



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** “Alright, not much changed from yesterday when we visited about the game. It was unfortunate, a little bit disappointing, but it’s one game. It’s just one you’d much prefer to have won and have this week off, but we didn’t get that done. Bottom line is, for us, it’s all about recovering as quick as possible. Get up off the mat, dust yourself off, get to work, get ready for the Houston Texans. We’ve earned the opportunity to play in the postseason tournament. We’re excited about that. We’re going to put a plan together and see how many healthy bodies we can get together and go out and play. Compete our butts off. Questions?”

#### **Q: Is health a concern after the game?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “A little bit. Yeah, we have a few guys that are banged right now. That’ll be getting them as healthy as possible. The short week doesn’t make it any better. We’re excited to be in the postseason. We’ll be energized come game time.”

#### **Q: How is Matt McGloin feeling compared to yesterday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Sore. I saw him in the training room. He’s sore.”

#### **Q: Is there a more specific diagnosis than sore shoulder?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Not really. That’s really what it is. I didn’t get any further details on [it]. I know he had an MRI, but usually if there’s a problem, they come up and let me know. I think it’s just sore. I think it was banged pretty good and just sore.”

#### **Q: If he’s able to play, will he be your starter?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “We’ll see. We’ll see how the week goes. Between Connor [Cook] and Matt, we’ll see who we can get the most reps, who we feel the most comfortable going into the game.”

#### **Q: What did you think of Cook’s performance?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I thought Connor was pretty solid. I thought he handled himself pretty well. You know, ball security is so huge that we had a couple of ball security issues. That defense is pretty good. I thought overall that he did a pretty solid job for a tough set of circumstances for him. I thought he handled himself well, given the circumstances.”

#### **Q: How do you make sure Cook doesn’t get overwhelmed by the moment if he starts?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “Either way you know you’re dealing with a tough situation. You’re dealing with your backup, maybe a third-stringer. For us, it’s so much more important that we focus on second-and-13, not giving up a 64-yard run, third-and-18, not giving up a 43-yard touchdown on a screen pass. Those are the ways we can help the quarterbacks. Quarterbacks are going to give us what they have and do the best they can. We have to play well around them. We can’t expect them to come in and put us on their shoulders. We need them to come in and do their job and that’s what we expect them to do this week.”

#### **Q: Is it surprising that the other phases didn’t pick up in the absence of Derek Carr besides special teams?**

**Coach Del Rio:** “I thought special teams was pretty good. I would agree with that assessment. I think there were a great number of plays that were exactly like they needed to be, rugged tackles for loss, but there were a couple of plays that just got away from us, where the tackling was poor. I don’t know that I’ve seen tackling like that all year. Just a little surprised by it. Look, it was one day. That’s the way I have to look at it, as one day. For whatever reason, we were off and we didn’t play well and we lost the game. What I know about this game is win or lose, whether you’re feeling good and people are praising you and patting you on the back or whether you’re feeling bad and you let an opportunity slip away, you have to get on to the next game. That’s where we are. We’ll get ourselves ready.”



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**Q: Are you bringing in an extra quarterback this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I would think at some point we'll add somebody, whether it's on the practice squad or on the active roster. At some point, I would think we'll get another guy in here."

**Q: Do you think it would be an advantage for Connor Cook knowing if he'll be the starter later in the week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Maybe not. *(laughter)* Might want to wait until halftime and throw him in there. *(laughter)* You know, there's two ways of looking at it, so I think obviously the weight of, 'Oh my gosh, this is your first start and it's going to be a playoff game,' that's a big one to bite off. So, whether that is the case or whether he comes in in a backup role, we'll see. But, we're going to work through the week the best we can, see what we have health-wise with our team and then make that determination."

**Q: How did Matt McGloin play before being injured?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, it could have been a lot better. I think the one glaring miss was the one to 'Coop' [Amari Cooper]. That was an obvious, in all likelihood, a catch-and-run for a touchdown. So, that was a big one to miss on. I thought he had a couple decent throws earlier in the game. The one to 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree] on the sideline was a pretty good throw, he just didn't come up with it. It was tight coverage. So, we had some of those opportunities. I think it was just OK. We didn't run it the way we ended to run it and to me we didn't run it enough. I mean, Latavius [Murray] ends up with five carries. How's that happen? It wasn't a great job of executing by the Oakland Raiders. So, you know, that's what it is. We own up to it and we're going to put it behind us as quick as possible and move forward."

**Q: Did you think McGloin was pressing at all yesterday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yes. I think he was. I think the magnitude and the opportunity, I think he pressed a little bit, but at the end of the day was that the end-all and be-all? No. It's a team game. We made it harder. We let the opening drive go down for a score. That's the worst thing you can do for an offense that's playing with a new quarterback. Now they're feeling more pressure than they need to feel. So, the reality is as a team, we've won all year as a team, we lose as a team. It wasn't a good day for us and the sooner we can kind of put that behind us and start focusing on the Houston Texans and the opportunity there, the better and the more healthy we'll be going into that game, because I think that's big for us. We've got a good team, got a good group of guys and there were a lot of good, positive plays that were made yesterday but there were a couple, kind of really ugly plays that kept us from realizing one of our number one goals."

