



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening statement: “OK, got the Giants this week. The tape tells you what you need to know. Big offensive line. Big, strong defensive line. Playing hard, playing tough. They’re 2-1 in our division. We don’t get into the media reports, we get into the tape. We’re getting prepared to play a football team with a lot of talented players and a lot of talented coaches. We’re gearing up for a tough battle that we have to have. Our margin for error is already in our review mirror. We have to play really good football and find a way to get a win this week. They have our full attention. Questions?”

Q: What does Geno Smith bring to the table?

Coach Del Rio: “First I’d like to say I have a lot of respect for the Manning family. I’ve had the pleasure of having Peyton on the same team for a few years in Denver. I played against Peyton for a long time in that division. I know the family really well. It’s got to be a tough, tough deal. He’s one of the all-time greats. Two-time Super Bowl winner, very accomplished player. I have a soft spot for that. Aside from that, we’re digging into the preparation. It’s the Giants against the Raiders. We’re trying to figure out all that we can about this opponent. We don’t play them all the time. So, it’s not like somebody in our division or somebody that we’re playing every year that we know. We’ve got to really spend extra time getting to know this squad. Like I said, they’ve been successful in our division against teams that we know are good football teams. That’s how we’re preparing for it. Geno, in particular, we saw him back in ’15 here when he came in, and I think he had 40-plus throws in that game and completed a good number of them. We know he’s very capable.”

Q: Do you see this as a potential big game for Jared Cook with the Giants’ struggles against tight ends?

Coach Del Rio: “I don’t get into all of that in terms of fantasy numbers and all that stuff. I know they have some very capable people of their own we’re worried about. [Evan] Engram is a heck of a player. He’s been targeted over 80 times this year already. We’ll worry about trying to put out that fire. Obviously, we’re going to do everything we can to get our own guys involved and be as productive as possible on offense.”

Q: Was last week as good of a game as you’ve played on both sides of the line this year?

Coach Del Rio: “It’s hard to say. I think it was a good effort. We needed it. That’s in our review mirror and now we’re looking to have a really good effort this week.”

Q: You obviously did not agree with Michael Crabtree’s two game suspension. Now that it was reduced to one game, have your feelings on that changed? What are your thoughts?

Coach Del Rio: “No, the league has to do what it has to do. I’ll do my job. My job is to coach the guys. I don’t have to like everything they do, and often I don’t. This would be an example of that.”

Q: What do you think about what Isaac Whitney has done on practice squad?

Coach Del Rio: “He’s a young player that earned his way onto the squad as a practice squad member. We’re looking to develop all the guys that we have in that role. He’s taken advantage of the reps and improved his play as we’ve gone throughout the year. I know he’s excited about having the opportunity to go out and play. We’re likely to have him up and let him participate. I’m looking forward to watching him.”

Q: Were there any thoughts of bringing Sebastian Janikowski back? What was his status at that point?

Coach Del Rio: “No, there’s not been any... I don’t even believe he’s been cleared to the point of being ready to do that. That wasn’t ever a consideration. I think Giorgio [Tavecchio] has handled the job, has done a nice job with it. There’s no reason to change at this point.”



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Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: Do you have to spend any extra time with Seth Roberts and Cordarrelle Patterson or is it next man up?

Carr: "It's a mixture of both. Obviously, you hope 'Coop' [Amari Cooper] gets better fast and all those things. Obviously, we know 'Crab' [Michael Crabtree] won't be here this week, but it's a little bit of both. Next man up is always our mantra and what we stand by. That's how any football team needs to be. It has to be next man up. At the same time, I do need to spend extra time with them because the guys that get all the reps usually with me, are 'Coop' and 'Crab.' Seth gets a lot of reps with me, C.P. on certain things, Johnny [Holton] on certain things. But now we have to make sure we get them all of those reps that sometimes they wouldn't get with me."

Q: Do you see things changing with the offense dramatically where you might get away from the passing game and run it more?

Carr: "Yeah, I think we're going to go Wing-T. We're going to run the triple option. Hopefully that doesn't get out *(laughing)*."

Q: What's your reaction to what happened with Eli Manning?

Carr: "You know, with what happened with Eli... I know this about Eli, he's a great person. I was able to learn from him a couple years ago at the Pro Bowl. We were on the same team. I was very fortunate and blessed to be on that same team as him. Just learn from him, ask questions, all those things. My brother spent a lot of time with him, obviously. They won a championship together. They were in the same room together for many years. That's a question that I would love to answer in the offseason. I'd love to sit down, and we can even do that, talk about that. I'm focused. I'm glad I don't play defense. I play offense, so I'm worried about their defense and their pass rush and all their good DBs and those linebackers. But I would love to talk about it in the offseason."

