



HOUSTON TEXANS vs. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, October 8, 2015

POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN
LT DUANE BROWN
OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY
ILB BRIAN CUSHING
RB ARIAN FOSTER
QB BRIAN HOYER
WR DEANDRE HOPKINS
CB KEVIN JOHNSON
CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
QB RYAN MALLET
WR JAELEN STRONG
DE J.J. WATT

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN (Transcribed by Omar Majzoub)

(opening statement) "I'll tell you what I told the team. We all got to work together, we got to stick together and we got to figure out how to get over the hump here. That was not good tonight. Anytime you come out on the losing end, it's not good. Were there some good things tonight? Certainly there were, just like in any football game but certainly not enough. Too many penalties, turnovers again, no takeaways again, had trouble stopping the run, had trouble running it at times, but I believe in the guys in that locker room. That's what I just told them. Nothing's changed in that regard. I believe that we have good guys in there and guys that are resilient and I believe we're going to show back up tomorrow and work and try to figure out what we got to do to get over the hump here and win a game. So with that, I'll open it up."

(on being 1 and 4 to start the season) "It's not good. I wouldn't even know how to describe it, but it's not good and we have to figure it out. I'll say this though, the only thing I'll say to that is that I really feel like there is a lot of season left. I really believe that. There is 11 games left. Look, I know that it doesn't look good right now. I'm not saying that it does, but I think there's a lot of season left. Give the Colts credit, they did a better job than us tonight. But I think there's a lot left to play for, no question about it."

(on who the starting quarterback is) "Brian (Hoyer) I thought did a good job tonight, but we'll talk about it. I haven't even talked to the staff yet about it. We'll sit down and review the film. I thought Brian did a good job though. He went in there, it wasn't the easiest of circumstances - other than the last play there where he kind of launched it up there. He probably wants to have that one back, but I thought he did a good job. We'll review it tomorrow and see where we are at that position."

(on what happened to QB Ryan Mallett) "I think it was an ankle. I think he probably could have gone back in there, but Brian (Hoyer)- that was a 60-yard drive that ended in a field goal. I thought that was a pretty good drive, so I stuck with Brian there."

(on QB Ryan Mallett trying to come back in the game) "Subbing him back in during a drive, I just - I thought that Brian (Hoyer) went in there and did a decent job of completing some passes on that drive. He was getting into a rhythm, so I stuck with Brian there."

(on QB Ryan Mallett leaving the field early in the first half) "I think there was like one second left on the clock, so I know that I thought the half was over, to be honest with you. Then they grabbed me back and then we decided to go again to the end zone there. No, I don't know anything about that."

(on the team committing too many penalties) "Yeah, it's not very good. Way too many penalties on both sides of the ball, on special teams again. We have to watch it and we have to figure out what we can do to coach the players better to not commit those penalties."



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(on the offensive line play and the quarterbacks having enough time to pass) "I thought Brian (Hoyer) made some good decisions. I thought when (Ryan) Mallett was in there, there was some good things too. I think the line is playing well. Again, not having watched the tape yet, I'll probably be able to answer that question better early in the week here. But everybody's got to do a better job."

(on not creating enough turnovers) "I think it's something that we have to keep working on. We've had chances at turnovers. It just hasn't happened. Sometimes they come in waves, sometimes they don't come. Last year they were really good for us. This year, we have to figure out what we can do to coach it better and see if we can get some takeaways."

(on starting slow) "It's not good. We drove the ball down the field on the first drive there. I thought that was a good drive, had a chance there. Then we threw it and had an interception there off basically a tipped ball, I guess it was, so we got to figure out what we're doing wrong there in the red area, especially in the beginning of the game. It's all about going back to work tomorrow and trying to figure out what we can do better."

(on the run defense) "Again, I think they were running zone scheme and power scheme. We stopped it at times, but a lot of times we didn't. So again, we got to go back and look at the tape and see if we can get it corrected. See if we can coach it better and put the players in better positions to be able to make those plays."

