



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

### **Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** "We're getting ready for a trip to D.C. to take on the Redskins, a good football team. They've run the ball as well as anybody in the league to start the season in the first two weeks. They've got a quarterback that threw for almost 5,000 yards last year. Weapons, tight ends, a quarterback turned wide receiver that's having a good start to his year in [Terrelle] Pryor. Got a defense with really good players throughout the defense. In particular, [Ryan] Kerrigan and Josh Norman stand out. We're looking forward to, as we do each week, getting ready for the next challenge, the next opportunity to go compete and getting ready to put forth a great effort."

**Q: I know you weren't here when Pryor was here, but how impressed have you been with his transition to wide receiver?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah, when I last studied him he was a quarterback. Obviously, a tremendous athlete. He's done a great job transitioning. Not a lot of people are able to do that. He's gone from an athletic quarterback that could take off and run sometimes with a powerful arm and turned himself into a dynamic threat as a wide receiver. Big, fast, physical and his skill level is getting better and better each year."

**Q: How do you envision utilizing Karl Joseph on defense moving forward?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Talking about with Karl and what we did with him off the edge some? That falls into strategy. Obviously, he's an aggressive guy, he likes to come, he likes to be brought. He makes plays happen when he does. We'll pick our spots as we do with everything but it was good to see him have a nice, productive game last week."

**Q: He had the play in the opener. Are you seeing him make these good plays because he's healthy?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "That's what he's supposed to do. he's supposed to make plays. He's a guy we selected because we thought he'd be a guy that could come in and impact on our defense. In the first two games of this year he's played well. There are still things like I tell you all the time that have cleaning up to do, work to do, improve on but he's off to a good start and obviously it follows up from a good offseason. Healthy, a lot of good work and confidence that he's gaining as we go."

**Q: In what ways do you think Reggie Nelson is better this year?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Reggie's been doing it a long time so he's not going to see as big of a jump as a younger player will. Reggie's been, for a long time, a really good player. Led the league in picks in '15. Reggie is pretty solid, pretty steady. I think we're talking about two different guys. Talking about a young player who's making a big jump in year two and we're talking about a veteran player who's been playing at a high level for a long time."

### **Raiders QB Derek Carr**

**Q: After the 0-10 start to your career, you can become .500 overall with a win this weekend. What does that mean to you?**

**Carr:** "I didn't know that, so that could tell you how much it means. *(laughter)* Yeah, obviously you want more wins than losses. But, that's funny, I didn't even know that. That's awesome."

**Q: It's pretty cool that you made that kind of turnaround pretty quick...**

**Carr:** "Whenever you start 0-10, it usually doesn't end well, but I'm glad that we're trending in the right direction. That first year, as we all know, was rough for everybody. To be able to win some more games since that day, it's a good thing."



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**Q: Heading into the Kansas City game that year, you were as positive as ever. Why were you so positive at that time? What did you see that no one else was seeing?**

**Carr:** “You know, I just knew at some point it has to change, because when you do things the right way, it’s got to change eventually. So, every single game, I went out there, all 10 of those games, and thought, ‘Yeah, this is the one. We’re going to win.’ And it just didn’t work out that way. I knew that we were building something special. I knew that the culture as us players had taken on and wanted to put into this building was special. From there on out, basically just knew that eventually it’s going to turnaround.”

**Q: What do you attribute being able to complete the highest percentage of passes in a game in your career this past Sunday to?**

**Carr:** “The O-line, and the wide outs, running backs picking up blitzes. With the way we’re able to pick up blitzes, we’re able to hit go-routes for touchdowns, we’re able to push the ball on deep. [Michael] Crabtree going across the middle on a deep route a couple times. You know, without them doing their job, I can’t do it by myself. Everyone gives the quarterback credit and all those things because you always touch the ball, but I give all those guys the credit.”

**Q: What have you seen from Marshall Newhouse?**

**Carr:** “He’s very athletic for how big he is. You can really see it from some of our stretch plays. When he’s on the backside having to cut people off, the way he can open up and run, he’s really special in his athleticism. Obviously, [General Manager] Mr. [Reggie] McKenzie knew him beforehand, so he knew what he had in him. Ever since he’s shown up here, he’s just shown us that, it’s like everybody on this team, no matter what coach asks us to do, we’re going to do it with everything that we have because that’s the culture that we’ve built here and he’s the prime example of that.”

