



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: So you're playing like a half, maybe three quarters?

Carr: "I hope all of it. (*laughing*) It was fun when I got to play a lot of it my rookie year. That's an opportunity for a lot of guys to make the team, make a name for themselves. Obviously, they get more playing time because we don't play as much as the starters. It's always exciting. Some people just look over the fourth game, but it's really important to some people. Obviously, it was really important for my career."

Q: Do you ever get a chance to speak to some of those guys that are battling for a roster spot?

Carr: "Absolutely. You guys know me, I speak to all of my teammates and I try, even though there is like 100 of them right now, to reach out to all of them and just let them know that I care. Whatever their situation is, I try and encourage them, try and give them some peace. A lot of them are stressing out right about now just trying to make the team. So, I know that feeling because they gave me a chance to start the last game my rookie year and there was going to be a lot told based on how I played. So I just encourage these guys to make the most of it, study their tails off and, most importantly, just go out there and have fun because you can't control a lot of things. But you can control having fun and your effort and those things."

Q: How vivid are your memories from that night? Do you remember specifics at all?

Carr: "No. I just remember throwing a deep ball to 'D-Mo' [Denarius Moore]. Actually, I think I threw him two touchdowns. I think we had a couple more but I don't remember specifics. I just remember the feeling. I can remember bits and pieces. That was like really me and Latavius [Murray]'s first chance to just go out there and play against the one defense. Some of those things you don't forget, but details, I guess I have been playing too much now."

Q: Going into this game, knowing that you'll be watching a lot, is there anything that you'll be looking to see?

Carr: "Win. Anytime you go out there, you want to win. Obviously, everyone says, 'Yeah, it's preseason,' and all that. It's my belief that anytime you're out there, you want to go out there and win. Even though we won't play the whole thing, we want to see our young guys go out there and really show the culture that we've set here for the past four years. We want to see that that carries on, not just with the starters but deep into our roster."

Q: Do you expect to play?

Carr: "I always expect to play. Like I said, he keeps things secret and just make sure I prepare the way I prepare."

Q: With a couple of preseason games now with Todd Downing as the offensive coordinator, what has that been like? Has that changed anything getting the play calls from him?

Carr: "It sounds funny but just learning how he says certain words in the headset, especially in a loud environment. I get really excited when our third preseason game is an away game, to be honest, because you need to work that noise because obviously there are more fans at those games than there are at the other three. Being able to hear how he says words because, I'm not going to lie to you, in loud games you probably hear 50 percent of what they coordinator is saying but you just know the game plan and you can just make it out and you know what to do. Just being around him play call-wise, personality-wise, nothing changes. He's still my quarterbacks coach. He's still there. And then [quarterbacks coach] Jake [Peetz] is there now as an added voice. So I really get the best of both worlds with them two."

Q: What impressions has Gareon Conley made on you?

Carr: "I think he's going to be really good. I really do. Obviously, he's going to take his rookie bumps. Obviously, we don't want too many. He's going to be a very good football player. I truly believe it."



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Q: What are your thoughts on the situation in Houston?

Carr: "I don't have the answer, how to help any of those things. You do whatever you can, obviously. I see people that are close, in nearby cities come in. Bringing their boats out and trying to save people and those things, which is how it's supposed to be. That's love. That's this country and what it's supposed to look like. You see things like that and it lets you know people are doing things the right way. Now at the same time, you just feel for them because that's a lot of starting over. That's really hard. We were there when a certain hurricane hit when we lived there for our short time. We got out of there. Then when we came home, there was nothing wrong with our stuff, but I had friends that had stuff wrong with their stuff. Just having to help... Not having, but choosing to help them and seeing what they had to go through. I don't wish that for anybody. So you just pray for them and wish the best for them. Again, like I said, you help in any way that you can."

Q: What have you seen from K.J. Brent and Jaydon Mickens through camp?

