



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: How did Antonio Brown look today in pads for the first time?

Coach Gruden: "Like he did in shorts. He's getting close and hopefully after the day off tomorrow he will get closer, but we need him on the grass. We need him to get going and he's chomping at the bit. He's not a real patient guy and hopefully it'll be sooner than later."

Q: When he came out here today, was it always the plan to have him do what he did and leave?

Gruden: "Yup. Yes."

Q: What is his injury?

Gruden: "I'm not going to get into all of it really. He's a day-to-day and it's nothing serious, but it's something that's going to take a couple days and I'll keep you posted."

Q: Do you anticipate him playing in any of the preseason games?

Gruden: "I haven't made any decisions on him or anybody else on the preseason. We have the Rams coming in here for two days, we'll start to focus on that and we'll take it from there."

Q: His last rep of the day came against Gareon Conley. How do you think that dynamic will go over the course of training camp?

Gruden: "It's going to make them all better. We are going to try to isolate matchups every day. Sometimes you'll come out here and see Conley with Antonio, Conley with Tyrell [Williams], Conley with [Hunter] Renfrow, whoever. We are trying to see certain matchups and I think the competition has really helped everybody get better."

Q: You did some simulated game stuff at the end of practice and seemed happy with some of it and not so happy with other aspects of it. How would you gauge the progress of everybody this early in camp?

Gruden: "Pretty good. I'm not going to make a lot of predictions here. We like where we are going. We feel like every day the offense makes some plays, the defense makes some plays. There are corrections that need to be made, but we are seeing progress and we are really pleased with the veteran additions of our team and the young guys that we drafted, so that combination has given us a boost."

Q: Any particular reason for cutting Ronald Ollie and bringing in Ethan Westbrooks?

Gruden: "Well, I haven't seen Ollie do anything. We need to get something done here. We are in the business of getting better. Ollie didn't participate much, when he did, unfortunately, we chose to go another direction and Westbrooks has a history in this league. He's got versatility, he can play end or defensive tackle and he knows how to rush the passer. So, we're trying to get better and we are not just starting at the top of the roster. Every man and me included."

Q: Any word on what happened with Gabe Wright?

Gruden: "No. We are going to take a look at him and see, and we'll let you know tomorrow."

Q: How is Darren Waller doing overall?



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Gruden: "I think back in minicamp we talked about Waller. Since he's been here, he's been one of our most impressive players. Physically and athletically, and he's smart. And he's got an unbelievable opportunity. And he and [Foster] Moreau, our young tight end from LSU, have really helped our two tight end set and can do a lot of things, but so far so good with Waller."

Q: Why did you bring out a lot of East Bay High School football players and how do you feel about them being able to see practice up close?

Gruden: "Well, we had five high schools that we donated money to today. Dick's Sporting Goods, Raiders players and coaches, we kicked in and people are trying to cancel youth football. They are trying to cancel youth sports, boys and girls sports. There are a lot of geniuses out there that believe youth sports should be canceled. I'm not one of them, so we are trying to support these coaches. Every year they get paid less, their budget gets reduced and the expectations on them become higher, so a credit to our coaches and players and Dick's Sporting Goods for trying to give five high school programs a lift because these kids want to play and they deserve to play."

Q: In the past you've talked about the importance of youth football to you. Can you elaborate just in terms of that importance?

Gruden: "Yeah, I think you benefit by being on the team. There's certain things you can get playing this game that you can't get, I couldn't get, in trigonometry or French class. I just learned how to compete. I learned about being on a team, teamwork, accountability, mental and physical toughness. I learned a lot about sportsmanship. You get some real benefits by playing on a football team or a basketball team, and I'm not just talking about boys. Girls playing sports, softball, etc. We got to support these young kids, I believe. I don't want to preach because I know that gets old."

Q: You seemed to be really happy with a check down that Derek made during a game situation in practice. Is that kind of a further indication of you guys growing together and getting on the same page?

