



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **QB Derek Carr**

**Q: Is it nice to see your defense is coming alive and making plays even though you want to be successful on offense?**

**Carr:** "Yes. The more difficult it is for us on offense with the kind of weapons we have and the talent we have that they can make it, it's just going to help our team. There was one today, I went over to Khalil [Mack] and I said so and so is going to be a good player. And he said, 'Yeah, I know.' And he was standing right there by us and I was like, 'It's good for the Raiders, but I'm not going to tell you yet.' It's one of the younger guys. But, it's just like as he and I see our team grow and the competition, they'll get us on a couple and we come right back and get them on a couple. I mean, when it's that even, those are really good things. That leaves the coaches headaches, but us as players it shows us that we're going to have a good football team."

**Q: Has Breon Borders stood out to you in training camp thus far?**

**Carr:** "You know what, every time I turn the film on it's like he makes a play. I think that that's how those guys catch your eye. When you're an undrafted guy, it's hard because obviously you're not going to have the first- or second-team reps all the time, obviously. All that you can see is, 'Man, who's 31?' kind of a thing. And then throughout the offseason and here at camp, he's really proven himself. The more guys that we can have like that that make plays, I'm all for it."

**Q: How much do you want to run and be more mobile outside of the pocket?**

**Carr:** "Yes, I want to be able to put stress on people, not only from the pocket. Obviously, I've been able to do that for three years, but if I can break contain, if I can see, it makes it easier this year because the game's slower. Every year the game gets slower. I know where the coverage is, I know what route beats that coverage and as soon as I see it, if it's not there then I can make something happen with my feet. I'm never going to do it too much obviously, you guys know that. But, the fact that when those coverages play out that way and I can move out and extend plays... There was one we hit K.J. [Brent] on the backline and that wasn't intended for him, but we were able to escape, escape outside, break contain and then he stayed on the move. So those guys are also learning that hey, oh wow, Derek's going to move a little bit, we can get out there with him and work with him. It's something that really puts a lot of stress, because they covered that play really. But then at the end of the day, we're able to hit one."

**Q: Did you put the stiff arm away for good?**

**Carr:** "The stiff arm needs to go away. *(laughter)* Yes, we don't need any more hand things."

**Q: How fine is the line between getting guys ready in football shape and taking care of each other as well?**

**Carr:** "You know, there is a fine line. I still feel like you need to feel it a little bit for a team. I told Bruce [Irvin] today. I said, 'Hey man...' We were doing like a one-on-one pass rush drill. I said, 'If you get to me, man, I don't mind if you grab me.' Obviously, coaches will get mad at you but I won't. *(laughter)* Because you need that as a football player. I hope it never goes away to be honest. But also, to watch these guys and how athletic they are, to run full speed and then stop a yard short before they hit a guy... I mean I think that's harder almost than to hit the guy, you know? You finish the play. But, it trains those guys, it trains their legs, trains their minds to take care of each other at practice and when the game comes, all of that goes out the window. You're able to fly through those tackles."

**Q: How much fun is it to see what Marshawn Lynch is doing for this fan base and complementing everything you already have on offense?**

**Carr:** "Obviously with how the last couple years have gone, our fans are, what I've seen, just so loyal, so awesome. And then when you add a hometown guy, you know? Someone that loves the community and he really embraces the city of Oakland. So, adding someone like that out here to an already loyal, excited fan base, you can obviously



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tell that they're loyal and excited for him as well. Just having him around, not only as the player, obviously we can all see that, but just what he brings for the city of Oakland, it's a really cool thing to see."

### **Q: What have you seen out of K.J. Brent in camp thus far?**

**Carr:** "He's a guy that he has to do the dirty work. He knows that. He's got to go in there and do the dirty work. 'Hey, if 'Coop' [Amari Cooper] goes down, I have to step up now and I have to be the X receiver for an explosive offense. As you can see, he's doing a really good job of that. He has a few, like we all do, where you're like, 'Ah, I wish I had that one back.' That's what camp is for. So, just being able to see his growth from last year to this year, it's really exciting to see. He took last year as a time to get to know the offense. He didn't take it as, 'I'm just going out to be the scout team receiver. I'm just going out to go through the motions.' He worked his tail off to learn and you can tell when he goes in, now he can go in with the ones and get reps, which is a testament to his work ethic. As long as he can continue to make those tough catches because obviously he'll tell you, he's not a 4.3 [40-yard dash] guy. He's got to make those contested grabs, and he's done a great job with that so far."

### **Q: What excites you about this year's tight end group?**

**Carr:** "Last year, I loved Clive [Walford] and all the guys, Mychal [Rivera] and Lee [Smith], obviously we all love Lee for what he can do. But when you add a guy like Jared Cook that runs a 4.3 or a 4.4 and he can out run DBs on go-routes... That's why you see that we can throw him out wide and run different kind of routes with him. We can do that kind of stuff because he is that talented. All it did was make it better. It took a good group that made a lot of big plays for us in big games and makes it better. That's what it's about."