Carr: "You know, everything you get from K.J. is he's a super smart player. He runs the route exactly how you want it. He's like a coach's dream. He's going to do exactly what you say. He's not going to run a 4.3. He's not 6'5". But he does exactly what you want. Then you have a guy like Jaydon, who obviously doesn't have the size, but he has that shiftiness. He has that play making ability on reverses and short passes and can beat one-on-one coverage. It's going to be fun. Like I said at the beginning, it's fun this time of the year. This game is so important for guys like that because they have to go out and put their best foot forward. I don't know what they talked about on decision day, but I know that obviously them getting a lot of playing time has to matter. I think that they'll take that into account. All those guys that are competing for spots, I hope that they just go out there and have fun. That's one thing about our team. You see guys competing, but you see the same guys high-fiving. You see the same guys. On 'Coop's' touchdown, you see 'Crab' high-stepping on the whole other side of the field. I didn't even look his way and he's high stepping for his teammate. That's the culture that this team has. Especially when you're competing for a spot, it's the same thing. Those guys are going to be celebrating with each other."

Q: What's Saturday going to be like with your jersey number being retired at Fresno State?

Carr: "That's going to be a special moment. I've been thinking about it, too. I was like, 'Man, I hope I don't all of a sudden get randomly emotional.' I literally dreamed of that since I was this tall. Every time I walked in that stadium for my brother's games, I would tell my dad, 'Yeah, they're going to put Dave's up there, but they're going to put mine, too.' Then when I was there, it said, 'Carr 8,' obviously, every day I walked down that ramp. I said, 'They're going to put my name right next to that.' It drove me. It pushed me to want to, again, change a culture of things that were going a certain way. It's just one of those moments that I've dreamed off. Thank God it's coming true."

Q: What is the reaction for Matthew Stafford's new contract?

Carr: "Matthew can have all of that. I'm happy for him. He's a good dude. I love talking to him. My reaction to it was, 'Congratulations.' I hope every quarterback that comes beats me, beats him. I just hope that they all just continue to do that because I know Matthew and I know that he's a great guy. I know that he helps a lot of people. It's not about certain things to us. It's about getting that money in the right people's hands because we know the impact it can make on lives all around the world."

Q: How does it feel that your contract set the new bar?

Carr: "Again, I'm glad we got my contract done and I hope all those guys can get everything that they can. Like I said that day, I don't care if anybody passes me. I'm not going to go run upstairs and say 'no' or anything like that. My contract is done, that's out of the way. It's time to play football."

Q: How many days after that first Seattle preseason game were you told you were the first quarterback? What do you remember?

Carr: "Did we play on Thursday? OK, so I went to church on Sunday morning and I checked my phone when I got out and coach [Greg] Olson had texted me. He said, 'Hey, Coach [Dennis] Allen wants to see you.' Some quarterbacks had gotten hurt in the preseason so I thought, 'Oh man, they traded me.' I promise when I drove here I thought I



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was traded, I really thought that. I thought, 'I played well, somebody wanted me,' and then I showed up, he told me that day that I was going to be that starter, asked me if I was ready and I said, 'Yeah I'm ready.' The next day, I walk in to watch film and [Matt] Schaub is sitting there and he shakes my hand and said congratulations. He said, 'Obviously, I'm mad, I think I should be playing.' I don't think he worded it that way but I'm just saying. He said, 'Whatever you need, I got your back. Whatever you need, out of anybody in this building I want you to know that I have your back.' From that point forward, he proved it every single day. He was never rooting against me. He never wished ill-will. All he did was help me and teach me how to play quarterback as a professional."

Q: You have a pretty special relationship with Todd Downing. Does that allow him to be harder on you? Do you welcome him to be hard on you to get better?

Carr: "Oh yeah. I threw a ball today that was literally two and a half inches too low and he said, 'Get the ball up.' I could have easily been like, 'C'mon, man,' but my mindset is somewhere else. I'm not OK with just very good. He understands that if I can throw a perfect ball eight out of 10 times, why can't I do it 10 out of 10. That is why our relationship is so special. He knows I want to be one of the best to ever play this game. The best. That's a long way away, but he knows the process it takes to get there and he continues to push me every single day. I never once hate it. I know what he's doing. He knows what he's doing. We're just in it together. We're trying to be the very best we can be."

Q: Who did you throw the ball to that was two inches off?

Carr: "I think it was 'Crab.'"

Q: You watched the tape already this preseason. What stands out to you in terms of the evolution of this offense from year to year?

Carr: "We're more comfortable. We play faster. When you keep some words the same, when guys can speak the same language over and over again, it puts ease in peoples' minds so they can go out and play fast. There is less thinking involved. I can continue to keep going on but I think I answered that for you."