Gruden: "We've been letting Derek call his own plays in the afternoon. I just can't tell you how far along he is. We are trying to get everybody up to his speed. We got a rookie tight end, a rookie slot, a rookie running back, a new right tackle, a new left guard and we are working a lot of new pieces in, but his command is very good and his play-making has been outstanding."

Q: How would you assess the backup quarterback competition?

Gruden: "I like these guys. This Nate Peterman is growing on me. He's athletic. I know he's had some nightmare performances in the NFL, but when you watch the film you can see why. It's not all his fault but he's got some talent, he's got some athleticism, he's got some experience. Here's an opening day starter for the Buffalo Bills last year. I take that very serious. And he's smart. He's done a good job, he's been consistent and I think he's starting to get his confidence back and we all need that."

Q: Have you seen Conley step forward and take leadership, ownership of that secondary?

Gruden: "Gareon is more of a day-to-day, to himself guy. I try to get Gareon to take the hood off, so I can find out where he is. He wears that hood all the time, but he's a private person really for the most part and that's fine with me. We are just trying to get him to be all that he can be for 16 weeks. We want him to be healthy and if he is out there every day he's got a chance, I think, to be an excellent football player and that's the big thing right now."

Q: What are your first impressions of Maxx Crosby so far here in Napa?



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Gruden: "I like Maxx. Mad Maxx. You see us run gassers afterward, he beats everybody. His pursuit to the football has been incredible. He's got a way to go yet as a pass rusher, developing an inventory of moves and recognizing plays and situations, but nobody works harder. He might lead the league in effort and that's a hell of a compliment."

Q: What have Trayvon Mullen, Hunter Renfrow and Clelin Ferrell brought to the team from a culture standpoint coming from Clemson?

Gruden: "They know how to win and how to prepare, and how to listen. And they know how to compete. They expect to win and they are not intimidated. And they are quality people. I can trust them on a player's night off. I can trust them with just about everything."

Q: What have you seen from Johnathan Abram?

Gruden: "Yeah, that kid is something else. I don't want to make comparisons, but he's what we are looking for. He's a versatile guy who gives us so much energy on defense and we have tried to control him. He's hitting to many of our guys in shorts. He even hit some coaches the other day by accident, but he loves to play and if we had three-a-days like we used to he'd be first in line for all those."

Q: How do you think the safety dynamic is working between him and Karl Joseph?

Gruden: "So far we are doing pretty good and I think Erik Harris is going to be a guy that's going to compete for playing time. I think Karl and John are physical guys that are really working hard at the communication and their responsibilities, and it's hard to do. We are throwing a lot formationally and situationally."

Q: Vontaze Burfict said that the defense that he played in Cincinnati is mostly the same, but the one main difference is involving the fact that safeties are so aggressive. What have you seen from that?

Gruden: "Well, we've only had two days of pads. We got to find out exactly what we have, but hopefully Karl Joseph and John Abram are aggressive safeties. That's why we took them both in the first round. We are going to try and use them as play-makers on every down."

Q: What sort of pass rush do you expect to be able to get out of your base defense this year?

Gruden: "Who plays the base defense? Not many teams play a base defense, really. Most of the teams play nickel on first down, second down and sometimes every down. We feel like our base defense with the improvement of Hankins, who might be the most improved player on our team, the addition of Clelin Ferrell will certainly give us juice in there and we'll see what happens. And [Maurice] Hurst, he had some sacks last year and he's got some rush potential and we'll see what happens at the other end position."

Q: What is it about Erik Harris that makes him keep himself a part of this story?

Gruden: "Well, he's a talented guy. It's not like he lacks talent, and he's a very good special teams player. And he can play a lot of positions and no one cares, but I do, and NFL teams do. So, he's a core special teams guy. He can play free safety or strong safety and he can make plays."

Q: Any updates to Quinton Bell's status?

