



HOUSTON TEXANS vs. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN
RB ALFRED BLUE
T DUANE BROWN
OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY
DE JARED CRICK
LB BRIAN CUSHING
SS QUINTIN DEMPS
WR DEANDRE HOPKINS
QB BRIAN HOYER
CB KEVIN JOHNSON
C BEN JONES
CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
QB RYAN MALLETT
OLB WHITNEY MERCILUS
WR CECIL SHORTS III
DE J.J. WATT
NT VINCE WILFORK

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver)

(on if QB Brian Hoyer is still the starting quarterback) "I don't know. I just walked in here. I just got in off the field. No idea. We'll review the film, and we will find out once we head into next week."

(on the decision to put in QB Ryan Mallett) "It felt like it was the best decision for the team."

(on if they stuck with an up-tempo offense because they thought it was being run successfully) "It seemed that way to me."

(on his thoughts about the team performance in the first half) "It wasn't very good. Turned it over. Didn't play good on special teams. Didn't play very well in all three phases. But mostly, I would say we were outcoached. Give the Chiefs credit. They did a great job. We have got to have a really good week of practice. We've got a long way to go."

(on if he expected better play by the offensive line) "I don't know. I just got in here. I've got to watch the tape. I'll know better tomorrow."

(on if OLB Jadeveon Clowney participated in the expected number of plays) "Yes."

(on what happened on QB Brian Hoyer's first interception) "Miscommunication. Just didn't execute the play properly. Put that on me. Not very good coaching. I didn't have them ready to play."

(on if DE J.J. Watt had a standard game performance) "I think we all, all of us, in that locker room starting with the head coach and the coaching staff, we've all got to do better. So I'm not going to get into individual players or anything like that. I think we all know that it is a long season. That's one game. I thought the guys went out there after half time and competed. Not good enough obviously, but they competed and tried to close the gap there. We've got to regroup and get ready for a really good Carolina team."

(on his thoughts on the running game) "I would say on the field, it looked like we've got to do a better job. That's what it looked like to me."

(on what TE Ryan Griffin has shown to get increased reps) "You know, he had a good offseason. We try to rotate guys in there, and he's done some good things. He went out there with an injury at the end so we'll see what that is, but he has really improved."



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(on if today's game has changed his evaluation of the starting quarterback) "I don't know yet. I'll go in there and watch the tape and make an honest evaluation and make a decision one way or the other going into the Carolina game."

(on Kansas City's defensive line breaking through Houston's offensive line) "I would say the whole offensive effort wasn't very good. At the end there, we started moving it a little bit, but it was way too late. Again, it starts with the coaching. We've got to evaluate what we are doing and try to coach better. Again, give the Chiefs a lot of credit. They played better than us. They coached better than us."

(on if the defense figured out something differently in the second half) "I don't know. I don't think we did too many different things. I thought those guys really competed hard the whole game. We had some plays that were out there—plays on the ball—that maybe we could've made. But again, overall, I thought they competed hard. Again, we've got to improve overall as a team. This was a team loss. Obviously offensively it's going to stand out; we didn't play very well all the way across the board. Special teams didn't play very well. The coverage game was not very good. Defensively, we had to make some corrections there too. Like I said, we've got to coach better. We've got to do a better job of communicating to the player what we want."

(on if he saw anything from the Chiefs that he didn't anticipate going in) "I would say that the Chiefs, like I said before, they did a good job today. Give them a lot of credit. They've got a good football team. I wouldn't say that it wasn't anything unusual. They just did a better job than we all did today."

(on the Chiefs' short-range passing game and cross patterns hurting the Texans) "Yeah, again, we knew that was part of their plan. Sometimes we stopped them, we tackled. Other times, he's a good player and made his plays. Overall, we just have to be more consistent."

(on if there is a chance that RB Arian Foster could play some kind of role next week) "I would say no."

(on if he planned to rotate the carries in the backfield) "Yeah, and we'll continue to do that. I know we will do that. We may play them in different roles, but we'll continue to rotate those guys."

(on the short-yardage failures offensively) "That was terrible. Terrible. It was terrible. We've got to do a better job there. Fourth-and-1, it wasn't even fourth-and-1. We've got to coach it better. We have to execute it better. It was terrible."

(on if there was any intention of putting QB Ryan Mallett in the game before the game) "You can clarify it all you want. I'm going to go back and watch the tape and figure out what is the best decision for the team at every position, every scheme we do. It's a 16 game season. This is game 1. You guys are great writers. You're going to write what you want to write. The fans are going to think what they want to think, but we're going to go back to work and try to improve. That's all I can tell you. At every position, with every decision we make, we're going to do the best job we can do to improve the team."

(on if T Duane Brown had a pre-existing knee injury before he got tangled up on a play) "No. I don't even know what happened to him. I just walked in from the locker room, talking to the team. I didn't hear. I had no injury report, nothing. No idea."

RB ALFRED BLUE (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on how he felt he played today) "I felt there were lanes at times. The Chiefs have a great run-stop defense so you just got to keep pounding and when they give you a crease, you got to take it."

(on if he was frustrated by the Chiefs defense today) "No. You just got to stay cool and relax out there and be patient. It's going to come, just don't rush it out there. Like I said, we had a couple of good run lanes out there and I think all of the backs tonight found them when they gave them to us."

(on what adjustments need to be made) "We just got to go and practice and clean it up. We will look at the film and let the coaches coach it up to clean it up as an offense in practice this week."



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(on how important it was to show some life offensively at the end of the game) "It's good. It shows what we can be. We flashed it at the end, but unfortunately it was too late. We needed that all throughout the whole game."

(on what was causing the offensive issues early on in the game) "I don't know man. We started real slow. As an offense we have to drive it down real fast. We had a couple of turnovers in the beginning and that kind of hurt us. They capitalized on those, so we just can't turn the ball over and let them capitalize and that's what they did. That pushed us back against the wall, so we just can't do that as an offense."

(on how deflating was the first turnover on the first drive) "It was real bad. Like I said, as an offense you just can't do that and give the other team good field positioning. That's almost guaranteed points down there when they are in the red area, so as an offense we have to clean that up in practice this week."

T DUANE BROWN (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on the play of the team today) "We started very, very slow. We didn't get much going on offense. We put a lot of pressure on our defense to try to make a lot of plays. They got a good lead on us. I thought we fought hard in the second half; we still made a lot of mistakes. We left a lot of opportunities out there to take the game over. They have a very talented team though. They played really hard; my hat is off to them."

(on the team's first half performance) "It was a problem we had last year. It's something we have to nip in the butt now because you see what can happen. You get down a couple touchdowns, it's tough to come back from in this league. Teams are pretty good and when you go down to a team like that you are forced to drop back a lot. We have to come out faster to put ourselves in a position to compete."

