



## OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. DETROIT LIONS

Friday, August 10, 2018

Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum

Postgame Quotes



### HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN:

**Opening statement:** “I’d be happy to answer any questions I can, I’m happy to say we won a football game even though it’s preseason, that’s what it’s all about, finding ways to win but plenty of things to clean up. There were some great moments and I can’t wait to see the tape. [It’s] great to be back in the Coliseum I’ll say that. It was really cool tonight.”

**Q: Jon you talked about how you want to put the nostalgia thing behind you but you did get to walk out there in the Coliseum. Can you kind of relive what it was like walking out there for the first time?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah it was awesome. I mean I saw some recognizable faces that had got a little bit older. [I] saw some old friends that mean a lot to me. Like I said all along, it’s a great responsibility. The nostalgia’s worn off we have to do something with the opportunity but it was sure great to see the Raider fans and they stayed with us until the end I really appreciate it.”

**Q: Jon you fall right back into the rhythm of running a game, calling the plays was everything going smoothly?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah I thought we got off to a great start. Other than the penalties, I thought we could’ve had a very good evening, had it not been for Marshawn’s long run being called back. We had a fumbled snap at the five yard line going in, we can’t get set on a quick play to negate their challenge which cost us more points. We left a lot out there, I think. We had a third-and-one play, we had a man go the wrong way so you know you can’t win in this league in the regular season if we make mistakes like that. But there were some good moments. Guys played well tonight.”

**Q: What did you think of Connor Cook’s play?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah I thought he did pretty good. He had a great day the other day against the Lions in Napa. He’s had an excellent training camp, he’s not turned the ball over, he’s showing pretty good command, there are a couple decisions I just can’t wait to talk to him about and get his perspective. But he moved the team, put points on the board, I liked the two-minute at the end of the half and I’m happy with our kicker, our young kicker, with the exception of the kickoff at the end of the game.”

**Q: Speaking of speed what did you see from Marshawn with that long run?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah I mean that was a well-blocked play, it was called back. I didn’t agree with that call at all honestly, but that was a well-blocked play. That’s impressive, the guy was rolling man, that was good to see. I was really ticked off though after that was called back. You know I just got to the stadium, I just called my fourth play. Anyhow...Chuckie came out for a brief moment tonight right there.”

**Q: Can you talk about your pass rush, specifically P.J. Hall?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Well P.J. Hall comes in on his very first play and gets a sack, I think he bats a pass down, I think he batted down and blocked a lot of kicks in college. He’s just a very good inside rusher and that’s great for him. He missed part of training camp with a pec strain. Maurice Hurst had some good pressures. I would’ve loved to see an Arden Key play tonight but he didn’t go. And we’re really hopeful one of these days we’ll get Khalil back to fortify everything but good start for our two young guys.”

**Q: Were you trying to have [Piñeiro] kick off the dirt?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah a little bit. Yeah I really was, I remember when we drafted Janikowski, it was like being on a foreign planet for him when he got here and started kicking off the dirt so we did manage to get him a couple looks and that wasn’t a short field goal that was a big field goal a lengthy one to beat it to end the half.”

**Q: Jon you had a lot of interaction with both Carr and Cook when they’re coming off the field. Is that the way it’s going to be you’re just going to talk to quarterbacks throughout?**



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**Coach Gruden:** "Pretty much. Right now I'm calling the plays so trying to get their perspective, trying to make sure we're on the same page, what do they see what can we go to next. A lot of collaboration involved obviously."

**Q: Connor Cook as you said has perfected the ball during training camp, that wasn't really the case in the spring. What do you think shifted for him and we're seeing that taking care of the football?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well he was learning a new offense really and I'm sure he was 100% wired in with where to go with the ball and Paul Gunther had pretty creative with blitzes and disguises and you know some of the interceptions that perhaps you saw weren't all his fault either. So we've improved no doubt and he has probably been one of the most improved offensive players so far in camp."

**Q: Do you think [Cook] will be the number two guy?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah I don't want to address that today I think EJ will get more work next week against the Rams, that'll be an interesting preseason game. I don't remember playing somebody a week through the preseason that we open up with. So that'll be interesting but we got a long way to go to solve who's the number two quarterback."

