

CHARGERS HEAD COACH MIKE MCCOY

Opening statement: “From watching the game on the sideline there, a lot of great individual efforts by a number of players that had an opportunity out there, but we didn’t get it done. I’ll open it up to questions.”

On the defense holding Oakland to 19 points:

“I think you see someone like Trovon (Reed) get the interception, and the fumble we got down there, we weren’t stopping them in the first half but we created two turnovers, which was huge. Those guys really stepped up, did some great things. Got a sack at a critical time in the game by Joey (Bosa). They played hard, but that’s what they’re supposed to do.”

On turning over the ball:

“Critical. That’s a critical mistake. Unfortunately, they kind of fumbled the one ball and then at the end there, when we’re trying for fourth and long there, in the situation trying to get the first down there, got forced into fourth and long.”

On why there were no individual pregame player introductions:

“Well we wanted to come out as a team. That’s what we said when we came out today, we were focusing and saying, ‘Hey, we’re a team. We’re sticking together through this fight,’ so we said we were going to come out as a team.”

On the atmosphere at Qualcomm with several Raiders fans in the stands, and use of the silent count:

“You know, I’ve got the headset on so I don’t hear all that noise all the time. We knew that going into the game, that we were going to use silent count at certain times. We got off to the fast start, going down there and scoring, so that quieted them down for a while. We understood what we were dealing with coming into this game.”

On this game marking the seventh time the team has blown a fourth-quarter lead:

“Sucks. It’s tough. Like we mentioned, can’t turn the ball over, couple times there in the fourth quarter. I have to say, though, let’s look at the whole game. I understand you have to make those plays at the end of the game, but we made some mistakes early on. We missed some opportunities. Too many errors in the kicking game. Whether it’s penalties, whether it’s decision, blocked extra point, we can’t have it. Kicked the ball to bounce to start the second half. Put the ball at the 40-yard line. Mistakes like that. We had a two-minute drive. We let them run the ball the first couple plays of the two-minute drive to go down there and move the football. Against a good team like we played today, you can’t make those mistakes. But it goes back to the whole game and not just the fourth quarter.”

On Casey Hayward containing Amari Cooper:

“The one ball that he did catch over on the sidelines, on his comeback route, it was a great throw by Derek (Carr). He just missed it. But I think for the most part, like Casey’s played all year long, he’s done an outstanding job for us.”

On the message to the team after the game:

“Keep fighting. You know, it’s tough. Like you guys have already [heard], we’ve talked about a number of times today, you see someone like Trovon step up and make the interception, the way some guys played, but that is what you expect. Just got to keep on going. We’re on a short week, so we will get back in and start grinding away on Tuesday and get going.”

On the defense’s ability to force turnovers, and the offensive struggle to avoid turning the ball over:

“You want to be in the plus and unfortunately we were way behind that. We’ve got to protect the football. Kenny (Wiggins) has done a nice job of that for the most part, but putting the ball on the ground is unacceptable. We’ve got to protect that ball. It’s an issue we’ve been dealing with all year long. I always say, there’s different reasons for each one, and then at the end when those are going to happen, it’s fourth and long, things like that and you’re trying to make a play, you’re going to force that ball in there.”

On the defense’s ability to take the ball away:

“Very pleased. Yes, very, very pleased. You guys always ask about the offense. You emphasize it, it’s something you talk about all the time. You go back in the OTAs and it’s something you’re always talking about, ball security, doing those things, strip drills. We always say first day in the OTAs that, ‘Hey, we’re going to go after the football. It’s going to be tough on you. We’re going to go after that ball all day long and fight for it and strip you, and understand that it’s going to pay off in the long run.’ Then there’s plenty of those looks during the OTAs and training camp where the offensive guys are looking at the defenders, saying, ‘What are you doing?’ But it has paid off this year. They’ve done a nice job, I think, the defense as a whole whether it’s sacks, fumbles, fumbles from a ball-carrier, a strip downfield, interceptions—they’ve done a great job of that.”

