



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Excited to get on to the next. Opportunity to go down to Jacksonville, spent nine years of my life there coaching, head coach. I’m very appreciative of Mr. [Wayne] Weaver giving me that opportunity back in ’03. Certainly learned a lot during my time there, had some great experiences and family and friends there. My boy’s in that region now playing for the [Florida] Gators. Obviously, I know a lot about that area, but what I know most and what I’m most concerned with is our football team preparing to travel well; another early east coast time slot. We need to travel well, we need to go down, we need a win bad and all of that other stuff is kind of peripheral stuff. Really, my focus is primarily on getting this football team ready and going down and playing a good football game.”

Q: What is it going to be like returning to Jacksonville?

Coach Del Rio: “I’ve been in this league a long time, so I’ve gone back to a few places before. It’s not the first time going back to places where I’ve been. So yeah, I think I’ll be OK.” *(laughter)*

Q: How do you think you’ve grown as a coach since your time in Jacksonville?

Coach Del Rio: “I think when you first get an opportunity to sit in this head coach seat, the amount of volume that you have to deal with, the decisions that you have to make, I don’t know that you’re really prepared for it until you get in there and start doing it. So, I think from that standpoint, I’ve gained an incredible amount of insight into what it takes in this profession. I feel much more prepared, obviously, having nine years of experience there and four games in Denver as the interim [head coach] and a year and a half here. Certainly, that experience, being in that chair and making decisions, running the staff, running the team, organizing practice, the way you travel, all the things that we do that lead up, the process that I talk about, the process of being a good team, all of it entails really, it starts with the head coach.

Q: When you went into the meeting with the owner with a book. How much of that book have you stuck with?

Coach Del Rio: “Quite a bit, quite a bit. A lot of that book is still with me today. Those are things I learned. Brian Billick was one of my mentors in terms of preparing for that opportunity and Brian was terrific at encouraging his staff to grow. If you look at the assistants that are on his tree, quite a few have gone on and done very well. So, I credit Brian a lot for that organizational structure that I had and then John Fox, he was the one that introduced me to putting all of that information into the book and rather than being power point or something because you’d be able to have that face to face with the owner.”

Q: How much good in terms of growing as a team can come from this 10-day trip you’re about to embark upon?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, I think Paul [Gutierrez], the biggest thing for us is to kind of take it as it comes. And, the first order of business is traveling well Friday, for our game Sunday. And then, what changes then is that rather than flying back, then we transition into instead of going back and forth, what we’re going to do down there. So right now, the focus is really just on Jacksonville, the talent they have, the things they like and really dialing in our preparation that way. Then, once we get to Sunday and the game’s over, then we’ll transition into the following week.”

Q: Can you speak to the confidence the team has playing on the road?

Coach Del Rio: “I think we feel like we’re a good football team. We’ve been able to travel well and play well and we look forward to the next opportunity. Regardless of where we’re playing, we expect to play well. So, regardless of the time slot, for whatever reason the league likes us in that early time slot out there, it does make for a better turnaround for the next week when we get back home. But, we just kind of take them as they come and next up is Jacksonville.”



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Q: During the first six weeks of this season, have you gone into every game thinking that your team has practiced really well and expecting to win and suddenly being surprised?

Coach Del Rio: "I would say that the biggest thing we've had is tremendous energy and effort and care by the guys. Staff, players, the guys really care about being good and so the effort has been there. We've talked about it probably more than I'd like (*laughter*), it's legitimate, the communication has to be better. I see it improving. People say, 'How do you have faith? How do you have that belief?' I do because I see the work and the effort, I know the guys, I know they care. I know there's talent, I know that the things we're asking them to do are sound and solid and we just have to make sure that we communicate well and that we can have our eyes where they belong and get our jobs done."

Q: What do you think about Blake Bortles and how he's played with him being drafted in the same class as Derek Carr?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, he's a talented player. They lit up a lot of people over the last two and a half years and they have a good group of people around them. Both good, young players in this league."

QB Derek Carr

Q: We've talked a couple times about how you and Blake became friends during the draft process. Do you guys keep in regular contact? What's it going to be like going against him?

Carr: "I always say this when I go up against a good friend. We've created a cool little bond, texting back and forth, here and there, those things, especially when 'Oly' [former Raiders offensive coordinator and current Jaguars offensive coordinator Greg Olson] headed that way, talking back and forth and those things just trying to help him out as much as I could. I think whenever I play against a friend, it's a good thing I don't play against them because if I played defense, it wouldn't help. I'm better off helping us on the offensive side of the ball. It's not me literally playing against him, but being able to see him out there and watch him play will be fun but this will be the one time I don't root for him."

