

# Houston Texans Transcripts

Friday, December 26, 2014

(Transcribed by Seth Medvin and Omar Majzoub)

**Head Coach Bill O'Brien**

**Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel**

**Head Coach Bill O'Brien**

(on how G Brandon Brooks is doing) "Good. Yeah, he was out there today and did a good job."

(on if he expects G Brandon Brooks to play Sunday) "Oh yeah."

(on how the team looked today after getting a day off yesterday) "We had a good day today. Guys were flying around. We had a good day."

(on what he has seen from QB Case Keenum this week) "He's had a good week. He's had a good week. Has it been perfect? No, but I mean it's tough to run a perfect play every single time out there the way we run practice. It's a very competitive practice. He's been good as far as his huddle command, his command at the line of scrimmage, and understanding the game plan. Again, I give that guy a lot of credit. To be able to come in here for two weeks and understand what we're doing is pretty good."

(on QB Case Keenum's ability to run the offense and communication skills) "One of the things that I've noticed about him is that he's a very bright guy and he's got good leadership skills. He can get in the huddle and he does a good job of communicating the play and then when he gets to the line of scrimmage he does a good job of communicating what he sees at the line of scrimmage, especially to the offensive line. He's put a lot of time into it with George (Godsey) and the offensive lineman in extra meetings and things like that. That's been something that, again like I said, I give him credit for being able to step in and do those things."

(on the team's energy today) "It was great. The energy has been good. These guys the last month, the practices have been good as far as guys being focused and flying around. Hopefully, that transfers over to the game on Sunday. It's a home game. We really are looking forward to playing in front of our home crowd. We know we're going to have a great crowd. Last week against Baltimore, our crowd really helped us out a lot, so that helps the energy. But out at practice the energy has been good. Energy is the big word of the day."

(on what he has seen from the Jacksonville Jaguars on tape) "They're a much better team now in the second half of the year than they were in the first half of the year. They are even improved since the last time we played them. Blake (Bortles) is playing better. They're good on defense. I think they're third in the league in sacks. They're third in the league in caused fumbles, so we've got a big challenge there and they're definitely an improved team."

(on how important it is to the players that the last game of the season has playoff implications) "It's a meaningful game. The players understand the meaning of the game. No question. We can only control what we do. We've got to go out there and our best to win the game. That's the first thing that has to take place, so our guys are totally focused on the challenge of the Jacksonville Jaguars, which is a big challenge. They are looking forward to play in front of the home crowd, like I said. They understand the importance of the game."

**Defensive Coordinator Romeo Crennel**

(on playing a meaningful game at this point of the year and it influences the game plan) "No. I think you game plan like you normally do because it's the next game and you want to win the next game. We definitely want to win it. It has a greater impact, you know, our winning of the game. But you don't change what you've been doing or anything like that. You've just got to try and make sure your team is focused, have a good week of practice and the play good in the game."

(on putting a lot of pressure on the Ravens last week and the players being happy with that game plan) "We worked, my staff, and we put the best game plan together that we can. And sometimes what happens in a game plan is you make a call and if it works, then you call it again. Maybe not the next play, but maybe a couple plays down the road you call it again. When things are working, it's easy to call the game because they're working, and we had some things that were working last week and so it was easier to call. The players, they're the ones that really make the plan work. So if they're executing and doing their jobs, and are able to make plays, then really sometimes you can pull one of out of the hat and still it works because your players run it. Hopefully, we'll be on it again this week."

(on the job DE Jared Crick has been doing) "He's been steady all year. Like you said, he doesn't get a whole lot (of credit), but he's consistent. He's going to show up every game. He's going to do his job, what it calls for. When he gets the opportunity to make a play, he makes the plays. He's been very steady."

(on what he's seen from QB Blake Bortles) "I think that he's gaining experience as he plays. He's got good ability. He can run with the ball when he chooses to. He's not throwing the ball up and getting it intercepted nearly as much as the first time we played him, but that comes with experience. He's becoming to see things a little bit better, and so we have to know that he's going to be better as a quarterback than he was in that first game. In the first game, they caused us a few problems. We just didn't run away with it. I expect them to come in and give us their best shot."

(on what it feels like when you have to rely on other teams to lose to make the playoffs) "Well, right, it doesn't feel great because it is out of your hands. Two other teams have to lose and we have to win. The only thing we can control is the game that we play, and so we should go out and play our best game and win the game, and then see what happens. If it works out that we don't get in, than we go to work and try to get in next year."

(on if there was a point this year where things started to click on the defense) "I think at the beginning of December our guys began to understand the scheme, the game plan and trust and depend on each other a lot more than we had previously. I think it showed up in the way that the defense has been playing."

(on if the defense starting to click in December was part of the natural progression) "Exactly. Yes."