On why the offense hasn’t gotten better at protecting the football:

“You’ve got to be a perfectionist when you have the ball in your hands, number one. We show a tape every week from around the league, snaps from our practice. Mark Ridgley does a great job of that, showing the little things when balls are coming out, and protecting the football. You’ve got to protect the ball. You see all the little things throughout the league, someone makes a mistake and the ball comes out, or if it’s maybe in traffic where the ball is out. Everyone is going to see themselves on film. If it’s from practice and the ball is out, Mark is going to put it on there. It’s something you always talk about.”

On what kind of season Melvin Ingram is having:

“Last week he had an outstanding game, too. I think he’s played at a very high level, and there are those couple plays at times where you look at it and you say, man, or he says, ‘I could have made that play. I wish I made that play.’ So, I’m pleased with what he’s been doing.”

On what makes this loss so difficult:

“Every loss is tough. Every loss—these guys do so much, and it’s tough in this league when you don’t win. They work so hard and that’s what we do. This is our profession. So, when these guys fight their tails off and don’t get the rewards, it’s tough. They deserve to win.”

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK PHILIP RIVERS**On the final drive of the game:**

“I missed Travis (Benjamin) on the first down which would have kind of got us going. Then on second down, the right side washed down. I was trying to move right and obviously you don’t want to take a sack there. I was trying to keep the play alive. Then third down we had probably a 20 yard throw to Dontrelle (Inman) to try to get us out past the 30 and give ourselves a chance. But I got hit right as I let it go and then it hit my arm. Fourth down is fourth down. We had a chance and we called the play we wanted for the coverage we got but they played it pretty well. I could not have thrown that ball and keep the stat line pretty, or I can try to throw it in there on fourth down. And I’ll do what I did every time.”

On how the crowd noise was a factor:

“You saw us go silent count the whole game. It was a road game.”

On if he’s ever been in a similar environment:

“In Oakland it was the same. I appreciate the fans that did come out – the Charger fans – I appreciate them. It was just more people than in Oakland, but it was similar.”

On the effect of the large amounts of Raider fans:

“We were ready for it and we kind of embraced it. The uniqueness of, ‘hey let’s extend their berth into the season one more week in front of essentially all of their fans and their place.’ We kind of embraced that part of it. Shoot, as we’ve said all year, we’re right there and just didn’t get it done.”

On the fact that Chargers fans are not showing up to games this season:

“I don’t know. It’s just been two tough seasons. Obviously two of the toughest in my 13 years. There was a stretch there where we were 8-8 or better for a long time. These last two have been tough and we’ve had a lot of tough home losses. Obviously there are some other things going on as well.”

On scoring under 20 points:

“We started inside our 10 a lot today. And then there’s 11 people over there trying to stop us. They do pretty good sometimes. We do alright sometimes but didn’t do as well. They had us backed up quite a bit. Our defense did a great job getting those turnovers but it’s different than when you get a turnover at midfield. You go ‘shoot, we at least have to get a first down and try to get out of here.’ We had chances twice to get out of there. We had the fumble that came out just before the first down marker and then we had another one that was going to be a first down. It was right there, close to it, back to back series when we were backed up and we didn’t get out of there.”

On what he was talking about with Head Coach Mike McCoy after Kenneth Farrow’s fumble:

“I thought it wasn’t even close and that he had fumbled it way beyond the first down line. I didn’t realize the guy from behind knocked it out. I thought it was when the contact was made with the defender chasing him. So I thought it was a ‘gimme’ challenge. Then when they showed it, it got punched from behind. So that was just the discussion, I thought it was pretty clear cut. But the line judges there made the perfect call.”

On his message to the team as a leader:

“As bad as this one feels, we have to go to Cleveland on a short week and go play. I don’t really need a lot of talking to. We’ll see what we’re made of this week. It will be cold and against a team that hasn’t won yet and knowing we have two weeks left to go. So we’ll find out about us. Not just about what the outcome is, but we’ll find out about guys. To me, you’re always playing for the obvious reasons. But to me, you’re playing for the respect of your peers in the locker room because if you lose that, it’s hard to regain. So I think that’s what we’ll find. Hopefully it’ll go as we expect.”

CHARGERS CORNERBACK CASEY HAYWARD**Did Raiders final drive before halftime shift the momentum?**

“I don’t think so. I don’t think they had too much going on, even in the second half. We held them to 16 points and they got three points off a fumble. I think we held our own, but we have to make plays when the plays come.”

