



OAKLAND RAIDERS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

HARD ROCK STADIUM

NOV. 5, 2017 | 8:30 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Miami Dolphins Head Coach Adam Gase (transcribed by Michelle Stone)

(You look at this game at a whole, tough to overcome penalties. You had 11 penalties, 107 yards. It seemed like most of them came at big times where it really would have been tough to continue drives.) – “There might have been 21 penalties between both of us. It seemed like theirs almost came on one drive where there was back-to-back penalties. Ours were coming at really poor times where we had some good plays and (they) get called back. Hard to recover from it.”

(Defensively you didn't seem to have an answer for the tight end. It seemed like TE Jared Cook was available pretty much all day long.) – “He is a tough player. We didn't really seem to have ... We didn't make that play that we needed to make to tie him up, whether it be through the rush or coverage. I know we tried a whole bunch of different things, but he seemed to find a way to get open.”

(Do you feel like you guys played well enough to win this football game?) – “We've got to eliminate the penalties. It's hard to win. The fumble, that's at a terrible time. We talked about it all week as far as not turning the ball over against this group, because we couldn't afford to. We just knew the success rate that (Raiders Head Coach) Jack (Del Rio) has had when his team wins the turnover battle. We did it at a very poor time. We probably could've had some points there. We've just got to make sure that we don't do that.”

(How would you assess QB Jay Cutler today?) – “I think he played well. He did a good job of getting the ball out of his hands. He threw it away a couple of times. We've just got to find ways to protect him a little better. We've got to be a little more consistent. When we did have some good runs, we had some penalties that pushed us right back to first-and-20 or second-and-20.”

(The running backs, how do you think they did?) – “It's hard to tell without watching tape. We had a couple of runs that popped out of there. I feel like they had a couple of good runs, but we had those penalties on a couple of good ones. We did good in the passing game. With what they were doing outside, they were trying to take away ... DeVante (Parker) and Jarvis (Landry) were on the same side. They were playing some coverages where it left the backs one-on-one with the linebackers and that was a good matchup for us.”





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(Certainly the [Raiders] secondary going in this game was pretty banged up. You seemed to throw the intermediate pass. Was there any thought to try to get downfield against these guys?) – “We tried a couple of times but every time we tried to call one the corners were bailing and were way off, and a couple of times they caught us in a two-high shell. They were clouding us in man-cover-two...I'd ask them what they were going to play, but I don't think they were going to tell me.”

Miami Dolphins Quarterback Jay Cutler (transcribed by Daniel Chavez)

(Jay, this is one of those games where it looked like the opportunities were there for you guys to win this football game. There were penalties, turnovers...) – “Yes, I don't know how many penalty yards we had, but I know it was a lot. A lot of holding calls, a lot of good field position that second half and it seemed we were going backwards there a few times.”

(How'd you hold up physically?) – “I felt good. The offensive line did a great job. They've got some premier pass rushers over there and they played really well.”

(Have you played with a vest before or is this the first time you've had to play with the vest?) – “No, I've always played with a vest.”

(Was this a big difference running this offense? It seemed like you're trying to get running backs the ball in space a lot more?) – “Yes, we saw a lot of zone, a lot of soft zone. I thought Adam (Gase) did a great job calling plays, getting the ball out of my hand and letting the playmakers get it early and let them run.”

(What's the frustration level with this football team right now?) – “I think we just have to look at the positives; offensively, we did some good things tonight. If we eliminate some of those penalties and that turnover when we're driving, and we're in good position. We're 4-4 at the halfway point. (There is) a lot of football left to play. There's a lot of opportunities for us to put it together.”

(It seemed like a lot of dinking and dunking and a lot of short stuff until the fourth quarter when you started going deep. Was it just a case of just taking what they were giving you? What were they doing for you to keep you from going down the field?) – “Playing soft zone. That's what they gave us pretty much all game and then we got into a situation where we had to push it a





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little bit and even then, DeVante (Parker) makes a heck of a catch in Cover 2 in the hole over there. Julius (Thomas) makes a catch in Cover 2 in the middle of the field. We still didn't ... we weren't able to push the ball down extremely far because they were playing soft zone against us."

