



## Oakland Raiders Transcript

### Offensive Coordinator Bill Musgrave

**Opening Statement:** "Tough defense coming in, as we all know. Tough front, two good tackles. You can see, definitely, why they were 15-1 last year."

**Q: How much does the versatility in your running backs help?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Well, it helps us when we can put a plan together and hopefully isolate some defensive shortcomings or maybe, some matchups that are heavily in our favor. The running backs do a nice job of executing plans. It's one thing to put a plan together, of course it's another thing, entirely, for the players to go out and execute it, take it to that elite level. I'm very thankful for our group, our stable of running backs."

**Q: How important is it to be able to make adjustments on the fly like what Jalen Richard did last week?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Yeah, he's just a terrific young man. On the field, he's great, on the sideline, really good with adjustments, staying positive when we experience the ebb rather than the flow of the football game. So, he's terrific all around, talking about Jalen."

**Q: Does it show the savviness in him being able to stay in bounds to keep the clock running during crucial times?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Great awareness of situational football. Yeah, excellent. We work hard on it and the players don't just take it as lip service, they really take a lot of notes and learn from their mistakes in practice, learn from their triumphs too. They just do a good job of retaining information, all of our players do."

**Q: Is the variation Jamize Olawale's play something you'd like to bring out more often?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Well, there was an argument to use it earlier rather than wait until things are looking somewhat bleak. So, we had a good experience with it down there in Tampa Bay also and Jamize [Olawale] does a super job for us. He runs some short routes for us the other day too, which usually he's out there just to create some space, but Derek [Carr] found him. So, his role is ever-expanding because he's showing multiple traits."

**Q: What was your first impression of Jamize Olawale?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Initial impression: tough guy, straight-line speed, really good on special teams, doesn't have a lot of running back experience I think carrying the football like we talked about earlier in the year, but he's getting that experience this year and did a little bit last year too. Super run he had in Pittsburgh last year for the touchdown, so when he gets his chances, he makes the most of them. Just too bad there's only one football out there. So, every so often, he gets the ball in his hands, but there's a lot of other guys out there that deserve touches as well."

**Q: Why has Carr been able to be so successful in the fourth quarter this season?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "I don't think anything switches with him, that's probably the key. He's steady, he's even-keeled and we just talked about the games having ebb and flow, the season has ebb and flow, but every game you're going to have your ups and downs and he stays steady throughout. I think that allows him to accumulate information as the game goes on like a quarterback getting smarter the longer the down goes, he accumulates information. So, I think Derek gathers this information throughout the game and he continues to improve once we get into the second half."

**Q: Has Connor Cook done a great job of impersonating Cam Newton?**

**Coach Musgrave:** "Not nearly as big as Cam. (*laughter*) Doesn't throw nearly as hard yet. He's getting in the weight room and working on that. (*laughter*) But, our guys are always trying to give the defense a real accurate portrayal and an accurate look. That's Connor's role this year, is to prepare the defense to the best of his ability."



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**Q: What have you seen from him in terms of improvement throughout the year?**

**Coach Musgrave:** “He is doing better. He’s doing better each and every week. I thought he really grew during the preseason. He got some adequate turns and each week he’s doing a nice job in the meetings and also being supportive of Derek and Matt McGloin during the game and being that extra set of eyes and having his perspective added to the equation, which we value a bunch.”

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

**Q: Cam Newton brings a lot of challenges. What stands out on film?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “No question. He’s in such control of what he’s doing. He understands football. He understands his strengths and weaknesses. He’s a really good football player and there’s no question you have to really do your homework. You have to really be disciplined, responsible football to be successful versus this team.”

**Q: Do you agree with Bruce Irvin that Monday was the best game of his career?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “No doubt; just a complete game for him. Just being a total package football player. Coming into the league, he may have been detailed as a finesse type player. He’s really rugged now. He’s really strong, really smart, really confident. He can play sideline to sideline. He can rush the passer. He can drop into coverage. He can knock tight ends off the line. He can cover tight ends. He can do all this stuff. Anything you want him to do, Bruce can do it.”

**Q: What has it been like watching Karl Joseph grow throughout the year?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “It’s fun to watch young players learn, grow, accept all the knowledge, really surround themselves with veterans with Reggie Nelson being around him and Bruce and Khalil [Mack], all these older guys who have had success. For him to watch and learn and now apply it, it’s one thing to know it, it’s another thing to apply it and he’s been able to apply, you see, in his performance.”

**Q: What do you notice about his tackling ability?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “Well, he works on it. He really spends a lot of time working on tackling. We really emphasize tackling. He’s a sure tackler. He’s a guy that you want out there when it’s time to make tackles. Anytime you’re playing defense, tackling is a really good talent to have. That’s what he does very well.”

**Q: How do you make up for Shilique Calhoun’s absence on Sunday?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “Well we have good depth. We have good depth. The guys have to step up; next man up. I think that our depth, I think the guys who are playing well are going to continue to play well and they’re going to really bring the group with them. I think that the guys are really going to step up.”

**Q: Could you use Cory James on the edge?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “I can’t tell you our game plan, man. I can’t get into specifics. Come on, you know that.”  
*(laughing)*

**Q: What are you seeing on film in terms of covering opponents’ tight ends recently?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** “The tight ends in this league are pretty good. They’re catching balls not just on us, they’re catching on a lot of people. You bring out the times that they catch the ball, but there are times that they don’t catch the ball. Malcolm Smith and strong safeties, everybody has a role to play with the tight ends. Obviously, they make some plays. We made some plays, Malcolm had a good interception on one of them one time. Tight ends of the old days with the big, slow guys are over. They’re big receivers now, so you have to match up. You have to take care of them and you have to win more than you lose. They caught a few last week and we stopped a few, but we have to do better. There’s no question about that.”



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**Q: What makes Greg Olsen one of the better tight ends in the league?**

**Coach Norton, Jr.:** "He's smart. He's fast. He runs really good routes. He understands leverage, and he catches the ball well. You always need a good guy throwing you the ball and he's got a really good quarterback, really good strong arm, that trusts him. They really have a good relationship together."