



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson

Q: What's the biggest challenge with the Chargers' defense?

Coach Olson: "Obviously, for them it's been their rushers. [Melvin] Ingram is a premier pass rusher in this league. We'll have to account for him on every snap. They did a great job in a young draft pick in Derwin James. But defensively, overall, they'll provide a real challenge for us."

Q: Is Gus Bradley's scheme more straight forward than last week?

Coach Olson: "I would say you don't see as many exotic pressures that you have to prepare for when you prepare for Gregg Williams. It's obviously been a very successful defensive scheme throughout the league. A number of teams have copied that blueprint of the Seattle defense and Gus has done a great job with it obviously. They're running it in Jacksonville and he's taken it over in San Diego and done a great job with it."

Q: How integral was it to have multiple series this past weekend start with a short field ahead?

Coach Olson: "It was big. Coach had emphasized it last week, the field position and where we had been in the first three games. So, I think just the emphasis of trying to create turnovers defensively as well as the kicking game providing us better field position. We hit it on both ends."

Q: How raw was Brandon Parker when you moved him to the right side and how much has he progressed?

Coach Olson: "I think like any rookie, it was a big transition going from college to the NFL and certainly from a smaller school like he did. But he showed some things at the Senior Bowl that our scouts recognized and the coaches recognized, so we knew he had the talent level to play here at this level. But there's always a transition, I think, from college to the NFL. We're happy with where he's at right now but he still has a ways to go as well."

Q: How did you assess the way he played against the Browns?

Coach Olson: "He stepped in and did a good job. Had to replace Donald Penn, who had been a Pro Bowl tackle and had made the move for us, but he had a lot of help with the other guys inside. I think the rest of the players felt comfortable, Derek [Carr] certainly feels comfortable with him playing the right side and we feel comfortable with him as a staff. He did a good job."

Q: Your offensive line has battled through a number of injuries this season. What have you made from a grit standpoint?

Coach Olson: "It's a man's sport, we say that, and that's a man's position playing inside. I think we've got great leadership with our three inside players, specifically in Gabe [Jackson] and Kelechi [Osemele]. The inside three for us, when you look at where we put a lot of our money upfront, we expect leadership from those guys and we're getting that from them. I think there's a certain amount of peer pressure from one man to another to know the difference between injury and pain and to play with some pain. That's required at the offensive line position."

Q: Is that something you scout for? Players who understand that difference?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, I think those are questions that are asked of college coaches, certainly to grade the toughness of a player. I think, really, it's that way at every position in the NFL, from wide receivers to quarterbacks. You have to be tough to play this game and to play for any length of time in this game. That's the big difference in my opinion from college to the NFL. It really is a man's sport at every position."



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Q: When is a rookie no longer a rookie? And do you have to speed that up this week with two rookie tackles?

Coach Olson: "I know coach had mentioned it to them after game three, so I would say probably after game three. A lot of guys say after you play a 12-game schedule, that's it. You just got another college schedule. You are now in the NFL you are playing beyond the 12-game schedule but different guys mature at different paces. If they are playing right now those guys next to them expect them to play like a veteran. Once you get in that starting lineup you got to play, and you got to produce, and you got to produce at a high level."

Q: What have you made of Marshawn's [Lynch] and Jared's [Cook] start?

Coach Olson: "Those guys, and you guys have watched it as well, are exciting players and bring great energy to the rest of the team on both sides of the football...Just in their style of play and with the toughness they play. We are very encouraged with where they are at. In terms of their high level of play usually you see guys at that age starting to slow down a little bit. We are really excited with both those guys, where there at in terms of their legs and their strength and how they are playing right now."

Q: It looks like Drew [Brees] might break the passing record this week. You go way back with him, are you going to be able to watch on Monday Night?

Coach Olson: "Yeah, certainly we will be preparing. We got a short week for us, so we will be preparing but he's a great player. He was a great college player and certainly has been a great NFL player. Really happy for him and his family. It's fun to watch. It's good to see it happen to good people and he is a good person as well."

Q: Marshawn's running style is unique. Why do you think he runs the way he runs?

Coach Olson: "It is extremely unique. We pointed out a play to our team where he got hit about a yard from the sideline and kind of bounced the defender off him. He was literally a foot away from the sideline and could have easily stepped out of bounds but continued to drive forward and get us another two or three yards with defenders right in front of him. That's the player he has always been. The Beast Mode nickname he has earned in this league, he has earned that. That's his style and it's gotten him to where he is at right now. He's not going to change that style and we are certainly happy that he runs with that style."

Q: The whistle on what would have been a big play for Marshawn?

Coach Olson: "You do not want to blow a quick whistle when Marshawn Lynch is carrying the football because we've all seen it. Great player."

Q: What does he do in terms of keeping his body able to run like that over the course of season?

Coach Olson: "You see him. He uses different things. He runs with bands a lot on the practice field. He wears bands throughout the entire practice, wrapped around his legs to try and increase his lateral strength of his legs. Certainly, it works for him. You look at him, he's chiseled. Certainly works in the weight room. A very strong player but has tremendous lower strength and power in the legs. He's got different training techniques but out here you'll see some of it when he wears the bands."

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Q: Where have you seen Marquel Lee improve?

Guenther: "I think he's been improving every week. He's gotten more snaps every week. He's a smart guy. He understands all the calls. He understands the grand scheme of things on the defense. He's gotten better every week and that's why he's earned more snaps."



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Q: How have you seen Derrick Johnson take Marquel under his wing?

Guenther: "Derrick has been in the league a long time. He's seen a lot of things. Not just Marquel, but all the other players. His experiences in games and playoff games and long seasons, things that he's seen, he shares with the players. It's always good to have guys like that. If it always comes from me or the coaches... it's always good to hear it from the players."