(on how he felt playing with an injured finger) "It felt all right. It is a full day's work blocking those guys, especially when you consider how many times we passed the ball today. I thought I held up pretty well."

(on the play of the quarterbacks) "We just have to do a better job of protecting whoever is in there. I thought both of them did some good things in there. We just have to continue to do better up front to let them operate efficiently."

(on if the offense was notified about the quarterback change) "I found out when we took the field. I don't really have any comment on that. Whoever is the quarterback, we have to do better up front to protect them and let them operate efficiently."

(on how they responded to Kansas City's pressure) "They had some good schemes dialed up against us. We have to do better in our one-on-one battles. They have one of the best defensive front-seven in the league but that doesn't matter, we still have to do our job. I thought we battled pretty well, we just have to clean up a lot on offense."

OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY (Transcribed by Omar Majzoub)

(on his performance in the game) "I was just out there trying to help the team. Just getting a feel of it, my first time back out there in a while. I think it went pretty good for me."

(on how good it feels to be out there) "It felt great to be out there with my teammates and having fun. Coach told me to just let the game come to me, don't go out there and be antsy because all week long I was like, 'I don't know how it's going to go, I'm ready to play. I'm ready to play.' He just said let the game come to me. They limited my reps, so it was just getting the feel of the game and having fun."

(on his tackle for loss) "Just trying to make a play. Go out there and make a play, whatever I can do to help the team get into position to comeback or win the game, period. So I was out there trying to make plays."

(on the team starting off slow) "It's very tough. You want to win every game you go and play. You know you can't win them all. Just give credit to them guys, they came out there and did good against us. We got a lot of work to do. We got to get back in there on Monday and get back to work."

(on setting the edge) "Just playing football. We work on that in practice. I set the edge. That's my job, I set the edge. That's what I went out there and did and I made a play."



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(on getting to QB Alex Smith) "We knew they had to change the offensive line up a little bit coming into this game. We were just trying to get as much pressure as we can. We knew they were going to try to throw quick passes and a lot of screens. We were just trying to do whatever we can do, rush the passer, chase down guys, and make plays."

(on the Chiefs quick throws) "It affects us a lot. We try to get our hands up and knock down balls. We've still got to go out there and play our game, rush the passer, set the edge, and run guys down."

(on if they figured something out in the second half) "We didn't really change up the game plan. We just tried to go out there and really fight to get back into the game. I thought we did a good job in the second half of fighting to get back, but we still came a little short."

(on the Chiefs changing offensive tackles) "No, it wasn't a surprise. Coach told us to expect anything, expect changes up front. That's what happened. We just go out there and play football."

(on going home next week to play in Carolina) "That's going to be crazy. Everybody is calling from home about coming to the game. I'm just glad I can't get tickets for everybody. I'm just looking forward to playing against the home team."

(on not worrying about injuries and being able to just play football) "It felt great. It's a long, long comeback. I felt great out there. I felt good. Coach kept me down a little bit, but that's part of the process, work my way back into this year. I felt good, so now it's going back in and working for the Panthers."

(on how he feels now) "I feel pretty good. Came in and get a little work done. I'm going to rest up."

DE JARED CRICK (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on the play of the defense) "We did some good things. They tried to slow down our pass rush with the screen game. They had success with it and just keep going to it and going to it. We really didn't have any way to stop it there for a while. So credit to them, they had a great game plan but we have to do better."

(on if the defense expected so many screen passes) "No, not as much as they did. Maybe after the success they had after the first few they figured they might as well keep trying it and keep trying it. They had success all the way, we couldn't even stop them in the first half so we will have to shore that up. Other teams are going to be watching this and hit us with it next week so we have to shore that up and I think we'll be alright."

(on playing with a short field in the first half) "We still have to go out and do our part; we can't allow any points on the board. It doesn't matter if they start on our negative 1-yard line. We have to go out there and play good defense. I don't know what happened on the first touchdown but it's something that is fixable, something we have to work on and we will."

(on if he knew what went wrong on the second Kansas City touchdown) "No idea, like you said he was wide open so someone missed an assignment. I don't know what it was. We just have to fix that, we can't leave one of their base weapons wide open like that."

(on if there is anything uncorrectable heading toward the next game) "No, everything is correctable. We have a good coaching staff, we are going to watch the film and do that. Next week you'll see a different defense, a different team and hopefully we will be ready to go."

LB BRIAN CUSHING (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on how he feels after the game) "Mostly frustrated. You come out in the first game, and you obviously want to win and you want to play better than we did today. I guess the one good thing is it's the first game of the season. We have a lot of football left and we can obviously improve, and we will. I'm confident in that."

(on the team getting off to a slow start) "Yeah, it was. It was a slow start. I mean, we were down, I don't know what it was, but a good amount. It's always tough to overcome, especially against a good team like them. They



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played good, they played really good today. They outplayed us, there's no question about it. The Chiefs played a better football game than us, and the end result is that they won, obviously."

(on the field position) "It's tough. It's tough, especially against an offense like that with the playmakers they have. They made the plays. They made the plays and we didn't, that's all it came down to."

(on having to respect the Chief's play action) "Yeah, you do. Like I said, they made the plays, and (Chiefs QB Alex Smith) played well today and he made all the throws he had to, and when they ran the ball, they ran it well. So, I mean, just overall, they had a good game plan and they executed it."

(on if there was any rust defensively) "I don't know. We have a game next week, and we can turn it around real quick, and I think we will."

(on if he saw anything he liked from the performance in the second half) "We obviously limited them a lot more in the second half. We came out and put a lot of emphasis on competing, and I think we did. We shut down a lot of their momentum, didn't give up as many yards or, obviously, as many points in the second half. Obviously, wish we could've played like that from the beginning."

SS QUINTIN DEMPS (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on playing with a short field in the first half) "That's huge, field position in this game is big. However it comes - offense, defense or special teams - we have to do a better job at that next week."

(on WR Travis Kelce's second touchdown reception) "They executed really well on that play. I have to see the film to really know what happened."

(on how frustrating it is to start the season with a loss) "It's not good. We have to find a way to be positive. I think we came out and played a good second half. The first half was tough on us. We have to keep plugging away, come in and make corrections and move forward."

(on if Kansas City's offense surprised the defense) "I think they did a good job of executing their game plan. I think we didn't do a good job; we started off kind of slow. They did a good job so credit to them."

(on Bill O'Brien's message to the team after the game) "To stay in it. We have a long season. We have to start fast, that was his message and we have to stay together."

WR DEANDRE HOPKINS (Transcribed by Laci Theriot)

(on RB Arian Foster being inactive) "We've still got plays to make on this offense to make up for his loss, so that is no excuse for us opening up the passing game. We still didn't get the job done. We showed up today, we just didn't finish."

