



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jon Gruden**

**Opening statement:** "We'll just say that we do have a new long snapper. Trent Sieg, S-I-E-G, will be our new long snapper. I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can."

#### **Q: What made you guys want to bring Martavis Bryant back?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well I think he's in a good place right now. I think he's healthy. I think he's ready to go. I'm sold on that. We've been in contact with him since he's been away. As I said when we made the trade to get him, when he's right, he can be a difference maker. We're hoping that he can be one sooner than later."

#### **Q: After you guys waived him you said there were players in camp that outperformed him. What changed in that regard?**

**Coach Gruden:** "One of the reasons he was outperformed is he was inconsistently available. He was sick. He had lingering problems. I think he's in a really good place right now. I've seen him in a really good place, and when he's in a really good place, he can be a really good player in this league. He's proven that."

#### **Q: How difficult has it been to navigate Bryant's place on the team not knowing his status is with the league?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I don't comment on that. That's not for my business, let alone me to talk about here today. This is a young player that has great talent. We're happy to have him back. He's in a great place right now. I'll just leave it at that."

#### **Q: Can he play right away?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We're going to see. We'll see. We'll see where he is in terms of his assignments. We're going to give him plenty of opportunity to play, yes."

#### **Q: How does it look for Justin Ellis and P.J. Hall?**

**Coach Gruden:** "We'll see. It doesn't... I've had better days. We'll see. Today will tell us a lot."

#### **Q: Was there anything on the Broncos film that stood out?**

**Coach Gruden:** "[Case] Keenum. I think Case Keenum at the end of the year might be the No. 1 acquisition in football. I think he's a great quarterback. What he did last year, the performance that he laid down in Minnesota... He solidifies them [the Broncos] at that position. They struggled last year. They went through a lot of different quarterbacks. I know he had couple of interceptions last week, but this kid can really play. He's a great competitor. They have outstanding receivers. Look, they've always had a great defense. When they have had stability at quarterback, they've proven they can win a world championship. We'll have our hands full, I know that. We're excited to get ready."

#### **Q: Is this a different challenge in that a lot of their pressure will come from the outside where with the Rams it came primarily inside?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Well, they have all kinds of pressure. They have all the blitzes that you can draw up. They have that type of pressure that you have to deal with. They'll put three or four of those defensive ends out there together. They have Shane Ray, Shaquil Barrett. [Bradley] Chubb is a Top-5 pick, so they



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can apply pressure inside or outside. With their four-man rush, they can also get home with an array of blitzes. They have a talented secondary. [Bradley] Roby and Adam Jones now to go with Chris Harris makes this a real challenge in the noise.”

**Q: Are you guys going to bring in help at defensive tackle?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Well that’s a distinct possibility with the injuries that are mounting here. Yes, that is a possibility.”

**Q: Is Jonathan Hankins coming?**

**Coach Gruden:** “You’re getting warm. You’re getting warm (*laughing*). Yes, he is a possibility. Clint McDonald’s name is a possibility. You guys cover us every day, I’m not going to hide from the facts. We have some injuries right now that have caused us to look into a couple of player situations. Not that we’re going to sign them both, but they are certainly on the radar.”

**Q: When McDonald visited here in March, but didn’t come to fruition. Were you hoping at the time that it would?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Yeah. I mean he’s a guy that played nose tackle for Tampa. He played for [defensive coordinator Paul] Guenther in Cincinnati. But he plays nose tackle for the Tampa Bay Bucs. Gerald McCoy was the three technique. When Gerald got hurt, McDonald played the three. So, he has the versatility to play the nose or the three. Hankins is a big guy that has had good experiences in this league. He got a big contract to go to the Colts. I don’t want to make any commitments that they will be Raiders, but we are looking into their situations.”

**Q: What did you think of Johnny Townsend’s first game?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I thought it was good. I thought it was good. We judge it by a lot of different things. He’s a good holder and it starts right there. He put the ball down great for our place kicker. He doesn’t give up a lot of returns. He’s not careless with his accuracy. He handled some difficult snaps against a pretty good rush in his first game, so I was proud of him.”

**Q: Is his leg big enough to kick you out of the endzone?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think it is. I think it’s big enough. Like I said, if we can get the net. If we can get the 43-yard net in that area, that’ll be good. There’s a guy in Kansas City we don’t want to kick the ball to. I saw him the other day. As soon as I sat down, he was dancing. So, directional punting, minimizing the returns is a big part of Johnny Townsend’s strengths and why he’s here.”

