



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. DENVER BRONCOS

Sunday, November 6, 2016
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Real proud of our performance in Prime Time tonight. I thought our team played very well in all three phases throughout the even. Not perfect by a long stretch, but really a solid physical effort. We feel like we’ve strengthened ourselves in the trenches. I think it should tonight against a really good football team. I’m really proud of our guys. It was good to get a big win heading into our bye week. We’re a little bit passed the halfway point, but we call it the halfway point where we’re getting our bye. It’s nice to go into the bye with a win. Now we’ll need to handle ourselves well during the bye and come out as healthy as possible and be able to take care of business in the second half. I’m really proud of our guys. We’re really happy for them. A lot of hard work, a lot of effort and as I told you we have a lot of things we have to fix, but we’ll do it with a smile on our face. Questions?”

Q: How can you explain the defensive turn around over the past couple of weeks?

Coach Del Rio: “A lot of things, communication, tackling. When you do it right...We’ve got good people and we’re learning how to trust each other a little more and more. We should continue to grow. Really it’s gotten better, but honestly it still has a ways to go and it will get better.”

Q: How was the performance from the offensive line?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, it was a physical, physical night. A very talented front seven for Denver. They’re tough to run against. Our guys really attacked it well. Went after them and ran the ball and ran it affectively enough to be able to stay with them. Derek [Carr] made some big throws. Allowed us to move the chains and continue to run. In the run game typically, I’ve told you guys before, you have to be able to convert third downs in order to run it more. Get more opportunities. I thought Derek did a real nice job with some critical moments of doing just that in the passing game. Then obviously we were very physical upfront. We had one time we let Von [Miller] run around the edge on us. I think that was the only time that maybe we didn’t give him the kind of attention that we have to give him.”

Q: How did you hold the Broncos to no first downs in the first quarter?

Coach Del Rio: “Certainly we’re making progress. Like I said, I think we all understand, that locker room understands, we all have work to do. Things we want to be better that we need to be better at as we go through this year. Certainly tonight, a really solid performance, a big win here at home and like I said, I’m proud of the guys.”

Q: How does this win impact the team’s culture?

Coach Del Rio: “We’re growing to expect success now. We know we’re a good team. We focus really hard on the preparation throughout the week. The guys were really on point like they have been each week. The process of preparing to play well is critical. That’s where we’ve been able to hone in and make improvements. Get some of the details down and put together good performances.”

Q: What kind of statement does this win make?

Coach Del Rio: “Got win No. 7. We have to put some wins together. Stack up wins as best we can. That’s a good football team. We’ll see them again late in the year. Meanwhile we’re going to play a bunch of other games. For us it’s about continuing the process.”



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Q: What's your message to guys on the bye? Do you want them to switch off for a few days?

Coach Del Rio: "We'll come in and work Wednesday and Thursday and we'll have a long weekend. The league almost mandates what you do now. Anyway, we'll get a couple days of work in. We expect to be smart with the time off and come back together and be ready to roll in the second half."

Q: What did you say to the guys after the game?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, we'll get into that when we get back together on Wednesday this week because I gave them Tuesday off. We'll do what we always do. We just tell the truth when we get back together. We talk about the game, we'll review it and point out the good things, point out the things that need to be better and go forward. That's really how we do it whether we're happy, smiling after a win or whether we're down and didn't do enough to win. That's the process that I'm speaking off. It's really important that we stay with that process and continue to grow as a team. After nine weeks, you're nowhere near where you need to be toward the end of the season. We have to continue to grow and improve."

Q: How does it feel to win in this way?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I think the biggest thing is to find a way to get a win. I'm certainly very proud of our front. We've invested a lot in our front. We've committed to being a physical team. That was a great opportunity to illustrate that, but not much beyond that."

Q: How big was Andre Holmes performance with the punts?

Coach Del Rio: "That's huge. That's some of that complimentary football that I've talked about up here after some of the games. Where defense goes three-and-out, gets the three-and-out, forces the punt. We get good field position there; we're right around midfield. When we're having to punt, we're pinning them deep because of execution in all three phases. That's that complimentary football and playing with that kind of field position is huge for your football team."

