



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Special Teams Coordinator Brad Seely

Q: Is Giorgio Tavecchio here just to keep Sebastian Janikowski fresh?

Coach Seely: "Not at all. No. I think it's just like every other position on our football team. We're trying to create competition and Giorgio is a guy that, he's an NFL kicker. Will he kick for us? Well that remains to be seen, but it's a competition and we're seeing who's the best. Obviously, Sebastian has done this for a long time and has been really good. Obviously, he's the front runner going in. The other guy is always... It's like a heavy weight championship fight, you have to knock him out if you're going to take his job."

Q: Any standing eight counts yet?

Coach Seely: "No. *(laughing)* Not yet. You know, kicking out here isn't the same as kicking with 60, 70,000 people in the stands. We'll see when the games go on."

Q: Does it look like it's Sebastian's 17th camp?

Coach Seely: "He looks the same as he did last year. He looks the same to me as he did when I was on the other sidelines. He's a consummate pro and he comes to work every day, works at his craft. He's a good player. Glad we have him."

Q: Do you feel a renewed sense with him?

Coach Seely: "I think he showed that in the offseason workouts. He came back lighter. He came back and you look at him and his body is different. What weight he has, he moved it around. He looks better to me in his football gear than he did last year. What happens with those guys is as they get older, they understand how much their body means to them. I think he's just taking better care of himself and I think that's why he's a good pro."

Q: Do you see anyone else emerging at returner spots or are they still Taiwan Jones and TJ Carrie?

Coach Seely: "I think we've got candidates. We have a lot of suspects. It's the same thing; we have to wait until the games start. Give a chance for some of our young guys to play. You look at a guy like Taiwan and you look at TJ, they've been out there. They've played. We really have a pretty good handle on what they are. Now we've got a lot of young guys. They've never been in an NFL game. They don't know what an NFL game is. So we'll see what they are when an NFL game starts."

Q: How do you balance not knowing the amount of field goal attempts you're going to get with what you're seeing out here and making your decision?

Coach Seely: "Well that's a great question because you're right, we're always hoping that there's a hundred kicking plays in every preseason game, but there isn't. It's like we always talk about, you don't have... However many opportunities that you have out there, you better take advantage of them. We put a lot of weight in those games, so if you're fortunate enough to be out there, make it count."

Q: What's it like to get a young guy to buy in when he's not going to start, but he will make the team if he succeeds for what you're doing?

Coach Seely: "Well, I think that really goes to the intelligence of a player. They can see. They know. You always say the coach is going to play the best guys, the players know who the best guys are. We're going to play the best players to start and then the next best guys are going to be in there and playing in the kicking game. They have to understand that if they can't do that, then we have to go maybe to the next player. I think our guys have a real good sense of that. They know what they have to do to be on our football team."

Q: How challenging is it for you with all these young guys and your special teams changing with all the cuts?

Coach Seely: "No doubt about it. No doubt about it because we're always looking for great competition in camp, and unfortunately we let guys go sometimes that would have been really good for me but maybe they don't fit in



Oakland Raiders Transcript

our final 53. It's challenging and it's fun, too, because the players know that as well. They know that it's like anything else. If you're a great pass rusher, maybe that's all you have to be able to do. But if you're an average pass rusher or an average something, OK, you better have more qualities that are going to help us and we'll keep you around on our 53-man roster. Those guys know that the more you can do, the better it is for them."

Q: How hard is that when you're looking for a star gunner?

Coach Seely: "Well, I think football is football, you know? Amazingly, the best defensive backs are usually the best special teams players, because it's still football. They're still playing defense or they're playing offense if they're on the return team, so you still have to have those qualities that make them good players on offense and defense. So, it's really not that hard in the sense, it's not like we're looking for a whole different skillset. They got to be hitters, they have to be smart and they have to have a lot of want to."

Q: Are you able to go into the meeting room and fight for a player to make the team exclusively as a special teams guy?

Coach Seely: "Sure, you know I think that all comes back to your head coach, you know? How much emphasis does he put on special teams, how important is it to him? And, [Head Coach] Jack's [Del Rio] great about that. He was a special teams player when he played even though he was a great player, so he understand the importance of the kicking game, and he's willing to keep some guys. Maybe they're not the top of the line guys on the offense or the defense, but they can make a difference in the kicking game. And, again, it's a third of the game, so we can make some plays to help us win games there, and I think he understands that."

Q: Does it help to have some established special teams players at the core?

Coach Seely: "That always helps. Veteran guys, they do two things for you: They come out to practice, they have a better idea of what you're looking for and those guys have understood why they've been on football teams. And, pressure, the best pressure in the world is peer pressure. Those guys want to be good, they want to be good in the kicking game, so they're trying to get everybody else to raise their game. So, yeah, it's always good to have veterans."

Q: Has Andrew East been able to make any impressions on you?

Coach Seely: "He's done a nice job. Again, we'll put him in preseason games and see how he does. Again, talking about Jon [Condo], there's another guy that's a consummate professional. He works hard at his craft and he's really good. Really, the only concern that we had was coming back from an injury. Fortunately, that's all been handled very well by our medical staff."

Q: How much time do you give Lee Smith as an emergency long snapper?

Coach Seely: "Oh yeah, he actually gets more than a couple. Those guys are really important to us, because you never know like last year in the Broncos game when Jon got hurt we were going to go to Lee and Lee was ready to go except he broke his hand. (*laughter*) So, looking for the third snapper is the real issue. It's one of those things where you better have an alternative because invariably if you don't, it happens."

K Sebastian Janikowski

Q: How do you approach camp when they bring another kicker in? Is it not a big deal or do you get motivated by it?

Janikowski: "I get motivated no matter what. That's my job. I have to come in, get in good shape and kick the ball."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Do you feel like you're in better shape?

Janikowski: "Yeah, I mean I worked my butt off in the offseason and I tried to get in better shape. Hopefully it's going to pay off."

Q: Did you notice a difference from last year that made you feel like you needed to work out more?

Janikowski: "No, I mean I've been working out for a long time. I just dropped more weight. That's the difference."

Q: Do you feel any different than when you first came in the league?

Janikowski: "Nah, I feel the same. There's no pressure. I don't feel any pressure. I'm just kicking a ball. It's not that hard."

Q: Does it feel like 17 years?

Janikowski: "It went by fast, I'll tell you that. It went by fast, but [it's] another year and I think it's going to be a great year for us."

Q: There were a couple of times last year where the team could have tried a long field goal. In the past, it was a no doubt they brought you out for the kick, but instead last year they went for it or punted it. Did that bother you?

Janikowski: "I don't make those decisions. Jack [Del Rio] is making the decisions, the head coach. That's why he's the head coach. If he wants to kick it, I'm out there kicking it. If he wants to go for it, he's going for it."

Q: So you still feel like you have the power?

Janikowski: "Yeah, I feel fine."

Q: Brad Seely said you look better this year. Have you seen the difference on the field?

Janikowski: "I mean I feel, like I said, I dropped more weight. I hope I'm not going to lose any power. That's what I'm wondering because from 265 to 270 I feel like I got more power, but we'll see what the difference is going to be."

Q: So what are you right now then?

Janikowski: "Fifty-six [256] or something like that. Fifty-seven [257]."

Q: Do you still have the goal of kicking until you're 40?

Janikowski: "I love what I do. I want to bring a championship to this team. That's my goal."