



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Head Coach Jon Gruden

**Opening statement:** "How's it going guys? I'll be happy to answer any questions I can."

**Q: When you look at Derek Carr's streak without an interception, what would you attribute that accomplishment to?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I just think he's a really good decision maker. He's never been one to throw a lot of picks. I think he realizes right now that winning the turnover battle gives this team right now the best chance to win. He's done a great job of taking care of the ball."

**Q: The Chiefs are so good on offense that people have overlooked where they rank on defense. Do you see this as a shootout type of game?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I look at the Chiefs on defense, I have a lot of respect for them. They're going to be a handful. They've given up some defensive touchdowns. Dee Ford is a problem. Justin Houston is a real problem. [Chris] Jones is a problem for us. Bob Sutton, the Chiefs defensive coordinator, I know what he's capable of doing. They're coming off a Bye Week. They'll be healthy, they'll be happy and they'll be ready to roll. We're going to have our hands full."

**Q: You've worked with a lot of quarterbacks, when you look at Patrick Mahomes, what sets him apart at such a young age from other guys?**

**Coach Gruden:** "His overall skill set is sickening. It really is. He's double-jointed. He can throw the ball from any platform possible. Running to his left, fading backwards. He can get out of trouble. I compliment everybody, I've been accused of that, but this guy has off the chart arm talent. Skill level is unbelievable. He has a playing style that reminds me of [Brett] Favre. He's a young Favre. I think that's why Andy Reid went and got him. He won't quit on any play. He makes a lot of plays when there's nothing there. I don't have time to talk about him anymore (*laughing*)."

**Q: Are a lot of the fundamental stuff that coaches work with quarterbacks on, are they out the window with him?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I mean I remember asking him, he made a throw against Louisiana Tech, the greatest throw I've ever seen. He didn't set his feet. He's running to his left. I said, 'Why didn't you set your feet, because you don't have to?' He said, 'Exactly.' He just doesn't have to get himself in a perfect throwing position to throw down the field accurate passes. He's been blessed with a lot of talent. They've surrounded him with the perfect scheme and a great supporting cast and the right coach."

**Q: What is it about Reid that makes him good with different quarterbacks? He still runs his offense, but allows these guys to utilize their talents.**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think the credit to him is he's always considered the quarterback the head of the food chain. Where ever he goes, he goes out of his way to get one. Bringing in Alex Smith was a tremendous move for the Chiefs. He did a great thing for Kansas City. You talk about Favre, Michael Vick, drafted Nick Foles. He had Kevin Kolb playing well. He's always gone out, drafted quarterbacks, traded for quarterbacks, signed free agent quarterbacks. He's really good with quarterbacks. He's able to adapt his scheme to who his quarterback is and that's a sign of a great coach."

**Q: Given your history with Reid, are you surprised with how well he's adapted?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's been in the league a long time. Been calling plays, been part of the draft. He's been able to pick players. He knows what he's doing. I'm not surprised at all. I don't know why anybody would be."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: Do you have any specific memories of working with him in Green Bay?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, we have a lot of memories. I just have a lot of good feelings right now watching this tape. We've got our hands full. He's a great friend of mine. Passionate coach. He loves football. He might be one of the few guys I know that likes football more than me. That's why I treasure him."

**Q: Nobody wants to be in the role of spoiler at this point, but does that help having a division foe come in that you have a chance to knock down?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We feel like we played a pretty good football game last week against the Ravens. We really did. We were down by three points to start that fourth quarter on the road against a team who I think is capable of winning the North. We're just concentrating on getting better. We know what the point spread is. We know what we're up against. We're anxious to compete, that's all I can say."

**Q: How much is Johnny Townsend's directional ability going to come into play against Tyreek Hill?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well we have to do a better job than we did last week. The one punt return we've given up, we didn't hit our landmark. We gave them a low hanging punt that gave him a two-way go, and that's hard to defend. If we do that against this guy, we'll have very little chance to win this game. This guy is really unique. Tyreek Hill, he's a unique skill set. You have to limit his opportunities every way you can, on offense and in the kicking game."

**Q: Is there something different about playing against a coach you know so well?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, there is to a degree. I mean [Sean] McVay has done a great job. [Kyle] Shanahan has done great job. My brother has done a good job. Andy has the right thing going right now. They have one hell of a scheme. They have a great skill set. They have their right quarterback. It doesn't help me much right now. It doesn't."