Q: How was the energy from the crowd tonight?

Coach Del Rio: "Reminded me of back when my dad would let me come with him every now and then. The crowd was terrific. The crowd, it was electric. The Raider Nation showed up. I'm so pleased to deliver the kind of performance they deserve. We gave them a great performance. We were well prepared and we were physical and tough and we were smart. That's what we're looking for."

Q: What did you see from Latavius Murray's performance?

Coach Del Rio: "He did a nice job. He got the hat trick, scoring three touchdowns. We narrowly missed on the one that was called back on the passing touchdown, but I know he had three running touchdowns. I thought he ran hard. I thought the line gave the backs room to run. I thought the backs ran hard."



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Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: What does it mean to beat a rival team on a national stage this week?

Carr: “It means that we got to do what we set out to do. That’s what we expected was to go out and win. That’s not just this game. That’s every game. You go out and prepare. We’re creating a culture where we don’t get caught up in what the game is on the outside looking in. We just get focused on our job, our responsibilities, the defensive, the offense, and we just go from there. There’s so much to worry about – personnel and scheme alone, but we can’t think about outside things.”

Q: Are you excited for bye week?

Carr: “It’s awesome. Bye week is awesome. I can’t wait to hang out with my wife, my kids, and play with my dogs all week. It’s much needed. I give them a shout out because wives, wives—they put up with ridiculous hours. I’m so thankful for her and putting up with me. She gets up before my alarm goes off. I’m so thankful for that.”

Q: How did you feel about Coach Del Rio’s decision to run the ball so much today?

Carr: “That is something I love. You guys know me. I don’t get caught up in numbers. I don’t get caught up in stats. I care about winning. The way that those guys run plays against one of the best defenses this league has seen in the last however many years they’ve been together. It was a fun thing to watch. I’m the biggest fan of that. A game like that, I don’t care if we run it 58 times or if I throw the ball 8 times. When you get called upon, you have to hit your shots. But, when you run the ball like that, it’s just fun to watch.”

Q: What was different about your pre-game attitude today?

Carr: “I’m just trying to grow and find the little things I can grow with to motivate my teammates. Whether I think about it or not, they’re looking at me all the time. So, anything I can do to get them going, make them laugh, if I hit them with a dance, or something like that. A lot of them still don’t know I can dance. So it’s always fun to shock them because they love it. I had fun with that.”

Q: How do you feel about being 7-2 going into the Bye week?

Carr: “It means that we’re getting better. That’s exactly what it means. It’s going to sound old; it’s going to sound whatever. We have so much to get better at, we have so much to work on. Me and Coop [Amari Cooper] talk all the time, just about our connection. We have so much we can do and we see that we can do it. We can’t work on it all at once. We have to just build, but we’re trying. The way that things are going, the guys we have in that huddle—I can only speak offensively actually, but the guys we have in that huddle, we’re keeping everyone together, playing together. The more we grow, we can get better. We can play a lot better football. It’s an exciting time, to answer in a long-winded way.”

Q: Can you speak to RB Latavius Murray’s performance today?

Carr: “He’s amazing. He went to the Pro Bowl for a reason. I think he was second in the AFC for rushing last year. We all know it’s tough to run the ball against these teams. He’s invaluable. I always say running the ball is tough, but the way he picks up, the way he protects me. If he doesn’t pick up those blitzes, all that money we pay up front, it’s not going to matter. You have to have someone, they’re going to put match-ups on where he has to pick someone up, and he does. Time in and time out, there’s



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no me looking down to make sure the running back gets it. Some guys have to worry about that. With him, I don't worry about it one bit and that's invaluable.

Q: Does Latavius Murray care about so many touches he gets throughout the game?

Carr: "Tay [Murray] doesn't care about that at all. He's the same way I am, he just wants to win. Sometimes he will have 7-8 carries and we win. He's the happiest guy in the locker room. That's why I love this team so much. That's why I love this organization, it's because all of our guys are like that. Everyone in there is just like man we won. That's the ultimate goal. It doesn't matter if you have 100 yards rushing or 300 yards passing. The things we're doing right now, we're heading the right way. I can't say enough about Latavius. He is invaluable to this team, this organization, and to me personally."

