

HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH

On the injuries in the game

“As far as the game injuries, we didn’t have any to report right now, so that’s a good thing.”

On the defensive performance

“The defense played very well outside of probably two big plays. We were great on third down. They were two-for-15 on third downs. We had eight three-and-outs today. The start of the second half, they were minus three, minus eight, minus 19 yards on the drive and minus one. Defensively, we played really stout today outside of the two big plays and the one obviously for a touchdown. We can’t do that. Very pleased with the defense.”

On the running back performance

“We rushed for 146 yards, so absolutely pleased with the entire offense as far as running the football. I can’t tell you about the individual backs right now, but we were 29-for-146 at 5.0 a carry. I’m pleased with that.”

On wanting to utilize the running game more this week

“I wouldn’t say it’s a run-mode. We’re attacking the looks they were giving us. They played a lot of show coverage, even in the second half, even when they were down by two scores. They played a bunch of soft zones. I wouldn’t say it was run-mode. It was just attacking what they were giving us.”

On keeping the Raiders to 24 rushing yards

“It’s extremely hard, especially if you’re a run first offense like the Raiders are. Again, our run defense has been stout the entire year. So, I have been very proud of how those guys have played the run. With a back like that and an offensive line like that, that’s really special, 24 yards.”

On whether he was satisfied with the pass protection

“I was. Obviously [DE Khalil] Mack gave us a couple issues, but he’s a great player. Overall, I was satisfied with the protection. Absolutely, I was.”

On going into the bye week 3-1

“Definitely pleased to be 3-1. It’s a 16 game season and it four quarters. The first quarter is over and we’re 3-1 heading into a bye. That was huge for us today. What I like about our football team right now is our run defense has been excellent. Running the football with our offensive line and our backs has been excellent. My issue with our football team right now—we make a lot of critical errors. That has to stop. Offensively, we’re 0-for-4 in the red zone with one false start. Defensively, we gave up two big plays today in the pass game with the same play from the Chargers game. It’s an identical play. We have to fix those things moving forward.”

On what he takes away from the Broncos red zone efficiency

“It wasn’t very good, we were 0-for-4. Again, it’s really self-inflicted wounds. It’s a false star and there’s a holding penalty, and so we can’t do that. We’ve got to score points down there and score touchdowns down there and we had a missed field goal. That part of our offense we have to fix quickly.”

On holding four opposing running backs to under 100 yards this season

“That’s really four special backs and really four special offensive lines. Our run defense has been really stout. Again, adding [NT Domata] Peko [Sr.] and [DE Zach] Kerr and [DE] Ahtyba Rubin now and obviously coaching it differently than it was coached in the past.”

On tight ends being a bigger part of the offense today

“It’s hard to say. When you’re facing a lot of Cover-2 or shell coverage, No. 88 (WR Demaryius Thomas) and No. 10 (WR Emmanuel Sanders) are really taken out of the ball game and it opens up windows for [TE A.J.] Derby. That’s his role for our football team to win inside coverage in zone versus safeties and linebackers. I’m very pleased with him and it’s a big day for him.”

On S Justin Simmons’ interception

“Justin is obviously a great young player. He’s very intelligent and very athletic, and that play he made tonight was a big time play. That’s what we’ve seen from that guy the last four to five months. Moving forward, he’s going to get better and better as he plays more football, but I’ve been very pleased with how he’s handled himself as a first-time starter.”

On why opposing teams are committing more resources to stopping Denver’s passing attack

“Because the passing game is where you score points and everyone understands that. You can give up 150 yards rushing and be in a football game, we just watched it. The pass game is where you make your chunk yards and where you score points. I don’t blame teams. I would force us to pound the ball and play good red zone defense. It’s been working against us. It won’t change until our red zone offense changes. Right now, it’s a formula versus our offense. Just play soft, soft, soft, and in the red zone stiffen up.”

RUNNING BACK C.J. ANDERSON

On breaking a big run after a slow start

“I just try to do everything I can when I touch the ball. In the beginning, a little frustration. Some things going on were a little frustrating. I kept telling myself, just keep grinding and stay with it. Keep grinding, trust your boys up front and things will happen. That’s what happened today.”

On enhancing the red zone efficiency

“We just have to make plays, us as playmakers [have to] make plays. I can call one for me particularly if I catch the ball clean, who knows what happens. I kind of bobbed on the catch. Another one, even though he was down with the strip sack, we have to hold up [QB] Trevor [Siemian] a little bit more. We have to go watch the tape, but maybe we get the ball out quicker. Some things on us that we have to find a way to put the ball in the box and bury teams. We don’t want to keep games close like that. We need to bury them. We have a bye week so we’ll definitely get a chance to look that over, be better and be ready for the Giants in two weeks.”