**Q: Is there value when a player has spent time with an opponent and comes here with familiarity?**

**Coach Gruden:** “A quarterback maybe. A quarterback might have a little bit more big picture. Not that Clinton doesn’t, but normally the defensive linemen, they kind of stick to their world. Again, I don’t want to get into his situation much more than that, but we’ll let you know.”

**Q: How do you cut down on penalties for this week?**

**Coach Gruden:** “A lot of false starts are inexcusable. We had one in the redzone going in on our opening possession. We had one backed up. We have to eliminate those. The pass interference penalties were the biggest penalties in the game. They resulted in almost 80 yards of penalties. Changed field position,



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changed that game. Just keep working. Keep working hard on minimizing penalties, self-inflicted wounds that get you beat.”

### **Q: How do you eliminate them?**

**Coach Gruden:** “Well, we can’t make those penalties. You have to find the ball quicker. You can’t commit those types of penalties. Pass inference is the most devastating penalty of all. Especially on down the field passes. It’s like giving up the play itself. We have to do a much better job coaching it. We have to do a much better job of finding the ball and playing the ball, not the man.”

### **Q: As you’ve returned to coaching, you’ve returned to some of the not so enjoyable parts of it.**

**Coach Gruden:** “I love it all, man. I love it all. I love this right here. I’m having a blast (*laughing*). We’re building the Raiders. We’re going to continue to lay blocks and go ahead. What’s your question?”

### **Q: In terms of players injuries and cuts?**

**Coach Gruden:** “It’s tough, man. It’s really tough. There’s been a lot of rollover here. A lot of turnover. I put the starting, opening day defense on paper a couple of days ago and I looked at it. We had to make a lot of changes. We’re in the process now of dealing with injuries, and we’ll have to make more changes. It’s not fun. It’s tough. It is tough. But it’s part of the process. Painful at times, but there’s going to be a reward at the end of this.”

### **Q: In terms of the lack of pass rush, how much of it was scheme and how much of it was matchups?**

**Coach Gruden:** “I think we got pressure in the first half. I think we got home once. Caused the fumble. Almost got the ball back. Like I said yesterday or whenever it was, when you can run the ball as well as they ran it in the style of offense that they play, it’s hard to cut loose the rush when it’s second-and-4 or third-and-3. You had [Todd] Gurley standing back there and they’re putting the ball in his gut. You don’t know if he has it or not. They were able to dictate a lot of things with their down and distance and their ability to mix the run, the play action pass and these jet sweeps. It’s going to be hard for anybody to rush the Rams unless you get them behind in the chains. You have to get them in second-and-10. You have to win on first down. You have to get them on third-and-long when you can cut loose your blitzes and some of your great rushers.”

### **Q: How important is it to get Amari Cooper on track?**

**Coach Gruden:** “It’s important to get everyone on track. Amari had one catch. He had one called back. We went to him three or four other times. The ball didn’t go there. We had a tight end break a franchise record for yards. We exploited that matchup. I felt like we could’ve got more out of that as well. We thought our running back [Jalen] Richard had a great matchup. We tried to target that. If we had more first downs in the second half, had more time of possession, perhaps we would’ve seen more of Cooper. But you look at the film, we had him wide open deep. We didn’t go there. He was open a couple of times and for whatever reason we didn’t go that route. Yeah, we want to get him going. That’s easier said than done now.”

### **Q: What does Bryant’s presence do for your other wide receivers?**

**Coach Gruden:** “He’s a guy that’s proven. He can go up and get the deep ball in contested situations. He can run away from you. He can make you miss. He can make big plays down the fields, that’s an obvious.



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We're hoping that we can bottle up where he is now. He's in a great place. He's healthy. He's ready to go. He has a great state of mind. We'll see what happens."

### **QB Derek Carr**

**Q: So, you get Aaron Donald in Week one and Von Miller in Week two. Have you written a letter to the schedule makers yet?**

**Carr:** "Oh gosh, yeah. Welcome to the AFC West basically. It's pass rushers every week. No, I am used to it now. It's just fun to compete against those guys. Especially when you have been in the league for five years now. You know them, you joke with them in the offseason and then you play them, and they are right there again. It's fun man but no I never have any issue playing these guys. From a mentality standpoint I love playing the best. That's why you grow up as a kid, wanting to make it to the NFL because you want to play against the best. Playing against Aaron and then playing against Von and those guys this week, it's always fun."

**Q: There was a third-and-five play early in the fourth quarter where you threw the ball away. What was going through your mind on that play?**

**Carr:** "So third-and-five, going away from the black hole I think...They just covered up the routes. Went to the first, went to the second one. The third one, that we had on that one, was a route that versus the coverage they were playing basically you don't even look for it. So, I tried to wait even longer than I should have. Didn't really feel the run so then I just threw it out. Punt, try and pin them deep, get the ball back around midfield and go again kind of mentality. We ran a little move and then a little sit by Jordy and they were just tight."

