



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Special Teams Coordinator Brad Seely

Q: How has Marquette King developed during your time with him? It seems like he's putting more effort into accuracy.

Coach Seely: "Yeah, I think he's done a very nice job of becoming a better directional punter. I think the key is for, really at any position, especially for a punter, is consistency. How many times can you kick a really good ball in a row and how many times does your bad punt show up, because everybody has a bad punt. The key is [to] limit those and can we live with those bad punts. That's what he's done a better job of, in my opinion, is his overall consistency. Whether it's on the short field, the plus 20's that we're always talking about, or even on the long field when he's trying to get the ball to the side of the field for us to cover."

Q: What is the next step for King?

Coach Seely: "Obviously, your goal has to be high, so any touchback is a bad play. We're going to try to eliminate all the touchbacks if we can, but just like if you're punting today in that kind of wind, sometimes there are factors outside of your control. I just think he's done a really nice job of improving that area. He constantly works on it and that's what's making him a good player."

Q: How does the new touchback rule with kickoffs affect what you do?

Coach Seely: "Well I think it will affect quite a bit with the ball being put five yards further out. I think it'll still come down to how good are they and how good are we and whether you want to give them a touchback or you want to kick the ball shorter and see if you can cover it. It's easier for all the coaches, I've read a lot of coaches' talk, 'Hey, we're not going to give up a touchback.' Well that's easy to say in May and June. Come regular season, maybe our tune changes because we don't want to give up a big play. Again, I think it comes back to how good is your unit versus how good is their unit."

Q: Are you practicing a lot of high, short kicks?

Coach Seely: "We are. We practice those. Exactly. We're seeing how... Really, especially when it's a day like today, it's great because you get all that wind. Those are hard kicks, especially when you're kicking with the wind because it's pretty easy to get a touchback, especially if you talk about the guys we have with good legs. They're really working hard to see if they can control that ball and keep it in the field of play without giving up a lot of hang time."

Q: What have you seen from your returners? Is there anyone who's at the top of the group?

Coach Seely: "I don't think there's any leader. You have to start with TJ Carrie because he's been there on the punt returns. Then you have to start with Taiwan [Jones] on the kickoff return, who did a really good job for us last year. As always, as we tell those young guys or new guys, that they have to beat somebody out if they want to get that job. We have a lot of guys working, a lot of guys working hard. We'll see once we start playing games, who does well."

Q: Is Amari Cooper someone you want to stay away from returning punts this year?

Coach Seely: "I think we'll do whatever we have to do to help our football team. If he can help us, just like last year he had to come in there in certain situations, we played him. I think we're also going to be smart. Obviously, he's such a talent as a wide receiver. We want to pick and choose those spots, but he's working and catching. It depends on the situation. If the situation arises where we need him, we'll use him."

Q: What did you see from Joe Hansley and Jaydon Mickens to bring them in?

Coach Seely: "I think with Joe Hansley, he proved it in college. He was a good punt returner. We evaluated him as a punt returner and thought he was very good. We're happy to have Joe. With Jaydon, he didn't really do it in college. He was more of a slot receiver, but those guys are the guys that end up being punt returners in this league"



Oakland Raiders Transcript

because they have a great change of direction. He has good hands. It's kind of a new thing for him, but again, we'll see how he does as we keep progressing."

Q: Last year you didn't have consistency on the kick return. It seemed like you had a lot of different personnel.

Coach Seely: "We did. We did. We had a lot of different guys because of Taiwan's injuries. We would have like to had Taiwan back there all the time. Here's a guy that led the AFC in kickoff returns. He did a nice job for us. We're happy with his production. Again, if someone is going to do well, they're going to have to do well to beat Taiwan out because Taiwan is a good player."

Q: How much has the depth that you added across the roster helped you?

Coach Seely: "Oh it helps a lot. I think it's really huge. We brought in guys like Brynden Trawick and Daren Bates, guys that were good special teams players on other teams. They'll push the guys that are on our present roster that were here last year. They have to compete against our guys. I think any time you go to camp and you have a lot of competition, it's going to just make us better. You know just make us better."

QB Derek Carr

Q: Does this year feel different than last year with Amari Cooper?

Carr: "Absolutely. I'm able to throw the ball a lot earlier, you know? I'm able to trust where he's going to be at. I'm used to seeing his routes run a certain way. Those are things that take time, like we talked about last year. I forgot who asked, but it's always going to take time getting that chemistry down. But, it's nice to see all of the hard work in practice that we've had together paying off out here in practice and hopefully come August, September and through the season."

Q: Are the quick adjustments a sign of your development as a player?

Carr: "Yes, I'm just trying to take control as much as I can. First two years in the NFL, you're just trying to figure your way out and lead the best way you can. You'll never have a great grasp of it, because the game is so tough, but you have a better grasp on it. I'm just trying to take control to really get them to run it how I want it run. I ask them questions too, 'Hey, if I throw the ball like this or like this, which one do you prefer?' And they give me feedback. I try to do my best to do that for them. We're not coming out here every day like, here's the new play we're running. We know the plays, we know the coverages that we want to throw where, now it's just those fine details that we can grow in this offense and make it better than it was."

