



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Derek Carr Contract Extension Press Release

General Manager Reggie McKenzie and QB Derek Carr

Reggie McKenzie Opening Statement: “Good evening. Big day today. I’m glad you guys could make it. This is a big day for the Raider Nation, this organization and Raiders throughout. We’re very excited to have Derek be apart of this organization officially for many more years. We’re looking for great things, as always, in our quest to achieve a championship trophy. We think... No, we know, that Derek is a big part of what we are trying to do around here. We’re very excited. This is a big day. This is a great day for us and we are very excited, and I’m not going to get you guys here just to tell you how excited we are. I’m just going let Derek tell you how he feels about this because I can get up here and do some jumping jacks and back flips. Derek is a great human being, aside from being a great player. To have him apart of this organization is truly a blessing for me, so without further ado, Derek.”

Derek Carr Opening Statement: “Thank you. First and foremost, I’m just blessed and honored to be sitting here today. I dreamed of this day when I was a little kid and it’s here. So, I just thank God for this opportunity. I just want to thank the Raiders organization, [Owner] Mr. Davis, Reggie, [Executive Vice President and General Counsel] Dan [Ventrelle], [Director – Football Administration] Tom [Delaney], [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] and his coaching staff, our coaching staff, for putting their trust in me. I don’t take that lightly. You can’t pay me a better compliment than to tell me that you trust me with the keys to this thing. For that, I’m grateful and I’m honored. I really am. To be the quarterback here of the team that I love, of the only team that was on my mind, that has always been on my mind since even the draft process. It just felt right from the beginning. There was no doubt in my mind when this whole thing was about to go down and I told Tim [Younger], my agent, that I don’t want to play anywhere else. If they’ll let me sign a 20-year deal, let’s do it. And he’s like, ‘Well, let’s wait a little bit on that. I don’t know if that’s smart.’ There was no hesitation from me. It didn’t matter if they said that, I would have been like, ‘Yeah, deal.’ Tim would have to teach me, ‘Well, that’s probably not the best thing.’ I just wanted to be a Raider. It’s more than just a team to me. It’s more than just that. It’s family. The way that the business went down, it was easy, as Tim would say. Both sides. I think Dan would say the same. I think that both sides just wanted it to get done. It was two family members just figuring out how to get along. We did. We figured out a way to do it so that we have the opportunity to sign the other guys that I think are important to this organization. That was really important to me, not to just take every single dime that we could and I hope that’s known. Obviously with the position that I play, it has to be around a certain number. It just is what it is. At the same time, I told Tim, if we can structure it in a way to help the Raiders get the other guys, get them an opportunity to come in, that that would be really important to me too. Lastly, I will close my statement with this: It’s very important to me for the kids out there watching this and for them to know that I never chased the money in this whole process. It’s something that I am very passionate about. I try to be the best version of myself every single day and give my teammates in this organization everything that I have. It’s never going to be about the money for me. If one kid can understand what I’m trying to tell them by saying that, then I think that I’ve done my job, so thank you.”

Q: You said you wanted to get your contract done by the start of training camp. How much of a relief is it to have it done and now move on to football?

McKenzie: “We didn’t think it was going to get to training camp, to be honest with you because from the outset, both sides wanted the deal done. I thought our guys did a great job getting together and hammering it out. We both wanted to the same thing. That part was easy. We could tell that Derek wanted to be here. And we let him know, without a doubt, we wanted him here. It was easy. It was easy. We didn’t make it hard. Derek, Tim didn’t make it hard. But it is a relief to know that going into training camp, he’s our guy. And it’s a relief off of Derek’s shoulders.”

Carr: “No doubt. It’s definitely a relief that it’s done. Like Mr. McKenzie said, both sides wanted it done so like I said, it was easy. Obviously, Tim and Dan might have other words, but for me it was easy. Me and Reggie both knew what we wanted. We just sat back and waited for the text. The fact that it’s done and then I can just focus on football, that was the main reason I set a training camp deadline. I would be doing this organization a disservice if I was like,



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'No, let's keep talking about it.' It's so hard to win in this league, I have to focus all of my attention during training camp on winning and not business. That was the only reason I set that is because I was not going to do this organization or my teammates or coaches a disservice by having my mind, even one percent, somewhere else. That's the only reason. But I never really had a feeling that it would even get to that, but that's the only reason we said that."

Q: What point after you drafted Derek did you realize how talented he was?

