



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening statement: “I don’t have a lot of injury updates. I hope to have some news on Kelechi Osemele and Karl Joseph here later today. I’ll be happy to answer any questions that I can.”

Q: What went into waiting until Thursday to leave for London?

Coach Gruden: “Did a lot of research on it, obviously. People that have done it, people that have made that cross-country trip from California. I don’t know much about it. We’re just doing the best thing we think for our players. Get the proper preparation here. Then got to London, get them the proper rest, time acclimation. Then get ready to play on Sunday.”

Q: Is this the first game you will have coached overseas?

Coach Gruden: “We coached in Tokyo one day. It was a preseason game. That was a great experience. Had a chance to coach in Mexico. When I was with the Raiders, played the Cowboys. This is my first experience as a regular season game, so I’m excited about it.”

Q: What do you think of the concept of giving up a home game to play in London?

Coach Gruden: “You hate to lose a home game, honestly, but for the betterment of the game, I think it’s exciting. It’s great for the game of football. I haven’t really thought about it much. Obviously, I’m a little depressed today.”

Q: Gareon Conley didn’t play much yesterday. Was it more him or was Daryl Worley playing better?

Coach Gruden: “Worley played good. Worley is a good player. Gareon had a couple of struggles yesterday. Trying to find a right mix. Trying to find a right mix at a lot of positions. Daryl Worley is a good player. I think he was second on our team in tackles. He earned a right to be out there.”

Q: Have you been a part of a team that has rotated cornerbacks as much as you guys have?

Coach Gruden: “No, no I haven’t. I haven’t been on a team that has rotates corners like this or defensive linemen or kickers or offensive tackles five games into the season. It’s been tough. But it’s a credit to our coaches. Our guys have been ready to play and they’ll continue to be ready to play. For that I’m excited.”

Q: When you look at how you guys defended screen pass was there something common that allowed the gains to be big?

Coach Gruden: “We’re not playing them well. We’re not playing them well enough. We have to contain the screens. We have to make tackles in space. Got to diagnose them quicker. We’ve got to read out of the stack with our defensive lineman. All three levels, we have to play the screens better. Screens to the back, screens to the tight ends, quick screens to the receivers. It wasn’t good enough yesterday.”

Q: Would you have rather run the clock further down when you went for the field goal with 11 seconds left?

Coach Gruden: “Well obviously we could’ve run it down a little bit later. I was contemplating going for it there on fourth down, honestly. But with no timeouts I made the decision to kick a long-range field goal. We weren’t counting on a roughing the passer penalty in that situation. Had I known we were going to for sure kick the field goal. I was wrestling going for it on fourth down. Without a timeout I changed my mind. I probably could’ve managed that a little bit better.”

Q: You said last week you want to work toward not having that rotation at corner, how close do you think you are to that?

Coach Gruden: “I think we’re getting closer. I think seeing Conley for the first time helps. We hadn’t seen [Worley] since the last preseason game. He didn’t play in the last preseason game. We’re just getting to know Worley again. We’re pretty confident on where he is now. [Dominique Rodgers-] Cromartie is a guy



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we picked up late, had to learn the defense. So we're getting confident that he knows how to play in this game. Played multiple coverages and techniques and different assignments. We're growing towards that and hopefully it's soon. It would help a lot of us."

Q: What was it like preparing T.J. Clemmings or Justin Murray to play guard?

Coach Gruden: "It was tough. It's hard. We have to have a contingency plan at every position. Obviously with the injuries at right tackle, now at left guard we had to move some guys around. These are young players that just got here that had no training camp with us. It's a difficult process. We are trying to get as many reps as possible on the practice field. Again, Tom Cable is doing a great job of keeping our guys ready when needed."

Q: Irvin played a little bit more than 50 percent of the defensive snaps. He's been around that number for most of the season. Is that his role now?

Coach Gruden: "I think so. I think he's an edge player. He's a really good edge player. Trying to keep him fresh and trying to keep him doing what he does best. We are not playing a 3-4 defense in the base. He's not able to play outside linebacker. He's playing defensive end for us full time now, so trying to keep him in good positions where he can do what he does best."

Q: There were some positives in the first four games, even with the 1-3 start, but then yesterday it seemed like there was a total breakdown in all three phases of the game. Is it hard to recover from that or is each game its own story?

Coach Gruden: "I think there is a lot of good things, honestly, that happened yesterday. The scoreboard was lousy, field position was bad. We gave up some big plays which was not good. Terrible interception in the red zone. There was some negative things that are still resonating with me and Raider Nation. [Right Tackle] Brandon Parker did some good things. That was his first start in history. I'm proud of what he did. [Defensive Tackle] PJ Hall made a couple plays, he's a rookie. We played eight rookies yesterday at key positions and I'm proud of what they did. [Jon] Feliciano did some good things in his first start at left guard. [Quarterback] Derek Carr had a couple bad plays that he needs to correct, and he will correct, but there were some good things. I'm going to continue to emphasize the good and do everything I can to fix the things that are bad because most of the things that are bad, my fingerprints are all over."

