



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **First-round Press Conference following the selections of DE Clelin Ferrell, RB Josh Jacobs and S Johnathan Abram**

**General Manager Mike Mayock Opening Statement:** "Well, I'll tell you what. We're excited. It was fun. I thought we did a great job being patient. At the end of the day, I think anybody who has been here for the last four months I've been around, we've talked about foundational players. [Raiders Head Coach] Jon [Gruden] talked about that literally from the first day I got here. We define foundation as talent and character, passion for the game, but talent and character. That drove this draft. I know sometimes you want sexy and you want to move around and up and down and back and trades and all the rest. But at the end of the day, we got the guys we wanted. I'm proud of the way we hung in there, the work we did to get here today. The cooperation between me and my staff, Jon and his staff was just outstanding. The guys we have, wait until you meet them. You're going to love these kids. They all love the game. We got on the phone, Jon gets on the phone – Jon loves being on the phone with them – I just thanked them and told them they have one obligation as being a first round pick of this team and that's leadership. I think that's what all three are going to bring."

**Head Coach Jon Gruden Opening Statement:** "I just have to echo that. I think the collaboration between the scouts, [General Manager] Mike [Mayock] and his group and the coaches was as good as I've been around. We'll see what happens but we like our three draft choices. We have an early pick tomorrow. I'm really happy with the first two weeks of our offseason program. Getting to know Antonio Brown, Tyrell Williams, I'm really excited about Ryan Grant, Trent Brown, our offensive line. Some of our second-year players have come back and worked hard. Guys like [Maurice] Hurst, PJ Hall. So to add three more men to the group that we have already assembled is exciting and brings us to go again tomorrow."

**Q: You talk about foundational players in terms of talent and character, but it looks like the three picks you made were versatile players in terms of bringing different things to what they do. How important is that for you?**

**Mayock:** "It's very important. In the division we play in and the offenses we play in and in some cases, so guys like [Clelin] Ferrell can play either side line of scrimmage and kick inside. That was important for [defensive coordinator] Paul Guenther. With Josh Jacobs, the explosion and quickness he brings, remember, if you're going to play for Jon Gruden as a running back you need to pass protect and you have to catch the football. This is a three-down back. He's explosive, he's tough. We've watched him pass protect. He's got really good natural hands. He brings versatility on the offensive side. Johnathan Abram, we watched him, he was supposed to play against us at the Senior Bowl and he couldn't because he was hurt. But he can play down in the slot, he can play back in the post with Lamaricus Joyner we added in free agency. We're excited to have some flexibility on the back end with Karl Joseph also."

**Q: You talked about being patient, was there ever a point that you guys considered making a move?**

**Mayock:** "You get some phone calls and you have to make some considerations. You make phone calls. At the end of the day, I didn't think there was anything with enough value for us to change our plans."



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**Q: Ferrell told us he was surprised he was picked as high as No. 4, why do both of you think he was worth that first pick?**

**Mayock:** "Look, it all goes back to there were flashier players, players that other people may have had higher on their boards, teams may have had higher on their boards. On our board, it was he and [Nick] Bosa at that position, right next to each other at that position, so we pretty much knew he'd probably be there. Everybody else had all the big names up there, but Jon and I went in this morning and kind of double checked everything, and he was our guy, and again, he checked all the boxes. He is going to be a three-down player, he is 267 pounds, he's a captain. When you talk to the guys at Clemson, they all talk about this kid being the cornerstone of that defense. Everything he does reminds me of what we want in the Raiders."

**Q: Did you tell Josh Jacobs you would take him with one of your three picks at the NFL Combine?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I told everybody that. *(laughter)* No disrespect, but I love the performance this young man had when he got the opportunity to play. I mean, a couple years ago I believe he won the starting job at Alabama, he got hurt in training camp and he lost out on the season, and credit Damien Harris for playing great. Then this past season Damien Harris obviously earned a starting role because of his performance the year before, and Josh Jacobs quietly waited for his turn, and when they put him in the game it was pretty obvious to me and Mike and everybody else I talked to. He's physical, he's dynamic, he's a great story indeed. Where this kid has come from, there is something inside of him that I didn't go through as a young man and I think he's going to be a centerpiece at some point. I'm not going to put any pressure on him, he's got a lot to learn. We do have a good offensive line, we do have an experienced quarterback in our system now, and we got a couple receivers that if you want to double them then perhaps this running back could do some damage, so we are excited about this addition to our team."

**Q: Can Jacobs be a feature back and carry a heavier workload than he did in college?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Don't know that. I mean my expectation is for him, if you are listening Josh, I encourage you to get some rest because we are going to run you a lot and we are going to give you a great opportunity."

**Mayock:** "I would tell you one other story about Jacobs. Right after I took the job I went to the National Championship game because it was right over at the 49ers stadium, and it was obviously Clemson and Alabama, and I went down on the field before the game and was doing all the body types and notes you take. Obviously, Clemson won the game but the guy from Alabama that blew me away was Jacobs and I came back and I watched the film the next day. I cut up six plays out of the film, walked into his (Coach Gruden's) office and said, 'Jon, this could be one of our picks right here,' and I showed him six plays and he was like 'Oh (expletive)!', so that's how long he has been on our radar and that's the impression he made on me that night."

**Q: There were rumors that you might draft a quarterback. How much did you consider those quarterbacks and should we take the results of round one as ultimate confirmation that Derek Carr is your quarterback going into the future?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We did our job. Our job is to evaluate the players that are available in the Draft and we flew to Dallas and worked out [Kyler] Murray, and we flew to Columbus and worked out [Dwayne] Haskins. You have to do your research on every player, certainly at that position, but I'll let Mike speak after this on this matter. We like our quarterback, we've been perfectly clear with everybody that asked us. I'm not going to address all the rumors. I



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was part of the rumor cycle for nine years, that's TV and internet chatter, but I'm telling you Derek Carr is our quarterback and I said that, I think this is the fourth or fifth time, and if they don't believe me then there is nothing I can do about that. But we tried to add some pieces to help Derek at receiver, on the offensive line, with Josh Jacobs. I think the better we play defense, the better Derek Carr will be. We did study the two quarterbacks and all the other quarterbacks in this draft intensely for good reason."

**Q: With the reports out there with Marshawn Lynch leading towards retirement, did that lead a lot to choosing Jacobs? And Jon, does he remind you a lot of Charlie Garner?**

**Mayock:** "Regarding Marshawn, obviously a great veteran back that means a lot to this area. From our perspective we've got to evaluate the best college football players in the country and decide if they can fit in our organization and how, and we were so impressed with Jacobs, we felt like regardless of who was on our team or not on our team we had to draft that young man."

**Coach Gruden:** "Charlie is not quite the size of Jacobs. I think Josh is more 215, 220. Charlie, as you know, he was a bit smaller to say the least. Violent running style, three-down back, tough but Jacobs will form his own identity here soon."

**Q: Mike, what was the experience like in your first draft?**

**Mayock:** "I'm not going to lie, I was a little nervous. What was really cool was I had a bunch of phone calls this morning from a lot of GM's around the league who said, 'Enjoy tonight, your first night as a GM, with the first round as a GM is a special night.' One of the guys said, 'It's the closest you can get to playing again,' and he was kind of right. I had more nerves and butterflies than I've had in years and that's why I got back in it."

**Coach Gruden:** "Don't let him kid you. He was fired up in there. *(laughter)* He did great. I think I said a couple weeks ago, he's energized the building. Mayock has energized me and our franchise will benefit from not only tonight, but the next two days and in the future. Great job, Mike."

**Q: Mike, did all your preparation, the drills you ran, and the simulations prepare you for tonight?**

**Mayock:** "Part of me kind of goes every team in the league does mock drafts, so all the stuff about us preparing this week, is every team in the league does mock drafts to kind of stress the room. I thought what we did was a really nice job. We kind of empowered a couple of our scouts up there to put together scenarios both with volume of phone calls, which stress our phone system and me, and would have to delegate from me to other people with too many phone calls. That happened a couple times tonight where we had two or three calls at the same time and it worked smoothly. So all that worked beautifully. It stressed us in how we were going to make picks. It showed Jon and I where we were different as far as how we viewed whether to be patient, whether to not be patient, whether to move up and back. It kind of gave a glimpse into the future for us. I thought the mock drafts we did were really realistic and helped tonight to answer your question."

**Q: The common theme seemed to be with the picks tonight when they were speaking, they said a lot of things like we didn't even talk football, I just gave them my story and I talked about that. Why that approach with these players when you met with them privately? Why was that the focus?**

**Mayock:** "From my perspective, you can watch all the tape and you can get into the football, which we did. We put them all up on the board and we did all the football things and nobody is going to do more football things than Jon



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and I. But the bottom line is, you want to figure the kid out. What makes the kid tick? And that goes back to the whole foundation thing. How much do you love football? What's your family like? What kind of leader are you? You know, those things are really important to us and that's why Ferrell and Jacobs and Abram are Raiders tonight. We found out about the kid and what made them tick."

**Coach Gruden:** "We are building our football team whether we want to admit or people like it or not. We are building our team and we need building blocks. We have some in place and we needed these three first rounders to come in here and inherit that responsibility. This is a tough job. This franchise is moving to Las Vegas. It's very, very challenging. You have to have a lot of maturity. We wanted guys that weren't only great football players in talents but guys that could handle the circumstances of being front line players, leaders, and also having a lot of maturity to handle the move of the franchise. They are going to have to move. Not only to California, you're going to have to move to Las Vegas and you're going to have to adapt. It's a tough league to play in to start with, so we did a lot of work on their character and Mayock and I truly believe that that is the winning edge in all the great players we have been around."

**Q: Clelin lost his father when his was 13. Jacobs was homeless for a period of his life. When you draft players and invest in them as people who have been through that sort of adversity young in their lives, what does that do for you as an evaluator in terms of getting a sense of a guy and his ability to handle the rigors of the NFL?**

**Mayock:** "I think one of the things you want to know from every guy you interview no matter where they come from, what their background, North, South, East, West. No matter where they come from, you want to know how they handle adversity. We sat in the room with Ferrell at the combine, he's from I think it was nine kids, military family, father passed away. This kid went through so much and all he was, was this ball of positive energy and kind of the energizer bunny for this national championship defense at Clemson and every guy we talked to at Clemson talked about 'Cle'. He's the guy, he's the guy with the maturity. So he had been through a lot of. He dealt with adversity. Playing in a national championship game to him was nothing. He's going to come out here and to him it's not going to be a big deal. He's been through worse, he's going to understand how to handle this, how to handle Vegas. And for the record we asked 112 kids if they'd be ok on the Las Vegas strip or was it going to be a problem. All 112 said no coach, we'll be fine. We didn't find one guy that admitted that Vegas would be an issue. So they all lied to us. *(laughter)* Anyway, I hope that answers your question. It's important to us to know how they deal with adversity."

**Q: Coach Gruden and Mike [Mayock], obviously Jonathan Abram has a lot of upside. But with Travis Kelce in the AFC West and now Noah Fant, what about his game is such that he'll be able to defend guys who have torn up the AFC West for quite some time now?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, first of all, tackling is hard to practice these days. It's hard to find guys that are natural tacklers. Abram belongs in 1978, 1979, or 1980. I'm going to try and get him to wear number 32 or 43. He's like one of our old school safeties. He is a physical, sideline-to-sideline tackling machine in college and I hope it continues here. He has a passion to find the guy with the ball and bring him down. He's got versatility - the man runs 4.4. I met him at the Senior Bowl and he was on the other team. He was injured, but he stayed there for three or four days and I couldn't get rid of the kid. He loves football, he's a coach on the field, and he has a magnetic personality. He does have length and size to potentially match up with some of the great 'jokers' as I call them that detach tight ends and cause problems. He's going to have his hands full and he's going to be in a competitive situation. We have Lamarcus Joyner and we've added [Vontaze] Burfict and [Brandon] Marshall at the linebacker position. We feel like we've strengthened the inside middle part of our defense, which is big."



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**Q: Mike, since you had done work on this draft class before you took this job, were these three guys that you had circled as guys you really liked and brought them into the room because you have this job?**

**Mayock:** "Yeah, and I mentioned the National Championship game and how Josh Jacobs jumped off that night. Josh Jacobs was a guy I'd already seen a lot of tape on and really liked, even though he was an under-publicized guy. Johnathan Abram is a guy what I call with the scouts, 'a-ha' moments. You watch hours and hours of tapes, and you kind of click back and forth. There's good players, and there's 'okay' players, and there's bad players. But every once in a while, you go, 'Oh my gosh, wow.' That's an aha moment, okay? You see something that just jumps off the tape, and that's one of the things I texted Jon [Gruden] before I took the job. I gave him the definition of a Raider and one of the definitions for me of a Raider was a guy who jumps off the tape, and all three of these guys jump off the tape for different reasons."

