



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: How's the rehab coming? Do you feel good?

Carr: "Yes, I feel great. I've been running, jumping, throwing, cutting – everything. So, I'm ready to rock. I'm ready to do absolutely everything. I did everything my teammates did today. I'll do everything my teammates do again tomorrow. So, hopefully that just gives an idea. I feel great. I'm truly blessed that it wasn't worse. It could have been a lot worse, and it wasn't, so I'm very thankful for that. I just keep praying for the guys on the day that the same kind of injury that are still going through it. I've been there. I know how it feels, but they are still going through it, so I just keep praying for those guys."

Q: How did your rehab go versus what you expected?

Carr: "I expected that after the surgery to just get up and, 'OK, I'm ready.' You know me. But, it just didn't work out that way. I'm so far removed from it, I don't remember timelines, but I just remember being in the boot. The best was getting off the crutches. 'OK, you don't have to use crutches anymore.' That was the best part because then I could be a human again. I could walk around. I had my boot and all. I think I really took for granted, was picking my kids up and taking them to their room. Little things like that that just make me appreciate what I have so much more, if I didn't already. It felt like a long process, but it flew by. Each day felt like a long day, but we had fun doing it. We had great trainers and doctors here, my surgeon, my own doctor that I have that flies out that helps work on me and things like that. I did absolutely everything I could to make sure I come back better. Like Kobe [Bryant] said, 'Come back better than ever.' I wanted to make sure that that thing was going to be a nonfactor when I started doing things again."

Q: You went straight to social media with your thoughtful feelings on relocation and how you were struggling with the process at the time. Now that it's been awhile, how are you processing it now? Do you have any more thoughts?

Carr: "What I said then has really held true. I'm human, man. It's like, that's crazy. How do you keep playing somewhere you love and then you have to go and play somewhere else that you're going to have to love and love the people there just like we will? For me, I really had to concentrate on, in all honesty, it doesn't matter yet. It's like something that's coming, it's big news, it's exciting for our organization and for fans that are Raider fans in Nevada and things like that, but at the same time we have our fans here that we need to take care of. That's really important to me, to take care of our fans here, to make sure that enjoy our last times... What is it? Two years? Three years? Who knows? But, that's my focus is to make sure I'm giving everything to this city that I can and not trying to do a little here and a little there. Obviously, there are going to be times where we're in Vegas doing things because it's a weird situation, but my focus is here and now, making sure that our fans feel appreciated knowing that they are going to get the very best version of me and my teammates every time we step out on the field."

Q: What has been your interaction with the fans here?

Carr: "Honestly, it was surprising to me. I don't know if it really should have surprised me because that's just how Raider fans are. It's just, 'Hey, we're going with you. We're Raiders.' Like I said in the message, through the hard times and the good times, we're still Raiders. There's been a lot of hard times before. Now, we're starting to have some good times. This is just another thing that we're just going to deal with together. We're not going to split up like you've seen other cities do. We're not going to do things like that. For the ones that do, I don't really believe that they're true Raider fans. I feel their hurt. I'm with you. I hurt too. But at the same time, we're all in this together and we're just going to do it together."

Q: Are you almost in a situation where you just control what you can control?

Carr: "Yeah, you're exactly right. It's not going to affect my teammates. It's not going to affect myself. It's not going to affect our coaches. The people that it affects the most is our families. The people that it affects the most are our fans here that we have. I think that that's the hardest part. But at the same time, we still have some good years ahead of us here. I think that our fans are really excited about that. I think that they realize that. That we still have



Oakland Raiders Transcript

some times that we can really enjoy here. I think that that is the main focus right now. I know for me and my teammates, we're focused on, 'Man, we've got to squat tomorrow. We have to condition. We have to do all these things tomorrow and do it excellent.' We have to do those things to make sure we continue to have success. I think our fans will realize as the season gets closer that we're here and focused on the now."

Q: Do you think the atmosphere at the Coliseum will be any different this year?

Carr: "I hope not. I wouldn't expect it would. I think I posted something and out of like 1,000 people, you're going to get one or two that have something to say and that's with everything. It doesn't matter if you throw four touchdowns or three picks, you're going to get it both ways. I expect that, but if something happens, it'll be the one percent. Hopefully y'all don't focus on that kind of stuff because there's the 99 percent that are loyal, faithful fans that are going to ride with us wherever we're at."