**Q: In what ways have you seen DeAndré Washington and Jalen Richard grow this past season in comparison to last?**

**Carr:** “The same as any guys from their first year to their second year. Mentally they can see the run happen before they actually get the ball. They can see how it’s going to play out. The game slows down, the holes open up a little bit slower for them. They can see it beforehand, those kind of things. So, that’s just running the ball. Now in protection-wise, they were both pretty good last year mentally, and they’ve taken another step forward this year in that.”

**Q: What have you seen from Gareon Conley in practice after a nice NFL debut this past weekend?**

**Carr:** “In the offseason, I think we talked about it, I thought he was going to be a good player. I really did. And like you said, you never know until you get into games. He went out there and I thought that he did really well. He gave up the comeback, which will haunt him, because any rookie DB dreams of no one ever catching a ball on them which is how they should be. But he did give that up and I just told him, ‘Man, I’m going to tell you what [Charles Woodson] ‘C-Wood’ told me anyway. I don’t care if they push off, do whatever, I don’t care what they do. Just make the play.’ That’s the same thing C-Wood would tell me. I’d be like, ‘But Wood, he jumped the route. There’s nothing I could...’ [Woodson would say] ‘Complete it. I don’t care.’ *(laughter)* That was Wood for you. So I told him the same thing. As you can see, going into our culture, it’s getting passed on from each generation.”

**Q: Did you ever have any interactions with Terrelle Pryor before he left the Raiders or since then?**

**Carr:** “A little bit, just through Rod Streater. Him and Rod were really close. He would FaceTime him in the locker room and me and Rod were always sitting by each other, so I’d talk to T.P. on there and things like that. He’s nothing but a great guy. I haven’t heard anything else, but I haven’t gotten to spend time with him.”

**Q: How impressive is it to come into the league as a quarterback and now he’s doing big things as a wide receiver?**

**Carr:** “Unbelievable, right? It’s something that people see and they’re like, ‘Oh yeah, that’s really cool.’ But they don’t understand how hard that is, like to play quarterback your whole life, even in the NFL, make it as an NFL



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quarterback, and now we're going to move you to receiver and be successful. And not only that, he did it with multiple quarterbacks last year, which is ridiculous. I think that he deserves a lot more credit than he just gets."

### **Q: What is it like for you to have the assortment of weapons that you have on this offense?**

**Carr:** "It's very nice. Everyone in the league has talent. I feel like we have a lot of talent. I think that our front office and our coaches have done a great job of bringing that in, but it doesn't mean anything unless we go out and do it on the field. That is the coolest part to me, is that our guys sat in there in meetings, attentive, ready to learn what's next, what's the game plan. When we hit this field, it'll be full speed. It'll be all out, everything they've got. I think it's cool to have the weapons and all that, but the cool thing to me is what we do not even on Sundays, it's what we do in between the days leading up."

### **Q: Can you just comment on your music video?**

**Carr:** "It literally took us a couple of hours. That's it. All of the takes were because I kept laughing. I couldn't even take myself serious because they had the TV prompter so I could see it, and I couldn't even take myself serious. But it was good. It was fun because every commercial we do with them, all we want to do is, the end goal is we want people to laugh. And if they laugh at me for it, that's good, that's what we want. I laughed at myself, so it's all good with me."

### **Q: Do you still have the jacket?**

**Carr:** "I didn't keep it, no. Gosh, no. As soon as I walked in and we had our little dressing rooms, me and my brother looked at that jacket and I was like, 'I really hope that's not the one.' And sure enough it was. But that's alright. We have a good relationship with them and it was a lot of fun."

### **Q: Who was the musical inspiration for that and semi-seriously, do you have a future in music?**

**Carr:** "Gosh, no. No. Obviously, everyone is talking about the commercial and that's great because it's for the credit union, it's for the bank, bringing awareness to them and all the work that they do with the teachers there in the Central Valley. That is our end goal. Obviously, people get to laugh along the way. But just to bring the awareness, if I have to wear something silly to do that, it's alright."

### **Q: In the entire time of your rehab from the injury last year, were you confident that you would be able to get back to where you are today?**

**Carr:** "I was confident the whole way. As soon as I woke up from my surgery, I already started to move my toes and my foot and try to do things. I was doing drops in my bed laying there. I was already working it. I believe that when people can come back from something, it's all in your mind and as soon as I woke up, before I even had the surgery, I knew as soon as I wake up, I would already tell myself, 'Get to work. It's time to get back.' Right when I woke up, I was laying there in my bed, still throwing up a little bit, but moving my feet, trying to work and doing those things."

