



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Every time that I come in here on a Monday, there’s always a lot of work that needs to be done, a lot of things that you want to fix and make better going forward. I think the biggest thing for us is to find a way to win. We took our team in there playing at that 10:00 Eastern Time, or 10:00 Pacific Time, that early game out there on the East Coast. Going out there with a football team, playing a rookie right tackle, three rookies starting on defense. Then to go in and do what we did as a football team, stay in the fight and battle and come out of there with a really, really great victory; a hard-fought team effort. Really proud of our guys. Just really proud of our guys for that effort. Then like you have to do, whether it’s good or bad, you have to move on to next. So here we are moving on to the San Diego and getting that preparation in order. We’ll have it be a little more difficult. Had a couple guys get banged up pretty good yesterday. Lee Smith, it appears that Lee is going to have to have surgery to repair his. And also Ben Heeney, looks like Ben’s going to be banged up, so both of those guys are likely to go down. That’ll be, as they finish the work that is done on these guys with our doctors and everybody and all the experts looking at it, we determine that the time is such that we won’t be able to get them back then they could in fact go down. It’s not officially done yet, but it’s headed in that direction. Just to give you guys that bit of information today, but beyond that, really a gritty effort. Proud of our guys, and like I said, moving on to San Diego as soon as we’re done here.”

Q: You talk about the melding of offense, defense and special teams and how one plays into the other. Was your first touchdown about as textbook as it gets?

Coach Del Rio: “That’s exactly what we’re talking about; all three phases playing complementary football, impacting the game and it’s about us and our team, and what we’re able to do when those three phases work together like that. That’s a great example of it.”

Q: How big of a loss is it to have Lee Smith go down?

Coach Del Rio: “It’ll take several people, in all likelihood, to fill his shoes because of all that he did, mainly the dirty work. Mainly the blocking, the dirty work. Kind of an unsung hero kind of role where he’s just very tough, very determined. Yeah, we’ll miss him for sure, but like we do, we’ll plug in. We’ll design around anything we need to design around. We won’t ask people to do things they’re not capable of doing.”

Q: How important is he to the running game?

Coach Del Rio: “He’s a vital cog. He’s a vital piece of it for sure. Like I said, we’ve got smart coaches. We’ve got players that adapt. We will build around what we need to build around and continue to run the ball.”

Q: Has it been established if he will need surgery?

Coach Del Rio: “I think he will need it. It’s just a matter of is the time frame to return reasonable for him to come back or not. I think once we determine that, then we’ll be able to make that final decision.”

Q: So there’s no way of telling how long he’ll be out?

Coach Del Rio: “Not from me sitting here today, but I’ll know it shortly. I’ll know it at some point here and we’ll get that to you.”

Q: How big is it to win the first three road games when you only have eight in total?

Coach Del Rio: “Well it’s big to win. You can look at it one way or another, winning the next game is huge. For us right now, we’re going to talk about this one because it’s up to do today. Then it’ll be so important that we win next week or this week coming up. It’ll be so huge. That’ll become paramount. That’ll become the main focus and where we want our attention and effort and everything. Looking back at it, it was big to go in there and beat an undefeated team at their place. It’s a tough place to play. I coached there for three years; we didn’t lose many games there in those three years. It’s a tough place to go in there and battle. We were able to do that. It’s a heck of a job.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What factors have made you so good in the red zone?

Coach Del Rio: “We only talk about the coordinator when things don’t go well, right? *(laughing)* We want to question what happened or something. It’s like, ‘Why’d you call that?’ Then you want to know. The reality is he’s called a good game. He’s done a nice job done there putting us in a position, putting Derek [Carr] in position to do the things he does well. You have to give credit to the design of it and then you have to give credit to the execution of it and it starts with the trigger man. That’s why when you have a good trigger man, it makes a lot of things kind of go smoothly.”

Q: How much more productive was Cory James yesterday than last week?

Coach Del Rio: “Very productive. We had him for 16 total tackles in the game. I think 12 of them were solo tackles. He finds the ball. I mean, he’s around the ball, he played well. He’s a good football player. For his second game starting, I thought he showed growth and I think he’ll continue to do that.”

Q: What do you like about going no-huddle and will you continue to use it?

Coach Del Rio: “We’ll change the pace from time to time, let Derek call it at the line some and try to get in rhythm if we feel like we’re out of rhythm. [It’s] a change of pace. So, we’ll jump in and out of it. I don’t think any offensive line wants to operate in it all day, but I thought there was an opportunity there and we took advantage of moving the pace a little bit.”

Q: Marquette King had a terrific day...

Coach Del Rio: “His best day since I’ve been here in the last two years.”

Q: What did you think of his post-punt moves?

Coach Del Rio: “*(laughter)* It’s 2016, you know, there’s new ways of celebrating. I like guys to be themselves and express themselves. He certainly is an expressive young man. When you kick it that well, you can have a little fun out there as well.”

Q: What is it about Derek Carr’s play late in games that allows him to be successful?

Coach Del Rio: “I think the really good guys that have ever done that, you go all the way back to the Joe Montanas of the world, they’re really calm, and they’re really poised. And, they kind of take advantage of your mistakes, they don’t force the action, and I didn’t see Derek forcing the action. I saw him taking advantage of opportunities that were there, being deadly accurate with the ball, but most importantly, I saw him to continue to operate with the poise and even keeled. I mean, there’s fire there, but it’s under control. He’s really analyzing what he’s getting and getting the ball to a great spot with really good accuracy and letting his playmakers do their thing.”

