



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: "OK. Let's go forward, go back, it's up to you. We're already going forward as a team, but let me just open it up for questions."

Q: How did you come out of the game health-wise?

Coach Del Rio: "Pretty good."

Q: What's it like to begin your preparations this week having less time?

Coach Del Rio: "I think you do the best you can to recover as we begin our preparations. That's just part of it. I know late in my career, if you played on a Thursday, you're going to take some soreness into the game, typically. The older guys for sure. Some of the younger guys even. So that's a little different, taking soreness into a ball game. We're going to be excited to play. That's kind of how we're looking at it. Tough set of circumstances. We don't mind tough things. We're looking forward to the challenge."

Q: Does the fact that you've already played Kansas City help make the preparation easier?

Coach Del Rio: "I think both teams, from that standpoint, it helps a little bit. You're not scrambling to get to know somebody. I think both teams experience that."

Q: What sticks out in your mind from that first game against them?

Coach Del Rio: "They won. It bothered me, but they earned it. They outplayed us that day. Nothing beyond that."

Q: With Derek Carr's finger, did you practice taking snaps from shotgun last week?

Coach Del Rio: "No, that was our plan going in. We'll put together another plan this week, and I'm not going to divulge. Whether it's going to be that or he'll go back under. Obviously, you saw that we operated just fine. He's comfortable either way, really. We'll put together a good plan and be ready to go."

Q: How do you think the team ran from shotgun?

Coach Del Rio: "Good."

Q: How has Latavius Murray done with his large workload?

Coach Del Rio: "I think the rotation there has been really healthy. It's been productive. We have a good group there. It's not so much about individuals. It's more about us and what we're doing. I feel like that's a good group."

Q: Is DeAndré Washington being a healthy inactive just a matter of needing other guys?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah. I told him there's nothing that he did. It's a shame that you have to put some of these healthy guys down. You like them as players. They work so hard during the week and they're ready to roll, but that's the way it's mandated. So when we have to, we just make those tough choices. It's tough to put guys that are healthy and raring to go down."

Q: How has Nate Allen settled into his current role after previously being a starter?

Coach Del Rio: "He's a pro. He's done a real nice job of being unselfish, just doing what he can for the team and always being prepared, into the game plan and ready to go on a moment's notice. So, a lot like TJ [Carrie] stepping in in a bigger role with DJ [Hayden] going down. I feel like Nate really has been a pro, a good solid player. It's good to have that kind of depth that we can go to. And certainly, he's had an impact for us on special teams for us throughout the year, but showed up big yesterday."

Q: What have you seen from James Cowser?

Coach Del Rio: "He's aware. I mean, the guy had a ton of sacks in college. He's got natural ability, he's got great awareness. I think when you have a quarterback that runs around like Tyrod [Taylor] does, it's good to have



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awareness, because you never know where he might pop up. I thought he did a great job adjusting his rush right there and closing the lane off and getting the sack.”

Q: Is he another one of those good stories about an undrafted free agent?

Coach Del Rio: “It is, it’s a great story and we have so many of these young guys that are creating their own stories. Their desire and their effort, their energy, it’s healthy for the team to have that around. We let guys earn their way and these guys that have come in, no matter how you get here, once you get here take advantage of the opportunity and he has. He’s really a dependable guy, works really hard, very diligent and happy to see him have that success yesterday.”

Q: Was that the type of complementary football in the second half that you were looking for lately?

Coach Del Rio: “It really was. And it was each of the three phases contributing and that’s that complementary football we’re looking for and it was an awesome display of it right there for that run. You get Marquette [King] pinning it down, Andre [Holmes] going down, Taiwan [Jones] and working that ball and getting it stopped there at the 2 [yard line], defense coming up with a big turnover and offense taking advantage of it and scoring, just a good run and all three phases doing well.”

Q: How about the kickoff return that you stopped at the 18-yard line as well?

Coach Del Rio: “There was... Good coverage on the kickoff and another three-and-out. Just had a nice run there where we were just putting it back-to-back-to-back. Good play.”

Q: What is the next step now that you have taught this team how to win?

Coach Del Rio: “Next week. It’s the next week, yeah. Continue to win. We’re going to do the same thing we’ve been doing. We work hard to recover, obviously a challenge this week on a shorter week, so that means part of how we’ve worked up to this point will play into it.”

Q: How do you react when you hear that you’ve changed the culture here?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, I agree with them. *(laughter)* That’s one of the things that we did. But it’s not me alone, it’s us, it’s what we have done. It’s what all the people in this building, everybody plays a part, you know? That’s what I believe in. It’s an inclusive kind of deal. I provided a vision, I provided that. But beyond that, it’s us. It has to be about all of us. It’s all of the coaches, all of the players, [Senior Director of Media Relations] Will [Kiss] and his staff, we’re all in it. *(laughter)* And I mean that sincerely. We’re all in it. We’re all in it and we all play a small part of it and together, collectively, we can do special things.”

