



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther**

**Opening Statement:** "First day in pads. You know, it's just getting some of the rust off, getting some of the assignment things down. I thought we had a pretty good day out there today and it's a good start for us."

#### **Q: What were you looking for on the first day of pads?**

**Guenther:** "You know, the first thing I look for is that they don't come out here and lose their technique because they have pads on and things are going a little bit faster and it's a little bit more live with the contact. So, just getting aligned, playing with great technique, no different than when we are in shorts. Taking care of the offense. We're not you know, banging these guys up too much and understanding the temp of the drill."

#### **Q: Did you see that late play there where Erik Harris batted the ball out? It seemed like Marcell Ateman might have hurt his arm a little bit. Is that a positive for you seeing him run that ball down like that or do you want him to ease up a little bit?**

**Guenther:** "We're trying to run to the ball. First and foremost, we're trying to take care of each other on the practice field. I actually didn't see the play. I was watching on the off side but I heard the reaction behind. I think what happened is he came in and just tried to get a strip. We grade our players on strain plays, we're grading them on 'loaf's', we're grading them on tip balls, whatever it may be, strip attempts, those types of things. So, I'll have to look at it on tape because I didn't see it, but obviously we don't want to hurt our own guys. We want to take care of each other."

#### **Q: General Manager Mike Mayock was pretty outspoken about P.J. Hall and Maurice Hurst last year and getting enough out of them. What did you see from those two last year and how important is it that you get that interior push this year?**

**Guenther:** "Well I think from last year, you know, those guys were rookie players that played a lot of snaps, I mean really those two and Arden [Key]. So, really from year one to year two is where I see the most guys make the biggest jump. Obviously this year we're making sure those guys, they understand training camp, where it is, what one week of the season looks like. It's not new for them this year, so they should know what to expect and they should improve immensely this year."

#### **Q: How much has Justin Ellis adapted to your defense?**

**Guenther:** "I think he missed ten weeks last year so that was a big lay off for him. He's had a great spring. He looks like a different guy. He's had a really good spring. He's started off strong here in training camp and I hope he keeps ascending."

#### **Q: What have you seen from Brandon Marshall the first couple days of camp and what does he give you in terms of coverage at the linebacker spot?**

**Guenther:** "He didn't get a lot of reps in spring. Obviously he was rehabbing, but he's a guy who came in there and didn't make a lot of mistakes for the first couple days. He understands. He's kind of played in that position with some other teams and he's a very good cover guy, he's got good feet, he's physical, and he can run. So, he can matchup with some of these backs and tight ends that we have in our division."

#### **Q: How crucial is it having a guy like Brandon Marshall?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Guenther:** "Oh no doubt. I mean, it's a matchup league and with the tight ends and the backs that we have, and on every team now, you've got to be able to cover those guys. So he's a guy that you know, when he was available to us, we had to make sure he was healthy to go and we took the smart path and just let him sit out in the spring and get him healthy. In the past he's only gone two days and he took a day off and today, it was his third day, and he said he felt good. So, that's a positive thing."

**Q: What are you looking for from nickel linebacker and what does Nicholas Morrow need to show to work his way into being one of those guys?**

**Guenther:** "Yeah, I mean obviously Nick's that, that's going to be his role. Playing on third downs. Because again, he's another good cover guy. He can run. He can matchup. He got a lot of playing time, especially in the latter end of the year. So, he played the most football he's ever played from scrimmage, not in special teams. So, the thing he needs to do, he had a couple mistakes, critical mistakes each and every week. We want to eliminate those things and the thing he needs to work on is just be a good communicator with everybody, the nickel, the other linebackers and corners, making sure that we're speaking the same language."

**Q: What do you see at defensive end so far especially Clelin Ferrell?**

**Guenther:** "Yeah I mean, I'm going to say this about our whole draft class. These guys love football. These guys are into it, they're smart, they take notes. 'Cle' is an every-down man. He's exactly what we thought he was. And Maxx, Maxx is a guy we got in the fourth round who's long and rangy. He's got good bend. He can play the run. So, he's been a pleasant surprise for us. And then Quinton Bell, you know, he's a guy that played receiver at Prairie View A&M. So, he's a receiver six months ago from Prairie View A&M, but he's got great burst off the edge. He's a guy we have to develop in the short term, but those two other guys have been tremendous for us, really the whole class."

