



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening statement: "Alright, got Sunday night game. Cowboys. Should be a lot of fun. It'll be an exciting game. Glad to be at home. Looking forward to it. Ready to have a good week of prep. Questions?"

Q: What have you seen from their offense the last two weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "All the tape you look at, they run it well. They have a big offensive line. Obviously, Ezekiel [Elliot] is special, but all the backs are good. They're all talented. They run behind it. Dez [Bryant] obviously going, [Cole] Beasley. They've got a good group. That definitely gets your attention. Defensively, [defensive coordinator] Rod Marinelli, very aggressive front. A lot of sacks. Getting Sean Lee back obviously is big. He is very productive for them. It's a good football team. I think the two of us probably expected to have a few more wins at this point in the year. We are where we are and we're looking forward to playing."

Q: What have you seen out of Dak Prescott?

Coach Del Rio: "He's a good player. He can do things with his arm and with his feet. They involved him in some zone-read things where he'll keep it and take off. Then he'll do some things just scrambling. Definitely a threat. Good football player."

Q: Do you think players think too much about the expectations?

Coach Del Rio: "I just think that's just part of the hype around the game. It's understood. Been talked about a lot. It doesn't really matter. It's what you earn on the field. Obviously, both teams are capable and both teams really want this win."

Q: Why do you think Derek Carr's deep ball hasn't been as successful?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I think you get opportunities to bring it down. I've always considered him really an accurate deep ball thrower. We've taken a few shots and haven't been able to connect on them, or not as many as we'd like. It's something obviously, we'd like to have the answer. If we had the answer we'd utilize it right now. We're not going to wait. We're not holding anything. We're trying to execute the best we can. That's definitely something we haven't done as well this year."

Q: How do you harness the emotion of frustration into these final three games?

Coach Del Rio: "To me, look, you have to own up. Tuesdays is that day of the week for us to kind of own up and move forward. We've done that. For us, it's about getting ready for the next one. Whether we're being praised or we're being attacked, that doesn't matter. That's just the noise on the outside, but inside the building we're being very purposeful of getting back to work."

Q: What has struck you about the increased sack totals over these past three games?

Coach Del Rio: "What about them?"

Q: What struck you? What do you think is the culprit behind it?

Coach Del Rio: "It's always a combination of rush and coverage. Coverage is a little better. Rush is a little better. It comes together and you get those results."

Q: Anything new with Amari Cooper?

Coach Del Rio: "No. He won't practice today."



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Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: You were upset Sunday. How's your current approach?

Carr: "Yes, I was. I think rightfully so. Again, I try to let you know best I can after the game. That time it was just hard. I think we're all pretty upset. If you're not, then you're obviously not putting enough into it. If you're wanting to point a finger or those kind of things, I don't think that that's right either. If you're upset with yourself and you're upset that you didn't win the game, I still stand by how I felt, man. I was hot to be honest. I put way too much effort into this to go out there and not play my best. I was prepared, saw their coverage easily. All those things like I said after the game, I still stand by it. But yeah, I was definitely upset. My wife and kids did a good job of reigning me back in."

Q: How do you deal with not knowing what's going wrong offensively?

Carr: "You know what, it's one of those things. If we walk through the season, it's one of those where you stay the course. That's what we teach as our process. That's the message. Sometimes we go out there and it's great. Then sometimes we go out there and it's crap. That's on us as players. We have to execute better. Again, I'll always say this, I've said it since I've been here, put it all on me because it all starts with me. I got to do better for our team and for our organization for us to win."

Q: What sort of steps do you take in a practice week in terms of proving the execution between you in the wide receivers. What kind of work with them in particular, that group, just to get things smoothed down?

Carr: "Well, we have to be precise. People just have to understand that if we need an extra rep, we need an extra. If we need to get things, we need to get things. But I think precision is key, especially in the passing game. Footwork, timing up with timing of routes. Consistency is something you want to see also. As long as we can go out there on the practice field and be consistent in the timing of things and how all that stuff goes. We know how to throw the ball. We know how to catch it. We know how to run the ball. We know how to block. Now we just have to do those things better and more consistent. It always comes down to fundamentals of footwork and all those kinds of timing kind of things."

