



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening Statement:** "Again, very disappointed in the outcome of the game. We did have a serious injury. Looks like Foster Moreau will be out for the year. He suffered a knee injury. It's a big loss to our team, no doubt. Don't have any update on Trent Brown or Josh Jacobs. I don't believe Renfrow will play this week against Jacksonville, but got to play a lot better defensively, no doubt."

#### **Q: With Moreau, is this something that can keep him out next year?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't think so knowing Foster. I don't believe it will be anything that will keep him out of next year, but I'm not going to make any predictions. It's a tough injury, he's got a lot of rehab ahead and can't compliment the job he did enough. He came in here as a rookie and played good football for us and going to be a big part of the Raiders future."

#### **Q: Considering Trent Brown and Josh Jacobs are part of the future also, is there a reason to play those guys the rest of the year?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, we're going to try to win this game. Absolutely. We're never going to put a guy out there that can't play, but we're going into the last game in the history of the Oakland Raiders and it's an emotional time. We're going to try to win the game. We're not eliminated from the playoffs and we're going to try to win every single time we strap it on."

#### **Q: How disheartening is that when you do get the field position, back them up and aren't able to stop them?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's like getting punched in the stomach. It knocks some wind out of you. Anytime a team takes the ball the length of the field that many times, it's hard to do in this league. We've done a pretty good this year offensively of sustaining some long 80-yard drives, but sometimes you got to win the game of field position, you've got to force a three-and-out. We weren't able to do that yesterday from the jump and very, very concerned about it and we're going to make some changes. We're going to get it right."

#### **Q: You had said yesterday there was some things going on around Derek Carr. Just to clarify, did you mean the injuries that are going on?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I'm not going to make any excuses. I'm not saying he played a perfect game, but he's playing good football. He played one of the best first half's he's played yesterday since I've been here. Unfortunately, we didn't sustain it. I call the plays, so I made some mistakes myself, but we have had more moving parts on the offensive line and in the backfield and at the skill positions than any team that I know of."

#### **Q: How did Brandon Parker do?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He did good. I was really pleased with the line. I mean our offensive line played a good game yesterday. Parker had a holding call, a costly one, on third down that nullified a potential first down, but other than that he played good football. And I thought Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington, they really stepped up. If you watch Richard pick up some blitzes, you can't be totally disgusted with everything from yesterday's game. There was a lot of bright spots. I thought our young receivers played well and I'm going to look at it that way. I'm going to continue to see the positives. I know we got plenty to correct, but I thought the offensive line and Parker did okay."



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**Q: Does the last game at the Coliseum have a lot of meaning to the players?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think so. I think right now obviously we've hit some adversity and our mental toughness is being challenged. I think deep down everybody wants to deliver. We wanted to deliver yesterday. We don't ever step into our own stadium or any stadium with the intention of doing anything but delivering for our fans. So, yeah I'm sure guys that have been with the Raiders for a little while probably feel the emotion more than other, but right now we got to try and win a football game and we would like to deliver certainly for our fans."

**Q: The connection that you have to this fan base, was it something that you recognized early on during your first tenure here?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Oh, I don't know. I think some of them are crazy. They're nuts just like me, so I think there is some common ground there to start with. (*laughter*) I love football, love the Raiders and so do they. I guess so, yeah, to answer your question."

**Q: Back in 2012, when you came to a preseason game and walked the field, to see the volume of people that came up and supported you even after all that time, what was that experience like?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, I'm not here to rehash all the nostalgia, I can't today just because we have a game to get ready for, but I didn't come back here for any other reason that I love this place, love the fans and I'm going to leave it at that. I'm disappointed with losing these games these last couple weeks. Really proud of the guys that we drafted, some of the players that we brought in, the effort that we're getting. We've hit a patch of adversity here and we are going to need our fans one more time to go out with a bang and try to get us back on track."

**Q: Will you take a moment to soak in the last Raiders home game ever to be played in Oakland?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I absolutely will. So will my family, and I know all the Raider organization will. This has been a strange year. Not many teams play a home game in Canada, and play a home game in London, and finish a great run, and half to move to another location. It's tough on families, it's tough on people, and it's tough on fans. So with that being said, it is emotional and it certainly will be on Sunday."

**Q: It looked like Jacobs put up a good fight to try and get on the field yesterday. What does that say about him?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah he did. He sure did. He's the real deal is what it says. He's all you could ask for. He sat in my coach's office. He wanted to play, and he got really emotional about not playing. He doesn't want to let his teammates down. I don't know where he's going to be this week, but if he's ready to go and he's cleared to play, he'll play. He's a great back and a great centerpiece for our team moving forward."

**Q: In your experience how rare is it for a guy like Darren Waller who sat out a year and then to get the kind of chance he got here and make this much out of it?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think it's the greatest story in the game this year. I haven't seen anything like it. I've been coaching a long time and I've seen the game played at every level. This guy had hit rock bottom, was a wide receiver at Georgia Tech just starting to play the position of tight end. You know, he came to us about this time last year. It's an unbelievable accomplishment what he's done to get his life together off the field. It's really a rare, almost unprecedented thing that I've seen happen. Where a guy comes in



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here really as a rookie tight end and catch 80 passes and I think prove that he can do just about anything you ask him to do. I'm so proud of him. You know with he and Jacobs and some of the pieces that we have assembled, we have some guys we can really build our franchise around."

**Q: What did you see in Waller to make you want to take a chance on him?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well first of all, we saw him run. You know Greg Olson, our offensive coordinator saw the practice squad players for the Ravens working out before we played Baltimore and I can remember Olson saying, 'Who the hell is that guy?' We found out who it was. We found he was on the practice squad, and we put him on our team. From the very first day we saw him, I said he's the most impressive athlete on this team, and now after one year I could say he might be the most impressive athlete that I've seen in this league. That's the kind of special talent that he is, and when you get to know him, and you realize what he's gone through to get to this point, he's also a special person. So, if you're out there get a Waller jersey young people. He's worth it."

**Q: Considering all the people you've already had to go through, how many options do you have?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't know, it's sickening. It's tough, but it's a necessary evil. Right now, we've got to play better, and we're going to play better, and there will be changes. There will be changes. What happened yesterday will not happen again. I can't allow it to happen."

**Q: Are you going to get a look at Isaiah Johnson these last few weeks of the season?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, we're going to see. You know it's tough. He got hurt in about the sixth play of the first preseason game, and he's a converted wide receiver. He's not the most experienced corner. He missed a lot of time. So, to put him out there in primetime and say let's go, might not be fair to him yet, but we're going to look at him. We're going to look at all options, and we're going to try to play a hell of a lot better than we did yesterday."

**Q: The third quarter numbers have been pretty bad this year. Do you have any theories to why that could be?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, you know the easy thing to say is the adjustments, and I'm the guy making the adjustments. I thought we took the ball off our own goal line yesterday at the 17-yard line, and had the ball third-and-2 at the 39-yard line. I thought we should have converted there. We didn't. I don't know what we're drinking or what we're eating at halftime or what we're saying, but we've got to do a better job. We had another turnover yesterday in the second half that went back to the house. That's three weeks in a row whether it be an interception or a fumble that's gone back the other way. To answer your question, you've got to take responsibility for that when you're the coach and I'm the coach."