



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Q: Is there a benefit from Amari Cooper finishing last year despite being injured?

Coach Del Rio: "I think there's a benefit in the experience he gained. I think that's part of what you do. As you live life, as you compete at the highest level, you realize things, you learn things along the way. Certainly, having that occur as young player, as a rookie, and experiencing that, I think one, we know more about him in terms of the toughness that he brings, but I think he understands more about really how important the detail of taking care of himself and taking care of his body and understanding how demanding the season is for the NFL player."

Q: You find out what someone is like when they go through something like that.

Coach Del Rio: "As you play football and as you go through the experiences of a season and multiple seasons, you really get a good feel about these young men and how they handle things."

Q: Are you going to pick and choose where Karl Joseph will play this week or will you just let him go?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm excited to see him play. I know he's excited to get a chance to play. We plan on playing him. So there we go. He's had a really good week of practice. I feel like we've had a good solid week of preparation and we're excited to go play."

Q: Are he and Cory James going to start or are you going to keep that under your hat?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I don't think there's any benefit to declare what we're doing. We'll let it play out on Sunday."

Q: Has Joseph relieved any concerns there were about keeping him out?

Coach Del Rio: "I think what missing the first couple of games or not being an active participant on defense the first couple of games gave him a chance to see from that perspective and grow as a young player. Maybe catch up on some of the time that we didn't have during the offseason when he wasn't able to go as much. What I'm most impressed with is his attitude has been great. He works hard. He's conscientious. He's got some explosive abilities as a football player. I think the health issue is really kind of behind him now. I feel good about that. I feel good about the way he's preparing. Now we just look forward to all of us going out and playing well on Sunday."

Q: Austin Howard missed the first game, played all 75 snaps last week and now he's hurt again. What does that say about what he did for the team last week?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, we really appreciate the way he fought through last week. It took a lot out of him. Now he's back down and will be resting this week. He showed some toughness and fought through it. The group up front has done a great job of that to start the year. These things will start to settle down for us and we'll get back to what we envisioned coming out of camp. The good news is the group is fighting through it and performing very well for us."