Q: When you look at their talent on the defensive line, does it match with their record?

Carr: "It's one of those things. Everyone in this league, [Head] Coach [Jack] Del Rio tells us this all the time, everyone has talent. These guys definitely have talent. They have a lot of juice. Nothing but respect for those guys. I think they're fantastic players. I think they're some of the best at their position in the whole NFL. When you see that, there's a lot of things that go into winning. You can't just put it in, 'They have this group of guys, why aren't they winning?' You never know. You never know what's going on in the building and things like that. I just know that when I turn the film on, I know what I see and I know that they're really good."

Q: How much of a charge is it when you see the defense step up?

Carr: "They played great. I know that there's things that they want to do better in certain situations, just like us all. Like I said after the game, when we can play complementary football, hey if we don't get a first down and Marquette [King] can be our weapon, I call him a weapon all the time. Go pin somebody deep. Our defense three-and-out and get us the ball back. I mean usually you get it back with better field position when you can do that. Being able to play well together like that. Us staying on the field and taking care of the ball for the most part. Being able to do that helps the defense stay rested. It works both ways. It was good to see us put it together in a game."

Q: How beneficial is it to have Jared Cook when you're missing your top receivers?

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. Jared is a guy that we've played him at receiver. We've played him at tight end. We've played him at different spots in the wing and things like that. To answer the question, it's fantastic because you need to have weapons. Especially when things like this happen. I know that on the team we're playing, they've lost a lot of weapons. It's hard just trying to go about your business and things like that. So when you have a lot of weapons, it's nice that when injuries or suspension or anything like that happens, we can still play football and move forward."



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Q: Sebastian Janikowski is not returning this season. If he's done, what kind of teammate was he and what are your memories?

Carr: "I didn't even know that. To talk about him, I could talk about that guy, some stories and all those things for hours. Teammate, one of the best I've ever been around. Always checked on me. Even if I had a bad day early on in my career, he was always the same to me. He never looked at me different if I missed a pass or took a sack that pushed him out of field goal range or anything like that, which I'm sure I did being a young quarterback a few times. Some of my best memories, I'll tell you this, I can talk on and on about how great he is and how much I love him. We love talking about cars as well. We both have a hobby there. But one of my favorite memories is we're going for a two-minute drive. I looked at him and said, 'Where do I need to get you?' I think we were down two or something. We needed a field goal. Maybe even tied. I said, 'Where do I need to get you?' He said, 'Get me to the 40.' And I said, '40?' He said, 'This 40.' I was like alright; this guy is serious. Just dreaming of playing with him someday because I was a Raider fan. Cowboys and Raiders growing up. So I was like, 'Man, someday. That would be great if he's still playing.' Being able to play with him was really cool because everything you'd hope for he was all of that and more."

Q: How did Seth Roberts respond after having a rough game a few weeks back and what's his presence like?

Carr: "He's very quiet. Seth is very quiet, but you can always see him making jokes. He has his sly way of communicating and things like that. He's very, very how do you say, he works really hard. Good or bad. You'll always see him at practice. Especially at training camp and things like that. If we're doing a drill or the defense is doing a drill, whatever, he's always in the back catching balls from somebody. Whether it's EJ [Manuel], myself, Connor [Cook]. Whether I'm throwing them to him, whatever it is, he's always someone that's working hard. Whenever he has a bad game, good game, it really doesn't matter. That's our culture that we've built here. Good game, bad game all those things are going to happen. You just worry about the process. You make sure you recover, you prepare, and you compete your tail off. The results will take care of themselves. He has definitely taken that to heart."

Q: Would you explain your cleats for My Cause, My Cleats?

Carr: "Mine are for Valley Children's Hospital. That's where my wife and I, our oldest son, Dallas, he had three surgeries there. They helped save his life. To have a place that was right there. I still call it Fresno, but right there in Madero. Just 10 minutes from the house. We were blessed and fortunate to have a place like that just that close. Our time there with our son, we grew to know a lot of people. Obviously, we spent some time there. But we saw how they treated everybody. Everybody knew that I played quarterback and those things while we were there and none of that matter. It didn't matter what you did, anything. They treated everybody with the most respect, the most class. They treated everybody the exact same. When I saw that, that's where they grew in my book. I knew it was a special place, but when you have to really go through something there, you never know. Just to be able to represent and create awareness for Valley Children's means a lot to me. I know it'll mean a lot to Dallas someday. I got his name on the cleats. I got the skyline, what is the skyline of the city downtown Fresno, just to create awareness. Not forgetting where I'm from and where we've come from."