(What did you see from the offense that you liked and things you can build on?) – "Whenever we weren't going backwards from holding calls, I thought we had a really good rhythm. Guys were on the ball. I thought we mixed it up really well with our tempo. I got the ball out of my hand and got it to the guys that can make some plays. The running game, we had a few big runs that were sprinkled in there. (There were) a lot of positives. I think we're going to look at the film and discuss some of these calls that we got against us. We've just got to clean it up for next week."

Miami Dolphins RB Kenyan Drake (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(What did you see on film that led to that strategy and do you think that's something we will see more of?) – "We just wanted to create mismatches out on the perimeter with the versatility that we have between me and Damien. I think we were able to execute that. We kept putting ourselves behind the eight ball with penalties and things of that sort. As long as we keep momentum going on drives and don't hurt ourselves, I feel like we will have success moving forward."

(What happened on the fumble?) – "I need to make sure that I'm mindful of keeping it high and tight. They do a good job of ripping at the ball and it was a costly fumble because they went down and scored on the same possession. It was a however point swing so I obviously need to be mindful of that. I can't let that happen."

(It seemed on TV that we saw a lot of guys tried to pick you up. Is that what happened?) – "For sure. We're a team, we're a family. Everybody was very receptive to understanding that I was down at the moment. They were definitely trying to help me... uplift my spirits because we had another three quarters."

Miami Dolphins Safety Reshad Jones (transcribed by Daniel Chavez)





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(What are your thoughts on that unnecessary roughness call?) – “The referee made the call, I don't think it was unnecessary roughness, I thought he turned his head, got around, and I made a good play but the referee made the call so it is what it is.”

(Is there anything you would have done differently about that play?) – “No I couldn't have done anything different.”

(What were some of the overall factors that led to the Raiders having almost 300 passing yards?) – “Those guys did good, they did a good job of catching the ball and being where they're supposed to be. We just have to break down the film and do better and give credit to those guys, they made enough plays tonight to win the football game and we didn't.”

(You guys are 4- 4 at the halfway mark, do you feel that is representative with the team and how you guys are playing so far?) – “Not at all, not at all, it's the NFL, it's a tough league to win in. We just have to get back to the drawing board and start some practice.”

(Is there anything you would have done differently about that play?) – “No I couldn't have done anything different.”

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Miami Dolphins WR Jarvis Landry (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(You set the all-time NFL record tonight for the most receptions by any player in their first four years. I know this is a team game, but for you, for that kind of accomplishment, what does it say?) – “It's a tremendous feeling. It's something I feel like I can't be proud of with the loss. I'd rather take the win. It's definitely a milestone for me. I guess I'm proud of myself.”





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(Do you feel like after Head Coach Adam Gase called out the offense last week that you guys sort of stepped it up this week?) – “We did the best that we could. It’s always tough – like I’ve been saying for weeks now – when you’re in first-and-20, second-and-25 and third-and-30, it’s going to be tough to get a first down, and we were in that position a lot; and when we weren’t, we were moving the ball well.”

(What did you think of QB Jay Cutler’s return tonight from the broken ribs?) – “It was good. It’s something we all know Jay can do. It was good to have him back out there. It felt good to have him back out there. I wish we could have put this one together somehow, though.”

Miami Dolphins DT Ndamukong Suh (transcribed by Ted Leshinski)

(Suh, first of all how are you feeling? You went out of the game for a while. You were able to come back and play?) – Yeah. Unfortunately it’s football. I got tangled up and lucky enough I had the opportunity to come back. “

(When you look at yourself defensively – first half, good job against the run but there were third downs, third and longs, they were able to convert most of the time to the tight end. How frustrating does that get for you as you move along and try to stop that football team early on?) – “I think we understood what they wanted to do, we allowed them to stay on the field. We weren’t getting off the field on third down. We were putting them in situations that we wanted to be in but at the end of the day we’ve got to find ways to get off the ball, make plays and get off the football field.”