**Q: Between Ferrell on one side and Josh Mauro potentially on the other, what does that do for you as a defense to free up some of your situational pass rushers to do what they do best?**

**Guenther:** "What it does, it takes, when you have a base line and you have a nickel line, last year we had a base line and a nickel line and they were the same guy. So, you get guys who can roll off the bench and come in fresh you know, 25 or 30 snaps a game and give you heat where they aren't playing first, second, and third down. The more guys, you can have a wave of rushers and the better off you're going to be. So, that's going to help us."

**Q: I saw Mauro lining up inside and Ferrell lining up outside. Is he going to be that wild card guy that you can slide inside or out?**

**Guenther:** "Yeah, he can slide inside. He's done it in the past in different places. So, he's played base end on first and second down and moved inside as an inside rusher. So, I mean, if we end up with four ends on the field on third down, that may happen. You know, [Johnathan] Hankins has done a great job showing that he can pass rush and push the pocket. He's come back in great shape. He looks like a different guy than last year."

**Q: Do you anticipate having four ends on the field at times?**

**Guenther:** "I've done it in the past at different places. I'm just trying to figure out what's the best four in combination. You've got to get them working together so that they can communicate and get it done on Sunday."

**Q: Any updates on Trayvon Mullen and Eddie Vanderdoes?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Guenther:** "Mullen, he banged his wrist up so he's getting checked out. Vanderdoes, he's getting treated for a concussion so I'm going to find out here when I go in."

### **LB Vontaze Burfict**

**Q: How did it feel to put pads on and how valuable is the practice film from these padded sessions as you guys evolve as a defense?**

**Burfict:** "It's great, you know, you get contact now. You know, you get collisions and stuff like that so it's obviously football time. It's exciting to be out here with your teammates. Getting to see where everybody's heart is at because obviously with no pads, you know, there's different type of players. You see what type of physical players there are with the pads on. Our safeties made great plays today and you know, you want a great, aggressive safety, so I'm excited for this year."

**Q: Going from the offseason program to training camp, are you seeing the type of retention that you wanted to see schematically from the guys?**

**Burfict:** "Yeah man, this is a great team. We have great talent, great leaders, great team chemistry on and off the field. The guys you know, everybody getting along, and we want to see the best for the guy next to you. I think the great job we're doing right now is great communicating. Even if somebody messes up, the other player in the back end still has him because we're all communicating. So, it's all eleven working together and making sure the offense gets better as well."

**Q: Can you take us back to your rookie year and tell us what your relationship was like with Paul Guenther?**

**Burfict:** "It was great man. It was actually like a father-son relationship, a good trust relationship. He never told me nothing wrong. So, it's obviously somebody like that, you want to listen to him and make sure you're doing the right things for them. So, on my play, I always made sure I was doing good because obviously that was my coach."

**Q: Coach Gruden said that you're going to be the straw that stirs the drink on defense. What do you feel about your role on defense?**

**Burfict:** "Just got to be a leader man. Got to make sure I'm doing everything right, all the little things right because obviously people are looking up to me. And you know, encouraging others just like they encourage me. So, just making sure I'm doing everything right, making sure they understand the play calls, putting the guys in the right position. Obviously because I'm the linebacker, so I can see the formation that the offense is in, and putting my d-line in the right gaps before the play. Just being the quarterback of the defense."

**Q: We didn't see a lot of Brandon Marshall during the spring. How has it been working with him on the defense?**

**Burfict:** "It's great, you know, he's a vet too. He's been in just as long as me I believe, obviously just a different defense for him, but he's a smart linebacker, great instincts. You know, since he missed that time, we've just got him to speed up the communication part. That obviously just comes with time, but other than that man, I enjoy playing with him, all the linebackers man, so it's exciting."

**Q: Is this the exact same defense that you ran in Cincinnati, or are there subtle changes?**

**Burfict:** "Yeah, there's changes, there's changes. The thing about [defensive coordinator] 'Pauly G' [Paul Guenther], he's a great coach because he makes changes for a player if they're, you know, good at certain things."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

So, we're making certain changes just because you know, we've got some aggressive safeties. Just making changes for them to make them feel comfortable on the back end because obviously that's the last line of defense. We changed it up a little bit. It's going to be exciting."

