



## ***Oakland Raiders Transcript***

### **Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther**

**Q: What stood out on film? In the second half were the guys on the field too much?**

**Coach Guenther:** "No, it's not that. We just kind of wore down a little. We had some injuries up front. Kind of affected some of the rotations, the guys we had going in there in the game. We had some guys playing a little bit out of position later on in the game."

**Q: Do you see opportunities to create more pressure? How were they able to protect against the pass rush?**

**Coach Guenther:** "They were doing a good job with some of the different looks they were giving us. We had some decent push in there at times. Again, it was just something with the kind of guys we're rolling through there right now. We're still working through that. The new guys we have now. P.J. [Hall] went down there, so it affected some of the things we were doing."

**Q: What do you like about Johnathan Hankins and Clinton McDonald?**

**Coach Guenther:** "We had Clinton in Cincinnati. We drafted him in the seventh round out of Memphis. We found out quick that he was going to be a good player. He's strong. He can play both the nose and the three-technique. We actually... He got traded to Seattle when we needed a corner. We were upset that he was gone. He went to Seattle. But the time I was with him, he fits what we do. He's a good team player. He's serious about his job. He loves football. I'm glad to have him. Hankins, I followed his career at New York and in Indy. He's a big guy in there. He's athletic for a big guy. He fits our nose spot to a 'T.'"

**Q: You're going to need these guys right away, aren't you?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, pretty much. They're the kind of positions where Clinton's played three, Hankins plays nose in a similar defense that we've been in. So, it's not like it's a receiver that has to learn a bunch of plays. Some of the stuff he'll have to know as far as the blitzes and some of that stuff goes, but I think he'll fit in quick."

**Q: On the two deep pass interferences, what small tweaks do you see to correct those?**

**Coach Guenther:** "I thought the one was probably worse than the other. We just have to stay on top of our guy. We knew that they were going to take some shots down the field with [Brandin] Cooks and [Robert] Woods. It was just a bang-bang play. Sometimes that's going to happen. You just have to be in great position and when the ball is...when you're in phase with your man, you have to get your eyes back to make a play on the ball."

**Q: Who was out of position?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Just when Jelly [Justin Ellis] and P.J. went down, it wasn't just a one-for-one. It was three-for-one, so that kind of affected us. What we can actually run and guys are playing positions that they haven't played ever since we've been here. Just the knowledge of some of the stuff that we had up for the game plan got watered down a little bit when those guys were in there."

**Q: I saw Maurice Hurst was on the outside for a little bit.**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, yeah."



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**Q: How do you feel Maurice Hurst and Arden Key's first game went?**

**Coach Guenther:** "I think they did good. I mean the three rookies started in the nickel for us. It's just like any first game, either your college or high school, your first game in the NFL where you're playing real guys. Obviously, we're looking for better. We're looking to get those guys going. But it was their first game, so I'm not going to rush to any judgements on that."

**Q: Bruce Irvin was out there for less than half of the snaps. Was that the way you conditioned him?**

**Coach Guenther:** "No, it's just the course of the game. They were going a lot of no huddle there in the second half. So, you got to really be cognizant of when you sub guys that offense can get on the ball and snap it. So, you have to be ready to do those exchanges. When they're on the ball, it's tough to get the substitutions in. It's like that everywhere in the league."

**Q: What do you like about Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie's game so far? What have you seen from him?**

**Coach Guenther:** "It's kind of the same thing with these new guys, just the knowledge in the system. The corner position is a little more in-depth than say the nose tackle in our scheme. Just the learning of the coverages. He's gotten that pretty good. We'll continue to roll him through with the two other guys this week. I think he's got a lot of juice left in him and he can run and he's big and long, which I like."

**Q: Do you see Karl Joseph and Erik Harris fitting into your system more as the season goes along?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, I do. Again, the nature of the game where you're in that kind of game. They're going fast on offense and there's no huddle for basically most of the game, it's tough to put a guy in there say in the third quarter. When a guy has been in there and kind of has a feel for the game and what's going on, it's tough to say, 'OK, you go in there fresh off the bench.' Like I said, I'm still looking to utilize all the guys, for sure. But the nature of how that game was going, we felt like the guys that were in there had a feel for what was going on. The tempo, the concepts they were running. So, we felt like that was the way to go for that game."