Q: Do you think those details were the difference on Sunday?

Carr: "I think that's been a difference the whole year, to be honest. Details of things have definitely been a thing for our team. I don't know defensively, I just speak on the offensive side because that's all I know. On the offensive side is the details of things is probably the biggest part."

Q: What do you do as a leader to make sure players aren't dwelling on last week's loss?

Carr: "You know, for me, the best thing when times are hard, you don't really have to say much. True character reveals itself. When times are hard or it doesn't go your way or you think something else should have happened. Again, pointing fingers and all those things, true character reveals itself. That kind of stuff has a way of working itself out. When you have guys in the locker room coming together saying, 'What if we did this? Would that be better?' That's how we fix things. That's problem solving. If guys want to be part of the problem, that kind of stuff, that just airs itself out. You don't need to ask. That stuff will just come out."

Q: Why do you think your deep ball hasn't been as successful as you would have liked?

Carr: "I don't know. We'd have to watch the film and see some things on tape to do all that. Each play is its own beast so I'm not going to just a whole broad scope. If we went and watched the film, I'm sure that we could sit there together, and I'd be able to describe to you what happened. All those things. We just don't have that kind of time."



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Q: How do you respond to people saying you looked tentative on some of those deep passes and do you feel like you've had and less conviction in those situations?

Carr: "Oh gosh no. I listen to the people that know the position. People that coach me. People that I always seek advice from. I'm always trying to grow myself. I have a good group of people that I can reach out to that have played this game at a high level and those things. I always go back to how do I fix myself. It's easy, again, things come out when it's not going right. I think I completed more deep balls last year, throwing it times I shouldn't have thrown it. Throwing it up, and we all high-five and clap about those things. Again, when you lose, people just have a different way of spinning things."

Q: You've done something all season in which on the day after a game you speak directly to fans through YouTube. It's your chance, like on the third-down play involving Cordarrelle Patterson and Jared Cook, to set things straight.

Carr: "Everyone loves that play."

Q: They do. What value have you found in doing that this year?

Carr: "It's been cool is if I haven't had to come in for treatment or things like that, which hopefully I don't give any secrets away, but if I don't have to do anything like that, I'm able to through good times and hard times interact with people. Let them ask me questions. Just describe to them. Just to create more knowledge of what's actually going on. It's fun for me because again, I can be mad or those things, but I'm always going to be me. The thing that I want to do is be able to interact with my fans, be able to interact with some people that aren't our fans that want to be on there and ask questions. Just to be able to teach them, it gives me a platform to actually just create knowledge in the game. It's something I do with young players. It's something I do with some college players. It's a passion of mine to just help people understand what really goes on. Not only on the offense but if someone has a question about defense or how something is run, whatever, anything. That's a good time for me to be able to explain things. I do enjoy, obviously, the wins better. I get to show my dog off and things like that. But when you lose, it's a great opportunity to show people that yeah, it's OK to be mad and not happy with how you did and all those things, but you have to press on and fight forward and here's actually a good broad scope of what's really going on."

Q: What is your process for selecting questions to answer and the ones you're not going to answer on your YouTube channel?

Carr: "Some of the stuff on there you probably wouldn't want to answer either. (*laughter*) That's the nature of the beast. That's going to come with the territory, but that's why I picked that one. Because everyone wants to know what's up. Everyone has a comment, literally everyone has a comment about that one. So, I just wanted to teach them about what really happens, especially in a zone defense. If you move your eyes where certain defenders go and things like that. So, you know, objects in the mirror aren't as they appear, kind of a thing."

Q: Are there any great misperceptions about this team this season?