Gruden: "Well, it's not as serious as we feared, so hopefully he'll be back within the next week to 10 days, but again we'll keep you posted on that."



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Q: What have you seen from Renfrow going up against Lamarcus Joyner?

Gruden: "It's a tough job. I wouldn't want to see Joyner every day, but he's made some plays. I'll let Lamarcus talk about his progress. He would know better than anybody, but he's picked the offense up quickly. Doesn't seem like his legs have slowed down, he's taken a lot of reps and I like him. He's got a lot of instincts and naturalness that you have to have to play that position."

Q: For Brandon Marshall, after missing most of the offseason, to put these days in a row, how big is that?

Gruden: "It's big for his confidence. He went through a lot last year in Denver and I credit our training staff and A.J. Neibel, our strength coach. We stayed patient with him and we knew if we could get him to training camp and get him rehabbed, he's one of the best coverage linebackers in football. Great range and he's a world champion, he's played a big part of the Broncos' success and it's good to have a guy from Denver. I'd like to get a few more of those guys, get them off their team too. They're pretty good."

Q: Have you seen the sort of jump that you were looking for in terms of rookie year to second year?

Gruden: "Not yet. We'll see. It will all unfold here in the next seven or eight or 10 days. You like the progress, you like what you see, but sometimes you do cringe. There's not enough samples to make that determination yet."

S Johnathan Abram

Q: How do you feel like the defense is doing these first few days of camp?

Abram: "First couple of days have been really good. Just being back with these guys. We just trying to build some team chemistry on both sides of the ball, but the defense is looking really good. Everybody is going out there doing their job, trying to be the best they can be, so we can all play and be one. One accord."

Q: How hard is it for you not to hit or not go full speed?

Abram: "I mean, we are in practice. These are my teammates. I'm not out here trying to kill anybody. Every day we are all just trying to compete, trying to get better. It doesn't really bother me. I'm just trying to make a couple plays on the ball just like he is."

Q: What is your approach to turn those PBUs in practice into interceptions?

Abram: "Just getting on jugs after practice. Making sure we bring down those PBUs and we turn them into interceptions, so we can make this explosive defense. Score on defense, that's the goal."

Q: Vontaze Burfict said you had a bet going on for every dropped interception. How'd that come about?

Abram: "Me and him, we are really close. He encouraged me not to drop money, the ball is money, so if you put the money on the ground I got to pay it for him and vice versa."

Q: How you guys going to work that out?

Abram: "I don't know yet. I haven't figured that part out yet. *(laughter)*"

Q: Clelin Ferrell called himself a first-year player and several veterans have remarked that you don't seem to carry yourself as a rookie, do you see that?



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Abram: "That's the mindset. In college, when you go out there on the field you aren't going to say you got a freshman and senior. You just say it's a team football player making plays – same now. We are first year guys. You got some guys in their eighth year and when you go out there you aren't going to be like this rookie made that play, it's going to be Johnathan Abram. We are going out here and we just a team. What year you are in doesn't really matter, how you can help this team win, that's all that really matters."

Q: How is the communication growing with Karl Joseph in the back end?

Abram: "It's growing. That's my roommate, so we talk about a lot of things afterwards. We watch a lot of film at night together just making sure we are on the same page. There are certain things that we can pass off and exchange because we talk about it late at night. We are just trying to build that bond, so where I don't even have to say something, he knows exactly what I'm thinking."

Q: Usually rookies or first-year players get paired with other first-year players. Did they tell you that we are pairing you guys together specifically for that reason?

Abram: "No. Me and Karl requested each other. They put me with Trayvon at first, Trayvon Mullen, but Karl wanted to be with me and I wanted to be with him. That's something we wanted to work on and I wanted to see how he takes care of his body, how he handles his business because the one thing I'm trying to do is I'm trying to build a routine to do something of guys who have been around and stuck around."

Q: What kind of a resource has Burfict been so far to you in terms of learning the defense?

