



Some good work. Some great tape to evaluate. Entertaining game. We came down with a shot at the end, there. A lot of good stuff for us. We came out relatively injury-free. Had a couple of guys that didn't make the trip in Cory James and Seth. Those guys stayed behind, weren't able to make it. They're back at home taking care of business. I thought it was great the way we started. Offensively, we did a couple of good things. Defensively, we did a couple of good things. We ended up playing a solid half against a good football team. It's by no means where it needs to be yet but we're showing some real positive signs, so I'm happy with that. In particular, touchdown passes by Derek to Coop [Amari Cooper] and CP [Cordarrelle Patterson]. Us getting off the field on defense was better, so that made for a pretty solid first half.

## **Is there any prognosis on Jamize Olawale or David Amerson?**

No. None that I'm going to share right now. You saw Olawale pull up from behind. It just depends on how significant it was. We'll find out.

## **On the two backup quarterbacks: EJ Manuel and Connor Cook.**

I think they've played better. I think maybe they had more time than we did today. They were passive a little bit, harassed a little bit. I think they've both shown growth in our camp and with the opportunities they're getting to work with the team. At the end, there, a good opportunity to get a two-minute drive, Conner went down. At the end of the first half, we were basically just getting out of the half. I thought all-in-all the work's been pretty solid by those guys.

## **On the defensive third-down play this week versus the previous two weeks.**

It's really basic stuff. You're playing your leverage better. Your eyes are right. Leverage is good and you're playing together. I think good things happen for you. I thought we had greater attention to detail. That and it always helps when you get some of that interior push, you get a sack from Hester on a big third down.

## **Cordarrelle Patterson says he's not really a believer in touchbacks. He likes to try to make plays happen for his team. He was stopped behind the 25 twice tonight. Is there a time for him to take touchbacks or to kneel it, or are you comfortable with him, being the player he is, doing what he likes?**

We have an approach each week. We'll decide what that looks like. We're glad that he's here and we're glad that he likes to bring it out. He's always a threat. We'll decide what we want to do we get to game planning. Coach Seely does a tremendous job with the special teams unit. We'll be coached up on how we want to approach it.

## **On the play of Obi Melifonu and Jihad Ward.**

Both guys, good to have them out there. I thought Ward played hard from what I saw. Obi was involved in some things where he was close. Could have made a play. Had a chance, I think, with his range. The ball was overthrown, there. I think he can go get that. It was good to have them out. It was a good start for both of those young men, to get them back. They're both talented kids, they're working hard and it's good to have them out.

# Oakland Raiders – Player Quotes



## **#4 Derek Carr (QB)**

*On the preseason, and on his touchdown pass to Amari Cooper:* “We still have one more game, so we will see how that goes. To hit Coop [Amari Cooper] on that ball, it is something we have wanted to do for a couple years now. To get the right look, the right play, all that. Just to show that we have that in our arsenal. Coop trusted me. He ran full speed. Everybody ran full speed, which makes defenders hold their landmarks. He was able to run it right. He made the play, he and the offensive line made the play.”

*On threading the Amari Cooper touchdown pass into a narrow window:* “Somebody’s band is gonna play. I have tried to be really efficient and make smart decisions and things like that. I am going to be me, at the same time. Sometimes you have to make tight-window throws. Thank God it was complete. That is the same ball that could easily be over the top of someone’s head or picked off. I am just glad it was neither.”

*On Donald Penn’s return, and his first action being a ten play drive:* “I didn’t notice anything. He’s our teammate, whether it was him or Marshall [Newhouse], if Vadal [Alexander] was in there, those are our guys. When everybody is here, we just roll. We have a system set up, we have a culture set up where we just play. So when Donald came back in there, I didn’t realize until we got to the sideline that it was a ten play drive. We had a good laugh about it.”

