



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

OPENING STATEMENT: "I'm really proud of our team. I compliment the Bengals. They fought their heart out. It was great for all of football. If you're a young football player, there are no standings. There are no stats. There are no records. The ball is snapped, you play hard and anything can happen and that was one of those games today. Maxx Crosby [had] four sacks. D.J. Swearingen was here for two days, and he leads our team in tackles. Trayvon Mullen, another rookie, had a key interception. I'm really proud of Derek Carr. Other than the one interception, he played well. We made some tragic mistakes. Jumping offsides, fumbling the ball in the red zone. It could've been a different story today, but we're happy to win."

Q: What strides have you seen Maxx Crosby take?

Coach Gruden: "Well, we've been talking about the factor grade here. Finally, someone will count the sacks and write a nice story about him. He's been near the quarterback. He's been hitting the quarterback. He's been batting balls down from the quarterback and today he got to the quarterback. We're really pleased with his progress. You have to give him a lot of credit. He's a rookie from Eastern Michigan. He's gotten stronger, he's gotten better and he's got a great future here."

Q: You were able to close out the last three games on defense. How important is that, especially with all the roster shuffling?

Coach Gruden: "We're always going to be shuffling everywhere in all three phases. You have to close out games on defense if you're going to win. If you're going to win, you've got the lead and they've got the ball and the defense has got to close. That's something that we're getting better and better at. I think we're actually looking forward to the challenges of going out there and finishing, but we always talked about the fourth quarter pass rush. You can count sacks and stats in the first couple quarters, but when you get in a closing situation that's when you have to really end the game. I credit [defensive coordinator Paul] Guenther, the defense and all the players. It was a heck of an effort."

Q: You've gone 3-0 on this homestand, how much pride do you take in that?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, that's what we said. We came off one of the most incredible road trips ever in the history of the NFL. We played not only on the road, we played in foreign countries and across the world it seemed like every week. We came back, and we did what we had to do if we wanted to try to get in this thing. We still have a long way to go. We're building our team. I'm going to keep emphasizing that. We're not a finished product by any stretch, but we're competing hard and we're finding ways to win. Our fans are superb. They really helped us out."

Q: Why is it important for you to acknowledge the Black Hole?

Coach Gruden: "That's what I coach for. I love people. I love football and they love it more than anybody. People can make fun of me and say whatever they want, but when we win, I'm going down there. And when we lose, usually I stick around the parking lot, hang out with the guys and try to get them ready for the next home game. I like to share my joy with some joyous Raiders fans as much as possible."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Do you have any concerns about your team for the Chiefs game?

Coach Gruden: "No. No. We are going to fight, scratch to win every single game that we can possibly win. I know the Bengals were 0-9 and it's an easy story to write, but you don't look ahead in this league. You just don't do it. There's a lot of upsets every week."

Q: What does it say about this team that you are 6-4 and in the playoff hunt?

Coach Gruden: "It just says that we're getting better. We're able to find ways to win. There's an old saying around here, 'Just win baby.' We've fought our hearts out to put ourselves in a 6-4 position. That doesn't mean anything. We've got a lot of respect for the Jets and a lot of work to do."

Q: What makes this fan base different?

Coach Gruden: "I can say I've been fortunate to be in some great places, great traditional places like Notre Dame. I grew up at South Bend, and I got a chance to coach for the Philadelphia Eagles, the Green Bay Packers, the 49ers. They all have great fans, but there's something about these people. They're nuts. They're the closest thing to me that I've ever seen. We have that in common."

Q: What does it take in the office to get someone like D.J. Swearinger ready for a game in that little time?

Coach Gruden: "It takes a lot of effort. I remember when we made the trade for Zay Jones, we were going on our bye week and we had three coaches in there everyday teaching Zay Jones how to be the 'Z'. Same with Trevor Davis. And he's these guys walk in, don't play and they start and they play significant roles. We did the same with Swearinger. We did the same thing with Dion Jordan. We did the same thing with Will Compton. We're going to do the same thing whenever we have to. That's a sign of a high effort coaching staff and a group of guys that are willing to give anybody a chance if they deserve it."

Q: Have you ever seen a draft class in all your years in the NFL be this productive this immediately?

Coach Gruden: "Not really. I'll be honest, we had a good first round draft choice that nobody has really even met yet. I think he could be a difference maker. The poise and the production and the professionalism that they play with and come to work with is something everybody would be impressed with."

Q: Were you thinking about going for a field goal at the end?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah. Sure was, but I felt that we could punt them deeper than we did honestly, and they had no timeouts. We felt our pass rush in a predictable situation would make it hard on the young quarterback to go 80 yards but yeah, I certainly did think about it. No disrespect to [Daniel] Carlson, but I played it a little conservative if you want to say it. I really trusted our defense. I didn't want to potentially give them the ball near midfield."

Q: Can you talk about Foster Moreau's effectiveness?

Coach Gruden: "When he gets open, he should thank Frank Smith the tight ends coach like that, but no he's a really good blocker. He's a more than capable receiver. I think you're going to see more and more from Moreau down the stretch here as a receiver. He's a guy that can go a lot of things."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Do you have an identity now? Basically, a team that is fighting every week and it's never going to be easy?

Coach Gruden: "I don't know if it's easy for anybody in this league anymore. I mean when you really look around, who's doing it easy? I don't see anybody. We're going to scratch and fight. Like I said last week, you might beat us but we're going to be there. We're going to go 50 miles with you. We're not going to quit and that's something I'm really proud of."

