



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "Not your typical Monday – it's more like a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday combo. So, we're busy at work getting ready for the Chiefs coming in Thursday night. So, Questions?"

Q: Did you sign NaVorro Bowman?

Coach Del Rio: "We did. He's meeting right now not far from here, in there with the linebackers coach [Sal Sunseri]."

Q: What about him is attractive to the team?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, he's a veteran guy. He's played a lot of good ball over the years and we're excited to have him. We're a little green at the linebacker position, so to add somebody with the experience that he has, we think it's a nice addition for us. We'll get him up to speed and see how quickly we can get him there and on the field."

Q: Is Thursday out of the question for Bowman to play?

Coach Del Rio: "No. Not out of the question."

Q: How does Marquel Lee feel today after missing yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "He's healing."

Q: How did you feel undrafted linebackers Nicholas Morrow and Xavier Woodson-Luster played yesterday in extended action?

Coach Del Rio: "All in all, I think they did a nice job. Nick played really the whole game. I think he maybe came out for one play. I'm not certain, but he was productive. He was in on a lot of plays and he really did a pretty good job being asked to do something that was probably much bigger than he had anticipated when he joined us in training camp."

Q: What does Bowman do that jumps out?

Coach Del Rio: "Well, I'm going to be honest, I didn't study him exclusively. I was heavily involved in preparing for the Chargers. I popped on a couple games this morning and watched a little bit. I actually visited with him and talked about some of the things. He's a veteran guy; very instinctive. We look forward to having that kind of guy on the field for us."

Q: What impression did he leave you that convinced you that he was a good fit here?

Coach Del Rio: "I met him at the coaches... What was the name of that? (*Senior Director of Media Relations Will Kiss: "The Coaching Corps Game Changer Awards."*) The Coaching Corps, yeah. I met him there along with Draymond [Green]. But, very impressive young man to me. Kind of a man's man. He's been a tough player. Been a part of a really good defense for his entire career. I had a chance to talk a little bit today and talk about the veteran leadership that would be nice to have. So, he's here."

Q: Would you expect him to play Thursday?

Coach Del Rio: "We'll see how the week goes, see how he picks things up, how we do, where we are with the other guys, the whole deal. How it all fits together."

Q: Were you happy with the amount of carries that Marshawn Lynch got yesterday or would you have liked to see him be more involved?

Coach Del Rio: "I liked the way the first half went, aside from not having the points on the board that we would have liked to see. Yeah, I thought we ran it fairly effectively. I thought we ran it better early than we did late. But, that was definitely something we can build on."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Did you like the call on the fourth-and-2?

Coach Del Rio: "I mean, that's really just opening the question for play calling. I'm not going to get into play calling. Sitting here today, we're going to focus on the Chiefs going forward and anything reflecting back... We had our chances. We had our chances. Good football game, had our chances to put it away. It could've been done a lot of different ways. Either side step up there and be big at the end and come home happy."

Q: Is it hard to stop the mentality looking and saying, "We have to get to 10 wins and we're only at two?"

Coach Del Rio: "I don't think we need to do anything except think about the Chiefs coming in here and finding a way to get a win. That's where we are. Next game up. Next opportunity to play good football. Play it for 60 minutes, go home with a smile on our face."

Q: What is your gauge of how the temperature in the locker room is in terms of the losses?

Coach Del Rio: "Look, to me, you just get on with the next game and you go compete. That's what it is. The positives are the things you want to continue to accentuate. You can't let adversity or things not going your way affect who you are. We're defined by how we conduct ourselves, how we carry on in the face of adversity. It's easy when things are going well. So when you're strained and it's tough, can you remain a positive force for us? I'm seeing a lot of encouraging signs. We're going to continue to work at it. That's what I believe in."

Q: Do you still correct the mistakes in a short week?

Coach Del Rio: "It was 'Move on Monday.' Yeah, 'Move on Monday' today. *(laughing)* It's all going forward for the Chiefs. The only thing we would've done is distribute game balls. We can spend very little time, good or bad, on a short week like this. We have to get on with the next game."

Q: Is playing at home on Thursday easier than having to travel two time zones?

Coach Del Rio: "It's demanding for anybody that has to travel more than one time zone. We saw that first hand last year. I think it would be best if the league would stay in the same time zone for all involved. It's tough enough to get ready on a Thursday. Obviously, we like the fact that we're at home."

