



Oakland Raiders Transcript

QB Derek Carr

Q: How much importance do you place on the results of preseason games?

Carr: "That's a tough question, because as a competitor, anytime you go into a game you want to win. That's hands down. Anytime I put a jersey on, my whole mindset is, 'what do I need to do to win?' And then, when you go out there and play 10 plays you're like, 'Man, there's nothing more I could do.' But, you always want to win, that's number one. So, there is something to it. There is something like where like, if you lose, it stings because you're a competitor."

Q: How about with regards to your personal stats?

Carr: "I put a little bit into it because I always want to win. I want to go 4-0 in the preseason all the time, 5-0 if we have the Hall of Fame game. I always want to win. When we were on the plane ride home, it's a lot more enjoyable when you win, it always is. And, the week is a lot more enjoyable when you win. But, personally, you know at the end of the day the games don't count against the real record. So, it's really like, you really just want to progress and do things right on film so that when you hit Week 1 when they really count, you're rolling. So, it's a tricky question because you always want to win, but at the same time, if you lose a game, but 90% of the game you played really well and it looks clean, it's good football and you lose on a field goal at the end... In the preseason, that's hard, you never want to lose, I promise you that. Don't twist what I'm saying, I never want to lose. But, you always want to play clean football. You always hear [Head] Coach [Jack] Del Rio, 'We want to look efficient, we want to look clean.' All those things, it all goes into it. But, at the end of the day, when you win, it feels better."

Q: Is your decision making the same in a preseason game as it would be in a regular season game or do you take more chances?

Carr: "To my quarterback coaches demise, he doesn't like that, but I do it a couple times where I have to come back. And he knows, Coach [Todd] Downing, he knows why id di something or I wanted to work on something. I definitely do stuff that I want to work on in a game setting against live bullets. I definitely do that, nothing that would go against hurting or anything. But, I want to see if we can get better. I want to see if, 'Man if we can do that, that would help' you know? So I definitely do that sometimes, but for the majority of the time, I try to do it the right way and try to be deficient. But, there are times here and there, I mean you can ask anybody, they want to work on stuff to see if you can get away with certain things."

Q: How much more do you know now in comparison to two years ago?

Carr: "Oh my goodness. *(laughter)* A lot."

Q: Do you ever realize that things you may have thought you knew in the past, you really didn't know at the time?

Carr: "You know what, when I came out of college, I felt very prepared. When I hit the NFL, there hasn't been anything that was said to me that hasn't made sense. There hasn't been anything that I've seen that didn't make sense. It's all about the experience though. It's just a matter of me experiencing those things, those blitzes, those coverages. It made sense to me why they were doing it and what it looked like but I had never seen it before, so it wasn't in my memory bank. So, those two years of experience is really what gave me the most knowledge."

Q: Does your high spirit every day come naturally?

Carr: "I'll tell you this, like 99.9% of the time, it's real. It really is. *(laughter)* I just love people, I really do. I love being around people. I love, especially, being around my teammates, because those are the guys you have so many memories with and all those things. But there's a .1% of the time, seriously, where you wake up and your body hurts or something bad happened with a friend or family member or something like that and it bugs you, but you always have to remember who you are and what you stand for. You have to be the same guy. It's a really thing to do on that day when it happens, but it definitely happens. I'm human, man. It's going to happen."



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Q: Is there a trick to getting yourself going when those tough days arrive?

Carr: "Yeah, I just remind myself of who I am, my foundation, what I believe and who I am. That's really what I do. That's how I go about it because I want to make sure that I'm always the same for my teammates. Like when we were 0-10, it was hard. That sucked. But, I tried every single day to be the same guy. So, as they saw that when we were losing, when we started winning and I was the same guy, they knew it just wasn't a game."

Q: Did this camp feel like a grind?

