



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

OPENING STATEMENT: "Alright guys short week, quick preparation, divisional opponent we're very familiar with. We're looking forward to the challenge."

Q: With the change at offensive coordinator, did the Chargers look a lot different to you last week than they did in the past or basically the same?

Coach Guenther: "I just think they played a complete game really, I mean the same style of plays. They ran the ball a little bit more in the second half and then Phillip [Rivers] was real, real efficient and they were able to mix the run and the play action a little bit better."

Q: Melvin Gordon looked pretty fresh, I assume with all the time he's had off?

Coach Guenther: "Oh yeah, yeah, it's good to see. Hopefully we get everything out of him."

Q: How much of a challenge is the short week and only one week of tape on the offensive coordinator to try to prepare for them?

Coach Guenther: "You know you can't change the offense a hundred percent. So there's going to be some new wrinkles that he's going to put in, his own spin on it, but you know basically the stuff that they've been running throughout the course of the year are the stuff that we're going to go off. You know this is a short week as it is so you've got to trust your technique and your eye discipline and all those types of things in the front and the back end."

Q: What are you expecting to get from Isaiah Johnson this week?

Coach Guenther: "Well, he's a big, long, tall corner so hopefully we can get him worked in the plan. He's obviously been practicing here for a few weeks so hopefully we can get him in there and get him a couple snaps and get him rolling."

Q: How much confidence does it give your defense to win the game like they did last week, to make a play like that at the end?

Coach Guenther: "Well, I mean that's another good offense, a good quarterback, a guy that's spinning it really good and you know like I said, it could come all the way down to the last play. It could be 70 minutes, it could be 60 minutes and it came down to the last play of the game and sometimes in the league that's just what it takes. So, it was an exciting win, a good home win, and we're looking forward to the next one."

Q: What did you think of Karl Joseph on the last play and what do you think about his play the last few weeks?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah I think Karl probably had his best game on Sunday. It was a situation where they changed personnel right at the end there and his eye discipline was good. He saw the guy coming out, Stafford put the ball high where he should have put the ball and Karl went up and got it off him. So it was a huge play to win the game."

Q: What did you think of Daryl Worley's game?

Coach Guenther: "You know, the one pass down the field earlier in the game, he's in great position, Marvin Jones makes a great catch. So I mean, those things are going to happen in the NFL, but the



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interception I told him, it was probably one of the best interceptions I've ever seen. So you know he's just got to continue to play at a high level. We're going to need him to play at a high level."

Q: How is Worley feeling?

Coach Guenther: "He's good, he's good, yep."

Q: Did you see Arden Key coming along pretty good before getting injured?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah he was coming along. He was rushing real good. Obviously he had sacks back-to-back games and you know he's hard to lose, but the next guys' got to step up and we'll work some different guys in there. It may not be just one guy. It may be two or three taking his snaps away."

Q: What have you seen from Trayvon Mullen so far?

Coach Guenther: "He's played good, I mean he's out there, when you don't notice him out there that's a good thing. It's kind of like a long snapper. So he's covered his guy good, he's tackled well, he's understanding the plan and I only think there's going to be great things to come for him."

Q: Will Compton must have caught your eye in some way considering you used him right away and he was on the field there for the last play last game?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, he's a smart guy. He's played a lot of football, a lot of different systems, so really, the terminology just had to get turned over from what he was used to maybe somewhere else to how we call it. He's a smart guy and we're going to ask more from him this week in this ball game as well."

Q: Do you feel the interior of the defensive line stepped of last week?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah I mean, you know, we're playing the run really good. I mean those guys are really, we're playing a lot of seven-man fronts, so it's exciting to see. When you can do that and you can limit adding the extra guy in the box where you can get one-on-ones on the outside, that's a good thing and (Johnathan) Hankins leads the charge and P.J. [Hall] and Maurice [Hurst] and those guys have done a lot of good things in there for us this year."

