worrying about this loss isn’t going to help us get ready for the Chargers. We have to do a much better job getting this out of our system early and pressing forward.”

On what changed in the offense in the first quarter vs. the second and third quarters:

“You got to give them credit as well. I thought we were moving the ball well. At times, we have to sustain our blocks a little bit more. I thought they were coming off some. The linebackers started coming down hill a little bit, but we just have to execute.”

On if he was able to pay attention to how OL Korey Cunningham looked tonight:

“On the surface, no. I know we only gave up one so that was encouraging. I know he was hurt a couple times. I thought for the most part those guys did a decent job of protection.”



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On if any changes will be made for the rest of the season:

“I’m not going to make any decisions right here at the podium. As always, there’s things to evaluate and look at across the board.”

On Rosen’s interceptions early in the game:

“Again, rookie mistakes. Things that can’t happen there, have to be smarter with the football. If it’s not there we have to look to check it down.”

On how comfortable he is with his status in the organization:

“I’m just worried about trying to win a football game. As I watch this tape tomorrow, I’m getting ready for the Chargers. I have so many other things to worry about right now I’m not concerned with that right now.”

On how much of this loss is on the staff vs. the players?

“It’s 50-50 because we all have our hand in it. We have to do a much better job of coaching and a much better job of executing when we’re on the field.”

Cardinals QB Josh Rosen

On what steps need to be taken to win:

“I think a lot of it is just the mental errors across the board on offense and defense. I know I had a bunch. Just little mental errors that aren’t a part of the game plan. Dumb little things we just have to clean up overall.”

On how a team can be making these mistakes 10 games in:

“That’s why it’s an issue that was brought up because it’s very late in the season. That’s a good point.”

On how frustrating making those mistakes is for him:

“It’s frustrating. And we’re working on it. You either quit or you don’t quit. I promise you we won’t.”

On what he thought happened to the offense in the second and third quarters:

“We just didn’t execute a lot of things. I can’t recall the whole two quarters, but I just remember being frustrated with a lot of little things. No disrespect to the Raiders, but we feel as though we were the better football team there. That’s why this one was really frustrating.”

On if growing pains are inevitable with so many offensive rookies playing:

“Yeah, if all the mistakes were all the rookies, but it was across the board with everyone. I’m not excluding myself. I made plenty. I dropped a snap. I haven’t done that since high school.”

On whether their errors were caused by a lack of focus:

“I don’t know. We’re going to figure that out and address it in this week.”



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On how the team gets past this loss:

“Mental toughness. We’ve been dealing with adversity our whole lives. A lot of these guys in the locker room shouldn’t be here for a lot of reasons. We’ve got a lot of high-character guys that have been dealing with adversity their whole lives and this is nothing to them. I know we’ll push past and keep going.”

On if the loss stings more because they were favored to win:

“I don’t really think it matters who the opponent is. It’s kind of just how we lost. We kind of had that game. If there’s an expression that exists of finding a way to lose, I think it applies here. We found a way to lose. Antoine (Bethea) said it to a tee. We have to find a way to win.”

On how they learn to win:

“We obviously don’t have the answers right now, but we’ll search this week. It’s got to do with everything from preparation, to film study, to your tempo in practice and approaching everything at a full go. I don’t have an answer for you because if I had it, we wouldn’t have lost. I know we will address it and continue to push forward.”

On what he saw in TE Jermaine Gresham’s unnecessary roughness penalty:

“I don’t want to say anything in ignorance of the situation because I only saw so little of it. From my understanding, a dude was lying on top of Larry (Fitzgerald). He’s one of the best football players to ever grace this field and the NFL is lucky to have him. If you’re just going to lie on him and be disrespectful, that’s just not going to fly especially with Jermaine on your team. Push and shove me, whatever. That’s Mr. Fitzgerald. Don’t do that. I don’t care what situation or whatever. Our guys on our team, we’re going to stay together and we got each other’s backs.”

On if that penalty shows the team’s closeness:

“I don’t know. You can take that quote however you want.”

On what he saw to audible in the screen touchdown pass to WR Christian Kirk:

“They were giving us a pressure look when we were in empty. When you’re in empty, usually you want to identify who you’re hot off of. When you’re walking around like that sometimes it gets a little tricky. I knew even if they didn’t blitz, they were out of position to play a screen on the left. They were overloaded on the right. Back in college I learned the “Mfer” rule. If there are a lot of MFers over there, go that way.”