Q: What does it say about the way you physically beat the Broncos today?

Carr: "It shows us that we should be able to run the ball against anybody. They are the best. They are. If not one or two, they are. Let's just put that out there. They got one of the best players this league has ever seen on the offense and on the other edge. On the secondary, they're loaded. They can hit. They've got guys everywhere. I don't want to take away from them, I just want to give credit to our O line for doing such a good job. They still made tackles for us, they made plays but going against their team, you know they're going to make plays. The way that we continue to trust and believe in our system is cool."

Q: What did you think of Khalil Mack's ability to recover his own play today?

Carr: "It was huge. I think we were up 10 at that point and to do that, especially where the clock was, I'm still learning this game but I'm thinking situational now. If you asked me that question my rookie year, I would not have been able to say that to you. You get guys that know how to make plays at the right time. Khalil is top five pick for a reason. He's the franchise for a reason. He'll get mad at me for saying that, we fight about that. He made a big play for us."

Q: How did the holding and PI calls impact you today?

Carr: "They stole something from me today because we had some big plays out there, but if they're going to get held, they won't be touchdowns. There's things still out there. If teams are going to hold us, we just got to play through it. That's what we were talking about on the sidelines. Me and Crab [Michael Crabtree], me and Coop [Amari Cooper], we talk about it a lot. Especially with how dynamic Coop is, and we say you're going to get held but we just got to get through it and overcome it. I think they stole a couple from me today, but it's alright, we won."

Raiders C Rodney Hudson

Q: Running the ball was obviously a focus today.

Rodney Hudson: "We ran the ball well. That's a tribute to the tight ends, everybody pitched in. The receivers blocked well. Everybody pitched in."

Q: You guys controlled the ball for 40-plus minutes. What does that say about the offense?

Hudson: "We were focused. We played well. They are a good group of guys, a lot of great players. We stood out there and we executed."



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Raiders S Reggie Nelson

Q: What did the atmosphere, the crowd mean to you guys?

Reggie Nelson: “The atmosphere was great. Our fans did a great job here in the stands with us, cheering us on. It was more important for us to get this win on our home field and we did that. It was big tonight.”

Q: Starting that game with three straight three-and-outs, how much of a momentum builder was that?

Nelson: “You always want to open the game fast. We did that as a defense holding them. We have to continue to do that. It was a good start for us. We came out in the second half and started fast which we’ve been slow to do in the last couple games. IT was all-around good football for the defense.”

Q: With the defense over the last couple weeks, what’s been the difference?

Nelson: “It’s just us out there. We’re just playing, playing football. Playing solid football and just doing your job and nobody else’s job.”

Q: You’ve had to win dramatically in the fourth quarter several times. To come out and get that early lead then hold it, it must have been nice to do it the old fashioned way.

Nelson: “As a defensive player you want to win games. We don’t want to depend on the offense. They’ve been carrying us for a while. It was big for our defense. It was nice to get out there and win.”

Raiders T Donald Penn

Q: What would you say about the team after tonight?

Penn: “It was a great victory. We still got a long way to go. We still working, but are working together and it is starting to show.”

Q: How did you punch them in the mouth so well in the running game tonight?

Penn: “When they have three, four great pass rushers, you got to get the running game going. As an offensive line, you got to keep those guys away and slow them down. They were all about stopping the run, but we knew we had to run the ball well to be effective today. Tay [RB Latavius Murray] and those young running backs did a great job.”

Q: How would you describe Latavius’ performance tonight?

Penn: “Man, he was running so well. He is our number one running back. He is a leader. You should see how he is helping these two young running backs out. Sometime he wants them to go in and get them a rep. Some guys all want it for themselves, but he takes a step back and likes to see the rotation. Some guys would be made about that, but Latavius is grasping that role. It is doing a lot of good for us.”

Q: Would you say there is a changing of the guard in the AFC West?

Penn: “It is a long season. They did a lot of talking all week, but I said we don’t talk with the media. We talk with our play. With our pads on and we showed that today.”



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Q: How important was it to not have those negative yardage plays in the running game?