Q: Does that Raider brand, that iconic brand make it a little bit easier to make that move to Vegas? You'll have Vegas fans, fans from Los Angeles and Oakland will come...

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. I've spent some time all around the country, I've spent some time in Mexico. There are Raider fans everywhere. Raider Nation is an international brand. When you see that logo, you know what that is no matter where you're at. I've had buddies in Europe, I've had buddies in South America sending me pictures of people wearing my jersey and things like that. Raider fans are everywhere and, like I said, we're resilient. We've been through some hard times, obviously. I'm a Raider fan myself and that's why I speak for us. I remember the hard times, watching it growing up when my mom's side of the family was rooting for the Cowboys and they were winning Super Bowls. I remember the hard times. I remember growing up through it and all those things, but that's the thing is we always stay together and we're loyal."

Q: What about the Vegas fans? They'll be there obviously...

Carr: "Yeah, they should be really excited. We have a good football team that works really hard, of great character. When we go there, it's not so much us incorporating into Vegas, it's the Las Vegas people incorporating into the Raiders. We're not going to change who we are. We're coming into this city, we're bringing our brand, we're bringing the Silver and Black and hopefully they just come and be a part of it. That's what we want. We want them to be a part of it now. But again, our focus is here in Oakland right now."

Q: How do expect the offense to change this year with Todd Downing as the offensive coordinator?

Carr: "That'll be really interesting. Terminology and all those kind of things, maybe a little bit. Just some things that click in his brain so we can call it faster, things like that. In terms of change, I don't know. That'll be easier to see when we go through the preseason, game plan kind of a deal, because right now, it's pretty much the same for everyone in the league – you're trying to install the plays, trying to watch the cut-ups. Everyone is trying to get in football shape and those kind of things. Right now, it's a little different but as we get closer to the preseason, the game planning type things, I think then you'll get his feel, you'll get more of his spin on things as that time comes. But as of right now, it's just like, 'Hey, here's the plays.' It's not like we're scrapping everything because we're not. We had great stuff. Coach [Bill] Musgrave is a great coach. He had great plays. We're not throwing all that stuff away. As coach Downing would say, we're just going to turn things here, change a little things here, whatever we can do to get better and just keep going forward."

Q: Were you here the day Marshawn Lynch visited? Have you talked with him?

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. And I talked to Marshawn when he was in Seattle and we played them there. When he was here, I was here talking to him and all those things. He's one heck of a football player and I hope to play with him and those things, but again, I'm focused on the guys that are here today. I can't say, 'Oh man, I hope he gets here and all those things.' Of course, anyone would want Marshawn Lynch, any quarterback in the NFL. It doesn't matter who you have behind you because you have great running backs. Anybody would say, 'Add a good player to our team? Absolutely.' Because as we've seen, it could go like that for somebody. So you always need more good players. But with that said, I am focused on who is here. I want to take this group and win the Super Bowl with this



Oakland Raiders Transcript

group that is here and then as we add pieces, we'll hug them up and bring them in just as a family and treat them the same way that we do with all of our other teammates."

Q: Do you think there will be an acclimation process mentally for things such as standing in a collapsing pocket or being hit for the first time?

Carr: "No. My wife, I made her tackle me a couple times. (*laughter*) Wrestling Khalil Mack in pool basketball, that helps get those mental pictures out of your head. You can ask him too, I held him to no points, but we'll leave that for another time. (*laughter*) I'm just kidding. I've broken a lot of things, I've torn a lot of muscles, I've torn a lot of ligaments. Because this one happened at such a dramatic time, because it happened to where I couldn't play the next couple games, it's kind of bigger than it was. It wasn't hard for me to take that boot off and take my first step, if that helps. For me, the mental side is easy to defeat because it's me versus me, and that's going to be a win every time."

Q: Have you spoken to Marcus Mariota or Tyler Lockett?