How does it feel playing in an atmosphere like today?

"Weird, for sure, but at the end of the day you have to play no matter the (atmosphere). It kind of felt like an away game, but we had fans there and they were cheering loud when we were doing well."

What are the positive takeaways from this game?

"That's a good job by our defense. Week in and week out we talk about creating turnovers and getting the offense the ball back. But at of the day we didn't win the game – no moral victories."

CHARGERS CORNERBACK TROVON REED**What does your recent contributions to the defense say about you as a player?**

"I give all the credit to the coaches and players for believing in me. Having guys like Jahleel Addae trust me to go out there with the game on the line and cover a Pro Bowler like Michael Crabtree. I thank those guys for boosting my confidence and believing in me. It goes a long way. I can go out there and play free with nothing to lose."

On the defense performance:

"We have, if not, the best defense in the NFL. I've been on a lot of teams and I've seen a lot. This is the most (cohesive unit) I've been around. We just have to find a way to create more turnovers and find a way to win. We hold each other accountable and Monday we'll get back to work."

On the plan of attack versus the Raiders:

"It's a rival. You have to strap up and play football. They are going to hit you in the mouth and you have to hit them right back. It was that kind of game today. They got the last punch today."

CHARGERS WIDE RECEIVER TRAVIS BENJAMIN**On his touchdown [in the first quarter]:**

"It was a play we dialed up and we've been practicing all week. So when we saw the cover we needed to have, Philip (Rivers) threw it up and I had a chance to get up underneath it and score a touchdown."

On the Raiders defense:

"There were mistakes we made. They wanted to keep the ball in front of them and they did a good job of that. We just needed to execute better."

On the atmosphere today:

"I think from an offensive standpoint it wasn't too bad. I think we controlled how we wanted to control. We eliminated the false starts because we knew the crowd was going to be loud. We just kept a silent count and went up and down the field and next time we have to get more points."

On the majority of the crowd being Raider fans:

"It was disappointing but we have to change that culture. It's up to this team and this city to change the culture and to win those games for our fans, so, everyone else can fill those seats instead of the other team."

On where to go from here:

"Continue to battle. Continue to go out to practice, continue to work hard and hopefully we come out in Cleveland with a win."

On having a divisional opponent come out:

"It's tough. You would never want anybody to come into your town and come out with a win. Knowing that it's the Oakland Raiders and a big rivalry for us, we truly and badly wanted to come out with a win."

On the focus for the rest of the season:

"We still have to go out there and compete. We still have to go out there and catch balls. It's our job on the line so we still have to continue to play."

CHARGERS TIGHT END HUNTER HENRY**On the percentage of Raider fans today:**

"It sucks, definitely, to be at home and, basically, have to go to a silent count and work with sound."

On if the sound affected the offense:

"It didn't affect us. We kind of got stalled there for a little bit. It was on us. We made mistakes that we can't make and we just have to get them fixed."

On the loss:

"It's not like they get any better. Every single one hurts even more as you go because they continue to pile on. You know, we're right there and it's just crazy. It's been a wild year. We have two games at the end and we have to come back and finish strong."

CHARGERS DEFENSIVE END JOEY BOSA**Comments on Derek Carr:**

"He can hurt you with his hands and his feet. He had a good game today. I thought we did a pretty good job at slowing him down today, but we still need to finish."

Comments on the defensive play:

"I'm proud of the guys. We had a goal line stop and a couple turnovers. The whole team is fighting. We are really close. I think if we keep grinding, we will get there."

Comments on the losing record:

"I'm going to continue to try and get better every single week and that has been my goal this whole year. Hopefully some wins come along with it."

CHARGERS SAFETY DWIGHT LOWERY**Comments on if the noise effected the defense:**

"Not so much for defense, but probably on offensive. Having to go to a silent count at home when you think you should have an advantage with communication and things of that nature. I can't speak for them, but I would imagine that it would effect them for sure."

Comments on the losing record:

"It's very difficult. We are doing things to be in the game at the end. Obviously, there are things we can clean up during the course of the game. At the same time, they are going to make plays and we are going to make plays. It comes down to who makes more plays or who makes the the last play. I think they did a good job with that. I think we made some big plays as well. They just made more than we did."

