



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

**Opening Statement:** “We’re getting geared up for a divisional game to close the regular season up in Denver. Obviously, a really talented group. We’re looking forward to a real competitive game. Questions?”

**Q: Does having to prepare for both quarterbacks add to your week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “No, not really. We go in each week where we understand who the starter is in all likelihood and what the backup is capable of in case you get to the backup. That’s part of your normal preparation, to have an idea of both guys anyway. It won’t change a whole lot of what we do.”

**Q: The goal this year was to win the division. What does it mean to have a shot to win it in Week 17?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “We love the fact that kind of adhering to our process and just taking it one at a time, we’ve been able to stack up enough to be in contention. Now we need to close the weekend out right. We have a great opportunity. We have a group of guys that are really fired up about a lot of things. About taking care of our business and taking advantage of this opportunity and bringing home an AFC West Division Title. That’s what we started the year as our number one goal, and it remains our number one goal.”

**Q: What advice have you given Matt McGloin about handling the pressure?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Well, we haven’t spent a lot of time talking about that. It’s really, for him... What little bit I’ve said thus far is be yourself. Be who you are. Make your plays. Let us all do our jobs around you. You don’t have to put the world on your shoulders. It’s not your responsibility. We ask everybody to do their job. Understand what your role is and get that done for us. It’s no different for him.”

**Q: Has he been the same guy this week with his demeanor?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Yeah, we’re not going to have a question of the day on how he’s doing. Is his blood pressure up? Heart rate is the same. *(laughing)* I think he’s excited for the opportunity. As a football team, we’re excited for the opportunity. We get 16 regular season games, and I’ve said all along, we fear nobody, we respect everybody. We’re just going to prepare and go in there and compete.”

**Q: How important is it for the team to rally around McGloin?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I think that’s natural. I think we all as teammates, as coaches, we all do what’s best for the team. Doing your job and taking care of your business is really how you can really do the most for anybody. It’s pretty much business as usual, it’s just a little different flavor to it. The things you can control is your effort, your energy, your focus. That’s what we ask each guy.”

**Q: Do you have to figure out a balance with Connor Cook getting reps as back up and still playing scout team?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Fortunately, I have a really good quarterback coach that can worry about that. *(laughing)* Todd [Downing] does a great job with the group. That preparing in that backup capacity has been the case all year. It doesn’t greatly alter right now. I think the urgency picks up maybe for him, but the things that we’ve been coaching and stressing and talking to him about every week as we’ve been growing that group, that position group, I think that remains very much the same.”

### Raiders QB Matt McGloin

**Q: How are you better prepared now than you were during your rookie year?**

**McGloin:** “You know, the past four seasons, just kind of been able to sit back and obviously I started a little bit as a rookie, got some great playing experience there. Then, the past few years just kind of see how Derek [Carr] has prepared for games. Obviously learning from [former offensive coordinator] Greg Olson and [former quarterbacks coach] John DeFilippo and now learning from [offensive coordinator] Bill Musgrave and [quarterbacks coach] Todd



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Downing, you kind of get a lot of knowledge here, especially at the quarterback position. So, I think my knowledge of the game has definitely improved. I think you just kind of learn how to prepare, you learn how to just schedule your time better throughout the course of the week and prepare yourself as best as you can for Sunday.”

### **Q: What have the last few days been like?**

**McGloin:** “The support’s been great, as it always has been. That’s just extra motivation right there, you know? You see how many people – family, friends – care about you. How many people in Raider Nation care about you and want you to succeed and do well.”

### **Q: Do you like being the underdog?**

**McGloin:** “I’ve obviously gotten that question a lot throughout my career, playing with a chip on your shoulder and things like that. I don’t necessarily think I play that way. I mean, I really enjoy playing the game. I really enjoy competition, I enjoy being out there with the guys and playing the game and doing well and winning.”

### **Q: Do you use people doubting you as fuel?**

**McGloin:** “Regardless of whether people like you or they don’t like you or people critique you or they don’t critique you, really it’s out of my control. Some writers may like me, some may not like me and it is what it is. I don’t really try to let that bother me. To be honest with you, I don’t read a ton of your stuff or your articles. (*laughter*) I just try to focus at the task at hand and play to the best of my ability.”

