



Oakland Raiders Transcript

Defensive Coordinator Paul Guenther

Q: We saw [Gareon] Conley play a lot fewer snaps on Sunday. What does he need to do to get back on the field more?

Coach Guenther: "Well, [Daryl] Worley came in and played really good for his first game. That added an extra guy to the mix so it's a battle at corner right now. That's the best way I can tell him. Everybody is competing for jobs and we are going to go with the hot hand. That's what he's got to concentrate on this week."

Q: Was that a feel during the game of who is playing well?

Coach Guenther: "I said it last week. I want to eventually get to two starting corners and we are settled there. Obviously, Daryl came back. He was one of our best corners all offseason and he proved it again on Sunday that he is a high-level player. We will just see how it goes; really based upon what the snaps are, the situation, on how guys are playing."

Q: What does Gareon have to do to get to that next level for him?

Coach Guenther: "Again, he didn't play much last year and he's basically a rookie player. He is learning a lot of things. Unfortunately, he gives up the one play off the goal line and we are in a pretty good call to stop it. I don't want to give him too much right now. If we can give him little by little by little just like a normal rookie player. That's how I'm viewing Gareon. He really only played one and half games last year and he sat out pretty much through the offseason. It's no different than a young player. He's a work in progress."

Q: Have you seen Marquel Lee improve in the time you've coached him so far?

Coach Guenther: "Yeah, he's done some good things. I'm sure there is a couple plays from the other day that he'd like to have back but that's everybody. He's done good. He's progressing in the right direction. Obviously, he is playing a lot now, so we are counting on him."

Q: The screens that they beat you on...Is there a common theme on what went wrong?

Coach Guenther: "Well, first touchdown wasn't a screen. We had a blitz on, it was a bad snap and he's trying to get rid of it to get out of a negative play. We got two guys right there at the point of attack so that really wasn't a screen. It was more of a hey, get out of this. If it's incomplete, it's incomplete. It turned into a touchdown. The other screen a couple plays after that, one of the linebackers which happened to be blitzing, he wasn't supposed to be blitzing. He runs up into the line and they get out on a screen and we got the nickel guys sitting out there. I got after them pretty good at half time, saying 'hey guys, we can control what we can control. If we just do what we are supposed to do, we are not going to give up these plays.' Again it's 55, 60 beautiful snaps played right in a row but it's the same thing that's hurting us. We got to work to eliminate those. The only way I know how to eliminate those is every guy do their 1/11th part of the job. When that happens, we play pretty good."

Q: What have you seen in terms of practice approach and the meetings. Everything still looks consistent to you?

Coach Guenther: "To me, guys are working hard. They are studying. I think it's important to them. I think they understand that sometimes players are going to make plays and if I put them in a bad situation with the call I will tell them, 'there will be some times in the game where you are going to have a tough snap', whether it be a defensive lineman or a corner or a linebacker having to cover, 'so if you have a tough snap you got to understand that you have to come up big for us in that area.' Our guys came in today, ready to go to work, ready for the trip, the whole thing. They are excited."



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Q: Jon had talked about maybe Derek Carr pressing. Do you have to coach against that on your side of the ball?

Coach Guenther: "Absolutely. I think I told them during the Cleveland game. There is no 14-point plays in football; so just play one snap at a time, do your job, be where you are supposed to be in your area because like I told you the margin of error is very thin. If we don't have guys in the right spots that's where we kind of have breakdowns. That's really the thing we are trying to eliminate. It's hard, really to emulate in a practice, let's put this coverage or this pressure against this play and you know that's going to happen. That's what you try to do as coaches. Try to work them ahead and say hey this is a tough snap in practice. The more tough snaps you can put them through in practice, the less in games where it's going to be a stress."

Q: What's the hardest thing about defending Russell Wilson?

Guenther: "He's a mobile guy. He can move around the pocket. He's got good arm strength. He can get in and out of plays. He's been a good player for a long time. It'll be a challenge for us, for sure. They ran the ball pretty good, 190 yards against the Rams. That was impressive. They can run and throw it."

Q: Did you get him much when you were in Cincinnati?

Guenther: "I played him in '15. Won in overtime."

Q: What gives you hope that the pass rush can improve?

Guenther: "Just keep working them. We've got some young guys in there. The younger guys are really our top-level guys. There's a fine line between asking a rookie to do too much and rely too much on rookies, instead of taking them through the natural progression they should. We're asking a lot more than typical rookies would do. We just continue to work on them, continue to put them in the best positions on Sundays where they can get a one-on-one or get on a guy that's a good matchup for them. Just keep working at it, that's all you can do."

Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll

Q: When you look at the Marshawn Lynch of the past couple weeks, how does he compare to the guy you had a few years ago?

Coach Carroll: "I think he looks really, very much the same. I really like the way he is playing. I mean last year and this year. He looks in the same style, in the same mode, aggressive and explosive. He's averaging over four yards a carry. I think he's doing pretty good."

Q: What has allowed him to be able to do that at age 32? You don't see a lot of running backs that age still producing that way.