Quarterback Derek Carr

Q: Can you just talk about the versatility of the offensive line and how they makes you more comfortable, knowing that if Rodney Hudson is out and Trent Brown is out you can plug and play whoever is in there?

Carr: "Yeah, that gives you a lot of confidence as a quarterback. This game is all about up front. Doesn't matter who you are, skill position guy, quarterback. We're not going to win football games unless your d-line is playing good and your offensive line is playing good, so whoever is in those spots, and sure enough those are where the most injuries happen is in the offensive and defensive lines, so when you're a backup offensive lineman in this league you can't prepare like that. You got to prepare like you are up every week, that you're the starter because you are, as we've learned, one play away. Have a lot of confidence in those guys and they've played extremely well."



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Q: How strange is it that the projected starting offensive line has played only 10 snaps together this season so far?

Carr: "That's pretty crazy to think that. And to think that they've played that well and they've only played 10 snaps together. Give a lot of credit to [offensive line] Coach [Tom] Cable and [assistant offensive line] Coach 'Lem' [Lemuel Jeanpierre] for the work that they do. So often in this business coaches don't get enough credit, especially assistant coaches. Those guys are superstars, man. They do a great job of preparing everybody to be able to play and when we are at practice everyone rotates. There's a certain amount of reps that those five get together, but besides that very rarely do you see them in there together. We make sure everyone is ready and prepared, and some guys have nicks and bruises and they need a little rest sometimes more than others. Sometimes they don't. All that stuff. And [Head] Coach [Jon] Gruden, as you know, demands perfect practice, so if they are going to be in there they got to be perfect and they've done a great job."

Q: When you got a Thursday game, did you already start on Los Angeles after the game on Sunday night?

Carr: "Yeah, absolutely. You really don't have time. Coach Gruden said after the game, 'Hey, congrats on the win. Now get over it.' You get the emotions of a fourth-and-one stop in front of your home crowd and 10 minutes later it doesn't matter. As soon as it happens, that's over with because of these Thursday's game. We can talk about Thursday games another time, but we'll leave that to the CBA and all that fun stuff. When it comes to preparing your body and preparing your mind, you have to start as soon as that game ends and that's definitely what I did at my house."

Q: What challenges do Melvin Ingram and Joey Bosa present as pass rushers?

Carr: "Oh my gosh. They're two of the best in the whole NFL and they're on the same football team. They do a great job of getting after the quarterback. You see what they did against a great quarterback in Aaron Rodgers last week. It was tough for Green Bay to get first downs, tough for them to move the ball at points and the man [Philip Rivers] is pretty good. That offense is pretty good and their defense is that good, and so we have our work cut out for us that's for sure. I don't want to get it lost in all of this, we lost to them twice last year. We need to get this win. We need to make sure we handle this and take care of business."

Q: What has Tyrell Williams brought to this offense and how has he sort of handled the bigger role than originally planned for him?

Carr: "Yeah, I think he's probably excited about that, right? When he first signed up, a couple days later or whatever and Antonio Brown we got him too. And in his mind, 'Well, okay. I understand Antonio is good. He'll get a lot of catches and I'll get mine. Now, he's not here and I'm going to get a lot of catches.' So, he had to be excited and he's made the most of it. I think we could all say it's money well spent. The man is a really good player. He works his tail off very selfless. He doesn't care if he has a touchdown or if Hunter Renfrow catches the game-winner. I think that's a common theme in that room, that they just support one another. Except Marcell [Ataman], they still treat him like a rookie. *(laughter)* But they do a really good job I'd say of just doing what coach asks them to do. If I have to clear it out full speed, he does it. If we ask him, 'Hey, we need you to run this route that no one has ever seen before.' He runs it and he scores on it. I can't say enough good things about Tyrell. I'm glad that we have him."



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Q: Coach Gruden said yesterday that he was encouraging you to learn how to play 'left-handed' when other teams are taking away Darren Waller. When did that term first come up and what does that mean for you?