Q: When you're going up against a quarterback that was drafted ahead of you, do you keep extra tabs on them? Is there a competitiveness with them there?

Carr: "You always are grouped in that little group, with Teddy [Bridgewater], with Johnny [Manziel], Blake [Bortles], myself, Jimmy [Garoppolo], you think about all those guys that were in that class and that will always be forever. When you think of your class, you always think of those guys. But, as I've been playing through the years, you don't really think about it because it's so far removed. Right when it happens, you're like, 'Man, I can't wait for that,' but once you get past that, it doesn't even matter. You're just trying to win football games."

Q: Late in the first half, you hit Clive Walford for this pass right down the middle and it's a play we haven't seen that much. Is that a play that defenses have taken away or something you want to do more of?

Carr: "I don't know. I don't think it's something people have necessarily taken away, but I think it has to do with Clive coming back healthy. It has a big thing to do with that because now he'll get more reps. The more reps, more chances, more opportunities kind of a deal. It's kind of one of those things where we were like, 'Why isn't 'Coop' [Amari Cooper] in the end zone?' And all those kinds of things, that's kind of a different deal because teams were playing him different and things like that. With Clive, he was just banged up a little bit. Now that he's healthy, hopefully we'll be able to get it to him."

Q: When you look back at last week, what did you see that went wrong after the first drive?

Carr: "The bar that we are supposed to execute at, at all times, at every position, we didn't hit. Whether it was footwork, our eyes, a mental deal, not seeing it right. From the top down, it's like we took turns. We know we're better than that. It's like when you lose a game like that, as soon as we were done, I would have put my pads on and played the next game; can't wait to get the taste out of your mouth. We all took turns. You learn from it, you



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have to learn from it. If you don't, you're going to stay the same. I thought we had really good meetings yesterday about it and really grew from it. It was tough, but you have to watch it. You have to take the lumps and learn from it."

Q: When you were named starting quarterback, I assumed it was Dennis Allen who was the first person who told you? What was the first thing Greg Olson said to you?

Carr: "Yes. I remember I was at church and when I got done, 'Oly' texted me actually. He said, 'Hey, coach Allen wants to talk to you.' I honestly thought, who knows what this conversation is going to be because we had Matt Schaub. I go in there and he says, 'Are you ready to be a starter?' And I said, 'Yes, of course.' So I go to 'Oly's' office and he just says, 'Alright, this is the third down package we have.' Straight into it. Of course, congratulations and all that, but let's work. From that time on, I used my time with 'Oly' to learn. He is up there when it comes to quarterback knowledge. He's really second to none. He knows what he's doing. I tried to pick his brain and learn what I could with our time together. I owe him a lot of credit."

Q: How much did Greg Olson have to do with keeping you upright and healthy every week?

Carr: "That's his biggest thing is limiting hits on quarterback. I think that 'Oly' does such a great job with that. He puts a lot on the quarterback to know protections, to know their blitz schemes, to know what they're doing. A lot of that has to do with knowing where to go with the football also because if you don't know and you're holding onto it that extra half second, you're going to get hit. He just does such a good job all around with quarterbacks that just teach you how to get the ball out of your hands, how to check to certain things, to take a hit off and all those kind of things. I think that he's probably one of the best at doing that, he really is."

Q: Have you noticed an extra fire with Jack Del Rio returning to Jacksonville for the first time?

Carr: "To be honest, I haven't because when you said that, it just finally hit me like, 'Yeah, he used to coach there.' I always think of him at Denver because he was the defensive coordinator. Yeah, no I haven't seen anything different. We'll see if he comes out in pads today for practice. (*laughing*) I don't expect that. I think he'll be alright."

Q: What's been the difference with Amari Cooper the past few weeks?

Carr: "To me, I think the last couple of weeks have been his best practice weeks. I'm a big believer in you have to go out to practice and treat it like a game. You can't go out there and jog. You can't go out there and do those things. Not saying that he was doing those things, it just happened that for whatever reason he's making these crazy plays in practice and it's happening in the games. You can also tell, we talk about the sideline deal, he worked extremely hard at that and then you see him make two, three, four catches on the sideline over and over again, keeping those feet in, dragging the foot and all those things. I think he just... I don't know. When you get into that second year, things just start clicking. Things just in your head and out there on the field and I think he's figuring it out."

Q: What led to you going to Cooper so much in the first half?

Carr: "I have to be honest, I went to check the score and the timeouts and the clocks for situations and I look up at one moment and I saw that he had over 100 yards already and I didn't even know. It's one of those things, to be completely honest, I did not have a clue that he had that many yards or catches already. It's just one of those things, man. When someone's hot, the ball seems to find him. When 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree] was hot in Baltimore, for whatever reason, the ball finds him. I'm not locking in on him. I'm not saying I'm not looking right or left. It just happens that way."

