



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.

Q: How do you counter a quarterback like Brock Osweiler, who likes to get rid of the ball fast?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Not much will change. A lot of quarterbacks try to get rid of the ball quick. Some hold it a little bit longer, but the good ones don't hold it too long. We just have to be really sharp with our rushes, really, really good with our coverages. Get our hands up and just be really good in our secondary because the ball is coming out quick. Whenever you have that situation, guys are catching balls and running with the ball. He throws it quick so we have to be really good tacklers. When they catch it, they have to go down and be tackled."

Q: His yards per attempt are really low. How do you defend against someone like that?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Well, we just want to keep it that way. We like to keep it that way, but at the same time you just have to play really sound ball. Coverage has to be well. Nothing changes on our part. We have to do the things that we do well; communicate well and tackle well. Get the ball out. Nothing changes for us. We just have to worry about us. What they're going to do, they're going to do. We have our own issues we have to worry about."

Q: What goes into having one of the best third-down defenses?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "Again, we're just really emphasizing when it comes to third down and turnovers. I think when you play this game long enough, you know that those things are very important to get in the win column. You want to get them in longer third, longer yard situations. You have more success, but third down is really, really important. The players know that. There are some things that we do really well. Obviously, there's some things that we need to improve on, but the things that you do well, you have to keep doing those well. We're always going to be a growth in process. We always want to continue to grow, but at the same time, third down, turnovers [are] big time when it comes to winning ball games. Know what you do well and at the same time know what you have to improve on."

Q: Is there a recognition that if an opponent needs 10 yards it's OK to give up six yards?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "You still have to cover. You still have to have a combination with your cover and your rush. You still have to tackle well. You still have to be very aggressive. You still have to be excellent and be really good on your coverage aspect and your leverage aspect. All those things need to be timed together. Everything needs to work together. That's something that, again, we emphasize. We really hang our hat on third down and turnovers. We really feel that that's something that we take to another level."

Q: It seems like the defense fed off the crowd energy against Denver. With another big crowd in Mexico, do you look forward to the guys being able to feed off that energy?

Coach Norton, Jr.: "No question. Enthusiasm, energy, doing things right, it's all contagious. Our team is really playing the best ball at the right time. It's important that we understand why they're playing better and continue understanding the details and the things that it takes to be a really good defense. We're excited to get back to playing ball. We had the week off. We got some good coach time. We got some good time to get away from ball a little bit. Now we're really back into the details and the coaching and understanding where we are. At this point in the season, understanding how we got to this point, really want to take the rest, each game, one game at a time and really do the things that we do well consistently."