



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

Opening Statement: “Undeclared team this week. Good defense, of course, been good for years and years and years. We’re looking forward to getting on that plane Friday and putting out a good performance on Sunday.”

Q: What are the keys to being successful on the road?

Coach Musgrave: “Well the players and shoot, the position coaches put in a lot of work during the week. We try to simulate the crowd noise, so it’s not a complete surprise on game day, but it’s a tough deal going into someone else’s stadium. Our guys are really getting better at it each and every time we go on the road. We work hard at it. We much prefer to be in front of our own crowd, but we’re hoping to get even better than we have been these first two games in Baltimore.”

Q: You guys are running the ball well. When you see them on film, do you see some things that favor what you do?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, not really. They’re rugged. They’re a physical front. They’re playing both the run and the pass well. We want to keep getting better on our side, line of scrimmage. We’re really focused on what we do, getting better at running the ball and being balanced. Had a good start, but there’s definitely a lot to build upon.”

Q: With how nice the guys on your offensive line are, how good is it to have a guy with some nastiness in Kelechi Osemele?

Coach Musgrave: “Well, I don’t think any of our guys are as you described. They’re not nice. They may be polite. They’re gentlemen. They’re professional, but across the board from Donald Penn to ‘Rod’ [Rodney] Hudson, our guys are physical and they’re like Kelechi, so Kelechi fits right in with those guys. Nasty, and one thing they all hold in common, especially Rod Hudson who really drives that unit, he’s extremely bright. The toughness, he’s tough as all get out, but mentally and physically, but he’s extremely bright.”

Q: How are Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington different?

Coach Musgrave: “They are similar in stature. I think both of them can run just about any concept. They’re good inside, good outside. We love throwing the football to them because they have good hands and then they can make people miss. They might have some subtle differences, but we’re just two or three games in with them and we’re going to continue to learn about each of them.”

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: What did you see from Cory James in his first NFL start?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “You can tell that guy has a lot of potential. He plays hard. He looks the way linebacker’s are supposed to look – tough. Throwing his body in there. He still makes the young rookie mistakes, but he makes it full speed. He’s the type of guy that you want. If you had a team full of Cory James, we’d be pretty good. He’s very impressive.”

Q: What did you see from Karl Joseph in his first NFL start?

Coach Norton, Jr.: “It’s exciting to finally see him on the field. It’s been a long time since he’s played, coming back from an injury. Had a great training camp and [was] really waiting to get back on the field. He shows you that he can play. It’s a matter of him understanding, getting a lot of confidence in what he’s doing, really learning this game. The NFL teaches you a lot of stuff. It’s about experiences and right now he’s at that age where a lot of experiences are going to come up for him and he has to understand what they are and make the best of them.”



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Q: What challenge does the Ravens' offense present?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "They're tough, I mean AFC North team, you know they're going to be very tough at home. At the same time, [Joe] Flacco's a guy that's very accurate. Steve Smith [Sr.], he always has a chip on his shoulder, still does all the things he's been able to do, catch and run, playing with a lot of attitude. The team is winning. They're winning a certain way and they're going to be a really strong challenge for us."

Q: What did the secondary do better this past weekend?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "I think once you really look at it, I think they're communicating a lot better. I think practice that week was really focused everybody was really determined and the process was really important from A to Z, not letting any stone go unturned. No gray area, just clarity, everybody knowing exactly what to do, the defense and entire team working together, secondary working with the linebackers, working with the D-line. Everybody's on the same page, and when you get a whole team on the same page, we get performances like that."

Q: Was there anything Cory James did that surprised you?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, you know, he's been here all throughout the offseason, so it's not like he's a new guy to us. We kind of pride ourselves on being a developmental staff and we have a lot of really good coaches, a lot of really good former linebackers who really understand and know the position and Cory has all the tools. He's big, he's strong, he's smart, he really cares, he's always learning, he's obsessed with improvement, listens very well. So, all those things, and he runs, he runs really well, all those things are all good attributes for good linebackers."

Q: Was it just a matter of time before Sean Smith improved?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "No question. Sean [Smith] is very prideful about his performance. He's a student of the game. He knows that he's one of our playmakers on this defense. He has to step up and make plays for us and he has to be a guy that we can really depend on. And, right now, it's about consistency. How does he respond from the first two games when he didn't play as well? Now he's playing a little bit better, how does he respond from playing a better game? I think he's the type of guy, he'll show you his high level of consistency."

Q: How much has David Amerson developed?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "No question, David [Amerson] is very skillful. He really works very hard. He's really a student of the game. He really cares, you can tell. As he develops, he's getting a lot more confident in his ability, his ability to read the splits, understand what the receivers are doing and it's important for the players to understand what they do best, to always play at their strengths. He's a guy that understands what his strengths are and he's only touched the very tip of the iceberg of where he can go with his talents."

Q: Has his technique improved in the past year?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, just consistency. You see him showing up every week, he's showing up every day in practice. He's in meetings taking notes. He's seen the other defensive backs and linebackers talking about calls to make and communicating. Really opening up and making sure there's no gray area. Knowing exactly what to do, don't make it up on the field. He's the guy that has really developed into a guy that we can depend on, a guy that makes sure he knows what he's doing before he goes out and plays because he's very prideful about his performance as an individual and as a team."

Q: Have you seen new tactics teams are using on Khalil Mack?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Just awareness. It's not a surprise anymore. That's why Bruce Irvin was so important to us, but at the same time he's getting the quarterback off his spot. Sacks are always a big thing for everybody to count, but at the same time he's affecting the quarterback. You see we had a few turnovers last week. It's not by accident. The entire group is working together. Khalil's success is working off the rest of the group. It's making everybody else better. It's getting everybody else... Freeing up everybody else for one-on-ones and having a chance for us to put pressure on the quarterback."



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Q: What are some of the things you like about Shilique Calhoun's play so far?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Shilique is long. He's fast. He cares a lot about what he does. He stays after, getting extra coaching. He certainly goes out on the practice fields and tries to work his technique. Most importantly, he really hangs around Bruce Irvin and Khalil Mack. He's right up there, right under their shoulders; talking to them, learning games, learning how to rush the passer, learning how to play at a certain level, conditioning out here early before practice, running. Those types of things that young players need to do to develop."