Q: Was Amari Cooper doing a better job of creating separation yesterday?

Coach Del Rio: "I would say he's been creating separation. I think the ball found him a few times. I would like to see that continue. We had a couple called back. A couple of nice ones, 18-, 19-yarder late in the game which would have been nice. Then obviously that big conversion earlier in the game. A couple big ones called back, but he's key to what we're doing."

Q: What does the offense need to do to put more points on the board?

Coach Del Rio: "Just be productive and score points. That's what the job is. Defensively, we want to hold them down. Offensively, we want to score more. Special teams, we want to be a positive contributor to field position. Bottom line is score more than they do. We have to find a way to score more. We have to find a way hold them down more. Special teams, continue to be a positive. I thought our punting was good. Our kicking has been really solid. We had the one high snap, but really the special teams portion has been pretty solid for us."

Q: To see how the Chargers were scheming their kickoff to get away from Cordarrelle Patterson, how does that impact things for you guys?

Coach Del Rio: "That was a little bit anticipated that they might. All but one time I thought we handled it great. We got the ball out there on the 36-, 37-yard line. Awesome for field position. He's a factor. He's a difference-maker for us. He's good on the cover part, with being a gunner and going down to force fair catches and things. He's a weapon with the ball in his hands. He's very dangerous to deal with."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: What has TJ Carrie meant?

Coach Del Rio: "TJ has been solid, been a real pro. He's worked hard, competed, earned his role, doing well with it. He's played a lot of snaps and been very reliable for us."

Q: He looked pretty good yesterday...

Coach Del Rio: "I thought he played well. That was a big matchup. Keenan [Allen] is a good player and probably Philip [Rivers]'s favorite target. TJ did a nice, solid job on him."

Q: Seems like so much of the game was going well, then on the last drive they got a few third downs. How do you correct that? How do you approach it?

Coach Del Rio: "Just carry on. Continue to believe. Continue to coach. Continue to build and develop. We've got guys that should improve as we go throughout the year. We're going to continue to look to play better and better as we go. Again, I said this a little bit earlier but you can't let adversity cause you to become something you're not. We have to stay true to who we are. We're competitors. We want it very badly, we care very much. We're passionate about it. We need to stay full of energy and positivity and continue to work at our trade. Those are the things that help you improve as you go through the year and start stacking up wins and have a lot more fun on Mondays."

Q: What was the takeaway for you guys from the illegal formation penalty?

Coach Del Rio: "Be legal. We were illegal. We covered up the tackle, the tackle eligible."

Q: Talk about the Chiefs starting 5-1 this season and all their weapons.

Coach Del Rio: "They've been very explosive, offensively. Pittsburgh did a nice job yesterday slowing them down. That's the first team to even slow them down a little bit. They've been very good. Chiefs have a lot of different weapons, a lot of people touching the ball in a lot of different ways. They've been very explosive. That will be a big challenge for our defense."

Q: Have you seen them take more deep shots than they have in the past?

Coach Del Rio: "They've always taken a look down the field. With some of the people they've added, I think they have more people open down the field. Very good offense."

Q: On offense, do you see sometimes Derek getting rid of the ball too quickly?

Coach Del Rio: "I don't know that I would say getting rid of the ball too quickly. I think he will play better. I think he did some things well, and a couple plays I'm sure he'd like to have back. For the most part, he's a quick decision maker and doesn't spend too much time patting the ball back there."

Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q: It was just yesterday you had a game, right?

Carr: "It was. Man, it feels like it, too. No. Yeah, it was yesterday."

Q: How did you feel coming out of that physically?

Carr: "Actually, I woke up, I felt better today. That shows us that it is healing. It's not something that can be set back by being bumped or moved around, that kind of stuff, which is encouraging. That was really cool. But I did. I woke up this morning feeling better than I felt the day before."

Q: Everything was fine through today's workout?

Carr: "Yeah. It feels better. I wish I had a better way to describe it. It honestly just feels better."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Looking at the tape, what stood out the most about your own play on Sunday?

Carr: “Me? Oh goodness. Instead of holding my eyes one time here and then making this throw. I could’ve been more accurate on a slant I threw to ‘Crab’ [Michael Crabtree] instead of putting it on this side, I put it on this side. Goodness, it’s funny how these days work. When we move on, we really move on. Just really a ball placement on a couple of throws that I wanted back. Then some good things, but all those don’t mean anything when you lose. You just look at the stuff you try to fix.”