(on if he was shocked about the start of the game) "I wouldn't say shocked, you know. Just a lack of focus on my behalf. They capitalize on our mistakes. In the NFL, that is going to happen. It is hard to fight back against a team like that that has a good offense, so we put ourselves in the hole early. We never thought we were out of the game, even until the onside kick. We just can't start like that again."

(on the miscommunication of the interception in the first quarter) "That was my fault."

(on the team struggling to find any kind of rhythm early on) "Just our focus man, you know. They came out, played a good defensive game. We were fighting to come back in the first half and second half as well. Just lack of focus on our behalf."

(on how he thought both quarterbacks played today) "Both of them played a good game, I think. We could have helped them out, myself as well. You know you can't put everything on those guys."

(on being the single most focused by secondaries when facing double teams) "I've got to be ready. It starts at practice. I've got to go out and make everything at practice and have no miscommunication with my quarterback. That's where it starts at."



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(on QB Ryan Mallet's offense and timing in today's game, and if it carried on from last season) "You know Mallett is a good quarterback. He has been playing this offense since he has been in the NFL, so no matter who the receiver is, he know where the receiver is supposed to be from his knowledge of being in the NFL for so long."

(on if he was surprised about the quarterback change during the game) "I can't comment on that, I'm sorry."

(on his relationship and chemistry with the quarterbacks and how much work goes into it) "A lot of work. We put in a lot of work in the off season doing extra things outside of practice not just while we practice. You know it is the first game, so things will get better."

(on the team coming back in the late second half) "It speaks a lot about our offense. We don't have any quitters in this locker room. We put ourselves in that drought. We knew we had to come out and fight. Defense helped us out. We just couldn't capitalize on some of the plays. I take blame for my mistakes."

(on how the team continues to come off with a slow start to the season on both offense and defense) "As far as in practice, we have to go out and just focus and start practice early like it is a game situation. That's where everything starts at."

(on how he feels on the receiving quarter as a whole) "I think Nate (Washington) and Cecil (Shorts III) did a great job. Mumph (Keith Mumphery) came in and made some plays as well. It is just one or two plays that can hurt you, and that is what happened."

(on how disappointing it is to start off the season with this loss) "It is very disappointing, knowing the talent that we have on this offense, and knowing what we are capable of. Even though we started off with an interception, we knew it was not over because of the playmakers that we have. It's disappointing."

(on Bill O'Brien's message at half-time) "Just come out and fight. We didn't feel like it was over, and he didn't either. His message was just come out and fight in the second half, it wasn't like they were beating us by thirty. His message was come out and fight."

(on Bill O'Brien's message after the game) "He said a lot. You know, I can't really recall what he said, but basically my focus is Carolina."

QB BRIAN HOYER (Transcribed by Crystin Pactor and Carla Hartman)

(on if he was surprised to be pulled out in the fourth quarter) "That's Coach's decision and I can see why he did that. It couldn't have gone any worse you know what I mean. Obviously, I feel terrible. I feel like I let this whole entire organization down. It just went from bad to worse. I really just couldn't fight back."

(on if he thinks he will start next week) "That's Coach O'Brien's decision. I respect the hell out him and whatever he feels is best for the team I think that's what he will do and we will see where it goes."

(on what went wrong today) "It just started bad. Poor execution, lack of communication, and you never want to come out and start the game that way. I think that was bad. I mean there were some good drives. There was times where we were able to put the foot on the pedal and get things going. The other times they just sputtered out and you can't have that. You have to be able to convert on third down. You have to be able to get yards on first and second down. We will take a look at the film and see where we have to get better, which obviously, we have to get a lot better."

(on what happened on the interception) "It was just poor execution, miscommunication and that's something we talk about, starting fast. You couldn't have the more opposite reaction."

(on if it was more comfortable when he went in to no huddle) "Well, I just think you get up to the line and the defense can't do as much. You have to be able to get the first first down to be able to do that, so when you go three and out it doesn't really allow that to happen. We have to be better on those first couple plays of the drive."

(on what difference it makes to the offense when the running game is hit and miss) "I think it was all hit and miss. As an offense we have to do so much better to be able to win in this league."



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(on if there was a recognition factor for him early in the game and how he progressed through it) "I think for us we have to come out and start faster. The first play is the worst way to start; you basically give them a touchdown. Then again with the strip-sack, you give them a touchdown so there's 14 points right there. It was just poor execution. For me, I have to play a lot better and like I said, no one probably feels worse than I do."

(on if he could hear boos from the fans) "I mean I am so focused on what I am trying to do. I am talking to the coaches, talking to the players, but this is just part of the job."

(on if he feels defensive pass interference should have been called on the two third downs early in the game) "I am not going to get involved in that. We will have to look at it on film. There is nothing you can do, it's in the past. When they make the call or don't make the call, that's just the way the game goes."

(on his level of disappointment) "I'm extremely disappointed. I'm disappointed and embarrassed. Like I said, I feel like I let those guys down and that's the worst feeling to have after a game. It'd be one thing if there was some fight back but that didn't happen when I was in there. It's extremely disappointing."

(on his first pass interception and him feeling any hesitation after that) "I didn't feel that way, no. I think we came back a drive or two later and marched right down the field. I don't think it made me more hesitant. I think there is just lack of execution, missed receiver, or whatever it might be. There is no excuse for that."

(on it being on the Texans offense or Kansas City defense) "I'm not going to take anything away from them. They have a good defense. They played hard. There's times we are going to look at it and realize we shot ourselves in the foot. That's the one thing you don't want to do. If a team just comes in and beats you that's one thing. I'm not trying to take the credit away from them. Obviously we had our share of mistakes and we want to take some of those back."

(on quarterback battle leading to miscommunication between him and receivers) "No I don't think so. I don't think that's an excuse. Like I told you guys all along we were working with every receiver out there so I don't think that that had anything to do with it."

(on QB Ryan Mallett) "I thought he played great. He was ready. That's part of the job. He went in there and moved the ball. I think the biggest thing for me to tell you guys is that I'm all about the team. For him to move the ball and score a touchdown, that was great. Hopefully we had a chance to win it at the end and get that onside kick. I'm going to be there to support him. Like I said, I respect Coach O'Brien so much and that's his decision to make. I'll be ready either way."

CB KEVIN JOHNSON (Transcribed by Omar Majzoub)

(on his first NFL game) "It was exciting, you know, my first NFL game. I felt good, but we didn't win the game so it's not – losing is never a good feeling. We got to come in next week, put in work, and get better."

(on the Chiefs having good field position most of the game) "All kinds of stuff happens in football, so you just got to go out there as a defensive player and just go out there and play. Not really worry about what's going on offensively or special teams. Just go out there and do your job."