*On whether he is ready to go for September:* “I am locked in. I started off too amped up. The last two years I’ve done a good job of settling myself down. I get so excited. My dad would always laugh and say, ‘you really are a safety at heart, you want to go hit somebody.’ But I can’t. As we’ve seen, that doesn’t work out for me too well, trying to stiff arm people. I forgot to calm myself down before the game. Because you are back out there, you are playing, this is the live game, all that, the dress rehearsal thing. I had to calm back down after the first drive. But after we did that, there are a few little tweaks we can make, but I feel locked in.”

## **#84 Cordarrelle Patterson (WR)**

*On his 17-yard touchdown catch:* “It is just fun being out here. I am enjoying myself each and every day coming out to compete with those guys. Just having fun. It feels good to be used, and just having fun while you are doing it.”

*On what he takes away from the preseason games:* “You can’t ever take anything for granted. The guys go out there, we bust our tail, that’s all we want to do. Make sure we score a lot of points. We want to be on the field a lot, keep our defense off the field. We like to have fun. Not just me, but all the other guys. Every time we go out there, we want to score points.”

## **#89 Amari Cooper (WR)**

*On his 48-yard touchdown catch:* “There is something to be said about making a big play at anytime. That is the type of player I think I am, and the type of player I want to be, you know, a big play guy. It was a good feeling.”

*On the what he takes away from tonight’s game:* “I think we played well on offense. Of course there are always things you can improve on. That’s what preseason is for.”

## **#72 Donald Penn (T)**

*On returning to the team:* “We have a great owner, a great GM. I came in here and put my trust in them. ... I am going to sit here and wait. Control what I can control. And try to get better from what I put out there today.”

*On arriving at practice on Wednesday:* “It was kind of crazy, because nobody really knew I was coming. I just popped up on my own. I walked in there and went straight to the locker room and got dressed. They were like, ‘hold up, you have to sign some papers first.’ I just kinda popped up on them. It felt good. I have been in contact with my teammates. I didn’t want to be gone. Nobody wants to be gone. But sometimes you have to do some stuff that you don’t want to do. I really didn’t want to do it, but it was something I had to do. I am happy it is over with, and hopefully we can move forward and get some stuff done, and get this thing rolling.”

*On arriving at practice on Wednesday, continued:* “Nobody knew. I flew in that morning. I was really on my way to my workout that morning and I was talking on the phone to my agent, and I was like, you know what, I turned around and went home. My boy picked me up and took me to the airport. I landed at 12:55 and I was at practice at 1:45. I got there and got back going. Anything I can do to help my team. I came back for them.”



### **On linebacker Anthony Hitchens**

“We don’t know anything definitively. He hurt his knee. We’ll see after he gets the MRI and gets the full evaluation, but he was out for the game and was not going to be able to come back. We’ll see more in the next 24 hours.

“He has been one of those guys from day one that has done everything we’ve asked. He has the ability to play all three linebacker spots and he just goes in and is productive. He is someone that does the job on a consistent basis. He has had an awfully good training camp and awfully good preseason. It was certainly disappointing, but like I said we will find out more in the morning.”

### **On tonight’s game**

“I thought there were a lot of good things in all three phases of our team. We were able to move the ball on a consistent basis both running it and throwing it. We were behind the chains too much. We had some penalties that got us into some bad down and distance situations that bogged down drives, too much to overcome on a consistent basis. Defensively, again there were a lot of good things. There were a couple busts in coverages that allowed them to make some big plays. Those are the big takeaways with the first group. I thought that the second and third did a really good job continuing to play and continuing to battle. I thought (Quarterback) Cooper Rush, when you have a play like that where they run it back, it is interesting to see how a player is going to respond. He responded really, really well. He led a couple nice scoring drives with big plays within the drives, and was able to cash them in at the end of the drive. He really did a nice job, and I think the twos and the threes did a nice job finishing this ballgame.”

### **On Cooper Rush**

“Yeah we did that starting this week. He worked with the twos in practice this week and we just felt like, in a game situation, it was good for the evaluation of him- to see how he handled that situation and he handled it really well.”

