



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden



GRUDEN: "I would just like to say to the Chiefs, congratulations. They are a very good football team. We had 12 penalties. I don't think they had any. The turnovers, penalties were a big part of this game. I am not disappointed with the effort of our team, but we got to learn from this and I have to take it upon myself. The penalties and the turnovers are two things that will do you in in big games in December when everything is on the line."

Q: Do you think that first interception was deflating?

GRUDEN: "Yeah, I mean it is no question. You overcome a penalty. You are moving the ball and the interception did not help. It is not the only reason why we lost the game. We had an interception that we felt we did intercept that was turned over by the Wizard of Oz or somebody. I do not know what happened on that. That was a big play in the game no doubt."

Q: What was the most disappointing thing about today?

GRUDEN: "I think our inability to stay away from the penalties and put ourselves in horrible situations. We had the turnovers in the kicking game. I think we had four defensive false starts. We had a pick six. We just never found our rhythm at all. That is disappointing but I know where we are. I know where they are as a football team. We have work to do and we are going to continue to try and catch the Chiefs."

Q: Did the Chiefs stop you defensively or did you stop yourselves?

GRUDEN: "You got to give them credit. That is a good defensive team. They do a lot and they came in with a very unorthodox package. They mixed their coverages and mixed their looks. We had some opportunities, we just did not cash in on them and they did. That is a big part of this game."

Q: How do you asses Derek Carr's play?

GRUDEN: "I will have to look at it. I think it is easy to look at the interceptions, but it is a tough place to play. Tough environment, cold, windy, good defense and we were behind most of the football game. All those things with bad field position and a long way to go are tough on a quarterback."

Q: On Derek's struggles in cold weather...

GRUDEN: “I think everyone struggles to a degree in cold weather. That is why a lot of people move south. I have to do a better job of helping him. I think it starts with me and ends there. He is a good quarterback. I think he has a chance to be great, just wasn’t his day and wasn’t our day.”

Q: Do you need more out of your wide receivers?

GRUDEN: “We do. We have to do a better job as a coaching staff getting our receivers involved. Obviously, we wanted to get Darren Waller involved. We are disappointed we did not get Tyrell Williams more involved. We have probably had more turnover at that position than any team in the league and it is very, very hard on a quarterback. It is hard on player callers. It is hard to game plan, but we are working hard and we are getting better. We do have some good young talent out there, but you are right, we have to get more out of those guys because they are good players.”

Q: How frustrating are the penalties and how do you change it?

GRUDEN: “It is practice. It is discipline. It is understanding Patrick Mahomes. The guys have a tremendous snap count. He gets a lot of people and he got us big time today. I am not going to make excuses. You know young player, veteran player, cold weather, great hard count, you got to watch the ball. You have to have more discipline than we had today and that is a reflection on me.”

Q: Is Mahomes different since his injury?

GRUDEN: “He is something else that guy. He makes a lot of plays when there is nothing there. He also doesn’t miss many when there are plays there to be made. He is a great player and I tip my hat to him and Andy Reid. They have done a nice job.”



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Raiders QB Derek Carr



Q: How frustrating was this?

Carr: "Oh man, very frustrating. Can't turn the ball over and again you've got to give credit to their defense. I pride myself on taking care of the football but they made two extremely great plays. We can't have that happen and that's my fault."

Q: Have they improved defensively since the last time you played them?"

Carr: "Yes. We turned the ball over in the first game and it was miscommunication. Whereas today, they made some plays on the ball. They're definitely an improved group. Great plays by their safeties. Great job by them."

Q: On the Chiefs different coverages and plays they ran...

Carr: "They were running their stuff but just in different ways, different scenarios. It wasn't anything that confused us. They just did a good job on those two turnovers of just making plays. Their safeties, hats off to them. That ball on the first drive, I've completed that a lot of times this year. I've completed the one to Tyrell (Williams) a lot of times. You have to tip your hat to those plays that they made because there are times I can think of right now where we've hit those plays with those looks. They have smart players that fall off and make a play. It sucks to happen right now, but you have to give them the credit because they did a good job on this."

Q: The self-inflicted wounds on the penalties and turnovers, how frustrating is that when you're moving the ball?

Carr: "Penalties and turnovers are killers, no matter when or what they are. They set you back and it's hard to stay on schedule. We'll look at them on tape and correct what we need to on those. Our guys are fighting and sometimes there are close calls in there."