Q: How have you seen Trayon Mullen come along the past few weeks?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah. That's one of the reasons we made a tough trade there in the season, to free up an opportunity for him to play. Potentially we hope to see more from Isaiah Johnson, another young corner. But I can't say enough about the job our defense did. Nevin Lawson stepped in for Lamarcus Joyner, who's a great player. Swearingin stepped in for Karl [Joseph]. Will Compton stepped in and many other guys."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

Q: So much has been said about your defense the last three games. They've made plays to secure the win. What does that do for you guys as a team now that they are making those plays?

Carr: "You know, I think my favorite thing about our team is our Madden ratings are pretty low, but we're pretty good at football. We've got good coaches. We've got good guys that compete their tails off. We've got guys that work extremely hard. We believe in our coaches and we believe in our system and we believe in each other. To see our defense win us another game is huge. If they can hold people to 10 points, in this league, hopefully more times than not, we can win the football game."

Q: Foster Moreau said that he knew that that was going to be a touchdown, and he said that the moment it left your hand. Did you know too at that moment that it would be like that?

Carr: "Foster can see better into the future than I can. I definitely knew there was a chance. But with him being that confident, that fires me up. I have reads to go through first, but I'm glad Foster was confident, and I'm glad the ball found him. He's a great player, and he's super young and under contract for a while, so that's good."

Q: Was there something in the game plan that affected chunk plays?

Carr: "There are certain coverages that they play where we could dial up certain routes, different things that you can dial up against them that other teams...Again, I'm never into fantasy stats or my stats or anything like that. I'm into doing whatever [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden wants me to do at a high level. I didn't do that well enough today. We could have had more. Honestly, that's how I feel. I left the game and I get our stat book and I looked at it and I was like, they look pretty, but I could have played better. I'm hard on myself. I think that's the standard that Coach Gruden puts on me. And Johnny Mo [Morton], we perfect perfection. I felt like I left a couple of plays out there."

Q: Was there something particular in the scheme that made it tough?

Carr: "I mean yeah, there are some things. Without breaking down the whole game plan and their defense, we saw some things, but they also did a really good job as a defense of changing up their calls. They played what felt like a different coverage or a different front or a different stunt. They tried to mix it up on us, they tried to confuse us all game, to be honest with you. Our coaches were really good throughout the week of preparing us for certain things that they might try. But you always turn the film on, and you try and find out things work out against certain looks for whatever."

Q: You had a pretty good stat-line and kind of shrugged at it. And Josh Jacobs had a pretty good stat-line and shrugged at it, too. What does that say about this team?

Carr: "Yeah, they were super competitive. If I was into stats, I'd be happy a lot of the time. Oh man, we did that on offense, or we were able to run the ball like that. I couldn't care less to be honest with you about stats. The thing that I care about is what I said earlier, which is the plan that Coach Gruden gives me, the things he lays out for me, him and the offensive staff. I need to accomplish all of those things for me to feel like I did my job. And sometimes if there's 60 plays in a thing, if 58 of them are good but two of them are not, it still bugs me because I feel like I'm better than that. I could have done A, B or C. So without saying too much, I just always...and Josh is the same way, he never wants to put the ball on the ground. I threw an interception, he fumbled. If Coach is going to put the ball in our hands every single play, one of us, then we need to be better."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: You've been on some weird journeys with this team in the past. How does this compare, coach Gruden talks about your around the world trip for six weeks and when you come back here, where the emotions are running so high every time you're on the field, you win three in a row. This is a little bit of an interesting way to say bye to Oakland, isn't it?

Carr: "Yeah, it's been fun to be honest with you. We don't have many games here left in this stadium that are promised. We have a lot of work to do before we can hope for anything else. And right now, I've learned in my six years, which is a long time in one place in my six years, there's been a lot of things that have happened. I've seen a lot of different coaching styles, I've seen a lot of different players, I've seen a lot of different moods. I've seen a lot of different characteristics. I've seen a lot of things. The thing I can say about this team is the people that were brought in by [General Manager Mike] Mr. Mayock and Coach Gruden love football. They love each other, and they work extremely hard. I will take that over the most talented guys, any day of the week. I think that's what this year has taught me. The closer the team can be, the higher level of execution on the details, that a team can have. That is what wins in this league. That's why you see, week in and week out, how did that team beat that team? The execution and the details. Even a step here, or a step there, there's so much that goes into it rather than just incompleteness, oh gosh, you know? There's so much I've seen with this team that it's been really fun because everybody cares so deeply about the details of their job. And they're trying to do it not to get the fame for themselves, but doing it because they don't want to let down the one next to them. I think that's a special thing that you don't always have in this league."

Q: Can you walk us through when you ran in for the touchdown?

Carr: "Yeah, I was working on my stepback, I guess. I had a couple today. I've been telling them I can play basketball. And so now they believe in the stepback, at least. Jumping in there, honestly, I just saw the goal line. I still haven't seen a replay, I haven't seen much of it, I just know in the moment they did a good job of covering the play. And coach always talks about extending the play, so honestly I was trying to get out of the pocket to extend the play, hopefully to get someone open. But they did a good job on defense and I saw a lane and just tried to. All you have to do is get the ball across. That's it. That's all you've got to do. So, I was able to jump over and do that and it felt good."

Q: D.J. Swearinger mentioned that really for the first time, he felt that he was welcomed to a team right when he arrived. Is that something that you kind of take part in and what about this coaching staff that's different when it comes to bringing in rookies and new guys and making them feel connected to the team?