Carr: "I talked to Tyler Lockett. I haven't talked to [Marcus] Mariota but I have talked to Lockett. We were keeping each other updated a little bit at the beginning. We let each other know that, hey, I know how it feels and we're praying for each other. Those kinds of things. My prayers are out for Mariota. I don't know his time table and those things, but I know that not being able to walk, not being able to do the things you want to do right away, oh I can make that cut, or I can make that throw. It just didn't happen at first, and those are frustrating things. If anyone knows him, let him know that it'll get better and those throws will get back to how they're supposed to be."

Q: Do you feel fortunate that the draft in 2014 turned out the way it did even though you might have wanted to be a first-round draft pick?

Carr: "Yeah, oh yeah. (*laughter*) Absolutely. I think my brother actually said it, someone interviewed him as I was getting ready for the draft and he said, 'To be honest, does Derek want to be a first-round pick? You better believe he does. But if it doesn't work out that way and maybe he's a second-round pick and they're able to get a better player before, I think that he'd be good with his team getting better.' And it worked out that way, and absolutely. You could ask all the other quarterbacks, I'm sure they'd want Khalil on their team too. Like I said, when we played pool basketball, he tackled me and gave me that one-arm shiver a couple times and it wasn't too fun. So yeah, I'm glad it worked out the way that it did."

Q: Have you raced Mack since you said that you were faster than him?

Carr: "No, we haven't raced. He tried to test me when I was on my scooter. (*laughter*) But I was having no part of that. But, we have not raced yet. I feel that this offseason, this might be a good time to settle that."

Q: Do you get involved in any of your contract negotiations?

Carr: "I like to be involved in my business, I really do. Not to the extent where I'm going to say, 'Oh, don't do this or don't do that.' I don't know that stuff, I'm not going to pretend, just like I would never say I know how to do your jobs, I don't know how to do that. So, that's why I have my agent, you know? And, Tim [Younger] and [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] have had great communication the whole time. They've been talking about this for months. Building it and how they wanted to do it and when and all of those things. For me, I understand now that it's a part of the game. Forever, I was like, 'Man I just want to play ball. I don't care about that.' But, now I'm understanding what has to get done, so maybe I should care about it. I just ask questions to Tim and learning about the salary cap and these things and this and that. It's just a lot of numbers that go over my head. Then it comes to, 'Hey, yeah. Go ahead, sounds good.' But the communication from both sides has been great. They let me know exactly where they're at, what they're trying to do. We let them know where we're at, what we're trying to do. So, it hasn't been hard, it's been easy. Reggie sat down and talked to me. It's not like some divide or anything. We're a family, so we're just trying to figure all of that out. We'll let the draft happen. Reggie said he wanted to do it after the draft. They've been talking a little bit to build it, but I'll let them handle that and hopefully



Oakland Raiders Transcript

it just gets done before training camp. Because, once football, training camp starts, I won't even answer my phone if it has to do with that."

Q: Does your head spin a bit when you think about the numbers that they are talking about with your contract?

Carr: "(*laughter*) Yeah, absolutely. It makes me just super grateful. I know that that's going to help a lot of people. I get overwhelmed by it because I know how many people that will help. Not only with my family, my wife's family, around this country. Even in Haiti, I have a heart for those people in Haiti who I love dearly and that's the cool thing to me is that we'll be in a cool position to where we can help a lot of people."

Q: Can you talk about the music awards show that you went to?

Carr: "We went to country music, those awards [Academy of Country Music Awards]. They invited us out, asked me to present and I'm glad I didn't screw it up. That is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. As you go to talk and you can't hear yourself talk, you can't hear it over the speakers, it just sounds like you're talking to nothing. So, it was really difficult, but it was fun. We got to hang out and meet a whole bunch of country music singers and stars and my wife got to walk the red carpet and do that whole thing. She deserves it, she's the most gorgeous woman in the world. So, I was happy she got to do that."

Q: Are you a big country music fan?

Carr: "I am because of her. She listens to it all the time. My mom listened to it all the time, so I knew everything. Except when the Backstreet Boys came on, I didn't dance or nod my head to that. (*laughter*) Maybe for someone else, that's not for me."

Q: What excites you about the addition of Jared Cook?