**Q: This is for Mike [Mayock], you went viral last week sending the scouts home, were you afraid of of leaks and how much did those come into play tonight?**

**Mayock:** "I'm kind of blown away by the whole story to be honest with you. I made the decision three weeks ago to do it and I didn't tell anybody. It was my decision and when the job got done and the work was over, I inherited a group of scouts. Some of them may be with us and some of them may not be with us, by their own choice or not. At the end of the end of the day when the job was over, I brought them together as a group and respectfully and professionally told them that the job was done. I thanked them and told them we'll be talking, and forty minutes later, we have a leak. That just kind of reinforced the decision."

**Q: For Mike and Coach Gruden, what were the players saying about the new opportunity with the new venture they're going to take moving to Las Vegas?**

**Mayock:** "I think first you have to pay respect to the city of Oakland and the history and tradition here. Jon and I walk through the halls around here and we talk about the Howie Longs, the Mike Hayne's, the Stabler's and the Biletnikoff's. Both of us are historians and we get chill bumps. So I think the first thing you have to do is respect what we have here and I think our players do, and I know Jon and I do. The flip side of that is that the you can't let the players look ahead too far - we have a job to do this year. We got a lot of work to do this year. We want them focused on this year and we want to finish up the right way in Oakland this year. So as exciting as the opportunity in Las Vegas is, me speaking here, I'm trying to keep everybody focused on what we have to do this year."

**Coach Gruden:** "I agree with Mike. I think we have a challenging schedule this year. I think the league did a good job challenging us with our schedule - who we play and when we play. *(laughter)* I don't even know where we're playing our preseason games right now, honestly."

**Mayock:** "I think we're six or seven weeks on the road."

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, so we have quite of a challenging schedule. I said when I got here that this city means a lot to me. So last year of Oakland Raiders football, and I'm going to focus on that. I'm really excited about the future of this franchise, but we've got to build this team. We've made some real positive steps in that direction. We've got to prove that to ourselves and the fans and everyone else second. There is an exciting day, I think, for this franchise waiting for us in Las Vegas, but at the same time we have to pay respect to our final year here in Oakland. That is something we will do."



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### **Raiders First-Round Draft Pick DE Clelin Ferrell Conference Call**

**Q: Were you at all surprised that you went as high as No. 4 overall?**

**Ferrell:** "I would be lying to you if I said I wasn't surprised. I know that this is a really long process for me. I don't pay attention to the mock drafts, those things are stupid. Through talks with my agent, we really didn't know what to expect going in. Me personally, I always felt like I was going to be a Raider because I had such a good relationship and good meetings with the Raiders. It was such a great process. Everything was so easy with [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden and [General Manager] Mike [Mayock] and it was a great atmosphere. I had a good feeling about the Raiders, but I definitely wasn't expecting it at all."

**Q: The Raiders have been looking for a replacement for Khalil Mack since they got rid of him, do you relish the pressure that comes with being the guy replacing him?**

**Ferrell:** "It's not even just about replacing a great player like [Khalil] Mack, it's about all the legends that have played there. There's such a great tradition to play for the Raiders. You all don't even know, I'm an NFL historian type with the Howie Long's and Ted Hendrick's. I can't remember the really crazy guy who was known for being a dirty player, but it's such a great history of great players for the Raiders. It's such a blessing to have this opportunity to be a part and start a legacy like I did at Clemson. I'm just so excited and I can't wait for my opportunity. I'm so excited."

**Q: Throughout the league, the buzz has been how great of a guy you are and that's also really big on Mike Mayock's radar. How much of that locker room mentality of your character do you think played into them selecting you as well?**

**Ferrell:** "I feel it mostly just played into it because I just try to be me. I don't try and force my leadership on somebody or try to act like I'm that guy that's being that leader in the locker room. It's mostly just my natural personality. It really kind of just rolls off me and it can be infectious to others. Aside from that fact, a lot of people talk about the great players but I feel like it's a great combo or a mix of both. The way that I play the game, you can tell that I have a lot of passion for it and I feel like that's a good mix; the person and the player. That kind of took me over the edge and helped me achieve the success that I had. I can't wait man."

**Q: What was your initial reaction when they called you and you knew you were going to be an Oakland Raider?**

**Ferrell:** "Man, I cried like a baby, you should have heard me on the phone. I knew he [Raiders defensive line Coach Brentson Buckner] couldn't understand what I was saying. I was crying like a baby, but just a lot of emotions because it took so much to get to this moment. It surprised a lot of people, it surprised me, but I knew that the Lord had destined me for greatness. Just by the grace of his mercy it happened to be in a spot like this. It's such a great honor to be taken at this moment and I'm so excited to get started. I can't wait to be a part of this franchise."

**Q: When we asked you back in January before the National Championship game who you model your game after, you said Aldon Smith. Obviously, people in this area are very familiar with him. What exactly do you take from his on-the-field presence?**

**Ferrell:** "Just his versatility, the way he directed the passer and played the run. Just the tenacity that he played with. He played with so much passion, that's the thing I loved about him. He had so many different moves, set up his move, good with power and speed. My versatility is something I took from him and the level of passion he played the game at is something I loved about him."

**Q: This Raiders defense was pretty bad last season. How confident are you that you can be a part of the turnaround?**

**Ferrell:** "I'm very confident that I can have a positive effect on the defense. It's not just about me, it's about me doing my job and holding others accountable to do theirs too. I want to come in, not worry about trying to be that



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guy. I just want to be a guy respected by my teammates. Earn my teammates respect, learn the culture, learn how to be an Oakland Raider. Pave my way through a great organization and try to leave a legacy. I'm so excited. I want to win Super Bowls, that's what we're chasing. I'm so excited, I can't wait to get started."

**Q: After your sophomore season you could have entered the NFL draft if you wanted to. What went into your decision to come back and play another season at Clemson?**

**Ferrell:** "Man there was so much. There's so much that I can't really put it out on this phone. I'm a guy that lives in the moment. When I came to Clemson it wasn't about being done and going to the NFL. I didn't know if I was good enough. I wanted to be a guy that leaves a legacy at Clemson, like a Vic Beasley, a Gaines Adams that went to Clemson. I was still planning on leaving a legacy there when I was blessed with the opportunity to come out last year. I felt like there were things left on the table I wanted to do. I didn't like how we ended the season as a team, that was another thing. But also, when I came into the NFL I wanted to be a guy with an opportunity to contribute early and not be the kind of guy to be a developmental type. I wanted to get better. It was a lot of things, but mainly I had a lot of things on the table at Clemson that I wanted to accomplish."

**Q: Speaking of Clemson greats, your new defensive line coach Brentson Buckner went to Clemson. What's your relationship like and how meaningful is it to you that you guys share an alma mater?**

**Ferrell:** "Man, it's crazy because that guy went to my alma mater and was a great player. To tell you the truth, I didn't know if coach Buckner liked me throughout the process. I was kind of nervous because I love the Raiders but he was giving me the stale face the whole time. I didn't know if he liked me or not. I guess it turned out well. I can't wait to get to work for him, I love what he's about. Just hearing what he's about with his players, I can't wait to get started."

**Q: What did you take from your interactions from Jon Gruden and Mike Mayock?**

**Ferrell:** "I'd say guys that are all about the right things. Winning isn't everything. It's about winning and it's about how you win and they want to win the right way. It's not about guys cutting corners, guys not holding each other accountable, but it's about guys doing things the right way and forming a great culture because that's what's going to sustain success in the NFL. I just love those guys and their personalities and they were always really up front with me. They expressed their concerns with me and they expressed their likes about me so I'm just so blessed to actually get a chance to play for these guys for sure."

**Q: The Raiders have two more picks in the first round. Are you going to be tuning in to see who your new teammates are?**

**Ferrell:** "Well, I'm outside right now. I will if you guys get off the phone with me. Come on, man. *(laughter)* And my two teammates from Clemson, one of them, Christian just got drafted so I was trying to get off the phone with you all so I could go watch, but I love talking to you all but I do have to go see who my new teammates are going to be man. Come on now. *(laughter)*"

**Q: What's the correct way to pronounce your name?**

**Ferrell:** "CLEE-lin FURR-ull."

**Q: Can you detail what your visit was like during your top-30 visit with the team?**



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**Ferrell:** “There was a lot of defensive lineman there during my top 30 visit man. It was pretty chill. It wasn’t somewhere where I was getting specialized treatment. We went to dinner and coach Gruden and them gave me a hard time about not running the 40 but the visit was pretty normal I would say. I met everybody. I met all the different staff and things like that. I sat down with Mike and I talked to Coach Gruden. I didn’t get a chance to sit down 1-on-1 with coach Gruden because he was in there working out for about five hours on the treadmill, so that was kind of like whoa. He was in there doing the elliptical for about three hours doing the coaches workout but I mean it was a pretty normal visit. Trust me, I didn’t get any tips that they were tipping my way for sure.”

**Q: A lot of teams were wondering why you didn’t run a 40 at the combine. Was that a tough call for you and what went into that decision?**

**Ferrell:** “It was the toughest call I ever had to make, because I know that even though I feel like it’s stupid because I feel like my tape shows my speed of play, but it was tough for me because I’m a competitor man and anybody that knows me would tell you I was dying to go out there and run. But just because of an injury I had played through this past season, I had re-aggravated it and just through my advising, we came to a decision that it wasn’t in my best interest to potentially continue to injury myself. We just let the marbles fall where they may and it was in God’s hands. I still ended up with the best team that was for me man and I’m so excited to get started, I can’t wait.”

**Q: What was the injury and where are you now physically?**

**Ferrell:0** “It was turf toe and I’m healthy now, I’m healthy. But I don’t know if they’ll let me be full go because they might be a little bit wary about it but I’m healthy. I can’t wait to get started man, I’m so excited.”





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### **Raiders First-Round Draft Pick RB Josh Jacobs Conference Call**

**Q: Josh, first impressions on being drafted by the Raiders, did you get a chance to digest it all yet?**

**Jacobs:** "My first impression, my feeling is I'm happy. I'm glad to be a part of this great organization and meeting with [Head Coach] Jon Gruden and [General Manager Mike] Mayock, having that call with them, them telling me they were going to pick me up with one of the three first-round picks. Keeping that promise to me."

**Q: When did they tell you that?**

**Jacobs:** "They told me that at the combine. Then I saw them again at dinner. He told me if I was there, they were going to get me. It just happened to play out that way."

**Q: Just to be clear, it was Gruden who told you that?**

**Jacobs:** "Yes sir."

**Q: You said there was a good vibe with the staff. What do you feel like they gravitated towards with your game and character?**

**Jacobs:** "We didn't talk so much about football. We spent a little time about football then they got to know who I am. They said a lot of feedback when I was telling my story and the things I've been through and things like that. They were wow'ed by it all and happy for me. Regardless of if I was going to go here or not they were rooting for me. They have the vibe that I like with the organization and the love that I got from them."

**Q: Do you see any of how Marshawn Lynch runs in yourself, bits and pieces of your game?**

**Jacobs:** "Definitely. He's great, he's an all-time great at the running back position. He played with so much passion and I think that's one thing we share together. He plays with so much passion, he doesn't give up on plays. HE has fun doing it too. He actually loves the game. I think that's what we share the most."

**Q: You actually had the luxury at Alabama to not have to have a whole host of carries game-in and game-out, you were able to stay fresh. Are you ready for a possibly a larger role in the NFL and the punishment that comes with that?**

**Jacobs:** "I'm definitely ready. I've been training my body for the last three years. I'm definitely ready to step into that role and see how it plays out."

**Q: Just looking back at some of the moves the Raiders have made this offseason, adding WR Antonio Brown, added some offensive linemen. Does that make you more excited to come here seeing the effort this offseason?**

**Jacobs:** "It definitely makes me more excited because you have a great quarterback, some great receivers and then a great offensive line. For me, it should be easy to come in and try to contribute in any way I can. They already put all the piece together for me. Now it's about putting in the work."

**Q: Did you take a top-30 visit out here?**

**Jacobs:** "No, I didn't."

**Q: What do you think you bring in the passing game?**

**Jacobs:** "I think I bring a lot. Whether it's actually knowing how to run routes and catch the ball, whether it's in the protection and being willing to block people. I feel like that's what I bring the most."