(on the Chiefs' quick, short throws) "It's just part of the game, so you got to go out there and compete. Just compete on the quick stuff and just play ball."

(on how much better the Texans tackling can be) "We can get better at tackling. We can get better at a lot of things. We just got to go to the drawing board and just work hard all week in practice, and get it in."

(on his tackle on Chiefs TE Travis Kelce) "I was just in Cover 2, so the play got extended. I saw him coming across the field and came over and tried to hit him. That's how I got the thigh bruise. His knee went into my thigh and that thing locked up on me."

(on if he felt better after stretching his leg) "Yeah, it just got stiff. The stretching definitely helped, but definitely got to get that right."



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(on how he thought he played) "I thought I did pretty good. Just going out there, playing fast, playing confident, and having fun."

(on what the team needs to do to improve) "We had two sudden changes where the ball got in the red zone. We got to come away with three points there. We just got to go out there and compete and start better. Like you said, we had a pretty good second half. We just got to start the game."

(on Chiefs QB Alex Smith running play-action well) "They got a good back in Jamaal Charles, so you got to respect it. Definitely a good part of their offense."

C BEN JONES (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on Kansas City LB Allen Bailey) "They have a great front. Give all the credit to the Chiefs; they have a great front seven. We knew that coming in, and we had to protect ourselves from that, and I thought we did a pretty good job throughout the whole day. But he is a good player, and they have two guys on the outside, too, you have to be accountable for at all times. They have those five guys on the line, they can put five guys, so it's always a matchup issue."

(on the running game) "When you're playing from behind, you kind of have to abort that early, but you have to come together, and whatever the play is called, you have to go out and execute."

(on what the team has to work on going into the next matchup with the Carolina Panthers) "They have a great defense, and we look forward to that challenge and we just have to go out and make correct things and we have to start fast. We can't turn the ball over early and not get on a thing and not put our defense in a hole."

(on if he's worried about who is starting at quarterback next week) "Not at all. We're going to come out and execute no matter who's in there, and we have to protect the quarterbacks on the staff."

CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on the play of the defense) "We just have to play better in certain situations. Whatever situation we are put in as a defense we have to show up. Obviously we can't allow explosive plays where someone goes uncovered; sometimes you just have to communicate better. I think that all-in-all the second half, we cleaned some of those things up. We came back and fought but we can't put ourselves behind the eight ball like that early."

(on the play of Kansas City's offense) "Sometimes they will have a great play call. Sometimes a good offense will always beat a good defense - in certain situations - and sometimes we can make a play here or there too and help ourselves out also. It is a tough game. Those guys get paid to catch the ball and they were thrown into tight windows. Guys were contesting catches but in some of those situations we just have to come down with it and have the ball bounce our way."

(on playing with a short field throughout the first half) "We had to come out and take care of business. We couldn't give in on certain situations. We have to play sound, situational football. For us as a defense, anytime we are in a certain situation where we are backed up on the one-yard line we have to hold those guys to a field goal. We can't give up seven points."

(on if there is a trend with starting slow over the last two years) "I think that overall as a team, we have to play off one another. Offense has to do their job, defense has to do their job and special teams as well. We got to combine those things. We can't get behind the eight ball. Whatever situation is there in the game we have to be aware of everything and make the best of that situation and just take it a few plays at a time."

(on how tough it was to defend their receivers) "As a defense we have to tackle better in certain situations, keep the contain. When it comes to third down it is our job to get off the field and get the ball back to the offense. There were a few situations today on third down where we let them get away with it even when we had them backed up in a third-and-long."

QB RYAN MALLETT (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)

(on what he was thinking when he was called in) "I was ready to go. I just got warmed up and new what I was asked to do."



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(on if he feels like he has a shot at being the starting QB) "Like I said before, I'm going to prepare every week like the starter, whether that's the case or not. That's the only thing I can do to help this football team win games. That's why I'm here. That's all I care about."

(on what he saw from the sideline in the first three quarter) "I mean we struggled. We didn't play well. We've got to play a lot better, we've got to come out, we can't have penalties, we can't turn the ball over as a unit. That's not putting the blame on anybody. We have to play better as a unit, give the defense off the field quicker. They were on the field too much today."

(on if he feels like this team believes in him) "I believe in myself. That's all I'm worried about."

(on if throwing the routes with anticipation helped him today) "The o-line did a really good job. I didn't really feel any pressure. I didn't feel hurried. Throwing the ball, I just felt like I was stepping into throws and was able to deliver on time."

(on if it was disappointing to watch the first half after working hard all offseason) "It's the first game. Like I said, we've got to start faster as a unit. We need to practice better. We need to do everything better. It wasn't good enough. It's not to our standards as a team, as a unit, whatever. We need to play better, especially on the offensive side of the ball."

(on if he could sense what was going wrong with the offense) "I mean there's just a lack of execution. We've got to execute better. It's not wrong plays or, when I got in the game it wasn't magic plays or whatever. We executed a little bit better, but we have to start off executing the game in the first quarter like that."

(on how much he trusts WR DeAndre Hopkins with some of his throws) "I mean Nuk (DeAndre Hopkins) is one of the best in the game."

(on if the Chiefs did anything different than they expected) "They played the same game plan. I don't know, I didn't feel any pressure when I was throwing the ball. I mean the sack was my fault I stepped right into the back of (OL) Brandon (Brooks). I helped them a little bit there, not purposefully, but I've got to get rid of the ball."

(on Texans Owner Bob McNair implying that the team might not trust him) "Listen I prepare the game harder than anybody probably in the league or just as hard as anybody in the league. I'm going to keep continuing to do that. I take pride in my job. I take pride in being a Houston Texan. I'm going to give them everything I've got, simple as that."

(on the missed practiced during preseason) "Hey listen, we're over that. You know what I mean? We just started the regular season. You're two weeks in the past. All I'm worried about is Carolina (Panthers)."

(on if he felt like they had a shot at winning) "There's always a shot if there's time on the clock. The games not over. We've got to play all 60 minutes of it, and if it takes more away to play longer. So we've got to be ready to go throughout the game, and finish the game. We gave ourselves a chance at the end and didn't execute. I missed (TE Garret) Graham on a wide open flat route, whatever, so I got him right there maybe we go score and then we're only down three."

(on how they recover and bounce back next week) "You go watch the film, regroup and get ready for another good football team. We're going on the road to play another good football team. What are you going to do, sit and pout, that's not going to help anything. I don't think, you ask anybody in the locker room I think that's what they're thinking either. I don't even know if I'll leave tonight. I'll probably just stay here and start watching Carolina film tell you the truth."

(on if he thinks he should be the starter) "Listen, I do what the coaches tell me to do. I'm going to do whatever this team wants me to do or needs me to do. That's all I care about is winning football games, that's it. I don't care about any individual stuff. I care about the Houston Texans winning football games."