(Raiders QB Derek Carr seemed like he was able to get the ball out quickly. He didn’t get a lot of pressure on, maybe a little bit late in the game, but early on it seemed like he was getting pushed but not enough to get him off his game. Were they doing something different?) – “He’s the best in the NFL. He’s getting the ball out in under 2.3 seconds. So, we understood that we have to continue to press no matter what. At some point in time he’s going to hold the ball. The times that he did I felt like we did our jobs to get back there. The other side of the ball we needed to figure out how we could knock balls down and obviously knock passes down to get off the field. We didn’t do enough. It’s as simple as that.”

(Did you feel like you guys played well enough to win this football game?) – “No. We gave up way too many points. Obviously I think they ended up having 27 it’s not going to be winning football, if they’re scoring 27 points.”





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(You're 4-4 now. You've got a big game coming up next week, another Monday Night game on the road in Carolina. They're another very good football team. How do you bounce back from this one and get ready for them?) – "Every game is big in this league and obviously no matter who you are playing it's going to be a tough opponent. Obviously knowing who we have in Carolina ... they've got a great offense, a great quarterback and some weapons that we need to go and stop. But we're going to go back and look at the film tonight and tomorrow morning and figure out what mistakes were made because it's a copycat league. They're going to find ways to either do the same things or see things that we did in the past that we weren't as good at and try to attack it. We've got to clean those mistakes up in practice."

(You looked like you were in pain when you walked off the field and went into the locker room. You came back and played. Is there any reason to think that these injuries may hold you from playing next week?) – "I don't make those calls. You're going to have to talk to Coach Gase about it and we'll go from there."

(Ndamukong, there's been a lot of points the last three weeks. Do you feel there's been anything missing defensively?) – "I think we miss tackles. We weren't getting off the football field. It's a combination of things. But, it's primarily those two pieces."

(And the stuff you didn't see early in the season when things were going better?) – "I think we were tackling a lot better. We were finding ways to get balls out and then obviously create turnovers in some aspects, especially the Jets game last time we were at home. We've got to find way to get back to that football."

(You had one of the few real open pass rushes where you knocked the ball out of QB Derek Carr's hand. Was the field hard? They were talking about the turf being wet or somethings?) – "No. I don't feel like the field was of any particular issue for me personally. Maybe some of the other guys had a little struggle but as professionals you understand what cleats you need to wear and be prepared to go out there and deal with all conditions."

(To be 4-4 right now, do you feel like that's a big underachievement for this team?) – "Nobody wants to be 4-4. We've had opportunities to win games. We've had every opportunity to in all eight games that we've played so far to win. Unfortunately we haven't and we're going to go able to go from there. Luckily it's half way so we can figure out a way to still get into the games





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and obviously the playoffs. That's our ultimate goal and we still have that opportunity. We've just got to go out there and focus and understand what we need to do to get wins."

Miami Dolphins TE Julius Thomas (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(You seemed to have an offensive rhythm out there.) – "Yeah, it was a tough loss. We had a good team at home and they edged us out in the end. We were able to do some good things offensively but we've got to continue to cut back on turnovers. It's just stalling a lot of our drives and really keeping us from putting more points on the board."

(Eleven penalties tonight. How do you win when you have that kind of number on the board?) – "It's tough. It's really tough to beat a good team when you hurt yourself. That's something that we have to address as a team. Eleven penalties is too much. We work too hard every day, every week, to go out there and make it even harder on us to win a game. Half of the season is done and the second half of the season we really have to come out and play more disciplined football."

(The way that Jay played tonight considering his rib injury, what are your thoughts on it?) – "I think that you are seeing our offense is continuing to grow. We talked about some of the obstacles we've had and trying to get that chemistry and grow as an offense. We're showing each and every week that we're able to have spurts where we're doing the things we want to do but it is going to take continued work. That's something that we have to keep getting after. Jay played really well tonight. We have just got to continue building on what we did do well."