### QB Derek Carr

**Q: How are you feeling physically at this point in the season?**

**Carr:** "I mean, sore. Everyone, I think at this time of the year in the NFL, is fighting through something. I'm definitely right there with everybody, without giving anything away, but no I'm good and I'm ready to play."

**Q: What do you make of your long streak without throwing an interception?**

**Carr:** "At first, I was just trying to figure the offense out, feel things out, being too aggressive and trying too much to help us win. Really, when I would make mistakes it actually hurt us, so just doing my best to take care of the football and to put our defense in good situations. Taking care of the football so it's easy on our offense, so we aren't playing from behind and things like that. I'm just trying to do my best that way. It's something that I like. It's not something that I even think about, to be honest with you. Anytime you can take care of the ball in games by not throwing interceptions, obviously fumbles happen, and you can't do anything about those in the pocket. When it comes to interceptions, just making good decisions and trying to put the team in the best situation. More so, I think of it as a team thing. Not putting our defense on a short field and stuff like that."

**Q: You've talked in the past about the benefit of having continuity at the wide receiver position and you don't have that this year. How do you overcome that?**

**Carr:** "You're right and having continuity is a huge thing. That's why it's nice to have Jared [Cook] and Jalen [Richard], guys that I've played a lot of football with. We got some receivers right now where it's the first time out there with them. Obviously, we had training camp and things like that, but playing games and stuff. We are still learning things about each other, we are still learning certain coverages, certain routes that are good for them and for me throwing them. It's not like Crab [Michael Crabtree] is back and Coop



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

[Amari Cooper] is back. We are learning each other and it's going to bode us well in the future. It's going to be nice, but right now there is growing pains. At the end of the day, no one cares, just complete passes and let's move the ball kind of a thing. We work our tails off to do right and I know those guys are working their tail off. It's going to bode well for us here, hopefully, soon."

**Q: What do you think separates Patrick Mahomes from other quarterbacks his age?**

**Carr:** "First, I think he would tell you that playing for a coach, like coach [Andy] Reid...I've been around coach a couple of times and talked to him. You can tell instantly he's a genius. Talking with Alex Smith over the years and just knowing coach Reid, they do some really good things. Now, the thing that separates him is just his raw ability. There are times when free runners are coming in to hit him and he can make them miss, and still get the ball to his speedy guys down the field 60 or 70 yards. To be able to do that, and do that accurately, is really impressive. He's a heck of a player and I just hope for his sake he continues to work at it. I don't know him really well, but I believe he will. He will be a heck of a player. Having coach Reid there to teach him for a year, now throwing him in and doing some things that he did in college. Making it similar for him I think has helped, but again, he has to go out there and complete passes. He's doing it at a high rate and it's been really fun to watch, just as a football fan and not necessarily as a Raider."

**Q: Does Gruden mention that you guys are a 15-point underdog in meetings?**

**Carr:** "With him, he's always the same. He wants us to be the underdogs every game if it was up to him because he likes that mentality. Every game feels like we're 20-point underdogs when we go to meetings. He makes it that way. Whatever it is, whatever we are, we're typically not aware of it. He'll say some things here or there but you don't know if he's joking or serious. Just the way he coaches, every game feels like you're the underdog and no one believes you can do it. He's just instilling that fight in our team. Whatever it is, I assume that we are this week, so it'll be a fun one this week and I'm looking forward to competing against them."

**Q: This week is the My Cause, My Cleats campaign. Can you talk about your choice and how you break in a new cleat going into a game?**

**Carr:** "My Cause My Cleats is awesome because I get to wear a pair of cleats and represent something that they care about. It's not just one cause that is general. You get to pick. What's cool about that is, I do children's health with Valley Children's Hospital. They performed my oldest son, Dallas', three surgeries when we were in college. They helped save his life. We thank God for a place like that. Anything we can do to raise awareness, bring money in, whatever we can do to help them in doing what they're doing for another family. The way they treated us and the way they treated our son and extended family, we just want that for other families as well. Whatever that looks like, we just try to raise awareness for them because they're people that do it the right way. Todd [Suntrapak], who runs the place, is amazing. He's an amazing man and anything he does I believe in. That's the kind of people I support and be behind."