Carr: "Well, that's the New England way, right? That's how the New England defense's want you to play, so I'll let you do the math when that term started coming around. But, that's just how New England wants you to play. They want you to play left-handed, so that's where it came from."

Q: What stands out about Rivers and what impresses you the most?

Carr: "He's super consistent, man. He doesn't care if throws three picks or three touchdowns, he's super competitive. The man just gives it his all. Super smart. He's not ever going to beat you with his legs, he's not going to scramble around for a 100 yards in a game or anything like that, which is even more credit to him and what he's been able to do throughout his whole career. He's one of the best ever to play this game. Let's not get it twisted, so many times people always just look at wins and say, 'Well this guy has more.' Alright, let's pump the brakes. It's a team sport. Philip Rivers is definitely one of the best to ever play. Is one of the smartest to ever play this game. They put everything on his shoulder and to do that year in and year out and still be productive is just crazy impressive to every quarterback. Everyone that just watches him and you know what is asked of him every single year, it's really, really impressive."

Q: NextGen Stats said you scrambled 21 yards on the touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow. The whole evolution of you getting out of the pocket is something Coach Gruden has been talking with you about for a while. Do you feel like now you are getting comfortable with that?

Carr: "(laughter) The evolution of analytics, gosh dang. Who comes up with this stuff? Let's just complete passes. (laughter) We talked about it a lot in the sense of not by the yardage numbers specifically. We talked about extending plays. When it's not there can we create offense and as you saw on Hard Knocks, Coach chasing me around and yelling. That was not just for the camera, we did that almost every day. After practice, at special teams period, in between drills. It was something we emphasized and it's not just outside the pocket. Even on the first one to Foster [Moreau], buying time backwards in the pocket, to the right, finding a window. Just buying time and it's something we drill all the time. Oly [offensive coordinator Greg Olson] just last week had me doing that drill, where I'm buying time in the pocket for a few seconds and find a window in the end zone. Buying time, roll out and throw a touchdown. So, it's stuff that we work literally all the time and it's fun that all season long even since Week 1 all the way to now you're seeing it happen for first downs, for touchdowns, or even throwaways. He talks about throwaways is sometimes the best play. Getting out of the pocket, avoiding a sack, throwing it away."

Q: On the bad snap?

Carr: "That was one of his favorite plays the whole game because then it helps Daniel [Carlson]. It was Daniel's favorite play of the game, I can promise you that, but just all that stuff. It was harped on and he's on me all the time. He never let's me be comfortable and he hasn't let me be comfortable with that all year and it's been good."

Q: Has it been a smooth transition for you with more situations where you are extending plays?

Carr: "With the way our offensive line is playing, it's easier to be honest. You're buying time because you have a little bit more time to do some things like that and extend plays and stuff like that because I'm always going to try and beat you with my arm. I'm just going to sit in the pocket and I'm going to try and



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beat you with my mind and my arm. But now when those things die down and people cover things, which happens in this league, being able to extend plays with our offensive line it puts a dagger sometimes when you can extend a third down, get out running and hit a first down, or get out running and score and hit Foster Moreau in the end zone.”

Q: How fun has it been for you just to see the transformation of Darren Waller this year, turning into one of the stars at his position in this league?

Carr: “Absolutely. He’s the best tight end in the NFL, and again, how it works nowadays is we wait a couple years and then people start saying it, but he already is and he has a lot to work on. And there’s other guys that have a lot more production than him obviously, but talent wise when it comes to blocking, running, even rushing with the football sometimes, he’s hands down one of if not the best in the whole NFL and it’s really fun for me to know that he’s really young also. So, he’ll make my job easy for years to come. The guy, his story alone, we can all get moved by his story. I never want to lose sight of that for his whole career, where he’s come from and what he’s overcome.”

Q: Coach Gruden called you a coach on the field given your knowledge of the offense this year, when did that sort of begin for you?