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**Q: What were your emotions when you saw your name go across the board? Can you describe that a bit?**

**Jacobs:** "It's a lot of emotions. It's like everything hitting you at once. It's everything you've worked for, everything you've prayed for, everything for you've sweated for, cried for, everything. It's just finally coming to reality. The crazy thing about it is, you're happy in the moment but then the next thing you think about is it's the beginning of everything so it's a lot of emotions."

**Q: Jon Gruden has talked about how much he values pass protection from his running backs. How did playing at Alabama prepare you to do that at the NFL level?**

**Jacobs:** "I think it prepared me a lot because they taught me everything that defenses do whether it's looking at looking at safety rotations, reading offensive lineman, even tips on reading when someone is listening. They kind of taught me everything so it's just about going about it the right way technique wise, my blocking and things like that."

**Q: You had a chance to face the Raiders' No. 4 overall pick Clelin Ferrell a couple times at Alabama. What were your impressions of him and what are your thoughts on being his teammate now?**

**Jacobs:** "Man, he's a really good player. He's a really good player. I'm happy that I'm on the same team as him and not going against him. Even the 27th pick, the Mississippi State Safety [Johnathan Abram]. The dude is a good player too. I played against him multiple times. Every time he brings that energy and he's a thumper. So it's going to be good coming in with them and growing with them and we all learning each other's personalities and things like that."

**Q: What's it like to be a part of a draft class where you guys have a chance to be a core for an organization for years to come?**

**Jacobs:** "Yeah, it's crazy because I'm being a part of a team that's already like one step away from achieving the ultimate goal, and their putting all the pieces together now and it's just going to be fun to be a part of that."

**Q: I saw the map on the inside of your jacket. What was that about and why was that important for you to do that tonight?**

**Jacobs:** "It was very important for me. It's a concrete rose. It has North Tulsa where I'm from and it was very important for me to pay homage to where I'm from, because with me it's like I have the city on my back. It's like I give everybody back home faith and hope. I mean I'm the first one to do it out of the school that I come from. I'm the first one to even go to college out of the school that I come from for sports so it's just huge."

**Q: So, is that just like a rose that grew out of concrete? Is that a theme?**

**Jacobs:** "Yeah that's what it was."

**Do you have any thoughts about joining and organization that's in the middle of relocation, where you'll be in Oakland this year and in Las Vegas as early as this year?**

**Jacobs:** "Yeah, I think it's definitely dope they want to expand. I feel like Oakland is a great place and Las Vegas definitely without them having a major sports team and being able to come in there, it's definitely going to be a great move."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders First-Round Draft Pick S Johnathan Abram Conference Call**

**Q: Did you have a sense in the pre-draft process that the Raiders were interested and intended to take you?**

**Abram:** "Yes sir, most definitely, especially after the Senior Bowl. I was able to spend time with those guys and they showed that they really like the way I play and carry myself. I talked to [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden yesterday actually. He was checking in on me and seeing how I was doing."

**Q: You obviously weren't able to play at the Senior Bowl. How were you still able to make an impression with the coaching staff?**

**Abram:** "Just being a team guy and helping guys who didn't understand the playbook. I tried to help those guys learn and showing that I love football. I tried to keep the guys pumped up."

**Q: How would you describe the way you play as a safety?**

**Abram:** "Fast, physical, and aggressive."

**Q: Josh Jacobs called you a thumper and you've been able to play against him. What's your scouting report on Jacobs?**

**Abram:** "He's a guy who loves football and he runs extremely hard. He's always out there looking for contact. He runs through blocks, he runs through tacklers and he can catch out of the backfield. Me personally, I feel like he's the most complete running back in this draft and now I'm glad he's my teammate. Now we can go tear the league up together."

**Q: What's this like to not just be a first-round draft pick for a team, but to be one of three first-round picks for a team?**

**Abram:** "It means a lot. We have the chance to help change this program around from the past with this new coaching staff and move to Las Vegas. I think it's going to be a great season and a great year to come."

**Q: How is your shoulder? Are you ready to go right now?**

**Abram:** "Oh yeah, I'm a 110 percent. Nothing's wrong with me. They actually held me out of the Senior Bowl. I was actually ready to go but Coach Gruden and them felt like I didn't need to play. They wanted to give my body time to heal."

**Q: Do you think Coach Gruden was thinking ahead?**

**Abram:** "Oh yeah, he was."

**Q: What did Coach Gruden say yesterday? Did he say we're going to draft you if we can?**

**Abram:** "No, it was pretty much just him calling to check in on me and see how I was doing and my how my family is doing."

**Q: What's your first purchase going to be with your first NFL paycheck?**

**Abram:** "Nothing, I'm not buying anything. I plan to save a lot of my money."

**Q: Johnathan, you're going to be going up against some pretty good tight ends in the AFC West. What do you know about that challenge and what excites you about it?**

**Abram:** "Those guys put their pants on just like I do and I look forward to it. It's going to be a really interesting experience being able to go out there and dominate those guys. I'm going to do what I do best and that's play football."

**Q: Were you thinking about playing at the Senior Bowl and then Coach Gruden told you you didn't need to?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Abram:** "Oh yeah, I definitely wanted to play. Like I said, they held me out of that game and said there was no need for me to play. But I definitely wanted to play."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Introductory Press Conference with First-Round Picks DE Clelin Ferrell, RB Josh Jacobs and S Johnathan Abram**

**Q: General Manager Mike Mayock said that despite everything that you have been through in your life, you were a “ball of positive energy.” Where would you say you get that from?**

**Ferrell:** "For me, it more-so just comes from where I grew up and just how I was raised. Regardless of the circumstances, it's always about your attitude and about your outlook on life. You could always be in a worse situation, you know what I mean? So for me, it's always about my attitude so regardless of anything that I've ever been through, any struggles or success you know, I always try to keep a positive attitude because that's so important just as far as you know, affecting others and if you want to get out of those situations. So for me man, I'm just always a happy ball of energy man. I'm so excited. It's been a great process you know, getting to know a lot of different coaches, a lot of different players, teams, workers that work for organizations. And to go to a team I've loved from the beginning, it was truly a blessing. So I could only be happy when I was meeting with the Raiders and [General Manager Mike] Mayock and [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden. I'm so happy to be here, man. It's such a blessing for real."

**Q: Normally for these first-round press conferences there's one of you, but there's three of you up here and Mike Mayock has said that they are looking for foundational pieces. Do you think there is going to be a bond between you three knowing that this franchise wants you guys to set a new standard and take this team into better times?**

**Abram:** "Me personally, I don't even think it's about that. I think the type of guys Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden wanted to bring in you know, we're all pretty much similar guys, high-character guys, hard workers. I think that will bring us closer together more than anything."

**Ferrell:** "Very, very true. You know, I feel like it's not so much about us taking over a team. It's more so just about getting the right nucleus of guys in here. People that are about the right thing because when you talk about an organization like this one man, that has such a rich history and tradition and we're trying to get back to that. You know, it's not about just getting to a Super Bowl and winning a Super Bowl. It's about sustaining that dynasty, that legacy, and how do you do that? Most people think you just bring in the best players and scrap together a team that's very talented and win a Super Bowl. But when you want to sustain that, you got to bring in the right guys that will last over the years and time and things like that, that's going to hold people accountable and want for others what they want for themselves. So it's such a blessing to know that I was drafted with guys so far that are really, really good guys and great ball players. We aren't done yet though, we still have a lot to do in the draft man and we just can't wait to get started because we aren't anything but rookies now. That draft stuff for us is over now. We're just rookies so we just want to earn the respect of our teammates and learn how to be a Raider."

**Q: Jonathan, what does the number 24 mean for you? You already put on social media, it looks like that's going to be your number. And Clelin what do you tell your fellow draft picks now coming to the dark side?**

**Abram:** "I mean for me for that number, that number carries a lot of weight, you know? Seeing the message that Charles Woodson put out about the shoes and the role I have to fill for the greats that played before me, you know like George Atkinson and Jack Tatum and himself. He didn't want to include himself, but he's a Hall of Famer. He's going to go down as one of the greatest Raiders to ever play. For Coach Gruden to give me that number, it's some big shoes I have to fill. It's a lot I have to do. It's a lot of work that has to be put in – countless hours."



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

**Ferrell:** "For me man, it's just a blessing because what I would tell the guys is that we have something special going on here and I can already feel it and I just got here. It's truly a blessing to be a part of an organization with a legacy already so big and broad. You know you have guys like Howie Long and I was blessed enough to be the recipient of the Ted Hendricks Award. So knowing guys like that and knowing that they paved the way for someone like me to have the opportunity, and they were all about the right things, hard work, discipline, effort. You know, that's what it's all about – effort. Because this organization, it's about hard workers and people that are very, very passionate about the game and their team man. So it's such a blessing. For any player that's going to be a part of this organization, I would just say just come in ready to work because we got big goals and big dreams for ourselves."

**Q: Mike Mayock said last night that your only obligation you share as first-round picks is to come in and show leadership. From each of you guys, how do you plan to meet that obligation?**

**Abram:** "I mean for me, I tell a lot of guys you can come in and be a loud mouth and try to boss people around but that's not really what a leader is. First off, a leader is somebody who's going to come in and be the same guy every single day. You have to work hard and you have to be accountable. If you're on time, then you're late. Showing up early, putting in the extra hours and dedicating your life to this. This is something you can't just turn on and off. This right here, getting to the NFL, this is your life. Football, it doesn't change. What it requires and what it takes doesn't change. I tell guys all the time, if it was easy, everybody would do it. You've got to come in with your head down and work first off. That way you earn the respect of your peers, your coaches, and everybody around you. Once you do that, the standard is set. It's easier to tell someone to come on rather than push them in a direction."

**Ferrell:** "For me, I'm all about leading through relationships. It's a team aspect and I'm so big on earning my teammate's respect. I want to show them that I'm all about the right things and I'm not trying to be anybody who is detrimental to this team. This game is so hard, and it's the biggest team sport, truly. Coming from the school that I came from, Josh too, it's a long process trying to win a National Championship. It's a lot of struggle going into it from the inside and the outside. You want to go through that with guys that you love, that you have a respect for, and have a relationship with. How can you ask a guy to give it your all when you know he doesn't care about you? For me, coming from a military family, my mom always told me, 'Clelin, you've got to understand.' That drill sergeant who was training her for war, he was hard on her all the time but he knew that that drill sergeant loved her because he didn't want her to go out there and die on that battlefield. It's all about good relationships and just letting the people around you know that any type of leadership role as far as holding them accountable, it comes from a good place. You want for them what you want for yourself. That's the biggest thing. I'm all about us, I care about the people that I work with. I'm so excited to get started."

**Jacobs:** "I definitely agree with both of what they said. Any great leader has to have a relationship to be able to get on somebody and address things without them taking it the wrong way. I'm the type of guy where leadership is going in and doing all the little things right. Showing up on time or working hard every day, day in and day out. Even competing at positions and say something to somebody, I feel like that's what being a leader is."

**Q: Has there been some friendly banter between you three so far?**

**Ferrell:** "Well I just met Josh and, well, we beat them so he can't talk about that (*laughter*). There was a play in the Alabama game from the National Championship game where he got the best of one of my guys and I had to let him know, when we start practicing, I'm not going to let him do that to me. That's just the start of it right there."

**Abram:** "You compete against these guys all the time. I think that aspect of sports has changed. A lot of people compete hard on the field, but they're best friends off the field. I like the way they both compete and I've been able to compete against them both. I have a lot of respect for them."

**Q: How unique might it be to be going from here in Oakland to Las Vegas, the city of entertainment?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Abram:** "I just look at it as all positive. It's a place that doesn't have a NFL team so a lot of fans can come out and support a new team. It's an untapped market for marketing and things like that, so it's a lot of upside to it rather than negatives."

**Ferrell:** "I feel like it's a chance for our organization to grow. Obviously from a player standpoint, people might think that players' focus can get off track when you move to a city like Las Vegas. From what I know so far, we're trying to bring in the right guys that regardless of the situation of the outside sources, they have a vision for themselves as far as the football player in their life. Obviously when you're young you're going to enjoy life, but you have a vision, so anything that detracts off that you're not going to let it interfere. It's all about making the right decisions, having people that want to do the right things and remember what's important. I can't wait, it's going to be a great transition and it's going to be exciting for Raider football."

**Josh Jacobs:** "I think it's going to be good, too. With the rich history here in Oakland and with the great fans and everything here, it's going to be interesting to see the translation and how it carries over to Las Vegas. I just look at the model of new stadium and it's going to be crazy."

