



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Cincinnati Bengals Head Coach Zac Taylor

Q: What did you see from Ryan Finley in his first start and where do you think he can improve this week?

Coach Taylor: "Well, I think the starting point is his approach and his preparation were what you want to see, so that was encouraging. I thought he played with some confidence. It wasn't perfect of course, but he played with some confidence. He was really sure with what he was doing and there was a lot of good things to build from. He extended some plays, gave us some explosives in that regard, so we are excited to see what he can do this week."

Q: How difficult is it to make a decision like that in the middle of the season and how do you navigate that with your team?

Coach Taylor: "It's not easy. There's no good time to make that decision. We just felt like the Bye Week came at the midpoint of the season and we just needed a chance to evaluate everybody that hadn't played yet and he was really the last one. So, he'd been doing all the things to earn that opportunity throughout the Spring and through training camp. He played well in the preseason games and his approach as the backup quarterback had been really good for us and so we just wanted to see what he was able to do."

Q: You overlapped with Raiders offensive coordinator Greg Olson one season with the Rams. Did you pick up anything just from working with him and obviously succeeding him there as quarterbacks coach?

Coach Taylor: "Well, he's one of my all-time favorites. He really sets the standard in that quarterback room. I know he's the coordinator now, but so much great experience that he has been able to draw from over the course of his life as a coordinator, as a quarterback coach. Really good leader. I really thought the players had a ton of respect for him and he was really good with the coaching staff, so he goes down, I only worked with him for a year, but he'll be one of my all-time favorites when it's all said and done. His hair is unbelievable."

Q: What have you seen from the Raiders defense overall this year?

Coach Taylor: "Well, that's one thing that does stand out, is the ends are doing a nice job affecting the passer and they got some good guys in the interior. So, really a lot of strengths that are starting to come up for them. I know the rush defense over the course of this season has been really strong. I know they got some injuries at some key places right now, but they got some guys stepping up and it will be a tough test for us."

Q: There's a handful of players left on this Raiders team that were on a team six years ago that started 0-10 and then had a couple of wins over the rest of the season. Those guys were talking yesterday about the fact that if you get to that point you're so hungry for a win. How do you sort of present things to your team for the second half and especially this week?

Coach Taylor: "We can't feel sorry for ourselves. It's a hard league. You got to earn it, everything you get. We can't let the first nine weeks affect our preparation going forward. We still believe that there is a lot of wins in this team as the season gets going and we are going to do everything we can to start that this Sunday, but like I said, our preparation hasn't changed. The energy level is still really good. We had a great practice yesterday and I am encouraged from what we see from our guys."