



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Opening statement: "How you guys doing today? I'll be happy to answer any questions I can."

Q: How was this week in terms of getting Eddie Vanderdoes back?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, it was great. He played both ways, actually. We have some injuries on the offensive line, so he had to play offensive guard to give our defense a look. He's moving around pretty good. It's a credit to him. He's worked hard to get back. We need him. We're looking forward to having him back."

Q: Did Daryl Worley tweak his ankle at practice today?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, he did. He practiced most of practice today. We'll update you when we can, but I don't believe it's serious."

Q: What did you like about Daniel Carlson to bring him in here?

Coach Gruden: "Well, we've had enough kickers in here. Hopefully he can come in here and give us some good kickoffs. Obviously, he has a huge leg. We liked him coming out of college at Auburn. Had a couple of misses in Minnesota, but a lot of kickers do. We think he has a big upside. He's kicked the ball well since he's been here. Hopefully he takes advantage of this opportunity."

Q: What have you seen from Jason Cabinda this week and back in training camp?

Coach Gruden: "He has the intangibles that you would expect from a Penn State linebacker. He has leadership, great communication. He's a contact player. He's been with us, even though he's been on practice squad, we've taken him on every road trip. We've kept him close under Derrick Johnson's wing. We'll see how much the teacher taught the pupil, but he has a lot to like. I don't know how much he's going to play, but he will hopefully make his debut in this game."

Q: How good does Andrew Luck look to you on film?

Coach Gruden: "Great. Yeah, I think he looks great. They do a lot. They never run the same play twice. He still creates a lot of offense when nothing is there. That's what the great quarterbacks do. They don't just make the throws and fix plays at the line of scrimmage. When there's no blocking or nobody open, he can still make big plays. He's a great competitor, scrambler. I'm sure a lot of the Stanford faithful will be excited to see him again."

Q: Do you expect the Coliseum to feel any different this Sunday after how the season has gone and would you understand if it did?

Coach Gruden: "Well, I have a lot of respect for what you're saying, but at the same time I have a lot of confidence in Raiders fans. These Raiders fans are the best. We're looking forward to playing in front of them and hope to win a game for them."

Q: How would you assess the team mentality after this week?

Coach Gruden: "I don't believe all the headlines, just so you know. I don't think a lot of people do either. But, the headlines tell part of the story, some other people's story, the reality is we had a great week of practice and we have a long way to go, as I've said before, to get this team where we want it to go. I liked the way we practiced and I like the direction we're heading. We'll see where we are on Sunday again."

Q: What do you think the Bye Week provided for the offensive line?

Coach Gruden: "Well, it will depend on, obviously, who the left guard is. [Kelechi Osemele] 'K.O.' practiced a little bit today. He's one of the best guards in the league, and when you don't have him, it's a huge loss. [Jon] Feliciano got hurt after three or four plays, so that's a huge loss. We'll see. Hopefully, K.O. can play, hopefully Jon can play if need be. Hopefully the week off helped our young tackles get healthier as well."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

We'll make no predictions, the Colts are coming in here, they're a good defensive team, they play hard and they are physical."

Q: How much better does Osemele's presence make Kolton Miller?

Coach Gruden: "It helps a lot. When you're playing next to three different left guards, it's tough. There's a lot of things that happen there that you really don't, probably don't, go to the game on Sunday to watch. Guys switching stunts, guys working in concert with one another in the running game. It's tough. It's tough but we'll do what we have to do to win the game."

Q: What challenges do their tight ends present to our defense?

Coach Gruden: "[Eric] Ebron's a great receiving tight end and [Jack] Doyle, his return and a healthy T.Y. Hilton and a healthy [Anthony] Castonzo make this offense formidable. They're capable of scoring a lot of points and Doyle is a matchup problem, Ebron is a matchup problem and T.Y. Hilton is a guy that can rip the game open, too. So, you have a lot of things that you have to defend."

Q: Who is your best guy against tight ends?

Coach Gruden: "It depends on what coverage you're in. There's a lot of ways to play defense. If we're in man coverage, we're going to have to have one of our linebackers, potentially one of our safeties, walk out and cover one of these guys. That's a matchup that every team in the league is looking for every week. We look for it ourselves with our tight end and it depends on what coverage we're in. We'll determine who's out there matching up."