Carr: "Yeah, his versatility. He can block, which is kind of underrated. But, he's also very fast. To have that speed at tight end, to pair him in groupings with Lee [Smith], to pair him in groupings with Clive [Walford], to pair him in groupings with all of our backs and fullback, it's just going to create mismatches. It's going to create matchup nightmares for defenses and that's an exciting thing. When you add a guy like that, people look at your roster, 'Do you need it?' Those kinds of things but it's just another good player that wanted to come play with us. Now we go 12-personnel, Clive and Jared, our two receivers and our running back and our fullback out there on the field, those aren't easy matchups for people to cover."

Q: What was it like seeing John Pagano in the building after facing his defense in the Chargers?

Carr: "Oh yeah, honestly the first time he walked by I was doing my rehab and I looked up and I was like, 'There's no way he's in our building. There's no way that's him.' And I looked again and he said, 'Derek.' I said, 'Coach?' He said, 'Yeah.' He was wearing a black sweater and I was like, 'Okay, you got the right colors on I see.' (*laughter*) I said, 'Are you spying on us?' He said, 'No, I think we're just trying to figure out a way that I could be here.' From then on we've just had good talks about certain plays, bringing up a blitz that he ran or things like that and he would tell me, 'If only my guy would have did this.' You know, we're going at each other. But to have a mind where his whole mind was to watch me on film and think how do I stop him, how do I defeat him, how do I embarrass him and now to go to him and say, 'What do you have on me? What are your notes? Let me work on those things,' is something that not a lot of people get. That's one of those things that doesn't come around a lot. For him to come and be a part of that was just, yeah, I want everything to do with that because he can tell me everything, 'I didn't think he did this well or this, so we tried to do this and scheme it this way.' It just helps our offensive staff too. Like, 'Hey, what did you see with our personnel and this and this formation?' I mean it goes on and on. So, I said all of that to say, I love it. It's a really good thing for our team because when you play his defense, you know one thing that they're going to be sound, he's going to have a great package, pressure package, especially on third down. He's going to have a great coverage scheme and rush lanes for how you scramble."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: You've taken your teams at Fresno State into Las Vegas and you've been there for the County Music Awards. What do you think of Las Vegas as a football city now that an NFL team is coming there?

Carr: "It's all about the Bulldogs. Yeah, sorry I can't talk about the other team. *(laughter)* Sorry, Paul [Gutierrez]. We have to get you a new hat. I can't root for UNLV when we get there, so please don't be offended. I love you guys, but it's still Fresno State all of the way. *(laughter)* But no, I think it's going to be another show, you know? And I think that hopefully it'll turn into the hottest one."

C Rodney Hudson

Q: What has today been like so far?

Hudson: "Everybody is excited right now, obviously. Good to be back. Good to see the guys. Just coming in and working hard. Work hard, focus on one day at a time and try to come together as a team. We're going to have new guys already and with the draft and stuff. Just starting that process of building as a team and coming together."

Q: What are your thoughts on playing in Oakland for at least a season knowing the team is moving to Las Vegas?

Hudson: "We're just trying to focus on right now. Like you said, we'll be playing Oakland this year. We're just trying to focus on what we can do every day to get better and worry about the rest whenever that time comes."

Q: Have you had any interactions with fans who've said anything about the relocation? Have you gotten any feedback on that kind of stuff?

Hudson: "Very little. Very little. If I go to the store or something. Like I said, just trying to focus on what's now and getting better every day."

Q: What has the feedback been?

Hudson: "I guess I'm not really getting any feedback. I get the question of how do I feel about it or things of that nature. Nothing more than that."

Q: What are your thoughts of possibly adding Marshawn Lynch to the team?

Hudson: "Great player. Ran for a lot of yards and a lot of touchdowns in the league. Great player, but I guess it's up to other people to figure out if he's coming or not."

Q: How was the offseason? Any crazy stunts like Kelechi Osemele?

Hudson: "It was good. It was good. It was good to see family. A lot of guys are from so far away. It's sometimes good to get home and see family a little. It was good to recharge also, but I don't have any crazy stores like that."

Q: What were you thinking when you saw what Osemele was doing during his offseason on social media?

Hudson: "I don't know. I don't even think it's a surprise to me, actually, that he did that. He's a crazy dude."

Q: What were your thoughts when you were following the Raiders to Vegas and when they got the vote?

Hudson: "I don't know. I think as players we're so far removed from that side almost. We only hear what we read and what not, and I'm not too big into reading that stuff. I don't know. We just take it as it comes and focus on what we can do today."

