



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening Statement: "I'll be happy to answer any questions I can. Happy Thanksgiving to everybody!"

Q: What kind of challenges does Lamar Jackson present to your team?

Coach Gruden: "A lot of challenges, just because you don't know what plays they are running. I don't recognize some of the plays they are running. You got to go back to Louisville and study him there. He's got magnificent running ability. He's going to get better and better the more he plays, and we got to respect his passing ability and these receivers. We know a lot about them."

Q: Is it shocking in today's NFL to watch the quarterback carry the ball 27 times in a game?

Coach Gruden: "I've never seen it. He's a tough guy. He ran it at Louisville. He ran all the way to the Heisman Trophy. He makes you very cautious, as to what coverages you call and how you rush, but it's not just [Lamar] Jackson. They got good receivers, [Ravens G] Marshal Yanda, they got a good offensive line, they are physical, and they need this game. This is a big game for them, so it will be a challenge."

Q: Coach Tom Flores has been named a semi-finalist for the 2019 Hall of Fame, what does that mean to you?

Coach Gruden: "It means a lot to the Raiders and knowing him personally, it'd be great for him to get in the Hall. He belongs there. He was a great quarterback, great coach and if you know Flores, he is one helluva guy. Wish him the best. If I had a vote, I'd certainly vote for him. He's what the Hall of Fame is all about."

Q: How do you simulate playing against someone like Lamar Jackson in practice?

Coach Gruden: "We got Rico Gafford, who runs about 4.2. He'll get a ball and run around. We will try to run him. I don't know if we will be outside or not, today. Johnny Holton can run really fast. We will have him take turns. The best I can tell you is we are going to be very, very creative on how we try to emulate and simulate the Ravens."

Q: What kind of problems does the Ravens defense pose this Sunday?

Coach Gruden: "It's tough. They are a good team. They got really good cover corners. Jimmy Smith is healthy, we got a lot of respect for [Brandon] Carr, certainly. [Marlon] Humphrey is coming on as a pro. [Terrell] Suggs is still there. I think [Matthew] Judon is a very underrated guy. And the big guy in the middle makes them go, I think, in [Brandon] Williams. Hard to run against, hard to throw against, hard to deal with. We will have to be at our very best."

Q: How much can you take from the film after only one game with the offense playing with Lamar Jackson?

Coach Gruden: "You have to look at his body of work from Louisville to really get, I think, a true respect for him. Remember he's been a back-up quarterback, he hasn't been getting the reps. Last week was the first time they put together a game plan for him. Don't forget, this guy can throw the ball. You got to go back and watch him at Louisville to get a better feel for him, so it's going to be tough. You are going to have to try to make some on-the-fly adjustments and be very careful with the plays that you call."

Q: Is Jordy's [Nelson] playing status for Sunday still up in the air?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I think so. Jordy and Martavis [Bryant] are up in the air. We will have Keon Hatcher taking the majority of the reps, and Dwayne Harris today. Hopefully, we get some guys healthy soon."

Q: What are some the differences in moving Marquel Lee to the SAM linebacker, as opposed to the Middle linebacker position?

Coach Gruden: "You know what, he's played two really good games. He's physical, he can play on the tight end. He has shown that he can recognize passing concepts. He's good in zone coverage and he's improved



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in man coverage. I think he's going to be a load as a blitzing and he's just a young guy that has proven he's a very versatile linebacker. We appreciate him doing that to open the door for [Jason] Cabinda, to get him on the field. So, he has been unselfish too."

Q: Is Justin Ellis back at practice? What does he bring to the team?

Coach Gruden: "He is practicing. We are happy to have him. I don't know if he is going to play this week, but we missed him a lot. He's a run defender. He's a big part of this team, a big part of this run defense. He gives our guys confidence. He's a guy that's a proven NFL player, he'll be a real addition to our front."

Q: Are you confident that Doug Martin will be able to go this week?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I think he will. He's just nicked up. He probably won't practice much. Hopefully he will be ready to go."