**Q: What do you think of Chris Warren III?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I like that guy man, if you know anything about him his dad was one heck of a player at the Seattle Seahawks, Chris Warren, and he's a big back. You don't know it but he's 253 pounds and can run four-five. He's a hammer, he can really thump you and he's got breakaway speed. But he's improving in the passing game, he's become more and more of a running back instead of just a runner. He's becoming a receiver, blitz pickup, all those little details are improving but he's got a lot of talent."

**Q: Before the game Gareon Conley was out there in uniform running around.**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah that was great. Gareon's got a chance to be back with us on the practice field Monday. And close to full go, too. He's really close. He's really healed quickly and my prayers have been answered. We need him, we need him back we need to get him, Arden Key, we got a number of players that didn't play tonight. Hopefully we can work out Donald Penn tomorrow and we'll update you on his status as well but a lot of guys didn't play tonight and we're hoping we'll get them back soon."

**Q: What is Arden Key's situation?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's has an ankle sprain, we hope to have him next week for the Rams."

### RAIDERS QB CONNOR COOK

**Q: I think I saw you talking to coach Gruden after every one of your series. It seemed like he was seeking you out a couple times. What were those exchanges like when you were coming off the field?**

**Connor Cook:** "Yeah, just talking about the series. There was one when I threw it down to Johnny [Holton] in the red zone and I should have thrown it to Martavis [Bryant]. Stuff like that. You know, 'hey maybe you should have done this, hey maybe you should have done that'. Just talking ball."

**Q: What was the communication like on the headset? Was it really smooth getting the plays in?**

**Cook:** "Yeah, smooth. Just giving us the play and then going out there to execute it."

**Q: Looks like open competition for the number two job, how much of a motivation is that for you at this point?**

**Cook:** "I look at as a competition no matter what. Every single day is a competition. My main goal and my main objective is to go out there and win every day. I want to win every period and be the best version of myself I can be each and every day."



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### RAIDERS K EDDY PIÑEIRO

**Q: Gruden said he was hoping you'd have a chance to kick off the dirt just so you could get used to it, what was that like?**

**Piñeiro:** "It's something to get used to for sure. It was different, way different than kicking off grass. It was fun."

**Q: Were there any nerves at all for your first punt?**

**Piñeiro:** "Honestly not really. Like I was telling him [punter Johnny Townsend], it brought back memories of college at Florida and kicking field goals with Johnny. We try not to put pressure on ourselves. We're just trying to have fun and stay focused."

**Q: Were you hoping you'd have this much work on your first time out there?**

**Piñeiro:** "Yeah, I mean, the more kicks the better. I'm just trying to gain experience, especially in preseason."

### RAIDERS DT MAURICE HURST

**Q: It was just a preseason game but was there any jitters, any nerves?**

**Maurice Hurst:** "There was a little pregame jitters, first game of the season. Just try not to make any mistakes, try to do my job."

**Q: Did it help going up against those guys earlier in the week, did that make a difference?**

**Hurst:** "It was good to get some reps against another team, get to see them a little bit early, their strengths and weaknesses. It made the transition smoother."

**Q: Is this going to be valuable game tape, seeing where you are against live tackling?**

**Hurst:** "I think so. It will be great to look over the film, get to make corrections. Work on all the negative things that we did wrong, we get right."

**Q: How nice was it to see P.J. [Hall] get that early sack?**

**Hurst:** "It was awesome to see him go out there and get a sack that early. It was great. That's what Coach Gruden wants is inside pressure. You try to do that all preseason games."

**Q: Is it nice to have another rookie tackle that you can share notes and figure this out together?**

**Hurst:** "Yeah, it's awesome. There's not a better way to have it, having another guy out there in the same position as you. Getting to go through growing pains together."

### RAIDERS DT P.J. HALL

**Q: Did you get the sack on your first play?**

**P.J. Hall:** "Yeah, it was on my first snap. It felt good to accomplish that. It was a great feeling. We know we need to have an interior rush. Coach [Gruden] had faith in me to go out there with the first team in the nickel to get it done. So I was excited to get that done."

**Q: Walk us through the play, you got good leverage on him.**



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**Hall:** "Yeah, the guard oversold me so I went to power on him inside. As soon as the quarterback stepped up on the outside, I released and he was right there sitting in my lap."

