



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Alright, not a lot changed looking at the tape. I thought it was a solid performance in all three phases. Good day. It’s nice to be 2-0. Nice to perform well in front of our home fans. We’re busy putting that to rest and moving on to Washington Sunday night.”

Q: How effective do you think Jalen Richard can be if he rips off big plays like he did yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: “We love seeing Jalen Richard. He’s showed up since training camp last year. Earned an opportunity onto the team and into the lineup in our first game last year on the road in New Orleans. Made a big play there. He’s capable of doing that for you. Been a great addition to our football team. Kind of an unknown. Great story, coming out of nowhere like he did.”

Q: How do you think Nicholas Morrow did?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, he’s done a nice job. Developing him, he has speed. He was able to do some things in coverage. Yesterday became a coverage game and he ended up getting in there for a good number of snaps. We’ll continue to develop him in all areas, developing him on special teams. We need to continue to develop some of our younger players there. We lost some of our veteran experience from last year in that area. Certainly, bringing along a guy like Nick is important for us.”

Q: How much do you enjoy seeing how well the offensive line is playing?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, we know we have a good group. They’ve been working hard. They’re well coached. [Offensive line] coach Mike Tice does a great job with the group. But believe me, there are some things we have to clean up. There’s some things out there that have to be corrected and will be corrected. That’s the good thing, you do it with a smile. As well as they played in certain spots, there’s some other areas where have to be better.”

Q: Is it a coincidence that Cordarrelle Patterson’s run and Richard’s run both happened late in the game?

Coach Del Rio: “Both are kind of different. I know they occurred later in the game, but they were different in structure and what occurred. On the toss, it really is a play that’s designed to go outside more than that, but we had a good adjustment from the blocking standpoint to kind of kick it out. There was a safety coming, we kicked out the safety and cut up inside of it. The backside was really doing a nice job of keeping people from getting there. That was a nice run and a nice play. The other was a very aggressive posture on third-and-short. Cordarrelle came in and I thought once we broke him through the front line, he had a chance to go. Two different plays, but the part with the line wearing on them and being physical, I think that’s part of it. I think you have to earn that. Part of that is possessing the ball. Moving the ball, getting more opportunities and I think part of that is Derek [Carr] doing a nice job on third down and moving the chains.”

Q: What did you see from Marshall Newhouse and Donald Penn on Jalen’s run? Penn did a nice job for you.

Coach Del Rio: “He did, backside, yeah. On both of the long runs, you see Seth Roberts showing up, hustling down the field, which is a tremendous effort. That’s the kind of stuff. Big plays, when you’re an offensive unit, big plays you’re always seeing extra effort from somebody to help. You know, get a block to spring you. Go down the field and get another guy. Whatever it might be. So yeah, good stuff to see.”

Q: When did you find out that Marshawn Lynch wanted to run out with Jalen Richard and DeAndré Washington?

Coach Del Rio: “I found out right about the same time you did.”

Q: What did you learn about the penalties from yesterday and are they concerning at all?

Coach Del Rio: “No, it’s not concerning at all. We didn’t get our head across with Donald [Penn] on the one he was called on clipping. That’s just a change of the rule that he knows he has to get his head in front of that guy. We were offside with Khalil [Mack]; that’s a no-brainer. Johnny [Holton] did step out on his own. Those were easy to kind of identify. Some of the judgement, I didn’t necessarily agree with, but that doesn’t matter. They have to make



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judgements. They make the judgements, we live with it and we move on. There wasn't a whole lot to correct in those judgement errors. It's just the way the game went yesterday."

Q: Other than the false start you had at the end of the game, you haven't had a procedure penalty all season.

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, and even that is another one, it's a judgement call. I mean, really? I didn't see anything that would warrant a call there. The judgement calls, you're going to have to leave it at that. When you see something that's clearly an infraction, we can coach it, teach it and it gets better. The other things like that, you just have to live with them and move on."

Q: What do you attribute to the fact that you guys haven't had those pre-snap mistakes?

Coach Del Rio: "Just working hard at it. That's that camp is for, that's what the offseason is for and that's what us coming together and wanting to be good. You have to operate and do things well. I think we're off to a solid start in that capacity."

Q: How do you strike a balance between praising the team and making sure they know that there are a lot of things to clean up?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm always really honest. I keep it real with our guys. I try to shoot straight. This is what it is. This is our standard. This is what it needs to look like. This is where we're doing a nice job. You always want to feel good about winning, but hey, this is the reality of what we need to be better in, where we need to be better specifically, how we're going to be better and then let's get to work. Good or bad, this is a day where we rehash it. Tomorrow is Tell the Truth Tuesday for a reason. We'll go over the game and we'll own up. Whether it's good or bad, we'll acknowledge it and then we put it behind us and move on. It's pretty matter of fact the way we go through the process."

Q: What did you see of Gareon Conley and the way he played?

