



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave**

**Opening Statement:** “Good morning. We have Kansas City coming in. Of course a good team, won 11, 12 games in a row last year. It’ll be a challenge. Looking forward to it after them beating us twice last year. We’ll be ready.”

**Q: What was your reaction Derek Carr connecting with Michael Crabtree on that fourth-down play in last Sunday’s game?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Well, we have an idea of the adjustments he can make from the line of scrimmage. He did a good job. Our coaching staff has put together a terrific system that enables and is conducive for the quarterback to make quarter-turn adjustments there at the line of scrimmage or change the play entirely. He’s done a terrific job with it. All the quarterbacks have. Connor [Cook] is doing a job as a rookie, and of course Matt McGloin is all over it as well.”

**Q: Is Carr changing plays more often this year or is it similar to what he was doing last year?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “I think a little bit more. I think probably every year you’re in the same system, you evolve and the system evolves to handle things that you see. You’d be amazed. You’d be in the same system like in New England, 16, 17, 18 years in a row or the way they were down in Candlestick [Park] or in Denver for those years, you can evolve your system and grow it.”

**Q: How much do you appreciate the confidence in a quarterback that will forgo the easy play and go up top for a touchdown on a fourth-down play?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Well, a lot of those criteria that he uses are based on coverage and what he sees. I think [Head Coach] Jack [Del Rio] alluded to that this week. We have certain routes that we like versus certain coverages and certain routes that we like versus others. He knows his criteria and he applied it perfectly there.”

**Q: What do you think of Jamize Olawale as a ball carrier and a runner for you?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Good. I don’t know that he has as much time on task carrying the ball as other runners coming out of college. Played some different positions there at North Texas, Cal Poly, De La Salle, but he’s learning. He’s learning about how to carry it. Now does he have speed? Yes. He’s fast. You see him on special teams, he’s one of the first guys down for us on kickoff. All those backs are really core special teams players. One thing that gets swept under the rug at times is both Jalen [Richard] and DeAndré [Washington] are core special teams guys for [special teams coordinator] coach [Brad] Seely, so they have a lot on their plate and they’ve handled it terrifically thus far.”

**Q: What did you think of the way Richard and Washington played with Latavius Murray out last week?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Good. Just they have so much on their plate. They’re young guys. Fifth game of their career and they have to contribute on special teams and be ready to go run the punt team, cover kicks, catch punts, catch kicks and then know everything that we’re doing on offense. Very impressed.”

**Q: What’s the key with the offensive line performing as well as it has with all the substitution you’ve had to do?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Well, the preparation is the key. They meet and go over pass protection, run blocking schemes, more than anyone could ever imagine. They’re well coached. They’re very attentive to detail. That whole group, it’s a terrific, terrific collection of linemen.”

**Q: Amari Cooper was very critical on him not getting both feet in on those potential touchdowns. Are you more of a drag guy, or a toe tap guy?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “Yeah, we’re a drag team. We’re a drag team, but sometime habits are hard to break. So he’s going to continue to work on it. I think ‘Crab’ [Michael Crabtree] alluded to it as well. You’ve done something your whole life. While that has merit too, our philosophy is drag. He’s doing a terrific job of working on it, week in and



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week out. He did it last year too. That's above the level skill. You just have to continue to work on to stay on top of."

**Q: Cooper seems keep wanting to fix things. Is that nice to have in a player?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Yeah, definitely. We all know people in life that don't see where they need to improve or don't want to look at it. Amari is one of those people that is very critical of himself and is always striving to get better each and every week."

### **Defensive Coordinator Ken Norton, Jr.**

**Q: What kind of problems does a healthy Jamaal Charles create?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Well, he's pretty good now. We've watched him over the years, very explosive. Any time you put the ball in his hands, he can go all of the way, very fast. He's certainly a guy that we have to keep our eyes on."

**Q: What impressed you the most about Perry Riley Jr. from Sunday?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Just his work ethic, his passion for the game, his hunger for knowledge in coming here. You can tell that his years of experience have really helped him with the ability to come out here and play right away. You can tell he's paying attention. He wasn't at home watching soap operas. He was in his books, he was watching football. He stayed sharp, so by the time it was time for him to have an opportunity, he was ready and it showed in his play and it shows... He's a true veteran."

**Q: What's been the difference for Sean Smith in the last few weeks?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Well, Sean [Smith] is a competitor. He's really prideful about his work. I think any time you play at this level and this good the way these athletes are, you can't get to this level without caring about what you do, taking real pride in your work every day and he knows that he's kind of new to all of us. He wanted us to know that that wasn't him. So, he wanted to really show us that he's a really good player and he is a really good football player. It's about coming down to consistency and just working hard."

**Q: What are the emotions like going against your former team?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Well, you try to say every game is the same, but it's not. You have a lot of friends on the other teams and sometimes there's good blood and sometimes there's bad blood with the management. So, you always want to let them know what they're missing. I'm not on your team and this is what you're missing. You always try to take it to another level when you play your former team."

**Q: Are you seeing something different out of Smith compared to past years with him already tying a career high in interceptions this season?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Right, no question. I think early on we knew he had good instincts, we knew he had good knowledge but he always dropped the ball. (*laughter*) The ball would come to him and he would drop it all of the time, so we put him on the jugs machine and we threw the ball to him often and we talked to him about how to catch and we have certain drills set up for him. So, we really individualized his drills to make him aware of what his weaknesses are, and he really listened and you can tell it's showing in his ability to get his hands on the ball often."

**Q: What's the difference in play from Stacy McGee compared to past years?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Well, I think Stacy [McGee] decided to be a really good player. I think that growth has a lot to do with it. I think that our staff has really worked with him and he has really had a mindful growth set about him. He really wants to do really well, and obviously, with the group he's in – Khalil [Mack] and Bruce [Irvin] and himself, all the guys that really come out here every day and practice really hard – and you can tell that the work they put in, the studying they put in, the coaching that they get, they are prepared to do well."



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**Q: What does Mack have to do to fight through the holding calls?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "You just have to keep grinding. Sacks come in bunches. Obviously now, he's not a mystery, everyone knows who he is. If you know a guy's going to be really good, you're going to keep your eyes on him. At the same time, you have guys like Stacy McGee emerge. Khalil's greatness is also helping the other players get one-on-ones and get opportunities to really show what they have. It's good for everybody."

**Q: Do you try to mitigate the expectations for Mack at times?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "Well, you guys talk about sacks all the time, but Khalil is a complete player. I mean, he's really good against the run, he covers the fast backs out of the backfield, he's a spy sometimes, he sacks people, he takes up two for other guys to get free. But, everybody wants to talk about sacks – that's not the whole game. He's not like a basketball player who can only dribble. He has a jump shot, he has defense, he can take away people. He does all the things. He's a complete player. So, if the sacks aren't coming, there's a whole lot of other things that he's doing really well that aren't being noticed."