**Q: You got a lot of sacks in college too. What was the feeling having that all come together here, was that surprising to you?**

**Hall:** "No, I wouldn't say it was surprising. That was one of my goals. I actually talked to my coach before this year I played in the league, he told me his first play was a sack. So I was like 'alright, I'll try to make sure I get that done too'. And I got it done. It wasn't surprising, it was a good feeling to get that out of the way. Now I feel calm. I'm not shooting for something, I'll just be able to play my game now."

**Q: Did you feel like you built up to that, to the point where you felt like you were going to have a good game right from the start?**

**Hall:** "I felt like, as the weeks went along, I got more comfortable out there. I was able to concentrate, play my technique. I wasn't forcing anything, it came naturally to me."

**Q: Did you feel like, with the joint practices, you were able to assert yourself out there?**

**Hall:** "Yeah I felt that way. I felt like I had to step it up a notch once we started up the joint practices with [the Detroit Lions]. I felt good this last week after those practices with them so I felt confident coming into this game also."

### RAIDERS S KARL JOSEPH

**Q: Did it seem like an impossible situation to follow the letter of the law with the new lowering the helmet rules?**

**Karl Joseph:** "Yeah, it's hard. A guy's going down and I'm trying to make the tackle. I don't know how to avoid that."

**Q: The play before that where you got the sack, I know it's preseason but to get in there and make a play like that, showing athleticism like that, was that nice to get?**

**Joseph:** "I was just playing to the defense. Coach [Paul Guenther] made a great call. I came through, it was great timing on his part, a great call."

**Q: Do you think you might have more opportunities to do that in the defense this year?**

**Joseph:** "I hope so. It's fun. I hope so man, it's definitely a fun defense to play."

### Raiders RB Chris Warren III

**Q: As the game was going on, did you pick up steam and getting more energy?**

**Chris Warren III:** "I've always kind of played that way. Honestly, a lot of running backs are that way. You get into a rhythm and you start exploding. Three yard runs can turn into five, six yard runs and then you break some."

**Q: Obviously you put your head down when you run, but your breakaway speed is also an important element of your game. Do you feel like that's an underrated part of your game just because of your size?**

**Warren III:** "Yes, I do. I mean I haven't been the most explosive guy, I'm not going to lie. I haven't had the most explosive runs, but I have run track and I am a faster guy, especially at my size. I feel there are some things that are overlooked, breakaway speed being one of them. But it is what it is. I'll just have to make more plays and get that point of view changed."



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**Q: The other day in practice when Coach Gruden yelled at you to get your pad level down, does that stick with you even now?**

**Warren III:** "It sticks with me but I've been running high my whole life. It's very unfortunate, but it's something I've been constantly trying to correct. I do tend to get up higher because I'll try to break through a whole and I'm not thinking about getting low. I am 6'2" though, so I got to get my pads down."

**Q: Jon's talked about the progress you've been making in the passing game and protection, how has that process gone for you?**

**Warren III:** "It's going a lot better. I was struggling quite a bit in OTA's and all that. When the rookies came in early, I had a lot of reps. I got a lot of film time and I got a lot of extra coaching on the side and that helped quite a bit with my reads and protection."



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### LIONS HEAD COACH MATT PATRICIA

#### **What did you learn about your team tonight?**

**Coach Patricia:** "We have a lot of work to do. We are going to go back and take a look at film and really look at individual technique and things that we have been working on from a fundamental standpoint. Operationally we had a lot of different things come up which is good so we can teach off of that. Also, getting as many reps as we can. Certainly as the situation unfolds we have to take a look at it and improve on it. The guys were in the game and did everything we asked them to do. Everyone was paying attention and helped on the sideline, especially the guys that were in and not in the game. That is a positive. In general, we have to do better and play a cleaner game."

#### **Q: Initial thoughts on Kerryon Johnson?**

**Coach Patricia:** "He had some good plays out there. I think there were a couple of plays that we left out on the field and have to do better on. We are trying to improve on the overall understanding on what we are trying to do offensively."

#### **Q: You played Frank Ragnow a little longer than all the other starters, was that a situation where you wanted him to get extra reps and experience?**

**Coach Patricia:** "He is a first-year guy and we want to try and get him as many game type situations and live reps as we can."

#### **Q: What caused a slow first quarter? Is it disappointing to you?**

**Coach Patricia:** "It is what we talk about all the time. We have to make sure we are doing our stuff right first, getting off track is something we have to improve on. Just the game operation increase and knowing what we are doing from that standpoint. That is usually what it is for a first game in preseason, making sure everything is organized and at the high level. I'm glad to see that it got better as the game went on and settled down and hopefully we are able to pick off where we left off tonight for next week. That is the idea."