Q: What does it do for the team when Jalen Richard gets a long kickoff return?

Carr: "Man, whenever you're standing there as an offense and you see the return go past you, that's always a good feeling. You always want to run up to the returner. That is always just a good feeling. Knowing that, 'OK, yeah,



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we're going out to the 50 or we're going out to the 40.' Those kinds of things. I always tell him too, if he ever gets to the five to go down, and I'll throw it to him." (*laughing*)

Q: With Cooper only having one catch in the second half, is that something you don't realize also?

Carr: "Yeah, I definitely don't. That's a better question for the coach because I honestly don't. I'm thinking the situation. You know I'm thinking about so many things. I know that they're playing different coverages to him. I know that they changed it up. I know that they were trying to do different things, but it's not like something I'm like, 'Oh, he had nine and now he only has one.' I didn't even think about it."

Q: Is being in Florida for a week kind of like a training camp situation where you guys can come together?

Carr: "I think it's going to be great. I really do. I think it's going to be a really good thing. Just to be out somewhere different with everybody. Obviously, some peoples' families will be there and those kind of things which is a must. You have to have your family. My family will be there, we'll be together. But when you get those times at the hotel to be around each other to eat every meal together, do those things, I think it's nothing but good things. Whenever you can spend as much time around each other as possible, I think it's really good."

Q: Is Cooper going to be your roommate again?

Carr: "Nope. Coop's not invited. (*laughing*) Coop's not invited."



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Jaguars Head Coach Gus Bradley

Q: What jumps off film when you look at the Raiders?

Coach Bradley: "Well, if you look at all three units, offensively starting with that, just how efficient they are. They're putting up a lot points. They're ranking fourth in yards per play, eighth in yards per game. They're not giving up many sacks. The red zone, I think as far as situational football, is close to 80 percent when they're there. All those things put together show that they're very efficient and they're operating at a pretty high level. Defensively, you look at rankings, but on film as far as playing fast, the two edge guys with [Bruce] Irvin and [Khalil] Mack really jump out at you. They're obviously something to deal with."

Q: With knowing Ken Norton, Jr. pretty well, are you surprised with the defensive struggles?

Coach Bradley: "I think it's the same thing here. I know we're doing better defensively here, but this year in compared to previous years... You know when you're implementing a system and you're putting things in and you have some new plays coming in, it just takes a little bit of time for them to all be on the same page. What does jump out is how hard they play. They play with a lot of effort, with a lot of passion and I know that's what Ken Norton will bring to the table as well."

Q: What do you see specifically with Derek Carr's game?

Coach Bradley: "His completion percentage. It feels like he's playing with really good poise. He's making very good decisions and he's very accurate. I think those things, really are the three big things that are jumping out at you. Now there's other things, too. His ability to extend the play. He extends the play and looks down field. Some guys can't do that. He's always looking for that big play opportunity down field. Like I said, timing accuracy, decision making, all traits of a good quarterback and he's demonstrating those on tape."

Q: How do you think Greg Olson is doing with Blake Bortles?

Coach Bradley: "He's outstanding for Blake. If you look over the course of time with quarterbacks that he's had an impact with, he worked with Drew Brees in college, I mean the list goes on and on. He's had quite an impact on quarterbacks and especially young quarterbacks. I know they really relate to them well. He can simplify the game. He has a really good scheme guy, but he's also a very good quarterback technician. That was one of the big reasons that we hired him. I knew that about him. The work he's done and I knew that with our quarterback he'd be a great fit with him."

Q: Have you ever kept a team on the West Coast for a full week with back-to-back games?

Coach Bradley: "Yes, a couple of years ago when we played Oakland and then Seattle. We came out, played Oakland, stayed there for a week and then went to Seattle."

Q: What kind of benefit did you get from that?

Coach Bradley: "Well, I think to fly back and then to fly back out there, that's challenging on a team. So that part of it. Then I think just having the team together for a week. You know you really limit distractions. You're away from anything that can be a distraction at home. I think the guys spend a lot of time together. We just felt like it brought our team closer together."

Q: The Raiders run game has gradually declined, but what do you see when you look at it?

Coach Bradley: "I think the big thing is that with [Latavius] Murray, he's a phenomenal back. They have the ability to go different styles. He's a big, strong, explosive back and then they have speed. So the change up that they can have on a defense is very challenging. It forces your defense to have different tackling plans for each guy they're facing. They all have different skill sets. That part makes it challenging. I think too when you get ahead and you're sitting in a situation where the defense doesn't know if it's run or pass, that gets the run game going. I agree, I think it's very effective. To be 13th, I mean we'd love to be 13th right now in our run game. I think they do a good job mixing it up, running and passing."