**Q: What do you about the Broncos used their running backs last week? They're pretty interchangeable.**

**Coach Guenther:** "Yeah, they're good players, both of the backs. One guy is more of a one-cut runner and the other guy, No. 30 [Phillip Lindsay], he's got good speed and quickness coming out of the backfield on routes and on perimeter runs. They have two young, good players there for sure."

**Q: What did you see from Reggie Nelson's game on film?**

**Coach Guenther:** "Nothing. I mean, I've seen what I've seen all along. You guys like to beat up Reggie a lot around here, I see. I think that he understands what's going on. He understands what we're looking for in the big picture. I don't think Reggie stuck out any other guy on Monday night. He's going to continue to progress and like I said, utilize everybody back there."



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### **Offensive Coordinator Greg Olson**

**Opening Statement:** “Finished a brisk walk thru and have a big divisional game heading to Denver this week. We are looking forward to getting back on track. Questions?”

**Q: What is it like having Martavis Bryant back in the mix?**

**Coach Olson:** “He looks good. He stayed in shape. He stayed around town so he’s still involved in the game and working out. He retained a lot of the things that we were doing with him previously, so he looks good.”

**Q: When you watched the film what was the difference between the first half and second half last week?**

**Coach Olson:** “Really it was lack of execution, more than anything. Thought we couldn’t get in a rhythm in the second half. If we could have converted a couple of third downs, the manageable third downs that we had, and been able to continue the rhythm that we were hitting them with in the first half I think we would have been okay. Couldn’t find a rhythm there in the second half but it really wasn’t because of mental breakdowns it was more just a lack of execution.”

**Q: Yesterday Derek [Carr] talked about how there is a real fine line that he has to toe. He talked about a play where Amari [Cooper] got open deep and he thought about it but he knew he had Jared [Cook] in a better matchup. Is that a better approach for him to be more conservative or do you want to see him cut it loose and have that gun slinger type mentality like earlier in his career?**

**Coach Olson:** “Yeah, we are always going to be aggressive. I think that is a mindset we have offensively, and we never want him to lose that. We say, ‘let’s be aggressive with the football. Let’s not be careless with the football.’ It’s always an aggressive mindset. Certainly, we could have done a better job in that game on Monday night. Moving forward and throughout his career we are always going to want him to be a guy that can push the ball down the field.”

**Q: How fine is that line between being aggressive and being careless?**

**Coach Olson:** “There is a fine line, but I think as he matures and with experience, an understanding of himself and understanding of the players surrounding him he will become more comfortable making those throws.”

**Q: How do you feel like Donald Penn did last week? What kind of different challenge is he going to see against the Broncos?**

**Coach Olson:** “Big challenge, obviously, last week for our interior guys against the Rams. Against the Broncos certainly those edge players, both Donald and Kolton will have their hands full. I just had mentioned to Donald out on the practice field, we felt as a coaching staff that he really didn’t look out of place at right tackle. We thought there might be some growing pains but really from the first day that we moved him there he looked natural playing the right tackle position. In conversations I had with him he said, ‘I still don’t feel completely comfortable.’ He said, ‘I felt better than I thought I would initially.’ We were happy with how he played. He played aggressive. He played the entire game but looked natural at the right tackle.”



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**Q: On film did you see Amari getting open?**

**Coach Olson:** "Yeah, we saw some instances there on certain plays but depending on where he [Derek Carr] is at in the progression. A lot of what we do, certainly we feel like we have a number of playmakers at the wide receiver position, we go in to each game targeting those top receivers. As you go through the game plan, who is number one, who is number two in the progression? We want those top playmakers being one or two in Derek's progression. We felt like we had a plan going in that we were going to target Amari a number of times and he was going to have a chance to catch a lot of footballs in that game. It didn't play out that way. Certainly we are aware of that."