### **Q: Can each of you tell us what drives you and what has driven you to the NFL?**

**Jacobs:** "Well for me, football is kind of like my peace. It's like the one place I feel like I can do no wrong. Growing up and going through everything that I've been through - being homeless, living in hotels and stuff - football was always an outlet. That's what kind of drives me and that's where I found the love of the game and that's why I play with so much emotion."

**Ferrell:** "I feel like I'm obligated coming from where I come from. The neighborhood that I grew up in, the people, and the things that I saw growing up as a kid. Not many people get the opportunity to get to do what they love where I'm from so when I found that, it kind of made me really fall in love with the process. I feel like I'm obligated as far as a sense of hope so that people from where I come from can take advantage of my opportunity. A lot of people have a lot of love and they're passionate about things, but because of their situation, they can't chase those dreams. I'm obligated to my family, my friends, and my community to really show them you can take advantage of your opportunity. You can be what you want to be, not just because of your situation."

**Abram:** "Overall for me, I have a daughter and she's helped me gain another sense of purpose for what makes me tick and get up in the morning. I do a lot of things because I want to give her some opportunities and experiences that I didn't have growing up. Making sure that she has a better life than I had, not saying that I had a bad life. But as far as football, I just love football and there's nothing more to it. Getting to go out there and compete and play with some of the best guys on the face of earth. Now being in the NFL, it's the top three percent of college players, so it's the best of the best. It doesn't get any better than this. This is what everybody watches and it's all eyes on us. Just getting out there and being able to compete one-on-one every single play, there's no better feeling."

### **Q: How hard do these guys hit and what makes them unique to be first-round draft picks as defensive players?**

**Jacobs:** "I mean, they're guys when you're watching film, when you're studying, it's always some guys on film that you know if you see them you going to have to bring it. So every time I watch their game or even played against them there was always a play where I saw them and I'm like, 'I don't know how this is going to end up,' so I have a lot of respect for them."

**Q: Mayock said that he was on to you as a potential guy the Raiders wanted to draft way back in the National Championship game, did he share with you what he saw and what qualities you displayed in that game that attracted them to you?**



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

**Jacobs:** “He didn’t talk to me too much about that. He did this morning, saying he told me that that’s when he knew we were potentially somebody that he would be looking at. He was just talking about how in the game when I was catching passes and not afraid to block people and things like that, so I think that’s the majority of the things he was talking about.”

**Q: Did you feel you were maybe blessed in a way to be used like you were in Alabama? Now, are you eager to be more of a three-down back and take on more of a workload?**

**Jacobs:** “Definitely eager to prove, not only to myself, but to everybody that I can be a three-down back. Yeah, I think it was a blessing how it played out. I feel everything plays out how it’s supposed to. With me not having so much tread on the tires or whatever, being so fresh, I think it’s going to be huge, especially for my position. It’s going to be interesting.”

**Q: What has Coach Gruden done to motivate you to bring that hard-hitting mentality back to this secondary?**

**Abram:** “For me, I watch a lot of film of older guys, a lot of younger guys as well, but one of my favorites had to be the ‘L.O.B.’ or Legion of Boom. One thing Gruden does, Gruden gets to talking and Gruden makes you feel like, I don’t care who you are, you can run through a brick wall and that’s just who he is. He’s a football guy, he’s a football junkie, that’s what his life has revolved around. So, for me, as far as hard-hitting, I mean like I said, when you watched L.O.B. they made so many plays because they were hitting guys. Nobody wanted to run across the middle, nobody wanted to catch the ball across the middle and it created tips and overthrows, so a lot of plays were made simply because of that. So, that’s part of the reason that drives me to go out there and hit.”

**Q: What would you say is the biggest thing you guys can take from your college careers to help you as pros?**

**Abram:** “For me, being at Mississippi State, SEC, you go against the top tier guys week in and week out, so you have to prepare yourself mentally every week, prepare yourself physically every week. It’s pretty much learning how to be a pro while you are in college. I know the seasons are longer and more tough, but you get a taste of it in the SEC and ACC of pretty much learning how to be a pro.”

**Ferrell:** “For me, like I was blessed enough to play for a team where we competed at the highest level every year and I just remember it’s just about enjoying the journey. When you want to reach that mountain top, it’s a long road up that thing, so it’s about doing the common things in the uncommon way because everybody gets the same amount of time, everybody gets the same number of practices, everybody gets the same workouts, OTA’s that we are doing, rookie minicamp, but it’s about how you do them. You can’t confuse activity with accomplishment, you have to do things in a way that you know you can better yourself and you’re going to make the most of every opportunity. It’s about doing things that are normal to everybody, but doing them in a way so where you can really get the most out of it. That will be where you really see the success and the progress start to add up.”

**Jacobs:** “I think Alabama helped me with becoming a pro and being a pro on and off the field, whether it’s the structure of everything, learning how to be on time, time-management or even just football. Working hard every day and things like that, but also teaching me life stuff with like finances, how to speak and all the other kinds of things, so I think it prepared me a lot.”

**Q: When you look at the Raiders shield, what does it actually mean to be a Raider?**





## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Abram:** “For me, like I said, it’s a rich history and tradition of all the types of DB’s that have played here, so for me and my position it just means a lot. It’s a lot of greats that come before me and that’s where I want to be in my career when it’s all said and done, so just to be able to put on the Silver and Black, for me, it just means the world because this is a DB organization.”

**Ferrell:** “Just, like he said, the rich tradition. You think of Al Davis, ‘Just Win Baby!’ You got boss man (Owner Mark Davis) back there now, John Madden, all these great guys. Not just players but great football people that came through this organization, and when I see this logo I just think of toughness, I think of effort, I think of people who aren’t afraid of the work and just want to do everything that it takes to get the job done. Really, it’s like a blessing to know that you are going to be part of an organization that wants the best from you and is going to expect a lot out of you, so it’s truly a blessing for sure.”

**Jacobs:** “When I see it I definitely think of rich culture, rich fan base and a legendary organization. It’s like one of the cornerstone organizations of the NFL, so it’s definitely just an honor and blessing to be a part of it. And my favorite was the ‘Bad Boy’ era. I was always big on that, I used to watch it a lot on 30-for-30 and all of that kind of stuff, so that’s the thing that comes to my mind the most.”



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Second-Round Draft Pick CB Trayvon Mullen Conference Call**

#### **Q: What's it like to be reunited with Clelin Ferrell and to be a member of the Oakland Raiders?**

**Mullen:** "It means a lot being a member of the Oakland Raiders, getting a chance to get with [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden and them, and [General Manager] Mike [Mayock], the GM. Those guys are great guys. They brought me up on the visit. They took the opportunity to draft me. They are going to get a great player especially with me and Clelin and even [Johnathan] Jon Abram, because that's like my best friend man. Us guys getting together is going to be awesome."

#### **Q: How did you meet Johnathan Abram?**

**Mullen:** "Well, just through the whole process going through college and we trained together for the combine and things like that, just connecting. That's basically how we connected."

#### **Q: How much do you think your performance in the National Championship game improved your stock?**

**Mullen:** "I think it did a lot. Just the way I went out there and showed the world the elite player that I am, how confident I am, how strong and physical I am and just showing my capability and the type of good athlete I am. I believe that game played a big role. I was really excited after that game. It motivated me a lot to even make my decision to coming out early."

#### **Q: Where did you train for the Combine?**

**Mullen:** "I trained at M.J.P., Michael Johnson Performance, up in Dallas."

#### **Q: What was Ferrell like as a teammate?**

**Trayvon Mullen:** "Clelin, honestly, he's one of the best teammates and one of the best guys I've ever been around. He's a hard-working guy and you know what you're going to get out of Clelin every day. He's motivated a lot of people throughout the whole season and someone to talk to, things like that. That's the guy I go to."

#### **Q: For someone who's never seen you play, how would you describe your style of play?**

**Mullen:** "I'm aggressive. I play big, I play strong, and I play all around tackling guys. I like to get after guys."

#### **Q: What do you know about the history of the defensive backs here at the Raiders?**

**Mullen:** "I know talking to my coach and a lot of guys he's told me about, there's been a lot of good guys who played there. There's a lot of history, so I'm really excited to see where I fit in. I just know Coach Gruden and those guys over there are going to get a great player. Everybody's going to see what the Raiders are all about."

#### **Q: Did you have any idea that the Raiders were going to take you or was it a surprise when they called?**

**Mullen:** "I was really happy when they called me, I was really excited. I told Coach Gruden that I can just see myself playing in that defense. We talked about the past and those guys."

#### **Q: Do you pride yourself on being able to play outside and in the slot? Do you think you can do that in the NFL with some of the tight ends in the AFC West?**

**Mullen:** "Yes, I believe I can play well wherever I line up. I'm a smart, physical guy who knows how to use his feet well. I can lineup wherever they need me."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: In the pre-draft process you said that you felt like you deserved to be the first cornerback taken in the draft, why did you feel that way?**

**Mullen:** "Just because I knew what I bring to the team. I know what I bring, not even just football wise – leadership, being a great friend and teammates believing in me. Bringing others up and being willing to help because football is challenging stuff. (Inaudible)."

**Q: Have you heard from your cousin Lamar Jackson yet?**

**Mullen:** "Not yet, but he'll be hitting me up soon I know. I know he's happy for me."

**Q: How do you think playing at Clemson helped prepare you for the NFL?**

**Mullen:** "Well, Clemson prepped me for life, honestly. It prepped me for life, just being around [Head] Coach [Dabo] Swinney, [defensive coordinator/linebackers] Coach [Brent] Venables, [cornerbacks] Coach [Mike] Reed and all the rest of the support stuff. Those guys are great, they are intense, they always got a lot of joy to them. They love their players, they love everyone around. They helped me be a better man and person. They showed me the right way of doing things, so they prepared me well. I'm tremendously happy that I went to Clemson and finished up my career there to go to the next level, because they prepared me for everything that's next."

**Q: You played Raiders RB Josh Jacobs, what are your thoughts about the type of player he is and what are your thoughts about playing against him in practice?**

**Mullen:** "Oh, he's a really good running back. He's really strong. He plays well, runs fast. He doesn't give up, he doesn't lay down. He just has a lot to him, you can tell he has a will, he runs with a will."

**Q: You met Antonio Brown on your visit here, have you guys been talking since then?**

**Mullen:** "Oh yeah, we always talk. He shot me a text. He'll probably call me soon, but we always talk. He's a great motivational guy for me. (Inaudible). I'm just ready to be with those guys and play with those guys."



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

### **Day 2 Press Conference following the Third Round**

#### **General Manager Mike Mayock**

**Opening Statement:** “Hi everybody. Sorry it took me so long. Alright, well I guess a quick overview is we started at 35, and we traded down with Jacksonville at 38. We picked up, I believe it was a four and gave them back a seven. Then we dropped down to 40 with Buffalo, picked up another pick. The net result of all of that is we went into today with two guys that were on our list yesterday that we would have considered at 24 or 27. So we started the day with two guys that were on that list. We would’ve been ecstatic with either one of them. When we got to 38, they were still both there. So, we traded down again and went to 40, and that’s when we took Trayvon [Mullen]. We’re excited to get Trayvon, another Clemson player. He had a great National Championship game. He’s a long corner, 6-1, almost 6-2, about 190 pounds, ran in the 4.4’s. Love his length. He fits [defensive coordinator] Paul Guenther’s defense to a T – long press corner that runs. We’re really excited about this kid’s upside, and we were happy to pick up the extra picks. Questions?”

#### **Q: Was the interest in Mullens similar to how you gained interest in Josh Jacobs with going to the National Championship game and being blown away?**

**Mayock:** “I don’t want to put too much emphasis on that game because obviously you scout the whole season and you watch every snap with guys like this, but I came away from that game...It’s really funny because it feels like yesterday, and I was just brand new here. Being on the field before the game, Vic [Tafur], was like, ‘Wow!’ I said to somebody, ‘Man, I’d take five of these guys and go home right now in all honesty.’ And here we are and we have three of them. So, it’s exciting, it really is.”

#### **Q: What grade would you give yourself right now?**

**Mayock:** “I’m not a big grader. At NFL Network they used to try to make me grade drafts, and I used to say it was unfair. I’ll tell you what I think is an intriguing draft. I’ll tell you what I think is an interesting one. But I would never even grade when I was in the media because you’re not going to know for a couple of years anyways. Are we excited about where we are? We’re ecstatic about where we are and the kind of kids we have and the kind of talent we have, but we won’t know for a couple of years. Everybody is excited about their drafts and it has to play out.”