**Q: Was there a particular game this season where you looked at the effects of the interceptions and decided to take a different approach?**

**Carr:** "I wish I could remember every one of them for you right now. Off the top of my head I remember Miami, forcing the 50-50 ball. I think it was first or second down, I didn't need to do it then. We have a lot more time to score and win the game. Finally got a one-on-one and was too aggressive. That was one. I can't remember other games right now, but there are definitely times where if we sat down and looked at them, 'you don't have to do that.' It's me just trying to win the game, trying to do too much. That's always been a problem I've always tried to hold back on. With Coach Gruden coming in, I'm so aggressive and fired up all the time. We've learned to mellow that out a little bit so I can do better for our team. It was good this last week to be able to push the ball. We had some opportunities finally. Teams are playing us in certain coverages where we could push it, still take care of the ball but push it down the field. Hopefully we get to continue to have those opportunities for our guys to make plays."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: Can you cite a specific moment as to why Jared Cook encompasses the qualities of the Ed Block Courage Award?**

**Carr:** "There was a third down, I want to say it was against the Colts, where I stepped up, threw the ball and I got hit, I didn't see it I just heard the crowd go, "oh." So, I know he got hit good. And obviously, it doesn't feel good when you don't see who's hitting you and all that and he just pops right back up and he continues to play and dominate in the game. It's little things like that, that would deter a lot of other people to continue to go across the middle and make jumping catches. He's never stopped. He's a pros pro. The guy is phenomenal. I've heard about the award and was able to win it when I broke my ankle, which you never want to have a reason to win it, but you get to learn really what it's about and what Ed was about and all of those kinds of things. For Jared to win it, I know it's an amazing honor and for the team to look at him and say yeah, we want to vote you - I circled his name - I thought he deserved it. Coming back and playing - determination - just going through any injury, we just talked about how sore people are an all those things and doing all of the weight room and all of that, now add an injury to it and having to come back from that and continue push yourself and continue to produce. Just those qualities alone, I'm trying to think of the best way to say it and wrap it up, but I think that he is someone that does all of that. Everyone on our team watched him do it, so we thought he deserved it."

**Q: Cook is on pace for career highs in every major category. How much of that is Coach Gruden's influence in the offense, his second year with you in the offense or maybe a third component?**

**Carr:** "Well, I definitely feel, us having two years under our belt there were times where - I'll say it this way - I can go out there and throw some routes to him with my eyes closed because I know how he breaks, I know where his landmarks are, I know where he does certain things. And that's time doing it. Training camp, we've had two training camps, two offseasons. We've had 16-plus games now of working together. A lot of that has to do with it. You see his numbers going up, which is awesome, his production going up because Coach Gruden is here doing some different things with him also. He had a good year here last year and he comes here and is having another good year this year. I think a lot of it has to do with it, but at the end of the day Jared is the one that has to put the work in and run the routes and win and compete for the ball when it's in the air. As much as we want to talk about other things, Jared, I want to give all the credit to him because he has worked his tail off for it."

**Q: Does the opportunity to throw a wrench in a division foe's playoff run get the juices flowing at all or is that just rhetoric and media talk?**

**Carr:** "Oh yeah, I think it's probably more media talk, obviously they don't like us and we don't like them until after the game and you have some friends. But, if you have to change your mindset, I've always believed this, if your mindset has to change for a certain game or this is the only game you think about, you're not doing the other one's justice. You're not doing it right the whole time. It's a division game, obviously we want to beat them. We don't want to lose to them, we want to beat them and give them a loss and play them in a few weeks and beat them again. That's how they feel too. So, if you have to change your mindset, I never thought that that was right."

### Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid (Conference Call)

**Q: How would you kick to Tyreek Hill in punt coverage?**

**Coach Reid:** "That's a tough question. You guys have one of the really good special teams coaches around. So, I'm sure he'll have a trick up his sleeve for us. Obviously, Tyreek is a good return. We've seen about everything with him that you can show somebody. Whether it's kicking away from him, kicking to him, or driving it close to the sidelines. We've seen about everything. Your guy will have something for us I'm sure."



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

**Q: What have you seen from Rich Bisaccia over the year?**

**Coach Reid:** "I've gotten to know Rich. First of all, he was with Jon [Gruden] for a long time. Then he went to Dallas. So, I've followed his career. I've had a chance to sit down and talk with him. I just think he's does a real nice job. He's very solid, technique oriented, good schemes."