Q: What does Daryl Worley bring?

Guenther: "Daryl is a seasoned guy. He was one of our best corners in the spring. When he got here in training camp, he's a tough guy. He understands the different techniques we're trying to teach. He understands the zone concepts we're trying to teach and the man concepts we teach. It's going to be a good added piece for us and a well-need piece."

Q: When he says he'd like to see a little more 'umph' from the defense, how do you take that?

Guenther: "You'll have to ask him."

Q: You've already employed a rotation at corner, how does Worley fit?

Guenther: "It's going to be the same thing. Honestly, I'm really trying to figure out... I like to get a set number of guys. We're rotating a lot of guys here because we're trying to figure out the best 11. Right now, it's really the best 15 or 16 for us because we're trying to get everybody in there. Once somebody comes to the head of the table, the snaps will take over. He'll go in there just like some of the other guys like Gareon [Conley] and [Rashaan] Melvin and those guys."

Q: Have you done that in the past?

Guenther: "I've done it in the past. It all depends on the team, the bodies, the injury situation. To me, everybody always talks about the d-line rotation. You don't ever see the o-line rotate. You never see corners rotate. It's always the d-line. Here, it's just the corners. Keeping everybody fresh. Trying to package things for each guy."

Q: Arden Key's unnecessary roughness pass from last week...

Guenther: "I said I wasn't going to talk about it anymore. It is what it is. It's a tough deal."

Q: Where do you see the big plays springing from and how do you go about eliminating them?

Guenther: "Most of the big plays we've given up, we have guys right at the point of attack. The second long run, we've got a linebacker running free and clear to the running back. To me, if a guy gets through the line, an NFL safety is supposed to stop after 12 yards. We have to do a good job of hemming that up and not letting it get out. The first long run, we had a blitz right there again. We just misfit it. We missed some tackles. The corner and the safety collided and there it goes. That's absolutely the main focus. I'm not used to giving up 42 points. The only time I gave up 42 was the 'On to Cincinnati' game in Foxborough and we ran into a buzzsaw that night. I told those guys that my expectations are way higher than this. If we can have teams going 12, 14 play drives, get them in the redzone, hold them to three, that's what we have to go. We can't give up 60 yards on the grass where we can't catch a player. It's a matter of angles, a matter of speed for the ball to get the guy on the ground."

Q: Are you fast enough to get it done back there?

Coach Guenther: "Well we got what we got, so we have to do the best job with what we got right now. I think we can. I think if we can just diagnosis the play a little bit sooner. I told the guys the margin of error for us is very minimal. All 11 guys have to do their job, you're fit the right way and see it all through the same eyes and those things won't occur. It's like when we get out of place a little bit, ball gets through there and all of a sudden, we can't get the guy on the ground. Like is said, the margin of error is razor thin for us."



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Q: Have you seen the progress you want to see on defense?

Coach Guenther: "Like I said, we've played as good as some defense I've been around in spurts. Again, the big plays that we're giving up. I think they said there was 12 plays, 12 or 14 plays over 12 yards. Everything else was under. We made some big stops in that game in critical situations. Obviously, the turnovers helped quite a bit in there. You got a stop there with 30 seconds left when the game is tied. Then you got to go back out in overtime and stop and get the ball back to the offense. I keep telling our guys, our offense is going to move the ball and score. We just have to get it back to them and not give up the long ones."

Q: How would you assess your team's quality of tackling? Looking around the league would you say it's taken a dip because of the calls?

Coach Guenther: "I don't know. I can only speak on our team. It's got to get better, obviously, on the longer plays. I didn't think it was much of a concern the first couple of ball games, really. Then all of a sudden we miss a few tackles in this last game and that's the theme of the deal. I try not to overreact to that. I just try to correct it on the film. Get it practiced out here on the practice field so hopefully it shows up on Sunday."

Q: What impresses you the most about Maurice Hurst?

Coach Guenther: "He's just getting better every week. He's understanding the techniques in there, both in the run and the pass game. He's a bright guy. Bright future ahead of him. I'm really glad we have him."

Q: You've forced a three-and-out on the first play in every game this year, how much of that is a point of emphasis and what do you attest it to?

Coach Guenther: "It means we're coming out and we're prepared. We're prepared for the game. We just hope that continues. Last week it was the second half. We hadn't done real good on the first possession in the second half. It seems like every week we're getting the ball to start the game and then we're out on defense to start the second half. The last couple of weeks have been better. We just have to keep building this thing. That's what I keep telling the players. It's a process. Every week something is new. Until we get to that point where nothing is new, that's when things really start to click."

Q: How do you prepare for a guy like Melvin Gordon?

Coach Guenther: "Oh yeah, he's a good back, hard runner. Both backs are good backs really. I think the other guy is leading the league in yards per carry. Gordon is impressive. I've played him as a rookie. I watched the tape of that game. Just the impression on that guy, this guy is a hard runner. He gets to the sideline and more violent he becomes on the sideline. There was a play the other day in the 49ers game where he's running up the sideline and the defenders are pulling back on him. Then all of a sudden he keeps going and you see the change of speed. I said, 'We can't have change of speed on this guy. We have to put a hat on this guy and get all 11 guys to him.'"

Q: What do you make of Marshawn Lynch?

Coach Guenther: "I love the guy. I tell him every week after the game, I said, 'Man, I really respect the way you play.' He's a hard-running guy. That guy, he's great to be around. He loves football. Even though he may not tell you that, I can tell. He loves playing football. He's tough. He's unbelievable to watch. I'm glad he's on my team."