#### **Q: Was it a concerted effort to get younger in the secondary this year?**

**Mayock:** “It’s been a concerted effort to get younger and more athletic everywhere. I can’t speak for what they did last year, but from my position we worked real hard. Even with the one-year prove it contracts, of getting guys that for the most part, are in their 20s with ability and some upside. We’ve been working real hard at trying to get younger and more athletic, especially at key positions of need - defensive end and corner being two of them.”

#### **Q: After you picked Mullen, was there a possibility of trading back into the third round or were you low-key?**

**Mayock:** “It was fun there with the lead up to Trayvon Mullen and being able to move back twice. We picked up a couple extra picks and I was hoping we’d have the opportunity to do that. There were five, six, or seven different offers out there. The goal coming into today was not to lose Trayvon and try to pick up some picks, and that’s what happened. So on the front side of it, we’re ecstatic. I had my eyes open at the end of three, thinking about if I wanted to package two fours or a four and five and get back into the bottom of the third. There was a couple of guys I was targeting, but they didn’t get to the point where I thought it made sense for us to go back up, so we didn’t pull the trigger. We had a couple of Kit-Kats and hung out, too, for a long period of time. It was a shame. (laughter)”



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: Since you have two early picks in the fourth round, do you see some value at positions of need there and could that have made you more content to stay put?**

**Mayock:** “What happens is, and it’s funny because Coach Gruden and I are both white board people. We got our stacks up there and our draft board and everything. Our magnets are up on a white board and Jon and I are both big on getting up front with our grease pens and writing on the white board. So we just start slapping names down there. We have X amount of picks and you know, yesterday we went into it and I wrote 24 and 27 and I underneath it about ten names, and I wrote 35 and underneath it seven or eight names, and that was kind of what we went off of heading into yesterday and we trusted our board. We didn’t make any moves and the players came to use. Today we had the whole thing with Trayvon and the trade downs. Tomorrow is interesting because now with 106 and 109, I already had one phone call just on the way down, walking down stairs I had a call from a team that wants to come up to one of our early picks tomorrow. So, I love the fact that we have some picks at the top of each round. You know there’s going to be activity. Teams go home tonight falling in love with a player and saying I have to get him and I’m willing to give up something to get it. However, Jon and I were already on the white board before I came down and just kind of prioritizing by position the guys that were left and who we like. So, we haven’t finalized the plan, but we’re going to meet in the morning and do that. We see some players that we’re really happy are still there. There’s a couple of guys that I’m surprised are still there and that’s a good thing.”

**Q: You said you had two guys coming into today. Who was the other guy?**

**Mayock:** “I can’t tell you that. Come on, really?”

**Did he get picked?**

**Mayock:** “Yeah. Did he get picked? Yes, he got picked. I’m teasing.”



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Fourth-Round Draft Pick DE Maxx Crosby Conference Call**

**Q: How much contact did you have with the Raiders in the pre-draft process?**

**Crosby:** "Not a ton. They had a scout at my pro day."

**Q: Did they discuss what kind of role or position they wanted you for?**

**Crosby:** "Obviously, they are going to have me pass rushing. We didn't talk too in extent of what they want me to do. I'll figure that out here really soon. Obviously, I'm going to be playing on the edge, and I'm super excited to get after the quarterback."

**Q: You are coming to a team that only had 13 sacks as a team all of last year. Do you feel like if you have a good Spring and a good Summer you could come in help this team right away?**

**Crosby:** "Absolutely, you know, that's the plan. Obviously, over the course of this past season I've been doing everything I can to put on the right weight and you know, get myself ready to come in and be a contributor once the football season starts. I'm super excited. I'm going to come in there and work my butt off every single day and get ready to help get after the quarterback immediately."

**Q: What do you think is the best part of your game in terms of getting after the quarterback?**

**Crosby:** "I feel like I can change it up a lot. I'm a guy that, even though I'm a little bit slighter, I feel like that helps to my advantage slipping blocks, causing turnovers, and just constantly playing in the backfield."

**Q: Has anyone during this process including the Raiders asked you to pack on some more weight and what are you at right about now?**

**Crosby:** "I'm at 255 right now. They're probably going to want me to gain some weight, but at the end of the day I just got to go in there in work and do whatever they ask. That's all I can do."

**Q: Have you always been able to put on good weight well? Is that something difficult for you or do you find it easy to put on lean mass?**

**Crosby:** "No, I think it will be a lot easier you know, being in the NFL. You're going to have a lot more resources and ever since the end of the season, I've been doing everything I can to put on the right calories. So, it's not going to be a problem for me. I just have to stay on top of it, you know, and that's part of it."

**Q: What do you think you were able to show at the Combine?**

**Crosby:** "The first thing for me, I just wanted to show everybody that I can compete with anybody in the country. I believe highly in my ability, and I think I can play at the highest level. I wanted to show that I can move really well, I can move in space and that I can test in the top of every single testing circuit like the shuttle or 40 [yard dash]. I wanted to show that I'm a great, all-around athlete."

**Q: Who were you able to speak with and what was their first message to you?**

**Crosby:** "I talked to [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden first, then [General Manager] Mr. [Mike] Mayock, and then [Defensive Line] Coach [Brentson] Buckner. I got to talk to all of them, and they congratulated me. They told me right away that I'll have to get in the weight room and get ready, but they're very excited to see what I can do."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: How did playing at Eastern Michigan and the MAC conference help you for the NFL?**

**Crosby:** "At the end of the day, it's DI football, and I feel like there's a lot of great players. With this draft, you're seeing a lot of guys from the MAC, and I played a lot of good football. It's up-pace, high-tempo football and with my motor, I feel like that's going to help in the league. I feel like my motor can run all day, so that high-tempo pace is going to help me once I get to the league. I think I'm going to have a step ahead just being in shape and going out there playing 100 percent every day."

**Q: Having been relatively light when you got to college, do you feel like that influenced the way you rush the passer?**

**Crosby:** "Yeah, when I first got there I was about 212 [pounds]. I was really athletic, but I wasn't the strongest. So putting on the weight and getting up to almost 250 [pounds], I gradually gained that. I felt good, and I felt like I was still just as athletic. When I was on scout team I was super light, but I was finding ways to make plays even though I wasn't the strongest guy. When I did get a little bit bigger, I still had that part of my game. I feel like it definitely paid off in the end."

**Q: Where you from an expectation standpoint going into this Draft, were you told a certain round projection?**

**Crosby:** "Honestly, it was right around where I thought. We had three to five as the range, but I felt as if I was one of the best edges still on the board. Honestly, this morning I told my dad I was like, 'watch the Raiders pick me.' We were laughing about it, but it's crazy they ended up calling me and it's just a dream come true."

**Q: Why did you think the Raiders would draft you of all teams?**

**Crosby:** "I've always been a big fan of coach Gruden. I love the Raiders colors, everything about it. I saw they got Clelin [Ferrell] early and I feel like me and him would be a great dynamic duo together. He's a little bit bigger and he can also get to the quarterback and I'm a little bit lighter, but we both do things a little bit differently and were both really effective. There's so many things, I could go on and on but I'm just super stoked to be in Oakland."

**Q: There were reports about you missing the first game of you last college season due to a suspension, could you explain what that was?**

**Crosby:** "Yeah, I made an immature, dumb mistake, but it wasn't anything that is a problem anymore. It was just a dumb sort of a moment, incident and I'm not looking back at it. I'm just excited for the future."

**Q: The Raiders seemed to be focused on guys that are solid leaders for their college program, do you think that fits you as well?**

**Crosby:** "Absolutely, I like to be a leader by example. Just go out there and work my hardest every single day and give everything I have, so that's what I'm going to try and do. I'm going to put my head down and earn the respect of my teammates and just try to be a contributor right away."

**Q: Where are you right now when you found out you were drafted?**

**Crosby:** "I'm out in Dallas with my family. All just celebrating and having a good time. We are all super excited."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: What's that moment like when you get that phone call?**

**Crosby:** "Honestly, it's surreal. I saw the California number and I saw the Raiders were drafting next so I was like, 'Here we go!' and I heard Coach Gruden's voice, it's very distinct, so I was just excited and at a loss for words."

**Q: You were in a rap group in high school, do you have any plans to drop a mixtape in your career?**

**Crosby:** "Yeah, briefly. *(laughter)* I think I'm going to put that career on pause for a little bit. We used to do it for fun. We would stay out of trouble and make music instead of doing all the other crazy stuff other people were doing, so we just liked to stay at the house and make music and have fun with it. I definitely don't think I'll be dropping any mixtapes anytime soon."

**Q: Any music videos we need to be on the search for?**

**Crosby:** "No sir. *(laughter)*"





## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Fourth-Round Draft Pick Isaiah Johnson Conference Call**

**Q: I heard you were surprised that you were still on the board. Where were you expecting to go and what do you think of where you went?**

**Johnson:** "I honestly thought I would go second, third round. I had a draft party yesterday with my family. Of course, things didn't go as planned, but just the opportunity to get drafted is a blessing in itself so I'll take it."

**Q: What made you think that was the range where you'd be picked?**

**Johnson:** "Just because my agent had talked to plenty of teams, and I had a lot of Day 2 projections on me. A lot of people saw me as a Day 2 pick. I talked to some people that you know, saw me as a second, third round corner, but you know, that just not where the chips fell."

**Q: How tough is that when you have your family and people that you really care about in your life around you and you're gearing up to hear your name called yesterday, but it doesn't happen?**

**Johnson:** "Of course it's tough and it's hard you know, but if it's one thing I pride myself on it's mental toughness. Dealing with stuff like that is just part of my journey. I've dealt with that almost my whole career. So, just having to deal with that and you know, getting through that is a big thing for me."

**Q: What went in your decision to switch positions and where do you feel you are in that process? Do you feel comfortable at cornerback?**

**Johnson:** "Absolutely. I feel way more comfortable at corner. I felt like when I switched...the reason for my switch was that you know, I wasn't even happy playing wide receiver anymore. I didn't see the same future I saw for myself as if I was to play defense. Just over the time, just meeting so many people, picking brains of people that are in the NFL now. I just feel like I'm getting better, and I'm starting to make progressions to be the guy I want to be."

**Q: How do you feel your experience playing on offense helps you as a defensive player?**

**Johnson:** "Oh it's everything just because you understand and know how they're trying to set you up. One thing I always take pride in is knowing the game mentally before physically. So, when I was at receiver I did the same thing. I learned all the things I need to know as a receiver, so when I switched, I kind of knew what a receiver was trying to do, how he was trying to set me up."

**Q: Did you have much contact with the Raiders?**

**Johnson:** "I would talk here or there with Coach [Jim] O'Neil and Coach [Taver] Johnson. I didn't know for a fact that they would take me or not. I knew they had a lot of picks and I knew they want to build their defense up, but when I saw that they picked a corner in the second, I didn't know if they would still pick me or not."

**Q: How much work on special teams did you do in college?**

**Johnson:** "Oh, everything that you can imagine, almost. I played all four throughout my career, but even my last two years I started on special teams. My senior year I started at two throughout the rest of the season though."

**Q: Did you work at gunner?**

**Johnson:** "Oh yes sir. I was the man at that position. That's what I did."



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

**Q: Do you anticipate that's what you'll be asked to do here?**

**Johnson:** "Oh I'm coming in with the mentality I'm trying to play. If I have to play special teams, well when I have to play special teams and when that comes about, then I will do so. But my main focus and my main mentality is coming in and competing and showing them I can play corner before anything else?"

**Q: Where were you watching the draft yesterday? Where did you have the party with your family?**

**Johnson:** "So I went to a place called Mia's Table. I went and ate with my family, had about thirty people come. Family and friends, all tight knit and we just watched it all together. Ate a bunch of appetizers you know, nothing major, but this is one of my favorite food spots since I've lived here in Houston."

**Q: Where were you watching again today?**

**Johnson:** "Oh, I just watched it here at the house with my family. Nothing major. After yesterday I was like OK maybe that's not the best idea to keep doing these parties. Spend time with my family and just wait for my name to be called. God's got a plan."

**Q: Is there a cornerback that you patent yourself after a little bit?**

**Johnson:** "That's almost everybody. I try to take what I can get from every corner that I watch but mostly I like to watch corners like Richard Sherman, Jalen Ramsey, Marshon Lattimore. I try to watch and see how they use their ability, how they're longer and faster corners. At least get to see how they make it work for them so I can apply it to my game as well."

**Q: At the combine you had a pretty stout workout, what do you think that did and what were you able to show there?**

**Johnson:** "I thought that I had a pretty good combine performance. My numbers were pretty decent I would say. I reached a lot of numbers that I wanted to reach but the biggest thing is I wanted to show everybody that I can do any and everything they wanted me to do on the field as far as moving, jumping, and position drills. I just wanted to show everybody what I can do and why I was considered to be one of the better corners in the league."

