



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson**

**Opening Statement:** "First of all, great to be back with the Raiders and great to be back with Jon Gruden. We had four real good days with our rookies and we just finished up with a well-prepared and well-executed third day of practice with the veterans. Things are going well."

#### **Q: What have you thought of Martavis Bryant?**

**Olson:** "He's been good, just as we'd expected when we traded for him. Explosive player. Had a good first three days."

#### **Q: What is it like being back in Napa?**

**Olson:** "A little déjà vu again as Jon said, you see a lot of familiar faces, whether it be with the media or people in the building. That makes it familiar. That makes the transition much easier coming back."

#### **Q: What have you seen from your rookie tackles, Brandon Parker and Kolton Miller?**

**Olson:** "Really excited about those two guys. They made tremendous strides when they got here, throughout the OTAs and June minicamp. They both had a good summer. We've thrown them in the mix right now. We're kind of rolling those guys. Obviously, Kolton has played with the starting group on every period we've had and we've rolled Brandon in there as well. They've both looked really solid."

#### **Q: You've been with Jon before and he's notoriously tough on quarterbacks. What have you seen in the relationship thus far between Jon and Derek Carr?**

**Olson:** "Probably the most exciting thing about it is how well the three quarterbacks, Derek, Connor [Cook] and EJ [Manuel], have taken to the hard coaching. I think they're developing a bit of thick skin. They know that everything that he tells them is meant to improve them. They've been great with it. I think they appreciate that, they appreciate the hard coaching and they've responded."

#### **Q: Are you the good cop in that situation?**

**Olson:** "We're just here to coach the quarterbacks as best we can and get the best of them."

#### **Q: Jordy Nelson is 33-years-old, but something that Derek and Gruden said yesterday was that he's not his age. What have you seen from him?**

**Olson:** "I think as we've seen the first three days, he's made some impressive catches and shown exceptional speed after the catch. The trick to those players is how you manage them throughout the season so that their legs don't get worrisome. We've got a number of veterans that we'll keep an eye on throughout training camp and make sure they get to the regular season fresh."

#### **Q: Your wideouts seem to have different strengths. Does that help you when you're creating plays for these guys?**

**Olson:** "Yeah, we have good slot guys, I think that's part of it when putting together the roster. I think what Jon would like to do creatively offensively and what we're doing, he's done a good job of bringing in players of different strengths and we're able to get in and out of personnel groupings. That will allow us to keep defenses off-balance."

#### **Q: What have you seen from the running game?**

**Olson:** "It's difficult without the pads, but right now, especially when you're first starting out it's about assignments and mental errors. We've gone through three days and had very minimal mental errors. We'll find out more once we get into some of the live work. We've been pleased with where they're at mentally."

#### **Q: Do you think Amari Cooper can get to the level of where Odell Beckham Jr., Julio Jones, etc.?**

**Olson:** "Yeah, we do. He was a very productive player at Alabama, he's been very productive player here in the NFL with the Raiders and if you get him back on track and staying healthy, I think he'll be a big part of it. He came in in



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tremendous shape. He's a guy that loves the weight room. He's bigger, stronger and healthy right now, so we're excited about that."

**Q: In terms of Jon's energy, do you see any change at all?**

**Olson:** "No, not at all. He is the same guy. When you try to convince the players of that, when they say 'is he like this all the time?', he'll be like this week one through week 16. That's just his personality. That's who he is. He's going to try and create energy at practice. He talks about it all the time, it's about the preparation-phase and it's about the presentation. He believes very strongly in the presentation. He does both. He's excellent at it. He's going to stimulate them, he's going to motivate them and he's going to be the same guy throughout the season."

**Q: What are your thoughts on Seth Roberts?**

**Olson:** "Stronger, bigger. Much better in all phases, to be honest with you. Now that we've brought in guys to compete with him, that will allow him to take another step as well. I like where he's at physically. I think his body has changed since I've been here and certainly his route running. He's more competitive and more confident."