Q: What were your personal thoughts when you found out they were relocating?

Hudson: "I really don't know. Like I said, something different. Obviously, I've never been on a team that moved or what not. Personally, I try not to dig too much into stuff that I can't control."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Jack Del Rio said that a lot of guys on the team now won't be when it's time to move to Las Vegas. The NFL is kind of year-to-year, right?

Hudson: "There's a lot of turnover every year. I would imagine, I don't know, probably 20, 30 percent. You're going to have new guys. Like I said for a number of reasons, I don't look too far ahead. It's a lot of things going into preparing for one day or preparing for one game. A week of game plan takes a lot of energy. I think it's too much energy to be worried about outside stuff."

Q: How do you feel about how far the Raiders have come in a short period of time since you joined the team?

Hudson: "We came a long way. It's taken a lot of guys to come together. Focus on a common goal and believe in each other and just buy in. Like you said, we made a lot of progress. We feel like we still have a lot of work to do. Every year is different. No year is the same. Like you said earlier, new guys on every team, new coaches. So this team just has to come together and build our identity for the season."

Q: Are you guys still upset about the way last season ended?

Hudson: "I think every team that doesn't win a Super Bowl has that taste. We made a step further last year. I think for the guys that were here, we can build off that valuable experience to play in playoffs is a lot different. I think we can take that taste and kind of fuel on being in that environment and being hungry to get back."

Q: Do you find it remarkable that the Raiders got Derek Carr and Khalil Mack in the same draft?

Hudson: "Yeah, that was a very good draft. Those guys are so important to our team and play really well. Prepare well and they're great examples for younger guys. When your better players are the hardest workers, it makes the environment a whole lot better."

Q: Have you seen the energy progress each offseason that you've been here? Was today any different from when you first got here?

Hudson: "I think the first day always brings that excitement. You spend a few months away. Not around a bunch of the guys. You see a few of them throughout the offseason. I think it's that excitement of being back and meeting the new players. Everybody is excited. Ready to get to work and looking forward to it."

Q: Is there unfinished business with the way last year ended?

Hudson: "We wanted to obviously play better in the playoffs, but we didn't get that done. We're excited to get back and build."

Q: Are you curious to see how the offense will change with Todd Downing as the offensive coordinator?

Hudson: "I don't know if it will or not. We haven't really dug into it in the first day. Whatever it is I'm very confident that our guys will hop right in and work together and lean on each other to learn what we're doing and execute it."

Q: What does it mean adding Jared Cook and Cordarrelle Patterson?

Hudson: "Those guys are very good players. Lot of speed with those two guys. Looking forward to playing with those guys. They're going to help us out a lot."

Q: What is Marshall Newhouse going to bring to the offensive line?

Hudson: "He's a smart guy. Very smart. I spoke with him today a little bit, and I think I met him a little while back. Smart guy, big powerful guy. Veteran guy who's been around and knows the game well."

Q: How was it to see Menelik Watson leave?

Hudson: "Yeah, it's always tough man. That's the tough part about this game and this business. You gain friends and every year it seems like some of your better friends are leaving and going other places and what not."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What's the next step for DeAndré Washington and Jalen Richard?

Hudson: "Just to keep learning, keep growing. You can never stop learning this game. You're always picking up new stuff. Just to keep learning, keep growing. Both of those guys work really hard, so that's not an issue for those two guys. Just to keep learning. Building on what they did and continue to gain that confidence and take it to the next level."

Q: Can those guys handle the load with losing Latavius Murray?

Hudson: "Those guys can play. Latavius was out a few games last year and those guys stepped up, played well. They pick up stuff really well. Smart kids. They learn."

Q: What's your offseason routine?

Hudson: "Workout. Workout. Try to see family some, too. Like you said, everybody is a little different, but I think one common denominator is going to see family a little bit while working out, too."

Q: What's it been like to see Derek Carr's rehab process?

Hudson: "Good to see, man. Good to see. Derek's in great spirits. He's a very positive guy all the time, and it's good to see him back around, moving around well."

Q: Were you surprised that you picked up a lot of offensive players in free agency?