Carr: "I'll say this, camp is always a grind. Camp, no matter what, is always a grind. Obviously the two-a-days are different. It's a walk-through and those kinds of things, but it's always a grind physically and mentally, emotionally as we have all seen with everybody. That's always going to happen. I will say this, camp was fun. It was a lot of fun. A lot of plays being made. Even when the defense would make a play on me, it sucks and I was mad and all that but at the end of the day, we talked about this, I was like, 'It's nice to see that.' Because they're that good. They're that talented. They cover that well or have a good blitz and those things. This camp was a lot of fun to see our team grow. It really was."

Q: Are you going to miss having Amari Cooper as your roommate?

Carr: "I'm going to miss 'Coop.' 'Coop' can come to the house any day he wants. We have an extra bedroom. He can come stay with us. Yeah, he can come stay whenever he wants. That's always an invite."

Q: Did you use the video on the tablets much during the game?

Carr: "Oh yeah."

Q: Did you like that?

Carr: "What? *(laughing)* Yes. Oh my goodness. To have the video, that's ridiculous. If they ever do that, that'd be a fun thing. I'm all for it. If they want to do that, I'm good with it."

Q: Were there things that you saw on it that you normally wouldn't have known about until after?

Carr: "Oh yeah, because when you just get the pictures, it's just a still shot. That's like not looking, turning the film on and hitting pause and then you look and, 'OK, what was it?' A lot of it has to do with well this is what I saw. Then you have to talk to the wideouts, what they saw. O-line says, 'Well they did this and then that.' The picture just doesn't show all of that. So when you have the film you can just sit there and everyone can sit there and see absolutely everything. You don't have to ask that many questions. There's not a telephone game going down the line with what you saw and what he saw. When you have it like that, especially as a quarterback, you're looking at everything. That kind of stuff, that would definitely change the game a little bit to have that."

Q: Chip Kelly said that sometimes the rookies would exaggerate about what they couldn't do something but now with the film during the game they can't.

Carr: "Just tell the truth, rookies. *(laughing)* You just tell the truth. Maybe for some people, for me I'm always telling the truth. 'Coach, there were two guys over there and I should have threw it, but I didn't.' I'm not going to lie because the film is going to come on eventually. More importantly when they turn the film on, I want them to know I told them the truth. As a person, that's what I care about. But yeah, you rookies man, 'Coach, there was like 15 guys.' Well that's not legal. *(laughing)* We'll turn the tape on and find out. Yeah, having it right then and there, that's probably not good for some guys. *(laughing)*"

Q: How does the atmosphere change when you leave here and go to the facility?

Carr: "Like the meetings and all of that... When we're in the meeting rooms and all of that, there's always a good energy. Coach Del Rio is playing music and you can always hear [defensive coordinator] coach Kenny Norton, Jr. yelling from the QB room all the way across the hall. The energy is always there. Obviously, we're not staying the



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night in the same rooms as each other. We're not around each other 24/7, but that's what camp and the offseason was for. To build that camaraderie Build all those things up. That's really the only thing that you're missing out on because you don't get 24 hours together, you just get a few. I'd say that that's probably the only thing that changes because the energy, the tempo of practice, how hard we work, all that stuff will stay the same."

Q: Does the possibility of this being the last day you guys practice in Napa have any meaning to you?

Carr: "Man, I'm just... I didn't even think about that until you said that. That's how focused we are on football. I love Napa. I love the Bay Area. If it is, I loved it. If it's not, I look forward to coming back."

Q: What's that like when you see high school football players out here, knowing that you were once one of those guys?

Carr: "Yeah, I remember my mindset when I was a high school kid around that stuff, I was like, 'I'm about to do exactly what he's doing.' That was my mindset. I'm going to work my tail off. I'm going to go to Fresno. I'm going to do this. I had it all planned out. I didn't go three years and done. That was part of my plan. I ended up staying like six [years] or something like that. In my head, that's how I thought. Some of these kids... I guarantee there was a least one that thought like, 'I'm going to keep working hard. I'm going to be out here with them.' Because that's what I did. It's always cool to just reminisce on that. I feel like it was yesterday, but obviously it wasn't. I definitely think about those things. It's pretty cool."