Carr: “It’s really when we came back in April, whenever we got back. We came back and just going over things again, it’s like it just clicked so much clearer because there is so much volume of our offense. Like the guys we’re bringing in and things like that, that was the thing he told me. We are going to work on scramble drills and you got to teach this offense with me because we had a lot of new guys come in. New starters at certain spots. And I don’t know, I just took more ownership of it. I guess as I get older, I’m a little bit more impatient too which I’ll work on, but just really coaching those young guys and it’s impatient in a good way. Just demanding. We don’t have time to wait, you got to get it right now. That kind of mentality, so Coach Gruden has rubbed off on me in some of that for sure.”

Q: Is it a coincidence that probably your two best years have been the years that you are in a second year in a system?

Carr: “It’s definitely not a coincidence. Anytime you see people playing together for long periods of time, a coach and a quarterback, usually it just continues to get better. And I’m thankful for that for sure.”

Q: What’s made you comfortable throwing to Hunter Renfrow on third downs?

Carr: “He’s just very smart. Sneaky athlete, hard worker, good locker room guy. Willing to put his all out there for the team. (laughter) The number one thing about him is his understanding of football, honestly. Coverages, he has a good feel for the game. He runs his routes not textbook. Not how you put it up on a video, he has his own feel to the game and early on we wanted to be so precise, ‘No, do it like this.’ But then it started to get like, ‘No, actually you just get open.’ We need you at that spot at this time, you just do it how you want to do it. And as we started to do that, he started to play more freely. A guy like that, you don’t want to put a box around him. Sometimes we can do that as quarterbacks or sometimes coaches, ‘You have to do it like this.’ And it’s like the guy just doesn’t see it the same way we do and Hunter does see it the way we do, but he also has a good feel for his game and working that slot, so sometimes we say, ‘Hey, we need you in there parameters, but get your feel and put your spin on it,’ which is really cool how coach does that with his receivers. He’s like, ‘I need you here at this point, you can put your spin on it, but if you’re not there I’m going to rip you.’ He’s done a good job with doing that.”



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Q: What have you seen from Zay Jones since he arrived here?

Carr: "It's unreal how much he picked up because I say it all the time, it's not easy to learn, especially for someone who was just in a different system and come in three or four weeks into it and get thrown into this, and he's hit the ground running and never once have I seen him come out here and even make a mistake. Like he's been on it every time and the way he practices, he practices with that effort and with that tenacity which you love in a receiver. Some receivers, you've probably seen them at practice sometimes, they don't really look into it and he's definitely not that guy. He's always into it. Always busting his tail even if I throw to Hunter, he's sprinting to go get a block and that's winning effort. That's how you build a winning culture."

Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Anthony Lynn

Q: What do you think about Josh Jacobs through the halfway point of the season and how do you plan on stopping him?

Coach Lynn: "Well I'll tell you what, I don't know if he can be stopped. We just hope to slow him down. I mean he's one of the best backs in the league right now in my opinion. I think he's having an excellent rookie season."

Q: What has led to the success of both Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram, especially when you have them rushing on the same side?

Coach Lynn: "Well I mean those guys first of all, they're just good pass rushers. I mean they're two of the better pass rushers in the game and when they're both healthy and on the field at the same time, you can't chip both sides unless you're in max protection all day. So that helps. They help each other that way but then you put them on the same side. You know we do that just for matchup reasons and just to see how teams are going to adjust and make another move, but we just try to look for the best matchups. I mean, it's a personnel game."

Q: Do you feel like you guys have a little positive momentum going after two straight wins?

Coach Lynn: "You know I definitely think you have a little momentum. You know winning breeds confidence and we've won the last couple weeks. We know what we're capable of and we're getting some guys back healthy and so we're feeling good about where we're at right now, but we know in this business every single week you know if you're not ready to go you go out there and get your butts kicked. So we're not over confident or anything like that. I mean, we're just going out and we're trying to get a little better every single week and see what happens."

Q: What was the difference in your running game this past weekend against the Packers?

Coach Lynn: "We ran it."

Q: Was it just persistence?