Comments on losing this way at home with all of the Raiders fans:

"Yes, because the only thing we can do right now is be a spoiler. We really didn't spoil anything, if anything we helped them. They had the support with pretty much having a home game. Watching the offense on the field and see the Raiders players feeding off the crowd's energy when you are playing a home game...that really doesn't help when you are trying to play spoiler."

CHARGERS LINEBACKER KYLE EMANUEL**On the fumble:**

"I think Melvin (Ingram) forced it. I always say recovering is the easy part and whoever gets it out deserves the credit but we made some plays on defense. We've been doing it all year, really, but at the same time we don't do it consistently throughout the game. We give up that drive at the end of the half or we make a few mistakes and against good team in a tight ball game like that everything gets magnified and we just have to play a more complete game and try to finish those things out."

On keeping the turnover streak alive:

"It says that it's something we've talked about a lot. It's something that's been preached to us since OTAs and something that we work on everyday in practice. We understand in the NFL that people are going to make plays but at the same time you have to be able to help your offense out and get turnovers and make those plays yourself on defense. We keep emphasizing it and we keep trying to do it and we have to keep it up these last two games."

On the message at halftime:

"It's the same message pretty much every week: just go out and finish. We've been saying that all year and it's not for a lack of effort, it is execution. We go out there and guys are playing hard but for whatever reason it hasn't happened for us. We can sit here and feel sorry for us but no one else does. I'm proud of these guys for how we keep fighting and I know we'll keep doing it these last two games."

On making sure Cleveland doesn't get their first win against the Chargers:

"It's not about that. It's about us and playing for the guy next to you. We were in a similar situation last year and I was just really impressed with how everyone kept fighting, kept pushing and playing for that guy next to him. There are a million different reasons why you play this game and you have to dig down deep and think of those things and keep playing. This is our job and we sign up for 16 weeks. Regardless of who we're playing we're going to keep fighting and playing hard."

CHARGERS RUNNING BACK RONNIE HILLMAN

On playing time today:

"It's been a couple of weeks and it felt good to get it going again."

On the number of Raider fans in the stands:

"We kind of expected it, but its nothing new. Unfortunately, the stadium is a tempting place for away teams."

On the game plan, and splitting carries with Kenneth Farrow:

"Go out there, do what we can, be accountable for the plays they we are in there, and take some pressure of Philip (Rivers)."



RAIDERS HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO

Opening statement:

“Obviously we’re really happy in the locker room right now. [We are] really proud of our guys [and] happy to have punched the ticket in post season. I want to take a minute just to, two things, one I want to talk about the staff. Mike McCoy and his staff and the Chargers, the way they have worked despite all of their injuries and we’ve had two tough games, very close games, against them. I just have a lot of respect for Mike and those guys and what they are doing. Another thing I want to make sure that I give proper credit to is our owner, Mr. Davis. Mark Davis. Because he has really allowed Reggie and I to do the things that we need to do to make this franchise great again. The whole idea of greatness starts with leadership at the top and him providing us with the resources and the opportunity to grow this football team the way we have over the last two years, so I’m very appreciative of that. I told our guys just now, I said we are in control of the same things we were in control of before we came in here, and that is the way we recover each week, and the way we commit to the process of preparing, recovering, and competing in each and every ball game. And we have tremendous respect for every opponent that we play. That’s a great example, if you come into a game like this and you don’t have that kind of respect, and you’re not ready to strain and work for 60 minutes, you get your butts whooped. So, I really appreciate our guys’ ability to work the way they need to work each and every day out, and that’s what we’re going to continue to do. We’ve got a couple of more opportunities and then we will add them up and see if we did well enough to earn whatever rank or spot that is that we know that we’re going to be in, and I’m very proud of that.”

On taking a moment to absorb being in the playoffs and enjoying a moment of celebration:

“Yeah, I like to have a good time. I like to smile and enjoy it, but I also keep the proper perspective I think is important for us to do that. No doubt I’m super pleased that we earned our way in with the victory today in the division and against a tough opponent, and yes, I’m very happy and proud about that.”