### **Q: Do you feel a lot of pressure with the scenario this weekend and the upcoming playoffs?**

**McGloin:** “Well, there’s always pressure when you play this game. You talk about proving yourself week in and week out and things like that. You’re constantly trying to prove yourself. This is a performance-based business and if you’re not playing well and you’re not winning and you’re not doing well, then you’re not going to be a starter very long, especially at the quarterback position. So, that’s what we’re doing now. We understand what’s at stake come Sunday and we’re preparing for that.”

### **Q: Will you and Carr have any communication?**

**McGloin:** “I just reached out to him, just told him that you know, we’re praying for him, hopefully everything is going well and he’s feeling good. He’s a great guy, good teammate, good friend and I’m sure he’ll be helping us out throughout the course of the week.”

### **Q: How different is it going out there with this team as opposed to the one you had your rookie year?**

**McGloin:** “You know, I don’t really think about that. I don’t think about the situation I was in when I was a rookie and the situation I’m in now. Two thousand thirteen was great for me to get experience, great playing with that group of guys. We were in position to win games. Unfortunately we couldn’t put it all together at certain points of the game to win. Now, with this group of guys, we obviously have some good guys, some good Pro Bowl players, you know? It’s exciting, we got obviously Rodney [Hudson], Donald [Penn], [Kelechi Osemele] K.O. and Gabe [Jackson] and Menelik [Watson] and Austin [Howard]. Just a real, real solid group of guys, good players. I really look forward to this week of practice with them and look forward to playing with them on Sunday.”

### **Q: How big was the third-down play to Amari Cooper to establish a connection with each other on the field?**

**McGloin:** “Well, Amari is first and foremost, a very intelligent player and secondly, obviously his athletic ability just jumps off the charts. I haven’t had the opportunity to throw a lot of balls to him the past few years, in practice or in games but you just see on film, you see throughout the course of the week how he runs his routes certain ways. You know he’s going to be in the right spot and in a situation like that, you want to win the game right there, you want to put yourself in position to kneel three times and win. Hey, Amari’s a playmaker and I believe in giving guys a chance to make plays for you when you need it.”



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**Q: Do you plan on getting a lot of extra time and reps with the wide receivers over the next couple weeks?**

**McGloin:** "Definitely, definitely. You know, I feel like mentally, my approach has always been well. But, I think just physically we need to get a little more reps here and there, get our timing down with one another. But, those guys are onboard, they've been great so far, reaching out to me and coming up to me and just saying, 'Hey, we're here. Let's get some extra reps.' Things like that."

**Q: What's it like having Rodney Hudson as your center in this type of situation?**

**McGloin:** "It's incredible. Rodney's a great player, fun guy to be around, really smart, really bright. So, it definitely takes a little weight off my shoulders there knowing you got a guy like Rodney out there to really help you with protections and play calls, things like that."

**Q: How much have you dreamt about this moment, leading your team into the postseason?**

**McGloin:** "It's exciting. You know, this is the position you want to be in. This is why you spend so much time trying to master your craft and why you put so much time in the weight room, in the film room and on the practice field, is for games like this, moments like this. So, we're definitely aware of where we're at right now and again, what's at stake come Sunday and we're excited about it."

**Q: What is the reason for blocking people on twitter?**

**McGloin:** "*(laughter)* I'm not searching out people to block them. *(laughter)* I don't sit there on my phone and do that, but to be honest with you guys, if I'm reading an article and I come across somebody, a sarcastic tweet or an article bashing the Oakland Raiders organization or bashing the guys in the locker room, I don't want to read that stuff. So, that's what gets people blocked on Twitter. *(laughter)* It's nothing personal, you know? I don't want to read bad or negative things about this organization or the guys in that locker room. That's all."

**Q: So, you don't have someone blocking the people for you? It is you?**

**McGloin:** "*(laughter)* No, I use Twitter and social media. I use it for news to see what's going on around the league and keep up to date with news. I don't even really tweet. *(laughter)* I retweet stuff sometimes."



