



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q: Derek Carr said after the interception in the endzone, he grew from it. How much growth is there still left in him?

Gruden: "I don't think you ever stop growing up as a football player. You keep learning. You keep gaining more and more experiences. He's had a different system every year. He's heard different interpretations. I think he did learn from it. I think he's playing really good football, minus a couple plays. I think that's pretty obvious."

Q: If PJ Hall can go, what does that do for the interior defense?

Gruden: "He's one of our best inside players. It would be nice to have him out here. We'll see how he feels tomorrow. He did practice yesterday and the last couple days actually. We don't need him to just show up and play, we need him to play good. Is he healthy enough to play good. That's what we've got to find out. We need him, obviously."

Q: Is Derek in a spot where he wants teams to blitz?

Gruden: "There are a lot of different kind of blitzing. A lot of people think man-to-man when they blitz. Sometimes it's just a four-man rush. They blitz the inside linebacker and drop both defensive ends. It's a crazy package that they have. It's going to involve everybody, not just blitzing our quarterback. They're blitzing our back to see if he can pick up who to block. Do our backs know who to block? Do they know how to block? Do they want to block? We're going to find out in this game. Can our tight ends pick up blitzes when they have to? Do our wide receivers know the corner blitz? Can they execute properly? It'll be a great test for us. I look forward to it."

Q: How big is it to have Donald Penn back?

Coach Gruden: "We need Donald. We need Donald to go wire to wire and play a great game in this game for obvious reasons."

Q: What's Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie's injury?

Coach Gruden: "I think he'll be OK. He tweaked his hamstring a little bit. I can't give you any other update than that."

Q: What's it going to be like going against an offensive guy like Hue Jackson? Do you look forward to it more?

Coach Gruden: "I don't ever look at it like that. I really don't. He's a good coach and a good friend. They're an emerging up and coming team. We need to get a win."

Q: What did you see out of Doug Martin last week?

Coach Gruden: "He's a good back. The only thing Doug doesn't get is enough opportunities. Marshawn [Lynch] is running really good. We like the combination of Martin and Lynch. We plan on using those two guys creatively all year. Jalen Richard has carved out a role, too. Like we said in camp, we feel good about the backs."



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Q: Does DeAndré Washington have to wait his turn until something opens up?

Coach Gruden: "We'll see. We'll see. Like to have him out there. He can contribute on special teams. As a receiver in general in a lot of areas, but right now we can only have 47 guys up."

Q: How do you feel Reggie Nelson has played this year?

Coach Gruden: "He's played alright. He's played pretty good."

Q: Is Matt McCrane comfortable? You talked about going over to the Coliseum to kick out of the dirt.

Coach Gruden: "Yeah we took them out there. We took them out there and let them kick. Let them experience the dirt. I'm sure all kickers in the league look forward to kicking off that dirt. We're confident in him. We'll see what happens. We're going to be very confident. We'll go to him. He had made some long range kicks in the preseason. He had a good week of practice."

Q: It's got to be strange. I'm sure you're rooting for the A's, but the longer they go...

Coach Gruden: "No, I'm rooting for the A's, man. I'm rooting for the A's. I love the A's. I love Oakland. Coach Melvin is a friend of mine, done a heck of a job. Hell of a job. Plan on getting out there and rooting for the A's. I hope everybody does."

Q: Ronde Barber has worked in his game. Has it been fun to see some former players?

Coach Gruden: "I would make the dirt permanent if I had anything to do with it. I would make permanent dirt and grass in every NFL field. So I'm happy with the dirt. It's great to see Ronde. I'll get a chance to see him here shortly. Leon Hall is a great nickel corner. There's a certain way that Ronde Barber played that...We had his picture in our training room. Everybody used to ask me, 'Why do we have Ronde Barber's picture up in the training room?' And I said, 'Because he never came in here.' He never came into the training room. I put him on the injury report one time, he wanted to beat me up. He was the toughest guy pound-for-pound I ever coached. Great seeing him."

Q: Do you really wish you could play on the dirt every week?

Coach Gruden: "I like old school football. I'm not going to philosophize. I got work to do."