On being aware of Kansas City’s lose today:

“We were aware of it. Yes, we are aware of it.”

On whether Kansas City’s loss changes anything:

“Not really. That’s what I’m saying. I guess at the end of the day it does, but for us it’s not going to change how we do things. That’s why I talked about what we’re most of control in is the effort that we give to recovering and preparing and competing, and that’s what has got us to this position I think, and with that approach we will stack up as many wins as we can and hope it’s enough at the end.”

On the luxury of having a player like Sebastian Janikowski:

“I’m certainly glad that we got the points we lined up for him. That’s the bottom line, is we like to get seven. We got points that we’ve lined up for him. We’ve been really good. We were red hot at one point in the red zone. We’ve cooled off a bit recently, and certainly today. I think one for six before the last kneel down, so that’s not what we’re looking for but when we do have to kick the field goals, we’re glad that we can line up and get the points.”

On the two red zone turnovers today and if that short circuited them early on:

“I thought we were moving the ball and playing pretty good football, but a turnover when you’re in the low red is tough. The good news is, I think outside of the first drive where we let one go over the top of us, I thought that we were pretty solid throughout the day against Philip, and the way that they pushed the ball down the field. They’re pretty darn good at it, and I thought that we were pretty effective most of the day besides that.”

On the luxury of having 80 percent of the crowd:

“Raider nation showed up. It was pretty awesome to see. It had to be at least 60 to 70 percent. I don’t know what the numbers were, but a lot of black shirts out there. A lot of silver and black, a lot of pride, and a lot of happy people right now.”

On what it means to the guys to have such a huge crowd today:

“Our fans travel well. We’ve traveled well all year. Wherever we’ve been, we’ve had a very strong contingent and they’re very loud and very proud and we love it, and we are very appreciative of that.”

On what was going through his mind when he made the challenge call with [Derek] Carr:

“A couple of things. One was take our time to get a good look. We thought he made it, so we bought some time and we were going to use a timeout anyways. So rather than call a timeout and set the play, let’s use the timeout as a challenge and so we did all of that and we got it.”

On what Bruce Irvin's veteran leadership means to the defense:

"Well today the way he got around the quarterback was the best part about it, but I think that from the moment that Bruce arrived, he and Khalil [Mack] had a natural competition or natural kind of bond where they were two alpha males. They were going to push each other really hard every day and compete every day. Bruce has been tremendous for us and is a really great addition to the football team."

On getting big runs at the end of the half to get into a good position at the end of the game where he could lean of the offensive line to be able to do whatever he wanted to do:

"I thought we had an opportunity to hit some of those today and certainly you're showing the offensive line that you believe in them anytime when you're running the ball."

On the first and goal that set up them up for a field goal to tie the game, and if he was thinking of going for it even though he lost two yards on third down:

"Yeah that took away the going for it. Had we stayed there we probably would have, but going backwards there it was a no brainer. Take the points."

On the shotgun on goal line situations and if it is somewhat of an issue:

"Yes. It is somewhat of an issue. It is not ideal. Being completely honest about it, it is an issue that we are working through, but it is the way we're choosing to work through it right now. At some point we will feel better about going under center, we will, but until then we'll execute the best we can out of the formations we feel most comfortable with."

On one of San Diego's last drives when (David) Amerson came out of nowhere:

"He was tracking his guy. We knew what we were going to get on that route. They like that little pick route and he did a great job as a veteran of getting over the top of the pick and coming downhill with some speed and authority and making that stop."

On what it means to him being a guy from Hayward to get this step into playoffs:

"I'm proud of that [and] I'm certainly proud of us earning our way back. I talk to the guys all of the time about you get what you earn in this league, and so far we've earned a post season berth. Now over the next couple of weeks, we will determine exactly where that happens to be."

RAIDERS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR**On Raiders fans:**

"Once I settle down, I was very excited and very joyful to look around the stadium and see our fans going crazy. It was like a home game. They made us feel so good."

On his feelings after winning:

"I'm just happy. You saw the equipment guys high fiving each other, and the training staff too. That's the kind of stuff that makes my day. Throughout all of the fun times and the hard times, that's the stuff that makes my day."

