



DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS vs. OAKLAND RAIDERS

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Postgame Quotes Summary (click links for easy navigation):

Broncos Quotes: [Head Coach Gary Kubiak](#) (press conference); OLB [Von Miller](#) (press conference); QB [Trevor Siemian](#) (press conference); RB [Devontae Booker](#); CB [Chris Harris Jr.](#); OLB [Shane Ray](#); WR [Emmanuel Sanders](#); S [Darrian Stewart](#); CB [Aqib Talib](#); WR [Jordan Taylor](#); WR [Demaryius Thomas](#)
Raiders Quotes: [Head Coach Jack Del Rio](#) (press conference); QB [Connor Cook](#); WR [Amari Cooper](#); WR [Michael Crabtree](#); LB [Bruce Irvin](#); QB [Matt McGloin](#); RB [DeAndre Washington](#)

BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

On an update for the players injured during the game

"[WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] is going to be fine. He has a foot issue. [LB] Zaire [Anderson], all indications are that Zaire is going to be OK. He was talking to us out there. We were encouraged by that."

On his plans for next season

"I did talk to the team. Right now, I am going to answer this the same way; today is about the team and the players. I'll address my situation tomorrow. I did have a really good moment with the players and told them how proud I was of them and the way they finished. I'll address everything else tomorrow."

On QB Paxton Lynch not playing in the game

"That's on me. I planned on playing them both. We got into the game, and I thought [QB] Trevor [Siemian] played really well today. I told him at halftime, 'Trevor, you're going to keep going.' I told him to keep going and finish the game. That's on me. Paxton has a bright future. It's going to be a hell of a battle between those two kids next year. That decision is on me. It's strictly on me."

On whether he's made a decision on his future

"I'll address that tomorrow. Like I said, I've had a chance to talk to the players and the coaches. It's about the football team right now. It's not about me. I'll address what I can tomorrow."

On whether he was surprised to read news about him stepping down come out this morning

“Am I surprised about news? I’m never surprised about news. That’s part of what we do. That’s part of the game. For me, I went to the players early in the week, they were coming off a tough loss in Kansas City and I told them, ‘We’re going to jog through this week. I’m going to treat you all like men. You all battled your tails off all year long. I want you to get your minds right and finish the right way.’ They were unbelievable this week. They were pros about the way I handled them and what they did. They went out there and finished the right way. I’m just very encouraged by what they did. I’m very encouraged with the future of this football team.”

On Siemian’s performance this season

“You have to be very encouraged. He was a seventh round pick. When we came out of camp, let’s face it, people thought our quarterback would be a lot of guys, they didn’t think it would be Trevor. He went out there and had his team right there. Four, five weeks ago, we’re right there. We just didn’t play well enough at the end to get ourselves in. We’re in a tough division, but you have to be very encouraged. Trevor knows and I had this talk with Trevor and Paxton last night, how competitive their situation is going to be. They’re both good young players. It’s about wanting to be great. I think they both want to be great. They’re going to have to show this football team that. I’m proud of Trevor and the job he did this year.”

On whether he heard the fans chanting his name at the end of the game

“I don’t know. I don’t hear much on the field. It’s just good to win. It’s good to finish the right way. It’s been a tough year. There’s been some great times. It’s tough when you feel like you’re good enough to still be playing, but you’re not. That’s the hard part right now. We need to learn from this and move forward.”

On his experience this season

“I’ll probably talk about that more tomorrow than I will right now. In all honesty, I’ve struggled this year. I’ll talk about that tomorrow. The football team, the coaches, they’ve worked their tails off. I was so proud of where we were at one point in the season because I saw us getting better. I saw us gaining confidence. I really thought coming out of that [first] Kansas City game we had a chance to really blossom with the way Trevor brought us back in the fourth quarter. We didn’t get it done that game. A lot has been learned and a lot of young players have gotten better for the future of this football team.”

On whether he spoke with Lynch during the game

“I talked to him at halftime and I’ll talk to him today. I also had told him that I am going to go with my gut. I plan on playing both of you. I’m proud of Paxton. He’s prepared hard. He’s worked hard. I’ve had some good moments with him last night, just talking to him about the future and talking to the team about the future of both quarterbacks. He’s going to be fine. It’s going to be interesting to watch him come back. I know he’s chomping at the bit to get in there and compete.”