Carr: "Without giving too many of coach's secrets away, he does a really good job of making everyone feel important, you know what I mean? Whether you're brought in like D.J. was on the free agency, whether you're a first-round pick, whether you're an undrafted free agent, he does a fantastic job of making everyone in that locker room feel special, like they have a place. It really reminds me of what family should look like. It's not always going to be perfect, but if everyone feels respected and wanted, then when coach yells at us or gets on us, it's like, we don't take it some particular way, like why's he on my case or why is he on my head, for? When he gets on us, it's like, man, we let him down. It's a different feeling than I've ever been around. And without giving his secrets away, he just does a good job of making everyone feel loved, to be honest. So I'm glad D.J. said that. It means a lot to make that when we get new guys, they feel like a part of it. I don't want them to feel like they've got to earn something, no man. You're a Raider, you're on our team, and we love you. And I'm glad D.J. said that because that's something that we've tried to emphasize here."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Today and all season, what have you seen from Maxx Crosby?

Carr: "Oh man, mad Maxx. He's still a rookie, so nothing good (*laughs*). He's still got a lot to prove, but I think that people are starting to see the talent that he does have. I think they're starting to see how good our head coach and GM are at finding talent. I think that Raider Nation should be excited that those two men are leading the charge, that we can find a guy like mad Maxx and he can have a four-sack day. I haven't been around that many sacks by one guy I think since Khalil (Mack) in Denver. And when Maxx can go out and dominate a game like that, when Cle(lin) (Ferrell) can have the game that he had last week, when Benson (Mayowa) can get those sacks, it just changes the way you play quarterback. It's tough when the pocket's collapsing and things like that. I'm glad that he's not chasing after me, that's for sure."

Q: Derek, you mention that there's a certain perfection, and you always have those little things that nag you. How do you balance that with embracing this team's ability to grind out these wins at the end of everything?

Carr: "You always demand perfection, you always demand, excellence. We're commitment to excellence, right? We're committed to making sure that we're excellent on every play. But just like any coach will ever tell you after that play, touchdown or interception, who cares? Next play, because this league always come down to, as we've seen, to the fourth quarter. Ninety percent of the time, it's going to come down to some drive at the end and someone's got to make a stop or someone's got to score the ball, right? And if you're too worried about the play before, or you're too worried about those things, then you're wrong. But after the game, making sure you don't make the same mistakes again, you have to be hard on yourself. Coach Gruden, I promise you this, I know what's going to happen tomorrow when we come in. He's going to say, "Hey, good job, love you man, but what happened on those four incompletions?" I already know. Let's figure out why those were incomplete. That's what we do. When you miss, I've told him, that sometimes I go out there and whatever percentage I complete, you take that percentage and you feel terrible, because I'm like, "Man, I messed up that play, I'm sorry." You feel like you let him down, but that's the level that he expects and he doesn't let you be comfortable and I love that."

Q: It's easy to look at this portion of the schedule and see three home games, after that the long road trip and say, hey, this is a great chance to take advantage. The fact that you guys did take advantage of all three of these wins, what does that say about this team and how important is that to actually take advantage of this portion of the schedule?

Carr: "When were on that 11-month road trip, across the globe (*laughs*), when were on that trip, I think we talked leading into the Lions at home, leading up to that week, I was thinking, now we've set ourselves up to have a homestand at home with games that matter. November is the games they remember, every coach that I've been around has said that. We asked our fans to loud for us, and they were loud for us. We demanded that we want every one of those games at home, and we protected this place. Because this is a special place. And we did that. Now we have to go on the road, again, but when we get back home, hopefully there's still some things that we need to be playing for. I hope that our fans are excited when we come back, but I hope they also make a couple trips with us and turn some of those stadiums into silver and black."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS DE MAXX CROSBY

Q: What was the reaction to your last sack?

Crosby: "I was just excited, that's what that was."

Q: How about the day you had defensively?

Crosby: "I had a good game, but it was a collective unit coming together. We rushed well all day. I feel like we started it with [Los Angeles], and we just kept getting better."

Q: You mentioned it started with Los Angeles. How good does it feel for your defense to make the plays to end these last three games?

Crosby: "We owe the offense. Early on we were struggling. We put two really good games together. We just have to keep going."

Q: On your sacks, were you doing anything special? At least two of them were you bowling a guy over.

Crosby: "I just tried to mix it up all game, keep him on his toes. It worked out."

Q: When you're having a game like this, is that something you could tell early on that you were going to have that kind of game, have the match-up go in your favor?

Crosby: "I wouldn't say that. I prepared all week like I always do. I came ready to play just like everyone else on the team. I just tried to help my team win. That's what I try to do every week."

Q: It's an ongoing theme with the young players stepping up. Trayvon Mullen had a nice game.

Crosby: "We have a good mixture of veterans and younger guys. Having the vets there helps us out a ton on the mental side keeping us ahead of the game. I feel like it's a good dynamic and it's finally coming together."

Q: You ran out of dances at the end there?

Crosby: "Yeah, I was tired at the end there. I was all over the place mentally. We'll work on that."

Q: Did you have a hunch the Bengals were going to come in here and try to pop you in the mouth right away?

Crosby: "Cincinnati is a talented team. They're an NFL team. They came here to beat us. They started running the ball well in the beginning. We had to tighten things up. We ended up finishing. They made it a good game. It came right down to the end."

Q: Did you expect to have this success early on in your career?