On what his issues were with the deep ball tonight:

“The guy on the very first play of the game just made a really good play. It was two-on-two. We had a guy clearing out and Larry (Fitzgerald) is running a deeper out route. When Larry’s in the right position, sometimes you just have to give him a chance to get the ball. I didn’t see through the corner and he just fell off and made a really good play. On a couple other deep balls, you just miss on some of them.”

On why he performs so well in fourth quarters while down:



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“I’d prefer to win early in the game. This is not by choice. You just have to deal with any and every situation as it is. I like watching close games a lot more than I like playing in them, but you have to do what you have to do.”

On if he was surprised that RB David Johnson’s touchdown was called back:

“I definitely had no idea it was getting called back until I saw the flag, but I can’t really judge until I see the film of it. I’m not going to slight a ref’s call.”

On if RB David Johnson’s long runs were a bright spot tonight:

“For sure. Absolutely. I think it is a bright spot.”

On how the mood in the offensive huddle was tonight:

“Thought it was a good mood and we started to stall in the middle two quarters. The mood kind of turned, but it never turned to anything more than determination. It’s never anything negative. We have a really good attitude on this team. We’ll right the ship. I promise.”

Cardinals S Antoine Bethea

On what the defense needed to do at the end of the game to beat Oakland:

“Defensively, we’ve got to stop the run. Take advantage of opportunities when they come to us and play smarter.”

On how the team can keep a loss like this from getting into their heads moving forward:

“We’re pros at the end of the day, so each week, we’ve got to come in and do our job. It’s going to be tough coming into the building after a tough loss like this, but we’re pros. We’ve got to come in, hold our head up and keep working.”

On whether the season can get any worse for the Cardinals:

“Yeah, we could be 0-10.”

On whether the most frustrating aspect of this game was that there was a lack of composure down the stretch:

“It’s not playing smart. Just beating ourselves. That’s the most frustrating thing about it. Week in and week out, it’s just like the same thing. We’re saying, ‘We’re getting better.’ During the game, (there’s) a play here and a play there, but eventually we’ve got to start making that play. We can’t be making the same mistakes. That’s the frustrating thing about it. We’re playing hard. We’re trying to do it, but we’ve just got to learn how to win.”

On whether progress has to be measured by victories:

“Of course.”

On the defensive miscues with stopping the run:

“Just staying in your gap. The same story it’s been all year.”



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On if players not staying in their gaps is frustrating because it's been an issue since Week 1:

“Very. Very frustrating. We talk about it. We harp on it. Guys understand that we get to a point where you've got to do it.”

On whether discipline is something that can be fixed in the long run:

“Discipline is something I feel as though...we're all grown men. I'm not saying that you go in and say, 'I'm not going to be disciplined.' You've got to fight. You've got to do things to do it, but we've got to be able to do it more on a consistent basis.”

On whether today's loss was on the players or on Cardinals Head Coach Steve Wilks:

“Yeah, yeah. Definitely. I think it was definitely on the players. It's not playing smart, not playing in our gaps. He understands being a head coach that you're going to get a lot on your shoulders, but at the end of the day, as the players we've got to start playing better as a whole.”

On whether issues of gap integrity and discipline are because of coaches or players not doing their jobs:

“It's guys not doing their jobs.”

On whether it'll be tough to bounce back from a game like this:

“You've got to bounce back regardless. Being that it's situations that we've talked about week in and week out is the frustrating part.”

On how he balances personal pride in a team sport:

“You've got to beat your man in front of you. That's the personal pride. Beating your man but at the same time, doing your job.”

Cardinals WR Christian Kirk

On Head Coach Steve Wilks' message:

“The message was just that we have to learn to win, we have to learn to finish. That's all it is. All respect out to the Raiders, but we clearly beat ourselves. Too many mental errors, too many mental mistakes by us. Me personally as well, just keep learning and try to eliminate those mistakes, but it's just the little things for us, execution-wise, that are kind of shooting us in the foot.”

On his touchdown catch:

“Josh saw that they were bringing pressure, that's one of our checks is just a little quick screen, and the blocks were amazing by the front line. Ricky (Seals-Jones) came in at the end and sealed that last guy and all I had to do is just catch it and score. They did a great job, we did a great job executing on that one.”