(After the shakeup that occurred in this locker room this week, what was the thought process going into the game for this offense and do you guys feel like you played up to the level you were anticipating?) – "The thought process for this offense is to continue to do what we have to do to put points on the board. I'm not sure how many points that we scored today but we scored more than we did the week before. We're going to have to continue to find ways to score more points just so that offensively, we can do our part."

Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(It was tough getting pressure on Raiders QB Derek Carr today. What was going on?) – "A couple of things. They had situations where they had max protection, blocked it up. They were chipping on the edge, a lot of different things to keep themselves clean. At the end of the day, I'm not





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surprised. I'd probably do that to us as well. You can't be frustrated by it. You can't use it as an excuse. You've just got to go out there and if you have to fight through two or three (blockers), you've got to do it. So that's the mindset I think everybody has. You've still have to get your job done, regardless."

(The first half must have been frustrating. You guys played very well against the run, putting them into third-and-long situations – situations that really played into your advantage – but they were able to make the plays and continue to drive down the field. That had to be discouraging.) – "(It was) definitely frustrating. Obviously the number one priority usually going into weeks is stopping the run. I think we did a decent job of that, but you stop the run so that you do get in that third-and-long situation, so that the guys up front can get after the pass rush, things like that; but they made a few more plays than we did when it came time to get off the field. By the time we started clicking, it seemed like it was too little too late, and that's unfortunate because you have to treat every play like 'this is the play that's going to change the game,' and literally one play either way – in our favor or to our detriment. They made one more play than we did."

(This was one of those games where you have to look back and feel like there were certainly opportunities, both offensively and defensively, to win this football game and they were left out on the field.) – "Without a doubt. This wasn't one of those games ... I mean literally, we felt like every time we were on the field, we had a chance – all the way down to the very end; but that's this league. Most of the games are going to come down to one score and that means one play, whether it's in their favor or not. Again, you look back to the few plays they made earlier on in the game, those could have been the plays that change the game. The few plays that we didn't make on offense obviously played in their favor. So you can't wait until the end of the game to turn it on – which I think we did – but you have to play from the start as soon as they drop the ball, all the way to the end. Like I said, it was too little too late."

(Did you have a conversation with anybody – I think it was (Amari) Cooper that caught the ball – it looked like it hit the ground. They ended up going down and scoring on that drive.) – "Yes, I saw it. It was hard to see on the replay. I don't think I was on the field at the time, but it was quick. They came back with the quick snap of the ball, so whatever decisions you made, you had to make them fast. I don't know if you've seen the play. I don't know if it was an incomplete pass or not, but at the end of the day it didn't matter because we didn't challenge it, so you just have to move on and play the next play."

Miami Dolphins RB Damien Williams (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)





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(Do you feel like some things were better today?) – “I felt like we were moving the ball pretty well, but at the end of the day, its penalties. You can't have them.”

(Your touchdown where you got knocked back and spun back around, what happened on that play?) – “It was just an effort play. I'm just showing you who I am every day. I don't quit. I don't go out of bounds for nobody. It is an effort play. They gave up, I didn't.”

(You were talking about how patient you've been waiting for your chance. This is your first really big chance here. How did you feel like it went?) – “I feel like it went okay. I feel like I could have done better in some areas, but as far as the running game, getting a feel to be faster and quicker, but I feel like it's a process. It is just the first one.”

Oakland Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio (transcribed by Ken Mendonca)

(Opening Statement) – “(It was) nice to start the second half (of the season) with a win. I thought there were some moments of some good complementary football, the kind we're going to need to play this second half of the season. An example being the way we started the second half, where the defense goes three-and-out, and the offense takes the ball in good field position and goes down and punches it in. Those are the kinds of things we're looking for. We wanted to get our rush attempts up, up around 30. I think we got that done. That's going to be a factor for us as we go through the second half of the season. In order to do that, you know as I've said all year, you've got to make plays on third downs to sustain drives, and we did that. So overall, a real solid win on the road. (We're) ready to get home. (Our) guys are ready to get back. It was great being in Sarasota for the week. It was a nice change up, but I know the guys miss their families (and are) looking forward to getting home.”