**Q: Is there a silver lining in that because when you see Amari and Jordy [Nelson] aren't producing, you have Jared that can put up a game?**

**Coach Olson:** "Oh, no question. We are really happy with Jared Cook. We have been since we got here. Again, we went into that game knowing that the real favorable matchups in that game were going to be the tight end and the running back. It's good to see those guys step up."

**Q: Can you talk about Amari and Jared's versatility as receivers?**

**Coach Olson:** "We have to move those guys. Really, to be honest we are going to move Amari and we are going to move Jared Cook. He's a guy, you saw him out there at the single wide receiver spot. He will also be inside as a tight end. That's the versatility of those two players. Certainly, our ability to move them around and give them the chance to make plays will be critical for our success moving forward."

**Q: Speaking of moving guys, I can't help but notice that Johnny Holton is listed as a DB on the practice squad. Is he a cornerback for you guys now?**

**Coach Olson:** "He's just a valuable football player. He's very valuable on special teams but we wanted to find a spot for him on the roster. We managed to put him there where we got, I wouldn't say a log jam at wide receiver, but we got a full room there. We had a roster spot available and we are looking for help in all areas but certainly special teams is a big area we put a big premise on. He's helped us there in the past and we just wanted to get him back on the roster."

**Q: Is that kind of a [Bills RB] Taiwan Jones thing?**

**Coach Olson:** "Yeah, somewhat that way. A great special teams player that's a real fast athlete. Let's let him try a different position and see if he works out there. See if that will stick."

**Q: Kolton [Miller] seemed to hold up pretty well last week but is Denver a great test for him? If he comes out of this game with Denver's outside pressure you got to think you got something pretty special right?**

**Coach Olson:** "I think he's gained the respect, I know he gained the respect of the Rams players he went against last week. You listened to the Broncos this week, I think they gained a level of respect for him in an opening game for a rookie. We like the direction that he is going and he's a young player. We still think the ceiling is very high with him but we were happy with how he came out of that game."

**Q: How do you address the penalties from the first game?**

**Coach Olson:** "We have got to clean that up. Again, we felt good going into halftime with the exception of the penalties. We felt like without those penalties it would have been an even more productive first half. There is a lot of things we need to clean up and penalties is one of them."



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**Q: Have you ever seen someone drag basically the entire defense into the end zone like Marshawn [Lynch] did?**

**Coach Olson:** "That was impressive. I was impressed with everybody, just the energy to open up an opening drive. I know for the Head Coach, that had not coached in ten years, for him to go down that opening drive and see that kind of a drive end with that kind of an effort. Certainly it was impressive for everybody."

**Q: It sounded like Gabe Jackson was just as happy on the touchdown run because he got that push too, right?**

**Coach Olson:** "Yeah. I like the chemistry that we have right now on our side of the ball. I think the players not only like each other, but they respect one another. That's an important part of the locker room."

**Q: There was an early pass in the game where Amari was essentially used as a blocker for Seth Roberts on a quick pass...is Amari's presence still felt even when he doesn't have the ball?**

**Coach Olson:** "He's a strong blocker. He's an unselfish player. He will do whatever we ask of him. He's done that in the run game. Certain times we will use him to crack block on defensive ends. Again, you saw him on the inside wide receiver screen, he is a willing blocker and he's done everything that we asked of him. A very unselfish player and a good teammate."

**Q: Was the turf at all an issue during the course of the game?**

**Coach Olson:** "You know the players have never mentioned that and certainly know the issues with playing in the dirt. A lot of those players go out two hours before the game starts and go out with different pairs of cleats to try to test the best pair that they have for the playing surface that we are playing on. That doesn't change whether we are at home or on the road. A lot of it is on those players in the pregame. They all do it and any team I have ever been on that's part of the pregame process. The players go out and test their shoes on the turf to try and find what gives them the best grip. We addressed it as a coaching staff. We felt the same that we had a number of players that were slipping. So, we just encourage them to try a different set of cleats at home again."