Penn: “That is big. If you look at our efficiency, we have been top in the league. That is something we know we got to do. If we get Derek Carr into second and short, third and short, offensive coordinator Bill Musgrave can open the playbook wide open.”

Raiders RB Latavius Murray

Q: What was it like to dominate in the running game tonight?

Murray: “It felt really good. We wanted to run the ball coming in. We knew they had given up a lot of rushing yards, so we knew we had to run the ball to go out there and be successful and we were able to do that really well. Not just me, the other backs too. It starts up front. Those guys create a new line of scrimmage for me and it makes it easy.”

Q: How does this compare to last week?

Murray: “Last week we were able to overcome a lot of penalties, but this is a completely different game. We just knew that we had to go out there and run the ball. We knew we needed to make plays when we needed to make plays. Defense played great and we were able to get the win.”

Q: What kind of statement does this win make?

Murray: “I think it’s a good win for us. Really I just think it’s the start. We have a lot of games left. We’re in a tough division, so this thing can go anyway and we know that. We know we can’t look at this game as something that’s going to define us or define the season. We have to continue to go out there and work hard and we’re going to have to earn every game we play, starting when we get back from the bye.”

Q: How do you feel after having missed time?

Murray: “I feel really good. We mix and match. We’re going to get those other guys in there. They’re going to run at you and they’re going to run really well. I think we’re capable of doing that as we’ve shown throughout the season. We can run the ball and we want to do that. We know we have to win games.”

Q: How did it feel to score three times tonight?

Murray: “It felt really good. I know they were on the goal line. They got me some cheap ones there, but it felt really good. Anytime you get in the endzone, I’m not going to complain whatsoever. Again that’s why I give credit to the guys up front because them making the push and I’m just trying to finish off what they started. They also had some big gains down field to set up our run on the goal line.”

Q: Why did you give the ball to Austin Howard after your third score?

Murray: “He had asked me, once they called our big personnel, we figured we were going to run the ball. [He said,] ‘Hey, if you score just give me the ball.’ He said, ‘I got you.’ He didn’t really think I was going to do it. I said, ‘I don’t care.’ The O-line has a little fun.”

Q: How does it feel to beat Denver so physically?



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Murray: "It feels great. Just to pound on those guys, again we're capable of doing that. We have a physical front. We have physical backs, physical receivers and so that's the way we need to play. That's the way we're capable of playing. I think it showed from when we do that."

Q: Given the rivalry, does that make this win more special?

Murray: "We know that it's a big rivalry. We know the division rivalry, but this game is important because they stand in the way of our goal and that's win the division. That's how we've looked at it throughout the week and that's how we'll continue to look at games that we need. We need to win the division."

Q: What was the crowd like?

Murray: "They were great. They were into it the whole game and that's special. Helps us out a lot, helps the defense out a lot I'm sure. Those first few drives that they had, the offense was able to do much. I know they had a lot of three-and-outs."

Q: Is it dangerous to leap into the endzone?

Murray: "Yeah, they're dangerous. Especially when you're reaching that ball across the goal line, but I don't know, I think you have to have a nose for the endzone. You have to do whatever is going to get that referee to put his hands up. I'll continue to do what I have to do to obviously to protect the ball, but make sure I get in there in those situations. That's what is most important because we need six."

Raiders LB Malcolm Smith

Q: What does this win say about the football team?

Smith: "That we are taking steps into the right direction. Just got to continue to keep this high level."

Q: You forced Denver into four straight three-and-outs. How did that set the tone?

Smith: "I think we just gave our offense the chance. When they are on the field, I like our chances."

Q: The defense has come around the past couple of weeks. What has been the difference with this unity?

Smith: "I think just keeping it simple for us. We know what we are supposed to do. Where we are supposed to be. All about how we are communicating. The past couple of weeks have prepared us for today and gave us a chance to get our communication going and get into the rhythm."

Q: What is the potential for this football team?

Smith: "Just go out and compete every week. The sky is the limit for us."

Q: Going into the bye week, what have you learned about the Oakland Raiders?

Smith: "That we are resilient. We are going to continue to fight no matter what the stats say. It is all about us and our group."



