



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: How did it feel to scrimmage against the Detroit Lions?

Carr: "It was nice to see some new coverages, some different stuff, especially to just go throw out there and just see, 'Oh, that's what they're playing.' It was fun, it's good for us. It'll be good film honestly. The best part about this was going out there, you compete, you do your best, but going and studying the film and seeing, 'Oh, that's what that looks like. They play this kind of a deal.' It'll be good for us to get that and to come out tomorrow and see what we can do better."

Q: Did you get as much done today as you would have liked?

Carr: "Absolutely. Yes, a lot of things happened today – good and bad things – that we needed to have happen that we haven't had happen yet to where we can say, 'Hey, we need to figure that out this way or we need to handle this, this way.' So, I was very pleased with how it went, yeah."

Q: With how good the cornerbacks are in your division, how important is it to see a guy like Darius Slay out here?

Carr: "He's a great corner, especially man-to-man coverage. Obviously, zone is zone, but man coverage, when he's manned up on somebody he's sticky, right in their hips so ball placement is key. So, one-on-ones versus him are very important for me. Throwing those balls, putting them, as you see, [Amari Cooper] 'Coop' is catching the ball and his finger is almost on the ball too. It's just how it is. You have to have strong hands to go against him. It's good to go against all of their corners. I played Nevin [Lawson] in college, he's a heck of a player. I think [Quandre] Diggs is a heck of a player. I think they got a lot of guys. Glover Quin tried to do a vet move and undercut my route today, so you get all of these different kinds of looks. It's very good for us."

Q: Chris Warren and Keith Smith leveled a couple guys today, how big could those two guys be for your running game?

Carr: "Well, they're definitely physical. I know Keith obviously, played him in college also. A lot of Mountain West guys out here today, that's good for the Mountain West Conference. To have Keith blowing holes open the way that he can, especially with our running backs...I heard a sound, I haven't seen Chris' run yet but I heard it was pretty awesome. Can't wait to see that."

Q: How explosive is this offense going to be this year?

Carr: "With [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden and the talent that we have up front and at the skill positions, we could be good, But again, we have to go earn that. I could sit here and say we could be awesome, but we have to go do it."

Q: How have you seen Connor Cook develop behind you in the quarterbacks room?

Carr: "Oh yeah, Connor's been awesome. He's definitely more vocal now, especially with the groups that he's going with. Obviously when I go with the ones, we have our way and the intensity and those things, you see when EJ [Manuel] and Connor go, the intensity level doesn't change. It has to stay the same for the whole team and that's been awesome. He's learning a great deal. I think he's becoming a really good player and I think that the future is really bright for Connor. I really do."

Q: What does it mean to have a lot of military members present today for practice?

Carr: "It's amazing. They're the real heroes, I say that all the time. Military, those people, are the ones that fight for our freedom and we get to play a game for fun."

Q: I think that was your first interception in camp...

Carr: "It was, man. On a stupid scramble drill too. Like out of all the places, that was the easiest time not to get one, right? So yeah, sorry I cut you off. *(laughter)* I was bummed."



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Q: What does it tell you about the practice up until this point that you have not thrown any?

Carr: "No doubt, hadn't had one and then had the one that Slay ended up catching. I was hoping that it hit the ground. He was in zone coverage and found my guy on a scramble drill in the zone, him and I were just on a different page and Slay ends up – because he's a good player – with an interception. It is what it is. But, the fact that we haven't had one up until now in the first group against [defensive coordinator] Coach Guenther's defense, means that we're really well prepared. Coach Gruden gives us the looks, he knows what it's going to look like. He knows what even he could play and just the way he prepares us, your decisions are quicker, your decisions are more timely, you know where everybody on the defense is going to be. Then when you go play a new defense, that can happen, especially when you don't prepare as well for them, kind of a deal. But again, I'm glad that happened today so that now me and the receivers can look at it and I can tell them, 'Hey, that's my fault. I should do this.' Or, 'Hey, next time do it like this.' It's good that it finally happened. I remember Coach [Todd] Downing used to tell me, 'I always wish you'd just throw one in training camp, so that you don't think about it for the rest of the season.' Hopefully, we got those out of the way."