### **On running back Ezekiel Elliott**

“It was good to see him play. It was about what we thought he would play. He ended up playing eight, ten, twelve plays in the game. We got it to him three or four times. He looked like himself. He’s worked very hard in practice. He practices really well. He really loves football and works very hard at it, and I think you saw that tonight.”

### **On Elliott’s suspension appeal**

“He is going to go to New York tomorrow. The appeal is actually Tuesday, and he is going to work on Monday for it. Hopefully it will be completed by the end of the day Tuesday, and he will be back with the team.”

### **On preparing Elliott for the season**

“That’s the way we have prepared our team. He has done a really good job in practice getting ready for week one. The other guys have gotten a lot of opportunities as well. Obviously they have gotten a lot more in the preseason games, they have worked with the ones, but we’ve tried to get him ready to play in week one, understanding the appeal process will get underway.”

### **On DL Taco Charlton**

“Don’t really know yet. It looks like he showed up a little bit in the ballgame. I think he has just gotten better, and better, and better. But we’ll watch the tape to see how he played individually tonight.”

### **On the Cowboys injuries**

“(Cowboys OL) Chaz (Green) hurt his ankle. Hitch hurt his knee, Chaz hurt his ankle. (Cowboys CB) Duke Thomas also hurt his knee. We’ll see about those guys when we get the MRIs back tomorrow.”

### **On Green’s performance**

“It looked like he did a good job. He started at left guard, and then (Cowboys OL) Tyron (Smith) went out towards the end of the first half and he played left tackle. It looks like he was holding up pretty well in there.”

### **On penalties in tonight’s game**

“It was a highly officiated game, obviously. There were a lot of penalties thrown on us, and there were a lot of penalties thrown on them. Probably more on them than us, so that was a big part of the game. We’ll look at the plays, we’ll look at them individually. I think they called two or three on him (Cowboys OL La’el Collins), and it really hurt us and hurt those drives where we were having some success, and they were hard to overcome.”



## Dak Prescott



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“We’ve just got to stop stepping on our own feet and slowing ourselves down. I don’t think it was necessarily anything they were doing tonight that slowed us down or stalled us on our non-scoring drives but I know we had some penalties by the offensive line and other mistakes we made throughout...Things that we’ve just got to play and do smoother”

“I mean, we’re ready to go. I think that was a good half for us offensively. There’s things that we stopped ourselves on but for the most part, when we got rolling, when we got in a rhythm, we felt good. We’re ready to go.”

*Regarding how Cooper Rush bounced back after the fumble:* “Ya, he’s a ‘next play guy’. I’ve always said that I’m a fan of Cooper. Just the way that he goes about his business. I think that shows right there that he’s not paying attention to what’s already happened. He comes back and just run the offense as he’s been coached to do and he does a great job at that.”

*Regarding the fight:* “I like to see what people don’t expect to have happen...I mean, I’m always for the underdogs.”

*Regarding Zeke being back on the field:* “I told him it felt good for him just being in that huddle. Us getting together and we had a good drive right there. He’s a guy that we know what he can do in this league, doesn’t have to have much time. Feels good to get him out there, get him behind the offensive line and get him some carries.”



## **Jason Witten**

### **Are you ready?**

I think we're ready. There's always those areas you can improve on and get better. That's the one thing this team understands. You can't get complacent regardless of what we were able to accomplish last year. The pedal's down with this group. I think with the entire football team. Certainly on offense, I think that's the mindset: we've got to do better. We can't be behind the chains and try to be the offense we want to be. We've done some good things. It was good to get some extended playing time. It felt good out there and we want to build on it going into the Giants.

### **How big of a year do you think Dak can have? It looks like he's firing on all cylinders.**

Yeah the guy's special. To come into training camp, and really the entire off season year two, and approach it like he has, really building off what he did last year. His communication, his calls, the accuracy. He's made big plays throws not just tonight and last week, but throughout the entire training camp. When you see a guy at that position approach it the way he has, I think the sky's the limit for what he can accomplish in our offense. The best thing he does is just move forward to the next day and I think that says a lot about his approach and relationship with Coach Linehan. I think that's a good sign for us moving forward.