Q: How much did his play in the past affect how he’s playing now in those types of situations?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, I think it’s part of the learning, part of the experience that you get as a young player. So, I think to start the year, it’s been really good. We’re off to a good start and a large part of that is Derek playing with great poise and us believing that we can make these plays at the end of ball games, us understanding that we’re going to be in these tight situations and it’s really the team that can be comfortable there and make the plays you need to make to close out these games.”

Q: Is it a broken bone in Lee Smith’s leg?

Coach Del Rio: “I’m not the doctor involved in it. I think there’s some damage there, there’s going to be, I believe, some surgery required and exactly how long it would take for him to recover and be back to full speed, I’m not certain of that. So, I would say it’s tracking in the direction where he’s going to be unavailable to us and if that is the case then he’ll end up going on I.R. He’s not going on there today. Once we know more, then we’ll get you guys more information.”



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Can you talk about how much more Clive Walford will have to do in Smith's absence?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, we'll count on him. And I think the other thing is, we won't change, terribly, his role. I think what Clive does is what he does. He plays a big role as it is right now. I think, what I'm talking about, it may be more than one person that fills in the role that Lee provided. There's several ways that you can go about that and obviously another player at some point if he goes down, another player gets added and then how you use the players that are available to you, what combination of players that you play in that role. I'm not going to get specific with you because then you get into game planning aspects."

Q: Is Malcolm Smith going to be out with an injury?

Coach Del Rio: "At this point, I don't have an update on that. We're hopeful. I'll know more when I see him move around tomorrow."

Q: Are there any updates on the tackles that were inactive?

Coach Del Rio: "No updates other than they're all healing, they're all getting better. It's just how quickly and then, Vadal [Alexander] played really well. I don't know if you guys went back and watched the tape. But, those holding calls... *(laughter)* There were a couple that were called on him that were, man it was really tough to see any kind of holding going on there. I thought he did a heck of a job. I know that Khalil [Mack] would love to see all of those types of things get called every time he's held. You know, it was tough. Anyway, I think the young man played really well."

Q: Do you send that stuff to the league every Monday? A whole package of plays that you think are holds?

Coach Del Rio: "I do. But I know it never benefits me, the league, the officials or anybody else to discuss that stuff. They offer it as an opportunity for us to grow and that's the way I look at it. It's an opportunity for us to teach and grow, and how they see things and why. Then you understand some of the difficulties of getting the right angle. I have a good feel for all of that. I'm not going to sit up here and play the blame game. I think they do a good job. It's a tough job and I respect that. We'll just coach our guys and do the best we can."

Q: Are you saying that the Monday feedback you give the league never does any good?

Coach Del Rio: "It does a lot of good in terms of us teaching our players..."

Q: No, but I mean in terms of the league telling the officials they screwed up on certain plays.

Coach Del Rio: "I guess what I'm saying is I'm not even going there."

Q: Getting back to Vadal, there were a couple plays where his recognition to keep going wide really factored into keeping Derek clean. Was that something that you knew? How do you think he played?

Coach Del Rio: "He played really well. I think the group overall... You're going up a really good defense. They present a lot of different looks. I thought our guys handled it, for the most part, very well. There were a couple times where Derek had to move a little bit and his ability to move helped us there. For the most part we were able to get a hat on a hat and give Derek some time to operate."

Q: Vadal is a guy you found in the seventh round who can play guard and tackle. What were your first impressions, and talk about his growth since he's been here.

Coach Del Rio: "The biggest thing that has stood out on film is that this guy moves people in the run game. The college tape showed that; a lot of movement and a lot of power with him. We were drawn to that. I think the opportunity to grow him at multiple positions, a guy that can play inside or outside. Once a guy gets here, it's up to him to take advantage of those opportunities and compete. That's what he's done. Obviously we started the year... He's the fourth right tackle, the fifth tackle to play over there on the right side, the way they came down. The great thing is, each of our guys has stepped in and been solid and played well for us. As a group, we've played well. That's a credit to [offensive line coach] Mike Tice and the entire group."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: That fourth-and-one... Derek comes to the line and the guy jumps. Did you have a play call or were you just trying to get a guy to jump?

Coach Del Rio: "Yes, we had a play called there. And yes, the guy jumped and we snapped it. Donald Penn did a nice job when the guy came across the line of engaging him. It was a nice job by the offense."

Q: What did you see on tape from DJ Hayden?

Coach Del Rio: "DJ is playing well. He's done some good things. He was involved in several stops for us yesterday. I feel like he's had a good offseason, a good, productive camp and been pretty steady for us. We need that to continue. Obviously there are things in the back end that we're going to do better as we keep going. We've got good people, we really do. We've got good guys. They're accountable and they want to be really good. I feel good about the way the group is working. I think DJ played well yesterday."

Q: Is there any relation to the way you played the final defensive series over the last two weeks? Against Tennessee, they got all the way down to the five-yard line before you stopped them, and yesterday, you guys were sending Karl Joseph frequently. Was there any thought of going after them more this time and not laying back this time?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't think it was laying back the first time. I think we executed better in some key situations yesterday earlier. In both occasions, we got the job done. Yesterday, had we allowed them to get that close, the field goal kicker of theirs would have made us pay for it. He's pretty good. So, that was our goal line, so to speak, right there at the 50, wherever we were right there near midfield. That was the time like, 'You need to make a stand right here.'"

Q: On the big hit at the end of the game from Reggie Nelson, is that the type of play that you expect from a guy like that? He said that he missed a tackle and that he owed you something.

Coach Del Rio: "I appreciate him feeling the need to make a play like that at the end. It was in the strike zone, made a good play, where you want to hit people. Yeah, it was a nice shot. DJ [Hayden] was really good on that as well."