



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening statement: Alright, Bills week. Really good football team coming in. They run the ball as well as any. They've got a lot of talent throughout the roster, a coach that I've known personally for a long time. Good football team. We're gearing up for a big game. Questions?"

Q: What do you think it did for both you and Rex Ryan to be on that staff in Baltimore?

Coach Del Rio: "It was a tremendous time in my life and in my coaching career, to be in that environment that Brian Billick created. It was an outstanding environment to work in. He encouraged us to grow. That staff, to be a part of that staff, and the way we would challenge each other and the idea sharing... I thought Marvin [Lewis] did a great job of managing all the egos in the room, allowing us to express ourselves but then bringing it in and it being our way when we left the room. I thought it was really good."

Q: A lot of big personalities on the team, too.

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah. None bigger than Tony Siragusa. He had to be one of the all-time best. Good times."

Q: How did Derek Carr's finger look today at practice?

Coach Del Rio: "Looked pretty good."

Q: That's it?

Coach Del Rio: "That's it."

Q: What makes their run game so effective?

Coach Del Rio: "A lot of different things. They really do everything that I can think of that I've ever seen in the run game, they have it one form or fashion. They basically throw the gauntlet at you. They've got a formation thing and they see how you're wanting to play it. Then they've got a series of plays they get to and they're very good at it. Number one in the league, and that's saying something."

Q: A matchup like this... they know you, you know them. Does it become a chess match?

Coach Del Rio: "We don't know them as well as you might think. They don't know us as well as you might think. They're not in the division. We don't play them regularly. We didn't play them last year. Rex and I know each other. But when you put a staff together, that staff and who you are that year is about a collection of the people in that room. Going back to when we were together, quite a while ago. Fond memories but I don't know that either one of us are going to relax and think we have it figured out."

Q: Rex was saying he was surprised about Lorenzo Alexander's pass rushing abilities. He didn't know he had that. You guys had him here. Did you see that in him?

Coach Del Rio: "We did not see that in him or we wouldn't have let Rex get him! I'm really happy for a guy like Lorenzo. He's a consummate professional. This is a guy that busts his butt, does everything he can, every day to be a true professional. We had him around thinking that's what we were getting is that, the leadership part of it and honestly, we missed on this part where he's getting 10 sacks. Hats off to him, congratulations to him. The guys that are here that know him are really happy for him. He's a great young man. Played at Cal right here, it's a great story for him. I'm super happy for him. I just don't want him to get it done this weekend, but happy for the year he's had."

Q: You said earlier in the year that you weren't worried about Khalil Mack's sacks, that they would come. Do you think he's playing any differently these last few weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "I think the production has come and the stats have come to where everybody else recognizes what he's been doing, but to me he's been really good. Khalil is a rare combination because he's a supremely gifted athlete, but he's got terrific work ethic. This guy comes out and busts it every day for us. He's a great teammate."



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He's humble. He can bring it and he brings it every day. That's why I had the confidence I had that someday the numbers would come."

Q: Has the league been in contact with you regarding Aldon Smith?

Coach Del Rio: "No, nothing to update you on. Not heard anything. Until I do, I don't really have anything to share."

Q: Derek's fourth quarter play has improved dramatically this year. What have you seen from him in terms of his growth there, when it matters most?

Coach Del Rio: "I think the biggest thing for us is just to continue with the process of preparing and then go out and let it rip. I think Derek is a student of the game and really studies his opponent, I think certainly a third year doing that, second year with us. Then, another year in the system where the familiarity of what we want to do and the timing with the receivers he's going to do it with. I think all of that adds up to good production and great results."

Q: Derek talks about the amount of situational football you guys do in practice, that that has helped him in fourth quarters. Is that something you are able to do more of this year because it's the second year in the system?

Coach Del Rio: "We don't do it any more, we probably do it a little better. It's situation awareness. Drilling those things is part of what we do. We talk about it. We basically script it out, map it out, so we make sure we hit certain areas throughout the year. It's just part of our preparation. I think Derek is very bright and he's able to take it from the practice field and apply it in game situations. Doing a great job."

Q: You told us that you and Rex Ryan used to sit and one of you would be Mel Kiper and the other would be Joel Buchsbaum. Rex says your memory isn't too good.

Coach Del Rio: "That might be true. Then again, it might not be. He's a pretty good personnel guy. We both took pride in it. It was fun for us. We got fired up for the draft. We'd have our notes and be going back and forth. It was a good time."