Q: What feels different this season?

Carr: "What feels different is that I actually got to practice this offseason. (*laughter*) I was laughing, I told coach [Bill] Musgrave and coach [Todd] Downing, I said it's kind of cool that you guys do these offseason practices, man. You guys should do that more often. (*laughter*) They just looked at me and shook their head. It's cool to be out here because this kind of time is invaluable. This is extra OTA. How many OTAs? 10 OTAs, three practices out here and then the walk-throughs. That is so many reps that I didn't get to have. I think I only did the mini-camp last year, so it was nice to have hundreds more reps of certain plays. That kind of stuff, there's no price on that. You have to get out there and do it. To see where we're at and to be able to come out here and do it, it helps us go another step closer to what we want."

Q: Where does being in more control show up?

Carr: "You know, on the field, probably to the naked eye, it won't show up, because it's a yard here or a yard here or a 'Hey, why don't you release this play or release this play to make it better,' kind of things. They're just trusting me with more control, at the line doing different stuff. They did last year, but with each year the trust goes up and that's everywhere. That's normal everywhere. The coolest thing, I should say this, is that me and coach Musgrave are trying to think on the same wave length. I know what he wants, I know what he's thinking, and I'm just trying



Oakland Raiders Transcript

to do what he wants done. I know things that he likes and I just want to do that in the situations that he wants them. The more I learn that, the more I can just be him on the field. And when I come off the field if I went to something else or did something else he was like, 'Man, that was awesome,' because we are thinking the same way. That's all I want, to run it the best way that he wants it run."

Q: Does it raise your confidence knowing you're making the right decision?

Carr: "Yeah, that's awesome. That's such a cool point because sometimes even when you change something, sometimes you're wrong. That's human nature; we're all going to make mistakes. But, the cool thing about coach Musgrave is that he's always positive and he's always encouraging you. He'll teach you and then he'll keep trusting you because he knows the hard work you put in and those things. It's amazing and he empowers you. He wants the quarterback to be in control and in charge. He was a quarterback himself, he knows that feeling. So, for him to empower us and to say, 'Hey man, make it yours. Make the turns you want and just go out and do it.' It's really cool. It just brings me back to my college days. Coach [Dave] Schramm was out here today and we were just laughing about how he would say, 'You want to call this series or me?' I'd go, 'Ah, I got it.' Just funny stuff like that. But, it's cool to see that we're growing."

Q: How much slower is the game now for you in comparison to previous years?

Carr: "Yeah, before that, I don't know about the UNLV hat. *(laughter)* That's just like a bright red sore in my eye. No, I'm just kidding. The game, it does slow down, it really does every year. 'C-Wood' [Charles Woodson] always told me, my brother [David Carr] always told me, [Justin] Tuck always told me, they said, 'Man, you think Year 2 slows down, you wait until your third year.' They would always tell me that and now I'm seeing why. I'm seeing it's just football now and I don't really realize the speed of it until I watch a kickoff or something. I'm just so used to doing our thing. Or if I sit back and watch another rep happen, I'm really watching the speed of things. I'm like, this game is really fast. How did he just get from there to there, you know? That throw should be completed every time, but there's freak athletes out there. But, now, the game has slowed down so much and it just makes it become just football. Every year you can grow, it takes away another factor from your thinking process to where you're just on top of things and playing fast."

Q: What is your reaction to when you hear Michael Crabtree compare your playing style to Brett Favre's?

Carr: "Man, I'm very honored, very thankful. Brett is somebody that I looked up to as a kid the way he played the game, so I wore number four ever since I could remember. I always wanted to wear four somehow, someday. For him to say that, I thought it was really cool. I don't think I've told him that. But, for him to come out and say that made me think, well do I take too many chances sometimes? *(laughter)* But I think the wide receivers like that. They know that no matter what, I'm going to give them a chance. It doesn't matter if you drop a ball or if I just ailed one eight rows deep, I'm going to throw the next one just as confident and give you just as much of a chance. If that's what he sees, I'm very thankful and honored but I have a long way to go to be compared to Brett."

Q: How does your trust with Seth Roberts make you comfortable?

Carr: "Yeah, it's huge. And another thing is I always go back and study last year's film, one thing I continued to see over and over again is when he was man-to-man, he won his route. That is huge. Not just winning, he's creating separation. To have that, we don't number our receivers, he's one two or three, but when he comes in, he's the third guy in. When you have that and the third corner guarding him or a safety coming down guarding him and have that guy consistently winning, it just opens up so many things. I think other teams see that and it takes pressure off of Mike, it takes pressure off of 'Coop,' takes pressure off Clive [Walford] and Mike [Mychal Rivera] down the middle. It just takes pressure off of everybody. His role is huge, then you put a guy like 'Dre' [Andre Holmes] knowing the big play ability he has and you put Seth next to him, now safeties and defensive coaches have to make decisions because Seth continues to win on his routes."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Is Amari more talkative in Year 2?

