



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Tackle Johnathan Hankins Conference Call

Q: Did you have any other teams that were interested in you and why did you decide to go back to the Raiders?

Hankins: "I definitely had some other teams that were interested. When I first got to Oakland, me and the coaching staff, I just felt comfortable with them. Of course, in the season things didn't go as planned, but towards the end of the season I felt like that was the place I wanted to be. So, when [General Manager] Mike Mayock became the new GM, I spoke to him and I spoke to everybody on the staff. I just felt comfortable there, and that's kind of where I really wanted to be and stay so we made it happen."

Q: With the Raiders adding all the talented pieces they have so far in free agency, what's it like to know they want to win now and consider you part of the plan to win?

Hankins: "It feels great. I'm definitely honored to be here for another two more years, be a part of the movement going forward. It's exciting seeing everybody that they've been signing. I just can't wait to get back to work and prove everybody wrong and let them know that the Raiders are back."

Q: Do you feel confident in the direction the organization is going?

Hankins: "[Inaudible] with [Head] Coach [Jon Gruden] and Paulie [defensive coordinator Paul Guenther] they were basically saying that we're definitely not where we want to be, but in the future we're going to definitely get to where we [want to] be and be playing at that playoff, Super Bowl level. So I just trusted them and believed in them. I just wanted to be a part of it, so yeah."

Q: What do you think you need to improve on in your game?

Hankins: "Just being more consistent in terms of playing the run and also affecting the quarterback a little bit more. Just helping get more opportunities at pass rushing. Just being able to bring on and help out the younger guys that are there going on into their second year. Just try to be more of a leader for the defense. Just be the anchor in the middle."