(Miami Dolphins QB Jay Cutler seemed to dink and dunk a lot, what was your strategy against him? Was it to try to keep them in front of you?) – “We definitely didn't want them to go over the top of us. He was patient. We didn't hit him as much as I would like to have seen. Part of that is he had some throws available and he was taking them. The bottom line was to keep the point total down, and I think we did that for the most part tonight.”

(You had a couple of turnovers at midfield, but the Dolphins weren't able to cash in on either of those.) – “Yeah, that was a big key right there, I think going out and getting stops there. That's





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the idea of getting it done as a team, finding a way to play complimentary football, and doing enough to come out of here with a win.”

(This was Marshawn’s (Lynch) biggest game. It seemed like coming out in the second half you made a concerted effort to get him on track?) – “Yeah, we wanted to run the ball. We wanted to be able to run the ball. Still not quite what we’d like to have, but it was good to see some moments where it came together the way we’re wanting to see it done.”

(And TE Jared Cook?) – “He was outstanding. We hit him early and often. To get started early in the game and went with him, a couple of really big third down conversions, and he was a big factor for us tonight.”

(There was a second quarter swing with the onside kick that really could have hurt you guys, and the forced fumble that followed. Can you discuss both plays? Obviously one negative, but the response from your defense?) – “Yeah, I think the key there is not the fact that they happened, but how we responded to those things happening, and that was critical. It was an excellent job going out and putting the fire out.”

(You ratcheted up the intensity in practice this week, and the focus was out there during the game. Can we expect more of that during practice as we’re going forward?) – “Yeah, I think we do a pretty good job of working at it. I think it’s a matter of getting here and executing on game day.”

(The pressure on Cutler, did you do a better job second half of getting pressure on him?) – “I mean yeah, it was there. It was a little spotty really. I just feel like we’ve got some guys that can get there more consistently, and we’ll look to get that done. We’re a heck of a lot better when we’re knocking that quarterback down.”

(You talked about getting your mojo back during the week, do you sense this is the foundation of getting that back?) – “Yeah, winning helps. You gotta win. The guys have been great. We believe we have a good team. We understand the first half (of the season) didn’t go the way we wanted, and we started the second half with a big road win. So, we’ll travel back and get a little break this week. We’ll dig in a little bit to some self-scouting, a little bit on the Patriots, and then we’ll have a little break and get back at it the following week.”





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(What was going through your mind on the (Marshall) Newhouse play, when he turns up with the ball?) – “I mean you can see he’s an athlete. He was going to go at least another four, five yards. That’s one of those, “Get down, get down.” He saw the end zone. I don’t even really think he was thinking first down. He was thinking, “I’m going score.” That’s what those big guys do. We try to get them to think about just locking up the ball and protecting it, but they can’t help it. They’re going for the end zone.”

(You guys had a sense of urgency this week, how do you maintain that?) – “We understand that’s a must. We understand where we are. I know there are a lot of things that happen throughout the weekend, and a lot of them were good things for us, starting with us winning the game. When you look up, you’re going to be right in the thick of it, before you know it. But what we need to do right now is just keep playing good football, find a way to just stack some wins together.”

((WR Johnny) Holton’s got two catches on the year, are you saving those plays up for the right time, I guess?) – “Ah Johnny can go get it man, he’s got deep speed and he showed some on both the catches.”

(Coach, can you expound on Jared Cook and what he brings to your offense?) – “Well, he’s a matchup problem. We’ve had our issues defending other guys like that around the league, the last couple of years. This year we set out to get one of our own, I feel like we have acquired one of our own. Tonight was an example of it. He can be a real factor, he can be a matchup problem for people, and I thought he did a great job tonight.”