Q: Was there more of an effort to look for Amari Cooper yesterday?

Carr: “You know what, I played the same mentally. I wasn’t like, ‘Oh, it’s this coverage? I have to give it to him.’ That kind of thing. He actually played really well, I thought. He had two really big plays get called back, which is really just unfortunate. We’re trying to give him the ball. We’re trying to create explosive plays and we do and they get called back. It’s just one of those things, but we have to clean it up. Whatever we can do to be better there to make sure those plays don’t get called back because when they happen, they’re hard to get in the NFL.”

Q: Would you like to move the ball down the field more? Do you want more explosive plays?

Carr: “It’s one of those things that if you just had asked that question randomly, everyone would say yes. You know you definitely want more. We definitely want more. There’s no doubt about that. We’re going to work and we’re going to get more. We’re going to work and we’re going to get more. We are because we have a good group. I think we all believe that here. I think we all have seen it. We’ve seen how hard we work and I think everyone in this circle sees we have a good group of guys that work really hard. It’s not like we’re going out there trying not to make it happen. Definitely, we definitely want to be able to do that. Now does that mean we’re going to do anything differently or trying to force things? Absolutely not. That’s where you get in trouble. That’s something that I’ve learned in my career. You can’t force it. You just have to work hard and let it happen.”

Q: Are defenses doing more to take away the deep ball than in years past?

Carr: “Yeah, they’re definitely trying by the way that they... In line and in play coverages and certain things. Those kind of things can be frustrating if you let it be or we can just try to solve problems. That’s kind of something that we’re learning now as we’re seeing teams do that. We’re figuring out ways, ‘Hey man, how can we still be able to do that and create explosive plays?’”

Q: What do you need to do to sort of exploit what they’re giving you?

Carr: “Without giving out details of certain things, you see things that you like. You see things like ways to create those kind of things. You want to make sure you try and get in those situations. I’m trying to give you the best I can without giving them away. Certain things like that, but obviously, whenever you can complete. I thought we completed a lot of balls, which helps draw that in. At the same time when we have our shots, like in the game. If those two plays don’t get called back, we’re in the mid 200’s in passing. We’re feeling better about it. We’re doing good things, but they get called back and now we still feel sick. You try and take what they give you and at the same time try to hit them with big plays. It’s a fine line of trying to make that work.”

Q: Are the Chiefs like the hill you want to conquer?

Carr: “Well, definitely this week. As cliché as we can get, you have to go 1-0 this week. But yeah, absolutely. It’s a division game, which really counts for two. They usually do. You want to go out there and beat one of the best teams in football. We have them coming to our place on a short week. So all the challenges are there. Everything is pushing our back against the wall, but one thing I know we’re going to do is we’re going to come out on Thursday night and fight. We’re definitely excited to have them come into our place this week.”

Q: What’s your reaction to bring in NaVorro Bowman?

Carr: “Very excited. Really funny, I can’t remember what year. My second year in Hawaii, we’re standing there having a conversation. I said, ‘You know it wouldn’t be bad if you came and played for the Raiders.’ And he started laughing. He started laughing and was like, ‘Oh man, it would be fun. Maybe one day we can play together.’ Guys, we always



Oakland Raiders Transcript

talk like that. Oh man, it would be fun. Just because we're, how do I say, colleagues I guess during that week. Just talking to him, getting to know him. Then I went and saw him today. First thing we brought up was, 'Hey, do you remember that conversation?' He was like, 'Yeah, I remember.' So now that it happened, it's an amazing thing. He's one of the best middle linebackers in football. I know that from watching him on film. Nothing you hear about the guy is negative. Nothing you hear about the guy is bad. He's a hard worker. He's super smart. Just like all those Penn State linebackers are, super smart. And he plays aggressive. He's going to bring a lot of leadership to our football team."

Q: What has Kansas City done defensively that's given you problems over the years?

Carr: "You know, they do a good job of rushing the passer. They do a good job of stopping the run. They do a good job on the coverage end. In our division, there are good defenses. It is what it is. They just play really well. They're sound. They're really well-coached. [Chiefs Defensive Coordinator] Coach [Bob] Sutton is a great coach. All the respect for him. So much respect that he even texted me when I got hurt last year. He's just a good dude. But this week I don't like him too much. He does a really good job of making sure everyone is locked in. They're really smart. They're really smart players. They don't do a lot so they can see route concepts. They can visualize things and get used to seeing those kind of things."