(on if he can say how badly he wants to be the starter) "I do what I'm told."



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(on the offense starting slow but making progress at the end) “It just shows the fight that we didn’t lay down and just get stepped on. There’s a lot of fight in this team I think you can see that. We just have to play better throughout the whole game. To be the football team we want to be, because the first half, that’s not the football team we believe that we are. So we have to go out and prepare and execute a lot better from the get-go, from the opening gun.”

(on if watching the first several drives helped him get an idea of what the Chiefs were doing) “I had a good idea what they were going to do anyway. But yeah, once you see how the game declared itself you kind of get a feel for how the game is going.”

(on how he’s been able to get on the same page as the receivers in this complex offense) “I mean we worked so hard even before practice, after practice, extra routes, just talking about stuff in meetings like, I mean the communication in this offense has got to be at an all-time high. I think we have a good handle on that, we’ve just got to be better.”

OLB WHITNEY MERCILUS (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on his thoughts on the game) “There are some things we have to get corrected on offense and defense. We didn’t come out hot. We were just tiptoeing and all that. Second half was much better. We came out and played our butts off on defense and offense. We got to get better on special teams.”

(on what he meant when he said they didn’t come out hot) “We got to get things going on offense and we have to stop KC from scoring on us. If our offense isn’t going to score than KC can’t score.”

(on if the Chiefs did anything that surprised him) “No. I mean it’s the first game so you are always going to see something that you don’t normally see, but they didn’t do much that we didn’t practice for.”

(on TE Travis Kelcie getting open for a long touchdown reception) “I don’t even know what happened. I couldn’t even tell you. I don’t know. I was just in the rush.”

(on if the Chiefs speed and tempo effected the Texans defense) “No. They were huddling then coming up to the line. No tempo or anything like that. We just have to go out there and just play.”

(on if he was disappointed in today’s start to the season) “Very disappointed. We practiced hard all week. I thought we had it, but obviously we didn’t.”

(on giving up more than 10 yards on every punt return) “Yeah, we can’t give those up. Over coverage has to be better. That is it.”

(on giving up good field positioning to the Chiefs nearly every drive) “It just comes down to special teams. We can’t give them great yardage and we can’t give the great positioning on the field or anything like that.”

(on Kansas City running a lot of misdirection plays) “Pretty much on defense, even if they are running a lot of misdirection plays we have to stop those as soon as it happens. That’s it.”

WR CECIL SHORTS III (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on why the offense did not start fast) “Obviously, the turnovers. When you have turnovers that early in the game, it leads to 14 points. That’s going to hurt you, and we can’t put ourselves in that situation. And the turnover is not just on one person; it’s on the whole group. So, we have to figure out a way just to – honestly, I feel like we’ll be alright. We just have to keep working, come in tomorrow, work on our corrections and then get ready for Carolina.”

(on the positives to take into the game with the Carolina Panthers) “I think number one, we’re confident in ourselves. I think everyone here will say – even the coaching staff – we’re going to play better. But in the second half, the defense let no points up, the offense played better in the second half, so those are some of the positives.”

(on the play of the receiving corps) “You want to feed off each other. I think the good thing about us three (Shorts, DeAndre Hopkins, and Nate Washington), if you want to key on one guy, or double one guy, there’s two other



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guys that can get open. And then you have the guys in the backfield and the tight ends as well. So, we just try to feed off each other, and when the play comes or the ball comes our way, we have to make a play.”

DE J.J. WATT (Transcribed by Hannah Pietsch)

(on today’s loss) “I think we dug ourselves a hole early, and you can’t do that in this league. The teams are too good. I thought we fought back in the end, but much too little too late. And we can’t do what we did, especially in the first quarter, and expect to win too many football games in this league.”

(on if the Kansas City offense was hurting him with the short range drop off) “They had some success with that early. Obviously we came in at halftime and tried to make some adjustments, and we came out and played better in the second half. We need to do a better job early in the game, especially in situations where we get put in a short field or something like that, it’s our job to stand up and make a play and we didn’t do that today.”

(on what adjustments the defense made to play better) “I can’t really go in to too much detail about our halftime adjustments and things we do on the field, but I thought we did a better job in the second half.”

(on if the intensity was not there in the first half) “No, I don’t think it’s an intensity issue. I think our guys came out ready to play. We just didn’t execute very well, I mean we just didn’t. I’ll have to watch the tape to see exactly what happened, but we just let them complete too many balls and they had the long one to Kelce early on, and there’s just some things we can’t do.”

(on how his performance was not affected by not playing in the preseason) “I don’t think not playing in the preseason affected me a whole lot. I think that I can always find ways to help the team more, so whatever I need to do, I’ll watch the film and figure it out and see what I can do to help us win.”

(on what he saw from OLB Jadeveon Clowney in his first game back) “I think he did a good job on that one 3rd and 1 play. That was a big play. In the huddle, we talked about it before the play, kind of alerting him to the situation we were in, and I think he did a great job taking that information and using it on the play. That was a big third down stop that he got. I think you’re going to see him more and more. I know he wants to continue to get more and more reps, so I’m sure as the season progresses, he’ll do that, especially if he continues to go out there and earn it.”

(on working with NT Vince Wilfork and if Wilfork pulled some double and triple teams off of him) “I don’t know if the double teams or triple teams are going to stop anytime soon, but it’s always nice to have him in there, a guy with experience. When he comes off the sideline, he can tell you exactly what he saw and exactly what he sees, so it’s always nice to have that out there. Once I watch film tomorrow, I’ll really know a lot more.”

(on what he can do during the week to prevent a start like today) “We need to come out and play better. Obviously, you don’t want to turn the ball over like we did early on in the game, but as a defense we need to go out there, and we need to step it up and at least hold them to a field goal in a situation like that. We didn’t do that. We just need to go out there, have a good week of practice, learn from the tape, go out there have a great week of practice, then go on the road and get on to Carolina.”

(on if his tackles for losses came from beating people or anticipating what they would do) “I’d say it’s a combination of both. It’s also teammates doing a great job. It’s never a one man show. You’ve got guys setting the edge on the other side to pull a guy up, so I can come in from the backside. There’s so many different aspects to a game. Great calls by RAC (defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel). And then it’s just playing football, playing hard, trying to go out there and make a play and do whatever you can to help your team win.”

(on if he moved around much today) “I did a little bit. Not a ton today, but every game is different. I’m sure you’ll see different things throughout the year.”

(on if the defensive line could have done anything differently to slow down Kansas City TE Travis Kelce) “I’ll have to watch the film. We try and rush the passer as much as we can to get pressure on them. They were getting the ball out fairly quickly today, so try to get our hands up and knock the balls down. But as a defensive lineman, you try to get pressure as much as possible to help your secondary out.”