Q: Rex also said that Kelechi Osemele and Richie Incognito might be the two best guards in the league. What do you see in those two guys?

Coach Del Rio: "They're both tough players. They're both physical. That's why I'm looking forward to this matchup. Two physical football teams going at it. Should be a heck of a football game."

Q: You talked about their run game, but what about your run defense? What have you seen the last few weeks?

Coach Del Rio: "We've made some strides but, boy, it'll be a great opportunity to see where we are with a group like this coming. These guys run it as well as anybody. It'll be a great opportunity to see what kind of progress we've made."

Q: When you see LeSean McCoy get bottled up in the first half last week, but then come right out with a 75-yard touchdown in the second half, is that an example of just how dangerous he is?

Coach Del Rio: "He's a big play threat. He's got the ability to run inside, outside, make you miss, run over you. He's a really good running back. I think he's one of the best in the league. They're backup is pretty darn good, too. I think they're all over 5.0 a carry. The quarterback is over 6.0, and they all run all the time. It's a really potent offensive rushing attack."

Q: What do you see on film from Tyrod Taylor?

Coach Del Rio: "Strong arm, real athletic. He's got some 'make you miss, outrun you' a little bit. It's a good group. That's why I said, we're looking forward to a good game. Going to be a real physical game."



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Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: How does the finger feel?

Carr: "It's great, thank you for asking."

Q: Does it alter the grip or the throwing motion?

Carr: "It's doing great, thank you. How's yours?" *(laughter)*

Q: Will you continue to take snaps under center or will you be taking them out of the shotgun formation?

Carr: "No limitations, it's doing great. Thank you." *(laughter)*

Q: Do you have to take pain killers?

Carr: "It's doing great. Thank you very much."

Q: Did you see your hand has a Twitter account?

Carr: "I did not see that, but that's awesome. Sweet, that's great." *(laughter)*

Q: Do you feel different going against Buffalo now then you did the first time you faced them a couple years ago?

Carr: "Oh, absolutely, absolutely. From my rookie year, absolutely, man. They obviously are crazy talented, we all know that. We see the kind of players that they have. But, you have a better grasp of what they're trying to do with both Coach Ryan's [Head Coach Rex Ryan and Assistant Head Coach/Defense Rob Ryan], you could expect everything. You always get ready for everything. But, I definitely have a better grasp and that just comes with experience. You know the talent that they have on the outside, the talent they have inside. But, you have a better way of feeling how to attack it and things like that."

Q: Do you look back at facing Rex Ryan when he was with the Jets during your first career start?

Carr: "I won't look back at it. I know, I'm sure he may throw something like that just to be funny, I don't know. We'll see. But, he definitely brought it all at me, rightfully so. They ended up beating us that day, but I know he doesn't care too much about the Jets anymore and I don't care too much about that game anymore. *(laughter)* We're moving on, but I am looking forward to competing against him and his brother. I mean, they're two of the best coaches, mentally, that this game has. So, it's going to be fun, man. I always look forward to competing."

Q: How have you seen Khalil Mack grow as a leader this year?

Carr: "Oh, man. Obviously, he stands in front of everybody before every game and everyone looks to him down there before we stretch and all those things. You just see him go out there and he does exactly what he says he's going to do. He does exactly what he does out there at practice. He's not a guy that just comes out here, shows up and shows up on Sunday and says, 'Yeah, I'm just freakishly talented and I'm going to make all the plays.' Which, he very well could, but I think what separates him, and I think I've said it before, is his work ethic, the way he rushes the passer in practice. The way he chases down the run when it's away from him at practice and I think that that's something that speaks louder than him just saying things with his voice."

Q: Are you surprised by the season Lorenzo Alexander has been able to have in Buffalo?

Carr: "You know, I'm not surprised at all. I've kept up with Lorenzo. We talk, I feel, like every week. It's been every week. We still talk because he's such a great guy. I mean, you guys know, you guys talked to him. He's a professional, he's a great person off the field and obviously I wish him the best besides this week. But, I'm not surprised because I know how hard he plays. We watched him on special teams so many times running down there like he could care less how his body felt. To watch him do what he's doing now, I'm not surprised at all."



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Q: What makes the Bills so good at rushing the passer?

