



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: What went into the decision to release TE Lee Smith?

Coach Gruden: "Obviously, tough decision. He had a real impact on me. He's a great guy. Obviously, we drafted a young tight end, we signed Luke Willson, we have some young guys emerging. It became a log jam and obviously other things went into it, but we are going to move on at that position. We wish Lee Smith the best and thank him for his contribution to us."

Q: What kind of a setback was it losing RB Isaiah Crowell at the beginning of the offseason program?

Coach Gruden: "Well, Isaiah came in here on a one-year contract and I was hoping this would be a launching pad for him to really showcase what he can do. It's very unfortunate and we wish him the best. The way he got hurt was amazing, I mean, I've never seen anything like it. It was a freak injury and fortunately RB Doug Martin has been very interested in coming back. He led our team in rushing and Doug will be able to, I think, be a great mentor to RB [Josh] Jacobs. He knows the system, he produced in the system and Doug has had some real highs and some real lows in this league, and he'll be a great resource to our young back. He also can still play, so we are happy to have Doug back and obviously disappointed for Isaiah."

Q: Who are some of the Day 2 and Day 3 players from the draft that intrigue you the most?

Coach Gruden: "Well, they are all in intriguing. I think the last pick DE Quinton Bell was very interesting. His athleticism is eye-popping. He's just a novice at the position so he's got a lot to learn. Quinton Bell is interesting. I think DE Maxx Crosby is interesting. His effort and his production at Eastern Michigan was an impressive combination. I really like Isaiah [Johnson], our corner we got. He's got some real freak athleticism and he's a novice at his position in some ways, so all those guys were very interesting. I really like [Foster] Moreau. Moreau is buttoned up. He's very athletic and he's got some traits that we need at that position."

Q: What intrigues you about DE Maxx Crosby?

Coach Gruden: "He's 'Mad Maxx'. He comes off the ball repeatedly with great effort. I like that relentless style he plays with. He's gotten bigger and stronger every year that he's played and some of his second effort production is what stands out the most, but he really tested well at the combine. He's got real big upside and I think he's got a real big role model to learn from in our first-round pick (DE Clelin Ferrell)."

Q: How important is it for RB Josh Jacobs to become a three-down back now with Crowell's injury? And how big of a role do you see Doug Martin having?

Coach Gruden: "Well, Doug Martin was our three-down back last year. He finished the season quite well. We are comfortable with Doug. I think Jalen Richard is a really good back and he wants to be a three-down back, and we just paid him a lot of money because of his skill. I think DeAndre Washington is also going to be a contributor and we will see what happens with Jacobs. Jacobs has got a lot to learn in our system and he's got beat out some good backs."

Q: Are you excited to see what RB Chris Warren can do with a full offseason and camp?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I am. I didn't even bring him up. I try not to give Chris any sugar. He doesn't take the good medicine very well. I'm just kidding you. I like Chris Warren. He's 260 pounds, he can run. He had a very good preseason for us and he's learned a lot, I think, about our offense and about this profession, and he's got some



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pretty good genes. His dad was one hell of a back for the Seahawks, so we'll see where he is. We are anxious to put him back in circulation as well."

Q: What is the benefit of bringing in guys from winning college programs like Clemson and Alabama?

Coach Gruden: "It helps. Championship mindset is what we are after here. We are interested in guys that have won certainly. We are also more interested in winners. I got a real good feeling about all these players. They have a winning culture that they have grown up with. They have a competitive spirit that I admire, and to come from Clemson, or come from Alabama, or come from a championship program, at least they know what it's like to be on top and how hard it is to get there."

Q: Has Clemson Head Coach Dabo Swinney called you since the draft?

Coach Gruden: "No, but we will wear Clemson gear as a staff on Sunday. We will have a staff photo wearing Clemson shirts and Raiders hats, so it will be a new tradition that we do every year. I got this to say about Clemson; you got to watch all their tape because they are the best team in college football and they got a lot of good players at every position, and some of the underclassmen will keep us wearing that orange color next year I hope because they are loaded."

Q: What do you like about WR Hunter Renfrow and what does he have to do to break in with an already loaded position group?

Coach Gruden: "I like Renfrow because he's productive. He plays his best football in big moments. He's instinctive. He's got a lot of natural qualities that are hard to find. The big thing for Hunter is, he needs to understand we are going to move WR Antonio Brown around a lot, and if we move Brown a lot that means he's got to be able to move around and do a lot of things. Not just line up in the slot and be a slot every single down. He's going to have to move to the right, to the left, inside, outside, go in motion, do it all; and that's something we are going to have to find out as we move on."

Q: Have you decided not to exercise the fifth-year option on S Karl Joseph?