**Q: You guys drafted two defensive players in the first round. How do Clelin Ferrell and Jonathon Abram look like?**

**Burfict:** "Oh man, they're great leaders. I don't remember any type of rookie coming in talking as much as they do. Even you know, getting into other player's heads and just, like I said, Abram is so aggressive, sometimes I have to tell him like, 'hey you've got to hold it back a little bit, you know, we're on the same team.' He keeps ragging when the Rams come in he doesn't care. So, you know, he's young, he's talented, aggressive, and I can't wait to see him play on Sundays."

**Q: Why is maybe this year must watch TV for the Raiders?**

**Burfict:** "Yeah I don't know man. We've got a lot of characters man, in a good way. Obviously 'AB' [Antonio Brown], he's a character. Derek Carr is a character. So, I just think it's exciting for people to see what type of team we have because the team chemistry we have is just amazing. Obviously this is my second team, but it's the first time I've had a team like this and it's just, everybody gets along. You know, it doesn't matter what type of day it is. We're all here to see each other get better and motivate each other."

**Q: What is your relationship like with Antonio Brown going from division rivals to now being on the same team?**

**Burfict:** "It's pretty cool actually. I mean, obviously knowing that we had to double him in Cincinnati and now he's on my team. Now I get to watch him make the crazy play so it's exciting. You know, you just want to see the best for him. I can't wait until he gets back on the field just so he can obviously give us some good looks, and we can give him some good looks because we need that."

**Q: Do you think this rejuvenates you being here?**

**Burfict:** "Yeah. Yeah I mean no offense, but it was just time for me to go from over there. So, I'm happy I'm here back with my Coach G Paul Guenther and [Head Coach Jon] Gruden, so I'm excited and I can't wait."

**Q: How do you feel physically and did you have any goals during the offseason training?**

**Burfict:** "I mean I feel physically good. Obviously you just want to come in in-shape. I think I did a pretty good job at that. Yeah man, just coming in here every day, be a leader, be accountable, and lead by example, and doing everything correct."

**Q: Is it a good time to be a Raider right now and if so, why?**

**Burfict:** "It's a great time. Obviously it's the last year out here. Just to give the fans what they need because it's a great fan base, man. I don't know how many people were out here today but they were chanting and screaming the whole time from day one. So, it's exciting to you know, obviously give them what they deserve and to be a Raider man is obviously amazing because there were so many greats that came from this team and still to this day come back and see the team. So, it's good motivation for them. We had a couple guys come talk to us two days ago and they were talking about winning championships and while they're talking you could just feel the chills going down some guys bodies and like I said, it's exciting to just be a Raider."

**Q: Was there any particular conversation you had with a particular former Raider that stuck with?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Burfict:** "It's a lot man. They gave us a bunch of quotes: 'Love each other,' 'You have to have one dream and that's just to win a Super Bowl.' It's so many, man, and I have them written down in my book, but I can't come off the top of my head with them. It was an hour meeting listening to five Hall of Fame guys so obviously you have to know it's going to be great."

**Q: Given the reputation of the Raiders, just being a very aggressive team and playing over line sometimes but always playing hard, and that being kind of your reputation as well, did you ever feel that you were destined to wear this uniform?**

**Burfict:** "Uh, yeah. Actually, when Coach G went to the Raiders, I was like 'damn, you're leaving me huh?' He's like, 'yeah.' I just looked at him like, 'I'm going to be there with you one day. I can feel it.' So, obviously it happened. I talked to him when they came to Cincinnati before the game. I was like, 'you still left me man.' Obviously it was just a joke. Just a little laugh, but it happened. I'm happy I'm here. I didn't think he was going to pull it off because obviously he had a lot of things on his plate. But obviously, when the Bengals let me go, he was the first coach to call me and I said 'hey, I'm on the way.' So, I'm happy to be here."

**Q: How do you feel like the defense performed overall today and where do you things need to be improved upon?**

**Burfict:** "Uh, we had an okay day today. I didn't think it was our best day. We have things to work on still. Obviously with the pads, everything comes a little bit faster. Everybody feels a little bit more sluggish for the first day, but we'll get back on film and see what we need to correct."