**Q: When you're looking at your backup quarterbacks, EJ was the backup last year so does that give him a leg up or is it truly an open competition?**

**Olson:** "It's truly an open competition. We've explained that to the quarterbacks. We sat all three of them down and let them know how we're going to rotate the reps here throughout camp and that will be a big area for us to evaluate throughout camp and find that number two quarterback. Right now, it's an open competition with those guys."

**Q: What does Jordy bring to the wide receivers' room?**

**Olson:** "Obviously tremendous leadership, he's a tremendous leader. He's a mentor to the younger players. They really appreciate that, including Amari. I think that's a good relationship there with those two. You see them together a lot, talking. That's really positive. I would say his professionalism that he brings to that room."

**Q: What's the difference in evaluation from OTAs in shorts to tomorrow when the pads come on?**

**Olson:** "I think there are a lot of players that are great in shorts. Then you go to that next level with the pads on, and now you really find out about what they have in terms of toughness. You have to be tough to play at this level. It's a man's sport. There are a lot of guys that can come out and run routes and catch the ball, running backs that can run through holes without pads, but once you get the pads on, you get a real feel for how tough that player is."

**Q: How often does it happen that you think a guy is a real player, then you put the pads on and he really isn't, or vice versa?**

**Olson:** "Many examples over my 17 years. It's happened at all positions, whether it's offensive line or skill positions or quarterback, in terms of courage in the pocket. You don't get a real feel for that until you have live bullets coming at you. I've seen it at all positions."

**Q: Any specific examples?**

**Olson:** "I could tell you a bunch of guys maybe surprised me, but there are guys that have gone the other way and surprised me as well."

**Q: You were here with Tony Sparano when he took over as head coach. What are you going to remember about him?**

**Olson:** "Such a sad story there on Tony. It was really hard to believe and imagine what his family is going through and what that team is going through right now. He just, to me, is a grounded person. Family was so important to him. He was a great husband, a great father and a great grandfather. When he talked about his grandkids, his face really lit up. I just thought he's a great role model as a father and husband and a really dedicated football coach."



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**Q: What's the next step for Connor Cook to become an effective quarterback?**

**Olson:** "He's got to be much more consistent. We've seen some good things from him, but he's got to do a much better job of taking care of the football and more consistent play."

### **G Kelechi Osemele**

**Q: What have you seen from Kolton Miller and Brandon Parker?**

**Osemele:** "Kolton looks real good right now. We still have a lot of work to do, you know? It's our first time working together, so just knocking the rust off on double teams and stuff like that. Making sure we're going the right way. You know, just the little things rookies go through. Physically his development, his understanding of our play-calling, the game, our scheme, he's way ahead of where I would've been at this point of training camp my rookie year. So, he's looking good. Brandon as well. They're just smart guys. I wasn't that smart. They look good. I think we have a really good chance."

**Q: What can you say about Miller's athleticism?**

**Osemele:** "He's real athletic, man. Just like his pass set, his lateral movement and stuff like that. He's such a big dude, it takes you by surprise. He's really athletic. I don't think that's ever going to be a case with him getting beat, just someone running around him or anything like that. With a guy like that it's going to be him working on his anchor. Just being in the weight room and getting stronger and stuff like that. As far as the framework of being an elite left tackle, he has the tools there. I really just think it's up to us to get him where he needs to be."

**Q: Do you think drafting these two tackles will solidify your offensive line?**

**Osemele:** "Honestly, I think it's just good competition in general. I think as many good offensive linemen that you can have in one room, the better because we all learn from each other. Yeah, I think that was a strong move by our team to kind of focus on continuing to build on the strengths of our team. I'm really happy with what we're doing right now."