McKenzie: "I'll tell you what, from the outset when we drafted him, before he got here, we were extremely excited that he was still sitting there at 36. Let's put that out there right now. The rookie mini-camp, that was... I think my son could've figured that one out, 'Man, he can throw, daddy.' It was easy to see early. We knew the type of person we were getting in the draft process. Put it together and it was pretty early, very early."

Q: How did this contract give you the flexibility to extend other players?

McKenzie: "Well just the overview. The bottom line is we're able to continue to move forward with it, keep all the players that we need to keep in the correct timing. This affords us to do that. We're going to start on that ASAP."

Q: Was it important to you to have the highest paying contract?

Carr: "The importance of it? No. Did I think it'd end up around that? Yes, just because that's just how it goes, you know, keeping track of it. Was it the most important thing to me? Not really. The most important thing was to get it done and that my family would be taken care of. Am I competitive? Yeah, but I wasn't going to sit there and say, 'Oh no, I need more.' I was not going to do that. I was not going to be difficult. I was not going to be the one... If anything Tim was kind of driving me up a little and I had to talk him off the ledge a little bit, but that's why we work well together. We had a few of those conversations where he tried to push me for some things and I just said, 'You know what man, I'm good. I think that's plenty.' And he agreed, he said, 'Absolutely.' It's a weird situation for me because I don't want to sound like I wanted to, oh I have to beat them, but at the same time, it just kind of ends up that way. I'm sure it'll be passed soon, so I'm not too worried about it."

Q: Are you OK with seeing other quarterbacks pass you in terms of your contract?

Carr: "I don't care if they all do. We got our contract done, that's all that matters to me. The other thing that was important to me is that we didn't worry about what other people were going to do or doing. I just wanted to get mine done and make sure that the team had, again like we talked about, flexibility to make sure my friends stay around."

Q: With this paycheck comes expectations. Does the contract add any pressure?

Carr: "No, not at all. Me and my wife were laughing about that on the way here because we see it all the time on T.V. People put up stats and then they put up their money. It really doesn't matter. We're all just trying to go out there and compete and win. If I had to up my standards that I set for myself, I don't think that they would have signed me. I think that I've set a standard for myself, for this organization, for this team. Personally, no amount of money is going to matter. It doesn't matter. I believe that God has given me a lot of talents to play this game and I would be sacrificing that gift he's given me if I gave anything less than my best. That's how I look at everything. You could give me a dollar, you could give me \$25 million, it doesn't matter. To me, my number one goal is to make sure that I give everything that I have to this organization. There's no pressure. There's no we'll be on the 1-yard line and I won't give it to Marshawn [Lynch], I'll throw it. None of that stuff. I don't care about the stats. That's not my number one objective. I don't care if I throw 10 touchdowns next year. If we win every game, that's all I care about."

Q: Is there anything you're going to splurge on with your contract?

Carr: "Chick-fil-A. I've been eating clean. We got [Director of Nutrition] Ladd [Harris] here, he's been having me eat clean. I'll probably get Chick-fil-A. The first thing I'll do is I'll pay my tithe like I have since I was in college, getting \$700 on scholarship check. That won't change. I'll do that. I'll probably get my wife something nice, even though she begs me not to. She still gets coupons. Ever since I've known her she finds coupons. She gets online trying to find



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discounts and all those things. None of that is going to change. The exciting thing for me moneywise, honestly, is this money is going to help a lot of people. I'm very thankful to have it, that it's in our hands because it's going to help people. Not only in this country, but in a lot of countries around the world. That's what's exciting to me."

Q: What do you have in mind specifically?

Carr: "Obviously, I'm going to do my best to make sure no one knows what we do with it. I'll just say this, I can assure you that it's going to help a lot of people. I'm not stingy. My business manager will probably be on me saying, 'Hey man, that's enough.' I won't get into when, how or why. It's not all about that for me. It's about making a difference. That's what's exciting for me is that we'll be able to do that."

Q: What did you learn about yourself and how did you grow after going through your injury and missing the playoffs?

Carr: "My faith grew. I had to sit there and watch my teammates go out there without me for the first time ever. That was the hardest thing for me, to know that I had to sit there a little nauseous. That was probably from the meds to keep the pain away after surgery, but I think a little bit more of it had to do with me not being out there and helping my team. I had to sit there and learn; I need to do a better job as a leader of preparing everybody, because we never know what's going to happen. It showed me ways that I could help this team be ever better, it showed me ways that I could be even better as a teammate, showed me ways I could be better as a leader. You never know. Reggie could tell you better. There's guys that get hurt and then we grab a guy off a practice squad and he has to come in and start a game sometimes. I think that's happened a few times since I've been here in the last three or four years. I learned a lot during that time. My goal was still to get us to the super bowl, even though I wasn't there that way, my agent would have been mad at me, but I would have taped that thing up and I would have been out there, you know? I learned that I can do a better job of helping along that way just to make sure that everyone's ready just the way I am."