(Stacking these wins...) – “Stacking. We’ve got one. We want to go 1-0 each week. That’s what we’re after. Obviously we get a chance to get a little break and then we’ve got a big, a tough assignment on the road, I mean, at home, down in Mexico.”

Oakland Raiders QB Derek Carr (transcribed by Max Lerner)

(Your thoughts on the game) – “We won. That’s what we needed. We worked really hard. We had a good week of practice. I think that our energy, our intensity carried over to the game. Our Wednesday, Thursday practice were some of the most competitive we’ve had in a while. We have to bring it in practice, we have to bring it in our meetings and when we do that, the outcomes take care of themselves.”





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(How much did third down conversions seem pretty big tonight?) – “Yes. One thing is that coach wanted to get our run game going to help the pass attack, the play action and all that kind of stuff, which it did. When you do that, it puts a big emphasis on third down, and that’s how this game works. If you want to do something, it’s going to be tough on one end. Same thing with playing defense: if you want to take something away, it’s going to be tough on one end. It works both ways on the mental side. If you want to run the ball and those things, it’s going to make it a little tougher on third down, but I thought our guys did a great job. We had a few missed opportunities. One, I had to throw a little early to ‘Coop’ (Amari Cooper) (that) I wish I had back. Throw it a little early keep it more outside. But that kind of stuff, that’s ok, that’s going to happen. My goal is to complete them all, I’m mad at myself when I don’t, but if those are the mistakes, we’re going to be ok.”

(Can you talk about TE Jared Cook? It seemed like he was phenomenal today.) – “Absolutely. He’s phenomenal all the time. You talk about a guy ... There is no secret to why he has been in the league for so long. We have young players, and I tell them ‘There is no secret why this guy is still playing and playing at a high level.’ It’s the way he works during the week. On a Friday – usually Fridays are slowed down tempo – if Jared is on one of those routes where he needs to get it again, he’s almost full speed. Just the way he prepares, the way he practices, I love talking to him, I love picking his brain. We have our own little set of signals and things that we do together. We have a good little chemistry going. It’s a good thing for ‘Coop’ (Amari Cooper), ‘Crab’ (Michael Crabtree) and our wide receivers and our run game when we can get Jared involved, because then they try to take him away and leaves one-on-ones.”

(You guys were able to get RB Marshawn Lynch going a little bit. What it mean to have him back after not having him last game? How important was that?) – “A lot more jokes. A lot more of him talking trash to me, which is good. It keeps me on my toes. To have him back, he’s our brother and we love him. We love playing with him. We love practicing with him. He’s just a good teammate; he really is. He’s fun to be around. He does a good job with those young backs and teaching them and talking to them. So, having him back and getting him going ... I think he had a couple of touchdowns, right? Being able to get those two touchdowns, I know that was big for our team. The more that we can run the ball, the more stress it’s going to, honestly, just being honest, take off of me, and I’m all for that.”

(Was there something in the tape that made you think that tight end was going to be a good option for you?) – “There are definitely times ... It just depends how they decide to come out and play it. You see things and ... Each route – while game planning – is designed for specific





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looks that they've shown and things that we have seen in their past or things that they could do. We had a good pressure package plan, because we knew some of the things that we've done and some of the things that could show up because of things that they've shown. It's a big chess game. I say all of that to say, yes, there were things that we saw to get Jared (Cook) the ball. There were also things that we saw to get 'Coop' (Amari Cooper) and 'Crab' (Michael Crabtree) and Seth (Roberts) the ball. We were able to obviously get it to Jared a little bit more. But one thing about our guys, (they are) very selfless. Wwe just want to win. That's what we have to do right now."