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### **Broncos Head Coach Gary Kubiak Conference Call**

#### **Q: What do you see from Matt McGloin? Have you faced him before?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "Yeah, he beat us a few years ago. I'm not sure what year it was, they all run together. I'm really impressed with the young man. I think every time he's been given the chance, he's done a really good job. I think Billy [offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave] has done a super job with him from a coaching standpoint. He's under center for a great football team and what they're capable of doing, I know it's a big opportunity for him, but we respect the football team and the job that [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] and the coaches have done. They have a really good group."

#### **Q: The Raiders were successful in running the ball last game. What do you expect from them this time and how do you go about stopping it?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "Well, I mean, you never know. Obviously, they've been in the gun here a lot lately, but that was when Derek [Carr] was playing and coming off his hand. Now you have the adjustment with the new, young quarterback. I mean, I don't know. They're capable of doing everything. They're built really good. They're very talented across the board. [Offensive line coach] Mike Tice has done a super job with the front. They're very tough to deal with up front."

#### **Q: Are you preparing both Paxton Lynch and Trevor Siemian the same way?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "I am, guys. I told them about five minutes ago that I'm going to play them both. Trevor is going to start the game, but I am going to play them both. Trevor has earned the right to go back out there as our starter. He's done a lot of good things this year. Yet, I want to get Paxton some reps before we get to our offseason. I plan on playing them both."

#### **Q: What does Bruce Irvin do differently than Khalil Mack?**

**Coach Kubiak:** "In a lot of ways, they're a lot alike; just two guys that can set the edge of the defense as good as anybody in football. They both can play the power game, too, which not many guys outside have the speed and the power. They make the defense go. If you can't handle them, then they're getting to your quarterback and bad things are happening. They've been exceptional to watch this year; two really good players on a team that defensively, Kenny [defensive coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.] has done a good job with. They work really hard, they play really hard."

### **Broncos CB Chris Harris Jr. Conference Call**

#### **Q: How does your preparation change with Matt McGloin being the starter?**

**Harris Jr.:** "We've played against him in the past before [Derek] Carr got there, so we have experience playing against him. We expect a big run game. We expect them to come out and start pounding us like they did the first time."

#### **Q: Does it stick with you that they were able to have so much success running the same play last game?**

**Harris Jr.:** "Yeah, that definitely should piss off the D-line and linebackers and everybody up front to be able to know that, like you said, they could pound us. That should definitely make those guys up front mad and be able to shut it down."

#### **Q: What's your approach going into this week?**

**Harris Jr.:** "My approach is just continue to have a great season. I want to finish strong. I feel like I've had one of my better seasons, so I just want to finish strong and just build off this season and get ready for next year."



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**Q: Is there motivation in denying them a division title or do you not worry about that?**

**Harris Jr.:** "I mean there's motivation to win the game. We haven't won in so long, it feels like in our losing streak. We just want to try to end the season with something good. Even though we didn't make the playoffs, to end the season with a 'W' that would really help a lot of people going into the offseason."

**Q: What strengths have you seen from McGloin?**

**Harris Jr.:** "Right now I see him as a gunslinger. From the past and watching him play, he doesn't have any fear. He can fit the ball into coverage. That's something I've seen from him in the past."

**Q: Is going against players like Michael Crabtree and Amari Cooper a challenge you welcome?**

**Harris Jr.:** "Oh yeah. We always have great matchups against them. I think we've done fairly [well], probably the best on those guys probably out of all the other secondaries around the league. We do a pretty good job versus those guys. It's going to be a great challenge, but we feel like we're always ready. We're always up to it when it comes to receivers."

**Q: Are there any remnants left from Jack Del Rio's defense or did they just knock it down and rebuild it in Wade Phillips' image?**

**Harris Jr.:** "We definitely did. I mean you still have me. Me and Von [Miller] are probably like the last of Jack's guys really that have been with him from when he first got here as a [defensive] coordinator. I think we scratched it, man. We're a lot more aggressive. Play a lot more man. With Jack, it was a little more zone. That was the difference."