Q: Is it kind of like the chicken and the egg though, right? What comes first, the changing of the culture or the winning?

Coach Del Rio: “That’s been brought up last year a little more than this year. But guys always talk about that, that you have to win first. I don’t think I agree with that. I think you change the way you look at yourself. You change the way you look at each other. Then, through that process and through the challenging every day and committing yourself every day and the unselfishness and all those things, doing it because it’s right and really, truly committing to excellence... I think when you start doing those things, then the wins come. I don’t think you wait until you win to join up. What we have is buy-in. Will and his staff have been really good. It’s all inclusive and it’s all about us. That’s what we’re doing and that’s how we’re doing to do things.”

Q: You send a message the first week by going for the two points at the end of the first game. Was it another message when you got within two to *not* go for two?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, it wasn’t really messaging, but that was the thought process, that there was a lot of ball game left and we didn’t want to begin chasing points. Made a conscious decision to wait and then a little bit later when the situation came later, we went ahead and went for two. We’re going to make decisions that make sense



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for us and I've said that. My job is to lean on the information I'm getting and have the guts to make the call that's right for us. That's how we're going to do it."

Q: You've been so good at converting two-point conversions this year. Does that weigh into it much?

Coach Del Rio: "No, I don't get carried away with it."

Q: At the end of the first half, you guys have 30 seconds left at your own 15 and you gave the green light. Does that show the confidence you have in the offense?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah, I thought we had a couple timeouts and I thought we'd have an opportunity to move it and use those timeouts and give ourselves potentially a kick or better. We did it beautifully there. We made some plays and managed the clock well and got down there and 'Seabass' [Sebastian Janikowski] made the kick. It was a nice way to end the half, to get points right there."

Q: You guys have sort of built the reputation to grind out wins. Do you see that quality in the Chiefs?

Coach Del Rio: "They have, too, yeah. A lot of different ways to win in this league. The good teams find a way to win and they've done that as well. I think they have four or five comeback wins themselves. Both teams know what it looks like to win. Should be a great game."

Q: For all of the markers of resiliency for having comeback wins, is it less comfortable when you think about having to win these games by coming back? Do you long for the day of having a lead, protecting it and winning that way?

Coach Del Rio: "I'm not longing for any other kind of days. I'm enjoying us working hard and trying to maximize our production each and every week. We're enjoying it. We're enjoying the process of preparing. We're enjoying the competition. Our guys are just looking forward to the next opportunity we get to compete."

Q: Khalil has done some spectacular things this year, but what has it been like to have Bruce Irvin on the other side? What has Irvin added as a complementary piece?

Coach Del Rio: "Exactly that. He is a complementary aggressive rush guy on the opposite that makes it difficult to lean too heavy one way or the other. Those guys, they play a lot of snaps and they bring it every snap. Really happy to have Bruce. I think he's been a great addition for us. You guys have been asking. You didn't ask about Mario [Edwards Jr.] yet, but he is going to return to practice, so we'll begin that window where we get him up to speed. But he will be out there today. No, I have not heard anything else on Aldon [Smith] yet." *(laughter)*

Q: Branden Jackson came off the practice squad and right into the game. How did you think he did?

Coach Del Rio: "He did pretty well. He's a rugged guy. He's packed on some weight since we first got him. He's closer to 290 now than whatever is listed. He's doing a great job growing and working. He loves to play, loves ball. We like collecting guys that love ball."

Q: When you think about the progression that Derek Carr has made in his time as a pro, what is the most impressive thing about how he has matured and gone about his job?

Coach Del Rio: "I think the biggest thing is the consistency. I think he is very comfortable with what we're asking him to do and what the process is to prepare each week. We talk about a lot of different things. How to protect his time from guys like you who come in here *(laughing)* and when the games get bigger, there are more people around. You've got to protect your time. You've got to protect your preparation time. You have to protect the time you get with your family. Things like that, all the way up. I just think he's mature. He's mature. He's a young player. He's maturing and that's probably the thing that I'm most pleased with. Obviously, the productivity is awesome, but the way he has conducted himself, the maturity, the handling it, continuing to heap praise on his teammates, to make it more about us, not about anything he's doing individually. It's more about us as a team. I think that's really healthy for us."



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Q: With teams trying to take away Amari Cooper, have you seen the tight ends step up and take on a bigger role?

Coach Del Rio: "Yeah. Obviously, we saw that over the last couple of weeks. Clive [Walford] made some big catches. Mychal [Rivera] made a couple of big catches yesterday. I think, no question, we'll use the whole field. Derek likes them all. He uses the backs and the tight ends as well as the wide receivers."