Abram: "As far as learning, I just stay in my playbook. It's not even that, he's a big brother to me. He gives me a lot of wisdom. We talk, he's going on year eight, so there's a lot of things that we talk about that he's done been through already. I haven't been through and I will go through."

Q: Vontaze said you remind him of himself at a young age, do you see some similarities?

Abram: "Yeah, because he's a violent hitter. That's the rep I get, but I mean it's more to it than that. I'm hot headed at times and that's the one thing we talk about, controlling my emotions and being passionate not emotional."

Q: What stands out to you about Lamarcus Joyner's knowledge of the game?

Abram: "Lamarcus is a very special guy. Him and Erik Harris, both awesome. Very, very brilliant guys. Lamarcus is very patient, being around him because he has three kids and I will admit I am kind of a kid at times. I like to have fun and those guys are very patient with me. Just being around and you get to see what it is like being on your sixth year, so it's different. It's very special."

Q: What has it been like off the field getting to know him a little bit more?

Abram: "Same. He's the exact same way. Just trying to see how he is as a father and a husband, so I can continue to grow and continue to learn."

Q: What do you like about how Gareon Conley covers?

Abram: "I like a lot about all of our corners. We have a very special group. From 'GC' [Gareon Conley] to Daryl Worley, Nevin Lawson, all those guys have unique ability, so I just can't say what I like about 'GC'. I just like to say that he goes out there, he communicates and he does his job at a very high level."



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Q: Has going against Antonio Brown in practice helped you guys as a secondary?

Abram: "Yes. Going against all those guys: Tyrell Williams, Hunter Renfrow. Like I said, everybody on this team is special and they have an ability to do what they do, so going out there and getting to see it every single day gives us the versatility to see and face guys across the entire league."

CB Gareon Conley

Q: How has the dynamic been between you and Antonio Brown and how is going against him in practice going to make you better?

Conley: "Yeah, of course it's going to make me better. I mean, he was brought here because he is a great receiver. Every time I get a chance to go I'm going to try to go against him and always ask him questions about when he breaks, what he's doing at the line, down the field, how he plays against (cornerbacks). It's going to make me better."

Q: How much more experience in the secondary is there now than there was a year ago?

Conley: "Well, experience, we kind of have a young group, so there's not a lot of experience, but there's some experience and we have people that just come together and always want to work and push each other. I feel like the competition is better in between the guys in the room. We all know that we're going to have to fight each other for spots and compete against each other. It's more than just fighting for a spot. It's competing against one another and making each other better. So, whoever the best player is, is going to play."

Q: Vontaze Burfict mentioned that you and him have watched film 1-on-1 together. What do you get out of that?

Conley: "Yeah, because I know he's been in [defensive coordinator Paul Guenther] Pauly's defense and he's been a vet. I told him I want to get with him to watch film because I want to see how he sees. It's always better to have different aspects of the game, so I asked him to watch film with him."

Q: How do you like the progress of Johnathan Abram and Trayvon Mullen thus far?

Conley: "I love it. They work so hard and they're always trying to find ways to get better. They're always on tune, they give great effort and they play hard."

Q: What have you been able to learn from Lamarcus Joyner thus far?

Conley: "Lamarcus, he's probably got the best energy in the room. He always has high spirits and positivity. He just lifts everybody in the room. It's good to have someone like that. If you're feeling tired or anything like that, he's always going to lift you up. He always plays hard."

Q: How have you seen Johnathan Abram step in and take on a vocal role on and off the field?

Conley: "He's stepped in quick and filled his role. He's playing good and like I said, a vocal guy. He always lifts guys around you, he's always going to lift guys up. So, he's a good player and he plays hard."

Q: How much better are you than when you were a rookie entering training camp with an injury?

Conley: "I mean, I'm healthy now. This is probably the first time I've made it through a full week of training camp since I've been in the league. That's one of the most important things for me is health right now. I'm always growing as a player. I feel comfortable with the system."

Q: What exactly was the injury during your rookie year?