On the strong emphasis on the run game

“It’s just game-by-game, day-by-day and it starts with practice. I think what we do in practice is [focus on the] run game. We definitely emphasize it so much more. We know what the O-line is saying. The O-line is knowing what we’re seeing and what we’re saying. [Offensive Line] Coach [Jeff] Davidson and [Assistant Head Coach/Running Backs] Coach [Eric] Studesville, we understand what they’re saying to their plays and what’s being talked back to us. We can all pretty much be on the same page and that’s something that we want to keep doing. The communication on the sideline has been a lot better in the years past between

myself or [RB] Jamaal [Charles] and the O-line, or them to us. We just want to keep that going, compose our will and control the game the way we want to.”

On the bye week coming early in the season

“You still use it in a way. We’re 3-1 in the bye week and we’re excited about that. You still use it in the same way, get away from the game and enjoy some time with family or whatever you enjoy doing. Don’t do anything outrageous, but just get away, enjoy the time, refresh your body and get ready for a long grind coming back.”

On how he feels going into the bye week

“I feel good. There are some things I’ve been doing personally that I learned from other veterans that has been helping me out. Even though last week with the work load I had, I kept that going into this week. My body feels good and fresh. This bye week will just make it that much better.”

On the Broncos offense utilizing three running backs today

“I think it’s going to go the way it’s going to go. We knew we all were going to play. We knew that when Jamaal got over here that we were all going to play. We’re all going to have our time and have our moments to make plays. We all have different roles and we use our roles and our abilities within the game in the different roles. Maybe if the game is going another way, then maybe it’s a Jamaal Charles day or a Booker day, things to that nature. We all ran the ball well and that’s how we want to keep it. Hopefully we can keep catching the ball out of the backfield and just trying to be the spark to this football team.”

On if he knew his mom would wear Oakland gear

“(Laughing) I had a feeling something was getting put on by her Oakland. I love my mom, she loves me, she’s proud of the way I play and I know that. When I get out there, she’ll get on me on some things, Walking into halftime, she’s whispering to me and I’m like ‘Ok mom, just relax.’ I knew she was going to do that. She loves her team. They played well. we know that and they’re a good football team, and she understands that too. I just look at it that way.”

On the hits Siemian took

“We’ve got to do a better job of protecting him. We did the best we could. We did a really good job of neutralizing ‘52’ (Oakland Raiders DE Khalil Mack) as much as we can. You try to take him completely out of the game because he can just wreck it. We’ve seen that here before, but when he gets hit we just hope he gets up and everything is fine. With that said, if something does happen then we have no problem with ‘17’ (QB Brock Osweiler) coming in and running our offense the way it needs to be ran.”

On what he saw in the Broncos run defense during training camp

“I said something earlier in training camp about our run defense, that they haven’t done in the past and the linebackers are playing the run. They’re playing the run completely different this year. I’m not going to go into details and give up how they’re playing the run, we’ll let you guys figure that out. You watch enough football I hope, but they play the run game completely different this year and I think that’s the what’s helping them. They’re playing the run game a lot different, way different then they have in the past, and I noticed that maybe the first three or four days in training camp because of the way they were making us cut and the put the ball in certain places. That’s a good thing. Our defense is doing a hell of a job.”

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On having better energy this week compared to last week

"I don't think it's just one key. I think across the board, everybody's energy is different. Everybody is—starting with [Head] Coach [Vance] Joseph, we come in every week ready to go. We lay out the priorities and try to execute them. Practice is always good. Then when we get in the game, every single position group is doing their job, from receivers, to cornerbacks, to running backs, tight ends, offensive line, defensive line, linebackers and quarterbacks. Everybody is executing. When you have a recipe like that, you get the outcome we got today."

On rushing the quarterback today

"I felt like we did pretty good. He was throwing the ball extremely fast. Like I said before, they have a really great offensive line. Through all the chips and the quick passes, we were still able to get to them. That's all we can really ask for."

On whether he expected to get chipped all game

"I really don't know what to expect now. I'm going to get chipped. That's just part of it. It's not surprising. I go into the game and I watch film, but it doesn't do any good because when I get in the game, I'm going to get a whole different look. I'm going to get a whole different blocking scheme that previous teams that have played the team that we just played, have shown. I just come and try to make it happen every single play. That's my job. I just try to make it happen, whether there are three chips or not. Just have to make it happen."

On the defensive line's contribution to stopping the run

"I don't know if it's the linebackers. We have the same linebackers that we had last year. Really, it's the same exact team. I think the energy and culture is different. [NT] Domata [Peko Sr.] is playing great for us. [DE Derek] Wolfe is playing great. [DE] Adam Gotsis is playing red hot right now. When those three guys playing the way that they play, it makes everybody's job easier, especially in the run."

QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN

On his touchdown pass to TE A.J. Derby

"We were just saying how that drive was kind of the 'A.J. Derby Show.' He had a similar route the play before and he did a good job getting open. That was a pretty good catch, too. He had good day, so I'm happy for him."

On the key to being more efficient in the red zone

"I think we're hurting ourselves down there. I've got to watch everything, but we have to find a way to get touchdowns instead of field goals. I thought the first week we did a good job of that. We'll figure it out, clean it up on the bye and be ready to go."

