



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **S Reggie Nelson Conference Call**

**Q: Was it a difficult decision to leave the Bengals and come to the Raiders?**

**Nelson:** "Of course it was. I've been there for a while, so of course it was kind of difficult. In other words, it's not. I like the direction the Raiders are headed in, that [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio], [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] and [Owner Mark] Mr. Davis have it going in. They're scratching the surface, and I just want to be a part that scratching that they have going on. It was a tough decision, but I'm happy to be an Oakland Raider."

**Q: Are you looking forward to playing for Head Coach Jack Del Rio again?**

**Nelson:** "I'm excited, man. I was a different dude when they drafted me. I'm a veteran now, wiser. I'm just excited to see what he has going on in Oakland and, like I said, just be a part of that. I love Jack and always have, so I'm just excited to be reunited with him."

**Q: Did you find that because of your age, very few teams were interested?**

**Nelson:** "I mean, I was shocked. I expected to be signed, but patience is a virtue. I just was being patient and waiting on the right team. It so happened Oakland came and Jack was in Oakland, so I felt comfortable coming back with Jack and just reuniting with him."

**Q: Are you as good now as you've ever been?**

**Nelson:** "I still have work to do. It's a lot of years [of playing experience on the coaching staff] played in that building. [Defensive coordinator] Ken Norton, [Jr.] played, [defensive backs coach] Marcus [Robertson] played, Jack played. I'm just anxious to learn from these guys and keep learning. You always can learn something new to the game and something excitement that can give you that burst. And [assistant defensive backs coach] Rod [Woodson]... I'm so excited to be part of the Oakland Raiders and to learn from that coaching staff. Like I said, I can't wait to keep scratching with them and be a part of something."

**Q: When you look at the other free agents the Raiders have brought in, does it add excitement?**

**Nelson:** "Reggie and Mr. Davis have been doing a great job putting pieces to this puzzle together. I'm just excited that I can be a part, a piece, to that puzzle that they add. I'm pretty sure they're not done with adding pieces and getting this team going in the right direction like they've been doing. Those guys, Sean Smith and [Bruce] Irvin, I mean that's just crazy. I mean this defense has been great and just the pieces that they've put together this year, it's just going and that's not even including the draft. I just can't wait until they get going and keep adding pieces to this team."

**Q: What's it like to be the guy that replaces Charles Woodson?**

**Nelson:** "Trust me, you can't replace Charles Woodson at all. The only guy I can be is Reggie and continue to play my game and get better. My name might not mean much compared to Charles Woodson, so I can't come in and worry about filling shoes that he did because he had one heck of a career. You're talking about a Hall of Famer. It's nothing but respect to Charles. All that I can do is come in and do what Ken and Jack ask me to do and play my game and continue to go get that ball."

**Q: Are you coming off your best season?**

**Nelson:** "Of course. Eight interceptions, tied for the league [lead], I can't complain about that. It was the best year I had since I've been in the league. I'll just continue to grow and keep producing and putting out product."