Conley: "My rookie year? My shin, I fractured it. Tibia."

Q: Was there a break or something like that?

Conley: "Yeah."



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Q: There were some analytics out there that said you were one of the better cover corners in the league last year. Did you come away thinking that? That you made great strides and are ready to take it to the next level this year?

Conley: "Yeah, for sure. I felt like I made great strides, but I feel like I can always make better strides. Always looking for ways to get better. There's always money out there left on the field, you know what I'm saying? SO, I just have to get better every time I can."

Q: If the team can get to the passer, how many more chances is that going to give you?

Conley: "I mean, it makes it a lot better for us to get chances. Having pressure up front and just working together as a defense, plays are going to come as long as you have the whole defense on the same page. You're going to get plays."

Q: You are viewed as the No. 1 cornerback on this team, do you like that responsibility and pressure?

Conley: "Yeah, I mean I like all pressure, any responsibility. I take it and embrace it. So, if anybody wants to come in and put their best receiver up, I'm going to try and go against them, try to get better and lock them down."

Q: Are you able to quantify how going against Antonio Brown is able to make you better?

Conley: "He's a great receiver. He goes hard, he runs good routes, he's fast, quick, elusive, what more could you ask for? You're going against the best?"

Q: What makes him so unique?

Conley: "He's well rounded. He's an all-around athlete, talent and he goes hard. A receiver that has all the talent and doesn't work hard, you're not going to get the best out of him. He always gives it his best because he works hard and he's talented."

Q: Head Coach Jon Gruden said that he always wonders what is going on under your hood. If you were to take that off and tell people what is going on under there, what would you say?

Conley: "*(laughter)* It probably won't happen. *(laughter)*"

S Karl Joseph

Q: How would you summarize this week so far in training camp?

Joseph: "Very competitive man. It's been fun. Just everybody coming together. Had a little time off. I think we put a lot of good stuff on film from OTA's and minicamp and we came back ready to go."

Q: In terms of getting in sync with Jonathan Abram, how has that been going from the spring to the summer?

Have you made strides since and did you see the type of retention in that relationship that you would like?

Joseph: "I think so. I think we're building that. We're building where we want to go. We're rooming together so you know, we're getting a chance to talk about ball. You know, so we just got to keep building that you know, every day, every practice. We got a couple weeks left until the preseason. We just got to keep getting better every day and keep coming together."

Q: Do you feel that you and Jonathan Abram are interchangeable?

Joseph: "For sure. You know, I think there's a reason why coach doesn't really want to label us as a free or strong. We both can play either position. You know, you got to be very versatile to play in this defense. You know, a perfect example with Lamarcus, you know. So, we all got to be able to do it. We got to be able to cover. You know, we got to play the run and play deep. So, we both are very interchangeable."



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Q: Veterans such as Brandon Marshall and Vontaze Burfict yesterday were saying that Abram doesn't act like or conduct himself like a rookie. Are you seeing the same thing?

Joseph: "Yeah, the way he's able to pick up this defense man. I said that before I think in the Spring. That's very impressive. You know, for me, I take me a little time to learn that defense last year coming in. He's been able to get it down. All those guys you know, even Clelin and the other rookies. They've been very impressive."

Q: What kind of a difference has it made to have Vontaze Burfict in the middle coordinating things and knowing the defense?

Joseph: "Man, it's like night and day. I think we needed somebody like him coming in and being the middle of that defense. You know, a leader, a captain. You know, he's played in this defense for a long time with coach Paul. So you know, he knows this defense. So you know, it's good to have him in there."

Q: It sounds like Paul Guenther is tweaking his defense to cater towards you and Jonathan Abram since you are such aggressive safeties. Does that fuel you to know that they are catering to your strengths essentially?