Q: On involving the receivers more than they did tonight...

Carr: "I don't know. We'll have to go look at the film. I leave those kinds of things up to Coach (Head Coach Jon Gruden). My job is to put the ball where coach wants it. I wish I had a better answer for you, but I always leave that up to him."

Q: On that first interception, did you expect that route to be run more shallow than it was?

Carr: “No, 32 (Tyrann Mathieu) just fell off of his responsibility and made a great play. In that type of coverage, I think I’ve completed that ball to Darren (Waller) a lot this year. We’ve made that play a lot. You drop back and as soon as you release the ball you feel good, then you see 32 fall off and make a play. I don’t want anyone to take away anything from the play he made because it was very impressive.”

Q: On focusing on the last four games ahead rather than this loss...

Carr: “It’s hard because it’s fresh. Especially losing two weeks in a row the way we got beat. We’re better than that so it’s frustrating, annoying really. You do your best to make the corrections. You have to go through it with a fine comb because if you don’t it will come up again, and Coach (Head Coach Jon Gruden) makes sure of that. But at the same time, we need to be real at what is still at stake for us. Yes, we got beat twice and yes, they were terrible losses but we play some important games coming up. We play some teams that we need to play to get to where we want to get. If we just want to hang our heads and sulk, we can do that. But that’s never how I’ve been and I don’t think that’s how this group is. Just hearing the encouraging words to each other and to the young guys, it’s very impressive. No one cares about that right now but those are important things. We have four games left, which is a lot of football. There has been crazier things to happen.”

Q: Was the cold weather a factor today?

Carr: “No, I threw the ball fine. It felt great. If we don’t have those two turnovers, we are very efficient. Ran the ball, threw the ball efficiently when we had opportunities and things like that, but then you have two turnovers and then you are like ‘oh gosh.’ Stats, right. I am not into that man. I think we handled it just fine. It was not a factor because I do not want to take anything away from the plays that they made to be honest with you. They made two great plays. If it was 80 degrees or 30 degrees, it does not matter. Those two safeties made two great plays and I tip my hat to them.”

Q: What are you going to replay on the plane ride?

Carr: “You know you just go through, me, every play. You think about everything and that is win or lose. That was just how I was taught. You replay it in your head and you think ‘was there really anything else I could have done in that situation?’ You take that snapshot and try to train yourself. You train your body. You train your mind. Do you make this decision or that decision. There will be time for that tonight and obviously tomorrow. Those are two things you always sit there and try to figure out.”

Q: Were you surprised about the call against you for pass interference?

Carr: “I think the only thing that surprised me on that was that it got overturned because so many of them haven’t. I think there was one earlier in the game too that was challenged. I just thought that was the road we were going down, but then as we are standing there on offense we see them reviewing it. You kind of get a feeling of what might happen when that happens.”



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Raiders Players



TE DARREN WALLER

Q: Was it more of what they (the Chiefs) did defensively, or was this what you did to yourself offensively?

WALLER: "You can give them credit. They did some good things. There were a lot of things that we did to ourselves. We were moving the ball for most of the game. It's about finishing, so I think it's about more what we did to ourselves. We just got to help our defense out a lot more. As hard as they were playing, we just have to execute. There's good things there, but we have to finish as good as the start and middle of those drives."

Q: Has the Chiefs defense improved since the first time you saw them this season?

WALLER: "I believe so. In certain ways, they have gotten better. They do a good job of disguising coverages. They run to the ball well. They play with a lot of energy. It's a pretty good unit, they make plays when they need to. They play good complementary football as a team."

Q: How frustrating was it not being able to find your rhythm today?

WALLER: "It's all about finishing. There were big plays made. We were moving the ball down the field. We just weren't capitalizing on what we were doing. That's just something we have to get better at going forward. We still have a month of football to play to improve on those things. We know what we need to do. We need to get in the film room and check out what we need to do better, which is a lot. I have faith that we're going to keep improving."

Q: How do you get back to showing that you're a developing, really good, talented football team?

WALLER: "I think that thought never leaves our mind, no matter what the results may show. We still have that confidence in ourselves as a team. There are going to be stretches where things don't go your way. It's really easy to continue on your way when things are going well, but how do you respond when things aren't going your way? How do you respond when two weeks in a row you have that nasty taste in your mouth? You bounce back. You don't live in the past. You learn from it and keep moving forward, but don't lose faith in yourself."