On an injury update for Anderson

“All indications of the tests are normal. He did talk to me on the field. He was moving his extremities and stuff. It’s my understanding that he hit one of his own guys. I didn’t see the play. All indications are right now that Zaire is doing pretty well.”

On the feeling in the locker room

“It was tough. It’s a good feeling winning a football game. There were some tough conversations. I’ve been in a locker room many times. There have been a lot of tremendous moments. I’m as proud of this football team as I was of the last one last year. I know there’s a difference in a few wins, but this is a man’s game and these guys do it the right way and play the right way. I respect the hell out of them.”

On whether he was emotional during the game

“There was some emotion, naturally. I have a lot invested in this place. You guys know how much I love this place and how much it’s been a part of me. Let me deal with it a little bit more tomorrow. It was tough.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On Head Coach Gary Kubiak’s decision to step down

“He told us that he’s been going through some stuff. As players, we see it. His health was in question. Whatever he’s going to do from here, I’m with him 100 percent.”

On his concern for the future of the defensive coaches

“Naturally I thought about those guys, but the leadership for this organization is second to none. I’d follow those guys anywhere and that’s part of my reason for coming back here and staying here for the long haul. The leadership and the guys that we have in the front office, I trust them with my career. I trust them in this offseason that they’ll make great decisions and get us right back in champion contention.”

On Kubiak’s impact on his life and career

“For me personally, it was night and day. He came right when I was [going] on my fifth year. We had a connection right away. He went to Texas A&M and I’ve known him for a while. With the other regime, I came in as a rookie and it was hard to grow out of that rookie stuff; even four years down the line, that staff sees you for what you were. With Coach Kubiak, he had this light, especially with me. It felt like he had confidence in me and that he trusted me. It felt like he wanted me to be the leader of this team. He was always cool and confident with me and that’s exactly what I needed. He came at a perfect time in my career.”

On defeating the Raiders

“It’s incredible. Why haven’t we been playing like that all year? It’s crazy, right? We had a complete game, offense, defense and special teams. That’s the type of game we were looking for all season. It’s fitting that we put it all together for his last game.”

On his trust in Executive Vice President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway and the Bronco’s front office

“I trust him 100%, him and Mr. [President and CEO Joe] Ellis and all of those guys. We have a championship organization here. It’s been a championship organization since before I was here and it will be a championship organization after I’m gone. I trust those guys with everything. Mr. Elway is the man on the football field and off the football field. He’s still making comeback drives even off the field. I trust those guys with everything. Like I said before, we have a championship organization and I feel like we’ll get back to our roots.”

On Coach Kubiak’s health

“As a player, you don’t always notice, but this was a hard season for Coach Kubiak. It was a tough season with the losses and injuries. You can see it wear down. His health is the most important thing for us. The decision was a great decision for him and I’m going to continue to support him no matter what.”

On pitching players in free agency and his love for the city of Denver

“I’ll probably do some selling, I’m not going to lie. I’ll probably do some bidding here and there. I think right off top, when you come to Denver, you see our stadium and you feel the vibe and the energy, the championship energy... You look up and see the crowd cheering for you and the banners, you get that winning vibe. We have a championship facility. When you meet the front office guys, they’re championship guys, from John Elway all the way down to the cooks. They are championship guys. When you come into the Denver Broncos facility and feel the energy, there won’t be too much selling that I have to do.”

On his love for the National Football League

“Last year, there was a whole lot of change. Never in a million years did I think I would go to the Super Bowl and win the Super Bowl the way that we did. It’s a lot of stuff. The league continues to surprise me. The league continues to be beautiful and it continues to make me fall in love with the National Football League every single year. As I get older, I realize the type of opportunity that I have and I try to instill that on the young guys right off the top. I want them to start what I’m doing early. It’s such a beautiful league. Every year guys go down, guys come up. Plays are made. Championship teams lose and 4-12 teams win championships. It’s an incredible league and every year I fall even more in love with it.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN**On if he is surprised that Head Coach Gary Kubiak is stepping down**

“Really surprised. Kind of sad that he isn’t going to be here. [I] didn’t really have an idea. I’m glad we won, but it still just feels kind of weird.”