Joseph: "Yeah I think coach Paul is you know, he's obviously a great coach but he you know, he has a lot of playmakers on the defense like you know, starting with guys like Vontaze that can run the defense and make the calls that he used to. He has played for him for a long time. You got a lot of versatile guys in the linebacker groups and you know, Lamarcus that can play safety and nickel and me and John that can just interchange. We don't have to really play free or strong so he has a lot of options with us."

Q: You got taste of Antonio Brown today. What do you think it's going to do for the secondary as a whole when he's out there every day in pads and working like he works?

Joseph: "I think it's going to make us better. I think we saw a small glimpse of that during the spring. You know, his work ethic is second to none. So, I just think he is going to help push all of us once he get back out here."

Q: Even someone like you that obviously works very hard and you always have. Does he take it to a level different than you've ever seen?

Joseph: "Yeah, he's a different level. You know, his resume speaks for himself. You know, so, 10 years or whatever he's been in now and he's been at the highest level. So, his resume speaks for himself. You know, he's always working. You know, I'm sure you guys follow him on Instagram and stuff. He's always working, man. Like I made a joke to him. I'm like 'man, you must be saving your videos and reposting them like all types of the day because there's no way you're up at twelve o'clock at night working.' Man, his work ethic is crazy."

Q: How are you feeling entering this training camp considering this is your second year in this system? Is there optimism that this could be a real pivotal year for you where you make that next big jump?

Joseph: "I think so, I mean I have to. I think for all of us, we have to as a defense. You know, I feel like I've always said I have a chip on my shoulder. I feel like I always have something to prove and I think this year it's just up more. You know, I'm comfortable in this defense. I know what I'm doing. I have a lot of guys around me that know what they're doing that's ballers and playmakers. You know, that just helps my confidence a lot more as well."

Q: When you look at the end of last season when things really clicked for you and you found a role, you were aggressive and making plays. Is there confidence you gain from that?



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Joseph: "Yeah of course and I think you know, ending from last season going into the spring and just having the conversations with coaches knowing what I need to do, what I need to improve on and just being able to understand the scheme. You know, I think that's the biggest thing, understanding the scheme and anticipating stuff before it happens. The communication level is way different for me than it was last year so I think I'm ready to make that step."

Q: What does Hunter Renfrow do to get open?

Joseph: "Man, he's everything. He's deceptively fast and he's got the quickness. He's smart. He's very smart. He knows how to get open in the zone. So, I think he's going to surprise a lot of people this year."

CB Trayvon Mullen

Q: Was that wrist injury yesterday a scare for you? Is there any reason to think you may miss more camp or are you confident you'll be back soon?

Mullen: "Nah, it was nothing major. It was just something I just wanted to get checked out but I'm back. It was nothing serious like that. I just wanted to make sure everything was good."

Q: It was your first day taking a couple reps from Antonio Brown. How does it feel going against a Hall of Fame receiver like that?

Mullen: "I mean it felt good. I mean, it's something that we always did in the offseason was working out with each other getting it in. Getting to train with him is awesome. One of the best, so he's preparing me for other guys that we got to go against in the league."

Q: How was training with him?

Mullen: "I mean it's the best. You are going to get the best every day. Every day he comes to work he's going to push you. You know what to look for out of training with him and who he trains with. So, you're going to be at your best."

Q: Did you and Brown know each other before joining the Raiders?

Mullen: "Yeah, we knew each other before I actually got here. We talked throughout my college years and things like that. So, we've always been close and also being that we're from the same area."

Q: What sort of advice would Brown give you when you were talking in college?

Mullen: "Well I mean everything changes basically when you get to this league. Just got to continue grinding. Got to get bigger, stronger, faster. He always said like, told me mentally you got to be focused. You got to come in with a good mindset and just win the day."

Q: Yourself, Clelin Ferrell, and Hunter Renfrow obviously were a big part of making Clemson the power it is now and you were brought in to help change the culture here. What do you think you can take from your time in Clemson and bring to this locker room?