Coach Lynn: "You know the running game, sometimes you just have to commit to it. You don't try to force it, you know, by any means. At some point in the game you got to commit to it and make the team know you can run it and you're going to. I just think it makes you a better offense. We can be our best when we can do that. When we get one-dimensional, I think we can be stopped. We have a good quarterback and we have good receivers, but I just think in this league defenses are too good to line up and be one-dimensional."



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Q: Was that a big part of what went into making the change at offensive coordinator?

Coach Lynn: "You know I just thought it was the best decision at this time for our team for the second half of the season. You know the first half of the season was a little bit disappointing. I know we had injuries and we made mistakes, coaching mistakes, player mistakes. You know you never put winning and losing on one person, but I just thought it was best to make a move right now. You know the points were down, the rush attempts were down, the rush yards were down. We were just out of sync. It was a hard thing to do but I thought it was the best thing to do right now."

Q: How dramatically different is this Raiders team different than the one you saw last year?

Coach Lynn: "I mean this team is a lot of the same personnel. I mean they stole one of our receivers and that definitely helped. Tyrell [Williams], he's a heck of a player. It's just a big team. I mean this team is physical on defense. They're big and physical on the offensive line. You know we've seen this for the last couple years. I mean, they're hard to beat and so you know if you're not at your best you probably won't win."

Q: Williams kind of found himself as the number one receiver here after the Antonio Brown situation. From working with him yourself, what suits him to be a number one option for a receiving group?

Coach Lynn: "His work ethic, his football IQ. You know he can lineup all the way across the ball at receiver. You know he can read coverages. He can get open. He developed into a good route runner. He developed into catching the high point of the ball down the field. You know you see him doing that more and his size. He's a physical presence. He's a tall receiver with speed."

Q: Nobody wanted to see Melvin Gordon hold out, but now that you got him and it's halfway through the season you've got yourself a fresh running back. Could that have been a good thing for you?

Coach Lynn: "You know, he's definitely going to be fresh. This time of year in the past, he's been beat up a little bit. So he was just rusty, but he's gotten better every single week. We had to live with some of those growing pains, but like I said though he's gotten better every single week. He played his best ball so far last week and I'm looking for him to build on that."

Q: What does Shane Steichen bring to your team as a play caller and an offensive coordinator?

Coach Lynn: "You know everyone's familiar with Shane. He's a good communicator. He relates to the guys well and he's just a student of the game. In preseason, we use preseason to develop players and coaches. I let my assistants call plays in the preseason and just his preparation for those games and how he called those games and how he called them with the confidence that he called them with made a big difference. It gave me confidence to make the move that I made to move him into that role. I've been there before. I've told him I've been there and taken over a team during the season and it's not easy to do, so I've been helping him a little bit with that, but as far as calling the plays I don't want him looking over his shoulder. I want him calling the plays the way he sees fit and I jump in whenever I have to."



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Q: What are your thoughts on Thursday Night football, especially when you have to go on the road to play it?

Coach Lynn: "I do know that the fans like it. It's very exciting. It's pretty popular, but it's a hard game for the players because of the recovery time. Especially like you say we have to go on the road. And so you know, we've done it before and we have a schedule that we use to try and help the players recover as quick as possible. So, we'll see what happens."

Q: Do you have any fond memories of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum considering this is likely the last game you will coach here?

Coach Lynn: "Yeah, I mean I just think it's a great place to play football. The fans show you, you know, it's like Halloween every night. They bring a lot of energy to the stadium. It's always been one of my favorite places to play. I think it's a place where your team, they actually kind of galvanize your team because you actually feel like it's you against the world when you're in there."

Q: I know you know Richie Incognito pretty well. Are you surprised that after a year away he is able to come in and play at this high of a level at this age?

Coach Lynn: "You know what, Richie's a pro's pro. I'm not surprised at all. He is playing at a high level. I'm happy for him, but you know he's a man and I can say that he did a heck of a job for us when I had him for two years, but no I wasn't surprised. He's just a pro's pro."