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Q: What were your expectations for Myles Jack and how is he progressing so far?

Coach Bradley: "He's doing good. We started him off at a MIKE spot where [Paul] Posluszny is playing. That was a challenge for him because that really is the leader of our defense. He also knows now our Mike and our Will spot, so if there was an injury he'd be the first guy in. You could just tell that the game was slowing down for him. A couple of weeks ago we had an injury at the outside linebacker spot. It's probably our easiest spot to learn, so we put him there and gave him a week really of preparation and that's where he's been playing now. I think his progress has been very good. You definitely see his speed on the film. He plays with a certain explosiveness. I think with every rep he gets on the field, every opportunity, it just appears to be slowing down for him where his speed is definitely showing up."

Q: What were your impressions on Karl Joseph during the draft process?

Coach Bradley: "I really liked him. I really liked him, but understand for us, we're more of a single safety, middle team. So a guy that's a ball hawk has really good range, can go from sideline to sideline, very active. He has all those traits. He was a guy that we really thought highly of."

Jaguars QB Blake Bortles

Q: How much did you and Derek Carr interact during the draft process leading up to the 2014 NFL Draft and how much have you kept in touch since?

Bortles: "It was cool to go through that. Obviously, we were able to go through the combine and the Rookie Premiere and the symposium and all that stuff. I got a chance to go on a couple of different team visits with him, so we had a chance to go to dinner and do some stuff like that with him and exchanged numbers. We talk every now and then – I still have his number, still text him here and there. We'll talk in the offseason and throughout the year, but he's an unbelievable guy. He's a guy that I definitely check and see how he's doing throughout the year after every game and rooting for, and look forward to seeing him Sunday."

Q: Which teams did you guys visit together?

Bortles: "We were in Jacksonville together, and then we were somewhere else together, I believe. I remember Jacksonville vividly because we went and got dinner together the night before."

Q: At that point, did you have any idea at all that you would be ending up in Jacksonville?

Bortles: "No, no. I had no clue. It was kind of funny looking back on it because I think I went straight from Jacksonville to Oakland, and then he went Oakland to Jacksonville, I think, or it was switched or something. So, it's kind of cool looking back on all that stuff."

Q: In the couple of years that you've worked under Greg Olson, what have you learned from him?

Bortles: "A ton, obviously. I think the protection part of 'Oly' and how important protections are to him has been awesome, I think. It's made me learn our scheme and our protections and defenses and fronts and all that stuff. I think that's helped out tremendously. It helps our offense out and I think 'Oly' has done a really good job with kind of molding his scheme to our personnel, so it's been cool to watch that and be a part of that."

Q: Have you and Olson talked at all about the time that he worked with Derek? Does he use stuff he did with Derek as examples?

Bortles: "No, he definitely keeps it separate. He was there for however long and that was the time he spent there. That's kind of in the past and he left that there. Now, it's onto Jacksonville and we're here trying to work on what we have here and the things we can control."

Q: What do you see on a consistent basis from Bruce Irvin and Khalil Mack?



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Bortles: “Like you said, both of those guys are extremely good players. I think Mack is a guy that is going to play for a long time and be successful for a long time and Irvin is a guy that has been doing it for a while already. I think those are definitely two threats on the edge, definitely guys that we’re going to have to be alert of. You want to make sure you keep those guys from kind of ruining your game plan as far as an offensive, whether it’s chipping them or cutting them, doing different things, doing stuff like that to try and keep him off guard and not letting them just free rush. So, we’re going to have to be on top of that and making sure we’re kind of trying to confuse those guys and keep different things coming out of them.”

Q: How does it help having Allen Hurns and Allen Robinson on your offense?

Bortles: “Those guys are awesome. It’s pretty cool because you go through it, and whether it’s read one or read five, I’m fortunate enough to be able to get the ball to a guy that’s going to be pretty talented, whether it’s Hurns or ‘A-Rob’ or Julius Thomas or Marqise Lee, we’ve got some good guys that are out there catching the ball, which makes my job a lot easier and allows me to just try to and get the ball to those guys and let them make plays.”

Q: When you visited Oakland, did you interact at all with Olson?

Bortles: “Yeah, I met with Greg when he was with the Raiders, both out in Oakland and then him and coach [Dennis] Allen came to UCF and all the pre-draft stuff, so it was pretty cool when he got to Jacksonville to talk about going to breakfast and stuff when he was with the Raiders.”