C RODNEY HUDSON

Q: How was Coach Gruden after the game?

HUDSON: "He was fine. We just didn't make enough plays, for whatever reason. We got to watch the tape, learn from it and correct it and try and get better."

Q: How frustrating was this because of the self-inflicting mistakes (penalties) that were made today?

HUDSON: "Yeah, don't get me wrong, they're a good team. They won the ballgame. But we did make mistakes that hurt us. We didn't help ourselves today. We got to try and correct that. Don't take no credit away from them. They went out and won the game. They made more plays than we did."

Q: How do you make sure the effects of this game don't bleed into the next one?

HUDSON: "I don't think that's our issue. We work hard. We practice the right way. We didn't make the plays today."

RB JOSH JACOBS

Q: You guys had an opportunity. It was 7-0 and you were moving the football but, you didn't cash it in.

JACOBS: "There were a lot of mistakes we made on offense. Penalties, and things like that, hurt us in the end. The outcome of the game looks a lot worse than what it was. If you look at total yards, and things like that, we were higher than them in all of that. The penalties and turnovers [were the difference in the game]."

Q: Does that make this loss more frustrating [the penalties and turnovers] because you can see it was self-inflicted?

JACOBS: "Of course it does, just knowing the type of team that we have. We have a really good team. We're not necessarily showcasing it right now, which is the biggest thing that's frustrating me. The thing that I like this week, that was better than last week, is nobody gave up. That was huge for us."

Q: Was this Chiefs defense vulnerable? Could you have gone after them in the run game?

JACOBS: "I felt like we did really well in the run game. There were a couple of things I felt like we could have done a little better. But, we were definitely doing good."

Q: Was there any talk on the sidelines that was like, "Hey, this is not who we are?"

JACOBS: "Of course. Of course, you have those talks. We just kept shooting ourselves in the foot. We dug ourselves too deep and it was too late to make a run to come back."

Q: How do you not let what happened last week and what happened today snowball into something? You're still in the thick of this thing with two games at home and four games to go.

JACOBS: “We just come in and work every day. That’s the mentality of everybody in this room. We have a special group and we have a group that wants to be better. I feel like we’re going to come in Monday, try to be better, improve where we messed up today and learn from it.”

Q: In your opinion, where did the game turn?

JACOBS: “I would probably say the pick six. It took the morale. You could feel the emotion. You could feel the swing. In my job as the running back, it’s just to try to inspire the team, inspire the play calling and all of that. I try to do my best. I’ve got to be better.”

DE MAXX CROSBY

Q: How frustrating were the penalties?

CROSBY: “We can’t have it. Too many jumping offsides [penalties]. Too many penalties in general. We’ve got to be more disciplined and just be better as a team.”

Q: If we would have told you, at the end of the week, that you were only going to give up 260 yards to the Chiefs, what would you have thought the turnout would be?

CROSBY: “I don’t know. We lost and we lost by a lot. So, that’s it.”

Q: Has their [the Chiefs] offense changed much since [Patrick] Mahomes got hurt? You saw him for the first time healthy. He’s been banged up for a while.

CROSBY: “It’s similar. They did a lot of different things. They mess with your eyes a lot. And, you know they do a good job. We didn’t do a good enough job today. We’ve got to get ready for next week.”

Q: How frustrating is this [the loss]?

CROSBY: “It’s obviously frustrating. We’ve got to learn from it.”



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid



OPENING STATEMENT: "As far as the injuries go, we had a couple of them. Rashad Fenton tweaked his hamstring as did Darrel Williams, and Frank Clark hurt his shoulder. I think we're going to be ok as we go on with those guys, but we'll see how that goes. Listen, my hat goes off to the Raiders. Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden have done a nice job with that team and then on the other side of that I'm also very proud of our guys. I thought it was a pure team win. All three phases contributed which is important this time of the year. And, some of the young guys, Juan Thornhill's done a nice job. He's been so close on these interceptions and here he gets a big one and Tyrann (Mathieu) got another one which was huge. Between (Rashad) Fenton and (Dorian) O'Daniel taking care of the fumble on special teams. That was a nice thing. Offensively, just the fact of not having the penalties, really on either side of the ball. Not having the penalties, you can do a lot of things. If you do that then you can do a lot of things in the red zone and normally good things happen. Then it was good to get Darwin (Thompson) in and get a few reps as he continues to grow in the NFL and in our offense. All in all, a good win. Time is yours."

