



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Texans Head Coach Bill O'Brien Conference Call

Q: What has impressed you about the Raiders' 7-2 start?

Coach O'Brien: "Well, where do you want me to start? You know what I mean? They're playing very well in all three phases. I'll start on special teams, obviously they're specialists are excellent players. [Sebastian] Janikowski and [Marquette] King, Jon Condo was at Maryland when I was coaching there. I mean, that's how long he's been doing it for this league, in this league long snapping. Got good returners, [Jalen] Richard's done a nice job of returning. They're fast and athletic on special teams. Defensively, they're big inside. They've got [Khalil] Mack and [Bruce] Irvin, excellent pass rushers, fast athletic linebackers, physical strong secondary and offensively, Derek Carr is playing at a high level. You got Amari Cooper, [Michael] Crabtree, those guys are playing at a high level. And [Latavius] Murray, Murray's a 230-pound back that's running the ball downhill. So, they're playing at a high level, it's a big challenge for us. We think we're playing pretty well, so hopefully it'll be a good game."

Q: How impressive has the Raiders' offensive line played?

Coach O'Brien: "Yeah, very impressive. I know, obviously, we have a lot of respect for [Raiders Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] and the way he coaches and then offensively with [Raiders offensive coordinator] Bill Musgrave and [Raiders offensive line coach] Mike Tice. Those guys are doing a good job. They're very difficult to deal with, lot of different personnel groups, but when it comes to bread and butter, it looks like it's 320 pounds across the board basically, and big, physical guys that can move. It's going to be a big challenge to stand up to that offensive line."

Q: What have you seen from Khalil Mack in the last few games with his increase in sacks?

Coach O'Brien: "I mean, I would say that guy has been playing pretty well all year. I mean, I've watched all the games – he looks pretty effective to me. Look, it's not always the sack stats that you look at, it's how much they're affecting the quarterback. I think, recently, they've had probably close to 30 quarterback pressures. Forget about the sacks, when you're pressuring the quarterback like that, it's kind of like us, I think we've done a pretty good job of pressuring the quarterback and it affects the quarterback. So, that's what Khalil does and the same thing with Irvin. Irvin's a good player too. I think that they're a big challenge. They're fast, they're athletic, they're tough, they play the run well. Obviously, one of the better teams we've played this year."

Q: Are you able to treat this game like any other road game with it actually being closer than flying to Oakland?

Coach O'Brien: "That's right. Yeah, I would say that's right. I think the biggest difference is, obviously, it's international. So, we have to have our passports ready and things like that. But, I would say overall, it's a very normal trip for us and I know it's a great opportunity for our organization, for Oakland and the NFL to play in Mexico City. But, at the same time, I think it's more about obviously, the game for us and making sure that we have a good week of preparation and are ready to go on Monday Night."

Q: Do you have to do anything special to prepare for the altitude?

Coach O'Brien: "We're talking to our players about a few things, but nothing out of the ordinary. I think we're not there long enough for it to have a huge effect, so I think we're just, like I said, looking forward to getting there and playing the game and were trying to do some things as it relates to where we're playing. But overall, just getting ready for the Raiders."

Texans P Shane Lechler Conference Call

Q: Do you still get excited to play against your old team?

Lechler: "Yeah, I have a lot of respect for those guys and really good friendships still on that team. I'm looking forward to it. I've done it. I've played in Oakland. I've played the Raiders here in Houston. Now, it's funny, but it'll be the third different city to play this game in. I'm looking forward to it. They're playing really good right now, so we'll see how it goes."



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Q: Was there anything different with the altitude from when you played with the Raiders in Mexico City in 2001?

Lechler: "That was 17 years ago, man. I was trying to make the team at the time. I really don't remember too much about it. You know, there's some strange things that I remember, that [Rich] Gannon refused to play in that game. I don't really remember kicking that much in the stadium. I know I was trying to make the team, competing against Leo [Araguz] at the time. That's really about all that I remember."

Q: Do you remember anything about the environment or what the game was like? Any memories?

Lechler: "No. Like you said, it was an exhibition game against the Cowboys. It was a big deal. A couple of nights before the game we went to dinner with them. You know it was my first year in the league, so I don't really recall a whole lot about it. To tell you the truth, I don't really remember a lot about it."

Q: What differences can you feel when you punt at higher altitudes?

Lechler: "In Denver, I can see anywhere from six to seven yards difference in ball carry, just over my past experience there. I know the altitude here in Mexico City is going to be little higher, but you still have to hit a good ball. It's not like every single time it's going to be a huge difference. You still have to hit a solid ball and just go in there and not over kick."

Q: What do you think about how Marquette King has done over the past few years?

Lechler: "Yeah, he's doing a good job. I have a lot of respect for Marquette. He's handling it really well. He's doing a good job. He's been steady for them."

Q: Have you seen any of his post-punt dances?

Lechler: "Unfortunately, I have."