Carr: "They do some things where they'll bring some guys more than you can block. They've done that a couple times. They do some things where they know how talented they are and they just let those guys go. When you can do that, that's what the NFL's about man, letting those guys go and obviously those coaches are really smart, like I said. They let them go and put them in positions to do things that they're really good at and they kind of do a mixture of both."

Q: What have you learned and applied to make such a great change in your fourth-quarter play?

Carr: "You know, that's a loaded question. *(laughter)* There is so much, because I've done so much film study, I've done a lot of mental work in putting myself in situations and really trying to talk myself through things. And then, out there on the practice field, the coaches put me through situations all the time like I tell you guys all the times, [Head] Coach [Jack] Del Rio makes it as hard as he can on me out there. So then, when those situations do come up, it's really easy or at least try to be as much as you can make it. So, there's so much that goes into it, but I just think it has to do with part of the growth, man. Obviously, I'm still young. I still have a long ways to go, I still got a lot to learn about this game and about situations and things like that. I just think it's a testament to that we're getting better but we still have a long way to go."

Q: Is the motto 'by any means' becoming an unofficial slogan of this team?

Carr: "Hey, that's fine with me. By any means, whatever it takes to win, that's all that matters. You hear Khalil say it all the time, we hear it, like you said. I hear guys saying it all the time before he's even saying it, they're already running up saying it. They give him a hard time all the time saying it to him but, that's how you know it's stuck in their brain though. So, if at any moment they need to dig down deep and win by any means, they're going to give us everything they got, I'm good with that being our motto."

Q: Is it time to start talking about Mack in the Defensive Player of the Year discussion?

Carr: "Yeah, talk all about him. You don't have to talk about me one time, I'm good with that. I'm good with doing my job and going home to my kids and my wife. So, talk to him. He doesn't have any kids, doesn't have a wife yet, so give him all the praise." *(laughter)*

Q: Are you planning to wear your glove again on Sunday?

Carr: "We'll see. You know, my hand's doing great. Thank you for asking." *(laughter)*

Q: How do the players view Mark Davis?

Carr: "We love him. Yeah, we love him. He's come up to Khalil and I with things regarding the team and asking our opinions and things like that. Me and Khalil kind of sat back afterwards like, 'Man, you're the owner, you do whatever you want kind of a deal.' *(laughter)* But, it's just cool because we all have a cool relationship with him. We see him on the plane every time and he talks to everybody and we love him. I know that I have a great relationship with him and talking to him. Especially before Coach Del Rio was hired, talking back and forth and things like that. I have a great relationship with him and I'm thankful that I get to be his quarterback."

Q: Is he different than other NFL owners?

Carr: "You know to be completely honest, I have no clue because, I don't know the other guys. I didn't get to meet them or talk to them, but all I know is that ours is pretty cool and I know our team loves him."



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Bills Head Coach Rex Ryan Conference Call

Q: You coached against Derek Carr in his first game as a pro. What have you seen in his development since then?

Coach Ryan: "He's the exact same player. No. *(laughing)* Obviously, that as a few snaps ago. He's doing an unbelievable job and, obviously, I think the Raiders are, I believe, fifth in the league in offense and fourth in passing and 10th in rushing, so there are a lot of weapons around him. They do a great job of building that team up with [General Manager Reggie] McKenzie and [director of player personnel] Joey Clinkscales and all that. They've put together a heck of a football team, but he's doing a great job of playing the position."

Q: When you guys signed Lorenzo Alexander, did you see him as the pass rusher he's become? Is this a surprise to you guys?

Coach Ryan: "Yeah, there's no doubt. It surprised everybody. One thing I remember when he was in Washington, I got the job with the Jets and I was wanting to sign him then because I thought he could do some similar things that I had done in the past with like Adalius Thomas. You can put him as an outside rusher, inside rusher. He can cover. He can play man coverage and he's a super player, superstar-type player on special teams, so that's really what we thought we were getting, but there's no way that we thought he would put up the numbers he's putting up and doing a great job on a consistent basis."

Q: What do you see in Khalil Mack as a defensive coach and as an opponent?

Coach Ryan: "I think him and Von Miller are the two best in the league right now, the two best edge pass rushers and they can do it all. That's what I'm seeing from him, a guy that can play with speed, power, finesse. You name it, he's got it. When you look at those two, they're the only two, in my opinion, that are comparable."

Q: You coached with Jack Del Rio with the Ravens. What do you think you guys came away from that experience with?