**Q: Jon for a long time has thought, sometimes the best play isn't a complete pass and punting the ball to avoid a mistake. That's not really been your mentality, has that been a big adjustment for you?**

**Carr:** "It is and that's why he is always in my ear. Just letting me know, 'hey, play the team game.' I think getting back to that, it's okay if it's not all the way there or if it's not all the way clean like on the second interception. If it's not all the way there don't get in between things. That's when bad things happen. Just being more precise about hey, 'it's not there, man. Dirt it, come off the field and I'll get something better the next time.' That's what he says to me every time. Just learning that and correcting that inside my mentality. Trying to dial that back but at the same time he loves it too at certain points. Again, finding that line together to avoid the mistakes."

**Q: You guys got Martavis Bryant back today and Jon says he thinks he is in a great place right now. Have you had a chance to talk to him? What do you think he can do in your offense?**

**Carr:** "Oh yeah. I definitely talked to Martavis. I love him. I'm glad he's back. I got to talk to him and I think he's ready to go. I think he's in a good place. I think that with everything he has been through, he's just thankful to be playing football. He's thankful to be back in the locker room. I don't want to talk for him, but I would just assume that he is happy to be back with us...where I think he should be. With us, we can be there for him. Help him with whatever he needs and then he can help us to win football games. We obviously know what kind of talent he is and so very excited to have him back and have that threat of that speed."



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**Q: What does his presence do from a vertical standpoint opening things up for the receivers?**

**Carr:** "Yeah, he can split double teams. Teams can try and play certain coverages with him but he's so fast it doesn't matter. You make one false step, if I key that defender and they make one false step, he can be gone like that. He can run by guys that are off coverage. He can do things that other people just don't do. That's not a knock on them, that's just what God blessed him with. 4.2 speed with that kind of length, the jump ball stuff and some of that aggressive stuff that I kind of like sometimes. Just having those abilities, to do those things with him. I mean it just adds that dynamic for a coordinator to have to think about."

**Q: Anybody that suffered a broken bone in their back that would get in their head. How do you compartmentalize that in a game or does it float in there every now and then?**

**Carr:** "Honestly, I don't think about it until I'm laying on the ground and making sure everything is alright. You know what I mean? Because I've been there one too many times. You don't think about it in the game because honestly your flooded with decisions, coverages, fronts and pressures. What are they rolling at, who is the matchup, all those things. I can promise you during games I don't think about it until I'm on the ground making sure, okay I'm good and now I can pop back up. It would be human nature to be there and lay there. I can't say that I've ever gotten hit and laid there and didn't think, alright am I good, because of those things. You just get up, make sure you are alright and move on. Again, there is so much decision making to go, its honestly half a second that all that happens."

**Q: Going back to Martavis for a minute. He is a deep threat that can stretch the field, but you didn't get a lot of time with him in camp because he was in and out. Is there a concern about that timing?**

**Carr:** "We definitely have to spend time. There is no doubt about it. I'd be lying to you if I said no... but I will say too that the days that he did practice, after practice we would go off and make sure that we'd do those deeper throws. Those quicker routes that we need him on. We definitely made sure we spent extra time because as you saw there were some things that he missed, and we said hey let's make it up. Special teams periods were big for us. We'd have a special teams period where usually you'd have individual drills and we'd grab him and go work on routes. We'd go work on other things. We have put that time in but there is no doubt to make sure that he is back again in the mental processing of things. Just like any bye week when you come back its almost like, 'oh, the snap count, oh yeah.' Anything. 'Oh, that formation or that adjustment.' Anything can slip your mind...so just reminding him of all those little things will be crucial for us and I don't think he will have a problem."

**Q: Jared is labeled with the tight ends but he was moving to a lot of different receiver spots. His versatility just as a pure receiver, does that kind of help? What kind of dimension does that bring because he can line up in so many spots?**

**Carr:** "It helps. Honestly, it's a tough decision sometimes because versus certain coverages we have a certain coverage. I can go to Jared obviously or I can go to [WR Amari Cooper] Coop. I can go to Jordy [Nelson] and it's a good problem to have because we can move him in a whole bunch of different spots. There was one play, I think it was for a first down, we threw it to Jared and Coop pops open. And then you turn the film on and it's like why did you go there? Well, the guy had 180 yards, he was feeling it. I always question myself, like those fine decisions, do we go here or do you go here? Coach Gruden is there to kind of tell me what to do. To take that indecision out of the way to help me out. We can put



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him anywhere we want. Again, the great thing about Jared is that he is so tough and physical that he can get in and block also. So, we are not one dimensional when he is in the game. That's a big point for us because if he's in and every time it's a pass that would be easy for coordinators. For him to be able to play tight end and then go play receiver in the slot or out wide is big time for us."