**Q: In your mind while you were in Mobile, were you at all thinking about the possibility of playing for the Raiders and what were your interactions like with them there?**

**Johnson:** "Heck yeah I thought about playing for them. (*laughing*) I always listen and I was paying attention to their energy of their coaching and what they had their guys doing. I was like, 'man, this is a pretty good coach and a pretty good coaching staff.' I knew the whole time that the Raiders had a lot of picks this draft and they were trying to do a lot of moving. They're trying to get a good team together this year. I don't think they're in the rebuilding phase, I think they're in the phase of trying to go win a championship this year because there's never a rebuilding phase when you have this much talent on the team. In my opinion, I always figured that if they pick the right people, we have an opportunity to win a championship."

**Q: The Raiders have had a couple of other Houston cornerbacks over the years, do you know either D.J. Hayden or Stanford Routt and have you been able to meet either of those guys?**

**Johnson:** "See, I know D.J. [Hayden] but I don't know the other guy that you said. I've worked out with D.J., I've gotten really cool with him. We worked out together in Houston while he was here in the offseason and I got the opportunity to pick his brain and see what the thought. I also worked out with Brandon LaFell. I know him pretty well know, too."



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

### **Q: What about William Jackson, do you like his game?**

**Johnson:** "Oh yeah, I love 'Will-o's' game. That's a given having somebody be so successful like that come out of Houston. I worked out with him and D.J. Hayden at the same time. Like I said, every opportunity I got to pick their brain and learn what I could from them, I would. I made the best of it."

### **Q: How many people were around you today when you got the call?**

**Johnson:** "Just my immediate family. Mom, dad, little brother, older sister, nephew, and my sister's boyfriend."

### **Q: What was that moment like, sharing it with them?**

**Johnson:** "It was big, it was big. They know how stressful this process has been and that I really wanted this to work. Honestly, sitting there waiting for your name to be called after everything you've been through, it's big on your anxiety. I want everything to happen and I want everything to go well. You work so hard. Whenever it did happen, they were probably way more excited than I was. I was trying to keep it calm but they couldn't do it."

### **Q: What kind of leader are you and do you take pride in your leadership ability?**

**Johnson:** "Absolutely, because I know that I'm a different type of guy. I'm never the type to go with the crowd, I'm the type that always does the right thing. I do what I feel is right in my heart. I'm a personable leader. I'm the one who gets to know people, understand who they are and where they come from. That way, when it's time to lead them, I know how to rather than just doing the same standard type of tactics of trying to lead somebody without know who they are."

### **Q: When did you start thinking about the NFL as a kid and was it something your friends and family thought was a realistic dream?**

**Johnson:** "Oh, absolutely. When I was in second grade playing flag football I was thinking about the NFL. Not even realizing the whole money situation - none of that. I just knew that was the highest level of football and that I could do it. I knew I could compete with anybody and that was what my mentality was the whole time. This whole time I guess you could say it's been planned because I've been working toward it but now that it's here, it's really crazy."

### **Q: Coach Gruden said he thinks you could be the steal of the draft, what are your thoughts about that?**

**Johnson:** "How did you know that, who told you all that? I didn't even know you all knew that. *(laughter)* I didn't know that was something everybody knew. For me, that was big because I always felt that way. I'm so quiet in this draft with the media and everything that I do. I feel like I'm not the one to speak a lot or be out there, I want my actions and my play to show everything that I do. When he said that, it's like, 'Okay, somebody else believes it, too.' I think he can recognize my talent and I can't wait to show him what I can actually do when I get into his system."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Fourth-Round Draft Pick TE Foster Moreau Conference Call**

**Q: Did you get any indication during this process that you were on the Raiders' radar?**

**Moreau:** "I did you know, [tight ends] Coach [Frank] 'Frankie' [Smith] came in and he worked me out and we went to dinner. We kind of talked about it, talked about how I was going to have to work my way up the boards. I met with him at the Senior Bowl for about an hour. As you guys probably know, I was with the South team which was coached by the 49ers. It's customary that we get to swap teams for like an hour and a half for like film study. So, I mean, I met with Frank and I fell in love with the way he coached. How he addressed the game and what he does for his players and how he coaches. You know it's funny, I kind of kept up with him through the whole process and I really have an affinity for the Raiders. I obviously have an affinity for [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden and his staff; one of the great minds in football. So, I kind of hoped this would happen. I saw that they traded their pick early in the fourth round. I've been absolutely killing myself today by watching this freaking draft, but it all worked out to be perfect."

**Q: Did you have an expectation of what round you would be drafted?**

**Moreau:** "I had a feeling three or four. You know, it just kind of depended on teams' thoughts, and obviously you never know what a team thinks of you until draft day. So, three or four. My agent called me and said it could be four or five. You know, you never know. I tried not to care about that too much. I knew I wasn't going to be one of those guys in the first round making generational money. So, I mean I just wanted to go a good place with a good coach with the right fit and try to compete for reps, compete for time. I feel like I have a chance to do that."

**Q: What do you feel your strengths are as a player?**

**Moreau:** "I feel like I have a lot off-field strengths, which is funny, you don't quite look for off-field strengths. It's not the first thing that comes to mind, but I think leadership, charisma, preparedness and willingness to work. Then on the field, you go with aggression and coachability. I find that stats can sometimes be misleading. Numbers can sometimes be misleading. I just think I'm a good football player, and I'm blessed to play for a damn good football team. I'm very happy."

**Q: Do you think you're more of a pass catcher than maybe your numbers say?**

**Moreau:** "I feel like I can be. I feel like I certainly can be. First year, didn't catch a ball. Second year, caught six balls which didn't leave me much room in those last two [years]. I feel like I made due with the opportunities that I was given, and I feel like I can continue to grow and learn from the excellent pass catchers and a great quarterback. I'm just blessed and honored to have this opportunity."

**Q: Why do you think that this is such a good fit for your particular set of skills?**

**Moreau:** "This is a team where we're on the come-up, we're on the rise. We're doing stuff the right way and I feel like we have a good running game. We can do a lot of good stuff. It feels like the right fit, and it felt like the right fit. I knew the Raiders didn't have any third-round picks which was upsetting, but I knew that they had one in the fourth. They traded back for two [picks] and then they pulled the trigger on me. I feel like I can be used in the run game at least or special teams to get myself on the field and have a chance to compete and perform."

**Q: What did you do from a special teams standpoint in college?**

**Moreau:** "I was on kickoff return as a right end, kind of like one of the backline five players or a wedge back. I was a PP [punter's protector] or right shield on punts. [LSU Special Teams Coordinator] Coach Mac [McMahon] wouldn't let me cover down on kickoff because I was too big of a target - he's a good man. I'm willing and want to do everything. When the stats aren't there receiving wise, it's always nice to go down there and get some solo tackles and respond. I like to chew at the defensive players."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: A few generations ago there was a tight end here, Todd Christensen, who saw himself as kind of a renaissance man quoting Shakespeare, [Friedrich] Nietzsche then going out and catching 90 passes in a season and going to Pro Bowls. Do you see yourself in that similar vein? I know you've described yourself as loquacious in your vocabulary.**

**Moreau:** "Well, let's define loquacious first off. Loquacious is wordy, right? I actually got in trouble with some teammates for that comment. Loquacious is wordy, it's not like extravagant with my word play or a very good vocabulary. Sometimes I say too much. Obviously, you guys can attest to that knowing me for, what, I've been on this call for six minutes and 45 seconds. I have long, drawn out word-y answers. I'm not a renaissance man, but I do try to have a good vocabulary. Sometimes I'm not the best. I hang out with a lot of people who are much smarter than me which I hope will in turn make me someday make me intelligent. It hasn't worked yet, but we're going to keep trying. *(laughter)*"

**Q: Are you a voracious reader?**

**Moreau:** "I used to be, I don't find too much time for it anymore besides scouting reports."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Fifth-Round Draft Pick WR Hunter Renfrow Conference Call**

**Q: Are there any other Clemson players the Raiders could draft in the seventh round?**

**Renfrow:** "There are a bunch of them. They need to trade up and get a few more. You got Mitch [Hyatt] and Mark [Fields]. You got a bunch of guys that still haven't gone yet that should."

**Q: Were you thinking when the Raiders had taken two Clemson guys the last two days that maybe they would want you too?**

**Renfrow:** "Yeah, absolutely. I talked to [inaudible] at the Pro Day and he worked in [inaudible]. I think at the Pro Day that they were the team in the lead and that they wanted me. Me and Adam Humphries have the same agent, and Adam went through the free agent process. I know that Oakland wanted him a lot and so I knew it'd be a good spot. I like how [Clemson Head] Coach [Dabo] Swinney, he had like the little board with the peg holes, and he dropped it and it landed on the Raiders on Thursday night so I knew it was going to be a good week from there."

**Q: I know that you weren't coached by them, but what was your interaction with the Raiders staff at the Senior Bowl?**

**Renfrow:** "Yeah, they won. They won, so that's always fun. We kind of had a time [inaudible] and we flip-flopped and we got to talk with the receiver coach [inaudible]. So it was good. [Inaudible]. I like Oakland's receiver [coach Edgar Bennett], he's just very laid back and it was good."

**Q: Have you been able to exchange messages with Clelin and Trayvon yet?**

**Renfrow:** "Yeah, first thing I did, FaceTimed them. Trayvon switched numbers on me. He's gotten too big league for me. He must have a second phone, so I had to track his number down, but I FaceTimed both of them. We're just ready to get to work and bring some of the same stuff we did at Clemson to Oakland so we're excited."

**Q: Is there something you feel that could translate to the pros after being with such a successful program that was so used to winning?**

**Renfrow:** "Yeah, obviously. I think obviously Clemson and I know Alabama as well, we just won a lot. We're used to winning, we're not used to losing. So, we're looking forward to taking the things we learned. There's a fine line between winning and losing and it's just the little things you see. Attention to detail, just commitment, just being all [inaudible] at Clemson. Those are the same things that win at the next level. Off the field, it's the details. So, I'm just looking forward to bringing that."

**Q: A Tweet came back up when Derek Carr was watching the Championship Game a couple years ago. What do you know about him and your thoughts on getting to catch passes from him now?**

**Renfrow:** "Yeah I remember that, I really do. I remember sitting on the bus and I was like Derek Carr tweeted at me? This dude is, this is the Derek Carr, and I was so excited. We just won a National Championship, and I think a little time before or after that I remember he got a big contract and he was talking about the more money he makes the more he can give it away and I just love that. That's what it's all about. So, it was cool. He was able to Tweet at me and I was like, 'This is unbelievable.' So, it was cool to come full circle and be able to play with a guy like that."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: Is there something about the mentality that you take into big games that has allowed you to perform so well under pressure over the years?**

**Hunter Renfrow:** "Really, just the freedom. Being able to play and play free whenever it gets going and the pressure is one. You revert back to how you practice, how you prepare, the fundamentals, and you try (inaudible) at the same time the belief that I had (inaudible) in the backyard playing football, playing basketball, and playing all the sports. Competing and loving to compete and having fun - I take that onto the field. I just have a blast because life's short and you can get carried away with the pressure (inaudible). I think that's what it's all about, so that's what I'm going to try and do."

**Q: How do you feel you're able to show what you are as a player at the combine?**

**Renfrow:** "Coming to Clemson, I wasn't the most recruited guy. I definitely wasn't the biggest, fastest, or strongest guy, but I just wanted to be a guy who was consistent. For me, it wasn't even about having so many memorable catches or having so many touchdowns or the stats. For me coming to Clemson, it was, can my teammates trust me and does it matter that I'm there that we're winning games? If I can check those boxes, that's all that matters to me. I just like to win games. I don't have to be the one catching the game-winning pass. I don't have to be the one in the limelight. I just like to win and enjoy my teammates winning, that's what's exciting to me. I feel like we have that at Oakland - we have the nucleus. I'm just really excited to get out there and try to do that."

**Q: How do you feel like your game translates to the NFL?**

**Renfrow:** "One of the mentors is mine is [Tennessee Titans wide receiver] Adam Humphries. Like I said earlier, he was a tryout player, he wasn't even a free agent. He basically had to walk-on to the NFL and just signed a good contract last year. I feel like we're similar. We pay attention to details and we take practice seriously. We try to get better every day in practice and if there's something we need to improve on, we try to improve on it. We can about our teammates and if we're able to do those things, then you're going to have success."