On finishing the season:

"There's two games left, and we have to take care of business. It's on our shoulders. It's on us and that's all that matters. We can't think about anything else other than getting ready for the Colts, who are a great football team. We have to make sure we prepare and compete our tails off in practice."

On the Chargers:

"San Diego is a really good red zone team. They do a lot of different things. They have great coaches and they know how to scheme things. They're record doesn't give them credit. I think they're in the top of the league in turnovers. They are a very opportunistic team. They have a lot of talent on defense. We came into this game knowing that they are really good. We did not overlook them."

On his main focus:

"Just win. That's what we say. Stats are fun for people to look at and try to compare, but we just want to win. I promise, there is something in everyone in that locker room and I think that's why we win. Our mindset is we just want to go out there, do our job and help the man next to us so that we can win."

On teamwork:

"We said we're going to make the playoffs and we're going to do certain things. We put a vision out there. When a group of men come together how we did and continue to stay the course and everyone believes in what we believe in, then we can do things like this."

On Raiders fan turnout:

"When we come to San Diego, our fans turn it into a home game. We always think we get nine home games a year. That's not saying any disrespect. It is just how our fans come and support us. They do a great job of it. They're loyal. They've been behind us

and they've been through all of the hard times. They've been through the hard times longer than I have. I just feel really happy for them to be there and experience that today."

On his brother, David Carr:

"He has a Super Bowl ring, so I'd say he turned out alright. Any football player who has a Super Bowl ring probably feels pretty good. He has helped me tremendously. He has been very helpful, and I'm very thankful to have him."

On the division:

"In our division, the teams that we play are some of the best defenses and teams in the NFL. We have the best division. I'll stand by that forever. It helps you. It shows you the struggle and it shows you how to overcome. It prepares you and gets you ready."

On resilience:

"Anything bad happens and it doesn't matter. We move onto the next play because there's nothing you can do about it. So why would you sit there and sulk and through a fit? It's okay to be mad and it's okay to be upset, but if you let it linger it's going to ruin the rest of your game."

RAIDERS WIDE RECEIVER MICHAEL CRABTREE

On if this kind of season is what he envisioned when he signed his recent contract extension:

"I always envision that, on any team I have ever been on I envision being the best team out there. Helping the guys around, we have a good group of guys, a good group of men and I feel like I can compete with anybody."

On if he knew how tight his touchdown catch was in terms of getting his feet in bounds:

"Yeah, we have had so many of those this year. We practice them so much it was just fun to do."

On if he felt his touchdown catch was a big turning point in the game:

"They are just touchdowns, it's just a touchdown, not a turning point."

On what it means to him to be the person to score such an important touchdown in the game:

"I am just contributing to the team. I play wide receiver; I just do my job. That's how I look at it, I don't look at it like a game winning touchdown. We have had those this year, but I just feel like it was a hard fight and we came out on top."

On if he knew that he got the touchdown and was in bounds before it was confirmed:

"Yes, it's what you do at practice. We practice it so much, the toe tap and toe slide, and it just came alive on Sunday."

On how the locker room was when they found out they clinched their playoff berth:

"It was hyped. We were excited. We are going to the playoffs, but that is just step one. We have a long way to go."

RAIDERS RUNNING BACK LATAVIUS MURRAY

On how he feels about the win overall:

"It was a big win for us. We are playoff bound and that is what it is all about, that is what we wanted. We are going to go back to Oakland very happy."

On the fourth quarter comeback:

"We are continuing to find ways to win in obviously close situations. Our defense made stops and helped us get enough to put us ahead and obviously made a key stop at the end so we could finish with the ball in our hands. It was great team football and a great team win."

On the back and forth battle and at what point he felt they had the win:

"When you have two great teams going at it like that, you are going to get a game like that. It comes down to who makes the play at the end and are able to finish. Fortunately, we were able to come up big on defense and we got the win."

On how it felt hearing that Kansas City and Denver lost:

"We got some help from those guys today, but again, we have two games left. We need to finish strong and finish our business and let the chips fall where they may."

On the excitement in the locker room:

"We are excited; we are in the playoffs. This is what we play for – the opportunity to go all the way. You obviously have to be in the playoffs to do that so this is a huge win for us and we are excited we get that opportunity."