**Q: Because you are the guy that has all the experience with this defense, how much of your day is spent answering questions?**

**Burfict:** "A lot. I like it though man. Because it kind of keeps me sharp on my game. You know, if you're not talking football. If you're not thinking about football, then what are we here for? So, like a lot of guys want to watch film with me to see how much I know and like I said, it keeps me sharp because at the same time I'm coaching them, I'm coaching myself. So, I enjoy it. I enjoy being a leader and I just want all eleven to think the same way when we're out there so we all can play fast."

**Q: You got guys coming into your room to watch film with you?**

**Burfict:** "Well they want to watch film with me. Sit down 1-on-1. Like some of the corners want to watch film 1-on-1 and see how I watch film because obviously before pre-snap I'm calling plays out and they're thinking how the hell does he know that play is coming. So, just route concepts, route formations, tendencies, so yeah."

**Q: Who asks the most questions?**

**Burfict:** "I would have to say some of my linebackers. Jason Cabinda actually does because obviously he plays the same position as me. So him and Te'Von Coney. It's exciting just for guys to obviously want to learn like that and it's exciting for me for guys to come up to me because I used to be one of the young one's wanting to watch film with the older guys. So, it's kind of exciting for guys wanting to watch film with me."

**Q: You guys went against your offense today. What does Trent Brown bring to your team?**

**Burfict:** "Man, he's a big wall I'll tell you that. They actually ran a press my way and he came up to me and I fought off of him. I lost vision of the running back because he's so big but I'm excited for him man. He has a baby face so I



## **Oakland Raiders Transcript**

call him big baby. Don't tell him that though. But yeah, he's a great player. He moves pretty fast to be that big. Yeah, I can't wait."

### **Q: Does Abram as a rookie remind you of yourself?**

**Burfict:** "Yes he does. Yes he does. He talks a little bit more than me though. Sometimes we got to tell him to shut up in the huddle but other than that, yeah, he backs it up. So, you can talk as much as you want as long as you back it up. And he's got to start catching these picks man, I told him. He said a thousand dollars for every pick he drops so right now he has two thousand in the pot. *(laughter)*"

### **DE Clelin Ferrell**

#### **Q: How was your first day in pads?**

**Ferrell:** "It was okay. I would say just okay, just from my standards, man. Biggest thing for me is I got to get my special teams stuff down. That's the biggest thing. That's one of the most important parts of the game. I got to learn what to do, so definitely I'm going to come back tomorrow, get in my book tonight and really learn those aspects. As far as the defensive standpoint, I feel like I did okay, did well. Just the little things, but I feel like I came out with the right mindset, played violent, so it was good."

#### **Q: How was it going up against Kolton Miller?**

**Ferrell:** "It was good, man. Kolton is going to be a really, really good player and not even just him, but going against that offensive line. That's the biggest o-line in football, period. And anytime you are going against those guys you got to bring it and going against somebody like Kolton every day is only going to make me better. It's exciting. Y'all seen us after practice, we are just talking it up, trying to learn things about each other, so I can't wait to just continue that and it's only going to make me better."

#### **Q: Vontaze Burfict and Brandon Marshall were talking about you and Johnathan Abram, 'They don't talk like rookies, they don't act like rookies, they seem way farther along than that.' Do you feel like that or do you feel like a rookie?**

**Ferrell:** "They ain't bring us in here to be no rookie and I don't mean it from that sense. I just mean from, rookies can kind of get a connotation of sitting in the back, wait your turn, you don't got to step out in front and show that you really want to play. I consider myself just a first-year player. That's all it is, but as far as my mindset, I just want to come out and compete and earn everything that we got. To do that in this defense you got to communicate, you got to be physical, you got to be a guy that wants to set the tone, set the standard and just be able to be held accountable and do your job. That's really just all it is."

#### **Q: Are you deferential to the veterans or are you on equal footing as veterans?**

**Ferrell:** "I'm a team guy. Veterans are people who I look at as big brothers, you know what I mean? Obviously, they know what it takes to be in this league or they wouldn't be here, but then again, I'm not going to be a guy that accepts wrong. When wrong is wrong, wrong is wrong, so I'm just a guy that holds people accountable and people hold me accountable. That's all it is. If I see something wrong I'm going to say it's wrong, that's all that it is."