On his decline in passing yards in the final three quarters

"I just felt like we were always one play away from really getting momentum. We just didn't really have a rhythm, and they did a good job of mixing up coverages, defenses and safety pressures. They kept us on our toes, but we've got to find a way to stay in a rhythm, stay on the field and get it to our guys."

On the Broncos' play in the trenches

"I think these divisional games are all going to be close, physical games. You look across our division and that's where the game is won and lost. Now and when the playoffs come, you've got to be good in those two areas. That's great for us, but we've got to keep growing and be better in the other areas, too. I'm excited about what we can do."

On taking sacks rather than forcing throws

"I think you have to understand the situation. When you're backed up, you're obviously not taking any sacks. If you're in the red zone and it's third-and-five, you take a sack and have to kick a 25-yard field goal rather than a 20-yard field goal. It's not that big of a difference. That's something that I'm trying to get better at, having situational awareness. There's times to throw it away and there's time to take a sack and it's a good sack. Those are things I'm working on and I'll look back and see how I did. I don't really know right now off the top of my head."

On the timing of the bye week

"It's fine. I think we're pretty healthy for the most part, but it'll be a good week for us to kind of regroup and hit this stretch. It was really important for us to win today at home so I'm beyond excited that we finished 3-1 in that first quarter of the season."

On playing at Sports Authority Field at Mile High

"It's huge. As far as we go, communication is a lot easier. Then you look at the defense and how hard it is for opposing offense to communicate and get in and out of the huddle. That's a huge advantage. We want to be dang-near perfect at home and we're off to a good start on that end."

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHAQUIL BARRETT

On the importance of this win

"It's just a bounce-back from losing last week. Any win after a loss is always better. Now knowing that we can go in to the bye week a little bit more comfortable, that's always a plus."

On the effectiveness of the pass rush

"We're doing pretty well. We're getting after the quarterback. Today we had four sacks and he wasn't holding on to the ball long at all. We've just got to keep working because in a game where the quarterback does hold the ball longer, we've got to be able to get there."

On how he feels he's playing

"I'm doing alright. I've just got to keep getting to the quarterback and keep making plays in the run game. When I'm in coverage, I can't let the guy catch the ball. I'm going to go in to the bye and work on that stuff. I'll have to look at film and see what I need to get better at."

On what they did well in the run defense

"I don't know what the longest run was today, but I'm pretty sure it wasn't very long if they only had 24 yards. Whatever we did today, we just need to keep on doing."

On beating two of the best offensive lines in the Raiders and Cowboys

"We just have the mindset that we don't care if they're the best. We want to be the best defense, and in order for us to be the best defense, we have to take out all the top dogs on offense. We have those guys on our schedule, so we can prove against the top offensive lines that we are great."

RUNNING BACK JAMAAL CHARLES

On being 3-1 going into the bye week

“That was our goal to finish this quarter 3-1. We knew it was going to be a tough division game playing against a good Raiders team. Shout out to the offense and the defense doing a great job team wise.”

On whether he suffered an injury

“I am doing OK. It was just a helmet to the knee and I got up, came back and played. I am just going to get back in the training room, good thing I have a bye week and get ready for the next game.”

INSIDE LINEBACKER TODD DAVIS

On getting a win right before a bye week

“It was huge. I think it gives us momentum moving forward. I just love when our name is called. As a defense we have to step up and make plays and [that was] a great one [interception] by [S] Justin [Simmons] in the end.”

On rising to the occasion at the end of games

“I love it. I think we thrive off the big games and the big names of the guys that are supposed to come in and do well. There’s that added bonus to stopping somebody who is a top tier running back.”

On the mindset going into the bye week

“I think this win gives us the momentum we need going forward. It allows us to keep in mind to stay focused. We’ll remember what it took to win this game and how we lost the one before.”

On winning at home against a divisional opponent

“These are huge. We know that we have to win at home. Especially against a great divisional opponent.”

On stopping the run

“I think we just worked so hard at during the week. It took a lot of our time and effort during the offseason to get our run defense corrected, especially a good back like [RB] Marshawn [Lynch] we definitely want to come in and make a statement.”

On being 3-1

“We’ve had a good quarter of the season. I think it’s time for us to rest up, get focused, and get back on the game field.”

TIGHT END AJ DERBY

On his touchdown catch

“I haven’t seen it, so I’m just ready to go watch it and try to get better for the next time we play.”

On the importance of wins within the AFC West

“That was huge getting the win today against the Raiders. They’re a good football team. We’re just happy where we’re at and we’re going to keep moving forward and keep getting better.”

On if he envisioned he'd be the leading receiver based on the Broncos' offensive gameplan

"I didn't actually even know that. Every game, we're going in trying to make a play for [Broncos QB] Trevor [Siemian], for the offense, so it was great to get a win today."

On having a career day

"I felt great. I felt like I've been running good routes all year and now I'm just trying to keep making plays for Trevor, so I felt that was good."