Coach Ryan: "I thought we were a perfect mix. I don't think Brian Billick gets enough credit for, number one, the kind of coach he is. He was an outstanding coach in his own right, but he's also an evaluator of coaches and he put together, in my opinion, one of the best groups of defensive coaches in the league. I don't know where we would rank historically, but when you put together... You have Marvin Lewis was our coordinator, you had Jack Del Rio coaching linebackers, I know I bring down the group a little bit, but I was coaching D-line. Our quality control coach was Mike Smith, who has been a two-time NFL coach of the year. Steve Shafer is another guy that obviously Raider fans would be familiar, having coached the secondary in Oakland for a number of years. It was an outstanding group of coaches, but the biggest thing we did is we worked great together. I think that was a lot of fun for me. I learned a lot. I knew Jack was a special guy and it doesn't surprise me the success that he's had."

Q: Jack Del Rio told us before the draft that one of his favorite draft memories was sitting in the draft room with you and he would be Mel Kiper and you would be Joel Buchsbaum and that you would predict the draft as it went along.

Coach Ryan: "Oh yeah, we had a great time. We would do it all the time. It was awesome and we had an older scout named Ron Marciniak. He'd be in there with us. We did, man. We had so much fun back in those days. It wasn't just the fact that we were winning and beating everybody's brains in on defense. Obviously, that goes a long way, but it was just being around those kind of guys. Jack is a special guy to be around. He's just a real person, a genuine person that just happens to be one hell of a football coach and a heck of a football player. He just, like the rest of us, it was fun being around him and we never took ourselves too seriously until it was game time and then we were ready to roll."

Q: He said you came in second though.

Coach Ryan: "No, see I can tell you this: Jack is not a good liar. *(laughter)* He was lying about that. But Jack will get over it. His memory, it's not as good, I think. He played in the league a long time. *(laughing)* We'd have some fun. I can promise you that."



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Q: The way the Raiders have won all these close games, is there anything that jumps out at you, any qualities that you think has allowed them to be so successful in these close games?

Coach Ryan: "Obviously, they've found ways to win and I think that's a big deal. That's what you're always trying to push your team that you're never out of it. That's the thing. They have confidence in each other. Obviously, it starts having confidence in your quarterback and all that and you certainly see that with the way Carr is, but now as a team, once you start getting a couple of those wins... They can always say, 'Well, they got lucky.' That's not true. The same team is always lucky, so to me, they've got that going and obviously that's something you have to learn and they've done a great job of that."

Q: What have you seen from the Raiders' protection in terms of how much is on the offensive line and how much is Derek Carr getting the ball out quickly?

Coach Ryan: "I think it's a combination. Obviously, that offensive line is a very talented group. I was around Austin Howard with the Jets for a few years. He's a terrific player and he's a huge man. Everybody sees it. He's 6-foot-7, 360 or whatever. He's a super talent. He's a very athletic guy. You have [Donald] Penn there. They picked up [No.] 70. I can't pronounce his name, but that dude is an unbelievable guard. He might be, him and [Richie] Incognito, as the best guards in football. It's a great of offensive linemen. It starts there, but Carr is a guy that gets rid of the ball, so he doesn't take a sack. He may throw an incomplection, but he's not taking a sack and I think that's the big thing. If there's pressure, he doesn't take the hit, so you go into a game thinking you'll be lucky to get one sack. It's a combination of that offensive line, but another thing is you have a quarterback that's not going to take sacks. He'll get rid of it if he has to."

Q: What are the biggest things you've seen in the growth of Tyrod Taylor this year?

Coach Ryan: "I think part of it is things that are necessarily seen, which is the leadership. That's the biggest thing. The first year when we brought him in, he was competing with two other guys for the job, so he was number three, actually, on that list, but he ended up winning the job and by then he was just playing the position. Now, he's looked upon as a leader of our team and that's how the guys respond to him. He's as hard-working guy as we have. He's constantly in the film room and doing all those type of things. I think that's important, especially when you play that position."

Q: Do you enjoy the Black Hole atmosphere?

Coach Ryan: "You know what, I don't necessarily enjoy it, that's for sure. (*laughing*) I always think it's great. It's such a great venue, and the fans, they're loyal. The fans that I have in Buffalo here, it's the same way. It's as loyal of a fan base as I've ever been around, but that's the thing about the Raiders as well. That's always been such a loyal fan base and you come out, man they give it to you. They give you the business, but I give it right back to them. I kind of enjoy these games."