Q: What was the key to the penalties, obviously it was a point of emphasis but how did you get there?

REID: "I complement the players on that. Inevitably they're the ones out there playing and they did a nice job with it. It was a mindset that they had and it all worked out."

Q: Were you surprised the first pass interference wasn't reversed but the second one was?

REID: "Yeah, listen, I mean things happen. Obviously, I challenged it because I thought we would have a chance, but it didn't work out and we ended up getting the other one so I'm happy about that."

Q: Do you think they looked at it because it was a turnover or were you going to try to challenge it?

REID: "I didn't challenge the second one, no."

Q: Where do you draw the line between they aren't reversing anything and I have to challenge this call?

REID: "I felt like on the first one I needed to do it. I didn't get the first one so I wasn't sure I would get the second one. But they took care of it and they fixed it."

Q: Overall throughout the season they haven't reversed any, as a coach how do you balance when to challenge it?

REID: "Well, they have and so you have to go off what you see and trust the guys in the box, on the replays and it's a subjective decision. If I think it's right and the right time, then I will do it."

Q: What do you have to say about the defense that's continuing to improve and making plays now?

REID: "I think Spags (Steve Spagnuolo) has done a nice job. The coordinators I thought put together a nice game plan with EB (Eric Bieniemy) on offense and Dave (Toub) on the special teams' side and then Spags on the defensive side. The young guys are gaining experience as we go. We still have plenty of room to improve, but we're seeing improvement as we go every week. That's a plus. We need to keep our foot to the pedal there and keep pushing it."

Q: After not playing LeSean McCoy a couple games ago, speak on his performance tonight?

REID: "He did a nice job and had productive runs today. Look, we're not fooling anybody here and he's not getting any younger. It's my responsibility to manage him the best I can and I think I know him as well as anybody. I'm going to do what I think is right on that and if it's wrong then it's my fault and I'll take that on my shoulders. I know he wants to play every play. He loves to play, but I also have to trust what I do on that part."

Q: How important is it at this point in the season to make plays?

REID: "They've done a nice job and that's a tribute to Brett (Veach) and the guys he has brought in here. They're producing and getting better every week and then their coaches, the time that's being spent with the young guys and catch them up as fast as you can. It's been good that way. There's no better time than right now. Each game is an important game here and as you go. You have to grow fast and they have been working on that."

Q: Despite the points on the board, offensively it didn't look like everyone was in sync at times, what happened there?

REID: "There were enough good things and I didn't mention (Travis) Kelce. Everything is not going to be perfect. You're dealing with some elements now you got to work through those things. There was enough good there that if we start critiquing a couple bad ones then we're missing out on some pretty good ones."

Q: Was the wind more of a factor than we could tell from in the press box?

REID: "You couldn't notice it was windy? It was windy. I thought we did pretty good with it. We had a pretty productive day."



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes



Q: What did it do for you guys today with the interceptions, the pick and Tyrann (Mathieu) setting you up, how did that energize you?

MAHOMES: "It definitely started the game off the right way and got the momentum in our favor. We scored the first time with that touchdown and we fell short on the fourth down, then with the pick six it made our job easy as an offense to move the ball down the field and score points."

Q: What have you seen from Darwin Thompson?

MAHOMES: "He's been working all season long. You saw in the preseason and you've seen it in little spurts, he runs hard. He's a small guy, but he's a stocky guy. He runs the ball hard and he was hitting it and really drained that whole fourth quarter. It was a big drive for him."

Q: When you scored the touchdown was that the called play?

MAHOMES: "I'm not trying to call him out, but Tyreek (Hill), he didn't run the route right and he would've had the touchdown. He was supposed to run a little swing route down the sideline and then I told him if he didn't want the touchdown that I'll take it. He didn't run it the right way, but we found a way to get a touchdown."

Q: What kind of factor was the wind today and was it more so than you have encountered this season?