**Q: What are the Raiders getting in the locker room from Clelin Ferrell in terms of a leadership role?**

**Renfrow:** "I heard a quote, maybe after Clelin was taken, about being a safe layup in the fairway. You don't have to hit a great drive or have do all this, but if you just hit a smooth iron or whatnot into the middle of the fairway that's what Clelin is. He just as easy going [inaudible] as it gets. You're getting a leader who is a really good player for one, but as good of a player he is, he's a better person off the field. I feel like all the teams I've been on and the teams that have succeeded, they have the right people first. If you can get that and people who are invested and committed and ready to do their job and care about their teammates, not wanting to let them down on Sunday, then you are going to have what it takes and Clelin is all those things."

**Q: Is there any wide receiver besides Adam Humphries who you model your game after?**

**Renfrow:** "No, I enjoy watching football. I just grew up my whole life watching, but I just like having fun and playing. There's little things you can take from Cooper Kupp, that you can take from all these great receivers. Just little details that you can add to your toolbox. [inaudible] So, you just try to learn as much as you can from people moving forward, and I'm excited about that."

**Q: Is there a certain mentality that comes from being a walk-on back at school that you've carried with you?**

**Renfrow:** "Absolutely. I think I've learned from being a walk-on. That's the mentality you have to have. I know I'm not the biggest, I know I'm not the fastest. Whether it's now or my whole career, that's kind of going to be the knock on me. So, I'm looking forward to proving them wrong and just going out every day and earning it. I think that bodes well for me. That's what it takes to win, to go out there every single day and just give it your all and try to be your best. If that happens you're not going to have any regrets for sure and then you're going to have results."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Seventh-Round Draft Pick DE Quinton Bell Conference Call**

**Q: How did you found out you got drafted? Are you surprised?**

**Bell:** "Yeah man I mean, I went in to it praying over Oakland, know what happened. I mean I honestly am surprised man. It feels like a dream right now. I don't even know how to explain it."

**Q: It sounded like you had a sense that the Raiders were interested. What was the dialogue there?**

**Bell:** "I went there on my visit, my 30 visit and I felt some great vibes from the Raiders. My uncle used to be a Raider back in the 90's. I had a really good talk with Mike Mayock about the kind of player I was, the person I was on and off the field. I definitely felt a connection there, and I think he liked what he heard as far as my word."

**Q: How key was your uncle being a Raider to fitting in and feeling like it was home?**

**Bell:** "As soon as I got there you know, I felt like this is somewhere I could see myself. Obviously, the whole coaching staff knew who he was as soon as I got there. He was a legend man, so I think that I automatically got the respect of some of the guys just from having a former Raider in my family."

**Q: Why did you make the switch to defense?**

**Bell:** "It really was kind of a decision I made for myself as well as for my team at the time. We got a new coaching staff my senior year and they came in and they saw some potential in me that I didn't see for myself. At receiver I kind of wasn't really doing too much. They came in and said, 'Look, we think you have a chance to play at the next level at defensive end, pass rushing.' So, at first it kind of sounded a little crazy to me, but looking back at it now, it's probably the best decision I ever made in my life. So, I thank those guys at Prairie View you know, Coach [Todd] Middleton and Coach [Eric] Dooley and all those guys for giving me an opportunity, making it availability to me because I would never have thought to do that myself."

**Q: What did you do that made them think you could be a defensive end at the next level?**

**Bell:** "Really man, it was just they saw my height, they saw my length, they saw my speed and they saw that hey you know, if you put a little more weight on, we think you could sack the quarterback. They kind of sat me down and talked about different pass rushers that were in the league currently and comparing me to them and my body type and everything. I got the chance to go through it in Spring ball first before the season, and I fell in love with it. You know, I fell in love with the art of pass rushing and sacking the quarterback and just playing defensive in general man...felt great."

**Q: How much weight have you gained from the time you moved to defense and where would you like to end up?**

**Bell:** "I started out at 219 pounds and I wound up going into camp in my senior year of college at 240 pounds. I'm around 242 right now and I'm going to end up wherever the Raiders need me to be. If they want me to be 250, 255, I'll get there and if they want me to stay here or whatever the Raiders need, I'll do for them."

**Q: How much more fun is running down quarterbacks than running routes?**

**Bell:** "10 times more fun. A lot more fun. Like I said, when I got a chance in spring ball I got four or five sacks and ever since that day, I fell in love playing defense. My only regret is I should have tried it sooner. That's my only regret, but here we are."





## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

**Q: Did you play defense in high school or at all before college?**

**Bell:** "Yeah, I played both ways in high school. I played corner and safety my junior year and I played outside linebacker my senior year of high school."

**Q: What was the toughest competition you faced at Prairie View and do you expect it to be a bit of a startling jump playing against NFL talent?**

**Bell:** "There were a lot of pretty good tackles that I faced. I think my toughest game would probably be (against) Rice because they ran double-tight, double-wing personnel. There wasn't really a lot of pass rushing going on in that game but that was my first game at that position and it definitely broke me in to be an incentive. From the jump from college to the pros, I feel like I did one year of learning and I pride myself on being an extremely coachable player. I know that up in Oakland they have great coaches and they're going to work on me. I have all the confidence and it's definitely going to be a jump and it's not going to take too long to get the hang of things."

**Q: Were you able to participate in any of the college All-Star showcase games? The Senior Bowl, the East West Shrine game, were you invited to any of those?**

**Bell:** "No, me and my agent got together and we decided that we wanted to get a NFL pre game but didn't get into that, was on the injury reserve for that, didn't get a Senior Bowl invite so we kind of came down to it. He said, 'Look, your pro day is going to be a big deal for you and what you do.' He felt like at the time that I had enough attention that I didn't need to play in a bowl game so made that decision to hold out from the All-Star game and stick to training for my pro day."

**Q: What was your injury and where are you now physically?**

**Bell:** "There was no injury. He said I shouldn't play so I wouldn't get injured kind of thing. Right now I'm a 100% healthy and ready to go."

**Q: Did that put a lot of pressure on your pro day and how did you feel after you turned in such good numbers there?**

**Bell:** "It definitely put a lot of pressure on me but I needed it to fuel me during my training process. I think that I had a chip on my shoulder training at Texas Fort Worth with those guys around a lot of big names and big school, big-named guys. Just being around those guys really fueled me. It really, really fueled me to be better than them and show them that, 'Hey, I come from Prairie View, a small school in the FCS, but you're not better than me.' That's what I did and I think on my pro day I showed the scouts that, 'Hey, it doesn't matter name is on your jersey, it matters the athlete. I opened some minds that day on my pro day.'"

**Q: Who did you train alongside for your pro day?**

**Bell:** "I was with a lot of guys, some names I can draw off: Jamal Davis from Akron, Greg Roberts from Baylor. I was with Dennis Daley from South Carolina, a lot of guys that just got drafted today. Great guys, man. I don't even think they knew it, but just them having their name behind them of that school that's bigger than mine, it really fueled me, and we went at it every day in there and I'm glad I got the opportunity to be around talent like that to help prepare myself for my day."

**Q: Have you heard from uncle, former Raiders RB Nick Bell?**

**Bell:** "Yeah, he did call me. We had a brief convo and he's so excited and so proud of me. Glad to get it started and he can't believe it. This is just crazy right now, man. It feels like a dream."

**Q: Will he be out there at training camp for Alumni Day?**

**Bell:** "I hope so. I hope to get him out there."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: Does your uncle have any good Raiders stories from back in the day?**

**Bell:** "Oh man, you know what, we haven't really talked about it too much, but I'm sure he'll have stuff to tell me now. So, we'll get together soon and talk some stuff."

**Q: Where was your pro day?**

**Bell:** "I did my pro day at Prairie View A&M, on campus."

**Q: After your performance at pro day did you feel like you would make the NFL?**

**Bell:** "Oh, man. I feel like it changed my life. I felt like I had a set of goals and hit every mark that I wanted to hit, and I went out there nervous at first but once I started moving around it felt natural to me. I ran what I was supposed to run, I jumped what I was supposed to jump and honestly, I really shed tears after my pro day because it just felt unreal. It just felt like everything I needed to do, everything I said I wanted to do, I did and so I definitely felt like it changed my life when I walked away from the campus that day."

**Q: What did it mean to have your name called out in the Draft?**

**Bell:** "It meant the world to me, it meant the world to me. I have such a different, not typical story when it comes to the game of football with me. And just everything that I've been through, from trying to find a college to offer me a scholarship, to playing receiver for three years and not doing anything, switching coaching staffs. It's just a crazy story and just to be able to see my name on that TV, it kind of makes you feel like you are doing what you are supposed to be doing and all your hard work is paying off, but it's only the beginning and now it's really time to get down and really work hard. I'm just so ready and excited, man, ready to get to work. This process is finally over, and I can't wait, honestly, can't wait."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Press Conference following the 2019 NFL Draft**

#### ***General Manager Mike Mayock***

**Q: Head Coach Jon Gruden said Isaiah Johnson was the steal of the draft. Why did you guys like him so much and why do you think he was still there?**

**Mayock:** "Did you say he was the steal of the draft?"

**Q: That's what Gruden told him on the phone.**

**Mayock:** "Boy, we loved him. We think he complements Trayvon Mullen. Very similar guys – long, they both run. You're talking about 6-foot-2, 200-pound guys that run 4.4. They're perfect in what we do, we're a press corner team. Jimmy O'Neil, our defensive back coach is happier than I've ever seen him. So now we have some long, press corners to go along with Gareon [Conley] and everybody else we have. Gareon Conley, [Daryl] Worley and all our guys. Bottom line is we're ecstatic with those corners."

**Q: For several years after the draft, you've been in a different mind frame.**

**Mayock:** "Yeah, I was already drinking a beer and having dinner (*laughing*)."

**Q: Can you compare what it feels like to be in this moment now compared to previous years?**

**Mayock:** "Yeah, I'll give you a couple different thoughts. One is, and I may have mentioned this to you guys before, I'm not sure, but at Senior Bowl this year I ran into Ozzie Newsome at dinner. I've known Ozzie forever. He congratulated me on the job and I said, 'Any advice?' He said, 'Mike, all I can tell you is that having an opinion is a hell of a lot easier than making a decision.' I think I said this the other night, you kind of feel the weight of that in the draft room. Especially when you're trying to trade back and your head coach, like most coaches, wants you to trade up and go get their guy. You're trying to tell Coach Gruden, 'Trust me, if we trade back 10 spots, our guy's still going to be there and we'll pick up another pick.' And Jon's staring at you and you're just sitting there going, 'Man, it's a lot different than NFL Network and that guy better be there in 10 picks.' The difference is just ownership, skin in the game. It just meant something different this week for me. At the end of the day we won't know how we did for a couple of years, but we couldn't feel better today because I think we stayed consistent with our philosophy and we drafted the kind of guy that we want to bring into this building."

**Q: It made for good television when they were on air and you 'Stumped the Truck.'**

**Mayock:** "Yeah, the producer, Charlie Yook, for the NFL Network texted me and said, 'Will you tweet something out and try to?' Because we used to play that Stump the Truck game on Saturday. The irony was – I'm not really Tweeting anymore – but when I finally looked down, I didn't see the message for a while, but when I looked down we were on the clock with [Quinton] Bell from Prairie View. I thought, what a perfect situation to text him back, 'Quinton Bell' as a Stump the Truck. Of course, he got the text, relayed it to the truck. The truck started looking for him and then immediately thereafter they announced that we took the kid. It was just kind of cool. At that point, it was our final pick. I thought we could have a little fun with it, and it was cool."

**Q: You talked about trading up and trading down. You traded up for Hunter Renfrow. What made you want to trade up for him?**

**Mayock:** "I've loved his game for the last few years. I mean when he caught that touchdown pass against Alabama a few years ago in the National Championship game. When you're watching a lot of tape of kids and you're



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watching a lot of Clemson and a lot of Alabama and a lot of the teams that have a lot of draftable kids. We get caught up in all Clemson's kids, half of which we drafted, obviously. We get caught up in the first round and the second round. All these kids they had in their defensive front and then you put their offensive tape on and you go, 'Why don't people talk more about Renfrow.' Then we saw him up close at the Senior Bowl. When I would go to the South practices, I'd just be like he has an innate feel for the game as far as separation, how to get open. I didn't even really care what he ran. To be honest with you, I was almost disappointed he ran in the 4.5's at the Combine because I didn't want people to notice him any more then. His production on the field was outstanding. He has an innate ability to separate. This is what I've learned from quarterbacks over the year, the great quarterbacks. They love somebody who can win quickly when there's pressure. When you're bringing six and you only have five blocking and you're Tom Brady or Drew Brees...I've talked to these guys all over the years and they've all said the same thing – 'Give me a quick guy that can win in the middle of the field immediately when we get pressure.' I think Derek Carr is going to love this guy. I really do. I think we took four or five Senior Bowl players. I got a text from the head of the Senior Bowl, Jim Nagy. The text was cool, he said, 'That was your fourth Senior Bowl pick from the South. Apparently, I gave you the wrong team.' Coaching and being there really helped us a lot. It really is a big deal to be involved in that game."