Q: When you watch the film, are there plays you see where you didn't need to get rid of the ball as quickly?

Carr: "You know, there's again a fine line. We talk about a couple weeks ago getting rid of the ball quickly is a really good thing. Now we get should we hold onto it and those kind of things. I haven't changed the way I play mentally on the aspect of should I hold onto it. We talked about scrambling, too. All that kind of stuff. When you turn the film on, you look at the plays and you know you're taking check downs and those are going for 10 and 12 [yards]. How can you be mad at that? If that's what they're giving you, you have to take it. I could sit back there and force a lot of throws and that's not something that I've ever done. I try my best not to put our team in harms way. At the same time, I still look at it critiquing myself like, 'Could I have fit that one in?' Then you go try it at practice. It's always you growing and if I ever stop doing that then I'll be done. I'm definitely looking at it, but there wasn't many where I went back and said, 'Oh man, I should've held onto it.' That's another thing. I don't want to put stress on my line. I want to make sure I take care of them, too."

Q: Despite the quick turn around, in a weird way is it helpful that the game is so quick? Does it help you forget about Sunday's loss?

Carr: "It's easier on your heart, yeah. These Thursday night games are good for that. This league, whether we won or lost, you have to get rid of it. You have to flush it. You can't get too high, you can't get too low. That's one thing that a short week does. Hey, it's time to move on. That's what we have to do any. It's absolutely a good thing. I guess it happened at a good time for us. Our main focus now is just going into our stadium and helping one of the best teams in football and trying to get a victory."

Q: Is trying to keep your weapons happy a thing?

Carr: "Not for me. Again, when I say we have a good group of guys, we don't have a lot of selfish people. We don't have a lot of guys in my ear like, 'Give me the ball.' Or, 'Hey, I'm open.' Those kind of things. They know that I know. I know you're open. I know. We'll get it to you. The read took me else where. Those are more the conversation that we have. I've never dealt with any because they know my personality, too. Don't you dare, please don't do that. Those kind of things. Those guys on the outside, they work their tail off. I know when they're open. I see it on the tablet. Those kind of things. I've never had a conversation or altercation with any skill player that I've played with."

Q: How has Todd Downing been with the struggles the offense has gone through?

Carr: "We're all human, so obviously we all are frustrated. We have great practices. We're so efficient. We're doing the things the right way. We're studying. We're doing these things and then we go out there and we don't have the game we want to have. That can wear on you, or you can just keep working. I think you guys know me well enough that you know which one I pick. You guys know that him and I are really alike and he's the same way. 'Hey, I didn't



Oakland Raiders Transcript

do this right, I didn't do that right. This is what I'm going to do better for you.' And then I'm telling him, 'Hey, I didn't do this right. I'm going to be better for you.' We just work and that's the cool thing about this team and the family that Coach Del Rio has built around here is we're all accountable. We all point out, 'Hey, it's my fault.' Even though you guys know I try and take it all. I'm trying to take it away from everybody. Put it on me. We're all accountable but we all have each other's back and we all just fight. When we come out on the other side of this, we're all going to be smiling, we're all going to be feeling better and you guys won't ask me about getting the ball out. I'm just kidding. *(laughing)*"

LB NaVorro Bowman

Q: Why do you think you're a good fit for this team at this time?

Bowman: "I'm only 29 years old and I still have a lot of juice left in me, that's why."

Q: Was it an easy decision?

Bowman: "It was pretty easy. Of course I didn't want to have to transition, make a big transition. I like the Bay Area and the Raiders have a good thing going. I feel like my presence could help them out."

Q: What were these last two days like?

Bowman: "A little bittersweet. To get all of the farewells and the fan love, things like that. Saying bye to my teammates was one of the hardest things. Trying to explain this to my kids, that was pretty tough. It was a good experience, to reminisce about what I've done so far and where I was. Ready to start a new chapter."

Q: Curious what staying in the Bay Area does for you and your family. How old are your kids?

Bowman: "My twin girls are five and my son is eight and they're in school. They're doing really well so you always want to keep that going as a parent. You don't want to keep switching them in and out. That played a big part in what I was going to do. For the Raiders to show as much enthusiasm in wanting me to come here made my decision a lot easier."