Coach Carroll: "I think he's done a remarkable job of maintaining his fitness. I remarked to him when I saw him the first time he came back around, he was getting going in preseason or whatever, just how fit he was. I don't know what he's doing but I would attribute that to he's really been diligent about maintaining his health and well-being and all."

Q: Your team has had so many huge personalities on it and you've undergone this transition. How different is this team in terms of the daily way they go about their business?

Coach Carroll: "Well, these are guys that are working to take advantage of this opportunity and it's much like it was years ago when guys were starting up. They were seizing the opportunities that were there, figuring out where they fit into the club and how they can figure into the play of the team and all of that. Their personalities emerged as we progressed. That's a pretty natural process and that's kind of where we are right now."



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Q: What has it been like having [Defensive Coordinator] Ken Norton Jr. back?

Coach Carroll: "It's been awesome for me. Kenny and I go way back to when he was finishing up his career at San Francisco and I was there a couple years. When I left there and wound up at USC, I ran into Kenny down in LA at the NFL Network and asked him about coming into coach, so he entered in as a graduate assistant way back when. I've been with Kenny for a good while and I've always admired his manner and the way in how he dealt with people, how he loved the game and the spirit that he brought. When I didn't have him around there was a void, so I was thrilled to get him back and get his competitiveness and toughness back on our club."

Q: What has Martavis Bryant brought to the Raiders offense?

Coach Carroll: "He's huge. He's big and fast and strong. He's just another aspect of the throwing game. They have some weapons. With Marshawn [Lynch] back there and the weapons Derek [Carr] has, you can see the fire power, why they're putting up so many yards."

Q: What growth have you seen from Derek Carr?

Coach Carroll: "I think the normal growth that the guys go through. This is such a hard job. They play on their talent for the first couple of years, then they start to really see things slow down. They come to understand the game and anticipate things. Derek is in the middle of all of that growth. He's just learning it. It's a long process to me. I know Russell [Wilson] is in seven or eight years or whatever it is, and he's still growing and learning and getting better. We just watched a great illustration of [Drew] Brees playing last night. That's the culmination of a full lifetime of playing this game, and they continue to grow. That's what Derek is doing, he's growing. Just like as Russell is. Some days they'll be on those double-digit years and they'll be looking back and pretty much have this position nailed. But it takes a long time. Both of these guys are doing really well."

Q: What's been the difference in your run game?

Coach Carroll: "It's nice to see the productivity coming back. We've had 100-yard rushers for three weeks in a row. It wasn't even the same guys. I like the fact that our consistency and the commitment is starting to show up. We feel like we're just getting started putting our club together. Unfortunately, we're a long ways into the start of the season. We have to get going and do something with it. The biggest aspect of that will be knowing who we are and what we're all about. We want to run the football and run with a real mentality to suite our defense and special teams and the way we play. It's always been our way, we just had some issues at times. With guys being banged up and not getting the right combination of guys in there to make it happen. We feel like we're getting closer. We're starting to make a little move. We'll see how we do this week."

Q: How did you approach the London week in terms of when you decided to head over?

Coach Carroll: "Well it was really a long process. It's been in the works ever since the announcement. Try to make the decisions on how we want to do it judging on how others have done it. Did our homework and our research and made our decisions to take off. We'll be leaving tomorrow night. Just try to maximize the process getting started for the week in the planning stages. Then also try to maximize the recovery so the guys that made the transition and are ready to play at full speed, full performance level."

Q: There are so many connections between these two teams. What does that add to this game?

Coach Carroll: "I don't know for the other guys. I would just say, I've always enjoyed the most playing against the people I like the most. There's guys on the club, coaches and all kinds of connections, general managers. There's just connections across the board. It just makes it fun. If you're competitive and you like competing against the best and your friends. I do. I just look forward to it."



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Q: What are you seeing from Bruce Irvin as a defensive end?

Coach Carroll: "Well, he's an extraordinary athlete. We loved him all the way back to the college days. I tried to get him to USC back in the day and because of his versatility. When I first saw him, he was a strong safety. He has great athleticism and all-around ability and there's nothing that he can't do on the football field. He can cover guys, he can drop in coverage if you want him to and he can rush the passer. He's always, like most guys, going to want to get after the QB, so they have him in a great spot."

Q: What has it been like having Sebastian Janikowski this year?

Coach Carroll: "He's been great to have on the club. He's been a great worker, tremendous competitor, he's come through with some big kicks already and give us a lot of confidence."

Q: What are the overall impressions you have of the Raiders defense thus far?

Coach Carroll: "I just think the team in general has had really good stretches and they have been in command of games at times and shown that they can score, and they can stop you and they can make the plays - the whole thing. I know, just like we are, we're trying to find ourselves and find the consistency that gives us the wins that we want. I see their defense no different. We're in the same boat, we're all trying to get there."

Q: Have you had much of a connection with Coach Gruden over the years?

Coach Carroll: "There's been some. He coached at [University of Pacific] 'UoP' back in the day. The cradle of coaches, you know? *(laughter)* So we have that connection."