QB Derek Carr

Q: Was the slugging route an adjustment from the original play called on the touchdown to Jared Cook?

Carr: "Yes, we had a different play called. We got a look that we like. It's just one of those things of the hours Coach [Jon Gruden] and I spend together talking about looks and certain things. It wasn't like we talked about it game plan wise. It's just one of those things Coach talked about over the year. We were able to finally get a look that we liked for it and we were able to hit Jared [Cook] on it."

Q: Over the course of the week so you're an extension of Gruden on the field, but are there moments when he calls a play, you see something on the field and you check into something and have to have a conversation as to why you did on the sideline?

Carr: "Oh yeah. Nine times out of 10 he knows exactly why, because again these are things we talked about. Maybe we didn't talk about it that week, but it's things we've talked about since he's been here in April. Nine times out of 10, that's the case. Other times I'll come off and he'll want to know, 'What did you see? What did you check to?' That kind of thing. We'll talk about it and that's usually it. He's awesome about just giving me the keys because he feels that he's prepared me so good and so well that I can recognize things and get us into good looks."

Q: What do you want to see from this offense the last six weeks?

Carr: "Oh man, touchdowns. I just want to win. I want to mess up the draft. I don't want the first pick. I want to win all these games. I want everyone to be mad at me for that. That's what I want to accomplish. For us as an offense, it's really just building continuity. We have a lot of young guys playing, we have a lot of new guys playing. I just think it's so cool, what an opportunity we have. When everyone sees what's going on, what we're having to deal with. Why not just go out and win some games. I think that would be so cool for this group to be able to hold onto."

Q: What are you able to take from spending training camp with Keon Hatcher?

Carr: "Love Keon. When he made our team, I was so happy after that Seattle game. As you can tell, us quarterbacks, we trust him. EJ [Manuel] was throwing the ball to him. Connor [Cook] hit him a couple of times I think on a sail route. You just think about it, he's just so competitive. I think that's the moral of the story with the guys Coach keeps around. They're just super competitive. They don't mind whoever they're playing. They don't care about those things. All they care about is going out there and competing their tail off. Really just playing football. He loves football. I can tell you that about Keon. He'll do the dirty work. He'll go in there and block extra. If he doesn't get the ball, he's going to run and try to peel somebody off. In the run game, he's going to try to put somebody on their back. That's just him. He loves football. To do that at the wide receiver position, it's really cool."



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Q: What are your impressions of Lamar Jackson?

Carr: "I love Lamar, you guys know that. Lamar knows that, I've told him. Talked to him as he was coming out. Just told him if you need anything I'm here for him. Obviously, not this week Lamar. I can't tell him anything this week. I think the world of him and I think his future is so bright because he brings a dynamic to the game that we really haven't seen in a long time. With his speed, his 4.2 speed. He can throw the ball 80 yards. All that kind of stuff. As he just continues to hone his craft, he's going to be really dangerous. What I saw just a little bit that was I was able to even see on highlights, just the different run games they can run, it reminds me a lot of what they did in Louisville. Watching those games. I think the world of him. I really do. I think he's a very special player. As he continues to learn this game and the speed of things and what throws he can get away with, what ones he can't. As long as he continues to work, he's going to be hard to stop for years to come."

Q: Can you imagine 27 carries for a quarterback?

Carr: "No (*laughing*). It's interesting right? I don't even know if Cam [Newton] has done that. Cam is a big guy. Still, that's a lot of carries for a quarterback. It'll be interesting to see going forward if that's how they run their offense. Obviously, he can do it. He knows he can do it. I'm sure he's feeling a little sore. Over 16 games, that's a lot, but for the time being, that's what they're doing. I couldn't see myself having 27. Maybe if I went back and played like my brother's high school team I could do it. But not in the NFL."

Q: What are your thoughts on the offensive line doing their annual Turkey Time event yesterday?