Crosby: "I don't know. I just try to get better every day. It was good to finally get some sacks but it's on to the next game."

Q: Was there pressure to beat Clelin Ferrell's sack total from last week?

Crosby: "No, he had 2.4. I honestly didn't think I would get four. I've never done that before. It was cool, but it's on to the next game."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS RB JOSH JACOBS

Q: It felt like one of those old-fashioned grind it out football games. What is your take on today's win?

Jacobs: "It was just a weird game the whole time. I don't know. It was just a weird game"

Q: What does it say about this team that you are able to win games with defense now in close games down the stretch?

Jacobs: "Yeah it is huge. Our defense has been improving every week. A lot of the rookies have been stepping up. A lot of the defensive backs have been stepping up, so it has been fun to watch."

Q: When you said the game was weird, is it because you could not ever really get into a rhythm offensively?

Jacobs: "I wouldn't say that. I came into the game feeling like it was just weird. It was one of those days."

Q: To take advantage and win all three of these home games, what does it say about this team?

Jacobs: "It is huge. We talked about it as a unit. We don't remember the last time the Raiders had a three-game winning streak, so just to be headed on the right path and stacking the wins together, it has been huge."

Q: When you see Maxx Crosby and his four sacks today, how do you experience that as an offensive player?

Jacobs: "I think he should be in the talks for defensive rookie of the year. That is how I feel about it."

Q: What do you think of this rookie class as a whole?

Jacobs: "We just bought in. Like I said when we came in, the rookie class came in together and we came to an agreement that we were going to do things the right way and build this program. We wanted to try and shape it back to the Raider culture and back to what we feel like dominating football is. Just to see how we are all coming in and trying to keep that promise and execute every week has been huge."

Q: What does it say about the team when you can win an ugly game like this?

Jacobs: "It says a lot. We left a lot of points out there as an offense. I missed a couple of holes. It was not a great game for me. I had a quiet 100 or whatever, but there is certainly a lot to improve on."

Q: You guys have a big game looming on December 1st. Is there any concern that you can be looking ahead to the Kansas City game next week?

Jacobs: "No. I can't speak for the team, but I know personally, I don't look ahead. Even coming into this week, I didn't even know Cincinnati's record. I didn't know any of the stats. I just looked at film and take it day-by-day and opponent-by-opponent."

Q: Coming from a school in Alabama where you were overpowering your opponents by large margins, how much have you enjoyed experiencing a fight every week with these down-to-the-wire wins?

Jacobs: "It makes the game fun and exciting. It makes the wins more enjoyable because it feels like you put more effort into it. It has been fun."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS TE FOSTER MOREAU

Q: Was that the easiest touchdown catch you've ever had?

Moreau: "Yeah, quite possibly. A really good play call and it's easy to joke about it, but yeah, it was a good play call. It was a well-designed play, and we do the things at the right time. Credit the head coach and credit the offensive coordinator. It seems easy, but the technique is taught by [tight ends coach] Frank Smith and it's paramount. It's paramount to selling so that we could get that open."

Q: In terms of the win streak right now, are you guys starting to feel the mojo?

Moreau: "We've been feeling it since Training Camp and OTA's. It's led by Derek [Carr]. It really is. When that guy gets the fire in his eyes, there's not stopping him. There's no stopping him. We love to have fun on the field, and we love to have fun off the field. We all mesh together and make sure that we go out every time and love playing football."

Q: Some people view next week as a trap week with Kanas City the week after. How do you make sure that this team doesn't fall into the trap going into next week?

Moreau: "We need to come out and do our job. The only people who can stop us is us. That's common around sports. That's starting to become the new chip on our shoulder saying, everyone says it. There's a reason everyone says it because it's true. At the end of the day we're going to have to do our job and go and beat a Jets team that's coming off a good win."

Q: How sure were you on that touchdown play that you were going to be open?

Moreau: "I knew from the moment that play call left Derek's lips to be honest with you. I walked up, ripped through the defensive line, kept my eyes down, came out late and it was easy."

Q: Talking to Clelin Ferrell this week, he talked about this is usually the time when rookies hit the rookie wall. You guys look like you're taking off though. How fine is that line with hitting the rookie wall and no longer being rookies?

Moreau: "I don't know. I'm sure the only guys who really know what the rookies wall is, is the guys who crashed into it. It's a matter of execution and timing. Getting into our routine and sticking to it. Doing your job at the right time and making sure you're comfortable."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS S D.J. SWEARINGER

Q: Being a veteran who has played in a lot of games, but have you ever changed teams in one season and been thrown in that quickly before?

Swearinger: "Yeah I have. In 2015, I started my second week and played a full game in Arizona. Next week I came in and started three games in a row. So I've done it before in the past."

Q: To come in and lead the team in tackles in your first game, did you feel comfortable?

Swearinger: "Yeah I felt great. Especially with what the coaches asked of me. It was sort of the same calls I learned in Arizona so that was what really helped me. With PG [defensive coordinator Paul Guenther] being a former defensive coordinator in Cincinnati, that really helped me with the terminology of things, I adapted quickly."

Q: What kind of hours did you have to put in outside of practice to come up with a performance like this?

Swearinger: "I put in a lot of hours. Came in and met with the coaches over the weekend when I got here. I made sure I studied every night, put in the work, and I got great results."

Q: Was there any communication issues at all out there?

Swearinger: "No there weren't any issues at all. Me and E [Erik Harris], the corners and linebackers, we all did a great job communicating and that is going to continue to get better. We are looking forward to moving forward to the Jets."