Carr: "Yeah, man, he's talking more. He's talking more. I don't know about to you all (*laughter*), I always say that, I never know. But, he is more talkative, you can just see. Like any rookie, he did it right. He came in and he probably did it on purpose a little bit too. You just come in, shut your mouth and go to work and that's exactly what he did. Everyone respected him. No one could ever say anything about his work ethic besides, 'Man, he's quiet.' That's the only negative thing you could say, and that's not even a bad thing. He's definitely more talkative this year and he's just being himself. He came in the right way just as all rookies should. You just shut your mouth, go to work and just earn the respect. He did that right off the bat."

Q: What does it mean to hear your teammates say that they're having fun?

Carr: "Yeah, you hear us all the time break it down, 'family.' Family on three. We don't take that lightly. It doesn't just stay in this building either, it leaves this place. I think I was texting Khalil Mack past my bed time last night about stuff. It's just stuff like that, man, where you can really see the growth of this team from when I first got here. That's something that Mack and I set out to do, is change the culture. That's part of that. Obviously the winning and the winning atmosphere and the belief in all those things, but, it's stuff like that, being family outside of this place that we want to see change, and we're going to lead the way. To be able to do that and just text randomly, I get random videos from teammates all the time, just hilarious. Like, man, what are you doing? (*laughter*) Stuff like that. That's the kind of stuff that you can see this is a close group. When we leave this place, I've even had my wife say, 'Who are you texting? Who texted you? Didn't you just see him for twelve hours?' (*laughter*) 'Yeah babe, but we're just still talking about something,' and she'll just laugh because she gets it, you know? We had a great group of guys in Fresno that were over at the house all the time. Something like, you guys can come over whenever and all of those kinds of things. To have that is big."

Q: Did you show your video of your one-handed catch to Crabtree?

Carr: "Me and Odell [Beckham], I had to call Odell out, we were together at the Pro Bowl and I was always talking to him. I said, 'Look man, I'm going to throw you a go route. I don't even care if it's complete, just try and catch it crazy.' So, when I did that I was like I have to send this to him. Then he goes and throws the ball who knows how far. I can still throw it farther, Odell. I sent it to everybody. My brothers were the first ones, did you see that catch? They could care less about any other throw I've made."

Q: Any other challenges to come with Odell?

Carr: "Oh yeah. I told him to expect more challenges to come. I just have to think about something that I can one-up him on, but it will be fun. We'll have fun with it."

WR Amari Cooper

Q: How is Year 2 for you? Are you more comfortable?

Cooper: "Yeah, I'm a lot more comfortable. I feel like I have a great feel of what it's like to be a pro. I like my progress so far."

Q: Is there a way to put in words what the chemistry between you and Derek Carr is like this year?

Cooper: "Yeah, it's comfort. I know with every route that I run, I know where Derek wants to go with the ball. I know how he wants to throw it. That will be the best words to describe it."

Q: Was the connection more sudden this year or a gradual process carrying over from last year?

Cooper: "It's been a process, definitely. It doesn't happen overnight. It's communicating because you can't run every route in one day. It's just communicating and getting to know him and how he wants to throw the ball and things like that."



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Q: Is it easier to do things like that in the offseason opposed to when you're game planning during the week?

Cooper: "Yeah, it's a lot easier to do it in the offseason and when we're training because in the season, we're focused on a particular amount of plays. It's just different."

Q: Was it frustrating to deal with the slight injuries you had at the end of last year?

Cooper: "Yeah, it's always frustrating when you can't do all the things that you want to do out there, but injuries are a part of the game. I did learn from it. You're supposed to take care of your body and not take it lightly."

Q: Did playing through the injuries teach you anything about yourself?

Cooper: "Yeah. I wanted to be productive for my team. I was always taught to give 100 percent of what you have, so that's what I tried to do."

Q: What would you attribute being more talkative to the most?

Cooper: "Probably just being around the guys for a longer amount of time. I've never been the type of person who just walks into a building or a place that I've never been before and just be this outspoken person. I just like to chill out first. See how things are going."

Q: How was the Pro Bowl experience?

Cooper: "It was a really, really fun and great experience. I got to talk to some of the veterans on other teams who I really admire and look up to, guys like Adrian Peterson, and they gave me a lot of great advice."

Q: Is that motivating to want to get back there?

Cooper: "It really is. It was fun. It was a whole lot of fun. All the elite players are there, so yeah."

Q: Did you get to talk to Jerry Rice and Michael Irvin at the Pro Bowl?

Cooper: "Yeah, I got to talk to both of them. Got some knowledge from them. It's just a cool atmosphere to be around those guys."

Q: What's it like going up against Sean Smith? How are you guys going to improve each other?

Cooper: "It's a great experience. He's a really talented player, but he's really smart. It's kind of like a chess game out there. It's fun."

Q: Do you guys talk back and forth when you're facing each other?

Cooper: "Yeah, yeah. Actually today we had an exchange. He asked me what route I was running. So yeah, we definitely help each other."