Coach Del Rio: "He did a nice job. He was in position. He had one allowed pass in front of him that was challenged. He had one other play that was thrown where they tried to go on top and he was in great position and defended the ball. Probably looking back, would try and catch it the next time, but did a nice job defending that. He was solid on the day. He was in position doing the things he was supposed to do. Showed up in cracked some plays in run support, showed up as a tackler when balls were thrown in front of him."

Q: Is Conley back to where he was before the injury or even a little bit further along?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know that I would try to put a gauge on it. We like him, he's a good, young player. He's working hard, he's doing everything he can. He's got to play some catch-up. There's a lot of reps he didn't get, so we're doing what we can. And then, mentally, he was tuned in the entire time, which gives him a chance. We're playing now, so there's no time to... It is what it is, you know? We're going to use him, we're going to teach him, develop him as we go. It was a good start for him."

Q: Is it easy to get your player's attention with the difficulty of a cross-country road trip this week and the game that follows?

Coach Del Rio: "I think, when you look in totality, it's a very challenging schedule. We're just going to take it one at a time. So, we're not going to talk about two weeks from now, that's part of it. We take it one week at a time. We travel across the country to play a Sunday Night game against a good, Redskins football team. We turn our attention to that tomorrow. Every week's a challenge, every week's a new set of challenges. It's important that we understand what they are, we dig into our work, prepare, get our bodies as recovered as possible and then get ready to roll."

Q: Is Richard's vision something that has been most improved from Year 1 to Year 2?

Coach Del Rio: "I wouldn't say that there's a huge jump. I think he's got great vision, he had great vision last year and he's still got great vision. I think what he has added with it now is a little bit of experience of how holes open



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and close at the NFL levels as compared to college. He's got good vision and burst and that was a heck of a run. He wasn't going to let anyone catch him."

Q: How is Karl Joseph's ability to play at the line of scrimmage going to be an asset moving forward?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I mean it's week to week in terms of what we want to do and how we want to do it and who we're going to utilize. But, obviously he was called on to do some of that yesterday and we were effective with that."

Q: Do you have to be aware of the audible calls getting picked up by the game feed or is that just something you have to change continuously throughout the season?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, we'll see. I mean, there was a lot of attention to Omaha a few years ago when I was in Denver. So, you know, whatever. We're aware of it. As soon as they started mic'ing the center, it was going to be a part of our game."

Q: What kind of challenges does your offensive balance present to defenses right now?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, you know, again we're just trying to do what we can to win games, put together a plan. It's good to be balanced, sometimes it doesn't work that way. You go in and one team is maybe really, really good at one area and not as good in the other and you might not have that kind of balance. But you're going to do what's best for you to win that game. There are some ideals but you don't always get to stay with the ideals."

Q: As a defensive guy, is it tougher to scheme up against a team that is balanced offensively?

Coach Del Rio: "Sure. Yeah there's no question. If you have the ability to do both, it's a bigger challenge. I know that as an offensive guy." *(laughter)*

Q: Sean Smith, is that a longer-term thing?

Coach Del Rio: "Shouldn't be. We'll see how he comes out of the weekend but we elected to not push it yesterday and let him heal up. Hopefully Keith McGill, Jamize [Olawale] and Sean are all able to join us this week."

Q: How has Marshall Newhouse been as the new guy on the offensive front?

Coach Del Rio: "I think he's done a solid job with that. Little bit unusual that he's a swing guy, was signed to come in and compete at the right tackle position and then with the holdout, he played left tackle most of the offseason. The way it worked, he and Vadal [Alexander] competed for the right tackle spot last week and we ended up going with Marshall and he's been very solid. Both of those guys are prepared to help us. Marshall solidified that job, played well yesterday. Glad to see it."

Q: Does the Sunday night game matter at all with timing and preparation?

Coach Del Rio: "No. We're excited to play. Have you ever been fishing? Do you go golfing? Whatever it is you like to do. You have no problem getting up. My wife is always like, 'You have no problem getting excited about going to golf,' and I say, 'Yeah, that's right, I love it.' If you love playing football, it doesn't matter. Just tee it up, kick it off and let's play."

Q: Cordarrelle Patterson talked about when you guys recruited him to play here, part of the pitch was that he'd be given an opportunity to contribute on offense.

Coach Del Rio: "There are a lot of different factors that go in. I can't speak to anything that occurred before him joining us. For us, we sold him on some of the things we'd be excited about doing. Showed him specific examples of plays being run that we'd utilize him in, ideas we had to utilize him with. When he got here we started working on it. We got some things that we're going to do with him. We're excited. We think he's a real weapon, we think he's a strong, physical, fast guy. We look to get him involved. I think it's gone beautifully the way it's developed. He's had to work at it. There's a lot of learning on his part, to understand how to be in different positions, how to line up, how to get the play call, how to know what the responsibility is. He's involved in all phases, touching the ball a bunch of different ways, blocking a lot of different ways, running routes a lot of different ways, so a lot of responsibility on his



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part as well. For us to develop him, for him to embrace and grow in those areas and he's done a great job of it. I credit him and I credit the staff working hard with him."