**Q: You have a guy like Amari [Cooper] who is a talented player with the ball in his hands but navigating the fine line between getting him the ball and not forcing it to him...Is that a delicate balance?**

**Carr:** "It is and early in my career it's something I would do with [Amari Cooper] Coop and [Baltimore WR Michael Crabtree] Crab. Man, they are so good you want to force that pass but it's like this matchup over here with Seth [Roberts] is a little bit better. This concept, this route. I would have some indecisions early on in my career whereas now I'm like guys, I'm making the best decision for our team on that play. Obviously, I don't do it perfectly every time, we know that. I'm going to do my best to make the best decision. Hey, let's just roll after that. I'm not going to force the issue because when you do that, that's where wasted plays happen. If they end up covering you just throw it away. Just because you were reading that when you could have went somewhere else. Like that's where I would get caught earlier on in my career where now I'm just trying to play the game."

**Q: Jon said there were a couple plays where Amari did get open deep and you didn't throw it to him. Were those misreads by you?**

**Carr:** "Well, there was one. I know exactly which one he was talking about now. I threw it to Jared and we ended up getting the first down. That's the one I was talking about, where you sit there and are like we had a chance at that but there's a matchup there where we ended up picking up the first down. Where is that fine line? I'm not going to second guess anytime on the line of scrimmage... he could possibly win on this one, it's not for sure but I know for sure what is going to happen over here. It's just one of those things, even coach and I talk about. He keeps reminding me, 'hey did you see it. Yeah, I saw it.' He's like, 'okay, just as long as you're seeing it we are good.' I know exactly what play he is talking about because I saw the same one."

**Q: These guys are always so tough defensively. What's the biggest challenge?**

**Carr:** "I mean obviously you got to protect. You got to protect against Von and do those things. Myself, I got to take care of the ball with their good defensive backs. Whenever you play a team like this, it's always about the ball. You got to take care of the football which is something we have been able to do well around here for some years. Something we can do better though. Obviously, after last week. We will. We are going to do that better. Making sure that you stay on schedule because you get in those long distances, let their cover guys cover and let Von come off the edge free and those kinds of things. Now they have Bradley Chubb, a top five pick, who is a good player. It's kind of similar when they had DeMarcus [Ware] and Von. They have another rusher and Von...And they try and take some pressure off him. You just got to take care of the ball and stay on schedule. The normal, cliché things that are actually really good coaching points that you have to do."



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### **Broncos LB Von Miller**

#### **Q: What was your reaction to the Khalil Mack trade?**

**Miller:** "I mean, honestly I was shocked. I always felt like Khalil and Aaron Donald were untradeable guys. J.J. Watt, I thought guys like that were untradeable. Then they traded him. A guy like Khalil, he only comes around once every lifetime. You want to keep guys like that. I'm a player, but I'm sure that Raiders ownership had [inaudible] to make the decisions that they made. You want to try to keep a guy like Khalil and have him play with your organization for a long time."

#### **Q: Will it be different without seeing Khalil this week?**

**Miller:** "In the AFC West, there's a rusher on each team. The Chargers have 54 and 99, the Chiefs got 50 and 55, the Raiders had 52 and 51. It's going to be a little weird, but that's how the game goes."

#### **Q: The Raiders have two tackles who made their first starts at new positions in Donald Penn and Koltan Miller. What have you seen from them?**

**Miller:** "Donald Penn can play any position on the line. 77 is a beast. He was the best tackle in this year's draft. I've always said the Raiders have the best offensive line in football. They made it a whole lot better with the Miller kid."

#### **Q: Are you happy to see other defensive players get paid big?**

**Miller:** "Yeah. That's how the game goes. You want everybody to go get paid."

#### **Q: Do you want a raise?**

**Miller:** "You always want more, want more, want more. I'm playing great football right now. I'm with a great franchise right now. They love me. When it was time for me to get my contract, they did right by me. I'm sure they'll continue to do the same in the future."

#### **Q: You've trained with Chuck Smith in the past, right?**

**Miller:** "Yep."

#### **Q: Did you come across Arden Key? What were your impressions of him?**

**Miller:** "Yeah, I know Arden Key. I knew Arden Key at LSU two or three years ago. I honestly thought he was going to be a top-five pick. He's a top-five talent. He's a great talent. As he continues to develop, he's developing into the pass rusher that the Raiders need him to be."