On if he’s learned anything about himself since he became the starting quarterback

“I think so. I think I’ve learned a lot just playing. There are a lot of things that I have to work on, no doubt. The one thing that I’ll never forget is the locker room and the guys and the coaches, and how much I enjoyed being around those guys. It was special for sure. I’m just really proud to be a part of it.”

On what the locker room atmosphere was like after today’s game

“It was tough. I don’t want to get too much into what ‘Kubes’ said. I’ll leave that up to him. But yeah, it was emotional. You’ve got a lot of guys that love him. He was a heck of a coach, but a better person. You guys deal with him and know how good of a guy he is. I’m glad we sent him off with a win though.”

On if he had any idea before the game about Kubiak’s decision

“I heard the rumors. I don’t want to assume anything. I just wanted to go out there and play hard. It was our last time playing this year, and I figured he would address it one way or another.”

On how Kubiak’s departure means to him personally

“I love Kubes. I owe him a lot obviously. I had no business being drafted, no business really being around, so I owe him a lot for giving me a chance, getting me in the door and giving me a chance to play. It’s tough, but I’ve got to push on.”

On how proud he was of the offensive effort at the end of the season

“It was good. It was good to get off to a fast start today. That was something we were missing the last couple weeks. We got off to a good start, the defense played their tails off, gave us the ball back when we didn’t piece a drive together, so a good team win [in] all three phases.”

On if he expected QB Paxton Lynch to play to today

“Just because ‘Kubes’ said we’d both play, that’s the only reason. But when I was out there, at that point, you just want to make the most of your reps and do my best to put us in position to win. But that was the only reason.”

On what Kubiak told him to give him confidence

“Just that I earned it. That’s all that I needed to hear. It seems like a while ago. But yeah, just that I earned it. He gave me an opportunity and said to make the most of it. I wish we could’ve got in the playoffs obviously, but a lot of good memories along the way for sure.”

On if winning this week was enough to get the bad taste out of his mouth from the Kansas City game

“Winning is everything, so getting the win is obviously number one... I could’ve played better. I could’ve played worse obviously. But a win is a win. I think there are times when I’ve played better and we’ve lost, which hurts. I’ll take a win any day of the week.”

On what he’ll miss most about the 2016 season

“That’s tough. I don’t know. I think we’ve got a lot of great personalities in there – [OLB] Von [Miller], [CB] Aqib [Talib], DT [WR Demaryius Thomas], [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] – and we’ll have a ton of guys back. But it was just a good locker room. It was good to be around and good guys to be around [that] supported each other, loved the game. It was a really good group.”

On what Kubiak specifically did to help develop his game

“A ton of stuff, obviously. I think the one thing about ‘Kubes’ is he coaches you hard, which you appreciate, and he was fair. He was as fair as it gets. He gives everybody an opportunity and coaches you hard and gets the most out of his players.”

On if he’s planning offseason workouts with the skill position players

“I think so. I think we’ve talked about it a little bit, but we’ll get together one time for sure before OTAs; all of us, Paxton included. We’ll get together and throw it around a little bit.”

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK DEVONTAE BOOKER

On Head Coach Gary Kubiak stepping down

“It kind of hurt. It’s my first year, he drafted me, and now for him to leave, I’m going to be seeing another coach already. I took it kind of hard.”

On how Kubiak gave the team the news

“He got teary eyed, like any other coach would. But he just shot us forward and told us what he’s doing.”

On how he reacted to the rumors going around about Kubiak this morning

“I saw them. I didn’t let it bother me because I knew at the end of the game he was going to address us about it. We just had to continue to go out and play and get a win.”

On the offense going forward

“I don’t know really. We’ll just have to get into the offseason and see what happens.”

On what made the difference today for the offense

“We just went at it at the line-of-scrimmage. They were making some great blocks out there for [RB] Justin [Forsett] and me to go through, and after that it was just us at the second level.”

On why the offense struggled in previous weeks

“It is what it is. We were just playing here today and everything was rolling. We’ve got to continue on that path and finish off on it next year.”

On if it was easy to move the ball today

“It was easy at times. That just shows what our offense can do. We went out there and moved the ball up and down the field. We put points on the board.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.