**Q: Tom Cable came with the reputation of teaching zone blocking only. How much are you guys going to change with Cable as your offensive line coach?**

**Osemele:** "I don't think too much is going to change. I think he's a guy that's a stickler for details, so that might change. As far as him wanting to have verbiage as far as where you're putting a foot or an inside hand, he has a lot of verbiage, a lot of wordage. He goes stuff over and over and over again, which is a good thing. I think it's like a mental task that's going to be more difficult. But he also is a smart guy. He's obviously going to try to stick to the strengths that we have. We have some big strong guys. We're going to be running zone and stuff like that, but it's not going to be lateral. He never wants to be lateral. It's going to be more downhill. It's going to be more lateral then downhill. It's not going to be running from sideline to sideline. That's something that he's been talking to us about. It's not like one of those things where you hear, oh zone, we have these big guys. They're going to be running side to side, they're not really good at that. He's still going to allow us to attack people based on how dudes are lined up."

**Q: What have you noticed about Cable and why he has the reputation of connecting so well with offensive linemen?**

**Osemele:** "He just has that type of personality where he kind of understands it. You would've thought he played offensive line. He's just like a tough guy. He has that type of demeanor and he kind of appreciates a mean streak. He appreciates aggression and he likes seeing that. He likes getting after people. When you have an offensive line coach that appreciates the pain that a lineman goes through and he understands it, it's a mutual respect."



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**Q: How important is it to practice in pads?**

**Osemele:** "Honestly, I'm one of those people where I don't understand how you can practice without pads. It's football. It's really important. It's where you actually start getting that continuity on the offensive line. You're starting to get those double teams right and the timing right like I was talking about. That's when the real work actually begins for us up front. Just working on pad level. Working on timing of your second step of double teams and stuff like that. The things, the nuances that go with being an offensive lineman. I mean that's when the work is going to really start."

**Q: What similarities and differences have you noticed between Marshawn Lynch and Doug Martin and how is that going to impact the offense?**

**Osemele:** "I think it gives us a dynamic where we have a guy that's downhill and powerful and we have a guy that's also powerful, but he's just a quicker guy. He wants to hit a hole. He's going to pick a hole right away and not necessarily try to run people over all the time. I think Doug Martin is a strong and a tough guy, but he's also athletic. He has really good vision as a running back so he's going to be able to change direction and hit holes and stuff like that. Then you're going to have Marshawn, this guy that's going to be able to run in one direction, not necessarily have to cut back more than one time. Not really going to try to juke anybody out of their shoes. He's going to try to get the yards right away. So I think it's good to have those two different dynamics."

**Q: How strange has it been this offseason and not see Khalil Mack?**

**Osemele:** "Honestly, Khalil is a great player and I understand that it's a situation where he's trying to take care of his family. It's a business. We haven't really even spoken about it, to be honest with you. We've just been so focused on getting better. I hope he comes back, but that's outside of our control. At this point, we're trying to be the best team that we can possibly be. Honestly, that name hasn't come up a lot, but I mean we would love, love for him to come back. But we're so into what we're doing right now that that's just what we're focused on. We're trying to be the best team possible. We're trying to win the Super Bowl this year. That's really what we're focused on right now."

**Q: Who has stepped up in Mack's absence?**

**Osemele:** "Really it's been Bruce [Irvin]. Bruce has been playing really well. No. 99, he's been flashing, but we don't have pads on right now. It's hard to really tell right now."

**Q: What about Tank Carradine?**

**Osemele:** "He's strong. He has a good bull rush. Strong guy, but we don't have pads on. It's way too early to really know."

**Q: Cable wanted you to come back prepared for training camp. What do you think he expected from people on the first day of camp?**

**Osemele:** "Well after that first practice and after this one that we just had, he's proud of where everybody's at mentally as far as throwing the entire playbook at us and us picking it up. Us coming back in shape. When he comments on something, he usually doesn't do that too much. He wants to mess with you a little bit. So if he's saying something positive like that, I think that's something that was really important to him. It's going to keep being a mental thing. He's concerned with the mental aspect of the game. He's a guy that he wants you to communicate really well on the line. He wants to be able to throw a whole bunch of code words at you and try to throw you off and mess with you so the game is easy. I will say, I've never had an entire offense installed in like one day and had that many things thrown at you where you don't even ease into it. But we did a really good job of handling it. Especially the rookies. I'm really happy with where we're at mentally as a football team."