### **Q: Since we're past it now, did you ever cheat? Did you ever go faster than they were telling you to go?**

**Carr:** "Yes, absolutely, now, within certain guidelines. I would never do it in a sense to where it would have hurt me and hurt this organization, but I absolutely pushed their limits and probably stretched them a little further than they wanted."

### **Q: How does a guy like Josh Norman impact your efficiency and execution on offense?**

**Carr:** "He's a heck of a player. Their whole defense is loaded, obviously. I have nothing but respect for Norman. I think he's one of the best players in this league, but again like I said, we're playing one of the best, we're playing a young guy, we're playing other guys, it really doesn't matter. I have to go through my reads. Now you're aware of what he can do and where he's at, so you don't want to be stupid with the ball, but you just go through your reads and just play football."



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### **Redskins Head Coach Jay Gruden Conference Call**

#### **Q: What are you going to keep your eye in terms of Jordan Reed's health?**

**Coach Gruden:** "That's a great question because I don't know. It's obviously painful for him right now. This is going to just have to get better with time. Only time will tell for us. He's played through some nagging injuries before, but this one is a little bit unique for him. We'll have to wait. This one will have to wait until probably Friday or Saturday to figure it out."

#### **Q: Is Terrelle Pryor's ability to change from a quarterback to a wide receiver remarkable?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It really is. I don't think he really gets enough credit for the accomplishments that he's had at wide receiver. I think people want to slam him for a dropped ball occasionally or maybe a poor route once in a while, but he's a great athlete. He's still developing at wide receiver and he's already accomplished a lot of great things. Going over 1,000 yards last year with Cleveland and doing some great things here, but in the running and the passing game, I've been impressed with Terrelle. I'm impressed with his work ethic. I think he's going to continue to get better, which is really, really exciting."

#### **Q: What do each of your three running backs bring in terms of their strengths?**

**Coach Gruden:** "It's interesting. Rob Kelley can do a little bit of everything as far as running tracks and all that stuff. He's pretty solid. Samaje [Perine] and Rob are pretty similar in that regard. Samaje got his first taste of NFL football this past game and proved worthy of the task and did a great job running between tackles. Very low to the ground, strong, thick legs. He's a solid player and great job with ball security. Chris Thompson, he's our key guy on third downs and get back on track calls. Some first down runs. He's great in pass protection. Great in route running. He's a very, very valuable assets to this football team."

#### **Q: What jumps out to you about Derek Carr?**

**Coach Gruden:** "He's awesome. He's a great player. He has great command of the offense. He really has a great knack for giving receivers catchable balls. It looks like they're covered and he can drop the ball in buckets that not many people would throw, let alone complete. His receivers do a great of tracking it for him. I've just been impressed with his poise in the pocket. His command of the game, and obviously the results that he's had. I don't know what his record is over the last 18 games, I think it's like 15-3 or something like that. He's done a great job, man. Great quarterback."

#### **Q: Where are you guys on third downs both offensively and defensively?**

**Coach Gruden:** "That's what we have to get better at. I think offensively in our first game, we struggled mightily. We were 3-for-10 this past week. We did a little bit better. I think the numbers don't speak for as well as we did. We had a couple of key drops or what have you. We're doing better, but we have to strive to be better because those third downs are the difference in us possessing the ball another three or four minutes on the clock, possibly getting points on the board, so it's such a critical down for us. Then defensively, same thing. Getting off the field is key and we have to get better. The first week we weren't nearly good enough. Philadelphia I think was 8-for-13, but we did get better last week against the Rams."

#### **Q: Is David Amerson an example of when people say a change of scenery is all a guy needs?**

**Coach Gruden:** "No question. No question. He was a young player here. Did some great things here. He was a good corner at N.C. State. I got here and liked David a lot. We just ran into some things and we thought it was time for a change for him. I think it was a wakeup call for him. It's been a great change of scenery for him. I'm glad he's doing well because I think David is a great kid. Obviously, a very special talented football player. I'm glad he's doing well."

#### **Q: What have you seen from Marshawn Lynch after taking a year off?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, he really looks rusty. (*laughing*) I'll tell ya, he doesn't look like the same guy. No, he's fun to watch. You don't like to say that about other people. It's actually fun and terrifying to watch him at the same time



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knowing you have to go against him. The way he runs is a great example for the young running backs we have. To watch him protect the ball and the physicality that he runs with, it's great for Samaje and Rob Kelley to watch this guy play. It motivates them."