#### **Q: Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther was saying that he has you penciled in as a three-down defensive end. Do you like that challenge of starting right away?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Ferrell:** "I've always looked forward to being a complete player. I feel like I'm a guy, just with my mentality, I never want to come off the field just because I want to be the guy that teammates say, 'hey, I want him on the field with me. I want to be in the trenches with that guy. I want that guy beside me when we line up and it's fourth-and-one on the goal line and we need to stop them from getting in the end zone.' It's really just a mindset, man. Obviously you got to be physical and have the physical statures to be an every down player, but I feel like it's just a mindset and mental toughness side too, and just having the IQ for it. So, I just got to keep building that, keep working hard. I feel like I can earn that right to do so."

### **Q: What's been the biggest change for you so far transitioning to the NFL?**

**Ferrell:** "I would say just everything that comes with it, man. It's been tough but it's been a good transition for me because I really am learning how to be a man. I got to pay my bills, all these different things coming at me. I got to find a place to live, get a car, all these different things. The stuff I didn't really have to worry about before, but just thankful that coming out of college I had good people that taught me about time management and just organizing things, so that's all that I would say. Just learning to realize what's important and how to prioritize things has been the biggest thing."

### **Q: Is the right side more comfortable for you?**

**Ferrell:** "No, I feel like I can play up and down the line. I guess they just had me starting out at the right end. That's what coach has me starting out at, but I play right, left. I move down some into the three technique too. I don't look at it like that. I just go where coach wants me to play. I'll play anywhere, it don't really matter."

### **Q: Have you asked Burfict a lot of questions about the defense?**

**Ferrell:** "For sure. I'm a guy that's very like, when we on the field, I'm very like informative. Like I want to know what's going on and 'Tez' is someone, he's a veteran, but I've been surprised because when a rookie, no I'm sorry, when a first-year player, asks him questions he's not like, 'Alright, man. Stop asking me so much.' He's always just reassuring me like, 'Okay, yeah. Just remember this. Just remember this. You got to move to this side here when I tell you.' Just different things like that and it's been really, really satisfying for me because I know that I can go to him for different things like that and he wants to help the younger guys. He wants to help the people that are going to be on the field with him, so it's been a true blessing just to have him."

### **Q: What have you seen from your fellow first-round pick Johnathan Abram?**

**Ferrell:** "Oh, Bulldog? Yeah, bulldog has been great. Bulldog been great. He don't take no stuff from nobody. He's not afraid to speak his mind even though some of it be crazy coming out of his mouth, but it's been real good. And he's very smart. John will tell you, people think because he got that country voice and he from Mississippi, people think he's not smart but John is one of the smartest people when he walks out on the field and he takes pride in learning every aspect of the defense. John has been great and we just got to keep improving, keep learning from the vets, keep broadening our IQ on the football field and I feel like we are going to have a lot of success to help the team."

### **Q: Do you call him Bulldog because he's from Mississippi or because of the way he plays?**

**Ferrell:** "Nah, Coach [assistant head coach/special teams coordinator Rich] Bisaccia gave him that name. That's the only reason why I say that. Bisaccia called him Bulldog."



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Q: What do you think you, Trayvon Mullen and Hunter Renfrow can take from your time at Clemson and changing that culture to here?**

**Ferrell:** "First off, I feel like we can take prioritizing what's important. Next time I won't come here first, I'm going to go do my extra off the field because that really messed me up. That really messed me up coming to talk to y'all. Now I can't do my extra like everybody else doing, but for me I feel like a championship team or a championship mindset is the same at every level even though at the NFL the play rises. The biggest thing is it starts with the culture, the foundation and that's the biggest thing and you got to do the common things in an uncommon way. Everybody is out here practicing, everybody. You can't just go out here and just practice, you got to do it in a way to where you are really getting better and do it in a way to where you are making yourself elevate above others, and it ain't just about winning. It's about how you win because we aren't just about winning one championship. We want to be able to make it last because multiple teams have one Super Bowls right? But, if I asked you who the greatest dynasty ever you'll have your own opinion about it because you know one team that's been consistent, they do things the right way and that's how we want it to be here. We're not trying to be like the Raiders of the old, even though they set the standard, but this team right here we want to elevate that. We want to set our own new heights, we want to have a chance to be better than those guys and that's what the old heads want us to do. That's what the former Raiders told us, 'Don't try to be like us, try to be better.' Everybody keeps talking about make it like the old Raiders. Well, how about we set the new standard for the new Raiders and that everybody want to be like us. That's the biggest thing. Somebody asked me the other day, 'They brought you in here. How you going to make us like the Patriots of today? Or how you going to make us like the Seahawks or the Rams of today?' Well, I thought about something my coach in college told me, it's like well, 'I don't want us to be like them at all. I want the Patriots of the world, I want the Seahawks, the Cowboys, I want those guys to be like us. I want them to say, 'Damn. We got to do it how they do it because they do it in a way that is built to last.' So, that's the biggest thing man. It's all about how you think when you come into a standard like this, when you want to build something nice. It's all about the way that you think because 'As a man thinketh, so is he.'