Coach Gruden: "Yes, yes we did. That's a big story for some people, but that does not mean that we don't want Karl with us this year and in the future. All that means is we didn't exercise his fifth-year option. If you really study the fifth-year option and what it entails, it entails a lot. It does not mean, by any means, that we don't want Karl Joseph as a captain or leader on this team, now or in the future."

Q: Have you made any decisions on who will start at left tackle and right tackle?

Coach Gruden: "We are going to start with Kolton [Miller] at left tackle and Trent [Brown] will begin on the right side. Brandon Parker will be the swing tackle and we like that as a launching pad for us. Trent played very well at right tackle for San Francisco, played left tackle very well for New England and gives us some versatility. That's how we are going to start the show."

Q: Will G Gabe Jackson stay on the right side of the offensive line?

Coach Gruden: "Yes, Gabe will stay on the right, and the door is wide open at left guard. We are going to continue to look at players that can come in and compete at that position."



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DE Maxx Crosby

Q: So is Madd Maxx a nickname you've had or is that a name that Head Coach Jon Gruden gave you?

Crosby: "I've heard it a few times in college, but yeah, I think he kind of made it a little bit bigger. We're just rolling with it."

Q: Do you still carry a chip on your shoulder from only getting one offer out of high school?

Crosby: "Definitely. That's a part of my game that I really take serious, is playing super hard and having that chip on my shoulder. I feel like I always have something to prove. Every time I get on the field, I'm always busting it."

Q: What has it been like getting into the flow here?

Crosby: "You know, it's definitely new. Doing different techniques, from learning the new scheme. I've played in a 4-2-5 and they run a 4-3, so it's kind of similar, but new techniques and all that, it's going to take a little bit of time to just get adjusted and get the movements down."

Q: Does it help coming in with a couple other defensive ends to go through this process together?

Crosby: "Yeah, for sure. I met Clelin [Ferrell] at the combine and we've been buddies every since. It was kind of awesome once I got that call and I knew Clelin was here already. It made it a lot easier and Quinton [Bell] is a good kid, too. We're just coming in and trying to soak up everything."

Q: There is a lot of attention on you guys to improve the sack total of the team from a year ago. Do you feel that pressure?

Crosby: "I wouldn't say pressure. It's still football at the end of the day and we're playing defensive end. We're supposed to get sacks. That's why they pay us, so I just have to get after the quarterback and the same with everybody else on the d-line."

Q: Have you been able to meet strength and conditioning assistant Deuce Gruden yet? General Manager Mike Mayock told us that you two were going to get to know each other.

Crosby: "*(laughter)* Oh yeah, for sure. I've already talked to him a few times and the whole strength staff. I can't wait to get after it."

Q: Is there a weight that they have told you they'd like to have you at for the season?

Crosby: "No, they haven't said an exact weight. They just want me to get stronger. I don't think weight is the biggest issue, I'm around 255 right now. I just have to keep getting stronger and I have all summer to do that. I'm going to do everything I can to make that happen."

Q: When Owner Mark Davis tells Mayock that he sees Ted Hendricks in your game film, what does that tell you?

Crosby: "It's an honor. He's a legend. It's kind of crazy just seeing all the feedback. It's been mostly positive and fans here in Oakland are die-hards. It's an honor to be here, to play for such a legendary organization and I can't wait to go put it out on the field."

DE Clelin Ferrell

Q: What is this team getting with WR Hunter Renfrow and CB Trayvon Mullen?

Ferrell: "First off, I feel like you're just getting workers. Guys that are about he the right things. You can't have any detrimental sides to a team, and obviously talent-wise, you're getting a big-play receiver, someone who can run every route and someone who is going to be in the right spot and someone who knows how to get separation and make the big play. Trayvon, I feel like you're getting someone who could potentially be a lockdown corner in this



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league. He has every athletic skill set that you need in a corner, and obviously has that competitive mindset. That's the biggest thing, you can have all the ability, but are you a competitor? That's the thing he definitely has."

Q: Head Coach Jon Gruden said that the coaching staff will be wearing Clemson gear on Sunday, has he told you that? Are you looking forward to seeing them dressing up in the orange?

Ferrell: "Um, no, I'm not. Just to be honest, he didn't put in the work that we put in at Clemson to wear that stuff. *(laughter)* I'm just playing. I mean, I guess that's kind of the joke around here. We just added a bunch of Clemson guys and [defensive line] Coach [Brentson] Buckner was a Clemson guy. I mean, I wouldn't doubt it. I wouldn't be mad if I see some more around here, that's for sure."

Q: What kind of first impression do you look to make on the staff now that you're here in the building?