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(on getting a sack without a helmet) "I think I've had a tackle without a helmet, but I don't think I've ever had a sack without a helmet before. I mean the guy's hands were in my face and knocked my helmet off, and I'm not just going to stop playing. It turned out to be a sack, so I'll take it."

(on if he felt good about the way they played today) "I think if you look at the second half and the way that we came out there and battled, I think there's signs of progress, but I mean this is the National Football League. We're looking to go out there and win football games and not just show signs of progress. The second half we did play much better. It does provide a better stepping stone for us moving forward, but at the end of the day there's no moral victories in the NFL."

(on what he'd like to see the team work on in this week's practices) "We've got to watch the Carolina film and break down their offense. We've already started a little bit, in training camp. We need to just go out there and learn from the mistakes of today, figure out what went wrong today, what we can improve upon, what went well that we need to continue and then just go out there and have a great week of practice."

NT VINCE WILFORK (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on his overall thoughts of the game) "Well, we didn't do enough things to win the ballgame. We hurt ourselves early, but you have to give the Chiefs credit. They came out and prepared well for us and they came out and they executed and they started fast. I think we have to learn how to start fast ourselves. Just looking at film from last year, training camp and preseason, that's one of the things that we talk about a lot, so I think we have to put a lot more emphasis on that – starting fast and being able to go out and compete early. Second half, we tried to compete a little bit better, but the hole was just too big to get up out of. So, we just have to get back to the drawing board. There's no pointing fingers. It's everyone, it's all three phases. It's everybody here. We're a family, so we're not going to say just defense needs to do better, or special teams or offense. We all need to be better if we want to be where we want to be. We'll start back tomorrow, watch film, grade it and move on because it's a long season, but at the same time, you have to be able to watch film and get better and play better, and we have to play a lot better if we want to win ball games around here."

(on if the slow start has to do with the team's mindset) "Yeah, I think it's a combination of everything; of plays, mindset or being aggressive when you can be aggressive. We've got a good coaching staff. I know they'll take care of what they need to take care of. But at the same time, whatever play is called, we have to be able to execute at a high level, and I think tonight, we didn't do that well enough as a team. So, we definitely have to get better in that area if we want to be successful around here."

(on the field position battle) "Our job as a defense is to keep them from the end zone. I don't care where they get the ball. So, that's the mindset we have. We let our team down by not going out there and stopping them and giving up those points. That's one of the things we can do a lot better as a defense. And like I say, this is a team sport, so field position and offense and defense, we all did some things tonight that wasn't good. We did a lot of things that we need to clean up if we want to be better. At the same time, there were some flashes there where we showed we can be a pretty good football team if we just do it on a consistent basis. I think we need to work more on that and understanding the game as a whole and how teams try to attack us, because we'll get teams that try attack us different ways, and we have to understand how they want to do that. But it's back to the drawing board. Like I said, it's a long season, but we don't want to start a trend, especially a losing trend. That's something that we all hate. I think I speak for everyone in here, including the coaches that that's a trend that we have to break and we want to break and we don't want to have that. We just have to get that going tomorrow and have a better week this week."



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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

HEAD COACH ANDY REID
RB JAMAAL CHARLES
OLB JUSTIN HOUSTON
LB DERRICK JOHNSON
TE TRAVIS KELCE
WIDE RECEIVER JEREMY MACLIN
CB MARCUS PETERS
DT DONTARI POE
QB ALEX SMITH

HEAD COACH ANDY REID (Transcribed by Rachel Jacob and Stephanie Weaver)

(opening statement) "Really on the injury front, we came out OK. We had some guys that cramped a little bit other than that everybody was okay and finished the game. Listen I think the offensive line did a good job. Fish (Eric Fisher) practiced during the week. We thought early he'd be able to make it to the game and he tried. He put his heart into the thing but he just couldn't push off the way he needed to. Jah (Reid) got some reps in there obviously during that time and it gave him an opportunity to jump in a play and listen, for being here for such a short period of time, I mean you've got to take your hat off to him for getting in there and playing the way he did. Again that is a young group. I believe they are going to do nothing but get better. J.J. (Watt) had a couple plays and we saw that but we knew that going in. He is a phenomenal football player and phenomenal football players make plays and so you just want to try and limit him the best way you possibly can. I thought our guys did a pretty good job with that. Fourteen points on turnovers I think are a big thing. I know it is being said in the other locker room, it is tough to turn the ball over a couple times and win the game so with that we were able to score points and like I said get the 14 points there and get them fairly quickly and decisively. I thought our defense really played well in particular the first half and into the second half. I thought there was pressure on the quarterback and we did a nice job with coverage for the most part there. And then special teams, it comes down to an onside kick at the end and you always hold your breath a little bit there and I thought our guys did a nice job there securing the football. Knowing how to line up, that's about half the battle. Sometimes you have a timeout you could use in that situation, we didn't have a time out there. We used it to give our players a rest at the end of the game so they could go full throttle on their pass rush so with that the onside kick you got to see it and line up to the right then make sure that you secure the football and I think our guys did a good with that."

(on when he knew T Eric Fisher was having problems) "It just looked like it. I got to the point where it wasn't getting better. So from that point I had to make a decision and there was no time, we are talking Friday, right? I looked at the tape on Thursday, I wasn't watching him every play throughout. I was watching the tape on Thursday and it wasn't right, he was trying to push through it but he was having a hard time getting his hips through and rolling over that so I said 'Hey listen we can't put him in a position like that.' So we went with Jah."

(on if T Eric Fisher communicated that he wasn't feeling well) "Yeah, uh huh. No I mean we kept communication with him throughout so. He thought he could push through it but it didn't work that way."

(on if T Jah Reid got most of the reps on Friday) "Yeah, Jah took a lot of the reps on Friday. Now Fish still practiced on Friday and I wanted to see where he was at. High ankle sprains are weird. They tweak and then sometimes you can pull out of that thing. We were kind of keeping a close eye on him. We had him do some scout team stuff, some regular stuff. He ended up going in the game tonight or today and did okay for the couple of snaps he was in there."

(on the purpose of putting T Eric Fisher in) "Yeah, Donald (Stephenson) hurt his finger. He is going to be okay."

(on what WR Jeremy Maclin brings to the team as far as opening space for others) "Well you saw that. Listen I probably could have used more. He had that nice catch there where he was just out of bounds by a hair. He had another one where he overthrew him where he was open deep there. We'll connect on those as we go. He is a good football player and obviously created a little space there for 87 (TE Travis Kelce) because he had a pretty good game. He got hit and it was kind of up and down from there when he was in and out, but he had to sit out a bit."