(Desperation is a strong word, but given the situation that this team was in going into this game, knowing it was an all or nothing contest in a way, do you think the team responds well to those types of situations? Do you think that's something that's maybe going to get that level up to where it wasn't in the first half of the season?) – "I hope so. It really comes down to Wednesday and Thursdays, the way we practice, and obviously, the other days too, but I'm just saying those are our full-speed days. We have to bring. We have to be intense. We have to get after each other a little bit. It has to be a little bit uncomfortable. Guys were a little chippy this week, myself included. We were a little edgy, but it wasn't in a bad way. If it was, coach (Jack Del Rio) would tell us, and he sure enough came up and told me a few times, 'We can do this a little bit better.' We're not pressing if you know what I'm saying? There is a fine line. We know what we need to do, but at the same time, we need to be a little edgy. We need to be a little chippy at practice. We need to get after each other and compete and like each other at the same time, because that's the way we're going to do it."

(How do you keep that edginess, how do you keep that sense of something a little bit more going into a bye week?) – "Absolutely. We obviously work on our bye week. We will have a couple of work days. I don't know exactly what the schedule is, but we will have some work days. On a bye week, you don't go as crazy, because you want guys to recover. This is the time ... Especially it's good to have a bye week right now. It's a perfect time for guys to recover. The guys that are in though, we need to go. And then when we hit New England practice week, we have to get after it again. That's one thing, we have some young guys yes, but we have a lot of guys that have played a lot of football. We've seen what we did this week in practice work, so we need to keep that up. We have to keep the same intensity, the same locked-in mindset, if we want to keep winning.

(WR Johnny Holton has got two catches this season. Are you saving those plays up?) – "You know, when he gets in the game people are pointing him out, (saying) 'The fast guy is in!' And





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you can see them pointing and coaches are yelling and all those things. So, we have some different things for that. We have two starting receivers that are pretty darn good. It's hard to get on the field in the NFL, and when you do, you have to make plays and Johnny has. He does a good job of letting me know when he's in the huddle. (laughter) He's really good at that. He's really one of my favorite people to be around, because he's one of the most funny guys I've ever been around. To be honest, he literally came in the huddle – and he does it every time – he said 'I'm here.' Got it. Okay, let me call the play. (laughter) He has a good sense of humor about himself. I think we got a good relationship. Again, like I said, it's hard for him to get on the field. Then we have 'C.P.' (Cordarrelle Patterson). We have Jared (Cook). We have Clive (Walford). We have Lee (Smith). We have a lot of weapons. So, when we can get him on there, and he can make plays, that's what he has to do."

(Was the dance something you taught him, the touchdown dance?) – "Absolutely. I dance a lot. I did not see it. I was running down, tapping 'K.O.' (Kelechi Osemele) and all these things. I did see him hit this one though. He just stood there and looked at his family. Honestly, I think he had 110 people at the game. I think when a guy who doesn't play a lot is able to score a touchdown in your hometown, all those things, Sunday night primetime football, the story should be all about him, because that's just a really cool thing. We get caught up in the game a lot, but we're people too. And for him to come home in front of his family, his friends, his buddies and be able to score a touchdown on primetime, that's a pretty cool story."

(You had a couple of turnovers there at midfield and then your defense came and was able to shutdown.) – "Thank goodness, right? They were able to hit the ball out of my hand one time. We had a good play. I was about to drive the ball into 'Coop' (Amari Cooper), and the last one is like a punt. If they catch it, who cares. I don't care about my stats. I hope you guys know that by know. I just want to win. So, if they catch it, who cares, but if we catch it, pretty much we can run it out."

(For your Fresno friends – first your head coach, going to a bowl game. I know you watched the game last night.) – "I did. I definitely did. What was crazy was I was about to fall asleep, and I was going through the channels, I said 'Fresno State, we're on TV! Sick, man! We're back!' But I see why no one voted for me for the Heisman, because they're on at midnight, so no one was watching my games. It was good to Fresno back. Shout out to my dogs. We're all over the place. It's good to see dogs in all three major sports doing things."





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(Similar situation to last Sunday at the end of the first half kind of near midfield. How pleased were you with how that was executed?) – “Yes absolutely. It’s funny. Hopefully this doesn’t become a thing for us – end of the first half deal. It was good to get us in a field position to go kick the field goal. I think there was, if I’m not mistaken, 6 seconds right before that last play. So, that’s tough to do to get down and get a timeout. That’s hard to do, but thank goodness we have guys that are faster than me running the routes. To be able to get points in that situation, then have our defense come out, make a stop and then we go score again, that’s huge.”