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Raiders DE Khalil Mack

Q: What were the adjustments on defense that helped you guys start and finish strong?

Mack: "Preparation all week. All the defensive coaches prepared us well. We knew what they wanted to do and we were prepared for it."

Q: What were some of the main things that were made?

Mack: "We knew they would stretch, run boot legs, and all those different things they would use to help their quarterback gain confidence. We just tried to put a little pressure on them."

Q: You and Derek [Carr] have talked about the culture here since you've got here. Is this what you thought of in your vision?

Mack: "For sure. We talk about winning ball games because that is what it is. That is how you change the culture, by winning. Doing all the things it takes to win, and that is the preparation. Everybody working on their specialties."

Q: Was this really just another game?

Mack: "They are all the same, even if this one is national, you still go out and try to win the game."

Q: Can you talk us through your two sacks today?

Mack: "I was getting overstepped on the backside and came underneath on the lineman to the inside. On the next one, I stabbed inside because I knew he was going to bite on it, and then came outside and tried to get the ball out."

Q: What kind of a statement do you feel like you made tonight?

Mack: "You talk about statements but we are still playing. It is going to be another one we have to play against over at Mile-High so we just got to take it week-by-week and continue to get better."

Q: How do you guys maintain the momentum with the week off?

Mack: "Make sure to just stay focused. Come in to work and focus on the preparation during the bye week. Use the free time to get guys healthy. That is what the process is, to make sure guys get healthy during the bye week and get ready for Monday night."

Raiders T Austin Howard

Q: What does it mean for you guys to be in first place alone atop the AFC West?

Howard: "It will mean a lot more after the season when we're still number one."

Q: There was a sack for zero yards on your quarterback. You guys have given up the fewest sacks in the league. Is it frustrating that it's still considered a sack when it's for zero yards and your quarterback runs out of bounds?

Howard: "Maybe the league will change that rule. It is what it is. We just focus on keeping [Derek Carr] safe back there."



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Q: Did you guys try to tell him to run a quarter yard more? He put the ball forward, he was trying.

Howard: "It is what it is. Hopefully they change that one soon."

Raiders P Marquette King

Q: What would you say about your dance earlier?

King: "Just riding a bronco and having a little fun. I don't do it to taunt, I just do it out of fun. Everybody is having fun. Everybody is picking things up. It is a huge family and that is something I've noticed since I came in 2012. It has been pretty cool."

Q: How big do you think that is for you to pin the Denver Broncos deep down there with the crowd all into the game?

King: "I mean this is what I do. I practice hard every day, I got the best special teams coach in the league. One of the best long-snappers to make my job easy and I mean this is something I got to do."

Q: How big was it to have Andre Holmes stop the ball from going into the endzone?

King: "Andre was a beast, man. He made a nice play. He made a nice top-10 one handed catch. I've never ever seen something like that. The whole special teams made plays out there."



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Broncos Head Coach Gary Kubiak

Opening Statement: “First off, hats off to Jack [Del Rio] and the Raiders. They played extremely well tonight. They’re a really good football team. For us personally, across the board, we weren’t good enough. We lost the field position battle all night long. Special teams, offensive, got a horrible start, four three-and-outs. Then we made some big plays defensively. We played really good early in the game and then we gave up 220 plus yards rushing. That’s the team not playing good enough to win and that’s what I just told the players. We have to improve and get back to work.”

Q: Was the atmosphere here an issue?

Coach Kubiak: “I think we were ready to play. I thought our juices were really good. Obviously, coming in here, it’s always really tough early in the game from a motion and noise standpoint. We didn’t weather that storm very good and we couldn’t get the ball out of our own end zone. I think we were starting inside our 15 four times and didn’t have a first down and defensively, holding them to a couple of field goals was a good thing. Then we struggled with the run throughout the course of the night. Hell, they played good. We didn’t play good enough to win in any phase.”

Q: Can you tell us about your run defense this year?

Coach Kubiak: “It’s a concern. You asked me about that last week when we gave up to San Diego, I think 4.8, but we won the game. We played from the lead. You get behind a team and they’re sitting there pounding that ball like they are and they really made big plays and short yardage if I’m correct. A bunch of short-yardage plays that came busting out. That’s something we’re going to have to improve upon or we’re going to have a hard time from a time standpoint. I think we lost the time of possession almost 2-1 tonight, 3-1 maybe.”