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(on if he was pleased with the way his defense played especially in regards to the Texans' quarterbacks) "Yeah, I am going to tell you this about any quarterback in this league, if you get to them early like that, it's tough sledding. That's just the way it is. So we were able to get there and it's attributed to our d-line and outside backers that were able to get there and make him uncomfortable. He is a good football player, I like his game. (Ryan) Mallet came out, I thought he did a good job so when they get everything together, the running backs and all that, they get their runner back, it's a good football team here—real good football team. And this first game can blow things out of perspective a little bit. He's got a good football team right here."

(on the performance of QB Alex Smith) "I thought he did a good job. He made so many big plays and big throws. I've got to do a better job with him in that second half with getting him in a better position. We tried running it, and they did a pretty good job at times against the run. Some of the plays I dialed up I thought were just kind of average."

(on if the offense looked the way it was supposed to in the first half) "Yeah, that is the way it is supposed to look. Now is it always that way? No. But those are the things you can do, and then you've got to make sure that you carry that over into the second half."

(on how hard it is for defenses to stop players like RB Jamaal Charles, WR, Jeremy Maclin, and TE Travis Kelce) "They'll tell you that. The more weapons you have that you can utilize, the tougher it is on defenses. That's how it rolls."

(on if the short passes used in the first half were used strategically) "Then they went a little more man coverage in the latter part of the second half. They tried to take away the cushion a little bit that is why we had those opportunities down the field. We'll connect on those."

(on how important the play of special teams was) "Huge. Little guy kicked the ball a lot, especially his kickoffs. We needed him for that last field goal. I'll hold that over him a little bit. He needed to make that thing. It was sitting right there on the 35. That is your spot right there man. You own that thing. Put it through. But he did a nice job though. Field position was huge in this game."

(on the performance of the offensive line) "I think in general they did a good job. I do want to see the tape. That is a good defensive line, really a front seven. That front seven, those guys are tough guys. They play well and fast, and they bring a lot of stuff at you. They get their hands up well in the pass game and deflect balls, all those things. I thought our guys for the most part did a good job. We've got to keep getting better. That's the challenge now because every game you play now teams have tape on you. They're going to study it. Can you take your game up another level that week? That will be very important as we go through the season."

(on how much Reed is looking forward to getting his team back home for the short week) "As soon as I can get out of this press conference, we'll get rolling. It's important how we handle it as coaches. It's important how we handle it as players. When given an opportunity to rest, you rest. Get off your feet and take care of business. Bumps and bruises, you take care of those. We've got to get ready. We have a great opponent coming in against Denver. I think there will be a couple of people at Arrowhead so it should be exciting."

RB JAMAAL CHARLES (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on his family coming from Port Arthur, Texas to see him play) "My auntie organized it. She had probably two buses outside. I had more people, more friends and family that came to see me. It's exciting to be back home and be back in the stadium I've played in before."

(on how they kept the Texans off balance on defense) "Just preparing. Our coach prepared us well, we've been prepared all this season, all training camp and we've been preparing for two weeks now. When we stepped on the field, it just clicked and I'm glad we came out with the W."

(on the performance of QB Alex Smith) "Alex has been doing it for a long time. Alex has the keys around him. He's got wide receivers, he's got tight ends; the guy did an outstanding job today. We've got to continue to look out for him and step up when we step on the field for him."



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(on how happy he was with the performance against the Texans defensive front) “At the end of the day, when we get past that first level, we can do work on the second level. They put their clothes on just like we put our clothes on. They’re men just like we’re men. All you have to do is go out there and play and that’s what we did.”

(on if the Texans secondary was identified as a soft spot to attack) “Not really. It’s the National Football League; every person on the field is a great player. We wanted everybody to bring their best. That’s what coach tells us every time. We want people to bring their best. We seized the moment.”

(on what it meant to score in front of his friends and family) “It’s exciting to put on for my city. I’m from Port Arthur and it’s exciting that my family came down here. A lot of supporters supported me. It was an honor that coach let me get a touchdown and called the right play and I got in the end zone. Once I saw that ball come my way, there wasn’t nothing stopping me; I was going to get in the end zone.”

OLB JUSTIN HOUSTON (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on creating turnovers from the defense) “Every time you get a turnover, no matter when it is, that’s a big help. That’s our goal as a defense is to create turnovers. When we get the turnover, we put our offense in great field position.”

(on the defensive gameplan on QB Brian Hoyer) “We knew they wanted to come out and run the ball and a lot of quick throws. We put them in third-and-long to make them hold the ball a little bit longer, that would give us a great chance to make some plays on defense.”

(on facing the Texans without RB Arian Foster) “I thought they made some good running plays. We have to do better in the run and it’s some gaps we didn’t fill. They got some good yardage on the run plays. Of course Foster, he’s a great back. I think they missed him. I think we did a decent job.”

LB DERRICK JOHNSON (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on LB Tamba Hali) “Tamba is a great competitor—a guy that has been in the league just as long as me. Knows what it takes to hard work. Hard work pays off. He’s a guy that I’ll go down the alley with.”

(on winning on the road in a tough environment) “Anytime you can get a home away game, a win away, is great. It’s one of those things where if you can steal a few away games, it’s what you want because home games always favor the home teams. It was a hard task today. We jumped out on them, held on to the lead and got the win.”

(on if Houston is a tougher place to play than most) “I haven’t played here much, but Houston is definitely a place that’s hard to play. The fans get into it. It’s the state of Texas, so football is big here.”

(on what they saw defensively that allowed them to attack and create turnovers) “Well that’s our mentality. Stop the run and then make them one dimensional. We did most of the game toward the end. They threw us a curve with (Ryan) Mallett in the game. He’s a good quarterback. He’s a first string quarterback just like (Brian) Hoyer. He did a good job coming in. We weren’t quite ready for him, but we held on to the win and that was the main thing.”

(on QB Alex Smith’s play) “Alex Smith is a guy that’s very proven in this league. Managed the game and doesn’t put the defense in tough spots.”

TE TRAVIS KELCE (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on his windmill celebration while scoring a touchdown) “I told Mike DeVito that he gives one heck of a punch so I had to wind up to give him one. That touchdown was for Mike, DJ (Derrick Johnson) and EB (Eric Berry) for getting back in the lineup and being out there. The defense played stellar. Shout out to the defense and of course Alex (Smith) put the ball right on the money.”

(on the first touchdown from Alex Smith) “He was on the money all day. Everything was in range. When he’s playing lights out and the offensive line is blocking like they were today, we’re a pretty solid football team.”

(on if being wide open all day was due to his play or the Texans defense) “That’s gameplan. That’s Coach Reid dialing up the right plays at the right time. Hats off to him. I appreciate him for what he does. Obviously the other



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guys on the field are running their routes to win. I'm going to have to look on film to see how I got so wide open on some of those plays. For the most part it's just execution and going out there and playing hard for each other."