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Giants Head Coach Ben McAdoo Conference Call

Q: How would you explain your success against the AFC West?

Coach McAdoo: "That's the not the first question I was expecting today. I think it's a very competitive division. It's a very physical division. Playing Oakland this week, coming out, it's a team that's fresh off a win in a very competitive divisional ball game. I think we've got our work cut out for us. Looks to me that they're going to be focused on trying to run the football with the potential of a couple receivers coming out of the ballgame. The defense looks like it simplified what they're doing, playing a little faster. Our offense has to come out and take care of the football, run the football, play with a little bit of balance. Special teams is always a challenge when you have Cordarrelle Patterson on the other side, a very explosive guy, on the other side."

Q: What's been the fallout from the decision yesterday to switch quarterbacks? So many alumni have been upset about it and you have to stand in there and make your case.

Coach McAdoo: "I understand the emotions that go in to it. I understand the disappointment that goes into it. It was a hard decision. It was a tough decision, especially for me, personally, being in the same room with him for four years now. My responsibility to this organization is first and foremost. The decision is bigger than me. It's for the organization and the future of the organization, making sure we have a clear evaluation of the other two quarterbacks on the roster, starting with Geno [Smith] this week. Making sure we give those guys an opportunity to prove what they can do. Sometimes you have to be the punching bag, and right now I'm the punching bag. That goes with the territory. I have thick skin and I can handle it. I'm immersed in the preparation and that's a part of it. I don't get to see or hear a lot of things going on out there. That's not as important to me as making the right decision."

Q: What do you think is the reason you have struggled guarding tight ends this year?

Coach McAdoo: "I think when you take a look at it, we've had a revolving door at linebacker a little bit. It's been a challenge inside. We played some good tight ends so that's factored as well. A lot of times when you go into ball games, you have to target players to take out of the game. A lot of times, the tight end may not be at the top of the list."

Q: What has it been like for you not having your top two receivers?

Coach McAdoo: "We lost four guys in the blink of eye there in the Chargers game. That makes it tough on us but it's no excuse for where we are. Hopefully we have a chance to get Sterling [Shepard] back, we'll see how the week goes. The passing game is a product of good protection, the quarterback is making good decisions and accurate throws, ball location is important especially when you're playing guys that didn't start with your team and you have to get those guys immersed and get them some confidence. Then you have to catch the ball and run after the catch. It's not just one thing, it's a bunch of different things. We're working hard at them right now."

Q: Is Eli Manning the number two guy Sunday or is that still fluid?

Coach McAdoo: "Eli is number two."

Q: What tangibles do you believe Geno Smith is going to bring to the table? What have you seen from him through his development?

Coach McAdoo: "Geno loves football. He'll bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm for the game to us, and some creativity as well. His game is different than Eli's game. We're excited to go out and watch him play."

Q: Without being too specific, how would you say Geno's game is different than Eli's?

Coach McAdoo: "That would be specific. He's a pocket passer, just like Eli is. He can do a little bit more with creativity. Being disciplined with the reads is definitely a strength of Eli's and that's something we're asking Geno to do a tremendous job this week. He knows where he wants to go with the ball. He gets football. He's been around it a long time and has played a lot of games in this league. We're excited to see him in this system, playing a Sunday National League Football game."



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Q: Davis Webb went all through college in the up-tempo system. How has he adapted to the NFL and do you expect to see him on the field before the year is out?

Coach McAdoo: "He's taken the bull by the horns. He does a tremendous job preparing. He's on top of it. He's an early morning riser. He's in here early, he stays late. We've got a lot of confidence in Davis and his future. It's tough for any young player to go through what we're going through right now. He's trying to figure out his role. Eventually we want to get him in the mix and give him a chance to go out there and play."

Q: Did you see a difference last week in the Raiders defense with John Pagano?

Coach McAdoo: "There were some subtleties. Could have been the way the game went. The personality of the coordinator always comes out when things change. Looks to me like they may have simplified a little bit, let guys run around and play faster. You get to see... When somebody itches, they scratch with different things. You can see that in the personality of the coordinator when they call the game."