



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “As I said yesterday, certainly pleased with being 4-1 and tied for first. Also, very aware of the amount of work that needs to be done and the amount of things that need to be corrected. Happy to do so following a hard-fought victory here at home. Questions?”

Q: Is there a sense that it’s a little bit of playing with fire having every game come down to the end? Do you want to put some away early?

Coach Del Rio: “No, winning in this league is tough. The sense is that you go in and you prepare to strain for 60 minutes with all three phases and hopefully you’re able to do enough, collectively, to win the game.”

Q: A lot of the players have said, “We’re not even close to how good we can be.” Do you like hearing that?

Coach Del Rio: “I think we have a healthy perspective of what we want to look like and knowing that we’re not quite there. There is a lot of work in front of us. I don’t think anybody would disagree with that. There is a long season in front of us, a lot of things we must do better as we go forward. We’re working hard at it. We’ll continue that. I think the fact that the guys recognize that is a healthy thing.”

Q: What did you see on film from the young running backs and is Latavius Murray expected back this week?

Coach Del Rio: “We hope to get him back. The other guys did a solid job of filling in, between Jamize [Olawale], DeAndré [Washington] and Jalen [Richard]. They all shared the load. If we get Latavius back, we’ll welcome him back.”

Q: What does it say about Perry Riley Jr. to be able to step in and play almost every snap, only having been here a few days?

Coach Del Rio: “It speaks to his professionalism, really attacking the preparation, trying to learn the language. That’s the biggest thing. Basically anything you’re doing, he’s probably done in his career over six years. We found some of the common ground and tried to put it in our terms so he could learn it as quick as possible. He worked hard at it. He played well. Did a nice job for us. Really stepping in and playing well on short notice like that, it was big for us.”

Q: Do you anticipate getting Malcolm Smith back for you this week?

Coach Del Rio: “I hope so. I don’t know... The guys that were injured, we’ll get them back as quick as we can. Obviously he dressed for the game so I would anticipate getting him back this week. We went into the game yesterday trying not to use him if we could, but he was available in an emergency role. We got through the game without having to put him in.”

Q: Perry filled in, but was he brought in primarily for depth or will he have a chance to compete for more time?

Coach Del Rio: “We will play the best guys – whoever plays the best will play. I would just say I think in Perry’s mind he came in here to help any way he could. That’s what we want it to continue to be. Any way he can help, that’s what we want him to do. We always let guys sort through competition, through effort and through production, who the best combination will be.”

Q: What can you do to address the penalties? I know there were a few too many pre-snap penalties yesterday.

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, that’s the biggest one. The judgment calls that can go either way, you’re going to be a competitive team, a team that plays really hard, you’re going to have some of those. Over the year, they tend to balance out. The pre-snap penalties, don’t have a lot of patience for those. We have zero tolerance for those. We’ve got to clean those up. Pre-snap penalties get me going there.”

Q: Pretty surprising to see that many false starts at home, right?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, at a home game. That was not good.”



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Q: Has Stacy McGee grown physically, and also how has he grown as a player?

Coach Del Rio: "I think his confidence has grown a little bit. I don't know that his size has changed a whole lot. He's certainly gotten stronger in our program. [Head strength and conditioning coach] Joe [Gomes] does a great job with those guys. He had a great hump move on one of those... An old Reggie White move. He kind of humped the guy out of the way and made a nice sack there. Stacy has done some good thing for us. He's flashed some rushes and been really close on a couple this year, so it was nice to see him finish on the two he did yesterday."

Q: How important is the interior pressure for the pass rush?

Coach Del Rio: "It's everything. It really is everything. We're going to get a lot of attention on the outside guys. We really look forward to getting Mario [Edwards Jr.] back here, which we will. But in the meantime, guys like Stacy and 'Haddy' [Jihad Ward] have to step up and be a presence in the middle for us to really have the kind of rush we're looking for."

Q: You mention Mario Edwards Jr. Is he on track to be back?

Coach Del Rio: "I think so. I don't have anything to add to it except that he can't return for a little while yet. He's still working and doing his thing with the appropriate people, the trainers and Joe [Gomes] and his group."

Q: Can he start practicing next week?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know the timeline on that. Whenever he's available to practice and ready to go and all that, we'll get him started."

Q: How would you describe David Amerson's day yesterday? It seemed like he struggled.

Coach Del Rio: "There were a couple of plays... At corner, it's pretty much wide open for everybody to see if you're covering a guy and he gets open and catches the ball, so. On one of the deep balls, there should have been a safety there in the middle of the field for him. One outside right in front of our bench, he just came out of his break and looked into the backfield instead of back to his receiver and lost his guy. The guy had some quickness and got away from him. Those kinds of things are going to happen from time to time, but it's not going to happen very often with David. I think he's a really good football player and like most corners do, you have to put that in your rearview mirror, have a short memory and move on."

Q: You have a plus seven turnover ratio right now. Do those outweigh the yardage?

Coach Del Rio: "Winning the turnover battle is the first and most important thing that you have to do. We're doing a pretty solid job protecting the ball, we're doing a pretty solid job taking the ball away. We've been pretty solid on third down. We've been good in the red zone offensively. There are a lot of good things going on. We recognize where some of those areas are not as good and we'll keep working on them. We've got a good team. We're off to a good start. We know we've got a divisional team that's coming in here that beat us twice last year. We're looking forward to the matchup on Sunday here at home, giving ourselves the opportunity to get another win here at home in front of our fans and another win in the division."

Q: Is that the loudest you've heard the fans here, yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "I've been here a long time now over the years. It's been pretty loud there. The fans are good, really good. I think it was a really entertaining game and I think everyone went home with smiles on their faces. Not a bad thing if you can smile at the end of the day."

Q: How did Denver Kirkland do?

Coach Del Rio: "He did well. Denver Kirkland stepped in yesterday. He was the extra tight end, reporting as a big guy playing the tight end position. With the absence of Lee [Smith] it was a little bit of the example of what I was referring to when I said it would maybe be multiple people to play Lee's role, because you had a tackle do it, you



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had some tight ends do it and that's what you're going to do to kind of be able to duplicate what Lee would give us."

Q: On that fourth down, did Derek Carr check out of the original play?

Coach Del Rio: "He may have. I read some things last night. You guys did a good job (*laughing*). You guys did a good job. He may have. He does have the freedom to do that. That goes back to the whole trust thing. As he's made good decisions and made accurate throws, and in those situations, we give him more leeway to do those things. That's certainly part of the plan coming into the season. We talked about that this summer coming out of camp, how him in the third year in the league but the second year in our system, that we ought to be able to go to another level with him operating out there. He sees it. He can understand what leverage he's getting. We don't have to guess from the sideline and make a call and then try to make it perfect, in terms of execution. You can see what you see and make the adjustment and make a play. I think that's what they did yesterday."