**Q: When you made the decision to move on from Alex Smith to Patrick Mahomes, has this gone as you expected or has he exceeded your expectations?**

**Coach Reid:** "You wish you could predict these things. I'm not very good at that. I think that he's done a nice job. I think Alex was a big part of that in helping him do this, which is the best part of the story I think. He just was a big part of being a great example to him and letting him into his world. It was kind of a special relationship they had there."

**Q: Is it different coaching Mahomes with his ability to be a creator?**

**Coach Reid:** "Well I probably coached the greatest creator of all in Brett Favre. Then I had Donovan McNabb who was a real good creator. Then Michael Vick was a really good creator. I've had some really good creators. Listen, most quarterbacks, like the one you got there, when something is not there, they can make it happen. I think both teams are blessed to have good quarterbacks."

**Q: What's your impression of Gruden's first season and what he's been doing?**

**Coach Reid:** "I'm friends with Jon, and I have a ton of respect for him. He's a great football person and coach. He loves the game. He's passionate about the game. He's doing what he thinks is right. You can't ever question when you have a record like he has, Super Bowl Champ, etc., etc. I don't know, none of us know, including you guys as much as you're around him, no one knows the whole picture like the head coach does and what needs to be done and so on. I would defer to him. I've known him a long time and I'm very confident in his ability. He's doing what he thinks is the right things."

**Q: Derek Carr hasn't thrown an interception in six straight games. Is he being more conservative with the football? What are you seeing from Carr on film from the last few games?**

**Coach Reid:** "I had him in the Pro Bowl, you remember that. I got to know him a little bit. He's getting the ball out. He's got a good tight end there which is a quarterback's best friend always. He's using him and that running back, who's a quarterback's second best friend. Those become important elements to the stats that you're throwing around. To the question you asked there, I don't think he's more conservative. No, I don't think that. I think he's just dealing it up to the guys that are there."

**Q: Take us back to 1992, Jon [Gruden] and you are offensive assistants for the Packers, how closely did you work with each other and what were your responsibilities on that staff?**

**Coach Reid:** "We were both young and we were able to learn a ton from a great head coach. Jon and I spent a lot of time together, along with Steve Mariucci, we were the youngest guys on the staff. We all kind of bonded and did our thing. We did a lot of the gopher work, which we loved. Great learning experience and great foundation to build on."

**Q: Were you guys able to push each other on that staff?**

**Coach Reid:** "Oh yeah, we had a blast with that stuff. Who could find what or design what. We had a blast with that. He's a creative mind, so you got to stay on you're A-game when you are hanging with him."

**Q: What was it like when Jon was in the booth for the game last year and it was being reported widely that he would be the next head coach for the Raiders?**

**Coach Reid:** "I was happy for him because we all love competition. That's why we are in this. Listen, I'm friends with Jack Del Rio too and I thought he did a nice job. I love the competition of going against good coaches. These players love going against good competition. There is a rivalry there, which is awesome, and Jon has been part of that before I ever got here. He understands that, and I think it's great for the AFC



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

West, and I think it's great for the NFL to have him back in. I was happy for him, I didn't care that he was at our game or saw my board or anything else. I don't care about all that. I have full trust in the guy and then things change in this league change like crazy, but when he was announcing we had games where we played against his brother and he did the game. I'll still share stuff with him."

**Q: Looking at the Raiders defense, have you formed any impressions of second-year cornerback Gareon Conley?**

**Coach Reid:** "Yeah, he's having a heck of a year, actually. He's a good football player."

**Q: Did being in the booth make Jon prepared to come back and coach again?**

**Coach Reid:** "I think what he did outside the booth, staying in tune with the game. He had an office down there, he's got more tape than anybody, he studied and worked with all these young quarterbacks. Not just the first time, these guys would call him to come back and work with him even after they were drafted. He stayed right up and in tune with the game."

**Q: Do you think Jon has mellowed over the years?**

**Coach Reid:** "(Laughter) No I don't think he's probably mellowed too much. He is a competitive kid."

**Q: The Raiders haven't won a game where they were this heavy of underdog since 2009 against your Eagles. What do you recall from that game?**

**Coach Reid:** "Oh, boy. I don't remember a ton about it. I know this, when it comes to Chiefs and Raiders, it doesn't matter records. It's one of those deals and you better come ready to play against a Jon Gruden coached football team. That's the way I am approaching it with the guys right now. I just think that's very important."