Q: Was the absence of Aqib Talib from the backside a problem tonight?

Coach Kubiak: “That’s part of it. You’re going to miss players in the league as they get hurt. How you perform through those things has a lot to do with how your season goes. We’ve held up and done a pretty good job thus far. Obviously, tonight it’s got to be better, but like I said, that’s every phase, not just back there.”

Q: What were your thoughts on Trevor Siemian tonight?

Coach Kubiak: “I think Trevor’s a battler. He continues to get better every time we go out. For us to have to throw it 33 times, something like that, if they know you have to throw it, it’s a tough team to play on the fact that we ran the ball as poorly as we did and got behind. Trevor still went down twice, I think, but he’s improving. You can always get better, we can all get better, but he continues to work his tail off.”

Q: It looked like Kapri Bibbs gave you guys a shot?

Coach Kubiak: “Yeah, that’s pretty cool. He deserves a shot. Kid’s been working his tail off, doing some good stuff. We want to give him opportunities. He had a big run on a third-and-1 that I’m thinking of. Makes a hell of a play and then I look up and he jumps out there to cover the kick. That’s the kind of players you need on your team, so I’m proud of him. He’s done a good job. He deserves some more.”



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Q: What was it like for your ninth game of the season to be like that?

Coach Kubiak: "As I said just a while ago, I mean hell, you don't ever want to have one of those. We didn't lose a championship or nothing tonight. There's a lot of football left to play, but we have to play a hell of a lot better when we play. That team's really, really good and we knew that coming in. We didn't find out tonight. We knew that coming in. They got a really good football team and we've got to improve ourselves."

Q: Do you know anything about Derek Wolfe's status?

Coach Kubiak: "He's got a shoulder. That's really all I really know. We'll get it looked at when we get back."

Q: Did his loss affect the ability to stop the run in the second half?

Coach Kubiak: "They ran the ball on us first. They had over 130 yards rushing in the first half, so you can't go there. Stopping the run is a group effort. It is what it is. It looked like to me we could tackle better and do a lot of those things better."

Q: How'd you feel about the offensive line play tonight?

Coach Kubiak: "I think they battled, but we're playing a brand of football that is throw, throw, throw. Hell, it's not even fair to them but we've got to find a way to run the football somehow some way to help our football team and obviously the last two weeks it has been pretty nonexistent. It's been tough."

Q: How is Andy Janovich's hand injury improving?

Coach Kubiak: "It's a concern. Yep, he's doing better. We hope to get him out of the cast here maybe this week when we play New Orleans but obviously he's battling for us trying to go."

Q: Does it impact how you're doing as a team?

Coach Kubiak: "I don't think so. I think after we went through those first four series that weren't good, I think we went to something that gave us chance to move the football. You average six point something yards a play, you should be out there having a chance to win games but it all came after a very, very poor start."

Q: How important was the run defense and the running game from Oakland's standpoint? How much have they improved overall?

Coach Kubiak: "Well, they're very athletic and like I said, their edges are what give you a lot of problems from an offensive standpoint and we needed to protect those edges and handle it. If you look at it from a pass protection standpoint our guys probably battled as good as they could battle going against those guys but we got to do something to help them by having some form of I want to say success with ball movement, running the ball."

Broncos CB Bradley Roby

Q: Talk about the running game tonight...



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Roby: "Like I said, they run the ball well anytime you can run the ball for over 200 yards, you control the game that's basically what they did and when they passed, we didn't do a great job tackling so we just have to get better at that."

Q: Where's the frustration after this game, there's so many fundamentals that you guys do so well week to week?

Roby: "It's like that sometimes, sometimes you come out and you don't perform the way you feel like you should have and that was one of these cases. It's frustrating because it's the Raiders our rivals but we'll see them again so no worries."

Q: You guys were on the field for 42 minutes, do you feel like that had an effect on guys getting worn down and burning out a bit?