LT DUANE BROWN (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on the frustration of starting 1-4) "No one likes to lose and it's our first divisional game. We had a great game plan in place and we fought hard, but that is not enough. You have to play for four quarters and that has kind of been our thing though. Penalties hurt us, turnovers hurt us tonight. We just have to be a more disciplined group. I think that's where the frustration comes from the most is that we shot ourselves in the foot a lot tonight with 13 or 14 penalties. You can't win like that, so we have to clean that up."

(on what changed when QB Brian Hoyer got into the game) "I don't know. We were clicking. We ran the ball decently and kept them honest there and made some plays in the passing game. I thought we did a decent job up front in protection and the receivers did a great job out there getting open. They were just pitching and catching it."

(on the momentum from the final play of the first half) "That was a huge play to have a 95-yard drive with no timeouts left, that shows a lot of battle man. I think everyone was proud of that and we wanted to carry that momentum into the second half, but they came out and scored a touchdown on us and we didn't answer on our next drive. That put us behind a little bit there. We just have to continue to be consistent. We have had some great spurts on offense and shown the football we can play. We just have to continue to be consistent, that has been our problem."

OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on the frustration of the result) "You want to win, point blank. You want to win, losing is not an option. Nobody wants to lose, we need to win."

(on his performance) "Yeah, I'm getting there but I just have to finish. It's not about getting there, I need to finish plays."

(on the facemask penalty) "I was trying to make a play. Things happen, you grab whatever to get the guy down to the ground. I was trying to make a play and they called a facemask."

(on the play of the defense) "We should've made more plays, just try to compete out there really. Go out there and get stops and get the ball back to the offense."

(on what went wrong in this game) "I don't know, they made the plays and got the points on the board. We didn't."

(on what the rest of the season holds for the team) "It's an 11 game season. We play Jacksonville, we're going to get ready and prepare for them tomorrow, and go back to work. That's all we can do. Get back to work and fix problems."



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(on the message the team received from its leaders) “Get back to work. Get ready for Jacksonville, get this one behind us. We have to watch the tape, prepare. We see them (Indianapolis) again at their house. So, we’re going to see some of the same plays that they made yards on.”

ILB BRIAN CUSHING (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on if the outcome is frustrating) “Yeah, it is. We’re just in situations that are not anywhere we need to be or want to be. We have a lot of football left but we have to crack it.”

(on how the team reached this point) “It’s football. It’s professional football, I mean everyone is paid and there are a lot of good teams out there. Obviously we haven’t played up to par. The games aren’t going to be given to us, we have to work for it and we haven’t worked hard enough.”

(on why Indianapolis was so successful running the ball) “They did, but it wasn’t anything crazy. Maybe a little over a 100-yards. They weren’t killing us in that. They got the points they needed and scored more than we did.”

(on the impact of the penalties that resulted in first downs for Indianapolis) “Yeah, we were just shooting ourselves in the foot. We can’t panic in certain situations, can’t grab and just - we have to do our job better.”

(on if the defense is pressing) “I don’t think we’re pressing but we’re just trying to make a play. Just trying to make something happen, we just can’t commit those penalties.”

(on if the team has an established direction) “We’ll come in and watch the film tomorrow. We’ll make the adjustments but we have to keep pushing and break through this.”

(on the impact of defensive penalties) “We can’t have that many. We can’t have that many in those situations, they just hurt us.”

(on if he believes the defense had more opportunities to make impact plays) “I do. Especially on some of those plays - one was an interception and it just didn’t work out for us.”

(on if he felt the defense had missed opportunities) “We did, but we needed to make another stop and we didn’t.”

(on the moral of the locker room after the Hail Mary pass at the end of the first half) “Upbeat and a good mood. Obviously it doesn’t matter.”

(on where the team stands now) “The playing, record it is just not where we need to be.”

RB ARIAN FOSTER (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on his perspective on the game) “I didn’t get it done in the clutch situations. We have to take accountability for that and keep on pushing. It was a tough game. It’s a tough league, so you got to keep on pushing and believe.”