MAHOMES: "Not necessarily. We've had windy games here like the Vikings game. Obviously I wasn't playing but I've played in a lot of windy games being in Lubbock and at Texas Tech. I understand that it's a factor but as long as you throw spirals you can kind of drive it through the wind. To me, the harder part is when you're throwing with the wind because then you have to judge the deep passes. You saw that one with (Travis) Kelce where I kind of left it up there too much and it kind of floated back to the inside. The wind is part of it. It's part of playing in Kansas City and I take joy in going to practice and working on my game and being able to throw through it."

Q: It seemed like you may have been out of sync offensively at times, did you feel that way and what caused it?

MAHOMES: "I think our standard for ourselves is to score on every drive and so anytime we don't do that we feel like we fell short. I think the biggest thing is going out there and finding a way to win football games. We've been known kind of these last few years of scoring all these points and

putting up all these numbers, but when the defense is playing like that and getting the ball back to you, it's about not turning the ball over and scoring points whenever you get the opportunity to."

Q: With how the team has played and been healthy this week, is this what you expect every week moving forward?

MAHOMES: "That's what we've expected all season long. I think you have seen it week by week the defense getting better. Special teams made great plays today and then the offense, we're just playing with the flow of the game. I mean, we've been in every type of football game it seems like now, so we need to find ways to win each and every game because every game flow is different. I feel like today it was about letting the defense eat and us taking the opportunities to score when we can."

Q: Can you talk about how much of a blueprint today's game was for what needs to come the rest of the season?

MAHOMES: "I think every single game is different. I think that's the biggest thing about it all. It's about not hurting yourself and going out there and executing every defense or whatever coverage that you get. Every single game is going to be different. The Chargers game, the defense played well and we battled through. Today, it wasn't that we didn't play well it was that the defense was playing so well and giving us the short field positions, that we were just trying to execute and score whenever we got them. It was cool when I looked up there I thought we had only scored a couple of times but it was like 31-0. It's about going with the game and finding the best way to win it."

Q: Looking toward New England, is it necessary for you all to go in and win?

MAHOMES: "As far as it looks, you have to go there and win at some point. For us it's about playing a really good football team in an environment where they win a lot of football games and go out there and try to find a way to win. It's been a thing where we came close last year and when Alex (Smith) was here we got to go there and get the win. The guys on the team know how to it's just about finding the best way to do it."

Q: What are you looking for in the matchup between the Texans and the Patriots tonight?

MAHOMES: "Watching the Texans film works out very well for us because they have a lot of the same receivers and running backs and guys that can make plays, and Deshaun (Watson) who can run around and make a lot of these big-time throws. It's going to be good tape for us to see how they go about that. The thing with New England though, is they can change complete game plans every single week. So, we'll watch that but we'll also watch what they have done the entire season and what they have done to us the last few years and try to figure out the best ways to go out there and have a game plan. Whenever they make their adjustments and do different stuff, we're able to combat that with the adjustments on our side as well."

Q: You looked more like yourself out there and getting out of the pocket, are you back to feeling completely 100% again?

MAHOMES: "I definitely feel a lot better coming off that bye week. Being able to get that rest and still do the rehab and the treatment. I think the more time I get where I can be away from that

injury, the better I will feel. So, it definitely felt good being able to run. I got to pick my knees up a little bit and get in the end zone.”

Q: Back to the no penalties, it seemed like you were able to talk the ref out of that first one with Darrel Williams?

MAHOMES: “I don’t know if I necessarily talked him out of it, but I try to plead my case no matter what happens. All I kind of said was we had designed the play and we knew the defense we were getting and we knew they were going to run at the line of scrimmage. We told Kelce that if he’s at the line of scrimmage, you can kind of give him a little chip. He did that and it was a rule so whenever the refs confirmed with each other, they both saw that and it was a legal play.”

Q: So, I’ll take that as a yes?

MAHOMES: “I’ll always try to plead my case (laughing).”



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Oakland Raiders

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Game 12

Chiefs Players



K HARRISON BUTKER

Q: How was it kicking in the weather conditions today?

BUTKER: "It was super windy. There were constant winds of 22 miles per hour to start the game, with gusts up to 40 miles per hour. Really windy, but luckily, we've had a couple of games with that northwest wind. So, going into the game, we knew what to expect. Whatever the wind is above the stadium is going to be the opposite of what it is in the stadium, because it comes down and kind of circles around. That 50-yarder going to the north endzone, I think I actually had the wind behind me for that. It was fun. Keeps it interesting, I guess."

Q: Were you nervous at all about the challenges that wind could present coming into the game?

