



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Opening Statement: "Obviously we got a tremendous challenge this week, heading to Miami against a red-hot defense. We had a good practice yesterday and just finished up a real solid walk-thru so we will be prepared."

Q: How much has the threat of Martavis Bryant's vertical speed influenced the opportunities you guys have on offense?

Coach Olson: "We believe it changes what we are able to do. Certainly anytime you have a vertical threat, with someone like him that possesses that type of speed, it's going to open up some things. Not only down the field but also some underneath things... and it should open up the running game as well. The defense obviously has to account for that kind of speed and at times will have to help over the top."

Q: You guys had six plays of more than 20 yards on Sunday. That being said, a lot of that is after the catch. Do you anticipate more air yards in terms of pushing the ball down the field as the season progresses?

Coach Olson: "We will do whatever it takes to score points. We always say that is our job as an offense, is to go out and score points. However we have to do that or whatever that game plan is to enable us to do that, we will do that. We do like the addition that Martavis allowed us to do some things, we felt like, in the play action game because of the speed he possess over top. It helps us in the run game. Just having those pieces fit together, obviously, is going to aid our offensive output down the stretch we believe."

Q: It looked like [WR Amari Cooper] Coop did a better job of taking advantage of when they [defense] were cushioning him and giving him those short passes. Later in the game we saw a couple of deep balls to him. Was that a key?

Coach Olson: "Yeah. I think getting him involved early was important for him in gaining confidence throughout the game. He did a tremendous job and Derek [Carr] did a tremendous job. Everyone did a tremendous job, the protection allowing us to get him the ball. We knew that was going to be a favorable matchup for us going into this game and it proved true. We are happy with his production and we will continue to keep him involved."

Q: Even since Cooper came out of college, people have said he is a really good route runner. What makes him so good?

Coach Olson: "I think he has great patience. To me, the ability to sit down on a dime. People say that he has a unique ability to start and stop, get out of cuts. It's unique in the sense that you will see great separation from it. Once he gets separation from a defensive back, he is able to keep separation. That is critical as well, to get out of the break and continue to keep the separation. He's got the speed to create separation. It's something that he worked at and certainly we are happy to have him."

Q: You guys averaged about seven yards on first and second down, and only two on third down. What do you see on third downs?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, we felt execution wise in the first two we had mental errors. On our first two short-yardage pass plays. We didn't get one on a short yardage run which was disappointing. We always talk about staying on track, in other words, let's not allow ourselves to get in third-and-unmanageable



Oakland Raiders Transcript

situations. We felt like we did a good job of putting Derek in a third-and-manageable situation. Now it's more a matter of cleaning up the execution. We felt like coming back and watching it, plays were there and again we had a couple mental errors on two of the plays and then lack of execution on the other. We will get better with that."

Q: What did you see on that final third down of the opening possession on Sunday?

Coach Olson: "I think there was a little bit of confusion based on a protection plan there...and because of that I think Derek was a little quick going through his progression on that particular play. We got to eliminate that and eliminate any confusion at the line of scrimmage in terms of assignments. That will allow the quarterback to sit in there and get through his progressions."

Q: What goes into an opening script of a game? What is that process like?

Coach Olson: "It starts on Wednesday, when we start putting the plan together and going out practicing it. We have an idea of what plays we feel like will work against certain fronts and coverages and what run plays we feel great about going into the game. Then throughout the week as the confidence increases with the players on those certain plays, we like to get them in early. We get those plays in early so the players are confident after that first drive. There is a lot that goes into it, but a lot of it is done on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday practices."

Q: You hear of 15-play scripts to start the game. Is that what you guys employed?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, we go anywhere from 15 to 18, 15 to 20 sometimes. It's kind of just how coach is feeling. I've seen him script up to 22 sometimes. It's kind of how he feels going in but it varies each week."

Q: When you script a game like that, how often does it unfold like you think it will and how much do you have to deviate from it?