Ferrell: "Just that I'm a worker. The play is going to come with itself, but I just want to earn the respect of my teammates, that's the biggest thing. So much going on around because you're a rookie and don't know much. Everything is just new, it's a whole new situation, whole new playbook, whole new teammates, everything. So, just come in with the right mindset and right attitude, work hard and just earn the respect of my teammates is the biggest thing."

Q: What has the last week been like?

Ferrell: "It's been good. It's been really, really good. Obviously, just meeting everybody, coming in and trying to get situated as far as the rookie minicamp, just trying to learn how to be an Oakland Raider. Trying to learn the playbook, trying to figure out what the living situation is going to be for the season and this upcoming offseason with the summer coming up. It's been a little bit hectic, but you know it's just a transition. I'm not in college anymore. A lot of the stuff I have to do on my own, so just trying to learn how to really be self-sufficient for sure."

Q: Have you had any contact with some of the veterans?

Ferrell: "Yeah, I've talked to a couple different guys. I won't say who they are because I don't know if they like me yet. *(laughter)* So, I don't want to say their names yet, I don't know if they like me. It's been good. Everybody's been open-arms. Just easy with giving out knowledge and things like that. It's been really good. I'm excited, can't wait to meet the rest of the team and finish out strong with this minicamp for sure."

Q: Many would say that you are the prototypical defensive end. What would you say about a seventh-round draft pick who was a wide receiver and made the switch to defensive end and still gets drafted?

Ferrell: "*(laughter)* I mean, I feel like it just shows the potential. He's a guy who obviously had to make a transition from wide receiver to defensive end. He has all the physical assets that you want in a player that could play this position. The thing about him is that he's a hard worker. Just meeting Quinton [Bell], being around him in the facility, seeing him this last day and yesterday. Even on the visit – we had a visit together – just talking to him and trying to get to know him a little bit, he's a really, really good dude and about all of the right stuff. He's from California, right up North. I feel like he's going to have a bright future, especially if he just keeps working."

Q: Can you even imagine a receiver making that transition?

Ferrell: "No, no. It's tough, because they're out there and the physicality is more-so going against a cornerback. You can be physical, but you're not...It's different when you're down in there with those big hogs, you know what I mean? Every, single, play. I feel like he has the right mindset for it. He played it in college and he obviously played well or he wouldn't be here, so I'm excited for it."

Q: I know you haven't had a chance to get out there on the practice field yet, but what do you think about Maxx Crosby?

Ferrell: "Oh, we were just out there. That wasn't a walkthrough. *(laughter)* That wasn't a walkthrough, that was a practice, that was a full-on practice. *(laughter)* Obviously, we're new to this whole thing. I'll just say we have a lot to learn. *(laughter)* It was a good first day. We're just trying to absorb everything, trying to learn as much as we can,



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just trying to take in everything and Coach Buckner has done a great job. Maxx is someone who is going to be really good too, as long as he just puts his head down and goes to work and take it all in. There's going to be good days and bad days, none of them are going to be perfect, we just have to accept that. Just come back, come with the right mindset every day, he's going to be fine."

CB Trayvon Mullen

Q: Does having two of your college teammates here, does that kind of ease the transition?

Mullen: "Yeah, I think for me, being with two guys that I'm familiar and comfortable with, having relationships with them already. I still have to build relationships with other guys on the team, but just having two guys I can kind of hang around, just stay close with and then branch off with other guys, that was a big deal."

Q: Are you excited to see Head Coach Jon Gruden and the rest of the coaching staff wearing the Clemson orange?

Mullen: "Yeah, that will be good. Shoot, he got a lot of the best players from all over the country so that'll be big."

Q: What kind of first impression do you want to make in Rookie minicamp and the off-season program?

Mullen: "Just coming in and creating relationships with my teammates, being able to have these guys trust me and believe that I'm going to come here and give all-out effort, that I'm going to go hard, learn the playbook and be ready when it's my time. Just give 100 percent at all times."

Q: What is it like covering WR Hunter Renfrow in practice?

Mullen: "I mean going against Hunter you can get a lot of different things, from outside to inside. He's versatile receiver. It's a really good pickup for coach with him coming here. Going against him helps me get better. I know for sure just working my technique, getting me better because of all the multiple things he can do and how good of a player he is. Things that he can help me get better at, and I know I can help him as well."

Q: The Raiders were impressed with your press coverage, what's the key for you to be successful in that scheme?

Mullen: "Well, for me, I try to use my length and my body as an advantage. Try to play physical, strong, try to get my hands-on guys at the line, try to slow them down, keep my body in front of guys. Just be big and physical, especially at this level, you got a lot of great receivers so just got to be able to be physical, use your feet and hands."

Q: Are you looking forward to matching up with WR Antonio Brown in practice?

Mullen: "Yeah, that's something I look forward to each and every day, after practice, before practice, during practice, just so I can be that elite corner that I know I want to be. So, I'm looking forward to that most definitely."

