



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: "I'll be happy to answer any questions I can. How are you guys doing?"

Q: Do you have anything planned for your birthday today?

Coach Gruden: "No, not really. Wish I did, but the last couple of days of training camp, we're just going to try to finish strong. Our guys have gotten better and better and that's something I'm excited about."

Q: What did you see from Josh Jacobs when watching the tape of the game?

Coach Gruden: "He's a good back, there's no doubt. He can run the ball. He has good vision. He can break arm tackles. He has some acceleration and burst, no doubt. I think he's going to be a really good player."

Q: What did you see from Clelin Ferrell when you watched the tape?

Coach Gruden: "Obviously, he had the two penalties. His hands got a little careless. His pursuit, his ability to stop the run, his play recognition. He's going to be a really good power rusher I think. We're really happy with Ferrell."

Q: Is it unusual to have a rookie running back be as advanced in both the rushing and passing game as Jacobs is?

Coach Gruden: "Pretty much, there's been some rookies in the last few years do it. I mean 'Zeke' [Ezekiel] Elliott, some of the rookies, Kareem Hunt. There's been guys coming in and really do a great job as rookies. It's not common, handling all the blitzes and protections and the audibles and then the route. Then handling the ball. It's a complex matter, being involved in the passing game. Can you line up in the slot? Can you line up as a receiver? He's shown a lot of versatility. I think he's going to be a really good three-down back before it's all said and done."

Q: Will the volume of his workload affect how many running backs you will keep?

Coach Gruden: "Well, we're not sure what we're going to do yet, really, with turning the whole enchilada over to him or not. We feel like [Jalen] Richard is very special to us. DeAndré Washington is healthy. He's had a great camp. In the past we've used two halfbacks at a time. We've had three running backs in a game together. The question is how many fullbacks, how many halfbacks, how many backs will we keep. That'll be a challenge for us."

Q: Is this team faster than last year's team?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, we're a lot faster than last year. I mean I could say that every position is faster. We had to get faster and we have to keep getting faster. We needed to get bigger and we have to keep getting bigger. Big and fast is a big part of the Raider image I think. That's the kind of guys we're looking for. Big, fast guys that love it."

Q: At that speed are there any position groups where you are seeing that in particular?

Coach Gruden: "Well the defensive line is faster, no question. I think secondary is a lot faster. Our receivers are really fast. Our tight ends are fast and I like that."

Q: How much do you expect to see your starters play in the last two preseason games?



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Coach Gruden: “Not much. We’re going to go play a home game in Canada. I haven’t done that before. We’re looking into the surface that we’re playing on. We’re not sure how much we’re going to play our starters. We don’t have 22 starters in ink yet either. So, there’s going to be some guys that are vying or competing to become starters. But some of the front line guys will probably be very limited in the next two weeks.”

Q: The Rams left a lot of guys home when they went to Hawaii. Are you planning on leaving any guys home with Canada?

Coach Gruden: “We’re planning on having a good experience in Winnipeg. I’ve never been there. I don’t think some of our players have been to Winnipeg. We’re planning on taking everyone.”

Q: How did you come out of the game health wise?

Coach Gruden: “Pretty good. We have some guys that are knicked up. We have some questions as who will be available this week, but nothing serious to really report. We do have some mild ankles and hamstrings and things like that, but nothing serious.”

Q: On the back end of the wide receiver depth chart, you have talked about having some tough choices...

Coach Gruden: “Yeah, it’s really tough. If you watch us play, you’re seeing just about every receiver make a contribution. Keelan Doss has been good, we’ve talked about him. Rico Gafford has picked it up. J.J. Nelson has had a strong camp. [Keon] Hatcher is a good player. Hunter Renfrow and [Ryan] Grant have had good camps. So, it’ll be a challenge for us. [General Manager Mike] Mayock is going to have to have his boxing gloves on. We’re going to have some fights about this roster.”

Q: Is Antonio Brown ready to start practicing with you guys?

Coach Gruden: “I think so, yeah. He took all the reps today in our walkthrough – showed great retention. We’ll see what happens here with this afternoon. We’re going to have a walkthrough today as well. We have a lot of guys who can’t practice, so we’ll pick it up tomorrow.”

Q: How is Denzelle Good doing?

Coach Gruden: “Good, we took him off the PUP, which is really good. He took about 25 snaps today in our walk thru. We’re going to ease him back in. he’ll be a part of individual this afternoon. But that’s huge for us with Gabe’s [Jackson] injury and Richie’s [Incognito] situation, it’s good to have Denzelle close to returning.”

