



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening statement: "I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can."

Q: Do you speak German?

Gruden: "I don't think so."

Q: You had said you expected a couple of guys to be out here today. Are you disappointed to see that they're not?

Gruden: "Who are you talking about?"

Q: You said Gabe Jackson, Erik Harris...

Gruden: "I was hoping so. They'll be back, hopefully tomorrow. Maybe we can get us some action against the Lions."

Q: What's it like conducting a practice with only four safeties?

Gruden: "It's tough. It's very tough. In some ways, it helps somebody else get some opportunities. Their versatility is what we're looking for with the third, fourth and fifth safety. It happens during the season and unfortunately for us, it happened to us in training camp a little too soon."

Q: What were you hoping to see from Obi Melifonwu today with the ones?

Gruden: "I have to look at the film first. We had a lot of communication, a lot of pre-snap communication. He's got to recognize formations. He's got to help talk to the other DBs, make sure everyone is on the same page. Then he's got to go out and execute and make some plays. We're happy to see him healthy number one. To be out there getting a lot of reps, number two. The evaluation process is going to be pretty intense when we go inside."

Q: What are the injuries for Karl Joseph and Marcus Gilchrist?

Gruden: "Joseph has a slight groin. Gilchrist has a sore foot. We hope to have those guys back tomorrow against the Lions."

Q: What have you seen from Jordan Simmons?

Gruden: "We're pleased with him. He's lost a lot of weight. He's a mentally tough, physically tough guy. He's had a tough career with injuries. It's a credit to him. He keeps coming back. He's become a very legitimate contender at the guard position. While Gabe has been out, he and Feliciano have done a very nice job for us."

Q: Sounded like you got a little frustrated during the false starts in the team portion.

Gruden: "I thought we have to do a lot better job, personally. I wasn't happy with that. The defense jumped offsides twice. Pre-snap penalties make me sick, they really do. I'm sick now. I don't feel like eating."

Q: What goes into scripting practice?

Gruden: "You have no idea. It takes longer to make the script than it does to really evaluate practice sometimes because you want to get the right guys against the right guys. You want to practice the right situations. Sometimes two defensive backs walk in and they're injured, and you have to adjust on the fly. You just don't want to come out here and run plays. We ran some tight redzone plays today. We ran some backed up plays today. We handled a lot of different situations. Some were good, some were not very good."

Q: Tomorrow and the following day, how do you script with another team?

Gruden: "Matt Patricia and I have talked and we'll talk again tonight. We'll meet them, their coordinators, tonight to make sure we're on the same page. There's an etiquette and a professionalism that we want to have, number one. We don't want a bunch of screaming and yelling and brawling out here. We want to have good, solid,



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fundamental football. Teaching moments. See a different opponent, block some different looks and get better. That's the number one thing. You will see similar periods. You'll see the two-minute drill. You see some third down work. You'll see moving the ball, working on substitutions. You'll see some live goal-line. It'll be exciting. Hopefully our players, I know they will, will maintain good professionalism and get something out of it."

Q: Is it safe to say camp is kind of wrapping up the next two days?

Gruden: "Yeah, yeah it is. We had a really good padded session last week. I think we had four in a row that were really good. Players are coming off their day off. We'll get their minds back in it. We'll look at the Lions a little bit this evening and we'll be rolling in here tomorrow morning. It'll be fun."

Q: How has Mario Edwards Jr. done?

Gruden: "He's had some really good practices here. He's flashed at times. He's showed some penetration and quickness. It's a very competitive situation now with Maurice Hurst and P.J. Hall back. We're happy to have him Mario out here healthy and rolling here again."

Q: Later today, the officiating crew will make the presentation to the coaching staff. What are your thoughts?

Gruden: "Hopefully we get some clarity out of it and make sure everybody is on the same page. I know we've been emphasizing exactly what they've been talking about since day one. We don't want any lowering of the head and malicious types of hits. We'll get some clarification. Obviously we need it. We have to get everybody on the same page and understand the rules."

Q: What have you seen from Arden Key?

Gruden: "We love Key. We've liked him since the draft process. We've felt lucky to get him where we got him. You go back two years ago and watch him at LSU, he's as good an edge rusher as there is in the country. He struggled a little bit his last season in Baton Rouge but Chuck Smith, who is his private coach in the offseason, sent us a lot of videos and kept us up to speed. There are some things this kid can do that is very special. Hopefully we get it full strength some day at the defensive end position and we can show our true colors."

Q: How is Jason Cabinda factoring in?

Gruden: "He's right in the mix. Derrick Johnson and Marquel Lee are the one and two on the depth chart. Cabinda is what we thought he was. He's a complete middle linebacker. He can make all the calls. He is instinctive and tough. He plays physical. Special teams will have a big part."

Q: How eager are you to see more from a guy like that?

Gruden: "I'm anxious to see all these guys in the preseason. This is not the time where you go out there and play Derek Carr in the number one group for the first half in the first preseason game. This is a great opportunity for a lot of guys that have put forth a lot of effort. This is their time to showcase it. They've got a couple days to really prepare themselves against Detroit and go out there and hopefully put some good things on tape, not only for us but for their futures."

Q: Where has DeAndre Washington been?

Gruden: "He left camp for personal reasons and we hope to have him back within the next day or so."

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