Coach Olson: "At times it does deviate, but not very often do you see teams change drastically early in the game from what they've been. It doesn't necessarily always fall right on that script, but we like to look at semi-normal down and distance calls, certainly you'll get off script if you have a big play that takes you in the red zone or you get to a third down, you would get off that script. We try to stay pretty much true to form, so that the players kind of have an idea of what's coming next, what play is coming up next. That reduces your chances for having mental errors – when the players have a really good idea of what the next play is on the script. So, they get a chance to study it on Saturday night and wake up Sunday morning and study that script. They have a pretty good idea what plays are coming."

Q: What have you seen from Kolton Miller thus far in his effective start to the season?

Coach Olson: "Again, I mentioned it after the first week, we're just really excited about the growth that he's shown so far. We knew he was a very talented player, but he's gotten better each week that he's been here and each game he's gotten better through these first couple games. He's gotten better through the preseason and again, we see a real high ceiling for him. He's playing well right now, but we think he's going to play a lot better in the future."

Q: Did you anticipate Von Miller to cover right tackle so much in the last game?

Coach Olson: "We thought he might, but again, not very often do teams change who they are. And if we saw that in the first week, we had a pretty good idea that he might be there. Again, Kolton played very



Oakland Raiders Transcript

well in that first game, that's the encouraging part. We feel very comfortable no matter who they put on Koltan Miller."

Q: A lot of this is probably game flow dependent, but there were some vast differences in how you used your personnel in Games 1 and 2. Is that game flow or your willingness to adapt to your opponent in ways that give you the best chance to win?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, that's exactly what it is. Every game is different as we say. Every defense is different – structurally – and personnel wise and personnel driven. We'd like to think that each week we go in we're going to exploit the matchups that we feel are favorable to us. Certainly, we have a core group of plays that we will run, but there are certain matchups that we want to make sure that we get to in any particular game."

Q: Are there staffs in this league that are going to stick to exactly who they are as an offense compared to staffs who will adapt by opponent?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, I think that really everybody has your core system in place and that's what is done during OTAs and training camp. Everybody tries to get their core system in place. But I think creativity right now offensively, is really, you look throughout the league, I think it's great for fans, it's great for offensive football right now – some of the creativity you're seeing throughout the league on offense. I think that if you're not constantly adapting and changing and trying to attack teams based on what you see, then I think you're missing the boat on that. I think that's one thing that coach – through his time off – has been able to do is go and study a lot of different places and kind of pick up on some of that. I think we'll continue to be that team that will continue to adapt based on our personnel and what we feel like we can go in the game with the best ability to try and score points against that opponent."

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Q: What's it been like having Marco Coleman on your staff?

Coach Guenther: "Marc gives perspective of an ex player. Obviously, he played a long time in the league. He can kind of relate to the players and what they're going through each and every down. In practice he's helping out a lot with the ends. It's an added value having a guy that's an experienced player. Just getting his coaching career started really here. He's done a good job for us."

Q: You faced a tough environment last week and will have another tough one in Miami. Do feel good about your players having recovered from the heat?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, I mean we're going to play in hot weather. We're going to play in cold weather later in the year. It really doesn't matter what the elements are, we have to go play and finish the game out. That's the furthest thing from my mind, really. It's going to be hot in Miami. Can't be any hotter than it was in Denver, really, at the end of the day. We just have to go out and play good football."

Q: I was mostly referring to taking care of them during the week to make sure they're recovered.

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, yesterday was more of a mental day. Today we'll put the pads on and get after it a little bit in practice. We had a really good mental day yesterday. Got a lot of reps in, so that was a good thing. I think the guys are in a good spot."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: When you were in Cincinnati, you didn't have high sack numbers. Is it possible to be a good defense and not have high sack numbers or is it more difficult?

Coach Guenther: "Obviously, you'd like to have sacks, but if you really look at it guys and you look at the statistics year in and year out, the teams that are up there in sacks aren't necessarily playoff teams. A lot of times they're not. You'd always like to get a number of sacks. One year we didn't have as many. The next year we came back we had double the amount. It kind of feeds off each other. The kind of personnel you have. That's really not the most important thing, but obviously it's something that you want to get after the opposing quarterback."