On Head Coach Gary Kubiak's decision to step down

"It's definitely sad to see him go. We won the Super Bowl with him and have had so much success. It's just sad to see him go. We love him as a coach. He's definitely a coach that takes care of his players and takes care of everyone, really. You always commend a guy like that. He told us today. He said that he didn't want to tell us during the week because he wanted the game to be about the team. We handled business today and we wanted to send him out right, which we did."

On team's reaction to Kubiak's decision

"Of course everyone was sad. You don't want to see this group of coaches or Kubiak to go. You don't know what's going to happen in the gutter. But we just know that we have great executives at the top and we know that they're going to put us in the situation to win. We were surprised, definitely. When we started reading it on Twitter we were like, 'Man how did y'all learn about this stuff?' Everybody was shocked and we didn't believe it. You don't want to see a group like that, especially our defensive coaches [get broken up]. I think we finished first in pass defense so to be able to do that two years in a row is great."

On sending Kubiak out with a win

"We wanted to send him out the right way with a win. It's hard to leave a job when it's your dream job and it's what you love to do. When you have to step down and go away from that, it's tough for him. We wanted to send him out happily."

On what he'll remember most about Kubiak

"He was a players' coach. He took care of us and made sure that everyone was accountable. That's what's always going to stick out for me."

On the future of the Broncos

"It is kind of nerve-wracking when you don't know what is going to happen. I'm pretty sure we're going to have to be here early for the OTAs. But whoever inherits this team, whoever Elway brings in, it's going to be a great fit for us. He's going to inherit a lot of talent."

On the team's talent

"We have tons of talent in here. We know we're good enough to be playing in the playoffs but we let a lot of games slip. Whoever [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/General Manager John Elway] brings in will be inheriting a lot of talent and potential."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHANE RAY**On how emotional it was to hear Head Coach Gary Kubiak is stepping down from the team**

"It's tough because I came in with Coach Kubiak. For him to leave now, I just wish the best for him. We know he's going through a lot of tough things, and his health has been tough this season. I've got all the love in the world for Kubiak. He chose me. I hope he finds what he wants to do now in his life and I hope he finds happiness."

On if they went out wanting to win this one for Coach Kubiak

"No, he didn't tell us until after the game. That just tells you a lot about him as a person. He just wants us to focus on the win and on the team, not on him. That's of course when things got really emotional. But that tells you his character as a man, to keep that to himself, and allow us to play for each other and not for him."

On how tough the potential personnel changes could be this offseason

“It’s going to be tough. I feel like we have the best defensive position coaches there are. I would love to work with them every day, but this is how the business goes. I hope things work out in our favor, but I’m going to prepare this offseason for anything.”

On what he’ll remember most about Kubiak

“His great character and being demanding. Like I said, he chose me. After everything that happened in my pre-draft process, they still decided to make a decision to pick me up. That’s why I owe a lot to this coaching staff to continue to believe in me.”

On the potential coaching changes this coming offseason

“I’ll control what I can control. That’s the key to this business. I can’t control what happens to those coaches, but I can control how I come back this offseason ready to play. I can control how I come back ready to make an All-Pro run. Those are goals of myself, that I’m demanding of myself in the offseason. Whatever happens, happens. But I’m going to come back and I’m going to be ready to go.”

WIDE RECIEVER EMMANUEL SANDERS

On the type of injury to his foot

“I have a little foot sprain, but it’s nothing major.”

On whether he would have been able to play on in if the game had playoff implications

“I would have tried. You definitely don’t want to come out of the game. Even if they wouldn’t have allowed me to go back in, I probably would have gone back in even if we weren’t playing for anything. The docs made the call for me to just sit still and just sit on it. I’m going to get an MRI in the morning and see what it is. X-Rays came back negative, so we’ll see what the MRI says.”

On Head Coach Gary Kubiak stepping down

“He is going to be truly, truly be missed from me and from my teammates. That’s definitely a tough situation. I woke up this morning and I text my Wide Receivers Coach Tyke Tolbert and I was just in disbelief. I asked him if the rumors were true because I was surprised that he didn’t tell us earlier, but his speech today was [that] it wasn’t about him. It’s always been about the team and he’s a team guy and that’s the reason why he didn’t us anything. I wish him all of the best. We all enjoy this game of football and this game of football has been extremely great to all of us financially and from a family standpoint. I think from a health standpoint, at some point we all have to walk away from this game because of that. I wish him the best and I’m just so thankful. He came here and he brought a championship to the city of Denver and I’m forever grateful for that.”