On why that offense stalled:



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“I think when you see us move the ball the most it’s whenever we can get David (Johnson) and Chase (Edmonds) going in the run game. Whenever we’re ripping off eight-to-10 yard chunks on runs, then we are able to set up the pass game. That’s when our offensive is really flowing. That’s when we get behind the sticks. Penalties, holding, or even just tackles for loss, that’s when our offense stutters.”

On mistakes late in the game while trying to seal the win:

“That’s a part of football, though. It’s a no-blink game, no-flinch game and things happen quick, things happen fast, there’s a lot of emotions going on. Obviously, we would all want to go back and change it but it’s a part of the game. But that’s a part of us going in tomorrow, looking at the film and fixing those mistakes.”

On the team hurting itself and bouncing back next week:

“It makes it tough right now, just knowing that we were that close. Starting tomorrow you have to clear your mind, you have to come in. We have another game next week, so it’s just another opportunity for us to get better and try to finish the season off strong.”

Cardinals DT Corey Peters

On his reaction to the loss:

“I think for us, it is important to let it burn for a little bit. Let it burn through tomorrow and we will start getting ready for the Chargers on Wednesday. I think it is important for us to feel this. To realize that it is unacceptable, to realize how much work and how far we have to go. We need to get back to work. We have to be focused on that.”

On if the teams record reflects how they are playing right now:

“No doubt about it. This is the NFL and you always hear ‘You are what your record says you are.’ Right now, we are not a very good football team. I think a lot of it is our own fault. I guess you can take some solace in that, knowing that if we correct the things that we need to get corrected, we can take steps forward.”

On if there is a lesson in this loss that needed to be learned:

“We just have to be more consistent. I don’t know if that is necessarily particular to this game. It has kind of been the same story all year. I think we played well at times today, but obviously at the end of the game we didn’t make the plays that we needed to make.”

On if the energy and focus was to his liking:

“I think so. I feel like we had a good week in practice. I feel like the energy was good in the stadium and I feel like we made some plays. Really, it is just about the attention to details. We can’t have stupid penalties, we can’t mis-fit runs and let them run the ball down our throats at times. We will get in tomorrow, we will watch it, take our medicine and get back to work.”

Cardinals RB David Johnson



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On how confident he was coming into the game:

“Very confident. You have to be confident every game. Otherwise, why are you playing.”

On his reaction to the loss:

“That one hurt, that one hurt bad. As an offense, we have to figure out a way to finish. We shouldn’t have to have our defense try and finish the game for us. I have to make better plays at the end.”

On what was working offensively and why they struggled to find a rhythm for a large chunk of the game:

“The run game worked well. Guys were getting on their blocks and sometimes their defense just made a play. One guy made a play or sometimes they did something different. I think overall, the run game worked well.”

On if he was surprised that his long touchdown in the fourth quarter got called back:

“I was surprised. I didn’t see a flag. I thought that I had the touchdown. Obviously, that is not a good thing. Just have to find ways to finish.”

On if this loss will sit with the team longer than some of the other ones:

“Yeah, this one is going to sting. This is definitely going to sting. The Raiders, everybody knows, they are trading guys away. They are doing everything to try to rebuild. This one is a tough one.”

On if it will be hard to look back at the missed opportunities in this game:

“It was hard. Definitely after watching film there are going to be a lot of plays where I probably missed a hole. There is going to be a lot of plays where we should have definitely got more yards out of it. This one is going to sting the most. Like you said, looking back, this one is going to hurt.”

Cardinals TE Jermaine Gresham

On the play in which he was called for a penalty:

“It was just a dumb play by me. I turned around and saw my guy on the ground. It was a stupid thing. We’re not coached that. We’re not taught that. They didn’t bring me in here to do that, and it was stupid. I cost us the game.”

On what specifically happened at the bottom of the pile:

“I don’t know. I just saw my guy on the ground, down on top of him, and I was just trying to defend him. It was stupid. I cost us the game today. Coach (Wilks) doesn’t coach us to do that. It was stupid. I cost us the game.”

On the current level of frustration and anger in the locker room:

“If it starts with me, it’s pretty high. Just the disappointment of it all, we should have had that game today. We played good enough to win, and I found a way to beat us. So, I feel pretty bad.”



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On the team's biggest problem right now:

“We don't have a problem. It's ourselves really. We're a great football team. We have great components. We have a great nucleus. We've just got to stop beating ourselves, and that's pretty much it. We're beating ourselves in the game. Nobody's coming out and beating us just like that. We're beating ourselves.”