



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Opening statement: "Alright, I'll be happy to answer any questions that I can."

Q: Where is Johnathan Hankins from a football shape standpoint?

Coach Gruden: "We're going to find out. We're going to find out. It's a tough job. We lost two defensive tackles. Somebody has to come in and help us out. Fortunately, he's a veteran player. He appears to be in good shape. He understands what to do. We'll keep a close eye on him."

Q: Might that exasperate in terms of a test for him?

Coach Gruden: "It might. It might. We all handle it differently. I can't comment on how he has played in the past. We'll have a rotation of people available, and we'll do the best we can."

Q: Jalen Richard had a big role on Monday, is that sign of things to come or was that how the game played out?

Coach Gruden: "If you want to attack certain coverages, sometimes the best matchup you can find is a back against a linebacker. Seen the Patriots do quite well with their backs. He's emerging in that role, and I think he can be great at that role."

Q: He was talking the other day about thinking like a wide receiver. Is that usually a big adjustment for a lot of backs?

Coach Gruden: "Yeah, I don't think you just put a new offense in and say go run a choice route or go run an option route or go run a China route or go run whatever. I think you have to run at practice. You have to study it. You have to go do it in a game. Everybody plays it differently. He's developing into that role. It's not a finished product yet, but he sure shows glimpses of being great at that. He had one route where he broke inside. It was incomplete. It might have been a 60-yard gain. He's really getting better and better each day."

Q: What do you like about Bill Musgrave's offense?

Coach Gruden: "I just think he's had production wherever he's been. He's a real solid person. He's a really solid coach. He's gotten results with all kinds of different quarterbacks in different cities in different divisions. It's a credit to him."

Q: What was behind bringing back Johnny Holton as a defensive back?

Coach Gruden: "He's still playing wide receiver. You don't see practices. A lot of times offensive linemen play defensive line. Defensive linemen play offensive line. Linebackers play running back. We have a receiver playing running back. Trying to get the 10 best prospects on your practice squad as possible and keep developing them. At the same time, you have to service the other side of the ball. He's one of those dual players right now."