Q: Is there a shot Karl Joseph plays Thursday or not really?

Coach Del Rio: "I would say he has a shot. I think he'll end up being 'did not practice' today, I would say. He's got a little boot on his foot and I don't know which one and I don't know exactly why, but he won't be practicing today."

QB Derek Carr

Q: How does the short week affect you?

Carr: "For me, I just have to cram all my film in, all those things. The number one thing is recovery. In a week like this, you just have to get your body ready to play a game in a lot less time. There's some tough things that come with it, but like [Head] Coach [Jack] Del Rio says, 'Nobody cares.' Nobody cares, at the end of the day you have to go play."

Q: What are some of the things you've done already that you wouldn't normally have? Have you started watching film already?

Carr: "Yeah, I only gave myself maybe two hours at home to enjoy my family and things like that. Then kind of just said, 'Alright, fellas. I have to get back to work.' I usually do that anyways before I go to bed, but it was more... Not a kick out, but more of a, 'Hey, I have to get to work.'"

Q: So that's film study?

Carr: "Yeah."

Q: Does facing them already make the preparation easier?

Carr: "Yes. You know, it helps with personnel. If you were playing a completely new team, new players that you haven't played before, that would be tough. Not only do you have to see the schemes, you have to see all those things. You have to see how each player plays certain plays and routes and things like that. There's a lot that goes into it. It's nice to have that background, but I still go through my same process. It's all jammed in there, but it's obviously well worth if you can go out there and get a win."

Q: How difficult will it be having Justin Houston back?

Carr: "Justin Houston is one of the best players in this league. You guys know I love playing against him. I love playing against Von [Miller]. I love playing against these guys because they're the best. That's what you sign up for when you decide to play football. Someday you want to compete against the best. I'm happy that he's healthy and doing well. Obviously, I never want injuries for anybody. I'm glad he's back and I'm glad he's doing some good things. I do look forward to competing against him. It's going to be tough. Obviously, it's going to be hard. Especially going to their place, but obviously we're looking forward to it."

Q: Did it feel like a flashback to college yesterday with playing out of shotgun?

Carr: "Yeah, a little bit (*laughing*). Yeah, a little bit. It brought me back to my Fresno days a little bit, so that was nice with the tempo and those kind of things. That was cool. We worked a lot on it in the offseason. It's cool to actually take it out there and use it against Buffalo."



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Q: You guys haven't done much pistol during the season, right?

Carr: "You know what, all these games, it's like Groundhog Day for me. I'm on to the next one. To be honest, I don't remember. I'm trying to think. I don't think so. I don't think so, but it's definitely something that we have and we can do."

Q: Pro Football Focus had you only doing two snaps out of the pistol coming into yesterday's game.

Carr: "Gotcha. Wow. OK. There you go. They know better than me (*laughing*)."

Q: The first game against the Chiefs was the only game this year where you weren't in it at the end. Is that something you take with you or move past?

Carr: "To be honest it's the Groundhog Day thing. Everyone asks, 'They've beaten you this many times,' and these things and all of that. When I'm preparing for these guys, it never goes through my head. That stuff never has a determining factor on anything I write down, anything that goes on in my brain or anything like that. I just prepare for them just like I do any other game. I prepare for them the same way that I do for everybody. I'm going to go out there, and I'm looking forward to competing against them though this time."

Q: Is it frustrating that you only have two losses but it's still close in the division?

Carr: "It's not frustrating for us, it just shows how good our division is. I think it's a cool thing to be honest. I think it's awesome. Competition brings the best out of everybody. It's been like that all year. We've all been right there with each other and we've all been pushing each other. It's fun, man. It's all competition. That's what makes this game so fun is when it's like that. I think, obviously, we have the best division in football. When we all get together and play each other, you see no matter who's playing who, it's always a good game."

Q: Does anything stand out from your first Thursday night game against Kansas City?

Carr: "I just remember talking to Sean [Smith] the whole game. I remember me and Sean had a lot of good conversations and the other guys were getting mad at him for talking to me."

Q: Is there something special about primetime games for you?

Carr: "The only thing that's different is the lights are on, to be honest. It's cool for the fans and stuff like that, that they get a game halfway through the week, but for us as players, honestly, we treat it like another game."

Q: You've played in cold games before.

Carr: "Yeah, I've played in a lot cold games. The one I can remember, the most recent off the top of my head, I played in Reno and that got down to about 8 [degrees] and things like that. I honestly, I don't mind the cold. I like it. I think my wife gets mad at me for that because I always have the air on. I love the cold, so I don't mind the cold. If it snows a little bit, that'll be fun, too."