#### **Q: The running game was a big emphasis in this offseason, overall the way you worked with your players did it build some first half success?**

**Coach Patricia:** "It is just like everything, we are trying to have a balanced offense on both sides of the ball and trying to improve. There are some plays that were left out there that we need to get better on and to improve."

#### **Q: There is a month until the regular season, are you concerned with any problems you had? How happy are you with the good things you did?**

**Coach Patricia:** "With myself in general, it is the highest level that we can have it at so the is the standard that we will keep and improve on and tweak. There is a process to it and obviously we have to play better than what we did tonight. Eliminate some of the things that we did wrong."

#### **Q: What does this game represent to you for the regular season?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Any opportunity that we have on the field to go out and perform at a high level, it does not matter what it is whether it is a practice or a game. If we are going against another team, we are going against ourselves. Certainly we look at it from that standpoint and this was an opportunity for us to go out there and perform our best. We have a long ways to go. Give the Raiders credit, we know they did a great job."

#### **Q: When you're running vanilla offensive schematic principles, how worried are you about the pass rush or lack thereof?**

**Coach Patricia:** "I don't think it really matters what we're running from the scheme standpoint, we want to still see the fundamentals and the basics of what we're trying to do. So, whether it's the run game or the pass game we



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have to do both of those with good technique up front. We'll go back and take a look at that and we'll coach it up and obviously try to improve it all the way across the board. That's it. Both sides. We really got to get better."

**Q: Golden Tate took a pretty big hit on his catch and flexed his knee. Is there any concern about an injury there?**

**Coach Patricia:** "I don't know. We'll find out, but that was really just a situational route because we were trying to get some of those guys in and out."

**Q: Can you explain why you chose to link arms for the anthem?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Like I said, that whole topic is in-house for us."

**Q: You played most of your starters tonight, but you decided to keep Matthew Stafford sidelined. Do you just feel like he's prepared enough given the early practices this week?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Yeah, we got a lot of good work in this week. He took a lot of reps and he saw a lot of looks, so that was really kind of cool to come out here and be able to get some of those different team tempo plays and have it scripted and little bit controlled. I just thought it was a good opportunity tonight to have the other two guys go out and compete in a great environment and a good opportunity to let them have some reps."

**Q: You did bring Matt Cassel back in late in the game. Was that a situational thing with the two-minute drill?**

**Coach Patricia:** "No, we were just trying to make sure we got a good even competition between both guys."

**Q: A couple of young guys on offensive made plays including Hakeem Valles and Brandon Powell, what does that mean for them going forward?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Those are plays as we kind of have them and saw them we're hoping and expecting them to make in those situations, so it's good to see them execute those. Obviously, a lot of plays outside of those that we want to show more consistency with. Like I said, I have to just get back to trying to make sure that we are kind of improving and are consistent in all those areas and that's what we'll do."

**Q: Are you going to continue to link arms for the anthem?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Yeah I think I said, it's about the game right now."

**Q: You didn't have Ezekiel Ansah, Ricky Jean Francois didn't play. How big of a concern is that just in general for you as you head into the season?**

**Coach Patricia:** "Well, I think we'll hopefully get those guys back here. Move them back, keeping some work with them, going hopefully a little bit more next week. Just trying to put them in the best position so they can go out and perform, and obviously get healthy to the point where they can compete at that level."

**Q: What were the emotions going through your head during your first game as a head coach?**

**Coach Patricia:** "I really wish I could have pulled myself outside of myself and enjoyed it, but unfortunately I was just trying to dial into the moment and obviously I got a lot of work to do."

**Q: What about the challenge flag? You threw the challenge flag for the first time and you're 1-0. Unbeaten.**

**Coach Patricia:** "I'm just glad I didn't have to throw it that far."

### **DETROIT LIONS RB KERRYON JOHNSON**

**Q: It seemed like guys couldn't get you down on the ground. Is that something that you work on in practice or is that something that you are just uniquely gifted with?**



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**Johnson:** "I mean that's something that we work on every day. Driving your legs, staying low, running through our tackles. I think as a running back, especially at this level of play, that's something you have to be able to do and that's just something I focus on doing. When I get out there, it just kind of happens and every running back knows that feeling of you know you're running and you're running and sometimes you break them and sometimes you don't."