Roby: "I believe so, like I said, they controlled the clock running the ball for 200 yards, (inaudible)... 200 yards that's never good I don't think we've done that since I've been here, so it's something we have to go back to the tape and just keep working."

Q: What does the run defense need to do to improve?

Roby: "We need to go back to the tape, we don't know specifically we just played so I think tomorrow we'll get on it."

Q: With the loss of Aqib Talib, how much did that affect what you guys were trying to do on defense?

Roby: "I don't think it affected too much because they were running the ball a lot on us today, they were running the ball for over 200 yards and we definitely could have used him for sure out there but I think it was all three phases, it wasn't good so overall we just have to get better."

Broncos S T.J. Ward

Q: That was a tough game wasn't it?

Ward: "Yeah it was a rough one. When you spend that much emotion and energy for a win, and you come out on the other end, it's tough but that's the league. So off to the next one."

Q: There are a lot of places you could point the finger today, but it probably starts with their ability to run the football on you guys.

Ward: "No, we not going to do that. We lost in all three phases. Coach told us offense, defense, special team, we didn't play good enough. When you don't play good enough as a team, you take L's."

Q: You guys show character with the ability to bounce back from slow starts, but those slow starts put you in holes like tonight.

Ward: "You could say it put us in a hole. Or you could say we fight better towards the end. But whatever it is, we seem to come back sometimes, but other times we can't. Maybe that's just our makeup this year."

Q: You did mount a comeback though; at some point did you think you had the momentum?



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Ward: “Yeah, absolutely. We did that throughout the game. We’d make a big play and come back and get a penalty, they throw one on us, we get a stop, they give them the penalty. It’s frustrating when you have to go against two teams?”

Q: What did you mean by two teams?

Ward: “I think you know what I meant.”

Broncos WLB DeMarcus Ware

Q: What are your thoughts on Derek Carr’s performance tonight?

Ware: “He’s [Carr] a good quarterback. He played really well. He was stringing out plays. He made sure the offense was poised and making plays.”

Q: What are the changes that you have seen in this Raiders team this year compared to the last couple of years?

Ware: “I think it is the same team, but the confidence has gone up. They are playing really well, and not doing the things that get them beat; penalties and turnovers, and the defense is playing really well. They’re not turning the ball over.”

Q: When another team runs for 200+ yards, that’s winning the physical battle. Is that fair to say?

Ware: “I think when you look at the plays where there was so many missed tackles, maybe some missed assignments that we had, and the yards after the catch. Those were really big, so we need to make sure that we go back to the fundamentals of football, and work on those things in practice. I tell the guys to keep your poise. It is not the end of the season. The championship isn’t won yet. We have to improve from this game because there were a lot of mistakes made, and get ready for next week.”

Broncos OLB Shaquil Barrett

Q: They [Raiders] ran the ball pretty well against you guys. What did you see there?

Barrett: “We didn’t tackle as well as we supposed to tackle. And that’s all I can see right now, tackling.”

Q: So you guys are now a game behind the Raiders and the Chiefs. How do you bounce back from this?

Barrett: “We just take care of our business, and we’ll be where we want to be at the end of the season. So we just have to come back at practice ready to work, so we could look forward to the next week.”

Q: Did the Raiders come out more ready than you guys?

Barrett: “Nah, we came out and had a lot of energy coming out. We assumed they’d have energy coming out. They just executed better than we executed.”

Q: Did the injuries on defense affect you guys at all?



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Barrett: "Everybody is supposed to be ready to play. So I'm not going to say it affected us at all. I think everybody on our team is capable of filling in for whoever it is they need to be fill in for."

BRONCOS QB TREVOR SIEMIAN

Q: What happened with the slow start?

Siemian: "Yeah, it's tough being in a hole like that. Four three-and-outs...that's not good for the whole football team. Certainly, I'll find a way to find a rhythm earlier on in the ballgame."

Q: Did you guys get a rhythm going and then lose it?

Siemian: "Yeah at some point you're thinking, 'Whatever you've got to do – find a way to get a first down.' So there just try to stay on the field, whatever you've got to do: claw, scratch, fight – just find a way to get a first down, stay on the field, and hopefully get a little rhythm going."