Q: What's the next step in Del Rio's culture change that he's brought?

Carr: "I don't know. We'll see. Hopefully, it's something else. Hopefully it's more like dominate or something like that so these games aren't so close and all these things (*laughing*). I'm just kidding. Honestly, I don't know. I just think the way that we've built this culture from the ground up. From learning how to practice, compete against one and other. We're learning how to win games at whatever cost it takes. Whether it's Khalil [Mack] stripping somebody or 'Tay' [Latavius Murray] running the ball in or Seth [Roberts] catching another game winner, we're just learning how to win games at any cost. I think that the more experience we have at doing that, the more situations we're in we're going to be able to look back and said, 'We've done this before.' We'll always have that little bit of confidence."

Q: How did your vision with Khalil Mack mesh with Head Coach Jack Del Rio's?

Carr: "To be completely honest, the things he was saying was everything that me and Khalil [Mack] were saying to each other. We were saying it a year prior, we were kind of prepping it for him, you know? When he showed up, it



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was like, 'Man, this is awesome, because this is exactly the things we've been talking about.' Our whole class, we just wanted to go out and show people how to work and how to compete. We didn't care how old we were, we didn't care that we were rookies, we didn't care about any of that. We cared about winning and one day winning here. So, I thought that that was really important to us and when Coach Del Rio showed up, man, the spark kind of lit fire."

Q: What stands out about Eric Berry on film?

Carr: "Amazing football player, Pro Bowler, one of the best this game's ever seen and I think that what he went through obviously in his own life and to see what he's doing now, as a football fan I couldn't be any happier for him. I know he's a great guy, I know guys that played with him think he's awesome and such a great guy. I know he loves football and so, I have nothing but good things to say about him. I'm a huge fan except for when we play him."

Q: How would you describe the mentality of your offensive line?

Carr: "Oh, they're nasty, violent. I think that they love contact. I think that they have something about them that they don't like their guy hitting me or hitting [Latavius] 'Tay' [Murray] or hitting our backs. And, I think that that's a quality that you have to have on an offensive line. They are competing their tails off against each other to make sure their guy doesn't hit the ball carrier and I think that's really special. Gabe [Jackson] tells me all the time, even if his guy came and brushed my shoulder pad, he tells me, 'I'm sorry man.' (*laughter*) It's like, dude it's OK. Sometimes it makes me feel a part of the team when I get hit. (*laughter*) I think that they're violent, I think that they're hard workers and I think that pretty much defines them."

Q: Have you found it to be easy to shut out the outside noise that comes with success?

Carr: "You know, sometimes it's hard for me, to be honest, because I try to be nice to everybody. A lot of people try to take advantage of it and that's just the truth. That's me being very honest with you, which I always am. I'm trying to learn as we go through it how to say no and things like that and I think I'm getting pretty good at it now and how to tell people no. Because, everyone just wants a piece of what's going on. They didn't much want a piece of it when we were 3-13, you know? So, you can really have that inter-circle of people you really love and you can trust and you're just kind to everybody else."

Q: Is it a boost to see Mario Edwards Jr. back at practice?

Carr: "Man, yes. I think it fired us all up. (*laughter*) To see him out there, just to see what he's went through in the last year. Again, another thing where this game is a lot more than just a game. This affects our lives physically sometimes and to see him back out there doing something that he loves, I know that that felt good for him."

Q: What is the most significant thing you've learned from your brother?

Carr: "I think the coolest thing he ever said to me was, 'You're going to be praised, you're going to be criticized. Ignore both because neither matter.' I think that that's something that stuck with me ever since my college days. I think another thing that stuck out to me that he never had to say, I just saw it for myself was, he never pointed a finger. He always shouldered the blame. I always thought to myself, 'Like man, he must make a lot of mistakes.' And then I remember, one day I was like man I know what's going on with football, I'm going to watch some of his games. I watched his games and a lot of those mistakes he was taking the blame for were not his fault and it showed me the kind of character that he had and it showed me that's the kind of guy that I wanted to be as I got older."

Q: How have you seen Latavius Murray grow as a runner between this year and last?

Carr: "I think that he's just getting more comfortable. I know he didn't play much his rookie year, right? If I remember right he was hurt and then my rookie year was his second year. I think that was the first time he really got carries was against Kanas City in that Thursday Night game. I think from that point on, he has just grown like any other football player would. The more experience you get, just like 'C-Wood' [Charles Woodson] would always



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tell me, the jump from year one to year two is crazy. From two to three is even more crazy. It's so right and it's the same thing for him. The more that he keeps playing, the more carries, the more times he sees that front with that run, he's just going to get more comfortable. It's going to become second nature and I think we've seen that."