On today's missed offensive opportunities

"I can't say until we watch the film. I think we can always get better. We're all going to look at it and just try to keep moving forward."

DEFENSIVE END ADAM GOTSIS**On the Broncos' run defense**

"I think we're doing great as a run defense. As I said, it's early still. Teams are still feeling things out. As V.J. [Broncos Head Coach Vance Joseph] said in our breakdown, we're going to come back in our second quarter and teams are going to have four games of film on us. These guys find ways to make things work. We've just got to keep rolling, keep playing good and stout defense. That's all we can do, control what we can do when we're on the field."

On playing well against top running backs in the NFL

"You see some of the guys that we're stopping and it's a whole defensive effort. It's not just the D-line. It's the linebackers doing their job and the secondary coming down helping out. It's a team defense. Everybody has got to do their job to make this work, and I think right now that's what people are doing."

On competing against two competitive offensive lines in the Cowboys and Raiders

"That's for them to judge us. I feel like we're a humble group that plays hard. We need to show up to work every day. We can't come in thinking, 'Oh we're playing this team this week; this team, this week.' We've got to come do what we've got to do every day, regardless of the opponent. We know if we show up, we give our team a chance. But if we don't show up, we've got no chance. We know that we've got a lot riding on us up front, and it's up to the front seven to be shutting it down, and that's what we've been doing so far."

On Broncos DE Shelby Harris playing against his former team

"He was pumped up all week for it. Him and [Broncos RT] Menelik [Watson] both. It's always good to go up against some guys that you've been through some with, and it was probably exciting for him to see how he's grown as a player going against these guys. It's awesome just to see him out there doing well."

CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.**On making a game-winning defensive stop**

"It's a division game. We expect all division games to be like that. They usually all go to the wire. We were just happy to end the game on defense. We know that we can finish way better, and that's something we'll try to correct over the bye [week]."

On the Broncos' run defense

“That’s what we’re able to do with me and [Broncos CBs] Aqib [Talib] and [Bradley] Roby, we’re able to load the box, have more men in the box than what they can usually block and usually see versus other teams, and be able to play man outside. We put a lot of responsibility on us in the pass to be able to hold up out there as we load the box.”

On the Raiders’ final drive of the game

“They just came out and they were in no-huddle mode. We knew that we just couldn’t give up a touchdown and we had the game. They didn’t have any timeouts so we knew that we had a chance to get a turnover and we came up with one.”

On going into the bye week 3-1 with momentum

“We know that we didn’t come to play our best versus the Bills. We could easily be undefeated right now, so we’ve just got to fix our mistakes and come up with a great plan versus the Giants. We’ve got two weeks to get ready for them. That’s the only thing we can look forward to.”

On the Broncos’ defensive line

“They’ve been huge. That’s the No. 1 thing that we’re trying to do; load the box and make sure that they cannot run at all, and that’s what we’ve been doing.”

On S Justin Simmons making the game-sealing interception

“He was due. We definitely needed the play and he made a huge play for us. We need him to make those impact plays and have some confidence.”

SAFETY WILL PARKS

On contributing big plays for the Broncos’ special teams

“It leads to playing good on defense. It was awesome. As long as we got the win, that’s all I care about right now.”

On Broncos S Justin Simmons making the game-winning interception

“Once the ball was in the air and I knew that he was around—it was all about him snagging the ball, squeezing it and bringing it down and that’s what happened.”

On the importance of winning today going into the bye week

“It gives us a chance to get our bodies back. We completed the first quarter, 3-1. Like [Broncos head] coach [Vance Joseph] said, ‘Our team changes every quarter. We’re going to change for the better, come back, get ready for the Giants.’ I won’t be surprised if we come back tomorrow and start watching some Giants film and start practicing for them. I can’t wait to get to it.”

On the improved Broncos’ run defense

“That was a situation last year where we gave up a lot of big runs and this year it was kind of different. We emphasized playing the run. We’ve got the No Fly Zone, that’s why they call us that. It’s just stop the run. That was it.”

On stopping Pro Bowl running backs the first four weeks

“Yeah, that is kind of crazy. We don’t think about that though. I think that’s a big reason why we’re doing pretty well against the run. It’s not about who’s back there. We just empathize stopping the run, no matter who the running back is. It’s the NFL.”

NOSE TACKLE DOMATA PEKO SR.

On shutting down elite running backs

“We’re going against guys who have been to Pro Bowls and we’re shutting them down. It’s been great. Big shout out to the defensive line and the front seven. Shout out to our defense, because stopping the run is not just up front, it’s the whole team. This defense is playing great. We had a couple plays out there that we need to clean up. We’re going to make a run and we’re just going to keep getting better. We’re just going to do it one game at a time.”

On being a Denver Bronco

“It’s awesome. I am enjoying being a Bronco and I’m enjoying playing the game of football. You’re always having fun when you’re winning. I love being a part of this organization and this team. We just have to keep getting better.”

On the importance of this game

“It was a big game for us. We’re 2-0 in the division, 3-1 overall. It’s the first quarter of the season and it’s not bad sitting 3-1. We’ve just got to get rested up, stay focused and come back versus the Giants in two weeks.”