**Q: I was saying up in the radio broadcast that I'm very impressed with your patience. The way you stick your foot into the ground and hit that whole once you see it. Again, is that something you see or is that something that's a knack for you?**

**Johnson:** "That's just something that just came on about a year ago. It kind of just happened. Now I just take it and run with it. But with the patience, you've got to be explosive in order to get yards. So I practice on being patient. I practice on seeing it. I practice on hitting it and it works."

**Q: Did it feel good to get out there and get that first run under your belt?**

**Johnson:** "Oh yeah, it felt awesome. It was weird at first getting out there but that time is here. You know, you go through the draft, you go through the summer wishing for this moment and then it comes up on you quick and now it's time to go to perform."

**Q: Is it one of those things where you take that first hit and all of a sudden it's just football again?**

**Johnson:** "Oh yeah, after that, you know, it's just a different color, different team, different city, same old game."

**Q: In terms of the offense, what did you see as some of the things that kept you guys from completing some of those drives?**

**Johnson:** "I mean, we killed ourselves. You know, we played bad football. I played bad football at times. Everybody played bad football. Penalties held us back. I mean we drive up the field, we get a penalty here and we just didn't execute in the redzone and that's what you've got to be able to do in this league and we didn't do it tonight. That's something we'll practice and work hard at and get better."

### DETROIT LIONS OL FRANK RAGNOW

**Q: How did it feel to play your first NFL game?**

**Ragnow:** "I mean, it was unreal. It was pretty cool to step out on the NFL field for the first time and get to compete against a different team. It's a dream come true. Honestly, I'd have to look at the film to see how I did and everything and learn from it, but I'm just excited that I actually got the opportunity to play in the NFL. It was pretty unreal."

**Q: In regards to that touchdown run. Obviously the goal line situation is pretty important in practice. What did it mean for this team to get one right away?**

**Ragnow:** "It felt good. It's something we're definitely emphasizing so to see the hard work pay off there temporarily, it felt really good."

**Q: Anything jump out at you about that first NFL action out there?**

**Ragnow:** "Just a lot of talented guys out there. There are a lot of talented players in this league and hats off to them. There are just a lot of good players, and it's cool that I'm out there competing with them."

**Q: What did you see in terms of getting the offensive line together and getting that cohesion you're looking for?**

**Ragnow:** "I mean it's kind of early. There were guys in and out of each possession, so there wasn't really a time we were all five out there together. I feel like the thing with the offensive line is everybody has to be ready to play and



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everybody has to be ready to play. So, I feel like we're definitely taking another step with our chemistry and just kind of blending together no matter who's in."

### LIONS QB Jack Rudock

**Q. What did you see is the impediment to keeping some of those drives going, and finishing some of those drives?**

**Rudock:** "It's hard for me to say right now, so soon after. We just have to find a way. We have to get completions here."

**Q. Is it one of those things where in the preseason you have to go back and watch the tape and figure out what went wrong from there?**

**Rudock:** "Definitely, we always gotta see what actually happened. You see what you can see, but you definitely want to rerun the tape and figure out what went wrong and how to improve it."

**Q. Some signs of the running game there, a couple nice runs by Karryon got you going there a bit?**

**Rudock:** "Yea, definitely, I thought he had a good game."

**Q. How much did it help to have some production from the run game?**

**Rudock:** "It's good. I mean we got to be able to run the ball. It is obviously important, and we just gotta keep working. That's the thing. We have to try to improve it and improve all aspects of the game."

### LIONS RB Ameer Abdullah

**Q. You have faced a lot of personal adversity, and talked about your future and stuff, how does it feel to come out here and play well?**

**Abdullah:** "That's what I do man. I play with my heart."

**Q. You finishing in the redzone is something you guys constantly talk about. Talk about satisfaction getting down there and punching that thing in.**

**Abdullah:** "Obviously, today it is something we didn't do well enough. It is definitely for us... we have a lot of good play makers down there we can get in."

**Q. When you look at this one, was it penalties that hurt the most?**

**Abdullah:** "There are a lot of things- fundamental things. A lot of things that we practice every single day. So, going back, I haven't seen the film. Once I see the film I'll have a better view, but right now I am just upset about the loss."