### **Q: What did you see from Maxx Crosby?**

**Mayock:** "He plays every snap like his hair is on fire, that's No. 1. No. 2, he has length. No. 3, he ran in the 4.6's, low 4.6's if I remember at 255 pounds and 6-foot-5. So he has some twitch. He has length, he has twitch. He has a great motor. What he doesn't have yet is power. He doesn't have strength yet, and he needs to develop that. When I got on the phone with him, I told him that his future was going to be dependent on a Gruden, but not the one he thought. It's going to be [strength and conditioning assistant coach] Deuce [Gruden]. I wanted him to get philosophically connected at the hip with Deuce because he has to get stronger. But I love his tape because he plays his ass off on every play."

### **Q: How unique is Quinton Bell that he has a receiver skill set but is a pass rusher?**

**Mayock:** "We brought him in for one of our 30 visits. I'll tell you what, our scout, Teddy Atlas, who I was just upstairs with trying to sign some free agents. Teddy Atlas did a great job. He kind of kept this guy alive in my mind, and that's what good scouts do. At first I was like, 'I got to hear about a wide receiver converted to defensive end and he's from a small school? Come on, Teddy.' He kept bringing him up and he kept bring him up and he said, 'Mike, he's 240 pounds.' I was like, 'Wait a minute, he was 222 or 225 during his..' He said, '240, and he ran a 4.4.' That got my attention. I believe, I'm not sure about this, but we may have been the only team at his Pro Day. We were all over him because of Teddy Atlas. He did a great job. Then when his numbers came out from his Pro Day, I had him earmarked in the back of my mind for a late seventh-round pick because if he got to free agency there would have been 20 teams bidding on him. So, we took him off the board in seven."

### **Q: Teddy was allowed to stay then for the draft?**

**Mayock:** "There were more guys up there than you guys were erroneously told."

### **Q: There was one part of this draft experience that you never did get to experience until these past couple of days, which was to be able to be on the phone with these prospects when they first learn they're going into the NFL and they're going to be Raiders. What was that like for you to experience that for the first time?**

**Mike Mayock:** "More cool than I thought. I believe Jon Gruden is one of the best recruiters and one of the best guys to be a face of a franchise. His energy is unbelievable. I really believe that Jon should be the first voice they



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hear because that's who they associate (with) the Oakland Raiders. Jon Gruden, man, his energy - I told you guys the other night - he was just at me. 'When can I talk to them? When can I talk to them? Can I go call them now?' And it was awesome, because it was so real. For most of them I would follow him in there and I'd go in there and talk to the kids unless we had a trade working. I got chocked up a couple of times, I really did from feeling the emotion over the phone. I mean [Clelin] Ferrell couldn't talk. I almost couldn't talk. I get emotional about that stuff. It's kind of cool, because I remember being a 10th-round draft pick and I remember to this day getting the phone call from the Pittsburgh Steelers and what it felt like. So, I'm excited that they're so excited to hear from Jon Gruden and to the extent I can add just a little bit, it's awesome."

### **Q: Did you consider getting a lower-round prospect as a developmental quarterback?**

**Mayock:** "We have a young guy still with Nathan Peterman. Jon told the truth the other night, our job's to evaluate and we went out and did our homework. That's a position my head coach is always going to be ultra-interested in regardless. We did our homework and obviously we've been telling you for a long time, we think Derek [Carr] is a franchise quarterback. It's going to take something pretty special to overcome that. We love Derek Carr. We love what we think he's capable of doing in the future and we felt like we already had enough quarterbacks at that point. We'd done our home and we didn't think any of the young, later-round guys could beat out who we have."

### **Q: Do you guys think you have adequately addressed your need to get a pass rush by taking Ferrell off the edge and taking a step back looking at the draft class overall, what do you feel like you were able to accomplish?**

**Mayock:** "I'll take the second part of it first. You guys are tired of me talking about foundation players, but I believe in it and Jon shared that vision. We talked an awful lot about a lot of guys this week who we want and who would fit this building. I think what I'm most proud of is we stayed consistent through the entire process. From the day I got here, with Jon [Gruden] and I sitting down discussing what we want in this building and how to develop a team. I try to tell people it's easy to kind of spend money in free agency or draft players, but the hard part is developing a team and that's what we're trying to do. We're trying to do it by improving in strengthening our locker room with character and hard-working guys who love it. That's what I'm really proud of, we stuck to that the whole time. You guys are all tired of hearing me say it, I know it, but that's what we talk about. That's what's most important. As far as the defensive end situation, let's face it, we needed some defensive ends. You guys have been harping on that since I got here. We didn't think the free agency was going to be the answer for that. I thought we did a really nice job here over the weekend to the extent that we couldn't even sign any free agent defensive ends because they saw we drafted three. They're all staying away from us. What we got, of course we got Ferrell - length, motor. We got [Maxx] Crosby - length, motor. Then we get this guy from Prairie View, Quinton Bell - length, motor, 4.40 speed. So we feel like for sure that's a position we addressed and we're excited about."

### **Q: Can you take us through what you liked about the LSU Foster Moreau and also your evaluation of that particular position group as a whole especially in relation to Darren Waller and maybe a great opportunity he may have to make an impact?**

**Mayock:** "I've got to credit Frank Smith, our tight end coach, for taking a late visit to LSU. Moreau was on the South team at the Senior Bowl and I watched a lot of tape of him and we liked him and he wore No. 18 at LSU, which if you know the history and tradition of that number, means something. It means a lot about character and who you are as a person and your work ethic and so we knew who this kid was as a person. Frank believed that there was more athletic ability in this kid's body than we initially thought. We saw him at the Senior Bowl. We liked him. We liked his work ethic. Frank went down late and worked him out and spent an awful lot of time with him and the kid timed and worked out better than we all anticipated. I think he ran 4.62 if I remember at about 255 pounds and Frank came back all excited like hey this kid is a little more athletic than we thought. I had a chance to get my hands on him, which means he's working him out and forcing him through releases off the line and he's like 'he's stronger, he's faster and I really believe in this kid's upside.' So, what we think we found is a tight end that can put his hand in the dirt and block number one. Number two, we think he's a little bit better athletically than most



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people think. And number three, we think he's a great compliment to Waller who you just talked about. I was talking to Waller upstairs today. Boy, I thought we almost drafted...a minute I looked at him and shook his hands I thought it was Noah Fant. You know, from a height, size perspective, he looked very similar and he's a very athletic kid. So, we feel like we're hopeful he can be our athletic displaced Y and we're really excited about the LSU kid Moreau."

### **Q: Is Denzelle Good penciled in as your starting guard?**

**Mayock:** "I mean he has been all offseason and I would imagine if we lined up today, Tom would probably have him there. You know, he played pretty well at the end of last season. I'm not sure, you know, he's going to have to prove to us that he's the long-term answer. He had some initial success at Indy (Indianapolis Colts) at tackle. He wasn't able to sustain it. You know, so we need him to be consistent. I mean that's going to be his challenge because he has the natural ability and size to be a starting guard in the NFL but he's got to sustain it and be more consistent."

### **Q: Isaiah Johnson played a lot of special teams at Houston. A number of guys in this draft class have. Can you discuss in terms of that being a foot in the door for a lot of these guys as a part of the active roster as rookies. Who in particular do you think could be immediate contributors in that area?**

**Mayock:** "I mean you got to understand [assistant head coach/special teams coordinator] Rich Bisaccia who I've said forever is the best special teams coach in the NFL. I've known Richie for 35 years. We were counselors together at the Joe Namath football camp when we were in college. He went to Yankton, which I had never even heard of until I met Richie. Anyway, Richie's been all over me during this process about bringing in special teams players and that has to be a special thing. And if you go down our list, the Clemson kids will all play. I mean they love it. Richie got a phone call from [Johnathan] Abram. Actually, Abram was in Richie's office yesterday and he went in, think about this, this is a first-round safety. He went into the special teams coach's office to say 'can I play on teams?' And Richie said 'yeah, I got you scheduled for punt team,' and he's like 'what, personal protector?' And Richie said 'no, you're going to be a flyer,' and the kid started jumping up and down. Like, a lot of people run away from that, especially high picks. John Abram wants to be the flyer on punt team. So, when you look down our list, you know, the Clemson kids all want to play. [Josh] Jacobs is a really good kick return guy who was on all the Alabama special teams. Ok so, he can play it. Isaiah Johnson, that's going to be his initial task. You know, he runs 4.38. He better get his ass downfield and make tackles on punts and kickoffs. He's going to be a core special teams guy for us, same thing with Foster Moreau. Hunter Renfrow is a backup punt returner, very solid hands. Quinton Bell runs 4.4. We're going to sign the full back that we had in the Senior Bowl. Alec Ingold from Wisconsin, he's going to be a great special teams player and that's what attracted him to us in addition to being a full back. Huge priority. Huge, huge priority is special teams."

### **Q: Did you guy get a 40-yard dash time on Clelin Ferrell?**

**Mayock:** "Nobody did. Nobody did. Everybody asked him for workouts. Everybody asked him. We had him out to dinner last week or whatever on the 30 visit and he got teased unmercifully from Christian Wilkins his teammate, which was really funny. You know, Wilkins kept saying 'hey, I ran 5.03 but at least I had a time.'"

### **Q: How comfortable were you with that in terms of pulling the trigger on Clelin Ferrell?**

**Mayock:** "Yeah, Jon and I had the conversation and it was kind of like you know, does it bother us that he didn't run a 40? Yeah, a little bit it does. Especially because he's such a hard worker and everything. I finally just...Jon and



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I had the conversation...it finally kind of went to I just said listen, we got three years of tape, if we can't figure out if this kid can rush the passer and set an edge, it's on us, not on him."

### **Q: How did you evaluate yourself post-draft during your television role?**

**Mayock:** "I took a lot of pride in it. I think you should, right? I didn't really care about the mock draft I did, but yeah, I put a lot of time and effort into it, but I knew that some grandma in a casino could probably do better than me picking names out of a hat just because one trade can change the whole thing. For me, it was all about trying to be the G.M. for all 32 teams. I felt like if I fairly and honestly portrayed what each team needed and why, and why each pick was made and hopefully why, or if I disagreed with it may be open up a kind of different position respectfully. I felt like if I did that consistently for 250-something picks, I had a good weekend and I tried to take pride in being prepared and ready to go."

### **Q: Before this weekend Coach Gruden said, 'You have three first-round picks. Don't screw it up.' Do you now turn it around and say, 'Here you go, don't screw it up.'?**

**Mayock:** "Pretty much. (*laughter*) Really good question, and pretty much. I'll tell you what...When we got done today we had a big hug and we feel like in the last four months between free agency and the draft we've been consistent, we've got the people we want in this building. Nothing has changed yet. We are a 4-12 football team and we've got to prove it on the field, but we think we got a little bit better each day."

### **Q: Are you guys going to exercise Karl Joseph's fifth-year option?**

**Mayock:** "I think that's a conversation we will have with Karl."

### **Q: Can you detail the synergy between you and Jon Gruden throughout the process?**

**Mayock:** "I couldn't be happier with the way our relationship has developed. This is a guy with a strong opinion and he brought me in to have an equally strong opinion, and I think that's the important thing people have to understand. I didn't come here to kind of just try to set a board. I came here to work with Jon and try and help him build a football team, a championship football team. I also knew I had to come in here and earn people's respect. I knew a lot of the people in this building, coaches, etc., but step No. 1 for me is you have to earn people's respect and that's how I look at it every day of my life. So, Jon and I spent an awful lot of early mornings in this building watching film, arguing about players. I was in with the coaches, I don't know how many days, in free agency and draft prep. Just me, Jon and the entire coaching staff grinding tape together and arguing about players, and I was vehement about the kind of guys we want to bring in this building. A lot of coaches just want talent, sometimes they don't really care about the rest of it, they want talent, and I think we complement each other because when I had a strong opinion, Jon listened. And when Jon has a strong opinion, I listen, and we go at it a little bit which is really good, but at the end of the day I think the important thing is when we make a decision it's a Raider decision. When we bring a kid in this building, we can disagree all we want, but when that guy gets drafted or signed by the Raiders he is ours, he's a Raider."