Carr: "I think it's fantastic. Our older guys, they understand how much more important it is to give back. We're playing a game, people love that we play this game and it's talked about all the time, but at the end of the day, we have an opportunity to give back. The little bit that we've learned throughout or time being here, just our platform and how important it is. Whatever your message is just to help other people. I think what was really cool is the old guys get that, but those young guys get to see that now. Hopefully it's something that they do, Kolton [Miller] will do for the next however many years he plays. Brandon [Parker], however many years he plays, that's something they'll want to do for the communities that they're playing in."

Q: What did Michael Crabtree mean to your development here

Carr: "I love Crab, oh my goodness. He helped me so much talking scheme, talking the mindset, the leadership, all of those things. I remember standing around the corner in the hallway begging him not to leave. I promise I'll throw you the ball, I said. He had two or three of his best, statistically, years of his career. That means a lot to me. I told him 'I'll throw it to you' and knowing him, he probably wanted it more but that's Crab. He's one of the most competitive people I've ever been around. I think the world of him. I miss him, I do. I wish him the best. I always keep up on my phone making sure he's doing well and all that. I really do wish the best for him and his family."

Q: Any play in particular with him that is your favorite?

Carr: "We had a lot of big ones to win some games. Probably the one beating Kansas City that year. The little one in the front of the endzone. That one right there, he hugged me, I hugged him, all I remember him saying is 'I hope it counts' because we played about seven untimed downs that time."

Q: How much of a comfort was it that when you got into the redzone it was almost automatic with Crab?

Carr: "Just praising Crab more. We had great chemistry. We had good moments together on those redzone plays. We had hand signals. Just me looking at him. We were on a good page. That's something you try to do with all your guys. We played for years together, so it doesn't just come overnight. I think that every quarterback that has played with him will definitely say he has some of the best hands and is one of the most competitive and reliable people. I have nothing but good things to say."



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Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh [Conference Call]

Q: How much work was required to turn the offense from what it was before the Bye Week to what it was on Sunday?

Coach Harbaugh: "Well a lot of work, although a lot of it went on before the Bye actually. We had been working those elements of our offense really from Day 1 of the offseason program right through training camp and onto the season. So, we've had the element in there, but it became obviously the preeminent element in that game, so we had to build on it getting ready for the Bengals game."

Q: When you look at the execution what did you think of it considering players were running it to a great extent than they had previously?

Coach Harbaugh: "Right that's a good point. I thought it was good. I thought we did a heck of a job executing it. We blocked it pretty well. Not as well as we're going to need to. I think I mentioned that after the game. I think we're going to have to block it better and better as people work harder to defend it and all that kind of stuff. Ball handling and those sorts of things. The backs premier blocking was all what you would hope for, for the first time out."

Q: Giving a full game with Lamar Jackson on tape, how does that affect this week's matchup?

Coach Harbaugh: "Sure, it sure helps. I'm sure it does. For us on defense, if we get a chance to see something, it gives you an idea of what it is and what you have to work against and what you're dealing with. I think that's definitely a good point."

Q: What has Michael Crabtree brought to you in his first season and why do you think he hasn't been as productive this year as previous years?

Coach Harbaugh: "I don't do the comparisons to previous things. I wouldn't waste any time thinking about that part of it. He's been great. He works hard. I just love his attitude, work ethic, demeanor. He's been clutch for us in a number of games, he's come up with some big plays, clutch plays for us. I'm happy with him, and I really expect him to have some big games here going forward down the stretch. We really need him to. He's important to us. I feel very blessed that we have him on our team."

Q: Is his ability to be a downfield blocker something that could help the team as you run more with Jackson?

Coach Harbaugh: "Yeah, absolutely. That's a great point. He had a heck of a game blocking this last game. He had some very physical blocks. For a wide receiver of his caliber to block the way he does gives a lot of insight into the type of person that he is. He's a very unselfish guy."

Q: Where did Gus Edwards come from?