Q: Is it nice to go to a team that will focus on your strengths and fit you in with what you do well?

Mullen: "I mean, coming here was big for me when I got drafted here just because of the tradition of this team and the defense, and the type of corners that they draft. A lot of elite, big corner and they play a lot of man coverage and that's something that we did a lot at Clemson, so it fits me well."



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Q: Was there a point when it first kind of hit you that you were in the NFL?

Mullen: "I mean when I got drafted that was one of the biggest moments and just knowing I got drafted by Oakland, like I said, all I could think about is just the type of defense they have always had and the type of players that they have and what Coach Gruden is trying to do with this team, it fits well."

WR Hunter Renfrow

Q: What has Head Coach Jon Gruden told you about where you're going to be playing this year?

Renfrow: "Obviously, when you have great receivers, then you want to get them the ball. We have Antonio Brown, Tyrell Williams, so just being able to get them the ball as much as possible and me just factoring in around them. If one of them wants to come into the slot and I have to go outside, or if they go outside and I have to go into the slot. My whole thing is I'm a receiver. I'm not a slot receiver, I'm not an inside receiver, I'm just a receiver. It's kind of like playing in the backyard, you're just expecting to go catch the football. That's kind of the mentality that I have."

Q: What goes through your mind when you think about being in the receivers room with Antonio Brown and Tyrell Williams?

Renfrow: "Coming from Clemson, we had Sammy Watkins, DeAndre Hopkins – all those great receivers – Mike Williams, Adam Humphries. Just a plethora of guys that you could learn from. So, it's no different here. While they were some of the best in college, I feel like the receivers we have here are some of the best in the NFL. Just being able to learn the game within the game, the details, just what makes them so special is going to be fun for me to learn."

Q: Where the lines of communication open between the guys who had already turned Pro?

Renfrow: "Yeah, so Adam Humphries was a guy, he signed with the Titans this year, but he's a guy that I was a redshirt when he was a freshman at Clemson. He wore No. 13. Or when he was a senior, I was a redshirt. I've just been able to call him. Called him last week, kind of talked about the process, OTAs and that sort of deal and what to expect. He's someone I've definitely leaned on through the process."

Q: How beneficial is that to have that base of knowledge?

Renfrow: "Absolutely, and just being able to experience guys coming back while I was at Clemson that have had success in the NFL and come back and say, 'Alright, we went through the same program. If you commit to the same things we have here, then it's not much different from the NFL.' It's still the game of football. Like I've talked about, it's the attention to details, being accountable and those sort of deals that are going to help you."

Q: You come from a winning program in college. What sort of things do you bring over?

Renfrow: "Obviously, it's a lot of fun to win. It's a lot more fun to win than lose. We won a lot of games at Clemson. It's not just one person, it takes a whole team buy in. That's why I'm excited. I haven't met a lot of the team yet, but I'm excited to kind of get in and interact with them. It was such a good thing to bring in a guy like Clelin [Ferrell] so early because he's one of those guys that just brings people along. He'll say, 'Alright, follow me. We're going to go and we're going to go do what it takes to win.' Same with Trayvon [Mullen] as well and Josh Jacobs at Alabama. They know what it takes to win and it's been fun to be around them."



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Q: Does the number 13 carry any significance?

Renfrow: "I was No. 7 my whole life in high school. No. 13 is just something I wore in college. Adam Humphries, like I said, was No. 13 before me. To me, it's just a number. It's how you make that number that matters. It wasn't a special meaning but it's good to have familiarity."

Q: Coach Gruden likes his receivers to learn every position. Is that something you feel like is a strength of yours?

Renfrow: "Yeah, absolutely because I'm not the biggest guy out here. I'm not the fastest, but I feel like I can out think people at times. I think that's such a big part of the game that people don't realize. You have to be able to play, definitely, but you have to be able to out think people, out work people. A guy who knows what he's going to do before he does it is a lot more dangerous than a guy out there big and fast but has no clue what's going on."

Q: You've been known as a player who has good hands. How did that develop?

Renfrow: "I'd like to credit to my mom. Back in the day my dad was a high school coach and my mom would go out there and she'd throw footballs to me and they were never accurate. They were out here, they were down there. I'd have to be diving everywhere. That's what I credit it to. *(laughter)* For me, I just grew up playing sports. It didn't matter if it was hockey in the backyard. I played basketball, football. Every day in the summer I'd go out and we'd play something and compete. I had to have fun with it. I guess you can credit that."

Q: Was football always your main sport?

Renfrow: "In high school I thought about playing baseball a little bit, but football I knew I'd look back in 10 years and regret if I didn't play. That's my first love and I have a fun time playing it."