



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening Statement:** "Good afternoon. We have several injuries that are still being looked at. Don't have any real updates. There is a good chance Hunter Renfrow returns this week, we're excited about that. Obviously very disappointed with the loss yesterday. Very proud of our team, our guys played hard and disappointed for the Raider fans that we couldn't deliver a win, but once again I thank all our fans and the support that they gave us yesterday, throughout time has been awesome."

#### **Q: How did Josh Jacobs come out of the game?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Not really good. He had a hard time getting his shoulder pads off yesterday and all I can say is I've coached a long time and I've had some really tough backs, really tough guys, and he is up there at the top of the food chain. This guy is one tough customer, he gave us everything he had yesterday, but his status for the coming weeks will be in question."

#### **Q: Is there some further consideration to shutting Jacobs and Trent Brown down for the season?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, Trent hasn't played in a while for obvious medical reasons. When these guys can play, we're going to play them. We're trying to win and we need them to win, but obviously we are going to do right by the player and do what the training staff says and right now it does appear Trent is going to play, although we are going to list him as questionable. And we'll do the same right now with Jacobs."

#### **Q: Clelin Ferrell only had 23 snaps yesterday, was there something physical with him?**

**Coach Gruden:** "No, it was 23 pretty good snaps he had, I'll say that. He played pretty good, especially on the early downs against the run, but no we didn't have a whole lot of snaps defensively, but we did roll the front and I thought for the most part they did some good things."

#### **Q: Is Trayvon Mullen kind of opening some eyes up for you?**

**Coach Gruden:** "That was a real bright spot for us. He played a heck of a game. I thought the PI call was very questionable, I didn't agree with that, but he had PBUs, he tackled, he had a real presence of himself out there on the grass, a lot of confidence and it's going to go a long way for him. So, we are going to lean on him on the next two weeks. If he can finish strong, we are really excited obviously about the entire rookie class."

#### **Q: The toughness on the tackles, was that part of the arsenal you knew Mullen had?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, we have a lot of unknowns with a lot of these rookies. A lot of these guys weren't even fourth, fifth-year seniors, these are a lot of young guys that are unfinished products, Jacobs included. So, we're really happy to see him do the physical parts of the game and the athletic parts of the game that the great corners have to do."

#### **Q: Mullen was saying he had a conversation with Chris Conley in game and he was like, 'Let's get better, let's work. Let's use this opportunity to get better.' Is that the kind of mindset he's been showing?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I think lately. I think he's going to be a really good pro. His day-to-day work ethic is improving. We've been hard on him, I know I've been hard on him, and I'm really pleased with his progress. We expect to see more from Isaiah Johnson as well and we'll see what happens this week."



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**Q: When you watch yesterday's film of the offense in the second half, is there anything that you see?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I like what we did. I'm being honest with you. We had one possession in the third quarter that started on our 2-yard line and one of the goals you have is to get a first down when you're backed up and change field position, and we moved the ball to mid-field. Unfortunately, we didn't convert on third down and I punted the ball on fourth-and-one, and I don't regret doing it. Hindsight I wish I would've gone for it today, but good drive. Second drive, credit Jacksonville, they smelled out a screen pass and they got a sack on us on third down and long, and the last drive was one of the best four-minute drives I've been associated with. We took the ball on our 30-yard line and ran six straight runs and Derek Carr ran the ball himself for a first down on a read option. The league called, Al Riveron, and he apologized and we accept the apology. But Derek was inbounds and that play cost us dearly. I was pleased with a lot of the things we did offensively. The first half, I felt we should have scored more points, but we moved the ball extremely well when we had it and it's too bad the game ended the way it did."

**Q: How do you think Will Compton did with his increased role?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He didn't come off the field. He played every snap. He played two phases of special teams. For a guy that walked in here last month, it's pretty incredible, really. Really pleased with Compton."

**Q: Up until that last six minutes it seemed like the defense turned a bit of a corner maybe?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, we'll see. I think we got a long way to go on defense. Getting some guys healthy, particularly at safety, we've been overwhelmed with injuries there. Lost another one yesterday. So, we did some good things, [Gardner] Minshew made some plays. Credit to him scrambling. And we weren't able to shut the door offensively and keep our defense off the field, but I thought overall the energy was excellent and they did some good things."