Coach Harbaugh: "He came from Rutgers. He was a guy that we brought in as an undrafted free agent with our draft class there. He's been with us from Day 1, really. Has been impressive from Day 1. We put him on the practice squad when we started the season. Continued to work hard, learn, build on special teams. We were able to get him up a couple of weeks ago. He played special teams predominately for two or three or four weeks. Did a good job. Just got some more carries in this game and like you said appears to come out of nowhere. Overnight success is usually a long term in the making and I would say that's true for Gus."

Q: How did he develop on the practice squad?

Coach Harbaugh: "He worked hard on all the little fundamentals and the details. One of the things that these young guys have to work hard on is pass protection, which he did some in the game. Obviously, he ran the ball more with this offense. He's made big strides in the things that most backs coming into this league have to work on. Things like pass protection, ball security. Doing things at a really fast pace, more



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so than college with the ball handling and recognizing different cuts and things like that. He just worked on all that kind of stuff and did a good job with it, and it paid off in the game.”

Q: Why was Sunday the right time from Edwards’ involvement?

Coach Harbaugh: “Just worked out that way. Just kind of the way it went.”

Q: Was Edwards use on Sunday a sign of things to come?

Coach Harbaugh: “Yeah, I mean it’s all fluid. I wish I could sit here and say I could know what the future holds. The Bible says make no oath except that God willing, so we’ll just stick with that. I think that’s a pretty good philosophy to live by.”

Q: When you look at some of the recent games do you see the Raiders making progress?

Coach Harbaugh: “Yeah, I mean we don’t even look at the record of any team. I don’t care if you’re undefeated. It doesn’t make us feel like we can’t go out and win the game. The Raiders are a very good football team. Very well coached. Play very hard. I love the way they fly around on defense. We’ve been facing this defensive structure for many years here and it’s given us nothing but problems over the years. Obviously, their defensive coordinator is a guy we’re very familiar with. I think he’s an excellent coach. [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden does a great job. They’re building their program. Their schemes are very difficult. They have very good players. The offensive line is very physical, excellent backs, top level quarterback. This is a team with one of the best tight ends in football. Rich Bisaccia does a tremendous job with the special teams. You can see it in the way they play. So, we watch the tape. We don’t really look at the numbers. The tape tells us what we need to prepare for. We’re preparing, obviously, very, very seriously.”

Q: Is that defensive scheme that you see Paul Guenther running this year similar to what you’ve seen during his time with Cincinnati?

Coach Harbaugh: “I think it’s very similar. It’s his system, he’s running it. It’s a very aggressive system. They’re very aggressive with their D-Line and the way they play their technique upfront. They have every blitz that they would ever want to have in that 4-3 system. Very tough, tight coverage. We see all of that.”

Q: Kelechi Osemele had a block this past weekend where he knocked the guy straight to the ground. How much of that is the Osemele you guys remember?

Coach Harbaugh: “Oh yeah, that’s him. KO is the same old KO that we always admired here. Always admired here. Very tough, very physical. Very much enthusiasm for the game. The type of offensive lineman that anybody would like to have on their team for sure.”

Q: What are your thoughts on Bisaccia?

Coach Harbaugh: “Yeah, definitely one of the best. Gone against him many, many times and it’s always a huge challenge. Get schemes. I see so many of the things that...There’s always a group of guys, the veteran guys. We kind of recognize each other’s schemes because we track them back for up to about 20 years. I see a lot of the good stuff in there that he does that some of the younger guys don’t know about yet. These young guys you teach they know, but not everything that you know, right? Bisaccia is one of those older guys that knows all of those things. I got a lot of respect for him.”

Q: You were a special teams coordinator before you became a head coach. From your understanding of Bisaccia, could you see him doing that one day in this league?

Coach Harbaugh: “Oh absolutely. Definitely. I’m somewhat surprised he hasn’t gotten more opportunities or hasn’t been hired yet. I think he’d be a great head coach.”