### **Q: What are the challenges of being the head coach when you're also the play caller?**

**Coach Gruden:** "You know what, there are challenges. When I was just a coordinator in Cincinnati, I was able to really, in between series is the biggest challenges, in between series I would get with the offense and get my staff and come up with the plan for the next drive or whatever. Now in between series, I have to watch the defense, special teams and make sure I'm in tune with what's going on and the game situation and all of that. That's the biggest challenge. Other than that, I rely on my coaches a lot. We rely on [Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line] Bill Callahan a lot as far as run game is concerned. I rely on [quarterbacks coach] Kevin O'Connell and [offensive coordinator] Matt Cavanaugh in the pass game, and Kirk Cousins, and it's been flowing pretty smoothly. I'd say that's the only challenge really, is in between series getting your thoughts together for the next coming series."

### **Q: Are you able to talk at all with Cousins in between series?**

**Coach Gruden:** "You know I usually talk to Coach Cavanaugh or Kevin O'Connell and tell them what I want them to tell Kirk. That's usually how it works. If I need to grab Kirk and talk to him, I will."

### **Q: O'Connell seems real cerebral as a coach. What have you seen from him?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Oh yeah, he is. Very cerebral. Smart guy. Heck of a lot smarter than me, that's for sure. He can dissect and detail every little thing. I'm more of a meat and potatoes guy – I just need the answer. He tells you too many facts for me. But he's very smart. He does a great job with Kirk."

### **Q: What have you seen from the Raiders offensive line? Does it fit that mold of fun but terrifying to watch?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Actually, it is. I think very similar to our guys. They're big, powerful guys. I think Gabe Jackson has done a great job at guard. He's a big strong guy. Rodney [Hudson] obviously, you get him as a free agent. He kind of solidifies that line at center. I know Donald Penn from Tampa. He's another big load. [Kelechi] Osemele, is that how you say his name? Good God, is he a monster. They are very strong and physical. Then Jared Cook does a good job at tight end. They're strong. They can run the ball between... That's the most impressive, they can run between the tackles. A lot of times you have these big powerful guys, they don't protect as well, but they're equally good as pass protectors. I think they're the backbone of that offense. They don't get enough credit."

### **Q: What does Cordarrelle Patterson add to your preparation?**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, it's like, 'Great, at least they're not handing it to Marshawn,' but then they hand it to Cordarrelle and you're like, 'What the hell? Who is this guy?' I've known Cordarrelle for a while. He did some of that in Tennessee. We actually had him in for a visit in the offseason and tried to recruit him here. He chose the Raiders, but very explosive guy. You have to know where he is. Really, you have to know where he is. You have to be ready for the reverses, him at halfback and all that good stuff. Great athlete, great talent."

### **Q: Have you found a link with the practice limitation rules where guys aren't practicing as much as before and it's affecting the caliber of offensive line play in the league?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I'll tell you, if you want to develop young, offensive linemen, you have to practice. They have to be able to block. That's what their craft is. You can't be a great jump shooter if you don't practice a jump shot, for God's sake. These guys have to practice with pad levels, their pads, their technique. It's very hard to do in shorts and without helmets. It's almost impossible. You get these ballerinas out there, great. Then all of a sudden you get pads on and the guy gets bull rushed. They have no idea how to react and how to adjust their hands and fits and all that stuff. You have to be able to practice in pads, somehow, some way. The veteran guys like Trent Williams and Donald Penn, they might not need it quite as much, but these young free agents and rookies, and developing offensive lineman and defensive lineman, you have to have it. My opinion, that's just mine."



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**Q: How much does that happen in your profession when you're evaluating your roster, you have a young guy who think can be something and then when the pads come on, he can't play.**

**Coach Gruden:** "Yeah, it happens a lot. It doesn't happen just that way. It happens the other way, too. You say, 'Holy crap, this guy can't play dead.' Then all of a sudden the lights cut on, he's the best player on your team. That happens both ways. Some guys when the lights cut on, they rise to the occasion. Some guys can't handle it. That's what people take for granted with the exhibition games, the preseason games, 'Oh, we don't need those.' But we do need those to evaluate our guys somehow and get these guys some work and see if they can put what they've learned in shorts and helmets and see if they can put it to use in shoulder pads and live action. It's a great test for them. You never know until you get live."

**Q: Do you see anything out of Karl Joseph?**

**Coach Gruden:** "I like his versatility. He's a good blitzer from time to time. He and Reggie [Nelson] play good together. They feed off each other, you can tell. Both of them can play the post. They can play down at corners. They can both play in the box. They're both very versatile and very good job and they're both good, sound tacklers."