Q: Coach Del Rio said you guys talked about bringing leadership here. What was that conversation like?

Bowman: "It was really upfront. Letting me know their position and how bad they want me. Exactly what he wanted to get out of me coming here and being a presence for this defense. Being more vocal, getting guys to understand the urgency to be really good at the NFL level."

Q: How different is this defense from the 49ers?

Bowman: "It's not too different. The terminology is really the hard part. I'm a fast learner. I went out there today and I think I did pretty well. I'll get in here early tomorrow and learn from my mistakes and try to keep getting better."

Q: Do you anticipate playing Thursday?

Bowman: "If I'm prepared enough, I'll definitely try to give it a shot."

Q: Did you plan to take other visits?

Bowman: "I did. I planned to go to Dallas, but I didn't make it on the plane. A lot of things went into it, but the Raiders really showed how much they wanted me to be here. I couldn't ask for a better situation than what I'm in right now."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: When you look at this defense and see Khalil Mack and Bruce Irvin, what do you see as a player when you see the unit?

Bowman: "I feel that it's going to allow me to have a security blanket understanding the defenses. The ball shouldn't get outside. It should be funneled back right to me. When you have that trust and you know guys are on the edge and taking their job as serious as you, you can play fast, you can go out there and make plays that you need to make."

Q: What about the teaching role you'll take on amongst the linebackers?

Bowman: "I've always enjoyed teaching and giving my knowledge to anyone. Young guys, they tend to think a lot when they're at this level. I'll be able to slow it down for them and it's always easier to hear from a player than a coach, just because you're a player and you're in the same shoes as them. Coaches kind of make you a little more intimidated and nervous. I'm bringing that ease to the scheme and trying to get everybody on the same page so we can win."

Q: What does the process look like as far as preparing for Thursday?

Bowman: "A lot of hours. A lot of studying, a lot of repeating the same words and things like that. It's part of being a good football player. You have to put the time in. It doesn't come easy. I'm the guy to do it. I won't let them down. I'll put the work in that's needed to be done."

Q: Do you think it's realistic to sign on Monday and play on Thursday?

Bowman: "Hey, I'm going to show you something."

Q: When you and Coach Del Rio met at that dinner in San Francisco in January, could you even imagine that this was possible?

Bowman: "You know, I did. You know people, you feel the warmth from them. I have been playing in the league for awhile, so you know a person has seen you play and heard of you. We've had so many different changes when I was with the 49ers that you could see some things coming to an end. You could just see how Coach Del Rio welcomed his conversation and him just showing me that he respected my game. It's always been a mutual love for the situation. It came around. We're able to kind of pursue it and get me here. It looks good."

Q: What do you look at this opportunity as in your career?

Bowman: "It's a refresher for me. It's a new picture, new scenery. Guys are a special group of guys. You can see the talent they have on the offensive side of the ball. I'm excited. I'm excited to play for an offense that's eager to score points and I look forward to it."

Q: How far was your commute to the 49ers facility and how far is it now? Are you thinking of moving?

Bowman: "We all know about the traffic, it's pretty bad. I haven't made that decision yet. I am commuting right now. I got here on time today so I guess the first day I'm late, I'll really make a decision on that."

Q: The team has been struggling lately, what are your thoughts on righting the ship?

Bowman: "We're 2-4, two games behind. I feel like this is a team that could do that. I'm excited. I love the challenge. I think the guys do, too. It's about how you respond to adversity, not about when it happens. I look forward to it."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Kansas City Chiefs QB Alex Smith Conference Call

Q: What's the bounce back going to be like? How do you expect you'll respond?

Smith: "Yeah, I mean that's the kind of thing, you don't even have time to let it marinate or sink in, to be honest. You just have to let it go. It's such a short week when you throw in travel. I mean you don't even have time to really even get into yesterday's game. You just have to go. The next one is more important. You can't change yesterday, you just have to go and have to get ready fast."

Q: Do you not correct the mistakes for this one then?

Smith: "Yeah, I mean it's a fine line. I just think you do. It's certainly something you have to look at and take into account. At the same time, the matchups always change. The schemes always change. Each week is such a unique matchup when it comes to that. There's not always carry over. Certainly, you do have to look at those things and try to get them right."

Q: How impressed are you with Kareem Hunt, especially in the passing game?