SAFETY JUSTIN SIMMONS

On Raiders RB Marshawn Lynch

“It’s tough. He’s Beast Mode, he runs the ball hard and efficiently, so that was a big emphasis was coming in and stopping the run, and we were able to do that which made us more successful in the pass game. Obviously there were some few instances on some drives where we gave up some passing plays, but all in all it was a pretty solid day.”

On what to improve on during the bye week

“There’s going to be a bunch of stuff. We’re going to watch the film from this game and we will watch the film again from the Buffalo loss. We will pick up some tendencies and things we feel like hurt us big time defensively, and we’ll look at that, adjust and get ready to finish the rest of the season.”

On his interception

“They had run that play, it was like an empty look, a bunch in that last two-minute drive and on that one 99-yard drive that they had, so I had to be patient. There are so many times where offensives would bait you into jumping things and it was a great rush up front, the corners did a great job getting hands on receivers and made my job easy on the back end to just go get the football.”

On stopping Lynch

“I harp on it all the time when you talk about stopping the run. If you can make a team one-dimensional and you put them in situations where they have to pass the ball, it makes us so much more effective in the pass game, especially with our rush up front. You can’t ask for more as a secondary for that front four we have so stopping the run was huge.”

On Raiders QB EJ Manuel’s play

“EJ Manuel is a veteran quarterback. He’s been in the league from a while and we knew if he came in, he would be ready and would diagnose the defense, so we just tried to give him the same look we would give [Derek] Carr. I hope he’s doing well, it’s tough to see someone go down like that.”

On stepping in the starting role

“There are obviously big expectations. T.J. [Ward] was a huge mentor to me and he was like a big brother, and so I wanted to do well, not only for Broncos Country, but for him as well. He helped me so much my first year and still to this day. I know it means a lot and this has been such a prestigious organization at the safety position. Whether T.J. stayed or left, there would have been big shoes to fill regardless.”

On making the big play to finish the game against a division rival

“It felt great. All game I was just trying to be patient, play my role in the back end and get the ball down when it gets to me. I had to go attack the ball whether it was thrown in the middle or up in the air, just high point the ball and be playmaker. The coaches trust me, my teammates trust me and it was a great opportunity to make a play.”

CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB

On S Justin Simmons’ interception

“One of our young bulls stepped up like a vet in the clutch. High pointed the ball, you cannot do much better than that. So that is a big-time play by J.”

On the game coming down to the wire

“If you go around the National Football League, I am willing to bet 12 out of the however many games come down to the last possession. That is just the National Football league. That is what makes you a good team or a bad team. You have to be able to finish those games and come out with those wins.”

On what helps make those final winning plays

“It is our preparation. We have great confidence in ourselves. We do not second guess ourselves in those kind of situations. J (Justin Simmons) definitely did not second guess himself. He went up and made a great play.”

On the defensive effort

“First of all, our front seven did a great job stopping that run. Any time you stop a run like that it makes your job a lot easier calling plays for [Defensive Coordinator] Joe [Woods] and it makes our job a lot easier on the back end putting us in great situations on third down. As far as the pass game, Joe came up with a great gameplan. He put us in great positions and put us in looks that those guys are not comfortable with.”

On the run defense getting better from last year

“We paid so much attention to it on the offseason, on just detailing our fits. We got bigger guys in there. We have big [Domata] Peko and big Shelby [Harris]] [Adam] Gotsis is healthy. We changed how the linebackers play the run a little bit and [Defensive Coordinator] Joe (Woods) did a great job calling. When he thinks it’s a run he knows he has corners who can play man, so he loads that box when he thinks it’s a run, if he thinks it’s a pass he works his magic. So everything is working together, it is the calls, it is the players, it is the situations coming together.”

DEFENSIVE END DEREK WOLFE

On winning “ugly” games

“It wasn’t really that ugly. It was a football game. Don’t fans want to come see a good game? The fans want to come see a good, close game and this one came down to the defense having to make a stop at the end. [S] Justin Simmons made a great interception there. [Raiders RB Marshawn Lynch] had 12 yards. Who’s next? That’s what I say.”

On tackling Lynch

“Trust me, he’s gotten me. He got me my rookie year and knocked my helmet off. I said ‘That isn’t going to happen again.’ I saw him on film knock over a guy that was a little bigger than I was even, so he’s a powerful runner. You’ve got to be ready for him. You can’t come in messing around thinking you’re going to get him to the ground. I came in there and popped him another time and he didn’t even go to the ground. He’s a great running back and a great player.”

On if people will still doubt the run defense

“I don’t think it’s ever going to stop being a debate. They’re always going to doubt us, but that’s how we like it. We want to be doubted. We want people to underestimate how good we are and we just keep doing what we do.”

On the importance of this win going into the bye

“It was an absolute must-win. It’s a divisional opponent going in to a bye week. It’s the end of the quarter, the end of those first four games. If you can go 3-1 every quarter, you’re doing alright.”

