



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "Week 2, preseason. Here we are. Good, sharp practice today. The guys came back ready to work and that's what we need to do, get to work. Questions?"

Q: What jumped out to you when looking at the special teams film from the game?

Coach Del Rio: "A lot of really good effort. Some fundamentals we just want to grow our guys, develop our guys and have them do better, but a lot of really good effort. So, a good place to start."

Q: What did you see from the communication in the secondary?

Coach Del Rio: "It improved for sure. It wasn't perfect, but much improved. We had a couple issues throughout the night, but for the most part it was pretty clean and I think they had a really good idea what happened and why. So coming out of that, I feel like there's been development there, there's been growth there. It was really a pretty good start for the first night. Good tape to watch them build on."

Q: What have you seen from the tight ends?

Coach Del Rio: "You know, it's an athletic group. We have some size in there and some ability in there using different combinations of guys in there and we know we've got a new weapon in Jared [Cook] that we're excited about. Having Lee [Smith] back is great and then the rest of guys are kind of jockeying for position. Obviously, Clive [Walford] was excellent down the seam the other night; made a couple nice catches which was good to see. So yeah, it's a group that's working hard and we hope it can be a big part of our offense."

Q: Do Denver Kirkland and Keith McGill II look long-term?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't talk much about that kind of stuff, but it looks like they're going to be out for this camp. They won't finish camp."

Q: What did you see from Shalom Luani in the game the other night?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, Shalom did a nice job. He got a lot of snaps the other night. He is a really instinctive young man, kind of a ball magnet, kind of just tracks the ball, finds the ball. Good instincts, active. He did some things on special teams that were pretty good too, so he's one of those young players that you're excited about developing. It was a good start for him."

Q: In moving some of the pieces around in the secondary, do you look more at individual stuff?

Coach Del Rio: "It's a combination of different factors. We're looking to develop individuals. We're looking to develop the cohesiveness as a unit so that they're playing off of each other, that they're understanding leverage, understanding where they're going to be for each other. Coming up, it's so important that the secondary be able to come up and cap plays and keep them from going big. We had one run that got out explosive and one pass that got out explosive. It was minimized in terms of explosive plays, which was good. The yards per play is down because of that and the biggest thing from the other night that wasn't done right was the third-down defense has to be so much better. That's clear. Everybody gets that, but all in all some good work went into it."

Q: What does Jon Feliciano's versatility mean?

Coach Del Rio: "It's good to have him back. He's a tough guy. Good to have him back out here. He's a versatile guy. He can play guard and center. It's good to have him out. We're getting healthier, that's the goal. Get through this camp and condition and get the work in and get our guys healthy. He's one that's done well to get himself back at practice."



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Q: What went into Elijah Hood not playing in the game the other night?

Coach Del Rio: "We held him. Coaching decision. It was just a matter of being smart with him. We had pushed him through the week and just felt like it was wise to get him closer to full speed this week."

Q: Will you talk to the team as a whole about the National Anthem and knowing beforehand if anyone is going to sit?

Coach Del Rio: "I think I was pretty clear. If there are any questions, I'm always open door. I lean on our leadership council. I lean on our veterans. I think the squad understands how I feel about it and I don't feel the need to go further."

Q: What did you see from Obi Melifonwu today and do you expect other rookies to be practicing soon?

Coach Del Rio: "Good to have Obi doing a little bit of light drills and starting to get back into active duty. We just work our guys and try and get them healthy and when they're ready to go, we go. In the meantime, they're doing everything that they can to get back. Yeah, it was good to see him kind of get some light work in today and we'll increase that as we go. Hopefully, we'll have him back full speed in no time."

Q: Was Ian Silberman a center before this year?

Coach Del Rio: "He was not. He's developing. [Offensive line coach] Mike Tice does a great job with the O-line and centers, in particular. He's had a long history of developing guys at that position. Taking athletic guys and teaching them how to make the calls and how to snap the ball. Ian's come a long way in a short amount of time. He's doing a really good job. He played well the other night. That was a pleasant surprise."

Q: Is this something you expect Marshawn to continue to do?

Coach Del Rio: "Like I said, I pretty much made the statement that I care to make on it. I don't have anything to add to that."

Q: Are you going to try to get Marshawn on the field with some playing time this week?

Coach Del Rio: "We're going to get our squad ready to go for the first game. We've got work to do and we'll have a plan deciding how long and who and when and all that kind of stuff. The idea is to be as strong and healthy and fit and conditioned as possible for the regular season. We've got a tough schedule opening in Tennessee. Tough schedule throughout. We need to make sure we're ready for it and that's what we're working towards."

Q: What do you hope to see from Sean Smith?

Coach Del Rio: "I hope to see the same thing from him as I do all the rest of the guys. Everybody come out here, be real urgent, be purposeful in their work, come out here every day with a good, positive approach and go to work. That's what we're getting. I think the team is working hard, working well. We've got a lot of work to do yet."

Q: Do you think some of what he's going through is mental?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know. I think guys just come out and compete and do the best they can and that's what we're looking for."