Q: Has the sheer amount of money hit you yet?

Carr: "Yeah, no doubt. It was like surreal at first. I was like, 'Alright, man. That's like monopoly, man. That's weird.' (*laughter*) But then as I began to see it and how we could place it in certain areas and begin to see what kind of impact that could really make, that's when it hit me. Didn't want to talk about that, but I've been down to Haiti and I've seen some of those struggles that they have and the kids there, and my heart just... I cry sometimes thinking about it. So, just knowing that we can go down there and make a difference and help, those are the kind of things that the money makes me kind of like, 'Oh my gosh.' Because now we can really do some things to help a lot of people."

Q: What kind of feedback have you received from your teammates in the last 24 hours?

Carr: "So, Sean Smith told me to buy a Bugatti - that's not going to happen. (*laughter*) But we have a really fun group and a lot of jokes, I can tell you that. Lot of jokes, especially with the offensive line. Donald [Penn] Asked for a lot, he asked for a lot of stuff. (*laughter*) That's OK, he'll get maybe something. (*laughter*) I think that the coolest thing to me is that my teammates texted me. I didn't know that when this kind of stuff happens people text you. When you win a game or something you'll get a lot of texts or when you get on the Top 100 you get a text, but with this I didn't think... All the sudden I get like 100 text messages on vacation. My wife's like, 'Who are you talking to?' I showed her and was like, 'I'm sorry.' (*laughter*) I'm sitting there texting people. All of my teammates said, 'Man, you work your tail off, you deserve it.' And I don't feel like I deserve it, but just them saying that was really... It grabbed my heart, because they're the ones I go to battle with, they're the ones I work with every single day. So, what they have to say really, really matters to me. But I do know that I have to owe them all a big, big dinner. So that will be fun." (*laughter*)



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Q: Can you set the scene of where you were and what you were doing when you found out the contract negotiations had concluded?

Carr: "Yeah, I was definitely in the sun when Tim texted me (*laughter*), trying to not get burnt like we did last time. I think I was sitting in the sun and Tim texted me, 'Hey can you call me?' I was like, 'Sure!' And he called, 'Hey, it's done.' I was like, 'Wait, what?' (*laughing*) Because I didn't expect it to be done so fast. But he's like, 'Yeah, it looks like it's going to be done. What time do you get back? Can you be here in the morning at 9:30?' I was like, 'Whoa, man. You're going a little fast for me.' (*laughing*) I was just sitting there and I just remember when I hung up and I instantly, honestly I just thanked God for that moment because of the impact it's going to make on people because of the platform he's given me to help a lot of people. I was just thankful that he chose me to go do his work. I think to be open and honest with you, that was the initial reaction. Then my nephew ran up to me and said, 'What are you so excited about?' I was like, 'Uh, let me go talk to Heather first.' (*laughter*) I didn't want him to be the first one to know. I had to tell my wife, then I came back and told my nephew. But yeah, it was good."

Q: How involved were you in this process and how much did it weigh on you?

Carr: "It was – how do I say – it wasn't easy, but to me it kind of was because I knew Tim had it under control. But I was very involved. Every little detail, every time Tim and Dan had a conversation he wanted me to know everything that I needed to know. If there was something that I didn't need to know, I didn't need to know. I said, 'Man, just tell me what I need to know so I can help make decisions.' Because it wasn't just Tim going in there and saying, 'Alright, this is what I want.' It was Tim going in there and saying, 'This is what Derek wants.' The main thing that I could just remember was all along the way, I was like, 'How do we keep my teammates?' That's, I don't know if it's weird how it sounds, but that was just what I kept telling him. I was like, 'OK that's cool. Yeah that's awesome, wow, cool. Is this good for Gabe [Jackson]? Is this good for Khalil [Mack]? Is this good for Amari [Cooper]?' He can tell you himself, these are things that I said to him numerous amounts of times. I didn't want to hurt our team; that's the last thing I would ever want to do. So, hopefully we didn't. (*laughter*) That's the last thing that I intended to do and that's kind of why I was so involved."

Q: Now that there are some other names that need contract extensions – Gabe Jackson being one – have contract negotiations started there, do you hope to get that done this offseason and is there a timetable for when you'd like to get him signed?

McKenzie: "No, there's no timetable. But, I alluded to earlier in the offseason that Gabe is one of the guys I want to get locked up, so absolutely."