On his “howl” after his sack

“I yelled as loud as I could. I was so excited. I yelled all of the air out of my lungs.”

RAIDERS HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO

Opening Statement

“Had our chances there at the end. I thought we stayed in the fight—solid job with that. Missed an opportunity there at the end. I’d rather be here with a big smile on my face talking about how we managed to pull it off, it just didn’t happen. Obviously, you saw [Raiders QB] Derek [Carr] go out with back spasms. They’ll do all the precautionary tests and everything but as of now its back spasms. That should be something that cleans up quickly. [Raiders CB] David Amerson is out with a concussion. So, those are the two injuries that are of note. I thought we stayed in it. I thought we had a chance. I know we did have a chance at the end. Despite only rushing for 24 yards and despite only converting two out of 12 on third down, if you hold people to 16, you should be able to find a way to scratch off a win. So, I’m a little disappointed but I understand this league. After one quarter of football with three out of four on the road, we’re 2-2. That’s what we’ve earned at this point. I’m not happy about that but that’s what it is. We have to take that and just go forward. That’s how we do it.”

On Carr’s injury

“I think he just got roughed up there. He got tackled and something caused his back to spasm up. I didn’t see much that would indicate that he would be injured, but his back spasmed up so that’s what it was.”

On whether Carr told him that his back was hurt

“Yep.”

On whether he thinks Carr's injury is long-term

"I don't think so. Well, I'm not a doctor. I just know what I was told."

On his concern with the Raiders' offensive line

"I think we're sharing, that's what it is. Players, coaches, scheme, calling—it all adds up. If it's all good, we all share in it. If it's bad, then we all accept responsibility and we work to fix it. It's obviously been out of rhythm for too long. The inability to run the ball with our physical group is the most disappointing. We have to get that rectified and we will."

On QB EJ Manuel's play

"I really thought we were going to win that game. With two minutes left and the ball right there, [Raiders RB] Marshawn Lynch and him getting in a great rhythm, I felt really good about the prospects of us celebrating. That's the difference between being really happy and not so happy. That chain of events right there, that's how close it is in this league. That's how fine a point it is that edge that you're looking for. If those two minutes had gone a little differently, obviously, it's a different outcome. I thought EJ did a nice job handling himself. The exception being the timeouts and us not having the ability to stop the clock at the end of the game because we wasted all three of those timeouts on offense. So, obviously, that's not a good thing. I have to take responsibility for that and make sure we're better at that. Whether it's a backup or not, we can't go out there in the second half and not have any timeouts at the end of the game because we wasted them on getting lined up."

On the fake punt

"It was a called fake punt and we are very fortunate that we got out of that. We are very fortunate that it did not bite us. We were looking for a spark and looking to take something that we thought we had and make it work, but it didn't work. Obviously, as the head coach, I know that comes squarely to me so when those things don't work, that comes squarely to me and I understand that. I have been a part of this team for a long time and that is what the head coach gets, good or bad. You get the results with those plays."

On whether he discussed the unsportsmanlike conduct foul with P Marquette King

"I have not said anything yet, but you can be assured that I will."

On the errors in tonight's game

"I can't sit here and tell you who or what is the biggest culprit so to me I will take the responsibility myself. Just put it to me and say that coach says we are going to get it fixed. We will work at it together. It is always a combination of players, of coaches, of scheme, of adjustments of what they are doing, of game plan preparedness, and execution. So ultimately, I am responsible for all of that so just put it on Coach Del Rio and then we will just get to work."

On the defensive performance

"I though defensively we hung in there, we had to. We had to go up and get stops and we did. [DE] Khalil Mack was outstanding and once again, I think we ended up with four sacks. We had one taken away. We knew the front was going to be good for us. The corners that stepped up had to play, and I thought they stepped up and played well."

On going for it on fourth down when in field goal range in the first

“My belief in our line and my belief that we can get a yard. I understand that I make that call and we get it and we keep rolling. At the points when you do not get it, you have to answer to it and that’s why I said put it on Coach Del Rio.”

On what impressed him about Manuel’s play

“I thought he showed poise. I thought he was for the most part accurate. The interaction with him on the sideline, he was in charge so that was a positive sign I think for our football team knowing that our backup is capable of going into a tough situation and performing at a high level.”

RAIDERS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR

On how he is feeling

“Not too good. We lost so that never feels good. We have a lot of work to do and I’m excited to get back to work this week and try to fix some things.”

On how he is feeling physically

“Not good either, but I don’t think anyone is in the NFL. I’m going to do the treatment and all those kinds of things. You guys know me, it’s going to take a lot for me to not be out there.”

On the play that he was injured on

“They covered up the double move we were trying to run and then they dropped off. It was a cloudy look, so I just took off and tried to get something with my feet. I think I made a couple guys miss and I saw one guy coming and I just tried to get down. As soon as I tried to get down, I don’t know what happened. It happens fast out there. I got blasted pretty good.”