### **Q: Do you think that Cook will change the way the defense covers you guys?**

**Carr:** "It should. But if it doesn't, he should catch a lot of footballs."

### **Q: Does your relationship with Todd Downing enable you to have some more freedom within the offense?**

**Carr:** "Yes, absolutely. Just to make it easy for you, absolutely it does."

### **Q: How comforting is it for you to know that you have that freedom and you know what he's thinking?**

**Carr:** "It is very comforting. It's also a lot to put on a quarterback, but he knows me and he knows that's how I like to play kind of a deal. As long I am thinking the exact same way he's thinking, and that's what we're trying to do here at camp and all of OTAs and mini-camp was, 'I just want to think what you think so that when I'm out on the field, I see exactly what you see and I can actually do it and change it while we're out there.' We've had discussions where we finish each other's sentences. Like, 'Hey, if you see this, I am going to go to this.' He's like, 'Exactly.' As long as we can continue to grow that way. Over the years, obviously, it will get better and better, but for the short time of him now being the OC, I'd say it's pretty darn good because of our relationship before it started."

### **Q: Have you been in contact still with Donald Penn?**

**Carr:** "Yes."

### **Q: What have you seen from Cordarrelle Patterson?**

**Carr:** "It looks like he's having fun. It looks like he's having a good time. There's a lot of guys on our team, that whenever we get them, I always ask, 'How did someone else let him go.' That size, that speed, he's like a horse out there. He's 220, 225 running a 4.3. Those don't come around all the time. Being able to get him in our offense and implement him. Not just use his as a gadget guy, but use him as a receiver. He was a first-round pick for a reason. Being able to see his talents on display has been really encouraging for us because obviously, you lose a guy like Andre Holmes, someone that can do that kind of stuff at that size and you get a guy like Cordarrelle that can kind of do the same things and also can carry the ball, can kick return and those things. It really helps our football team."



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### **Q: Have Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington deferred to Marshawn Lynch since he joined the team?**

**Carr:** "You know what, that's a good question. It'd probably be better for them personality wise, I'm not sure, in their meeting room and that kind of stuff. Everyone on this football team has a role. The coaches make it very clear what our role is. I know my role. Those running backs, they know their role. What the cool thing about this is not only does our team know what our role is, we embrace it. When we hit that season, there's going to be guys on the practice squad. They're going to sit there. They're going to embrace that role and make our team better. Same thing with the running backs. Coach will tell them, 'Hey, this is what I need you to do. Jalen, this is what I need you to do this week. DeAndré this is what I need you to do this week.' And guess what? All of you have to be ready to be the guy through in and throughout because we know how this league is on running backs. It's very physical and all those things. They have to be ready at any moment."

### **Q: You have Fresno and Bakersfield here today so can you talk about your jersey retirement ceremony?**

**Carr:** "I tried to say as much as I could in the 60 seconds you get on Instagram, but I've dreamed of that since I was a little kid. I said every time I walked down that ramp for practice, a game, a lift, a run at 6 a.m., thanks a lot [former Fresno State Strength and Conditioning] coach [Joey] Boese. I would look up and see Carr No. 8, and it was motivating every single day that I'm going to get my name up there. It was a reminder. I can remember times in some of the hardest games where I would look up and I'd see it and it was just a reminder of how hard I needed to go in that game. It was just little things like that. It sounds silly to some people, but I wanted to leave my imprint on that community and on that school. The fact that they called and they want to do that is a dream come true. It was one of my top goals. I have a lot of goals, but there's very few at the top that I wanted to reach and for my football career that was one of them. It really is a humbling thing. I was very emotional when they told me. I was like, 'What?' I didn't think they'd do that until I was like 40 years old. I'll take it."

### **Q: On that list of goals, you're knocking them out pretty quick here. What are some of the ones remaining?**

**Carr:** "Win a Super Bowl, and not just one but multiple. That's not just for me, that is for our city, for our fans, for my teammates, these coaches, all of us that are away from our family in this silly, little hotel for weeks on end. The hours that we put in, there is so much that I could get into that I want to win that so badly for everybody else because there's nothing like... I'll never forget when we won that game my rookie year versus Kansas City. We won one game, we were 1-10, and to sit there and watch everybody celebrate, there's nothing like it. I just sat there and enjoyed it. That's probably number one."

### **Q: You shared this market with Colin Kaepernick and there's only so many jobs available in the NFL. What are your thoughts that he's still out there without a job?**

**Carr:** "I know this, he's a talented football player. The times I've talked to Colin, he's a great person. I've enjoyed it. I can't speak for any other teams, organizations and all that. Obviously, we have quarterbacks so he won't come here, but I wish him the best and I hope he gets signed, I really do. I don't know if he wants to play, if he doesn't, all that stuff, but if he does I really hope he gets signed because I feel like as a football player, he can help a football team."

### **Q: Are you surprised he's still out there?**

**Carr:** "It was surprising to me, talent-wise, but again that goes not only for Colin but there's a lot of guys that are unsigned where you think, 'Man, I've watched that guy on film and he's pretty good so there must be something else there.' Thank goodness I don't make those decisions. I just try and complete passes."