



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: "Hey guys. We have some injuries that we still have a lot of question about. [Kelechi] Osemele at left guard. Kyle Wilber, I don't believe will make it. We will see what Doug Martin's status is. Seth Roberts is in the concussion protocol, we're hoping to have him. I'll answer any questions that I can."

Q: Did Osemele and Maurice Hurst have setbacks?

Gruden: "Hurst is in the questionable list also. He's just really struggling with an ankle. We'll cross our fingers."

Q: Martin has been listed as full most days. Why is he still listed as questionable?

Gruden: "He's going to tell you he's playing no matter what. But, he's got to check out with the trainers and certainly has to come in here Saturday and make sure that we're all doing the right thing. We have C.J. Anderson. We're giving him a crash course on our protections and our system. If need be, we'll have him up. But we're hoping Doug is ready."

Q: How has Anderson looked?

Gruden: "Pretty good. He's a pro's pro, he really is. A quick learner."

Q: Are the protections more difficult to deal with running plays?

Gruden: "Yes, especially against the Steelers because they blitz on every play. I bet if you look at the Pro Football Focus, they blitz more than any team in the league. That's a challenge. It's a challenge for a running back because usually those guys are very, very involved in these pickups."

Q: You guys probably haven't used play-action as much as you've wanted to. Why do you think that is?

Gruden: "I just don't believe in play-action pass against teams that are playing man-to-man coverage. Who are you fooling? You see a team that plays a lot of zone coverage, you fake the ball and you fool the underneath coverage and throw the ball in behind him. When you're playing teams that play a high percentage of man-to-man coverage, the corner is covering his guy. The safety is covering his guy, he's not peaking in the backfield. Sometimes it's the front. Sometimes the pass protection isn't worth a damn either. That is part of it. we've been pretty good. We're getting better at our play-actions. I would like to use some more down the stretch."

Q: What stands out about Juju Smith-Schuster?

Gruden: "He's a good player. He's a physical guy. He's obviously smart. He's taken advantage of some of the coverage that Antonio [Brown] is getting. He's a natural football player. He's an excellent blocker. He's outstanding after the catch. He's, I think, coming into his own as a legitimate go-to guy. They've got two of them in Pittsburgh and that's a problem for us."