Carr: "You know, to be honest, we have a good group of guys. So, when a bad light is brought upon our team or anything like that, the majority of the guys are doing it right. So, when bad things happen to good people, it's really hard to deal with. Like I said, we have a lot of guys that work our tail off and do things the right way, are honorable, all those kinds of things – some qualities that aren't really praised nowadays. But, the people that do it the right way, when things don't go well for them or situations or whatever, I think that's the hardest thing for me. Because I know these guys. It's unfortunate when bad things happen to some of my good friends and people that maybe I'm not as talkative to or close to that just are good dudes. Because on the other side of the ball, you don't get to talk to everybody, but the time that we have spent around them, I've seen some good people and some things happen to them that just sucks. I think that's one thing, just in football in general that people just don't understand."

Q: Coach Del Rio said he wants to see the offense let it rip a little more. Have you seen a case where you're not letting it rip or do you look back and think you could have done more?

Carr: "There's definitely been times where things have been... The picture isn't what you'd like it to look like. And there's always a chance that yeah, you can throw it, but one of the things that we talk about all the time is taking



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care of the ball, not putting it in harm's way and things like that. That's always going to be a struggle, any quarterback for your whole life. But, it's again that fine line that we always talk about. Do you really throw that one when you're deep down and you shouldn't those kinds of things but then it comes back to easy things. Easy progressions, easy things man, just letting those goes fast. Play faster, don't think so much man, just play. And that's stuff that I can work on – not having to think so much. Just go out there and what he's saying, let it rip, cut it loose, we've all heard different ones. But just go out there, man and cut it loose and play. That's something I'm looking forward to. We're only promised three more and I can assure you I'm going to go out there and let it rip man, because that's what the head coach wants. That's what he's asking us to do. So, I'm going to go out there and give it everything I have."

Q: How often do you look at the playoff scenario going down the stretch?

Carr: "Honestly, I hear about it the most when I talk to you guys, to be honest because, it sounds so cliché, but if you don't worry about just that week, none of it matters. We have Dallas coming in, they're a good football team especially on defense and we have our work cut out for us."



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Cowboys Head Coach Jason Garrett Conference Call

Q: Do you think these are the two best offensive lines playing against each other on Sunday?

Coach Garrett: "I don't know about that. We certainly have a great deal of confidence in our offensive line. We like how our guys play and we like what they're all about. We certainly have respect for the Oakland Raiders' offensive line. They've done a great job building that line, using a lot of their resources to make them strong up front. They have certainly played well together."

Q: Has Bruce Irvin jumped out on film to you?

Coach Garrett: "Bruce is a really good player, obviously. He's quick, he's fast, he's explosive, he's very athletic. He's a very disruptive player. He's definitely somebody that shows up in games, affecting the run and also affecting the quarterback on a consistent basis."

Q: How would you describe Derek Carr's play over the last few weeks?

Coach Garrett: "Again, we have great respect for him. You put the tape on and you see how talented he is. They have a lot of weapons around him with the receivers outside and the tight ends. Obviously as a runner and they have a lot of good players and he's the trigger man. He can throw it all over the place and is an awfully good football player."

Q: What has Sean Lee's return meant to your defense?

Coach Garrett: "Sean is a really good player. Every time he plays, he seems to be around the ball play after play after play. He makes a lot of plays in the running game. He makes a lot of tackles for us, but also shows up in the passing game as well. At the end of the game last week, the ball gets tipped up and there's Sean Lee there to intercept it on top of all the tackles that he made in the game. His impact goes beyond that. He's a fantastic leader for us and he's somebody that does a great job communicating and getting everybody lined up the right way. Also, just how he leads emotionally throughout the game, keeping everybody locked in benefits our team a great deal."

Q: Has Ezekiel Elliott's absence been good for Dak Prescott's growth?

Coach Garrett: "Dak has really just done an amazing job regardless of the circumstances he's been in, just going out there and playing. He's always prepared for any situation. Obviously, Zeke is a great football player and he makes everyone around him better, but you could really say the same thing for Dak. He certainly has grown a great deal in his time, being a starter here for about a year and a half now. He's one of those players that learns with every experience that he has. Played awfully well in the game last week and we're certainly fortunate to have him as our quarterback."