Hudson: "I don't think you can ever be surprised in this game. No, I'm not surprised. Teams are always trying to get better. No matter how good you are or how well you did, you always want to get better. So, I'm not surprised."

Q: Can you talk about the Raider brand?

Hudson: "We have a great fan base. I think our fans are going to support us. This is a great fan base. Our fans come out and support loud for us on Sundays. We have a great fan base."

DE Khalil Mack

Q: How has winning Defensive Player of the Year and getting a taste of the playoffs heightened your workouts coming into the season?

Mack: "That was the motivation I needed this offseason. Like you said, it only heightened everything from preparation to the workout. Knowing everything you can get better at, even though you did have that success; it made me more hungry."

Q: Last year on this day, you told us you took only one day off before you got back in the gym. How about this year? Any days off?

Mack: "I squeezed in two this year. My mom made me. It was a cool experience, but back to work and focused and ready for this offseason."

Q: I know you're focused on a win, but to get that individual award, what did that mean to you?

Mack: "For sure, it meant a lot to me and my family. It was a testament to hard work. Not only that, but coaches, my teammates, everybody took part in that. It wasn't just me. It was a big deal and I'm grateful."

Q: When you go back and look at tape from last year, where do you think you've improved?

Mack: "That's the thing, it was all a team effort. When you talk about improvement and those things, it's just a feel for the game throughout the year and improving on things defensively. Even then, it's exciting because you look at what we did but we can be so much better. It's not just about me. That's the approach I always take. You say Defensive Player of the Year, but it's all those guys around me making it happen, so we can make those plays that we made throughout the year."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Do you think it's going to be weird playing in Oakland knowing you're going to Vegas eventually?

Mack: "It just feels weird right now, but I feel once we get in that stadium and get around the fans and them knowing that the players don't have control over those things... It comes down to us coming to work and doing our job and doing whatever it takes to win."

Q: Being one of the leaders of the team, what will you do to keep the outside noise down?

Mack: "That's the easy part. It's just outside noise. That's the stuff you deal with throughout the year, all year. You deal with different teams, different players saying different things about your team. It's ultimate focus for us to lock in on what we have to do right now. It's just day by day, going to work with each other and doing what it takes to win ball games. That's our only focus."

Q: Derek posted a passionate tweet the day that the relocation was announced. What did you think? Did you give it much concern or did you assume it was coming? What do you think now?

Mack: "My thoughts were the same as Derek's. I just retweeted his. It was easy for me, having him say those words. His words hit spot on for me so I used his tweet. I'm going to use those again today."

Q: Does it make it easier that you've got that strong brand behind you?

Mack: "I don't know what would make it easier or harder, but knowing that we have the fans that we do have, the Raider Nation, that should be self-explanatory. We have fans everywhere. I see it everywhere I go. They show up and they show up big."

Q: Derek was talking about his recovery and that eventually he's going to get hit for the first time since his injury. One of the things he mentioned was the pool... What exactly happened?

Mack: "Oh man. I can't really speak on that. I don't want to get fired. I told Derek before he walked out of the room like, 'Man you really told them that?' but no we were just playing around a little bit. Derek is a physical guy for his size and stature and being a quarterback. We got some recovery time in and made sure his ankle was strong."

Q: Did he really shut you out?

Mack: "When?"

Q: He said he shut you out.

Mack: "Oh, come on, really? You think Derek could shut me out? No, man."

Q: He said he could beat you in a race, too.

Mack: "When did he say that?"

Q: Just now.

Mack: "Could y'all tell Derek to stop lying?"

Q: Preseason or regular season, have you ever had a chance to make a hit on Marshawn Lynch? And what are your thoughts about him coming here?

Mack: "Marshawn is one of the best running backs I've ever played against in my short career so far. You talk about a player, a hell of a player, it would be a great, great, great treat to have him on this side, on the dark side. We're still focusing on the now. We can't really control what's going to happen with that but we're looking forward to it if it happens. Right now we're enjoying the grind."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: How physical is he as a running back?

Mack: "I think he's the most physical guy I've played against. I remember playing against him, I believe, my second season. They ran a power right at me. I remember that play. You're talking about one of the most physical guys I've played against, running back-wise."

Q: Do you think he'll remember hitting you or you hitting him?