Q: Do you start backing Incognito off in terms of game reps?

Coach Gruden: “Yeah we’ve seen Incognito enough. He’s played enough football. I don’t think we need to see him pull on power anymore. I think he’s good. I’m really pleased with him and what he’s meant to Kolton Miller. He’s been a really steadying force, a real pro’s pro behind the scenes. He and Trent Brown have come in here and given us a lot. A lot more than just good play on the line.”

Q: I don’t know if you have seen any clips from Hard Knocks, but are you ever surprised by the audio you hear coming from yourself?



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Coach Gruden: "I don't like hearing all the profanity. It's like every time I swear it makes the show. I mean I just love football. I really have a lot of passion for this and I get way carried away sometimes. I apologize, but I'm not as foul mouth as people think. If you think I am, I'm sorry."

Q: How do you think Jordan Devey did in the Arizona game?

Coach Gruden: "He did good. He's a really good communicator. He has a lot of experience that helps him to lean on. He's really versatile, we know that, but he can make all the blocks at right guard. I think he's a veteran. It'll help Trent. They'll be good over there. We also need him to be a backup center. One of the best stories here has been Andre James, honestly, our backup center. He played 61 plays the other night. He might be better than we think he is."

QB Derek Carr

Q: Are you going to play again this preseason?

Carr: "We'll see. Like [Head] Coach [Jon Gruden] always says, he makes us prepare for literally everything. Then he'll tell us literally right beforehand. Honestly, we find more stuff out after he talks to you guys. So y'all ask him for me."

Q: Do you see anything at this point that would hold Antonio Brown back from practicing?

Carr: "I do not. He did everything with us just now. The man's recall is unbelievable. He came in and had no mental errors. In this offense, that's not easy to do. Especially whenever you have a day off just even as a player, you come back and you have to stay on Coach Gruden's offense all the time. You can tell Antonio has been study because he came out and didn't miss a beat."

Q: Was he out there during 7-on-7?

Carr: "Yeah, whatever we did today, he was a part of it. A part of everything that we did today."

Q: How was that for you to have a huge piece of this offense back?

Carr: "You know I can get to all my checks and all that stuff that I'll do during the season. Then I have the big Tyrell [Williams] and [Darren] Waller and our running backs and Antonio, they're all 1-on-1. What do you do? Who do you go to? That's the mental game that we'll have to play, me and Coach Gruden were talking about that beforehand. It's nice to have him and I can play it like a real game, where I'd go and what I'd do."

Q: What did you see in that first series with Josh Jacobs as your running back?

Carr: "Really good, right? His vision. You know I've been able to hand the ball off to some really good running backs. I've played with some fun ones, MJD [Maurice Jones-Drew], D-Mac [Darren McFadden], Latavius [Murray], Marshawn [Lynch], Doug [Martin], and that's just the guys that've carried most of the footballs. I've played with a lot of good backs. Watching his vision was really impressive because I have the best seat in the house. I'm sitting back there playing Madden tell him to cut back and trying to run for him. He's right up there with those guys. For him to do that, especially in his first game. I think the thing that rubbed off on me the most about Josh was his want to. It wasn't like, 'Oh man this is my first game.' None of that. He was out there just trying to bully people. He was out there trying to run hard. He didn't care that he's a rookie. He's trying to prove that he's the best back in the NFL. That's his



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mindset. Really impressed. Obviously the runs and all of that, the offensive line did a great job, but more so impressed with his demeanor and mentality.”

Q: What does he bring in the passing game?

Carr: “Yeah, he’s very, very advanced. I think everyone knows you have to be really good in the passing game to play in Coach Gruden’s offense as a running back. A lot of our quick game, the old West Coast, Joe Montana, Rodger Craig kind of plays, all that kind of stuff. He has to be able to do that and he can. I think that coming in we knew how good of a runner he was. We knew he’s tough, we knew he could block. You just never know with rookie running backs that are that big. How flexible are they? Can they run the routes? Can they catch? He’s been really impressive. I’ll let his game speak for it, but for me I’ve been impressed by him.”

Q: In terms of the depth of options in the passing game, what does that do for this offense?

