



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Q: How was today's practice?

Coach Del Rio: "Today is Sunday right? (*laughing*) That's right, we did have mass this morning. It was excellent, excellent week. Really a good start to camp. [We] have our first game quickly approaching. That'll be great. Once the games get here, it really starts to fly. Really good work. I think with that game approaching, I think the depth chart will come out soon. [Senior Director of Media Relations] Will [Kiss] does the best he can, I don't really worry about it this time of year, but we'll have something out there for you. Right, Will? Beyond that, I like the way we're working. I think before I even get asked I'll just go ahead and speak to it so you don't have to go there with yesterday. A couple of guys got ejected from practice. I just didn't think they were prepared to do the things we needed to do to help our team continue to work. They were both talked to and understand that's not how we do things, not what we're looking for. We basically handled that and put it to rest. They're both going to be fine. I think Mario [Edwards Jr.] is still a little sore, but he'll be fine. Nothing major going on there. So that was good. You can have unfortunate things happen when guys go at it like that, so we're just grateful that nothing significant came of it. We learned a big-time lesson on how important it is to take care of each other and be good teammates and still challenge each other, but be respectful. Anyway, a good week of practice. Five days in a row, it's a good grind. It's the last stretch like this we'll have now that we'll get into game weeks. We won't have five straight days in pads like that for the rest of the year. They made it through the hump day. Questions?"

Q: Do you feel like the team is where it needs to be?

Coach Del Rio: "Look, we are where we are. You come in in shape, you work hard and put it together and know you're always trying to make it a little better. Make it a little more precise. Make the execution a little more crisp. I think those are the things that we're working on. There's some great examples of us in all three phases doing what we need to be doing and it looking really sharp, and then there are places where we need more work and that's why we're in training camp so we can get more work."

Q: What have you seen from David Amerson in the last couple of weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, David has been consistent with us here, with the Raiders. He is a good, young player that fit right in with us. I think he's spoken to some of the things that he felt like he was facing and why he did or did not play at a certain level, but he's been great for us. He continues to be great for us. He works hard every day, and he's been a good teammate."

Q: Do you feel like he's a player that's playing with more confidence now?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I think he's a pretty confident guy to begin with. He has a great skill set. He has the length and the size and the quickness that we covet, so yeah, he fits right in for us."

Q: How mindful do you have to be going forward with Marcel Reece's reps considering he will be missing the first three weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, we're going to keep an eye on that situation as we approach the beginning of the year, but for this point we're just working our team. We're building a foundation. We're working on our library, if you will. The playbook and the instillation of it and the fundamentals and the things that will be part of our season, and then we'll draw from it as we draw from it as we go throughout the year. With him, obviously, we understand that. I think that becomes more a focus as we get closer to Game 1."

Q: How do you feel Connor Cook is progressing?

Coach Del Rio: "Connor? Yeah. I think you can see it, right? Any young player at that position is going to come in, it's a lot of volume. It's a lot of information to process. I think you can see each and every day he's becoming more and more comfortable, and he's doing a great job being a teammate, working within the group. [Quarterbacks



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coach] Todd Downing, I think, does a super job with the quarterbacks. Derek [Carr] and Matt [McGloin] are both very supportive guys, so it's a good room. We like the way he's working."

Q: It seems like the scuffles are just a result of guys being competitive, and then you have guys that are very tight, like with Derek Carr and Amari Cooper being roommates.

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, like I said, we've addressed that part. You know, I think, as far as [Amari Cooper] 'Coop' and Derek [Carr], that's what we're looking for, is guys to get on the same page, get to know each other and develop that closeness and I really feel like as a team we are developing that."

Q: How do you think Michael Crabtree has done thus far in camp?

Coach Del Rio: "Michael, he's been the same guy since Day 1 of arriving last offseason. He's been terrific. He's come in, been a really good teammate, he's a great leader in the locker room for us. He comes out here and he works hard every day, he's got unbelievable hands, he's got an understanding of how to get open in this league and how to make plays. Quarterbacks consider him very friendly, because you know, Michael knows what to do, he's very reliable and has really good hands. So, he's doing his thing. He's doing a nice job for us."

Q: Do you want all of your wide receivers to be good blockers like Crabtree?

Coach Del Rio: "Absolutely. We want them to do their thing. Seth's [Roberts] a good blocker, Andre's [Holmes] a good blocker. Amari probably does more to dictate coverage than having to go and dig people out. But, they all serve their role and we try and design things that matches up for their abilities."