On whether Kubiak displayed emotion while addressing the team

“A little bit, but I think that he’s been thinking about that decision for a while. I think that he’s known that this is his last year. It’s just now that he’s telling us because it’s always been about the team.”

On any concern for the offense following Kubiak’s departure

“I really don’t have any concerns. I think that any coach that comes that comes in —and not only that; I know [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/GM John] Elway. Elway is going to find the right guy. He’s a winner and any coach that comes in and grabs this team; you have a championship caliber team. You have all of the pieces over here and it’s definitely going to be—any coach that comes here—it’s going to be a blessing to take over this team.”

On his summary of the 2016 season

“It definitely was a disappointment, but it’s going to be 30 other teams that will say that it’s a disappointing season. We can’t win it all every year and we threw our best jabs out there. I’ll tell you what I’m proud of it that guys; the way that they finished this year was just awesome to go out that way. [RB] Devonte Booker and [QB] Trevor [Siemian] having a great game and all of those young guys [were] just balling and the defense was still doing what they do. It was just awesome to see.”

BRONCOS SAFETY DARIAN STEWART

On the decision by Head Coach Gary Kubiak to step down

“It’s just tough. We love playing for him. He’s the best coach I’ve played for, I loved it. Like I said, the best head coach I’ve played for. No discredit to any of my past ones. He’s just a great man and a true loyal guy. We’re going to miss him a great deal. That’s our leader.”

On the locker room’s reaction after Kubiak’s announcement

“Quiet. It was just sad.”

On what the team was thinking before the game

“We were just focused on the game, just trying to get this win and end the season the right way. That was it. That was our focus.”

On the importance of sending Kubiak out with a win

“It was now that he told us that. A lot of us didn’t know that coming into the game, so it was good that we got this win.”

On what Kubiak said his decision was based on

“Health is more important than football. I really don’t know. It was one of those things that he made the right decision for him and his family.”

On if a win like today’s can carry over into the 2017 season

“Without a doubt. A division opponent and then just it’s always good to end on that. You know you’re not going to the playoffs, but it’s just something that you don’t want to go into the offseason with a loss because it’s a long offseason.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB

On the locker room atmosphere following the game

“It was exciting. It was emotional. ‘Kubes’ [Head Coach Gary Kubiak] gave that speech. We kind of had the heads up this morning what was going on. But at the end of the day, it’s football. It’s part of the game. We love ‘Kubes’. We love the way he treated us. We hope he gets healthy.”

On if he was surprised in Kubiak’s decision

“I was. Me personally, I didn’t know how sick Kub was. I know some days he looked [more] tired than other days, but I didn’t know how sick he was personally. I’m praying that he gets healthy.”

On what Kubiak has meant to him while playing in Denver

“Everything. ‘Kubes’ is the godfather of taking care of bodies. He had to put two more years on my career the way he takes care of the vets, takes care of the older guys. I pray that the next coach is like that. We’ll definitely miss that if he’s not.”

On the future of the defensive coaching staff

"We're just going out to play football. We're going to the classroom. We go out and play football. [Executive Vice President of Football Operations/GM] John [Elway] is a great GM. He's a great leader. He's going to handle everything he has to handle, and he's going to take care of it like he always does."

On if there was an added urgency to win today for Kubiak

"There definitely was. We already had a sense going to sleep last night that we needed to win just for ourselves, for each other, just to have a semi sour taste in our mouths for the offseason. But once everybody woke up this morning and saw that news, we knew that we had to really turn it on. We can't be sad and get a sad speech. We've got to be happy and then get the sad speech."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER JORDAN TAYLOR

On the influence Head Coach Gary Kubiak had on his career

"I know he's a big reason why I got an opportunity to come here, so I can't thank him enough for that."

On if there was a sense of wanting to honor Kubiak with a win

"I mean honestly, we didn't really have an exact idea what was going to happen or what the status of Kubiak was, so we just wanted to come out and play not only hard for him but just for each other, for this team, and to finish strong and to finish the season with a win."