(on whether or not a weakness was identified in the Texans defense to attack) "I don't think there was anything that stood out this week. Every single week we're going to have plays for every guy on the offense. That's just how we do it. We need everyone to win; everyone's number is going to get called. That's just how it goes and when you're number is called you have to step up to the plate. Sure enough I had a few times today where I had to step up to the plate."

(on what it meant to see S Eric Berry back on the field) "Walking through the tunnel and walking to the field with him, it was kind of surreal with what he's been through. We're just fired up to have him back here. Right now we're all rolling."

WR JEREMY MACLIN (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on if he felt like he made a catch on a play that was ruled incomplete) "It happened so fast, the video guy did a good job for them today. I don't really know what qualifies. I thought if you catch it then go to the ground it's a different story. I think the difference between (this and Dez Bryant's incompletion in NFC Playoffs last year) was his ball hit the ground a little bit, but in this case it didn't hit the ground at all. It is what it is. The rules are the rules. I think there needs to be a seminar on what is and what isn't (a catch)."

CB MARCUS PETERS (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on playing with LB Justin Houston) "When you have the best pass rusher in the NFL, it makes it a whole lot easier."

(on playing against a bigger receiver in WR DeAndre Hopkins) "Ain't nobody bigger than me in my heart. He made some plays and I'll go back and look at the film and capitalize and get better week to week. It was a good win for us and we get prepared for Thursday."

(on playing against wide receivers at the next level) "It's just football. It's just football. They are going to make their plays and we're going to make ours and we build for it and we build for the next play."

(on getting beat on a play and what it takes to stay focused) "Next play mentality. I never let it get to me even though I'm a competitor, but it was right here in the back of my mind. It's next play mentality. I know I have ten other guys on the field with me who got my back. We finished this game out and we came out with a 'W'."

(on if he kept the football to his first career interception in the first half) "Yeah, we got it tucked away. I'm going to give it to my pops so we can put it back at my high school."

(on if the moment felt special) "It felt special when we were singing the National Anthem. It's a dream come true to be playing on this level and it's even more of a blessing to be on this great team that I am, so it felt special."

DT DONTARI POE (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on if his thoughts of the defense setting the tone in the first game of the season) "Yeah, I think we did a pretty good job, but it's always stuff to work on so we have to go back and review the film and get better at what we can."

(on what this win meant going into week two against a divisional opponent in the Denver Broncos) "Huge. It gave us a little momentum. We have confidence going. The sky's the limit for us as long as keep our head on straight and keep fighting."

(on his thoughts about QB Alex Smith and the offensive production) "It felt good. It felt real good because I feel like they came out with confidence. They didn't come out skiddish or nervous. They came out ready to play, ready to do what they've been doing all summer long. It feels real good to see it."

(on how he felt during the game) "I felt good. I was feeling like my old self, so I should be back next week."

QB ALEX SMITH (Transcribed by Christiana Johns)



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(on getting off to a good start early in the game) “It was nice to get off to a start like that. You never expect it. The defense, to get the turnover the way they did right there and then to come out firing after that first drive, it was really nice. You can’t anticipate that. Luckily, I think we got the opportunities and took advantage. When you get those situations – we had good field position, got the couple of turnovers in the red zone, and we were able to capitalize, and I think in the end was kind of the difference.”

(on this year’s team more able to take advantage of opportunities better than last year) “It’s tough to compare to last year. I think we’re more balanced. I think we’re really well-rounded. We have a lot of different ways to get you. I think we have a lot of weapons. We have a lot of guys that can do multiple things. So I think that presents a lot of different problems for defenses. I think you saw that out there early on with them, how they were going to play us, the matchups, things like that.”

(on what he expected from being able to go to TE Travis Kelce) “I didn’t know what to expect. They were pretty vanilla in the preseason. So kind of watching last year’s tape, I didn’t know what to expect how they were going to play different personnels, how they were going to play Kelce. The touchdown pass, got kind of big people, and got a good matchup there with him. I didn’t know what to expect—kind of ready for everything. Coaches did such a good job of having the game plan ready for that.”

(on there being missed coverage with second touchdown pass) “I think two things: one, it was a really good play design, great call and then executed really well. I think the big there starts with the guys up front. Any time you’re asking play action pass, seven-step drop, on the road vs. that defensive line, that’s asking a lot. They were able to get us the score, obviously. (Travis) Kelce and the guys outside getting the route done, and he was pretty wide open, but those guys doing it.”

(on how the mid-week changes on the offensive line came together today) “It was a tall task. They had a big challenge on the road. This defensive line, they were really good. This was going to be a tough challenge. Five different guys than we had last year going, it’s asking a lot and those guys stepped up. They deserve a lot of credit.”

(on how WR Jeremy Maclin opened up the offense) “He can do so much. They matched him with Johnathan Joseph all night. You can tell what they thought of him. He really should have had a big night. They hit him on those two deep balls, which he won on and the second half wouldn’t have been very close. But he’s a difference maker. You can just move him around. You can do so many different things with him. He’s so smart. The guy sees the game really well.”

(on what it was like for a helmet-less DE J.J. Watt coming toward him) “I looked up and saw him without his helmet on and didn’t know what happened.”

(on if it was strange to see a helmet-less DE J.J. Watt) “To be honest, I didn’t even see him. Your eyes are downfield and you feel the color there at the end, and you just try to protect the football. That’s about it.”

(on making short passes to RB Jamaal Charles in the first half) “It’s the West Coast offense. It’s timing passing, stretching the field, not just vertically but horizontally. I feel like we have a lot of guys that can do that and getting guys in space. Jamaal is obviously a unique guy and able to do things like that out of the backfield. That’s always part of what we’re trying to do.”

(on how tough it is for defenses to match up against RB Jamaal Charles, WR Jeremy Maclin and TE Travis Kelce) “It’s hard because obviously they have to pick their poison outside. If they’re going to play one-on-one outside, and then the big thing is if they’re going to help outside and one of those guys inside, whether it be Travis or Jamaal. Usually they have a favorable matchup.”

(on being pleased with the pace of the game) “Got into a really good rhythm in the first half. Even right off the bat, even though we didn’t score on that opening drive, we were able to move the chains and change field position. I did feel like we got into a really good rhythm from the start. We stalled there in the third quarter, but it was good right out of the gate.”

(on what he sees from TE Travis Kelce) “He’s been that kind of player since he’s been here. He has that ability in him, especially for a tight end, a guy that big to be able to make plays with the balls in his hands. We were better



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on third down in the first half. In the second half there, we weren't very good. We need to get better. Obviously that was a big one there to be able to eat up some more clock, and they burned their timeouts."