Q: How have you seen Martavis Bryant pick up this offense and where he could improve?

Carr: "[wide receivers coach Edgar Bennett] 'E.B.' does a great job of challenging those guys in front of the receivers room and calling them out, 'Hey, what's this play? What's this route? What's this guy do?' and all that kind of stuff. Just his level from where he got here to where he is now, he's really pick it up, he has. You can definitely tell that he has a sense of urgency for him to pick things up and learn them. He wants to do right, he really does. To see that in him, to see him continue, he always practices hard, that's never a question. He's going to practice hard. And usually that's the hardest part to get someone to practice hard, but he is. No problem practicing hard and going hard. In the film room and in the playbook is where he's really working hard and he's gotten a lot better."

Q: With someone that fast, do you have to adjust the timing of your throws?

Carr: "Oh yeah, absolutely. It's definitely different. He has a different kind of speed. There's certain ways that I throw certain guys passes that I would never throw it like that to him, because you have to treat him different. He is one of those guys that, man, you just let him run. Whatever course he's on, let him stay on that course. It's different with a guy like that."

Q: With the kind of diversity of running backs and wide receivers knowing multiple positions, what can that do for the versatility of your offense?

Carr: "It makes all of our guys have to be on it. Because, Coach Gruden wants me to play a certain way and all of those guys have to know every spot so that in the heat of the game, if I get to something because I see the look, they have to know what to do at the drop of a hat. I think that the way that he demands and the way that he teaches it puts pressure on all of our guys, even the young guys, to play fast mentally and physically. That way, there could be five seconds on the clock, I'll change a play and then snap the ball, they have to be able to handle that kind of stuff."

Q: Has Coach Gruden given you the freedom to check in and out of plays?

Carr: "Oh yeah. Yeah, as he would say, he gave me the keys to his car. *(laughter)* He likes that one a little bit. He gives me the freedom to do what I feel is necessary at the line of scrimmage because we've talked about things. Again, he also trusts me. That's not from anything I've done before, that's from what I've proven to him since he's been here."

Q: Will you or Matthew Stafford compare notes?

Carr: "I feel like I keep getting his quarterback coaches. *(laughter)* Hopefully [quarterbacks coach Brian Callahan] 'Cally' will stick around for a little bit. We did a little bit out here. We were talking to each other. I tried to bet him



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for a little bit of his money, but we didn't get to that point yet. *(laughter)* No, we will. We talk a lot. He's a great mind and I can't believe he's been at it, what is it 10 years now? That's crazy to me."

Q: What about his game do you like and what kind of stuff can you take from him?

Carr: "You know him and I, I don't know how else to say it, we both have strong arms to where we like to make certain throws that sometimes coaches are like, 'Ah, I don't know.' *(laughter)* To see what we both can get away with, to see some of the throws, that's kind of what training camp is for sometimes. I have to tell coach sometimes, 'I'm just trying to see if I could do it.' And then if it works he still has a heart attack like, 'You don't have to throw it.' Seeing Matthew do the same kind of things, taking an extra hitch for making it up with throwing it harder kind of a thing to buy that linebacker another inch to fit in that window, those kinds of things are some of the things that we do kind of similar."

Q: How has Kolton Miller responded to all of the responsibility that Coach Gruden has placed on him?

Carr: "Coach Gruden doesn't care if you're a 12-year vet or a rookie, he's going to coach you the same way. He doesn't care if you've been to zero Pro Bowls or 10 Pro Bowls, he's Coach Gruden. There's a certain level that he demands. There's a certain level of excellence that he demands and Kolton, just like all of us, he demands a lot from him. He wants us to do our job. Mine is to play quarterback and that's my job. His job is to play left tackle, to know the run game, to know the pass game and to protect. HE's going to demand and throw the best at him, throw the toughest looks at him. That way, when we hit the game, hopefully Kolton will sit there and be like 'I got this.'"