Q: What are your first impressions with this team, the locker room and all the guys?

Swearinger: "I love it. I love everything about this organization. Love coach Jon Gruden, and I've loved him for quite awhile now. He's been a fan of mine for a long time. This locker room, this organization, everything about it, I appreciate it, and I'm ready to go to work anytime I get the chance. The guys around me, the defensive backs, the defense, I like the togetherness. I'm looking at doing whatever I can to help us win the championship."

Q: Now that the fans are behind you, what was it like playing here in the Coliseum?

Swearinger: "It was nice. I wish I could have got some of those third downs to see how loud the fans got. It is not as loud on first and second down, but I loved it. It was a great atmosphere. One of the best stadiums that I've played in for sure. Just going about how the fans get up and loud on third downs, that is how you can really tell about the fans and they were very loud. We actually had to call a timeout one time because we couldn't hear the calls so it is great. I love it."

Q: Raiders had to have a lot of guys step in like you like Dion Jordan. Did the coaches do anything to make it easier to come in with little notice?

Swearinger: "Most definitely. Coach Jon Gruden does a great job of welcoming in everybody in front of the team. He welcomed me. He welcomed Dion Jordan. He welcomed Will Compton. He made sure the team understands that there are new guys and I appreciate that from coach. I never had that from any other team. Just the togetherness and confidence that he gives you as a player is great. You got to go to war for a guy like that."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

RAIDERS TE DARREN WALLER

Q: When you play a winless team, knowing this is the NFL, you can't overlook anybody can you?

Waller: "You can't overlook anybody. I came from the AFC North. They still have a lot of guys over there that I played against. They can play ball. Their defense, you could see, they were playing. They were confident. They had a lot of energy. Offensively too, they helped pick up their rookie quarterback making some plays. You can't overlook anybody. There's pros over there. Those guys know how to play football. Those guys are playmakers. Throughout the season, you look at the tape, they're in a lot of games. Plays here and there didn't go their way. We took them seriously."

Q: It all has come down to the last few minutes in these last three home games.

Waller: "You have to be prepared to play 60 minutes every Sunday. You can't come in and look at somebody's record on paper and say, 'Oh, this is going to be an easy day on the job.' It's not. You have to come with it."

Q: The team has relied on their defense a lot to come up with plays late in the game and they did it again today.

Waller: "Shout out to our defense. The Bengals played great on defense as well. Our defense has really come into its own. Trayvon Mullen is really establishing himself. Across the line, D-line, Maxx Crosby, every single level, linebackers. The defense is doing well."

Q: What does that say about the defense? Early in the season there was a lot being said about the defense and how they needed the offense to pick things up.

Waller: "A lot of respect for them. A lot of turnover, opportunities for them where they could have just hung their head because of somethings not going their way earlier in the season. You see them out there going out on Fridays, they're out there before us an extra thirty minutes going through plays, route concepts. They're staying after and doing things differently. It's starting to pay off. They bought in when they could of just gone, 'Oh, well we'll just outscore everyone this year'. The defense really bought in to what they were doing."

Q: When Crosby is having a game like this, what does that look like to you?

Waller: "Well, we all walk to our own beat sometimes. He was feeling it. That dude, from the jump and OTA's, training camp that he was going to be somebody that goes out there and brings the energy up, bring the crowd up. Make plays. To see it out there, it's Maxx being Maxx."

Q: I know you have to take it one game at a time, but as you guys saw the three games at home in a row after six in a road, did you see this as an opportunity to get yourselves in the playoff race?

Waller: "We look at any stretch like that. Coming out of the road trip the way we did, it's nice to have your Friday routine. Chill, relax, not worry about what time zone you're in or jet lag. It's good to be home. It's good to have the fans behind you. And to play that much football so quickly. Three games in 16 days. It feels good. You want to get back out there."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS HEAD COACH ZAC TAYLOR

Opening Statement: "I think that one really hurts because we went into that last drive expecting to win the game. We played that whole game expecting to win, there wasn't a point in the game where I thought it was going to get away from us. I thought we were going to take a lead, our defense was getting some big stops, they were doing a good job in the run game, we just couldn't do enough in the fourth quarter, offensively. Our defense came out in the second half and held them to three points and really did a nice job and gave us an opportunity. On offense we just — we are going to look back on that tape and be really, really frustrated at some of the big plays we left of the field. Particularly in the screen game, there were some monster plays that we didn't make. I think just about everybody can look at themselves as say, 'There was a big play there in the game on offense that I could have made, and I didn't make it.' So that one really hurts but we have to go get on the plane and get ready for a divisional game against Pittsburgh, a team that got us pretty good last time. We have to find a way to win, and that's what hurts the most is right now we just haven't figured out a way to win. These close games that we have been in, a lot of them this year, and I think that's what really gets us the most."

Q: Do you have any update on Auden Tate? Can you confirm he was taken to a hospital?

Coach Taylor: "No, I don't. I can't. I can just tell you, he was responsive to me. He could talk and motion and all that. Hopefully it was just mostly precautionary, but again, I don't have anymore details on that."

Q: How does an injury like Tate's, affect the players and the coaches? What is that moment like for you?

Coach Taylor: "It's hard because it's a guy who really embodies everything we are trying to build here, in Auden Tate. That's why he plays and why he's been productive for us because of the way he has approached everything since the day he walked in the building here. And really, today I was reading over my notes and everything that was said about the players since I got here, and I noticed he is a guy that the receivers' coach and the special team's coach said, 'He's got all that right stuff.' So when something like that happens to him, it's hard, it affects us."

