



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Opening Statement: "Alright guys, going on the road this week. Team (Jets) put up 30 points the last couple weeks so it's going to be a stiff challenge for us. Any questions about anything?"

Q: What are the Jets doing better that has led to their recent success?

Coach Guenther: "You know, they're running the ball. They're running the ball really effectively. The cornerbacks are making some unscripted plays. He had four or five of them against Washington the other day. He's playing at a high level and they've got good receivers. Receivers are very good, good tight end, line's playing better, so it's a good offense."

Q: You've seen a lot of Le'Veon Bell over the years. Does this look like the Le'Veon Bell that you used to seeing?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah you know they're running some runs that he was familiar with in Pittsburgh. So obviously we played him a bunch in Cincinnati. He's a good player. He can do about all of it. He can come out of the backfield on routes. He can line up as a receiver, and obviously he can run from behind the center. So he's a very good player."

Q: With games being so important now, is there something you can talk to your players about in terms of how to focus better when it comes to penalties?

Coach Guenther: "You know we just, it's kind of like interceptions and sacks and all that stuff. You've just got to keep putting it in front of them, keep understanding. I keep telling them, more games are lost than they are won in this league. We can't have offsides or lining up in the neutral zone or illegal contact. Those things cost you games particularly on third down. We've just got to keep educating the players on those things and be within the rules and try to eliminate it as much as possible."

Q: I haven't seen a breakdown of who is committing penalties, but is that one manifestation of the youth on this team or has it been across the board do you think?

Coach Guenther: "I think it's been across the board. I don't think it's been one younger guy or one older guy committing penalties, but we certainly have to cut them back as a defense, as a team because it's going to cost you games obviously. Whether you're getting penalties on third down in the red area, you can't have those penalties because they cost you games."

Q: Can you talk about the effort and relentlessness that Maxx Crosby plays with?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, we saw him early at Eastern Michigan. [assistant defensive line coach] Travis Smith went up to the Ypsilanti saw him and he said, 'hey he's a good-looking kid.' You know, you could see it on the college tape and then the minute he got here on our practice field it was evident we had a gem. He works his butt off. He's always going at a hundred miles an hour. You can't ask for much more from a young player."

Q: Is that just something that certain guys have and certain guys don't or is that something you can get out of guys?

Coach Guenther: "Some guys you've got to push to get that and some guys you don't have to push to get that. So, he's one of those guys you don't have to push to get that, which is always better."



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Q: How do you think Trayvon Mullen played overall last game?

Coach Guenther: "I think he's been doing a really good job for us. I mean it's been a good move. He's looked good on the practice field. He's done good in the games. He's got a couple technique things to clean up but other than that I mean he's on his guy, that's all you can ask for. He's been tackling in the run game. He understands the game plan, and it's not too big for him. He's played in a lot of big games at Clemson. He's going to be a good player for years to come."

Q: D.J. Swearinger said that the communication wasn't an issue back there even though he was new and there's been a lot of moving parts back there. What has been the key to making sure there's good communication on the defense?

Coach Guenther: "I think Erik Harris does an excellent job of making guys around him better. He's like a coach out. He can see the formations, understand the leverages, what may be coming, alerting guys. Maybe D. J. being new, playing all the snaps that he did and wasn't quite sure about something, Erik can correct him. I think Erik does an excellent job back there for us and that goes understated."

Q: You guys have been pretty good about getting guys caught up on the fly. How's Preston Brown doing this week?

Coach Guenther: "He's doing good. Coming from Cincinnati, they're still using some of the same terminology, so when we got him on board, a lot like D.J., 'Hey this is this, this is that.' he's shaking his head, 'Yeah I get, I get it.' Well we didn't quite have this one or we don't have that one. So that's the kind of time we spend on those areas. He'll be caught up quick and hopefully he can help us here in the short term."

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: What stands out about the Jets run defense?

Coach Olson: "Really their personnel up front. They're strong up front and the d-line probably jumps out at you."

Q: What makes Jamal Adams special as a safety?

Coach Olson: "Great instincts, plays with great speed and passion really, but instincts and his ability to find the ball is impressive."

Q: Is it harder to account when you get a safety getting the number of sacks he gets?

