



Oakland Raiders Transcript

DE Khalil Mack

Q: How was practice today?

Mack: "Yeah it's been a great week preparing just mentally, physically, just getting ready. Obviously, Thursday is going to be what it is, but it's going to be an opportunity for our younger guys to get out there and do what they do."

Q: Do you take it personally with trying to stop the run?

Mack: "Yeah, most definitely. Stopping the run is just an attitude. It's something that we take pride in. It's going to be one of those things that it's going to get corrected immediately if it hasn't been corrected already. At the same time, just knowing how teams are going to attack us, mentally and physically, you have to be ready, and we're doing that."

Q: What do you think you can do personally to try to fix the problems with run defense?

Mack: "Personally, just from a leadership standpoint, just pinpoint on the attitude and the focus of the defense knowing that we have to have that mindset of no team can run on us in any situation. Just bring that to the forefront along with all the other guys on the defensive side of the ball with Bruce [Irvin] and Reggie [Nelson] and all of them, all the guys. It's just going to be that attitude that we have to have – a dominating attitude against the run."

Q: When you look back at the past weeks of preseason, are you happy with the work that this front seven has gotten done?

Mack: "Oh yeah, absolutely. It's been a learning process. Just knowing different ways teams are going to try to attack us schematically. It's been a great learning experience. Being that we got those things under our belt, we're going to be prepared from here on out."

Q: Are there ways to get through double-teams?

Mack: "Oh, most definitely. It's a lot of ways to work through all those different blocks you're talking about. Those are the things we're focusing in on now. We're getting through them. It's going to help us. [I'm] looking forward to the challenge."

Q: How have your battles against other teammates evolved throughout training camp?

Mack: "When you say evolve, in the aspect of getting better or helping each other?"

Q: How are you helping each other?

Mack: "Oh yeah. When you talk about Menelik [Watson] and all of us really, Bruce and Donald Penn, all of us working together, you're talking about guys that really are trying to get better still. Menelik being a younger player like myself, he's coming in and he's asking questions, as well as me asking him questions. So it's been kind of like a conversation. Even talking about guys I'm going against in the game. He'll come to the sideline to ask me what I'm seeing from him. So it's one of those type of things with us. It's been a great, great, great, great, great time working with them guys."

Q: Do you want to fast forward past this game into the regular season? I don't want to say this game is boring, but just...

Mack: "Yeah, you could say that, but I'm excited. I'm excited for the younger guys, get to see them take advantage of this opportunity. One of these opportunities only come so many times in a lifetime. You're getting to see Shilique [Calhoun] and all those guys go out there and be aggressive and play for a long period of time. It's going to be exciting to see and see how they make plays."



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Q: What have you seen from Matt McGloin and Connor Cook? Have you seen growth from those guys?

Mack: "Most definitely, especially Connor. You know how he came in just him, just a young quarterback. Everything was thrown at him at once. He took it in and as time went on we've seen progression from him."

Q: Have you seen growth from McGloin as well?

Mack: "Oh yeah, I've seen a lot of different things. You can tell with him, his confidence is rising the more and more he plays. [Matt] McGloin, we call him M.J., you know what I'm saying, fade away. He's confident in everything he does. He already has that mentality like he's the starter. McGloin is a heck of a quarterback. You know we'll be good with him at that number two spot."

Q: Could you imagine if what happened to Teddy Bridgewater with his injury happening to Derek Carr?

Mack: "Hold on. What did you say about Teddy Bridgewater?"

Q: He went down with a non-contact injury and it looks like it could be serious.

Mack: "Really? Oh I didn't know that. Really? Preseason?"

Q: Yeah at practice.

Mack: "Practice? Wow. Yeah. That's the 12th man on the field for a lot of the times. You have to account for that. Injuries, they suck, but you have to have guys that can step in and that's when that comes, that whole kind of thing comes into play, but it's unfortunate to hear that. Very unfortunate to hear that."

Q: What have you seen from guys like James Cowser and Shilique Calhoun, younger guys that you're going to count on at times to be rotational players?

Mack: "No doubt. You're talking about progression; just guys getting better. Whether it's getting off the ball or whether it's making reads or whether it's stopping the run, playing off the tight ends. Just different things you see from both of those guys that you can definitely tell they could come in and make a difference. As far as playing for however many snaps they're going to have to play, they're going to be able to hold it down and play effective for us."