### **Broncos Head Coach Vance Joseph**

#### **Q: You've had to game plan for the Raiders defense with Khalil Mack. Do you much prefer to game plan them without?**

**Joseph:** "Well, obviously. Khalil is a great player. He's not there so we have not game planned the Raiders with Khalil because he hasn't been there. So we will game plan the team we watched on tape on Monday and through the preseason. That being said it's still a very, very good defense. Watching those guys play in the first three quarters of that game on Monday night, I was very impressed with their defense. I've coached two of those guys on the defense, Leon Hall and Reggie Nelson. And I coached





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with Paul Guenther who is a helluva, helluva football coach. I know Paulie is going to have some answers for us and he is going to make it hard for us on Sunday.”

**Q: Does it at all make it easier because you do know him [Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther] and you do know some of his tendencies?**

**Joseph:** “Well, yeah. I mean it’s different than knowing the scheme and what’s coming each play right? So players play and coaches coach. I can sit on the sideline and can assume he’s going to call this or call that. But the players have to play and make plays. Most football plays, it comes down to matchups. It comes down to technique and fundamentals. I know Paul’s defense but he’s obviously changed some over the years. I haven’t been with Paul in three seasons now. I’m sure he has changed and adjusted. He’s doing different things and he is getting better and better each year. I’m really excited to see Paulie show up and play good defense on Sunday. It’s going to be fun and competitive.”

**Q: How does the addition of Martavis Bryant affect how you prepare for the Raiders offense?**

**Joseph:** “Well, I mean he gives them a serious vertical threat. I mean this guy over the years has made big plays in the screen game and obviously on the long ball. I faced him six or seven times when I coached in Cincinnati and he always made a big play on us. He’s obviously a matchup problem so we have to have a plan when he is in the game to play him top-down.”

**Q: Do you think Martavis opens things up for the other wide receivers?**

**Joseph:** “Absolutely. I mean if he runs vertical he’s going to carry probably two or three guys with him and that makes the underneath coverage really soft. Again, bringing him back is definitely a good deal for the Raiders and a problem for us.”

**Q: What has it been like having someone like Case Keenum and is it nice to have some stability at that spot?**

**Joseph:** “Absolutely. It’s nice having a quarterback that came in and he’s our number one quarterback. He’s been a great leader in the locker room and he’s been a great player on the field for us. As a head coach, absolutely it feels good to have a guy that I believe in and that’s proven to be a winner. After watching him play through the turnovers on Sunday, he is so resilient and so tough. I’m even more impressed with Case as a man and a player.”

**Q: How has Marquette King been for you guys?**

**Joseph:** “Marquette has been fine. He’s punting the ball fine. He did a great job against [Seahawks WR Tyler] Lockett last week with directional punting the ball and putting the ball on the sidelines so are gunners can make plays. He’s totally bought into our system of how we punt and he’s been a nice add to our team.”

**Q: The Raiders have a rookie left tackle and Donald Penn has moved over to the right side. What have you seen from those two guys at new positions?**

**Joseph:** “The entire offensive line is a good offensive line. I mean it’s really experienced. I think four out of five guys have been in the Pro Bowl and there one left tackle is a first round pick so I have great respect for their offensive line. They are big, strong and they are nasty. The quarterback rarely gets hit so it’s a helluva offensive line. It’s going to be a challenge for us to defend the run game with Marshawn





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and a challenge to get pressure on this quarterback with that line because it's an experienced, tough, nasty o-line."

**Q: With their personnel groupings and the way that they were aligning some of their wide receivers, was that a more multiple Raiders offense that you saw Monday Night than maybe you remember it being last season?**

**Joseph:** "That's Coach Gruden. He is going to make the defense adjust. That's the best thing he has done in his career. He makes the defense work. They can be the same concepts but the dressing of how it looks, it looks different to the defense. And that makes it hard because defensively you want to get aligned and to the same formations and attack the plays, but he won't give you that chance. He is going to show you the same concepts but with different window dressing and that's coach's strength."

**Q: Was there anything that surprised you about the offense they ran on Monday Night?**

**Joseph:** "No, I wasn't surprised by it. It was really nice play calls and how he attacked [Rams Defensive Coordinator] Coach Wade [Phillips] in the first half was genius. He used receivers as decoys and opened up the tight end seams over and over again. Obviously, that was the game plan and that's play calling. I was really impressed with how he attacked Coach Wade in the first half."