Carr: “Yeah, so we can be very diverse. We can play 22-football with two backs and two tight ends. Or we can go out there with a whole bunch of receivers and Waller and play that way. We can run the triple option if we want to. We have all the pieces to be able to do whatever Coach can think of, and trust me, he thinks of everything. I think you guys know him. Some of you have been around him for longer than I have and know him from the first time. He’s going to want weapons at every position and he wants to be deep on offense. I think the cool thing we saw in the preseason game is we only played one series, but the points kept going up when those other guys went in. You see a guy like Rico [Gafford]. You see [Keelan] Doss, Hunter [Renfrow], Keon [Hatcher], all these guys making these plays. That’s just how he likes it. He wants depth everywhere so the defense has a lot to prepare for.”

Q: Is it fun for you to look out how the other quarterbacks are getting treated their first year with Gruden and how they react to it?

Carr: “Absolutely, and the thing about him is what people don’t get to see enough of maybe, is he treats us like we are his kids, like he loves us dearly. That guy, when he is getting on us is just because he wants us to be perfect and that’s just how he is. So, it’s fun to watch the show and I tell those guys, ‘Hey, man.’ I told them before, ‘He’s aggressive, he’s going to be like that and it’s all because he wants you to be the best.’ It has nothing to do with him coming at you or him thinking some type of way about you. It’s only because he wants you to be the best version of yourself, so I get to sit back and watch it. Obviously, year two in the offense, less mistakes. I’m not getting yelled at as much, so it’s kind of more fun for me, but it’s definitely funny to me to sit back and watch it on TV, and then he says he needs to stop cussing and all those kinds of things. I said, ‘Good luck, man! I wish you the best.’

Q: Was his [Coach Gruden’s] tough love hard for you at the very first, did it take a little getting used to?

Carr: “To be completely honest, we were both growing in the offense. We had very minimal moments like that. I can think of maybe one or two, just off the top of my head, where it’s like, ‘Hey, that’s just unacceptable.’ You know how much he cares about you. You know where his heart is, You just say, ‘Yes sir.’ He’s just trying to make you better, so we never had a problem. I’ve had some head coaches, I won’t throw their names out there. I’ve had some certain coaches in my life, especially in college, that were the same way, so I’ve been used to that for sure.”

Q: Have you worn the same helmet since you got in the league?



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Carr: "I have not. No, I have not. I had to switch mine because they were going to stop making mine. They aren't going to keep making it and I was like, 'Man, I don't want to have to deal with that in the future.' Trying to find one and all that kind of stuff, so I just ended up switching mine. And for me, quarterbacks are so different. If we don't get to run and hit anybody, anytime we get hit it's basically by somebody we don't see, hitting our head and things like that, so the vision is all the same to me and my helmets. I could see how some receivers, how 'AB' [Antonio Brown], the vision and stuff could be different, absolutely. It sits different, but for mine it was just more so about I'll just change it so I don't have to deal with it again."

Q: What has been your vantage point of the battle at receiver for the last few spots up for grabs?

Carr: "It's really close. Usually around this time right when we are about to break camp, you're like, 'Oh, you can start doing the numbers game.' I feel like we are all trying to do it, figure it out, pencil it in and then you start writing numbers down and you're like, 'I got 10 numbers down. Gosh dang. I guess we can't keep 10 of those.' You sit there and, again, I said this, I may have said it after the game, it's like when we go to cut day we are going to be cutting good football players and that shows you how deep our team is. So, I'm glad I don't have to make those decisions, but those guys we cut, I'm not worried about them. They are going to get picked up and be off to the races, but I just don't know who it's going to be right now. I don't know what way they want to go, the coaches and Mr. Mayock and things like that, but just sitting there looking at it they can all play, so whoever we keep I know they are going to be ready to go."

Q: What sort of impressions have you formed of Ryan Grant, both personality wise and on the field?

Carr: "Yeah, I would say the same thing. I have known 'RG', we played on the same Senior Bowl team together. So I flew out to New Orleans when he was at Tulane with Coach 'W', and Jalen Saunders, who was my receiver at Fresno and then went to Oklahoma. We were all on the same Senior Bowl team, so we were working out together and the very first time I met him, 'Oh, hey. How's it going?' (whisper) Like very quiet, doesn't say much, but then you watch that man play football and he's talking trash and he's talking to DBs, but as soon as he gets back in the huddle doesn't say a word. Very nice, very polite guy, but extremely good football player. Extremely smart and I think he's healthy for the first time in a while. I think that's a plus for him. We saw him make some great catches in the Rams' practices and then the game, that ball he caught and kept his feet in. I think we are starting to see him come out of his shell a little bit on the football field, maybe not so much talking to him, but that's alright. [Amari Cooper] 'Coop' didn't talk much either and we get along great, so we'll be alright."