### **DT Maurice Hurst**

**Q: What exciting changes have you seen on the defensive line and how they've used you?**

**Hurst:** "I mean, just seeing the way we are being coached up right now has been pushing us a lot more than we've ever been pushed. There is definitely that voice in your head that we didn't do very good last year and it's a lot of motivation for all of us players, and I think it's really making the d-line (defensive line) want to do better and push each other every single play. It's between us and the o-line (offensive line) too, so just getting each other better every rep."

**Q: How much has it helped the whole defense having a guy like Vontaze Burfict here who knows the defense as well as he does?**

**Hurst:** "It's awesome. He's played seven years in that defense, so he knows it inside and out. He's able to get us lined up quick. We even do a period where just him and 'DC' [Derek Carr] call plays together, like no coaches, just them on the field. That's how smart those guys are. It's just awesome to have a player that smart and that intelligent and knows so much about the defense and what the offense is trying to do."

**Q: Did you look back on last year and say, 'Yeah, I had a pretty good year', or do you look back on it and say, 'No, we weren't good enough. I wasn't good enough.' Are you harsh on yourself that way?**

**Hurst:** "Definitely harsh on myself. Definitely wasn't good enough by any standard. I mean we weren't stopping the run, we weren't generating any pass rush, so for me that was a failed season. It was great to get a lot of





## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

experience on the field, get some time to go against some NFL opponents, but overall that was a failed season and just trying to make sure that I remember that and let that fuel me going forward.”

**Q: Do the second-year guys P.J. Hall, Arden Key and you take ownership from last season and need to take a step up for this defensive line this year?**

**Hurst:** “Yeah, it’s our time right now. Everyone talks about the jump from year one to year two, so just staying true and coming out here to work. That’s the biggest thing. We’ve all been grinding in the offseason, so you get a chance to finally put the pads on today. We did some good things, but obviously there’s a lot we can work on and get better.”

**Q: How much of an advantage is it going to be to have Justin Ellis back?**

**Hurst:** “Yeah it’s awesome. It was really terrible when he went down and got hurt last season. We had some other guys banged up, we brought guys in. We brought ‘Hank’ [Johnathan Hankins] in and we brought a bunch of different guys in. It was awesome just to get ‘Jelly’ [Justin Ellis] back out there and start feeling himself because even towards the end of the year I don’t think he was feeling 100 percent still, so just having back and healthy it’s awesome. And seeing him grow every single practice.”

**Q: Last year the base pass rush and the nickel pass rush were basically the same guys, but now you can rotate more guys through. What sort of benefit is that, knowing you have a bigger group?**

**Hurst:** “It keeps guys fresh. We’d go first, second and third down the whole game, so having a rotation, I think we have a legitimate two-deep right now for our team. I think we are all developing, and I think we are all going to play a big role in that. Clelin [Ferrell] has been spot on. I’m really excited to have him here. There is a lot of guys that are just showing some great things, so it’s really exciting.”

**Q: When you look back at your rookie year and then you look at these guys want do you think?**

**Hurst:** “I think I see some guys that have been in some great programs and are really true leaders and professional. That was my biggest thing coming in, was trying to treat this game like a pro right away. Not going to do any stupid stuff, pay attention in the meetings and get everything down. I think that’s the biggest thing. We put John [Abram] on the board and he’s writing down everything. He’s telling us what we are supposed to do, what the guy next to him is supposed to do. Those guys are really intelligent. I think that’s what [General Manager Mike] Mayock was saying, was that he was trying to bring in guys that were going to change the culture, so I think those guys are definitely guys that are going to change the culture and be great players for years to come.”

