



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn

Q: When it gets to this point late in the year, do you have to at all monitor the workload of your rookies?

Coach Lynn: "No, we expect our rookies to step up and play. Most of them haven't played a lot of snaps at this time of the year and this is when some of the veteran players get nicked up and you expect the rookies to go in and pick up the slack. I understand the workload. Those kids, after the Bowl games, start training for combines and All-Star games and then next thing you know they're in the NFL Draft, training camp, offseason program. It just never stops and I do acknowledge the grind of the rookies in their first year, but they have to embrace it."

Q: The concept of a 'rookie wall', is that something you've experienced in your years of coaching or are there signs you look for?

Coach Lynn: "No, it's true. Yes sir, that's just part of the grind and you don't try to pretend like it doesn't happen or that it doesn't exist. You acknowledge it, you talk about it and you help those guys get through it. Every year about Week 9, I pull the rookies aside and have just a rookie meeting and that's what we talk about, because I know they played more football than they've played in their life at that point, and yes some of them do hit the wall and they hit it pretty hard."

Q: Seven turnovers last week against Minnesota, how do you go about trying to correct that and how do you explain what happened?

Coach Lynn: "You can't explain that. I mean, at least I can't. You can say a lack of concentration, lack of focus, that just hadn't been there. Five contact fumbles, things like that, we've been one of the better teams in the league in taking care of the football as far as contact fumbles. But this year, turnovers have come in all shapes and forms for us and to me it's been the downfall of our season so far, is not taking care of the football and not taking it away as well. But that was last week and I don't expect to see a repeat performance this week, so we've moved on."

Q: How do you account for a veteran quarterback such as Phillip Rivers having 18 interceptions?

Coach Lynn: "Yeah, we have two games left and that's more interceptions than he's had since I've been here I believe, but he would like to have some of those throws back for sure. But interceptions are part of the game and sometimes interceptions are not all on the quarterback. Receivers have stepped down, balls have been tipped and so we win as a team and lose as a team, but we definitely have some careless mistakes and we acknowledge that."

Q: The Raiders have had some personnel changes on defense since you last saw them. Do they look different to you at all on film, especially last week when they made some changes at linebacker and secondary?

Coach Lynn: "The team plays hard. The scheme is not going to change because of a couple of players, and the scheme is what it is. It's an aggressive, attacking scheme and they'll pressure when they feel the need to and they'll play coverage, but I don't see a big difference in the scheme and what they're doing."

Q: What do you think about the season Austin Ekeler has had for you this year?

Coach Lynn: "It's not surprising to me because he's been growing, developing and getting better every single year and he's a young man that doesn't take anything for granted. He came into this league as



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tryout free agent and I think he's been an inspiration and a positive example for a lot of people of what you can do if you believe and put the time and effort into something. I can't say enough good things about him."

Q: Did you know that Ekeler had the kind of receiving ability that he has proven that he has when he was coming into the league?

Coach Lynn: "No, I didn't know a lot about him at all coming into the league. Like I said, he was invited to rookie mini-camp as a tryout. He wasn't even a college free agent on the board. Did not study him in college. He was an invite and when he got here, first thing he did was he asked how he could make the football team and I sent him to the special teams coordinator's office, and he stood out on special teams. And when a guy starts standing out on special teams, I believe they'll make plays on offense or defense. So, started giving him some snaps and every time he was game we just noticed he moved the sticks, whether it was receiving or rushing, he moved the sticks and he's still doing it."

Q: As a former running back, what are your impressions of Josh Jacobs?

Coach Lynn: "Very impressed with Josh. I think he's one of the best rookies in the league right now and I saw this at Alabama. He had a good career at Alabama and the way [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden is using him in the backfield, this guy's vision, power, quickness, he can receive. He's a complete back and I think he's having a heck of a season."