**Q: You've had so many injuries that you've got a chance to look at pretty much everybody this year. Is there any thought at all, do you want to see DeShone Kizer play in a game between now and the end of the season?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I'd like to see everybody get a chance. That's the way the world is right now. I want to win the game, I want to win, we want to win and we are going to do everything we can to win. But we'll see what happens here down the road with DeShone Kizer, but to answer your question, I want to win the game and we're going to play our best players to win."

**Q: The offense has only produced one touchdown drive in the second half over the last five games, is there anything you can put your finger on there or are defenses doing anything differently?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think it's a combination. I didn't play a lot of the starters in the second half against the Jets. We didn't have the ball a lot, many opportunities yesterday. A lot of it is probably my fault, I'm sure. We got to pick up our execution. We got to do some things better and we've got to get more opportunities certainly."



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**Q: You had three drives in the first half where you got it in the red zone and settled for field goals. What happened on those drives and what do you guys need to do?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well disappointing. I think the opening drive was excellent. Second possession was excellent, we got down there, I think Derek got aggressive a couple of times. Got to check the ball down underneath, I think (that) would have helped us on one of the drives, and then we had some negative yardage running plays on first down that hurt us. Early down runs, big losses that put us behind in the sticks and I think those are two things that we got to take a good look at."

**Q: What did you think of the play of your tackles?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I think there was some pass protection sets that we got to get better at. I credit the Jaguars, they have a well-known, highly touted set of rushers and they have four of them and they keep them fresh, so I knew it was a tall order going in. We've got to get help where help was needed probably a little bit more, but we think Brandon [Parker] and Kolton [Miller] are two young tackles that had a couple snaps they probably regret, but I thought they played good enough for us to win."

**Q: Is there a reason Parker passed up David Sharpe?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He had calf muscle problem, missed a couple weeks of practice, and Parker practiced pretty good and has a lot of experience from a year ago. We wanted to see what he was able to do and we weren't able to get eight lineman up yesterday because of our injuries, so we let Brandon go wire-to-wire."

**Q: Is Dion Jordan a player that has impressed you with his work ethic and possibly earned a longer-term future here?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yes, he has. He's playing himself into being a Las Vegas Raider, no doubt. Impressed with him. He's come in here and not only made some plays, he's brought a sense of professionalism and experience. Much like Darren Waller, he's had some tough moments in his life and he's been a real, I think, good role model for our young team. We like Jordan and he's playing pretty good for us."

**Q: Are you aware that there is still a path where you could get into the playoffs?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, I am. Like I said, I'm really proud of our team. Look, it's not going to be perfect. We're finding ways to get first downs, we're finding ways to get a stop. We're struggling right now to kick the field goals. We're fighting, we've played a tight end who started yesterday, Eric Tomlinson played 20 snaps, I just met him. But we're battling, we're scrambling and a lot of teams are feeling the same thing, so we'll just keep playing hard and that's why we want to play the best players. You never know what can happen. I've seen strange things happen in this league."

**Q: Are you guys considering bringing in a kicker to look at?**

**Coach Gruden:** "No. We are going to see this kid kick himself out of it. This is a great kid, he's got a great amount of talent. I saw him hit 15 in a row last year and I got a lot of faith in this guy. I really do. He's going to kick himself out of it or I'll be very disappointed. I got a lot of faith in this kid."

**Q: When the NFL tells you they apologize for blowing a call, does that give you a sense of appreciation or do you have to move forward?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't like it at all. They stopped the game in Indiana and took my middle linebacker away for 12 weeks, they ended his season. They stopped the game in Kansas City and took Mullen's



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interception away. Why the hell don't you stop the game and get the clock right? I don't think it was even close. So, I'm not happy about it. Apologies are great, but this is 2020. I've been in enough meetings and I'm disgusted by it. I don't want any instant replay in my life personally, but if we are going to have it, let's use it properly. I don't think it's that hard."

### **Q: Did the referee tell what he saw?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I'm obviously very upset here today talking about it. They apologized, like I said. Curtis Riley was not offsides, that was a third-and-8 where we are off the field. Everybody I'm sure has sour grapes today when it comes to officiating. I hear fans yell at the umpires or when I'm umpiring little league games, but what happened yesterday, the quarterback gave himself up in the field of play. We got eight guys out there, so I'm not going to say much more. But to answer your question, it's not real fulfilling, or is it fulfilling for our team or our fans that came out to support us."