### **Regarding Zeke...**

I thought he ran hard. He's so powerful and explosive and he knows where he wants to go with the ball. I thought he did a really good job getting some action; he's had a good camp. He set a lot of things up and knows when to get downhill and get the dirty five. I thought he had a good game.

### **Do you guys think you have avoided major injuries so far in camp? It looks like Hitchens (is injured)..How well equipped do you think the defense is to absorb that potential blow?**

This team has a good understanding of when a guy goes down you have to step up. I think of Sean Lee a couple of years ago. It's great to see Jaylon coming in and overcoming what he has and playing well and getting some confidence built. You hate it for Hitch. The guy's had an unbelievable off season. I told him just a couple of weeks ago, I really feel like his improvement, he's so tough to go against. He's everything you want in a teammate and a player. He's tough, he's nasty and he's smart. When a guy pours himself out there and gets comfortable in that position. And really, I think in all camp he's played well. You just hate it for him because you know how much you pour into it. You feel bad for him, know that he'll bounce back but certainly our team, you know we've rallied behind. And guys will step up. It's good to have a veteran like Durant in there and Jaylon getting back healthy, but it's a blow for our football team and we'll have to bounce back and I'm certain we will.

## **Cooper Rush**

### **Cooper, do you think you've done everything you can possibly do to this point in time?**

The films not going to lie tonight. We had some good production but we missed a lot of things. Things (like) you can't turn the ball over. But I got the production I need still but have a lot to clean up.

### **Do you think the way you responded after that interception and fumble; that showed something?**

As a QB you have to battle through adversity on drives, in quarters, in halves, and the whole game; collectively. It's always eye on the next play.

### **Do you feel like you've made the team?**

I have no idea yet.

### **The other guys said they feel you will make the team.**

Hopefully they're right.



## Cowboys Defense



### **Jaylon Smith, MLB**

“I’m not sure how many snaps I got, but the plan was to go out there and get double what I got last week, so around 24. Pretty much whenever Sean [Lee] went out I played till the end of the half. So, it really was just a great opportunity to put some more things on film. I felt very fluid out there and I’m ready to play some football.”

*Regarding whether he felt he played a step up from last week:* “Ya, more reps. You get to evaluate and see more things, so ya I feel very comfortable out there. I feel like myself. It was just a great experience. ”

*Regarding Anthony Hitchen’s injury:* “That’s my brother and I love him. I’m not sure what’s really going on so I don’t really have a comment on it. But, I love him.”

*Regarding his tackle for loss on a screen play:* “Well, pre-snap there was a penalty and they were backed-up, so obviously in those situations it’s a screen or draw so I alerted it. Scandrlick alerted it. And you know when the play happened, we just made the play.”

“I feel like myself. I feel like myself and I’m out there moving fast. It’s just a great great opportunity to be out there.”

### **David Irving, DE**

*Regarding whether the Raiders were being aggressive:* “They were aggressive. But you know, we’re an aggressive team as well. You know, our style of play is aggressive, get up the field, disrupt. So, whoever we play we’re going to do the same thing.”

### **Taco Charlton, DE**

“I’m just getting comfortable out here with the other D-linemen. Talking to each other, running different schemes and just familiarity and comfort.”

*Regarding his post-sack celebration:* “I came up with it maybe a couple of weeks ago. Me and David Irving were talking about it. I told him, if I do it you’re going to have to come in and grab one. So, we made it happen. I was able to make a sack and do my celebration.”

“I mean, it’s just about getting more reps at practice, getting more familiar with the schemes, different playbooks. I see the progress. I’m going to continue to strive and try to get better.”

“I basically just got off the ball – was able to beat him off the snap. Basically, dip under him, get the sack, and the rest is history.”

*Regarding his continued improvement:* “I knew that was going to come. Everybody else was worried but I knew what I can do and my ability, I believe in my ability...The more snaps I get, the more familiar I get with everything is the better I’m going to get.”