**Q: Why is this season must watch TV from the outside looking in?**

**Hurst:** “We just have a ton of moving parts. We added so much depth. Offensively and defensively we’ve brought in some great guys, great leaders, a few that have been on championship teams. It’s just awesome, just the feel and everyone getting to learn from each other. I think that’s the biggest thing, is now we got Trent Brown and he’s teaching Arden what he’s seeing. We got everyone just learning from one another and it’s an awesome experience.”

**Q: How valuable is that season’s worth of game tape for you to build on?**

**Hurst:** “It’s big. I can go back now, the Rams are coming, and I can go back and watch week one against the Rams last year and see what they were trying to do to me. See what I can improve, if my hands were bad, if my feet were



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

bad and what type of blocking scheme they were running on me. And I know about their players know and who is going to be playing there. You grow so much from that first year and now you just understand the game a lot more.”

**Q: What do you think you are going to see when you look back at that film?**

**Hurst:** “I’ve already watched it a few times and there’s definitely that moment where it’s like, ‘Wow! What was I doing?’ but there’s always a little bit of good in it. It’s just a learning experience.”

### **LB Brandon Marshall**

**Q: Practicing three days in a row. Are those good signs?**

**Marshall:** “Yeah, I was just telling coach yesterday that my Achilles heel has been that third day, so the fact that I made it through today was a good sign.”

**Q: Was the knee in the Spring the same thing that hampered you last season as well?**

**Marshall:** “Yeah, same thing. It’s taken a long time to get right but I’m feeling a lot better right now, so I’m just happy to be out here with my guys.”

**Q: There was a period during practice where you were doing some band work. How much of it is, even though you are back on the field, still making sure you are taking the time to stay on top of the knee injury?**

**Marshall:** “Yeah I mean, honestly, coming to Oakland has been a blessing in disguise for me because they’ve taught me how to be a pro, I guess in the area of taking care of my body. So, I’m extremely happy to be here. [Athletic training] Rod [Martin] has been great, the head trainer, he works with me all the time so I’m staying on top my body even when I’m feeling good because I don’t want to get a setback. I can’t afford one.”

**Q: How much of the defense do you feel like you were able to absorb in the Spring?**

**Marshall:** “I learned, in my mind I learned everything, but it’s different when you’re out here and the bullets are flying. Gruden’s offense is a lot to deal with. A lot of motions, a lot of jet sweeps, so once the bullets were flying your mind has to work fast. Me, being a veteran player, luckily, I’ve had a lot of game experience so it’s been good for me, but still moving a little faster than I like. I’m still waiting for it to slow down but that just takes time.”

**Q: Where you are lining up, is that comfortable for you?**

**Marshall:** “Absolutely. The first year I ever started, 2014, I played the WILL linebacker as well.”

**Q: How much do you lean on a guy like Vontaze Burfict in this defense?**

**Marshall:** “Vontaze, people don’t really speak about his intelligence, football intelligence. He has to be one of the smartest football players I’ve played with. He’s been in this defense his whole career and he knows the in’s and out’s, and I come and ask him questions. I talk to him. He’s played the WILL linebacker position, so I lean on him a lot right now and in this learning phase that I’m in it’s great to have a veteran guy like him to lean on.”

**Q: Do you think he still has some of the burst that helped him establish himself in this league?**

**Marshall:** “Absolutely. He’s still, I guess, relatively young. He’s 28. He still has got some juice, of course.”



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Q: What have you seen from Johnathan Abram?**

**Marshall:** "I think he's going to be great. I think he's going to be a baller man. He's a ball hawk, has a nose for the ball. I know he can hit. He's fast, smart. He's picking defenses up extremely fast and he's playing at a high level right now in camp, so I look forward to big things from John."

### **Q: Would you say that Abram and Clelin Ferrell don't conduct themselves like rookies at all?**

**Marshall:** "Absolutely. I would say [General Manager] Mike Mayock and [Head Coach] Jon [Gruden], they've done a great job at drafting because these rookies are actually mature. I've been around a lot of first-round picks, a lot of rookies, and they are not as mature. They don't work as hard, they don't study as hard and they don't have that same demeanor or mindset as these rookies. So, I think they can have great years, big years, along with Josh Jacobs. I think the world of Josh Jacobs. I think he's going to be a really good player."