Q: How would you assess Ryan Finley's performance?

Coach Taylor: "I just think overall, offensively, it wasn't enough. He tried to keep some plays alive there and get us some plays but it's hard. Right now we are not creating a lot of separation and, as you can see, there are some guys that get in the backfield pretty quick, so it's a hard day for most quarterbacks. There are some plays that he has got to learn from and he would like to have back, but again, it's the whole unit together and that starts with him."

Q: The run game started strong, why did the team shift to throwing the ball?

Coach Taylor: "Eventually, they started zeroing in on the run, and as you can see, you got to try and stay one step ahead. It's not trying to overthink it, we just felt like there were some opportunities there in the pass game, play actions, to compliment our runs. Sometimes it went accordingly and sometimes it didn't. But again, I thought our run game was really helping us today."

Q: Right now, moving forward, is Finley still the starting quarterback of this team?

Coach Taylor: "Yes."

Q: Is accuracy an issue you see in Finley?

Coach Taylor: "I'll have to watch this tape of this game. Last week I did not think accuracy was an issue, I



Oakland Raiders Transcript

think there was just getting on the same page with some guys, at times. But again, we will have to see this week and evaluate it once we get a better look at it.”

Q: How would you assess the defense today?

Coach Taylor: “They created some turnovers for us, got some keys stops. I mean, think about, they had the ball on the 1-yard line and they got the false start. They bumped it back to the six, and they got a stop, and kicked a field goal. So, it gave us an opportunity, down one score, to drive and we really put ourselves in a position. We just couldn’t convert there on that fourth down. I thought overall that the defense played with the energy that we’ve expected them to play with all year. They were swarming to the ball which we challenged them to do as a group, rushing attack we were facing, and then they created the turnovers that really should have given us an opportunity to win the game and we just couldn’t get it done.”

Q: Is it concerning that quarterbacks are having hot starts against the defense?

Coach Taylor: “Of course, we have got to affect the quarterback. I thought as the game went, we started to really apply pressure. I thought they did affect him, I haven’t actually seen what his final numbers were, but I thought there in the second half, we held him to three points, did a really nice job affecting him and made some good plays that gave us a chance. But again, we have got to start faster on both sides of the ball. We didn’t score on the first drive of offense either, so we have got to do a better job there.”

Q: What do you think the difference in your defense was when you got an effective pass-rush?

Coach Taylor: “I think any defense, that’s the whole deal. If you can stop the run and affect the passer on third-down and passing situations — that’s what we expect to see. We have faced a lot of quarterbacks this year that use their legs and that has put us in a bind. I thought today they responded the right way, how we expect them to play. Holding them to 17 points, that should be enough for us to win, we should be able to put more points on the board.”

Q: How much does the 10-game losing streak bother you and knowing it is equal to the worst start in franchise history?

Coach Taylor: “That’s not something we can worry about, it really isn’t. We just have to focus on finding that first win and breaking this dam. It’s been frustrating for all of us. This is our tenth loss today, and I saw no quit from one coach, one player, we are on the road in a tough environment, and in the fourth quarter we all believed that we were going to win this game. We just didn’t get it done. I think that says something about the character. I know everybody in here asks, ‘Is there going to be in-fighting?’ and there hasn’t been, guys still believe. We practice like we are going to win the game, we prepare like we are going to win the game, we come out here in the fourth quarter, expect to win the game and for a number of reasons it just hasn’t happened yet. That’s the part that’s frustrating. I am not going to worry about what everybody says about us right now, because like we said, we have got great character and we are going to build off that right now. And this year is going to be that foundation for some great things that we do in the future. Unfortunately it hasn’t started the way any of us anticipated but we are all going to keep a positive mindset and keep going off this and learn from everything we have learned in these losses. It is important that it carries over, for me as a coach, for our coordinators, for our position coaches. It’s not failure that we are experiencing, it may look like it sometimes but we have to learn from all these defeats and help make us stronger for the next six games this season and in the future, down the road.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What the fourth play pass to Damion Willis designed?

Coach Taylor: "It's a play that we have a lot of confidence on, and really all five eligible have a pretty good shot there. He gave somebody the opportunity to go make a play and it didn't come down with it. But he's got a lot of options on that play."

Q: How much did you think about kicking the field goal late in the fourth?

Coach Taylor: "Obviously a conversation we had. Ultimately we were going to need a touchdown either way you cut it, and so, their strength has really been to run the ball really well and you are concerned that that can bleed some clock off if they get a first down or two. It just felt like we are going to need a touchdown either way, we're down here in position, it's a manageable situation, with a play that we felt good about. That factors into it as well and we just didn't convert on it. "

Q: The fourth quarter play to Giovani Bernard, did that look like he got the right depth on it?

Coach Taylor: "He got banged coming out of the backfield by the defensive end so that affected his depth a little bit."

Q: How much solace do you take in the fact that even though you didn't win, you played well in a tough place to play?

Coach Taylor: "I think it just confirms what we are seeing during the week, that the players are still with us, they are still together, that we are still a connected team. That's what it confirms, you can't really take solace in losing close games or else you are never going to achieve the things you want to achieve. What what encouraging today, was the things we have really stressed to our defense as a starting point — create turnovers and swarm to the ball — we saw that today and they did enough. Offensively we really wanted to be an impact down the field at receiver and on the perimeter on the run game and I saw that today with some explosive runs there. We are just not getting enough explosive passes, it's got to be so methodical coming down the field, to get the points, and that has really been the story of our year to an extent. Being explosive down the field and getting those long touchdowns. Again, I think we are going to look at some screens and think maybe we had a shot for some big touchdowns and we didn't get them. It's tough"

Q: If you had to boil down the pass game, would you say it's separation and protection?