On what he felt after the hit

“Pain. My back didn’t feel too good.”

On injuring his back

“At first, you are like, ‘Oh my gosh, what the heck?’ But you kind of give it a little bit and let as much of the pain wear off as it can and go from there. I tried to come in and have them work on it. I tried to throw and those kind of things. It just wasn’t ready yet. Not saying it won’t be, it just wasn’t ready today. I tried to do anything I could to be back out there but I just couldn’t.”

On how comfortable he will be on the flight home

“It won’t be fun, but at the end of the day, no one really cares. I’ll do my best to get comfortable but as soon as see my two baby boys, it will feel a little bit better.”

On watching the game while getting evaluated and treated

“I tried to watch all of it. They have you going different places and there are TVs everywhere so I was watching it. I thought EJ (Manuel) did a great job coming in in a tough situation. I thought he was doing a great job taking the completions they were giving at the end there and at the end, he has to try to make a play. He felt good about it and they just ended up catching it.”

On what they need to do on third downs

“We just need to keep going. Again, we aren’t going to stress out or anything like that. We had some near, near misses. The little details are what we’re lacking right now. It may look like just an incomplete or a

missed opportunity but we are just little details away from making big, big plays. That's the frustrating part for me. We're really close but we have a lot of work to do."

On whether he thinks he can return next week

"I'm always optimistic."

On Head Coach Jack Del Rio being optimistic of his status

"I'm glad he knows. That's awesome. That sounds good to me."

On whether he got an X-ray

"We did. I think they do it with everything. Whatever hurts, they are going to X-ray it. I don't know anything yet. They are doing their due diligence."

On the run game struggling

"Obviously we want to do the run and the pass better. We have a big o-line and we've got good running backs so we want to be able to run the football. That's any team though. I'm not just saying that for us. Any team wants to run the football because it takes stress off the passing game. That's important when you play a defense as good against the pass as this. They are the best as they come. We will look back on them years from now and say wow, that's one of the best groups to ever be assembled. That's why it's so fun to compete against them."

On how long it took for his back to stop hurting

"It still hurts."

RAIDERS TIGHT END JARED COOK

On how close he was to catching the ball late in the game

"I don't know. I haven't seen it. I don't even think I touched it though. It was a 'bang-bang' play. All I remember was getting hit on the side of the head."

On the play of QB EJ Manuel

"He did a good job, a really good job. That is what we need when guys go down, for guys to step up, fill their role, play their position and come up big."

On not running the ball effectively in recent games

"I couldn't tell you, I don't know. It is something we do need to fix and do need to get better at."

On if he is surprised the team is struggling running the ball

"I am a little bit, but we have one of the best running backs in the backfield. Teams are schemed toward that and they'll play toward that."

RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER AMARI COOPER

On the struggles of the offense

"All props go to their defense. They're a really good defense. We've just got to out and prepare better, so we can play better."

On how the Raiders quarterbacks played

"It's not a good taste (in your mouth) when your starting quarterback goes down, but EJ came in there and was professional. He stayed within the offense and he tried to make things happen."

On the pressure of making plays

"I think we just have to stay within the offense. That's what we tried to do, but we just couldn't come away with those six points in the end."

On what happened during the final offensive play

"I don't really know. I usually go up and make those types of plays. [S] Justin Simmons went up and made a good play."

On the third-down play-calling

"We just have to execute, plain and simple. It doesn't really matter what play is called. We just have to go out there and execute it."

On how the defense was defending him

"They played a lot of man-to-man. When they went up, then they started playing a lot of two-high."

RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER JOHNNY HOLTON**On what was going through his mind on his touchdown reception**

"We've been practicing on that play all week. I was just concentrating on catching the ball and making a play for the team."

On whether he collected the game ball from his first career touchdown

"No, I didn't keep the ball. If we would have won it would've meant something, but we lost. We lost a big conference game so it really didn't mean anything."

On if the offense became more in sync as the game went on

"We have to come out more fast on offense and continue to play like the explosive offense that we are."

On if there is a sense of worry given the offense's recent struggles

"No, we aren't pressing. We just have to come to practice prepared and get ready for the next game."

RAIDERS DEFENSIVE END KHALIL MACK**On his reaction to QB Derek Carr's injury**

"You learn from this game. We know how we responded last year and we didn't want to respond the same way this year. That's your homie. I thought he was coming back, but I didn't know what the situation was. Regardless of that, I knew that the defense had to hold it down."

On the play of the defense

"We're getting there. We're getting better every week. We're trying to learn from our mistakes, but at the same time we can be a lot better. Being the leader on the defense, you want to be able to shut teams out and bring your defense on the road with you with special teams and all those different things. It is what it is. We're going to look at the film, get it corrected and learn from it."

On why the pass rush was effective

“Everything was working together. The rush and coverage were working together. Guys were doing their job and focusing on what we were going to get. We knew what we were going to get most of the time. Some things they executed better than us, but at the end of the day all you want to do is learn from it and move forward.”