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### **RB Doug Martin**

**Q: Do you notice a difference running behind this particular offensive line?**

**Martin:** "I do, I do notice a difference. Probably the top running line that I've run behind. I can definitely tell the holes are there and wide open. I can't wait to run behind these guys."

**Q: How excited are you to be in pads tomorrow for the first time?**

**Martin:** "It's going to be really exciting. I can't wait to get the pads on. It's been a while, it's been a long time. I believe last December was the last time I had pads on. Going to be a lot of hitting, going to be a lot of the guys arguing with each other, might be a couple fights – hopefully not – but it's all in the game of football. Can't wait."

**Q: Working behind a new offensive line, how much of it is just getting the timing down to open up those lanes and how much does that elevate tomorrow?**

**Martin:** "The timing, I'm still working on the timing as well on some of these runs. But yeah, getting the pads on, we'll definitely get a real feel with the timing as well as with the running back, just the run-blocking schemes. It's going to be good work for us."

**Q: How does the running scheme you have in place help what you do well?**

**Martin:** "It's really once you get the ball, you pick a hole and you just go. Like I said, it's a timing thing and we have some gap schemes in there and those are probably one of my favorite types of run plays – where you just get the ball and just hit it."

**Q: When you look at this running game, do you see it as a zone scheme team or a power and gap team, or a running game that can do a little bit of everything?**

**Martin:** "We can do a little bit of everything, like you said. We've got some talented guys up front, tight ends that can block. We got fullbacks and running backs that are able to run anywhere as well as myself, so we're a team that we can do pretty much anything."

**Q: What kind of scheme were your teams running when you had your two huge statistical years?**

**Martin:** "Over there we were pretty much just zone with a few gap schemes. I think we were dominantly a zone team, but I got my big plays from the gaps."

**Q: How have you learned how to take care of your body and the wear and tear it goes through each season?**

**Martin:** "Just getting in the weight room, training room, talking to the trainers. If I feel something, something that's little, I still talk to them because a little thing could become something big down the line. So, it's just listening to my body and yeah, just taking care of it."

**Q: What do you think, in that respect, about a guy like Marshawn Lynch who has been able to take a lot of pounding in the NFL over the years?**

**Martin:** "Yeah, that's impressive, because he's a very dominant player and running back. The way I see how he takes care of his body is that he does a good job of listening to his body and does a good job of pacing (himself). Because, you have a long way through the season, so he does a good job of pacing. By the time (inaudible), he'll be hitting the ground running."

**Q: How helpful has Lynch been on the field for you?**

**Martin:** "Pretty helpful. You know, growing up I used to watch Marshawn. I modeled my game after Marshawn. I don't think he knows that, but I guess now he will. *(laughter)* He's definitely a great back when it comes to the game and how knowledgeable he is, how to shed tackles, how to read and all that stuff. So, he's definitely been a great help to me."



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**Q: Does he still do things that make you go, "Wow, how do you do that?"**

**Martin:** "Yeah. *(laughter)* Yeah, I do.

**Q: Have you felt like running behind this line is different than prior experiences or was there a moment where you have realized that this is the best offensive line you have run behind?**

**Martin:** "They're all big. They're all really, really big. Tomorrow's going to be that. I feel like I'm going to have that epiphany. *(laughter)* So, we'll see."

**Q: What do you think of Chris Warren thus far?**

**Martin:** "I like Chris. He's a great back – big guy. He's a real big guy and you can tell that he's hungry. He wants to learn and he wants to help. I can't wait to see what he can do with these pads on, because he's going to be running over some people. It's going to be fun to watch."