Coach Taylor: "I would."

Q: Is it problematic saying that you need big screen plays, what does that say about your offense?

Coach Taylor: "It's not easy, it's not easy. We are just trying to find ways to give our guys a chance to be explosive and we are going to keep searching. The guys understand what they are being asked to do and they are going about it the right way, we just have to keep finding a way to get those explosive plays."

Q: How do you evaluate the defense today, there were a lot of big chunk plays?

Coach Taylor: "There were. We have got to keep making steps in their direction. Oakland is really top-10 in a lot of categories on offense this year, they have really had a good year on offense. So they have had a lot of those against a lot of teams. The important thing is keeping points off the board, and that's what our guys did."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS QB RYAN FINLEY

Q: How tough is a game like that where you guys are right in it up until the end?

Finley: "Yeah, that was a tough one. You can't turn the ball over. We had a chance to drive down, score and tie it up, but we just didn't get it done. Tough one."

Q: When we talked last week after the game, you said each one of these games is a learning experience and you take something away. What would you say you took away from this game?

Finley: "I've got to be better. I don't think I played well enough for us to win this game. A lot of these NFL games come down to one score, and you need to score in the two-minute situations. Just got to be better, all around. I thought we did a really good job running the ball, and we got into a rhythm on offense. We need to be better at not getting behind the stick, we need to be better on converting third downs and we need to be better in the red zone. That falls onto me and I'm going to get better. I think we're all going to keep getting better."

Q: The fourth down throw to Damion Willis at the end, was he your first guy?

Finley: "We had a play call. I love that matchup, but I need to give him a catchable ball. Those plays are bang-bang. I would have loved to have left it a foot outside to give him an easier catch. It was bang-bang and those are plays we need to make if we want to win these games."

Q: With some of the struggles today all around on offense, how confident are you that you can be the guy to step in and get things going in the right direction?

Finley: "I'm confident. We're going to get this thing going, and we're only going to get better. These are all learning experiences for us and no one is going to give up, that's for sure. We're going to keep getting better. We're back to the drawing board and still trying to get this first win."

Q: Ryan, how tough was it seeing Tate go down like that in the fourth quarter?

Finley: "Any time you see a guy get carted off, that's scary. I'm praying for him and really hope he's OK. Hopefully we'll know pretty soon about that, but you just hate to see that. Tate is an awesome player and an awesome guy so hopefully he'll be OK and make a speedy recovery."

Q: What was the play call when Tate got hurt? Was it basically a crossing pattern?

Finley: "It was a good route by Tate. Those are plays that you need to step up and make those. That was a good play for us but we just didn't have enough plays. We need to find ways to make more [plays]."

Q: When things go wrong, has [quarterback] Andy [Dalton] been there to provide advice along the way in games like this when you need a couple of drives late?

Finley: "Andy has been awesome to me. I can't say enough about how he's treated me throughout this whole thing. I trust what we have going on here and we're going to keep getting better. We're going to keep fighting. You're not going to see anyone give up and we're going to move in the right direction."

Q: What was it like on third down? What were you seeing on third downs?

Finley: "They did some good stuff on defense. I thought they rushed the passer pretty well. A couple of times I needed to be better by getting out of the pocket and make it easier on those [offensive] tackles. They did some good stuff, but at the end of the day we need to execute our stuff. We need to be better with what we do and do our jobs."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Zac Taylor was talking about the screen game and trying to fix the screen plays, what do you guys have to improve on?

Finley: "I think we just need to hit them. Hit them when the opportunity is there. Screens need to be a big part of what we do. If teams are going to press you, you need to build in some screens. We had a couple set up, a couple looked good and a couple didn't. That's something we need to work on."

Q: What's been different about the run game the last two weeks?

Finley: "I think we're putting an emphasis on it. We're running the ball really well and giving the ball to [running back] Joe [Mixon] a little bit earlier. We're clearing up his vision and he's running really hard. We're blocking really well and these are all things we can keep building on. When you run the ball well it opens up a lot of things. We ran the ball well, so it falls on the passing game and it falls on me to make us more balanced."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS S JESSIE BATES III

Q: Zac Taylor said that when you give up 17 points you should win. Is that frustrating when you do feel like you played well and the result is the same?

Bates III: "Yeah, any time you lose obviously it's frustrating but especially when you play well on defense and you feel like you could have done a little bit more. I felt like we could have given up less points than seventeen, but you know you just got to get better every week."

Q: Derek Carr never seems to throw picks on third down but you guys came up with one. What did you see on that play?

Bates III: "We were in double-double there and Hunter Renfrow is known for running option routes. And Darqueze did a good job of staying outside. He ran his option route inside and I just kind of just baited him into throwing it. So it was something I've seen all week on the scout week and stuff like that and it just played out well for me."

Q: How tough was it to see your teammate Auden Tate go down like that?

Bates III: "Yea, anytime that happens that gives me chills because it sucks but it's part of the game. You know, you don't see that often, but when it does it's very scary. Auden's [Tate] one of my guys so hopefully he's doing well."

Q: When that kind of thing happens is it easy to put it out of your head and go out and play?

Bates III: "Yeah I think so. I mean it's tough obviously when one of your guys is down, but that's what you got to do. You've got to go next play and continue to play hard."

