



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio**

**Opening Statement:** "As I said yesterday, I feel like we've earned this 3-5 through the first half of the year. Nobody is real happy about that. I think we all take responsibility and are accountable for that. We're going to go into the second half and look to make it a whole lot better in the second half. We need to kind of get our mojo back a little bit. It comes down to basic execution in some cases. We certainly feel like we have a good team. I believe that we'll be able to put together a little bounce back here. It's a good time for us to be on the road, be down here together, be able to come together a little bit and go out and have this second half go a heck of a lot better than the first half went. I believe we will. I believe we have that ability and I believe we will. I'm looking forward to the challenge of that and the opportunity that we have. Questions about yesterday? Questions about things going forward?"

#### **Q: How do you look at it and figure out how you get your mojo back?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "It's a faith thing. You either believe or you don't. I think that those things that all kind of lead into that mojo that you see, those are all the little things that add up. Like I've said many times, we've got a prideful group of guys. We're just not that far away, but we have to get it going. It's past time, really. The second half is here and we've got some ground to cover. We've got some ground to make up. We have to get busy. The urgency, the attention to detail is going to be heightened. With finding that, I think it's a little bit of a confidence thing. It's a bit of a belief, and I do believe. It's one of those things, you either have faith or you don't. I do believe. That's why I can say that. Now we get to see. We get to go prove it."

#### **Q: What is the biggest issue on offense?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Execute really. It was a third-and-2, we had a big hole. We missed the hole. We had a run early in the game over towards Donald [Penn]. He whiffed on the guy, but everybody else was blocking, it was going to be a gouge. That's where you're coming up a play short, a step short. That's happening here. Those are the kind of things that keep you from rolling. Derek [Carr] is one of the best in the league in making quick decisions to get the ball out of his hands. Yesterday there were some occasions where we look at the film and he looks at it and says, 'I had more time. I wasn't under duress. I had more time to scan the field and take some of the shots that we had designed to take.' Get the ball down the field the way we can, the way he's capable of. Those are things that are there. We all have to do better. To me, it starts with me. I say that all the time. I have no problem shouldering. Those are the things that when they start accruing more regularly we will start making more plays and having more fun."

#### **Q: What did you see on tape that caused Khalil Mack to be less impactful than he normal is?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He's always impactful. It was just one of those day where he wasn't at the leading edge in some of the run game. Some of the run game went away. Typically, he's at the front stacking things up and making tackles for loss and things like that. There weren't a lot of runs at him. As far as the quarterback, this guy bought some time and sat back there. I don't think they did any doubling or triple teaming really. I thought it was just a matter that that guy could run around a little bit, bought some time when he might've had some opportunities."

#### **Q: Were there times when you thought Derek Carr was rushing his progression?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think he's a really gifted player. I think we benefit from him being a quick decision maker. I think it's the awareness of the fact that we're doing a good job protecting him and we do have a little bit more time. Take that time. Get some of those shots down the field that we'd like to hit."

#### **Q: Is Marshawn Lynch in town?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "He'll be here tomorrow."

#### **Q: Have you talked with Lynch about him practicing at the high school last week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "No, there's nothing to really talk about. I think the people at the school district have more of a problem with it. For me, I'd prefer our guys to concentrate on doing the right thing for the football team."



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**Q: Will Gareon Conley be ready this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I don't think it'll happen this week. The idea is to get through the bye and take a look and see where we are at that point."

**Q: How do you think Shalom Luani played yesterday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Shalom did some really good things and then he had a couple that when he sees the film, he'd like to have back. The one he didn't get over the top. Kind of got looked off, went inside with the tight end a little bit when he was a half field player there. When they hit 'Dre' [Andre Holmes] down the side, the corner could've helped him out with a better jam, but the bottom line is the safety has to be able to overlap that. Things like that weren't what they needed to be. He also made some nice plays. Overall, I'd say he was active. He had his hands on the ball, a near interception. That's the kind of player that he is that he'll go make some plays like that. He'll learn from it. It was his first start. Some good, some bad like most first starts are."