BUTKER: "I don't know about nervous. It is something that you have to prepare for as best as you can. If you're kicking indoors, there's no wind and you can kind of just focus on your technique. But when it's windy, you have to change where you're aiming, and you have to change what you're doing with the hold and everything. It adds another element. I guess that's what makes NFL kickers NFL kickers, being able to handle that."

Q: What type of momentum does today's win give the team heading into the final stretch of the season?

BUTKER: "We knew that this was going to be a huge game going into it. It's a big rivalry game against a good Raiders team. We got that win at home, which was crucial, but we have a big game next week. Just keep winning and doing our thing and everything else will take care of itself."

S TYRANN MATHIEU

Q: What was it like getting Kendall Fuller back in the secondary?

MATHIEU: "Any time you get a guy like him, who is a veteran, a true team player who can come in – kind of like myself – and play multiple positions, it allows us to have some integrity within our defense. A lot of people don't know what's going on and where I'm lining up at, so the more and more guys that we can put on the field to help disguise the whole integrity of our defense, I think it will help us out collectively going forward."

Q: What are your thoughts on Juan Thornhill getting his first career INT return for a TD?

MATHIEU: "Big time. Pissed off that he missed a sack (*laughter*). DBs, we don't have too many games where we can get a sack, touchdown and interception. But he's playing great ball. He's making some big-time plays for us, making some tough tackles. He's coming out of his shell, especially in practice with the way he is communicating. Some days I don't say anything, I just let him run the show. He is handling it well."

Q: Was there something that you saw on film that allowed you to get a read on what Derek Carr and the Raiders offense was trying to do?

MATHIEU: "I think the biggest thing is that we knew that when he did take shots down the field, we were able to understand it pre-snap by the formation, and it would put us in a position to make a play. Derek is going to try to take care of the football. Tight ends, running backs, check-downs, that's kind of his game. I was glad that we were able to capitalize on him when he did try to throw the ball down the field."

Q: On your INT, did you just kind of break it off and read Carr to make the play?

MATHIEU: "Yeah, I just watch a lot of tape, man (*laughter*). Once I see something, I just see it. Sometimes I make it, sometimes I don't."

Q: What do you think about going to New England and playing the Patriots next week? How do you like your chances?

MATHIEU: "I like our chances. I think this week of practice really will be about assignment discipline and technique discipline. That's what the Patriots are going to do. They are going to run the ball. They are going to throw screens. They are going to wait for you to get out of a gap. They are going to wait for a deep safety to not be deep. It starts with me this week in practice, just getting the guys ready, setting the tempo early in the week and letting them know that we have a big game this week."

RB DARWIN THOMPSON

Q: How did it feel to get your first career TD?

THOMPSON: "It was good. It felt good. I felt a lot more comfortable out there. It was just, 'Go play your game.'"

Q: Who was the first player to congratulate you after the TD?

THOMPSON: "My eyes were just closed, and I was just looking at the ground like, 'Man, I'm tired.' But it was all of the O-linemen – Austin (Reiter), and then Patrick (Mahomes) carried me off the field. My stomach was hurting when I was on his pads. I was like, 'Pat, put me down, I can't breathe.' But yeah, they all showed love."

Q: Do you still have the football from the TD?

THOMPSON: "Somebody has it. Sherm (Anthony Sherman) told me that he grabbed it and would make sure that I get it."

Q: You led the team in rushing today. What have you figured out between Week 1 and now that has led to having some comfort with the offensive line?

THOMPSON: "Be me. Ultimately, after a little while, I was tired and just running off of reactions. It was just about being me. You know the reads. You know how to run the ball. You've been doing it all of your life. Just be you. Don't try to do too much. Don't try to be a superhero. Just play your game."

S JUAN THORNHILL

Q: Is this defense getting better every week?

THORNHILL: "That's what we plan on doing, going up from here. There isn't going backwards because we have to make a statement. We have to prove we can do it every single week."

Q: What did you see during your interception?

THORNHILL: "I was just doing my job. I saw the receiver break in, and I took the opportunity and jumped it and took it to the house."

Q: Was that interception the culmination of your season so far?

THORNHILL: "I am just trying to stay focused and do what I've got to do and do my job. That will allow me to make more plays. When I am trying to do too much, that doesn't allow me to make those plays that I want to make. When I finally got the opportunity to make one, I had to go take advantage of it."