On needing to start faster offensively

“We’ve got to start faster early, especially on the road. You can’t give that team any more momentum than they already have in the loud environment.”

On the defense picking up the offense

“The offense is not really a concern for a guy like myself. Being a defensive guy and a leader on the defense, I feel like it’s on us. If they put up 10 points, then they shouldn’t have scored 16. That’s what it ultimately comes down to for me personally.”

On guys trying too hard to make a play

“That’s not really a concern. I feel like once the communication is set and once everybody does their job it’s going to be hard to beat us. Starting early and starting fast and keeping it going throughout the whole game is something that we definitely have to work on.”

RAIDERS QUARTERBACK EJ MANUEL**On entering the game**

“Under the circumstances, of course we don’t want anything to happen to Derek, but I got some snaps. I wanted us to come out with the victory of course. I thought we did some things to get in position to win the game, but you’ve got to do more.”

On what he saw on the interception he threw

“Anytime [WR Amari Cooper] Coop is given an opportunity to go up and catch a ball, I’m going to give him that chance. I think I could’ve kept the ball more outside for him, to kind shield off the safety a little more, that’s something that I can fix. That’s it.”

On if Carr said anything to him as he was about to go into the game

“I didn’t see him. I think they had just taken him right to the side.”

On how he was able to move the ball later in the game

“I think it was just a matter of getting in a rhythm. I think looking all of the guys in their eyes, they were confident in me which gave me confidence in myself. When those guys have been out there since day one, as a backup you don’t want to mess up any things that they already have pretty much established. You just want to go in and do your best and try to help us win, but we were able to move the ball. Like I said, we got into situations to try and give us a chance to win the game.”

On the offense’s inefficiency on third down

“I think it’s just a matter of—there’s a lot of multiples to it actually, I can’t really say it’s one or two things. I know moving forward we definitely need to clean that up.”

On what he knows about Carr's status

"Knowing Derek, he's going to do everything he can to be good to go. That's all I know."

On whether he is prepared to play if needed

"It's not a concern. If you're the next man up and your number is called, you have to go up and perform. This is a performance-based business. If Derek can go, great. If he can't, I'm going to go out there and do my best to help our team win."

On the loss

"Denver is a great team. We think we are a great team as well but it's football. You can't go out there and expect to put up 40 points every week. That's very hard to do, especially against a great defense like Denver has. Hats off to them, they earned the game today."

On coming in as a backup

"This is my first time doing this stuff. I've been in the league for five years now. I understood the situation and my biggest thing was just getting in a rhythm as fast as possible. I haven't gone with the first team since we started the season. The situation is what it is. You've got to perform. I'll go back and watch the tape and move forward."

RAIDERS OFFENSIVE TACKLE DONALD PENN**On the offense's struggles**

"I'm concerned about it too. We've got to get it fixed. You're going to ask me why, but I can't sum it up for you right now. I wish I could, because if that was the case then we would have got it fixed on the field. We've got to figure out a way to get stuff going. I thought we came into this game with a great scheme. We had a great game plan, but we didn't execute it right. We're going to find a way; it's still early. It sucks right now. We lost two in a row. I really thought we were going to get this game at the end too. We've just got to find a way to get this bad taste out of our mouth, get back to rolling and get back to being the Raiders. That's what we're going to try to do this week. We fell short this week, but as an offense we've got to step up. I'm going to tell everybody that I know that our defense is playing their butts off. Hats off to them, but we've got to step up."

On the lack of success on third down

"We need those third downs to keep the drive going. It's hurting us that we're not able to complete those third downs. We've got to start doing better on first and second down to make it more manageable situations. I think that might help. We've got a lot work ahead of us. We had a great week of practice and it didn't turn out that well in the game. If you look at the way we came out at the end of the game, the only positive I can take out of this game is that we fought. We're fighters. I love my team because we came out and we fought to the end. I can take that. We came in at halftime and we thought we were still in it. During that last drive I thought we were going in to score and when they cheered I thought we scored. I knocked my guy down. So when they cheered, I thought it was a touchdown. I thought we were going down there to score, so it was a little heart-breaking. We were close, but we've got to start out fast. If we start off a little faster or if we had another quarter, but all those 'woulda-shoulda-couldas' are going to get you an 'L.' That's what we got today, so we've got to get it fixed next week."

On going for it on fourth down during the second quarter

"I'm glad [Head Coach Jack] Del Rio trusts us. We've got to get it done. I hope he does that again. I hope he puts that faith in us again and lets us get it done next. When it's fourth-and-one, we want the ball to be ran. We've got to figure out a way to execute better. We didn't do that today, but we're going to find a way. Our whole offensive line are guys that have been in this league and have been playing. We're going to keep fighting and keep going. We're a team of fighters the way we came out in that second half and fought. It didn't end the way we wanted. I'm like y'all too. I can't wait to get on this plane and look at this film because I want some answers too. I'm just coming straight off the field. I'm ready to get on my iPad so I can get some answers too and figure out what exactly went wrong in the game. We've got to figure it out."