RAIDERS LINEBACKER MALCOLM SMITH

On how the team feels after this win:

“We are still growing as a group, still figuring things out. We have a lot of talented players and I think we are finally gelling the right way and hopefully we continue to. It is one of those things where you want to get hot and the right time and hopefully we continue to do that.”

On if he felt that the Chargers and Raiders records didn't matter going into tonight's game:

“Any time it is a division game; you expect somebody's best. Obviously, the Chargers offense has had success all year long, they have had some turnovers but they can always beat you. Philip [Rivers] can always beat you. We had an opponent that came out and fought hard today but I am glad we came out with the win.”

On how the loss last week in Kansas City affected how they came into tonight's game:

“Every time you lose, it stings and centers you a little bit. You have some humbling moments where you think that if you had just made a correction, you would have won. Everybody takes their mistakes like they had a large effect on the game. It is just part of the growth. No season is easy and we have to continue to battle.”

On how the defense has improved since the first game of the season to where they are now:

“Just a lot of growth, and it was all mental. We will just continue to grow.”

RAIDERS SAFETY REGGIE NELSON

On how they feel heading back to Oakland:

“Emotions are high, even before I caught the ball, the defense just wanted to go out there and seal the game and win it for the offense. The offense went out there and did a tremendous job today and the secondary also. We still have a lot of work to do, like you said we clinched the playoffs and that is the goal from the beginning of the year. It is exciting.”

On the pressure that Bruce Irvin and Khalil Mack were able to get on the final possession:

“I love it. Without the pressure, it wouldn't have happened. Like I said, the secondary did a tremendous job today putting pressure on Philip [Rivers] and got him off the spot.”

On how the team continues to find ways to win games:

“It is hard to win games in the league, it isn't always going to be pretty. I would say we still have a lot of work to do, going into the playoffs we don't want to keep making the same mistakes we make in the regular season. It is just exciting around here. I am happy for everybody in this locker room and I am just happy to be in the playoffs again.”

On when they found out that the Chiefs lost today:

“I found out really quickly when we got in here, that is what all of the hooting and hollering was about. It is exciting, we are in control of our own destiny. We just have to continue to play solid football and win games.”

RAIDERS TACKLE DONALD PENN

On what it is like to be back in the playoffs:

“I'm overwhelmed. We put in so much work in the off-season, during OTAs, during training camp and every week. We worked hard. Hard work pays off.”

On the keys to the game:

“We hurt ourselves with two early turnovers in the red zone. That's tough because we've been great in the red zone this year. The good thing is we're showing what we've been doing all year. We're a fighting team. We fight. We fight until the end. We fight the whole 60 minutes. We never stop fighting. That shows at the end of the day. We've got to keep it going. We've got to figure out a way to not make it so close. But I'm enjoying this right now because we're going to the playoffs.”

On the number of Raider fans in attendance:

“This is my third year here and it's been like that since I've been here. The great thing is we've got good fans and they travel well with us. They knew how important this game was. We knew how important this game was. We wanted to get into the playoffs and punch our ticket and they came out here and they supported us.”

On getting control back of the division:

“It feels good. Especially from where we came from my first year here to now, it's a big turnaround. I'm just happy for Mr. (Mark) Davis, Mr. (Reggie) McKenzie and for all those guys in the front office because they stuck with the plan. They stuck with it. Mr. Davis gave them the trust and it's coming to fruition now.”

On if he was surprised at how well the fans travel:

“No. I knew that because our fans have traveled well all year this year. It’s crazy. When you win, they come out. And we’ve been winning so they’re going to come out. I knew they were going to come out strong.”

On if the fans will travel to Las Vegas:

“I’ve got no comment on that man. I’m going to the playoffs. That’s all I’m worried about. I like the way you threw that in there.”

RAIDERS KICKER SEBASTIAN JANIKOWSKI

On if he felt solid for this game:

“I felt pretty good. Every week, I feel good. Just go and do my business.”

On being able to put up points late in the game:

“Points kept coming from field goals and we got that turnover at the end from Reggie (Nelson) so that definitely helped. We help each other, offense, defense, special teams.”

On going to the playoffs:

“I can’t even describe it. It feels so special. I’ve waited a long time for that.”