On how surprised he was with Kubiak's decision to step down

"I guess it's always a surprise. It's only my second year here and I'm already having to go through a coaching transition, so I guess as far as that goes, it's a surprise. But we knew he'd been battling health issues all year, and it's not just this year. It's been happening for a while. I think it's the best decision for him and his family."

On if Kubiak was emotional in his postgame speech

"He was definitely getting emotional when he was telling us. I mean, he's giving up a game he's been around for a long, long time. It was kind of a sad moment seeing him go and having him tell us that. But hopefully we'll all be back next year and see what happens."

WIDE RECIEVER DEMARYIUS THOMAS

On whether he was surprised that Head Coach Gary Kubiak is stepping down from his position

"I was surprised. I saw some stuff this morning, but I really didn't think it was true. This first thing that I really thought about if I thought it was true was probably because of his health. He had some issues this year, but it was an emotional moment. We were expecting to have him longer than two years and he made the decision to call himself down because of his health. We have to respect that."

On the emotion in the locker room when Kubiak addressed the team

"We let him talk more because the first thing he said was that he didn't want to bring it up to the team because it was about the team instead of him. That's what you expect out of a head coach and that's why he brought it to us at the end of the game. If we were going to the playoffs, he still wouldn't have brought it up and [would have] waited until our last game; if it was at the Super Bowl or whatever. Guys were a little emotional because that's your head coach, especially on my end. This is going to be my fourth or fifth one. I don't know why I've had a lot of them in seven years, but we have to respect it because down the road he probably wants to hang out with his grand kids. He doesn't need to be around stress a lot."

On Kubiak's last game ending with a victory

“That’s amazing. He played here. He coached here and won a Super Bowl here. To finish it out with a win, you can’t ask for better.”

On what he’ll remember most about Kubiak

“He was a great person. Coach Kubiak always wanted for you to work hard for your brothers, the organization and he takes care of you. That was one of the big things; he made sure we were ready for the game health-wise. You just made sure that you went out and played for him and he took care of you.”

On whether it’s hit him that the season has ended

“Yes. It kind of hit me last week after we lost to Kansas City. Not playing for anything; I’m so used playing for something, but we didn’t have anything to play for.”

RAIDERS HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO

Opening Statement

“Not what we were looking for tonight. I tell the guys all the time you get what you earn in this league. We didn’t do enough to earn a win tonight and didn’t do enough to earn an opportunity to clinch the division. What we did earn is our way to the playoffs. It’s huge for us to pick ourselves up and get prepared for next week. Obviously we came into the game with big expectations, but we have to be able to bounce back and move onto the next. It was a tough game. They did a nice job and we didn’t do enough early enough to win. We were minus three on turnovers, we’ve been really good all year, losing the turnover battle is not the way you want to go about doing business. There were some other things. They ran the ball better than we did, time of possession, third downs. They earned it tonight, we didn’t. We’ll move on from tonight and get ready for next.”

On QB Matt McGloin’s injury

“He has a shoulder injury. He couldn’t come back so [QB] Connor [Cook] went in. I thought there were some positives with Connor’s possession. There were some mistakes with the ball security, but I thought Cook did a pretty good job for being thrown in there. I don’t have a sense of McGloin’s availability for next week. At this point I don’t have an answer for that. We’ll be back and regroup tomorrow, and look at everybody and see where they are and make a determination from then. It’s his left shoulder.”

On who will start at quarterback next week

“We’ll see how healthy McGloin is and make the decision from there. Obviously he has more experience in our system, a little bit longer, but I thought Connor did a nice job, with the opportunities that he had.”

On the defense tonight

“I thought we did some things really well. We got off to a slow start, with a series of penalties that allowed them to continue the drive and I thought when we had our chances. Only two plays stick out to me. There was a play where there was a run where we didn’t allow the run properly and misfit it and allowed them to go 65 yards. The other killer was when we backed them to get them out of field goal range and then they popped that thing on 3rd-and-18. Those are just two big momentum plays defensively. I thought we did some things, we showed some grittiness and hung in there for a while. We got a turnover, but just didn’t respond.”

On team chemistry

“I’m confident in this group. I feel like it’s a really good group. They really care about each other. They care about this team and are really prideful. I think we’ll find a way to bounce back and will be ready to roll next week.”