Smith: "Yeah, I think that's the thing that just jumps out. Certainly, I think backs coming in and when they do get to touch the ball, a lot of times your instincts just take over. There's a lot of things though as a young back, from pass protection, route running, just playing fast, having good instincts. All those little routes the backs run, they're all different. They all have to kind have to play ball off the look you get. He's such a great back from those."

Q: How would you explain your success against the Raiders?

Smith: "Yeah, I mean to be honest it's probably just coincidence. They're all different. They're all unique. Obviously, a lot of these last ones have been really, really close. Down to the wire. To be honest with you, I haven't really thought about it or known about it until you just said it right now. But yeah, probably more coincidence than anything. You just try to go out there. These are big games in the division. You know they're going to be four quarters. You know they're going to come down to the end. You just try to go out there every single play and execute. They're all hard fought and have been close."

Q: Can you articulate the impact Hunt has had on your offense? He seems like he gives you a whole other dimension.

Smith: "Yeah, certainly. Especially to lose Spencer [Ware] in the third preseason game, that late. We had felt good about that, to have our entire backfield really felt like there was a lot of depth and then to have Spencer go down. Really kind of a void there. Then all of a sudden it's opening day and we're going with Kareem. A total unknown, young kid, thrown in there. Just to see him step up to it and embrace that challenge. He's worked really hard. Obviously, preparing himself every day and every week. Just to see him going. So yeah, it's obviously been a big help to us once Spencer went down."

Q: Why do you think he's been able to make such an immediate impact? He doesn't seem unnerved by the stage.

Smith: "Yeah I think there's probably two things that go into that one. It's just the innate confidence in himself playing the game for a long time. Once the whistle blows, some guys, things just focus in for them. They just lock in. Certainly, I think that ability that it's never been too big. He's never been wide-eyed in there. The other thing is preparation. I think working his tail off to get prepared. All the other little things that come with playing running back that's not just running the football. Preparing himself throughout the week. His attention to detail, those things."

Q: Are you surprised that the Raiders are in last place in the division?

Smith: "It's so early. I think it's so early, too early to even be looking at records. I think we realize how good the division is. Everybody is good every week. Any of these games are going to be tiredly contested because every team is good. For me, it's just a little early to be looking at records or anything like that. These are going to be physical



Oakland Raiders Transcript

games. We know what's on the line. The stakes are high and they're going to be hard fought. There's so much parody in the division. I think every team understands that."

Q: How much of staying out of harms way is knowing when to get down or out bounds and how much of it is luck?

Smith: "Yeah, it's probably a mix. It's not an exact science. You want to use your legs and you want to extend plays. Whether that be extending it [by] remaining a passer and throwing the ball or obviously picking up yards with your feet. Definitely a fine line though. I think as time goes on, your instincts get better. Certainly from potential mistakes in the past, you learn from them. You just try to be smart with it. Know the situation. Obviously a lot of split second decisions that you hope are good ones."

Q: Do you think De'Anthony Thomas is a little more consistent this year as a byproduct of filling in for Chris Conley more?

Smith: "Yeah, you know in the past we've moved him around and do a lot of different things with him and still do that. Certainly, I think he's had more time on task outside of receiver and kind of honing in that craft. Definitely new to him for a guy that played more in the backfield in college. I think it's something he's comfortable with and has just really continued, every day he's out there, just to work on it and get better and better."

Q: How have you seen defenses approach Tyreek Hill this year?

Smith: "It's different every week. You just never know. We do a lot with him as well and see how other teams react when we do move him around here and there. He's a guy with unique skill set and is capable of doing a lot. Handles it mentally. Every week has just been different. You never really know."

Q: When you played with Rodney Hudson, what did you see from him?

Smith: "I think that same kind of just gamer. Really, really smart. Great instincts out there as a center, making all the calls. Having a great feel for what's happening and making a call and going with it. Then physically just really, really stout inside, dependable. You know he's going to be out there giving everything he has."

Q: What do you think about what's happened with Colin Kaepernick?

Smith: "It's tough for me to even speak on it at this point. I haven't spoken to Colin in a long time. We were teammates there for awhile and he's a guy that obviously felt like played really hard and was a good teammate and was on the rise. Obviously, I think it's crazy five years later what's happened, but like I said it's been five years since I've really talked to him or know what's going on there."