Q: You guys stopped the run pretty well. It looked like you guys crowded the box and made it tough for them.

Bates III: "Yeah I mean we didn't do anything different. We didn't put in any new defense or anything. I just think we played very well as a whole defense. We played very physical. We controlled the front. Like I said, it's a testament to us how well we can play and the potential that we have as a defense."

Q: Did you punch the ball out on the fumble?

Bates III: "No, I wrapped him up. Josh Tupou actually punched it out and that's something that we've been preaching throughout the week and I mean he got it out and that's good for him."

Q: You guys had a bunch of big plays, but they got you on a couple plays too. Is that frustrating to see those kind of things still happening?

Bates III: "Yeah, because I mean that's something we still need to work on, eliminating explosive plays and we're not doing that right now. So, you know we got the turnovers, we got the sacks. Now the next thing is, is eliminating the explosive plays and continuing the top the run."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS DE CARLOS DUNLAP

Q: How do you get things going in the right direction?

Dunlap: "We need to make more plays. If we catch a little luck, that'll help too. If we keep doing what we're doing and catch a break, it'll be good."

Q: Can the defense take anything positive away from the Oakland Raiders scoring only 17 points?

Dunlap: "There's no benefit in being 0-10. I really thought this was going to be the one today. We fought down and we were in position to make it the one today, but we didn't. At the end of the day we're 0-10, so we have to figure out a way to get 1-10."

Q: How difficult of a position is it for Ryan Finley to go down there and win the game at the end of the fourth quarter?

Dunlap: "It's very difficult. Then the injury to Auden Tate, which slows down a promising drive."

Q: How much better does it make you guys when you can get the kind of pressure you got on their quarterback today?

Dunlap: "We're at our best when we can put them in third-and-long so we can rush the quarterback. We got an opportunity today and you see the results. We're just going to keep doing that."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS DE SAM HUBBARD

Q: Can you touch on your guys' success on the outside getting several sacks and tackles for losses?

Hubbard: "Yeah definitely, and I don't think it was anything to do with scheme. I think those guys in the middle, [Andrew] Billing, Josh Tupou, Renell [Wren], Geno [Atkins] just played a really physical game and did a great job holding down the middle and made the job on the outside easier. But, I think we were finally able to get comfortable and cut it loose and get after the quarterback. Definitely, he was feeling our pressure. I think we played a good game and we just need to make those plays. At the end of the game they won it, but I think we played well defensively."

Q: When you look at it, they had given up 12 sacks all year, you guys got 3. They had given up 8 turnovers all year, you guys got 2. It seemed that you guys gave the Raiders as much trouble as anybody has?

Hubbard: "Yeah, I mean we're trying to set a standard here. Practices this week all we talked about was trying to get turnovers, because we haven't won a game this year because we haven't won the turnover margin in any of our games this year. So we feel like if we can do that it will give us a chance to win. All week we were punching at the ball, getting picks. First drive, first turnover, Josh Tupou comes and punches the ball out. So it's just a testament to what we do at practice and it's just going to be a process continuing to build on the good stuff we did."

Q: The Raiders have some solid rookies. Josh Jacobs plays physical, he squares up, runs hard and gets after it doesn't he?

Hubbard: "Yeah, I think he's a great back and he runs hard that's for sure. It was a physical game. Especially that offensive line is very talented. Very big and very experienced and they complement each other well."

Q: Trent Brown is 6'8, 380 and he's long. Can you talk about how it was going up against him?

Hubbard: "Yeah he's definitely the biggest tackle I've ever played and you know he's the highest paid tackle for a reason."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

BENGALS RB JOE MIXON

Q: Do you feel like you guys have the running game ironed out a bit after today's performance?

Mixon: "Honestly, no, because it wasn't enough. We should have done more, but it is what it is and we have to get better."

Q: You had 86 yards rushing and scored your first rushing touchdown of the year. Describe that feeling?

Mixon: "It was a feeling like no other. Blessed to be in this position and play in front of this crowd. I was trying to display what I've been used to doing. We came up short and loss though so it's not really a good feeling. It is what it is though."

Q: It was a tight game throughout, did you have the feeling that if you could just make one play this could be the one?

Mixon: "Easily, but we didn't pull it out. It's frustrating, honestly. There's some plays out there I wish we could take back, but we have to get better."

Q: Could you speak on how the feeling is within the team after Auden Tate's injury?

Mixon: "He made a huge conversion, which was probably one of the biggest plays in the game because it kept us alive. It sucks to see a player go down, especially him."

Q: What would you say to Ryan Finley after his second start?

Mixon: "We can't just leave it up to him. We had an opportunity to win, but it's the same thing every week. Falling short and it's frustrating. We just have to get better."

Q: What was it like to get your first rushing touchdown of the season here at home?

Mixon: "It's cool. It was good to come back and try to ball out in front of the home crowd. It's a blessing to be in this position. Honestly I'm playing for my team though so for us to fall short it sucks."

Q: How would you evaluate your performance?

Mixon: "I'm not here to evaluate my performance, but there is one play I'd like to take back. We just have to get better as a whole."

Q: To match the worst start in franchise history at 0-10, what kind of hit does that take on you?

Mixon: "It's a big hit on everybody in the organization. It sucks to be in this position. I've never been 0-10 in my life. It's the same thing each and every week, and it's definitely frustrating. We have to get better and the only way to do that is by coming to work each and every day. It's about getting guys healthy and being the best you."