On team morale after losing QB Derek Carr last week

"I think you leave yourself open to those kinds of questions for sure. We're big boys. We can take it like men and move on. It's not what we wanted by any stretch. In a lot of different areas, we can be a lot better. As a team, we are better than that. We need to just put this behind us and move on."

On the team's preparation this week

"It [the loss] is for a lack of desire. I thought that throughout the week, the guys' energy really picked up and I felt really good about the way that we prepared and our energy level. It just didn't manifest itself through a victory for us."

On preparing for the playoffs

"Nothing is easy about this league, it's always tough. We'll be ready to roll. We have a good group of men. We'll shift into playoff mode. That's what we talked about, you get what you earn. We wanted to win the division but we didn't earn that. We earned the playoffs. We won 12 games this year and we earned a spot in the playoffs. We're looking forward to it."

On the offense's lack of productivity

"Based on our guys, it surprised me. The way we've been rolling, it surprised me. A part of that is not converting third downs. We were 2-of-12 today. If you're not converting on third downs, it's hard to get the attempts that you want to get. That's one of the keys to running the ball well, moving the chains and having more possessions and more carries and attempts. We have to move the ball and score points. We didn't move the ball very well and didn't score many points. We need more productivity. We have a good group of guys and we'll put together a good plan and get ourselves ready."

RAIDERS QUARTERBACK CONNOR COOK**On his first NFL experience**

"It was fast, obviously, going the whole week not getting a lot of reps and just being thrown out there. It's just the name of the game. When you're playing the quarterback spot, if one man goes down then it's next man up. I was frustrated I didn't get out there and get some reps. I was trying to get the timing down with the receivers, but it didn't go the way we wanted it to go."

On being ready for the playoffs

"Any time you go out there and get some reps, you get a little confidence going and get experience, it's going to help you out in the future."

On the team shaking off their performance

"I don't really ever want to feel like this ever again. I think if you've got that taste in your mouth with a whole week of preparation, then it's on to the next one. Once we have that game next Saturday – we don't want to feel like this – so we're going to do whatever we can to not feel like that. We're going to study hard, bust our tails in practice and get it rolling against whoever we're playing. That sour taste after a game, you don't want to taste it again."

On QB Matt McGloin's availability affecting his preparation

"I'm going to do what I've been doing all year. When I was inactive, I was still watching film and still studying the gameplan and going over everything – my reads, my hots and all that. It's not going to change anything for me. I'm going to still prep as if I'm playing, it doesn't matter if I'm backup, starter or whatever."

On evaluating his play

"I thought I made some good throws, but obviously I put the ball on the ground too many times and gave them one with the interception. It's a learning experience. We're going to put this behind us and focus on next week."

On protecting the ball better

"It's not getting a whole lot of reps and just being thrown out there and running plays that I've never really ran before. Working on those during the week, getting extra reps and extra practice on those plays I think can help out."

On the failed two-point conversion

"The play broke down. It was designed to go to No. 10, [WR] Seth [Roberts], and they kind of gloved him up. I tried to make something out of nothing. 'Coop' [WR Amari Cooper] was running a crossing route. The guy was playing underneath and I tried to stop him. I was just trying to make a play."

RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER AMARI COOPER

On whether he thinks any less of his team's chance in the playoffs

"No. Our heads shouldn't be down. We're still going to the playoffs; we just didn't earn a bye. We just have to go out there next week, and it all starts with practice. We have to execute in practice and go out there and just play our game."

On what it was like when QB Matt McGloin went out and QB Connor Cook had to come in

"It's football, man. You have to improvise and overcome. It wasn't much of a surprise. It's part of the game."

On how he thought Cook performed

"He did well. It was his first time out there and he's a rookie. I think he was really poised. I'm excited to see what he can do in the future."

On the deep pass where he and McGloin got mixed up

"I don't know what the pass rush was like, but I think he really got hit hard on that play. I think that's what it was about."

On whether he's confident that the offense can be more efficient with Cook or McGloin

"Repetition is everything. The more you can rep plays with somebody, with the quarterback, the better off you'll be. I look forward to that repetition."

On whether it's been hard not having a steady quarterback

"It shouldn't be. Everybody should be ready to play. It really shouldn't matter."

RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER MICHAEL CRABTREE

On how the refs spoke to him

"Disrespectful. It was too much. You see what he was doing in front of me. What do you want me to do? I can't react or they're going to kick me out. Then, I'm the bad guy. I made a business decision for my team."

On past history with these refs

"I don't have history with anybody. I guess today they felt like were going to let them get away with a lot of stuff."

On past history with CB Aqib Talib

"I don't have history with anybody. I just felt like they were acting. They're actors. You aren't tough. You aren't defending anybody up like that. You're acting. You're snatching chains up on the field. What do you accomplish? Are you hard? Are you tough? Does that make you tough? You're snatching chains in front of the police and take off running. That was childish man."

On speaking with the officials

"They were acting like I was the problem. That's what I didn't like. I'm not even that type of dude. I play football. I don't want to be in anybody's space throwing cut blocks. I could have cut, I could have hurt him. I play football. I don't like that."

RAIDERS LINEBACKER BRUCE IRVIN**On what he thought the issues were defensively**

"Defensively? I don't know. First half, we just weren't playing assignment football. They ran everything we went over the whole week and we didn't execute. They gassed us."

On whether this outcome was surprising given how well they had been playing

"No, because if you don't handle your business in this league you get beat on any given day. Those guys are professionals too. Their coach might be retiring [stepping down]. They really didn't have anything to lose so they went out there and left it on the line. It is what it is and we have to be ready for Houston next week."

On how they will prepare for Houston

"We just have to go to work. We have to go to work."

RAIDERS QUARTERBACK MATT MCGLOIN**On the hit that injured his shoulder**

"I just got hit. Looks like I got drilled on the ground a bit."

On whether he could have continued playing

"I just felt like that was best for the team at the time, for [QB] Connor [Cook] to get in there. My arm wasn't feeling good."

On whether the injury affected his throwing motion

"I couldn't throw in a motion that I'm used to, my normal motion. I'll get in there bright and early tomorrow to get treatment to get ready."

On the energy level of the team

"We had a great week of practice. We prepared hard and we were excited to play this game. We knew it was at high stakes. Unfortunately, we couldn't have gotten it done."

On how to fix the offense

"Just have to watch the film and see. I'm not too sure at this moment."

On the lack of running efficiency

"Give Denver a lot of credit. They did a great job today in stopping the run and they did a great job in controlling the ball. They did a tremendous job. We've got a game next week we have to prepare for so we

have to learn from this one. Guys that are banged up, including myself, will have to get treatment and get as healthy as we can and get ready to go win on the road next week.”

On the confidence playing next week

“That’s my mindset right now. I want to play, I wanted to play out there tonight but its what’s best for the team. If I’m not 100 percent healthy then that’s not what this team needs, but I plan on being 100 percent healthy. I’ll do everything I can in the training room and the weight room this week to try to get myself back to 100 percent.”

On the play WR Amari Cooper got deep

“It was just, I thought he was doing one thing and he did another thing. He might have thought I was doing one thing. It was a big miscommunication. At the end of the day it’s my fault though. I got to give him a chance at it.”

On getting the running game going

“We’ll see. Again, Denver did a great job of stopping the run. We had some success the last time against them, but today they stopped it pretty well. We’ll have to watch the film and then see and go from there.”

On the play he was injured on

“I wasn’t really playing any attention to it. I was downfield took a shot and wasn’t really thinking about where I got hit. You don’t really think about when you get hit, you just know you get hit. I got hit pretty good at the play. I saw the hit on the replay and saw it was helmet to helmet. But sometimes that happens. You got to take those shots at the quarterback.”

RAIDERS RUNNING BACK DEANDRE WASHINGTON

On the quarterback carousel

“It’s just football, man. Whoever’s behind center, we’ve got to rock with it. We understand that, so it’s not an excuse for us. We’re not looking to point fingers and make any excuses. We’ve got to keep going.”

On play of Connor Cook

“He did a good job. I think he made his plays. The Broncos made some good plays, but he sat back there and was poised and made some good plays.”

On Connor Cook’s presence in the huddle

“He’s definitely confident. He played some bigtime football back at Michigan State. He didn’t lose too many games, so he definitely commanded the huddle.”

On moving on to the playoff game against Houston

“It’s playoff time. We’ll look at the film, see what we did wrong, correct them and move forward.”