Q: Carr has five interceptions on first down this year. Is first down a spot where you need to be more careful?

Coach Gruden: "Interceptions are bad on any down. First-down, second-down, third-down. He's too good a player to throw any and I believe that. I think we can correct these interceptions and we are going to correct these interceptions. I think he's aggressive and we're coaching him to be aggressive. We feel like we got some good shot plays, we've got some good receivers, but I think we can tone down some of that aggressiveness. We got to eliminate the turnovers. We have to win the turnover battle to be a great football team and right now were turning the ball over too many times and we aren't getting the ball back."

Q: What have you made of the lack of takeaways thus far?

Coach Gruden: "It starts with pressuring the quarterback. We got to get more pressure on the quarterback, we got to force them to make some bad decisions. We got to make that guy unload it when he doesn't want to, we got to disrupt the timing, we got to knock them off the spot, we have to do better. When somebody catches it we got to get three or four guys to the ball and we got to unload on the ball carrier. We got to rip it out, rake it out. We got to do whatever it takes to get the ball back and that's what every team in the league is saying. Talk is cheap. We just got to keep working, keep emphasizing, keep getting better."

Q: How does that balance on defense of being aggressive and limiting the big plays work?



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Coach Gruden: "It's the same thing. If you are aggressive on defense you tend to blitz. When you blitz you put some pressure on other aspects of your defense. Linebackers got to cover the back out, safeties got to cover the tight end. If you break containment, you got to make sure you plaster and hold your man because [Chargers QB Philip] Rivers can buy time and look down the field. Look, it's a combination of all that. We will continue to work hard and try to make the corrections."

Q: It looked like Marshawn Lynch took his helmet off and almost threw it after the interception. Do you have any problem with that reaction?

Gruden: "I don't want to see anybody get upset. I want everyone to be happy. It won't be the last pass I call on first-and-goal either. I think it's the best time to throw down there. I regret that it was intercepted. Turns out to be a horrible call, but we were down 20-3. Melvin Ingram is their middle linebacker in a jam front and I wanted to throw a play-action pass on the one-foot line. My opinion is that it shouldn't have been intercepted. We shouldn't do that right there. But, we did. Lynch is frustrated. I think I threw my visor and my headset, so I think he and I have a lot in common."

Q: Do you view Kolton's playing as a positive?

Gruden: "I think he's playing great. I think he's doing a lot of great things. I think he has a little soreness in his knee. He's proven to be tough. He's won for us in one-on-one pass protection. He's been a great run blocker. He's pulled. He's a rookie, an underclassman out of UCLA. I'm proud of this guy. I love what he's done. I'm really excited about Parker. I did not expect them to play this well, this fast. Hopefully they continue to improve and stay healthy and maybe they can be building blocks for this franchise for a long time."

Q: Amari mentioned that he told you and Derek that he was open a couple times. When you look back at the tape, was he creating enough separation to warrant more targets?

Gruden: "He was open a couple times. We have a lot of good receivers on this team. We have seven or eight receivers with 10 catches or more. We want to get Martavis [Bryant] involved, we want to get Jordy Nelson involved. Jordy is a good football player. Jared Cook is having a heck of a year for us. Coop is a good player and he's had two games with over 100 yards in five games. Hopefully this week we get him the ball more."

Q: You said you're a little depressed today. Is this taking a toll on you?

Gruden: "No, I just don't like to lose. I think we have work to do. There's not enough time in the day to do it. I'm depressed. I'm tired. I want to win. I want to do better. We have to get back to work here."

Q: How do you spend the plane ride to London?

Gruden: "I don't know. I hope I can make it, honestly. I'm not great. I get claustrophobic. My son was a weightlifter and he won a powerlifting competition in Belarus. I had to fly 14 hours. I had to fly home 14 hours. I had vertigo for a month. I couldn't even lay down, the house was spinning. I am hoping I don't get vertigo. I'm not a great traveler. I'll be honest with you, I hate it. I'm not good. I'm concerned. I'm more worried about that than our goal-line offense right now."

Q: Have you been to London before?

Gruden: "I have not. I'm excited to go over there and make some friends. My brother got to go as a Redskin and he loved it. My son got to go as a member of the Redskins and he loved it, so I will, too."

Q: Marshawn didn't play a snap after he almost threw his helmet. Is there a reason for that?

Gruden: "We were down 20-3. It wasn't the last play of the Super Bowl. We were down 20-3. It was first-and-goal, trying to save as much time as we can with a play-action pass. we got into the two minute drill after that. We only had a few possessions in the second half. Everybody is on the same page. Jalen Richard



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is a heck of a third-down back. He's been our two minute back all year, for the most part. That's what you saw."

Q: Derrick Johnson's snap count has gone down. Is that more about Marquel Lee or more about what Derrick isn't doing?

Gruden: "I think it's a little bit more about what Marquel is doing. Again, we're trying to find the right mix in our base defense, in our sub package and who we're playing. That'll continue to be the case this week against Russell Wilson and the Seahawks."