Q: Why is your relationship with the Fresno Bulldogs so important?

Carr: "[Fresno St. quarterback] Marcus McMaryion actually texts me more than any other quarterback since I left Fresno. He asks me the most questions. He begs me to come work out with him in the offseason. I went down and saw him, watched some film with him and all those things. I think Marcus is a heck of a player. I think they have a real good chance to win a lot of games. I hope they win everything. That would be awesome, so I can talk some trash. Please, fellas, do that. He wants to be better. We were able to talk. I think I stole some things from him, too, in the college game. Some of the things I would have never even thought of. They come up with some pretty wacky stuff. We've been able to talk. I told him I'm an open book, whatever he wants. He reaches out at least once or twice a week."

Q: How important is today in terms of intensity?

Carr: "I actually had to remind myself... I'm such the middle linebacker mentality like 'let's go!' but I had to take a deep breath. Just need to do my job, I don't get to hit anybody. I have a red jersey on. It was a good moment for me to get back into my rhythm like 'oh wait, I have to be calm.' Everyone else can be excited. That was good to do it now rather than week one. It's exciting. Honestly, the best part about this is getting different looks, playing against different people. You don't know their calls. You don't know anything like that. Just getting that, you get different throws in a progression, playing a different defense. I'm so used to hitting this throw or that throw, but now I'm playing against someone else so I have to get to this one or this one. That will be nice, mentally, for me to watch film and come back out tomorrow to get another day of that."



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DL Mario Edwards Jr.

Q: How nice was it to test out what you've been practicing this offseason against another team?

Edwards Jr.: "It was nice going against a different color. We've been going against each other for months now, so to have another opponent in front of us is definitely good and fun."

Q: Did you do anything different this offseason?

Edwards Jr.: "Me, I just did what I wanted to do. Just worked on staying healthy. Working on doing things to help my body stay right. I figured once that happens, everything else will take care of itself."

Q: What was the conversation going into these practices? How were you able to dial it back and not get too aggressive?

Edwards Jr.: "Just go out there and work hard. Stay away from the quarterback. The same rules that we apply in our own practice, we do against everyone else. We kind of came in knowing it'd be a work day. We knew that we couldn't let our tempers flare."

Q: You had a play where you got right past a guard, what did you do on that play and how do you feel overall about your pass rush?

Edwards Jr.: "Pass rush was good. I feel pretty good about that. Really it was just sitting in there with Sapp, Warren Sapp. He just talked to me maybe about 20 minutes before we came outside and we just kept repeating and repeating it. I just tried it and it worked."

Q: What was the conversation?

Edwards Jr.: "Just to do a certain move, and to make sure that once I do it to sell it really good in that rep. It worked. It worked good for me."

Q: Is that going to be one of your moves now?

Edwards Jr.: "Definitely going to continue to put it in my arsenal."

Q: What do you think the switch to defensive tackle will allow you to do this year?

Edwards Jr.: "Just playing all up and down the line, from end to tackle and nose. Just shows my versatility and lets me get mismatches against other people."

Q: How does Paul Guenther's defense fit you?

Edwards Jr.: "Paul is great, man. He always has the three-technique penetrating, penetrator of the defense. Just knowing that I can get up the field and cause havoc to the play."

Q: What kind of teacher is Guenther?

Edwards Jr.: "Paul is a great teacher. He's going to break it down to you. If you don't understand it, he wants you to ask questions. There's no such thing as a dumb question, so what you don't understand is really on you if you don't go ask it."

Q: How was the meeting with the officials on the new rule with how you can use the helmet in tackling?

Edwards Jr.: "It was good. It looks like it's taking a lot of physical out of the game, but we understood the rule. We're definitely going to have to work towards that so we don't get any penalties."

Q: Do you like the rule?

Edwards Jr.: "It's alright. I guess I have to deal with it now."