Q: What does this game mean to the whole defense?

THORNHILL: "This game means a lot, honestly. The defense stepped up and played a heck of a game. The defense is the talk of the town all of the time. We had to step up and show what we could do."

Q: Will a win next week at New England establish anything for this team?

THORNHILL: "We are taking it one step at a time. They say it doesn't mean anything but every game means something. You are always going out there and try to win. You never let up for anybody. We are definitely going to go out there and play our best game."

Q: What did you see from Derek Carr that you were able to get so many good jumps on the ball?

THORNHILL: "We just studied, studied all week. He wasn't really giving us much. We were just doing what we have to do and doing our job and it was allowing us to make more plays."

WR MECOLE HARDMAN

Q: What does it mean that late in the year, the defense is stepping up?

HARDMAN: "Sometimes it will go our way, on offense you have to get the momentum going, get the train rolling. The defense did a great job. They played a great game. Now we just have to feed off of the momentum and go from there."

Q: What does a big win like this mean right before you go to New England next week?

HARDMAN: “Any win is a good win, in this league. We just have to carry the momentum from this game over to next week. It was a division opponent. We went up in the division, which is great. One of our goals is to win our division and then get to the playoffs. There is a bigger goal from that. We just want to keep this momentum and keep the train rolling into next weekend.”

TE TRAVIS KELCE

Q: How much of this big offensive output was preparation over the bye week and how much of it was more reps with a healthy team?

KELCE: “It is just a nonstop focus on the little things. The biggest thing you want to do going into the game, is not lose the game. Personally, the penalties, mistakes, drops, you have to make a non-stop conscious effort on doing the little things and not hurting the team.”

Q: What did you see from the Oakland defense that led to your success today?

KELCE: “They put together some stuff that was different from the last time we played them and the last couple of games that they have had. Hats off to them for switching it up. I don’t think it was anything we weren’t ready for, we just have to go out and execute.”

Q: Do you feel like the Patrick Mahomes we saw today is like the version we saw last year, in regard to all of the things he can do?

KELCE: “We always know who Patrick Mahomes is. Don’t ever get it twisted. Whether it looks like we are struggling on offense or whether we are throwing it around and putting up 40 points. We have all the faith in the world in what Patrick has out there in regard to instincts and how he plays the game.”

Q: It is just the third time that you, Patrick Mahomes and Tyreek Hill have played in the same game together. Does that have anything to do with your timing?

KELCE: “I think the flow of the game is a little more smooth when we have all of the weapons out there, like we had today.”

Q: Some people are saying next week’s game against New England isn’t a big game. Do you see it as an opportunity to make a statement?

KELCE: “I think it’s an opportunity, like every single week, to play football and play your tail off for the guys next to you and try to come out with a win. It is what it is. Everyone is looking at what happened last year in the AFC Championship Game and they want to see a rematch but I think we are just going to take it one game at a time and see where everything unfolds.”

DT CHRIS JONES

Q: Comments on the performance of the Chiefs defense:

JONES: "I think we played pretty well. We have to do better in the run game. I think we gave up 111 yards, so we definitely have to get better at that. Overall I feel like we played okay. There is still room for improvement."

Q: Are you taking steps in the right direction?

JONES: "That's what it is all about, progression. Each week that is what we plan around, getting better each week, each game. I feel better than we were two weeks ago."

Q: How does it feel to be in control of the AFC west?

JONES: "It feels like every other win. Every win in this league is important, especially against a division rival. We came out and executed well. The defense played their butts off. My guy Juan (Thornhill) got his first interception for a touchdown. You want to see things like that but most importantly, I think it was about the win."

Q: Do you want to establish anything against the Patriots next week?

JONES: "We know Tom Brady and Bill Belichick will have an excellent game plan. We know what we are against and you've got to have preparation. Preparation is the key to those guys. You have to prepare better than them."

Q: How do you feel like the secondary is playing here recently?

JONES: "They played exceptional. Two picks for them today, right? T5 (Tyrann Mathieu) got a pick and that started us off. I think it was second down and T5 got the pick. Those things can add a spark to the defense. They gave us enough time to affect Derek Carr. We forced them to throw and we were able to get after Derek Carr. That's what we expect them to do. You bring in a veteran guy like T5 to coach the younger guys around him. That's nothing but expected by T5."