Mack: "When you're playing the game, it's flying. I don't know what you remember at the end of the day, just remembering the type of player he is. It was a good challenge for us."

Q: What would it mean for this defense if you had Mario Edwards Jr. healthy for the entire year?

Mack: "That's all we talk about, me and him. Him being healthy and doing what he can do. He's a special player and we know he can do some special things. But it starts with what you said, him being healthy, taking care of your body. Right now, grinding, keeping your head down and not talking. That's what the plan is."

Q: When you were drafted here, as you look back on it, do you find it incredible that all the teams picked after you and it got all the way back around for Derek Carr?

Mack: "He's still mad at me for that. I don't know why. Can y'all tell him to stop being mad at me for that? I didn't do it. Derek still has that chip on his shoulder. It's never going to leave. Every time I see him, I catch him staring at me in the building and I have to look over my shoulder. He's still angry about that. We talk about it all the time actually, for some reason, even though it's been almost three years. He's still mad. I'm mad, too, but he doesn't know. I went five, I wanted to go one! Why couldn't I go one?"

Q: Isn't it amazing that with the quality of play he's at, how fortunate are you guys?

Mack: "I tell him all the time, I say I'm blessed to have him. Knowing the type of player he is, but the type of man that he is. I'm blessed to have him not only in the locker room but in my life. He's a hell of a person and a hell of a player and I'm glad to have him."

Q: You could go a step further and get Gabe Jackson as a third-round pick. Is there a bond in that draft class that helped turn this thing around?

Mack: "We talk about that, I feel like I've said it a few times. We sat in a room during the rookie activities that we had to do and it was one of those things where we sat in the room and Derek was the one that looked at all of us and said we had to change the culture. I retweeted him again on that one. It was one of those things that you felt it. You felt it could change. It started with little things and it turned into bigger things now."

Q: Reggie has talked about wanting to extend all three of you. Derek's contract comes up first, but with you they can use your option. How do you approach this offseason with contracts and trying to stay focused?

Mack: "That's the whole point, to stay focused. Not even really worry about that. That stuff will take care of itself. You have agents and those types of people to worry about for you. That's the whole point with us for sure. You can talk about it here and there, the focus really comes down to winning ball games and grinding with your teammates and brothers and making this experience worth a lifetime. You have to approach this season like it's your last."

Q: Is that a fine line to keep everybody happy but also take care of people financially?

Mack: "Like I said, you've got to let all of them do that. You've got to let the big man upstairs do his job, you've got to let your agents do their jobs, and everything will fall in place."

Q: Jumping back to the relocation... When you're out talking with people in the community, do you find that people are talking about the business side? What are people saying to you?

Mack: "It comes up all the time but it's always the thing like, 'just win now' and that's what it comes down to for us. That's all we want to do. You don't know what's going to happen down the line. You don't know. This team that we have now, we want to focus on winning now."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: You're wearing your Buffalo shirt. As you look back on your pre-draft process, what stands out the most?

Mack: "Just the fact of coming from a small school, it was just blowing up the whole time. It was one of those things like, 'He comes from a small school, can he really play in the big league?' So that's still what I'm trying to prove today."

Q: Does coming from a small school the reason why you've played the way you've played?

Mack: "You could say that has an effect on it because I sensed that it would take me dominating at that level to get noticed. I guess it made me go a little harder. I'm glad it did."

Q: What you've done in the league so far and Brandon Oliver has done, do you think you guys at Buffalo have shown what small school prospects are capable of?

Mack: "Most definitely but it ultimately comes down to the fact that it's not just a small school thing. It comes down to the player and the hunger that the player has. That's one of the hardest things to get a scout on. Does this player work when nobody is watching? Those types of things. Nobody can measure those things because nobody can see what you're doing behind closed doors."

Q: How do you approach the draft as a player? A lot of offensive talent has come through the doors. Do you like the idea of getting some young guys? Are you going to closely monitor it this month?

Mack: "It's not in my hands. I don't know if I can keep up with it. I went upstairs once and saw all of the players that they had lined up and all the film that they had to watch and I got tired looking at it. I don't know if I can monitor it as well as they do but I'll try for you."

Q: Who'd they have for number one, you saw it?

Mack: "*(laughing)* I don't remember."