### **Q: When you signed here, in the back of your mind did you think it was a possibility for you to end your career in Las Vegas as a Raider?**

**Marshall:** "No doubt. When it was first announced, I'm not sure what year, that the Raiders were going to Vegas, maybe 2017, something like that, I was really excited and I had to be undercover about it because I'm like, 'I want to play for them.' Nobody really knew but my friends, like, 'I want to play for the Raiders whenever I can.' So, when the opportunity happened I came in for my visit and they initially start talking about Vegas. They showed me the model of the stadium. They were selling me on Vegas and I was like, 'Well, you ain't got to sell me because I'm already in.' I'm happy to be here. I'm happy to be part of a team that's established a new culture around here, a new set of standards, so I think it's going to be good."

### **Q: What's the experience been like integrating yourself, leadership style, into a new organization?**

**Marshall:** "I'll say it's been tough for me, because in the Spring I haven't been on the field. I haven't been on the field and I know I was brought in to be a leader, but it's like, okay, I like to lead by example. I want to show the guys how to do things, how to work, how to practice, but me being in the training room the whole time it's kind of tough. Now that I'm on the field and I'm getting used to everybody, I'm getting used to playing and practicing, being a Raider. I'm just still trying to establish myself, as well as bring some young guys on, and I have a story that I think a lot of the young guys could take to. I was drafted but I was cut a bunch of times, practice squad. I told one of the guys like, 'Look man. Just keep working. Keep working, man. I was cut and I was practice squad and now I'm a Super Bowl Champion, eighth year in the NFL. It could happen.' I talk to any guys that will listen and I'm going to get it going."

### **Q: Was it weird initially, putting on this uniform after so many years in Denver?**

**Marshall:** "Yeah, yeah, yeah. It was, just to be honest, because we were taught to hate the Raiders. We were taught to hate the Silver and Black. It was the rivalry and I know it's business, so personally I never hated the Raiders. It's just the aesthetic that came with being a Bronco. So, when they didn't bring me back and the Raiders were on the table, I was all in. I'm like, 'Cool! This is where I want to go anyway.'"

### **Q: Were you excited when the schedule came out and game one is against your old team?**

**Marshall:** "Yeah, yeah, yeah. I like that. I think God was looking out for me on that one."

### **Q: Coming into a new team as a potential leader, do you look at last year's defense at all? Like did you watch the Raiders last year on defense?**



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

**Marshall:** "No, you watch them. I had to watch them to learn my position and you know see how everything went. I know we have different players now, but you still kind of see what happened last year and maybe what was the issue, the problem areas that they had and how we can build off that. We are trying to establish a new culture, a new standard this year, but you have to look at the old. Don't dwell on it, but look at the mistakes that I guess we've made on defense in the past and build on those."

**Q: What were the problem areas that you saw?**

**Marshall:** "Well, just the main area, we had 13 sacks last year, right? And I don't care what DB's you have. You have 13 sacks, at some point it's going to make the DB's look bad, because the pressure is not there. At some point in this league, in this era, in this passing league, they are going to get open. So, we have to create more pressure. We have to stop the run. We have to play tighter coverage. We have to create an identity on defense."

**Q: Is your first impression that there is enough pressure here, enough guys here to really pressure the quarterback?**

**Marshall:** "Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely, man, and with the scheme that 'PG' [defensive coordinator Paul Guenther] comes with, his play calling, I think we will be just fine."

**Q: What do you think you bring to the team that they didn't have?**

**Marshall:** "Man, obviously I think I bring some good leadership and play-making abilities. I've always been around the ball in my career and that's not going to change here. I'm going to be around the ball, I'm going to make plays. I'm going to do my job and I'm going to be where I'm supposed to be. That's all I'm expecting of myself. I have high expectations of myself, so I'm going to be around the ball. I'm going to make plays."

**Q: Is this team's expectations up there with some of the great teams you've played on?**

**Marshall:** "Yeah, I was just saying to somebody that the standards need to be higher as well. I think they've risen. I obviously wasn't here last year, but they need to be higher. Bill Romanowski spoke to the defense to say the expectations and the goal needs to be Super Bowl and don't be afraid to speak about it. We need to set those standards, those expectations. Not just win the Division, not just make the playoffs, we need to win the Super Bowl. We need to aim for the stars and that's the only way to live."