**Q: Did Luani's potential takeaway stand out to you or any other opportunity to get a turnover?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, that was one. That would have been a great catch. 'Dex' [Dexter McDonald] had one on the sideline that would be the next most obvious. But, each game we're getting our hands on balls. You got to catch the ball. I mean, we'll keep working. We're drilling it. We're drilling stripping it. They did a great job yesterday getting four from us. That was the difference in the ball game. It's largely the same group of guys that are drilling things the same way and we got a lot of them last year. It's not a matter of want to, they come in bunches. We'd love to have them come in this second half. That's really help. You talk about getting your mojo going, you start getting a bunch of those turnovers and start giving the offense more possessions and good things happen."

**Q: Are players maybe pressing too much to record takeaways now?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Again, that goes back to that whole mojo discussion. Part of it is you know, how we play defensively, to let it rip. Probably overly cautious, trying too hard not to do things as opposed to just playing and let it rip. I know what a Raiders football team that I envisioned having. We're not playing like that – what my vision is. We're not playing like that right now. We need to be more physical up front offensively and defensively. We need to be playmakers aggressively going for the ball, competing. That's what I'm looking for. That's what we're looking to get this second half."

**Q: Can you say that about the offense as well without the risk of throwing someone under the bus?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I don't think there's any throwing under the bus. I think taking accountability, it starts with me. Look, that's what I want to see. I want our team to be aggressive, I want our team to be physical, I want to be smart and tough. Those are the things I'm looking for. We haven't brought enough of that this first half of the year, we get a chance to fix it. We get a chance to remedy that coming out of this Sarasota trip starting with the Dolphins on Sunday night. We get a chance to kind of put our best foot forward and find that mojo."

**Q: Derek Carr talked about cranking up the intensity at practice. How would you view that?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Well, everything will be looked at, is being looked at. If that would help, yeah no problem. We'll go Raiders on Raiders full pads, we can tackle. We'll do it old school like Jimmy Johnson used to do in Dallas. No, I think that the preparation part has actually been pretty solid. I think we knew what we needed to do yesterday and we didn't execute with enough of some of those qualities that I'm talking about. We'll look to get that going."

**Q: Is Obi Melifonwu on track to return Sunday?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "Yeah. I think as long as the week goes the way we anticipate it going, I think we'll get him up this week."

**Q: Now that you've seen NaVorro Bowman in two games, what do you see from him as a coverage linebacker?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "We haven't really asked him to go eliminate people in terms of if they're trying to play a lot of man and isolate him on backs or things like that or tight ends. We're not asking him to do a lot of that. From what I've



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seen, he's a good football player. He's come in, two weeks in a row he's led our team in tackles. He's taking charge. He's been a very positive addition to our football team. His experience, his toughness, his love for the game; it's a positive for us."

**Q: Do you think the timing of this Florida trip could be a good thing for this group and how so?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think there's an opportunity to spend more time with each other, some of that camaraderie that you get, almost like a mini training camp where you go away and you're together for so much time. I think there's a little bit of that feel here. That was the experience last year. Every year is unique, but we'll see how it goes. We thought it was really positive last year. That's why we did it again this year. We're here on a beautiful property, obviously, but the key is to get our work in and bond a little bit while we're at it."

**Q: As a point of reference from last year's trip, what do you think you got the most out of this week?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "I think we were pretty business like in how we knocked out our work, but guys were able to relax. I think there's a blend there that takes place that I am a fan of."

**Q: At the end of the first half, there were two seconds left. Looking back at it, would you have liked to have seen a throw to the end zone instead of the short pass?**

**Coach Del Rio:** "That was a called throw into the end zone, so would like to give that more time, let those guys get down there and take a shot at it. That's the whole idea. That's what we practice. That's what we prepared to do in that situation. It's not a high percentage play, but you get your one in 10. We'll take it. That was an opportunity there at the end of the half after we had the misfortune with the fumble go back the other way and all that to try and take a shot there, so yes, that was called and needed to be executed much better."