Coach Olson: "I think there is an awareness now. He's made himself an aware player, not that he wasn't before, but certainly you need to know where he's at on every snap when you are throwing the football because he's shown the ability to blitz the passer and we've seen it on tape. He takes a lot of pride in it if you read any of the press clippings. I think he takes a lot of pride in that and he plays sometimes outside the boundaries of what they are trying to do defensively. So, he's certainly a player you need to be aware of."



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Q: If you know it's coming, can that be an exploitable thing if they are bringing defensive backs on pressures?

Coach Olson: "Again, we're aware. We do our homework in terms of the blitz packages that we've seen from teams, but as he said, he's kind of a little bit of an unorthodox player and sometimes he's allowed to do his own thing. So, when you hear that then you know that certainly he's someone that you need to be aware of on every play because within the structure of their defense he could bring it at any time. So, we are always going to be aware of where he's at."

Q: Do you see Gregg Williams imprints on this defense? What are the characteristics of a Gregg Williams defense?

Coach Olson: "I think it started in New Orleans, that was my first exposure to Gregg but certainly there is a lot of similarities in what he was doing then. But like every good coordinator, I think he's evolved over time, but certainly it's an imprint that he started when he was in New Orleans."

Q: Derek Carr's yards per attempt has really skyrocketed over the last four or five games, is there something about the efficiency or the way he's throwing that's allowed him to take more shots?

Coach Olson: "I don't know if it's that or just the fact, again, that he's now in his sixth year. And we always talk about the comfort within this system, with [Head Coach] Jon's [Gruden] system and I think a lot of guys sometimes look at that and say, 'Ah, that's just coach speak', but in this case I really believe that's part of it. I think he's very comfortable as a quarterback right now in this system and he's got some good pieces around him and I think that's another piece that people overlook is that we do have some good pieces around Derek Carr. We feel really good about our offensive line, we talked about Josh Jacobs running the ball really well. We've got some receivers that have made some noise, so I think it's just a combination of a number of things. When you look at Derek Carr, and there is a lot of qualities that set him apart from other quarterbacks we feel, but his preparation really is second to none and so that's where it starts with him and he's just really taken hold of this offense."

Q: Where have you seen Hunter Renfrow make the biggest strides the last few games?

Coach Olson: "Confidence maybe is a big part of it. I think he's now confident in that he can play in this league, and not only play but he can excel, but getting catches early on in the season for a young player I think that boosts their confidence. He's getting a better feel for the coverages he's going to see at this level of football, so there is just a variety of things, but I think confidence probably more than anything else."

Q: You guys have started the last five games on the first offensive possession with a running play with Josh Jacobs and they've all gained yards. When you start off the game with a good, hard-nosed play, does that mean something?

Coach Olson: "I would say to our team it does. We take a lot of pride in running the football here. I think we would say as a staff it starts up front and it starts with Josh Jacobs. He's what we would consider our bell cow and again not to slight the other runners we have on this team, but we believe in Josh Jacobs and we believe in what we have up front and there is a deep seeded belief that when people tell you that they are putting a front out there that you can't run against, our guys are blind to that. So, we are going to run the football and sometimes we'll run it early. We're going to let it be known but by the end of the game we want people to know that we are going to run the football."



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Q: Considering the way the Jets have played the run that's kind of a test for them right?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, so impressive again. You look at the statistics and their play backs it up. They're not all stats. They are, again, a very strong front. The scheme is very sound in what Gregg is doing in terms of trying to stop the run or stopping the run which they have done this year. So, we'll have our work cut out for us, but really we're up for the challenge."

Q: As the games get more and more important now, what kind of conversation do you have about trying to limit the penalties?

Coach Olson: "We put a huge emphasis now really on our coaching technique number one. Each coach, the running backs, offensive line, tight end coach, across the board technique in terms of some of the holds that we've gotten. But really a big focus for us is the pre-snap penalties and those are ones that we can eliminate. The pre-snap penalty more than anything has been probably the most disappointing, so we focus on eliminating the false starts, illegal formations, illegal shifts and then it's cleaning up technique for the other ones."

Q: Do you have some evidence on what they are calling as far as the holds?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, we get a report. Again, Gerry Austin works for us here and he provides us with a report each week on the officiating crew that we are going to have and their history of calls that they've made to try to help our players on what they can clean up. And again, every officiating crew is different, but we do try to educate our players on what this specific crew has called in the past, but it's more than anything it's really coaching the details for each position group."