



Oakland Raiders Transcript

CB David Amerson Conference Call

Q: What's your reaction when you think about how you got here and the season that you had?

Amerson: "It's just a blessing. I was telling the guys earlier, when I came over here I pretty much had my mind set up on goals and things that I wanted to do. When I got released from Washington, of course a lot of things were a little cloudy but I never lost sight of the vision. I knew once I got an opportunity to get back on the field, I had to make the best of it. I really had to try to do something special to make my presence known, to get my name out there. By the grace of God, I was able to do it. It's just a blessing that I have an organization that's behind me and that supports me. Like I said, it's just a blessing."

Q: Obviously no one likes to be waived by any team, but when you look back on that whole situation, do you think that maybe it was the best thing that could have happened to you?

Amerson: "Definitely. The situation I was in at Washington was getting cloudy for me. I think a new start, definitely being with an organization that was on the rise, young and hungry, it was definitely the best situation that I could have been in. It was a perfect spot for me. I'm just glad to be here."

Q: Did you ever spend much time trying to analyze what went wrong in Washington or did you just move on from it?

Amerson: "It wasn't really rocket science for me, to be honest with you. Once I got here, I matured. I came in the league and I was 21 years old. Not saying I'm much older now, but three years, I'm 24 now, I've learned a lot in three years. I just think when I got here, I was in the right mindset. I was in the right mindset and the right maturity level and professionalism. I was taking that transition of becoming a professional. I think it worked out for the best."

Q: It seemed like your level of play instantly got dramatically better. Is that fair to say?

Amerson: "Yeah, for sure. I think, compared to when I was in Washington, instead of going home and playing video games all night and stuff like that, it was a much different approach. I was going home and I was in my playbook or watching the film or looking at my notes on whatever team we were playing that week – just the little stuff. It's really just the little stuff. That's what football is; it's a game of inches. It just gave me that extra beat that I needed on Sunday to make plays out there. It's so crazy because even when I was in Washington, it could have been a much different season that I had my second year. Like I said, if I make just that much more plays, like if I had maybe a pick and pass deflections, maybe it wouldn't have been that bad instead of going out there and giving up three first downs, a touchdown, something like that. Little things like that can really change how your play is being perceived. Like I said, it wasn't rocket science. I knew what I had to do and it just clicked for me at a time where, like I said, I was being released and coming here. I'm kind of glad it happened like that."

Q: What kind of reactions did you get from your former Redskins teammates when they saw what kind of year you were having with the Raiders?

Amerson: "To be honest with you, I don't think any of the guys were surprised. I know once I got released, a lot of the guys that I knew or that I talked to once it happened were just shocked. They were saying things like, 'Yeah man, go somewhere else and make the Pro Bowl. You know you can play.' Just giving me that sense of encouragement. Like I said, I don't think there was ever a doubt in my peers' eyes that I could play. It's just a fact of putting it all together. I just figured out what works for me and how I can be the best professional that I can be. Not saying things are going to be perfect from here on out. You lose some, you win some. I just figured out how I put myself in the best position to be successful for my team or giving the best David Amerson."

Q: Was your improvement a credit to yourself or the change in scheme and team?

Amerson: "I think it was a little bit of all of that. I think it was a self-check with myself, and coming over here and being with coaches like [assistant defensive backs coach] Rod Woodson and 'M-Rob' [defense backs coach Marcus Robertson] and coach [defensive coordinator Ken] Norton, Jr., [Head] Coach Jack Del Rio. All those guys played big



Oakland Raiders Transcript

in my development as a player. Definitely, the scheme, I think our scheme, especially last year was more, you know what we're in, beat it, type of stuff. So, it really made you go out there and play fast and just play football. I remember when I got here the third game and I barely knew the plays. We're breaking the huddle, I'm asking the guys, 'What coverage is this? What do I got on this play?' But, I was still able to go out there and compete and play fast football. I think my point is, that it's a little bit of all those things that played into the success of last year and I just want to improve off of it."

Q: Were you surprised by the new deal?

Amerson: "It's crazy, some people when I tell them this, but I really wasn't surprised, I wouldn't say, because like I said, I always had faith in my ability. Once I got released from Washington, it might have clouded up a little bit, but I always knew that I had the ability to be mentioned with some of the elite corners in the league or get to that point. I had my mind set once I got my opportunity I was going to take full advantage of it and let everything else take care of itself."

Q: How has Coach Del Rio kept the team focused on the task at hand with high expectations coming into this year?

Amerson: "I think he put it just as the best as anybody can say. Expectations are just expectations, you still have to go out there and do it and prove it. I think the best way to go about that is just work. We had a great offseason, OTAs, lifting and everything. Now we're about to go to training camp which is pretty much going to be the season. So, I just think guys are really taking that step of preparation, whether it's working out, whether it's getting familiar with all the plays going into training camp or whatever the case may be. I just think that guys have the mentality to work. Once you know you put 100% effort in to whatever your preparation is, you have to live with the results and let your talent and let your wings spread."