WR Tyrell Williams

Q: I know it was only one play, but to kind of see that sync you have shown in practice in a game, does that matter?

Williams: "Yeah, definitely. It's just nice to get out there, put the jersey on for the first time, the whole uniform on for the first time, it was to fun. And then to get a catch like that, it's something we've been working on in practice, it was nice just to get it in a game setting."

Q: When you can get somebody like Josh Jacobs going like that, it probably makes your job a little bit easier?



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Williams: "Definitely. If you can fill the box it's just going to open up more for all of us receivers, so having him run the way that he did, especially those first three plays, was awesome, it opened up a lot for us."

Q: What have you seen from Jacobs generally speaking?

Williams: "Confidence. He shows a lot of confidence. It's hard to tell with running backs, in practice you're not hitting or anything like that, but seeing him have that success early on, quick three runs and really positive plays is awesome."

Q: You made a catch a lot like that one in the game in practice the other day, was that a similar play that you had in the game?

Williams: "Yeah, really just a go-ball. Give me a chance and just throw it up in that area and hopefully I can come down and make that play. I have a lot of confidence in myself to make that play and I think [Derek Carr] 'DC' has the same confidence in me."

Q: Are you interested to see how the wide receiver competition shakes out for the last two or three spots?

Williams: "Definitely. I feel like guys have made crazy plays in just those first two games. The receivers have been going crazy, making a lot of plays, so hopefully they can keep it up. I know they will, they do it in practice and then it's translating into the game how hard they work, so it's going to be interesting to see how that competition breaks down."

Q: With Antonio Brown coming back to practice, how encouraging is that for the entire unit with the options you guys have?

Williams: "It's awesome. I feel like we have guys with speed, guys with size, guys that work in the slot. Everybody has something that's really unique to them and I think everybody can do everything too, so it's just nice to see. Especially in the game, seeing the undrafted guys go out there and make plays because I know how it felt in that same situation when I first came in, so seeing them have success is awesome."

Q: Brown's presence should open things up for everybody, but in a way do you think it was helpful for some of the receivers to have time when he was off the field to sort of be forced to step up?

Williams: "For sure. Definitely. Whenever anybody goes down, whether it's injury or anything, someone is obviously going to be able to take those reps and be able to get that exposure for the coaches here and obviously from the Rams coaches as well, and in those preseason games too. So, the more reps you get, the better, obviously."

Q: How have you found Head Coach Jon Gruden as a communicator, as a presence on the field, and is it any different than you expected it to be?

Williams: "No, I don't know what I really expected. Obviously, you see the mic'd up's and stuff before I started playing for him. So, I mean just being around him he's hilarious and fun to be around so it's been awesome, just his one-liners and all that stuff is just fun and seeing him on the sidelines in games is comedy, too. It's been a lot of fun being around him."

Q: Are you guys getting a kick out of Hard Knocks? You all are watching it I assume?



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Williams: "I haven't watched any of them, honestly. By the time we get out of meetings it's usually over and I just knock out, so I haven't watched them yet. I'll probably watch them all once training camp is over."

Q: What has stood out to you about Jacobs' receiving ability?

Williams: "I think it was a couple weeks ago, he had a little one-hand grab a few weeks ago and it was kind of surprising. You don't really see running backs especially make plays like that, catches like that, so I feel like he's super versatile. He can run you over, run around you. His vision is crazy. I saw in that last game the holes that he sees on those three plays is awesome, and definitely being able to catch out of the backfield is going to be huge for him, so it's nice to see."

Q: What kind of impressions have you formed of Ryan Grant, both personality wise and on the field?

Williams: "Super quiet. I feel like I'm quiet, he's definitely quiet. He's way more quiet than me, but the plays that he's made through the preseason games have been crazy. He does it in practice and I had worked out with him a few summers ago, so I kind of knew how quiet he was and stuff, but I thought it was because I didn't really know him and getting to know him he's definitely still quiet, but he goes out there and does his job. He makes plays, when the ball is in the air, he goes up and gets it. He's not really a big guy but he goes up and makes those contested catches like he did in that first game against the Rams, so it's awesome to see him have success too."

Q: Have you seen the difference in his personality when he's actually on the field?

Williams: "It's about the same. He's quiet and when he scored that touchdown, I came in there and I was pretty hyped for him and he's still pretty quiet, just kind of mellow. It's cool to see no matter the success he has or he has a bad day, he's the same."