Oakland Raiders TE Jared Cook (transcribed by Paige Jefferson)

(Third biggest receiving yard game of your career. What was working for you, especially in the first half?) – “We knew the type of defenses that we’re going to play, and how they were going to match me, and Derek did a good job of sitting in the pocket and finding me early.”

(You guys put up the most yards on the Dolphins this season. Film studies, you guys hoping you could exploit with them especially with the tight end position?) – “I mean it was kind of all over the film the spots on the field that we knew were going to be open, and we just kind of set up our plays and compliment them with the different plays and just hit the spots on the field.”

(Spending the entire week together down here do you think that helped you guys maybe get on the same page, maybe get back on track a little bit?) – “Yeah, a little bit. A lot of guys, it was kind of like a camaraderie thing. It felt like we were in camp again a little bit apending days together, spending dinners together, eating together and going out grabbing food and just having fun, man. So, definitely a close knit week for sure.”

(You’re hitting the bye week now. You guys played nine in a row. It’s got to be a grind in the NFL to get that. People say the bye week always comes at a good time and for this team specifically is this a real nice time to be able to get a week off especially going to Mexico City in a couple weeks?) – “Yeah, but we had a week, we had some time off after the Thursday night game as well. So, we just got to make sure we come back after this week and make sure we that we’re ready play.”

(When you get the other catchers going you kind of get the rhythm going. How does it feel out there? Does it feel like...) – “It’s fun. That’s how football is supposed to be when you can open up the offense, and make plays and stay on the field. Staying on the field helps the whole team





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out. When you're able to do that, keeping the chains moving, that just helps everybody out, helps everybody get more plays."

Oakland Raiders WR Amari Cooper (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Can you put into perspective how important is this win after what happened in Buffalo last week?) – "It's very important. We have to come out here and kind of get hot. Like coach said, we have to get our mojo back. We have to go on a streak. We have to work hard in practice and take it really seriously if we want to have a chance at making the playoffs."

(How confident have you been the past two games after such a great performance against the Chiefs two weeks ago?) – "I've been very confident, but still it's my personality to just kind of take care in terms of taking advantage of the plays that I didn't really do good at when I go back and watch film. I just have to keep getting better, keep working hard."

(Finally a message for Mexico. You're going to Mexico for the second year in a row.) – "Yes, I'm happy about it. I'm looking forward to it. Hopefully we can come out of there with a win again."

Oakland Raiders LB Bruce Irvin (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Talk about the defense effort overall for you guys.) – "I think we had some big stops. We got off the field in situations where... sudden changed situations. We got off the field a few times and a couple key third downs we got off, so I think we had a pretty good day at the office."

(You had a couple of turnovers at midfield, you guys did, but the Dolphins were unable to cash in...the defense came back...) – "That's what I'm saying, sudden change. We went out there, stepped it up, bowed up, and certain change and got our offense the ball back. Didn't allow any points."

(Where to the Raiders go from here?) – "Just keep working. Just keep working."

Oakland Raiders LB Khalil Mack (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Earlier in the week, Head Coach Jack Del Rio talked about the team getting its mojo back. This kind of stuff helps, doesn't it?) – "Winning definitely helps; but like coach said, getting that mojo back and knowing our identity and going out and getting the win is what we needed."





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(How frustrating is that when QB Jay Cutler is doing those little dink and dunk passes?) – “I was getting frustrated but at the end of the day, it’s a team game – team ball – and we came out with the win.”

(I know it’s kind of a cliché to say but going into a bye week, how vital is something like this as opposed to a loss? Is it a big deal or not really? Obviously you got the win but...) – “Obviously, yes. If you’re down right now, we want to add to the win column. All the wins help. This is a good one for us to get going into the bye week, so we can get ready for another good team.”

