



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "I'm going to see how much I can give you on this information Monday. (*laughing*) I can just tell you it's a short week. There are several things that we want to clear up. This is the time of year, the fourth preseason game, that typically is a light load for a large number of the guys. So we'll get our last look at some guys that we have to make decisions on. That's really what this last game ends up being about. That's really what we know is in front of us. A short week, want to be sharp. We understand the challenges that we'll face with this schedule that we have starting on the road in Tennessee. We'll turn to that next week, but bottom line is we're going to be very diligent in finish our preparation this week. Questions?"

Q: How beneficial is it having the 90 guys for this final game instead of the 75 in the past?

Coach Del Rio: "Well I think it's a good thing. I know the league will look at it at the end of the day and analyze pluses and minuses, but I know it's a good thing to have. A lot of these young men have one last opportunity to give us an impression as we make our decisions."

Q: How much can what the players do on the field on Thursday sway the needle in terms of who makes the roster, who makes the practice squad and who gets cut?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I think the guys will get an opportunity to play. That's exactly what they get with that last chance to make an impression. As I told our guys, you want to make the best impression you can for an opportunity here. You also have 31 other teams that are going to evaluate the game tape and you're making an impression around the league as well. I think it's important to put your best foot forward. We have a good group of men. We'd love to see as many of them as possible be playing. They work really hard. So obviously, we have tough decisions to make when it's that time. You're always pulling for the rest of the guys to find a home."

Q: How significant will the special teams film you get out of Thursday's game be?

Coach Del Rio: "The whole time has been significant for us. There's been a lot of development in a lot of different places. We've had a lot of change, in particular depth on the defensive side of the ball. A lot of guys get an opportunity, whether it be on special teams, finding a role for them on defense. We play a lot of combinations. We've had a lot of looks with a lot of different people. So a lot of good tape to evaluate for us. Now we're sorting through that and they get one last shot."

Q: How do you see Shalom Luani taking advantage on special teams?

Coach Del Rio: "He's done well. He's gotten better. I think guys like him and others have taken advantage of their opportunity and grown. We feel like we've made some strides in some key areas. He's been part of that. He's developed. He's a lot better now than the day he got here."

Q: Do you expect to see Gareon Conley on the practice field tomorrow?

Coach Del Rio: "When they give me the green light, I'll go. I know he's getting close. He's doing a lot of running on the side. We feel like he's getting close."

Q: How has Jelani Jenkins looked on taped in the last few games? Have his chances for more snaps grown because of his performance recently?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, we'll see as we go. I think he's definitely showed that he has veteran experience and knowledge. He showed up making some nice plays for us."

Q: Have you seen the progress that you've wanted to see with the starting defense?

Coach Del Rio: "I feel really good about the work we put in. I think structure-wise and system wise and technique and fundamental-wise, I think a lot of it has really... There's been a lot of bright spots for us. I know people want to look at numbers and specific things. For us, we're looking at the development, the different packages and personnel and how we utilize them during the year. I feel like we've made significant progress over the last several months."



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Q: How much do the trades happening now impact the cuts you're going to make?

Coach Del Rio: "That's really a question for [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] and personnel. Obviously, he and I meet and talk quite a bit about the roster, but I leave those things for Reggie to handle and decide how much he wants to share or not share and it's typically not very much." (*laughing*)