Bills LB Lorenzo Alexander Conference Call

Q: What are you looking forward to with playing your former team on Sunday?

Alexander: "It'll be a great experience. Obviously, I was there last year, built a lot of great relationships with meeting other guys, Derek Carr probably being the tightest I got to last year. Being in Oakland, obviously, I'm from there as well, so it's going to be a good experience for myself. I'm going to have a lot of friends and family there as well. I'm excited to play and compete against them boys."

Q: What have you seen from Carr that's led to his progress and growth this season?

Alexander: "He's taking his game to another level. Last year, watching him, how he approaches his day-to-day work. His football I.Q. His technique. His fundamentals. How he leads other guys, relationships that he's built. He's just continuing to build on that he excelled at last year. He's just taken it to another level. They're having a lot of



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success and they're finding ways to win a lot of those close games. He's done a great job of keeping them together. Obviously, he's very gritting, dislocating his finger last week and getting back in the game to finish it off."

Q: Was there thought about coming back last year?

Alexander: "I wanted to come back this year after last season. I enjoyed my time while I was there, but Reggie [McKenzie] and the coaching staff decided they wanted to go in a different direction. Obviously, they signed a guy like Bruce Irvin there. They had Khalil Mack and they drafted some young guys."

Q: Have you surprised yourself with all the sacks you've gotten this year?

Alexander: "Not really. I know I'm capable of doing. It's all about getting the opportunity. I've had success in the past years when I was with Washington. It just happened for me that I got injured as soon as I signed my free agent deal with Arizona. From there I kind of got lost and then after last year I ended up there. I didn't have the OTAs or offseason with the team or even a training camp. Brad Seely, the special teams coach, brought me in because he knew what I was capable of doing on special teams and how I could lead there. It's nobody's fault or anything like that. It just happened to be what my role was at the time. Now I'm finally healthy and have the opportunity with other guys down. We made some roster moves and I've just been able to go out there and showcase my ability."

Q: Are you pinching yourself a little that this would happen this far into your career?

Alexander: "Not really. As far as being a good football player going out there and playing and stopping the run, being a legitimate on special teams, I have been secure and pleased with my career minus even having the success I'm having this year. It's not like I've just been this guy just floating around and nobody knows who I am, I haven't contributed to the game. It's just now that I'm getting a real opportunity on defense to showcase what I can do and that's been fun to do thus far throughout the season."

Q: Are you enjoying watching Marquette King and his celebrations?

Alexander: "Yeah, Marquette is another guy that I really enjoyed being with last year. I used to ride to the games with him so I got to know him a little bit. He's a character, has a lot of passion for the game. Obviously, a lot of ability. I love seeing him go out there and execute and then have fun doing it. He's one of the great guys in this league and just hopefully he continues to do well. Obviously, not against us, but I'm happy for everything that he's done."

Q: What have you seen from Khalil Mack?

Alexander: "He's a monster. I think everybody knows that. His game speaks for itself. There's not too many guys that have his size, athleticism and passion and the work ethic for the game all within one person. That's why he's so dynamic. Obviously, if he continues to maintain his health, he's going to be a Hall of Famer. He just continues to grow each and every year as far as understanding how to play the game of football from a mental standpoint. The football I.Q., how to rush guys, how are they going to attack me. When you have a guy that's that talented and that passionate about becoming better, you get Khalil Mack, a Defensive Player of the Year type of guy year in and year out."

Q: Carr said that you guys still talk all the time.

Alexander: "Yeah, yeah. We're good friends. I check on him with his family. Obviously, we're both men of faith. Last year we used to have a bible study every Friday that we participated in and we grow closer. We just relate on so many different levels. He's one of the good guys in this league. Just because I left the team, doesn't mean that those friendships and relationships end there."

Q: How do you see Carr as a leader?

Alexander: "The main thing is he does it by example. He's one of the hardest workers on the team. I think he does a great job as far as relating to everybody. No matter if you're a wide receiver or considered a prima donna or whatever you may be or whatever your life outside of football, he's knows how to connect to people, relate to



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them and bring them in and not make them feel like they're not good enough. He does a great job of making people rise their game up and hold them accountable all in a loving way. It's amazing to see him work it because not a lot of guys can do that."

Q: Are you surprised with the team's success?

Alexander: "No, not at all. That was one of the main reasons why I wanted to sign back because I knew they were going to be a Super Bowl contender with all the young talent they had just based on last year."