Q: What jumps out when you watch the Dolphins offense on film?

Coach Guenther: "They're a multiple offense. [Ryan] Tannehill is back and playing good. They have two really good running backs, [Frank] Gore and [Kenyan] Drake. Both different kind of backs. They have three good receivers and I think their line has improved from the last time I played them which is back in '15. They're doing a good job. They're being efficient with what they're doing. It'll be a real challenge for us."

Q: Does Tannehill's scrambling ability come into play?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, he can run with the ball. We've played this guy before. I wouldn't say he's Fran Tarkenton or anything like that, but he can win downs with his feet. They'll have some things for him in the running game which he'll be able to run the ball. It's nothing like anything we haven't seen in the past."

Q: What have you seen out of Bruce Irvin so far?

Coach Guenther: "Well first of all he can't get penalties on third down. In a critical game like that, you can't have those kinds of penalties. Obviously, as the game wore on, it was kind of hard to sub some of the guys at the end because they're on a one-minute drill. I always say our best player has to play great all the time. He's one of them and he has to play great for us to be successful all the time."

Q: What's your approach on a Monday when you go over the film and you have a tough drive like the last one? Is it matter of fact, going over things play-by-play?

Coach Guenther: "You go through the last drive, it's all situational stuff. It really, in the second half there, we gave them a third down on a penalty. We gave them...one of the third downs was in the redzone there where they scored on the third-and-1. We gave up the fourth-and-1 play. I think things leading up to that. We had a guy free in the hole on a third-and-2, 1-on-1 with a running back. That one guy covering, we can't get him on the ground. That would've been back to third-and-8 and they probably would've had to kick a field goal. There's a lot of things throughout the course of the game that happen. One of the third downs, I think it was third-and-8 or so, we have the receiver doubled over there on their sideline and he caught the ball. There's things leading up to that where it probably shouldn't have got to that point in the game. We led the game up until about seven seconds, the whole game. I just think you try to build off of those. I always tell the players, 'If you don't learn from defeat, you're making a big mistake.' Being a new group and new in the system with some of these players, they just have to understand that even if we lost the game, we have to gain a lot of value out of it."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What did you see from Erik Harris on Sunday?

Coach Guenther: "It's not just Sunday. I've seen it from him all Spring and all of training camp. He's been playing good. He's real smart. He understands the ins and outs of the defense. He earned his right to play. Like I've been saying in the past, I'm going to utilize all the personnel I have. I think you'll see some more of that on Sunday."

Q: Is there something more you need to see from Karl Joseph?

Coach Guenther: "I just think Karl needs to keep working on what he's doing. Keep progressing in practice, like I told him. Obviously, I have talked with him a bunch about those things. He just has to keep progressing. You get in those games where it is hot. You're going to expel some guys and I think he's going to have his chance this Sunday."

Q: What did you think of Clinton McDonald's performance?

Coach Guenther: "It's just where we're at, we had three of the eight D-Linemen where there came last week. Really, at the end of the day, were brand new to us. No. 1, we didn't have much of a choice. No. 2, Clinton has played in our system, so he's familiar with what we do in our system. He was with me in Cincinnati, so it was a little bit easier of a transition for him going in there. He did a tremendous job on short notice, playing that many snaps."

Q: What have you made of Rashaan Melvin's start to the season?

Coach Guenther: "I think he's done good. We really tried to change his technique some. At the beginning he was kind of unsure because he's played for several teams and has been coached different ways. The only way I know how to do it is what I've taught in the past. He's really taken to the coaching. You can see each and every week he's improved. Obviously, he had the big interception on the third down in the endzone which was critical in the game, but again he just needs to keep progressing. Just like all the other guys who are new in this system. It's the second game we've been together as coaching staff and players all alike. No different than Rashaan, but all the other guys just keep progressing in the right direction."