Mullen: "From Clemson we had a lot of good people. Like you said the culture. It all starts with the players first, all coming together and just wanting to achieve one goal of going to the Super Bowl. Just loving each other, playing with each other, and just hanging out with each other, and just creating that family atmosphere."



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Q: Have you seen that start to build since you've gotten here?

Mullen: "Well actually, yes I have. Just coming here, how everybody's together. The culture, the players, it gets better day-by-day. So I notice it like almost every day."

Q: There was a play today where you broke up a pass against J.J. Nelson who's one of the faster guys on the roster. Do you like your chances to keep up with the fastest guys in this league?

Mullen: "Yeah most definitely. With me, it starts with my technique first. I feel like if I got good technique first five yards then I'll be good with any receiver I go against."

Q: Is the technique within those first five yards any different than at Clemson?

Mullen: "Well I mean it's all the same as far as technique. It all comes down to what you're most comfortable with and what's going to help you be at your best when you line up to face another receiver."

Q: Any surprises this first week at training camp?

Mullen: "No, I wouldn't say so. We prepared well. OTA's and how the team came back and everybody was focused. We got back right into it and everybody was ready. Everybody was pretty much healthy and we all got at it."

Q: What are your plans for your first day off tomorrow?

Mullen: "Well for me, just recovering, staying healthy, getting my body back right so I can come back and be 100 percent."

Q: No wine tours in Napa Valley?

Mullen: "Nah."

Q: Are you looking forward to facing another team when the Rams come in here next week?

Mullen: "I'm looking forward to that more than anything. Just so us as a team, we can show what we've been grinding for and how much work we've put in, and how we're going to play as a team against another opponent."

Q: As a fellow rookie in the secondary, what have your impressions been of Johnathan Abram?

Mullen: "Well John, he's going to be the same guy every day. He's going to show up. He's going to give it his all. He's going to have a good attitude. He's going to play with his teammates. So for me, just knowing him, we've been close friends, like my best friend. So our relationship is like the best. So I know everything almost about him. So I know he's going to come prepared every day."

Q: Have you and Abram been close for a while or is that something that just happened recently?

Mullen: "Nah, we've actually been close since we've been in college, so it worked out in our favor for us coming to play together."

Q: Who is your roommate here?

Mullen: "One of the offensive linemen. I can't remember his name – from Louisville."

Q: What do you like about Gareon Conley's game and what have you learned from him?



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Mullen: "Well with Gareon for me, learning from him, his level one, his technique, and how he's able to use his feet and his hands and his length, stays on top of receivers, and he knows the game by splits and just knowing what receivers are going to run and what he's going to get. So for me, just learning from him, I think it's good because just talking with him, he just teaches me how to read a receiver and the breaks, and the step of a receiver. So that's a great guy to learn from for me."

Q: Karl Joseph said that Hunter Renfrow is going to surprise some people, but I'm guessing he's not surprising you at all?

Mullen: "Nah, I've seen it for three years playing against him. He's that guy that's just going to give his all. To me, he's going to get open every play just because of how he plays. He's an elite receiver. He was always slept on."

Q: How would you describe the way he Renfrow plays?

Mullen: "He's really aggressive. He's quick. If you don't have good technique, you're not going to have a chance of winning against him."

Q: Your teammates have been calling Jonathan bulldog. Have they given you any nicknames yet? Is it tiger?

Mullen: "Nah, no they haven't, not yet. *(laughter)*"

Q: Have you gotten any social media tips from Antonio Brown?

Mullen: "I mean not really. Just got to protect yourself basically. That's one thing that I remember him telling me. Just protect yourself."

Q: Antonio Brown caught a pass on the one rep you had against him on 1-on-1's today. How do you assess the way that rep unfolded and what do you take from it?

Mullen: "Well for me, quite frankly, he's getting me better. Like I said I'm going against the best and each rep I know he's going to bring his best. So it's going to do nothing but get me better. Him catching a ball on me, to me, breaking up a ball, we're both going to get each other better at the end of the day."