**Q: Will you practice tomorrow with a short week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, tomorrow's kind of a Tuesday/Wednesday combination day in terms of mental work and then we'll go from there with a fairly normal lead up to the game."

**Q: Will there be some physical stuff tomorrow on the field?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It'll be fairly light. It'll be closer to walk through than it will be a full-padded practice."

**Q: After getting a glimpse of what it looks like without Derek, how do you guard against the team thinking that that is what it will be without Derek; that they can't win without him?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "There are too many examples of us being just a little bit away from it being a whole lot better. I think when you watch the tape the way we do and the way we show our players in the morning, I think they'll come away with confidence of what it can be. That starts, to me, in the run game. It'll obviously run the ball and be able to stop the run. Those are the two number one things."

**Q: Is Derek going to travel to Houston?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Probably not."



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**Q: How do you pick up the morale, especially with the short week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We'll bounce back. We'll pick ourselves up and go. Like I said, it starts with me and the coaching staff and the leaders on the team. We'll get it going and pick each other up. We'll be ready to roll this week."

**Q: Is Nate Allen in concussion protocol?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yes."

**Q: Is Karl Joseph any closer to playing?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yes."

**Q: Mario Edwards Jr. only played 17 defensive snaps. Was that a matter of just what packages you were using?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He struggled a little bit. He was sick. Wasn't feeling great and I think he played 17 or 18 snaps. He didn't play as much as we had hoped to play him, but he was a little under the weather."

**Q: Next man up is sort of a mantra in this league. You've been through it a lot as a player and a coach. When you lose someone of the magnitude and importance like Derek Carr, how do you put that behind you? It seems easier said than done.**

**Coach Del Rio:** "A lot of things are easier said than done. It's what you do. It's what we do. If I say that and we go out and play the way we're capable of and win going away, then maybe coach knows what he's talking about. It comes into question today because we didn't play that well. That's natural. Questions are going to be asked, that's natural. What you do as a group of men is you come together and everybody does what they're capable of doing for each other. You go in with great energy and belief and you keep fighting. Yesterday, I thought when we generated that turnover right after the score, I thought, 'Here we go, we're getting ready to do it again.' It just didn't quite materialize there. We've got a good group."

**Q: Earlier, you mentioned the missed throw on that deep ball to Amari Cooper. Matt McGloin indicated that maybe it was a miscommunication. Do you know exactly what happened on that play?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, he missed him."

**Q: Playing on Saturday for a postseason game where you lose a day of rest and prep and all that, does that bother you at all?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, no. In fact, we're well prepared for it. We did it several times this year."

**Q: With Derek Carr not traveling, who do you guys look for...**

**Coach Del Rio:** "First off, since we're talking about Derek again, I have to give a shout out because I know you're watching, Derek. *(laughter)* Derek came in and lifted me up today too. I appreciate that too, Derek."

**Q: Who do you look for in that leadership role now?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I talked about this, I think the other day, maybe with this group. There were a lot of questions asked when Charles Woodson retired. Who is going to fill the void? What I spoke of was the fact that it comes from a lot of different areas. Sometimes when there is a big presence like Charles, one person is not going to be able to fill that. I feel like Derek is kind of similar. Even though he's a young player and all that, that void that is created, it provides opportunities for other guys to step up and that's what's occurring."

**Q: Yesterday was Brynden Trawick's first time playing defense all year. How did he do?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He did well. Kind of like Daren Bates, those guys are primarily special teams players and that's really why they're here and they're really good at it. Daren was called on earlier in the year to play linebacker and played pretty well in the game. That's what Trawick did for us yesterday. He did a nice job, made some plays, made some tackles, had some good coverage. So yeah, he played well."



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**Q: You mentioned a couple times and alluded to how the run game didn't get going. You ran the ball so well against that same team earlier in the season. How do you explain the difference? Were they completely geared up to take away the run or was it an execution thing?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think they were geared up similarly to how they were geared up the last time. The bottom line is they got off blocks. We didn't execute the blocks as well. The timing wasn't quite as good and there were some opportunities for it to be a whole lot better, but at the end of the day, you make those blocks, you spring the guy, you start gaining confidence, you start running it and you stay with it. Plays that were really close to breaking out that don't, that you get away from because they didn't go, require patience. And part of that is – and I spoke to this yesterday – when you want to run the ball well, you have to move the chains. We were terrible on third down yesterday. The best way to getting a running game going is to get more opportunities and be able to run it more. Part of that is converting on third [down]."