Q: Did their defense confuse you?

Siemian: "Not really, to be honest with you. They mixed some coverages but pretty consistent with what we thought they'd do. Certainly, maintaining a balance...if you don't have that balance, they're able to do a little more to you. Nothing I didn't expect."

Q: What was the problem tonight?

Siemian: "Our biggest thing is just staying on the field... and when you go three-and-out, it doesn't really matter what they're doing to you. They're going to give us different looks, each team is different – how they play you, how you're playing that week. So I think the biggest thing is just staying on the field and converting those third downs early."

Q: What happened on the fumble?

Siemian: "I was stepping up and, I don't even know who it was, but I have to do a better job of holding onto the ball there. I can't turn it over there, especially when we've got a chance to come back right there."

Q: Why did the run game struggle?

Siemian: "Early on, especially. Part of that is on me. Some of those third downs, you can't run the ball if you're not on the field. Converting those third downs and staying on the field and getting into a rhythm – it's not just quarterbacks and receivers, but the offensive line, everybody. It's something we'll work on and we'll get it fixed."

Q: Did they play you well or was it self-inflicted mistakes?

Siemian: "Hats off to Oakland. I thought they did a heck of a job. We knew they had a bunch of great players across the board, so I thought they did a good job, played really well, and they definitely made more plays than us."

Q: Was this a tough atmosphere for you?



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Siemian: “I think it was great energy. Obviously the crowd got up for this one, and we knew that going in, that they would be excited...but that’s just something you’ve got to deal with on the road. I’m sure we’ll have a few more games like that.”

Broncos CB Chris Harris Jr.

Q: You guys lost a couple this year, but this one feels different. Is that because of the magnitude of the game?

Harris: “I mean anytime you lose, you’re going to be upset. But, we still got a lot left on the line. It’s not like we won the championship or they won the championship today. There’s still a lot football left to play, and we just got to get back to business, get back and try to get a road win in New Orleans.”

Q: The Raiders were able to run all over this defense in a manner that we haven’t seen for you guys this year.

Harris: “Man, that’s something that we have to fix. It’s been leaky pretty much all season. So we have to figure that out and really put an emphasis on that, and get back to doing what we do.”

Q: I know it’s not an excuse, but you guys have a lot of injuries on your defense.

Harris: “I mean it’s tough, it’s part of the league, it’s part of the process. Everybody has to step up. I wouldn’t say the injuries or anything. Of course that hurt us, but that’s not why we lost.”

Q: Why did you lose?

Harris: “They pounded the ball; they ran the ball good, they threw the ball. They did everything they needed to. They played great defense today; they outplayed us on defense. Our goal is, every week, to be the best defense on the field, and we wasn’t today.”

Q: With what happened tonight, it makes the Saints game even bigger, doesn’t it?

Harris: “I mean every game is big. Down the stretch, the last eight games, everything is huge. So we gotta’ get back on track next week. The AFC West is still up for grabs. We still got a chance to win that and get in the playoffs.”

Broncos ILB Brandon Marshall

Q: Where do you think you guys made the biggest gaps?

Marshall: “I think that we have got to be more physical. They have a really good offensive line, and sometimes guys might get out of their gaps, so we’re not shading blocks quick enough, or aggressive enough. I think that we have to do better with that and get back to the drawing board.”

Q: Do think they were more physical than you tonight?

Marshall: “I wouldn’t say that. We weren’t getting pushed back. We just didn’t come off and make plays.”

Q: You guys got off to a slow start again. Is there anything that you can pinpoint?



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Marshall: "We had bad field position. Our field position wasn't great. They definitely won that battle. I think that was attribute to our slow start. We gave up some yards, but we only allowed two field goals at first, but we couldn't stop the run today."

Q: What do you think is going on with that? Stopping the run game is becoming the team's Achilles heel.

Marshall: "Yeah, I don't know. You watch film, and maybe you could tell me."

Q: Now you're in a position chasing some teams, how do you think your teams going to respond?

Marshall: "Just as it always does. We're not perfect. We were great last year in some stretches. We just got to get back to the drawing board, fight, and just practice hard. I think that we practice hard, but we need to get back to it."