(on starting the season 1-4) “No, you don’t want to start 1-4, but it’s a long season and in order for you to even have the opportunity to finish how you want to you have to believe it. I do and I know the rest of my teammates do, so we just got to keep pushing.”

(on QB Brian Hoyer’s performance) “He just has to keep being consistent. He’s a very consistent quarterback. Whoever coach puts back there obviously we are going to rally behind.”

(on if its tougher for the offense when constantly switching quarterbacks) “We just got to do our jobs individually, man.”

QB BRIAN HOYER (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)



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(on if he feels like he is the starting quarterback right now) “That’s not for me to decide. My job is to go out and if I play, I play, and try to play the best I can.”

(on if he was surprised that he stayed in the game and that QB Ryan Mallett stayed on the sideline) “I wasn’t sure what his status was. I just, like I said, my job is to play and do as well as I can when I go in.”

(on his thoughts on his performance) “Some good, some bad. I’ve got to watch some film and see obviously the last play. It was a pretty bad decision, tried to throw it away and play on fourth down. That’s not the greatest decision in the world, but I think there was obviously some good too. We fought and kept fighting back.”

(on what the mood of the team is right now) “You know what, I can only talk for myself. I think obviously we’re disappointed. I’m disappointed that, like I said, we fought back and to finish the way we did, I’ve got to make a better decision. I don’t think – for me, I still believe in my teammates and it’s a long season. There’s 11 games left. Obviously this isn’t where we want to be, but like I said it’s a long season, and we’ve just got to keep coming in and working hard to do a better job and win a football game.”

(on if there’s anything he can take away from the struggles in Cleveland to help get through this) “Yeah I think you’ve just got to come in every day and really focus on your job and do what you can better. That’s really what it boils down to. It’s not some magic formula. It’s not some magic speech that someone’s going to give. It’s us coming in here and working hard and going out and executing on Sunday.”

(on what he saw out of rookie WR Jaelen Strong today) “Obviously he got us a little momentum with the one before the half, and then the other one they dropped the coverage and he was wide open. I think all those young guys did a good job stepping up. It’s not the easiest system to know what to do. Obviously producing some good results.”

(on the interception at the end of the game) “Yeah, and they had it pretty well covered. Like I said, I have to see the tape, but I felt like I saw someone streaking to the end zone. You’d probably like to play on fourth down, so try to throw it away. Tough part is when you’re in the pocket, you don’t want to get intentional grounding either. So try to move around and then throw it away, throw it at someone’s feet, and live for the next play.”

(on if he talked with QB Ryan Mallett at halftime) “Just the normal conversation that quarterbacks have, ‘hey what’d you see?’ I think that’s kind of the typical thing, even when Ryan wasn’t playing and I’m in, we’re going over the pictures, that type of thing.”

(on if it’s awkward at all going back and forth with QB Ryan Mallett and working together on the sideline) “I mean I was focused on playing the game. We’ve had a good relationship throughout this entire ordeal. I don’t think that really has an affect on anything else. Especially when you’re playing in the game, it’s focus on the next series, the next play.”

(on if it’s harder to come back now that they’re in a hole) “I don’t know, I think you come in tomorrow and watch the film, and figure out what we need to do better, and then it’s another divisional opponent next week and get ready for those guys. Obviously, I wasn’t here last year but these guys are familiar with Jacksonville. I played Jacksonville last year so I know a little bit about them. You move onto the next game.”

(on if he expects to be the starting quarterback) “Not my decision to make.”

WR DEANDRE HOPKINS (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on a tough start to the season) “It’s the NFL. It’s a long season. Nobody is hanging their head.”

(on if it feels like the season is slipping away a little bit) “No. Not at all.”

(on QB Brian Hoyer’s performance) “He’s a leader man. He’s been this offense since he has been in the NFL.”

(on how do you put this behind you and move forward) “This is a 16 game season. I have seen many teams go 10-6 and win the Super Bowl. We’ve got the leaders on this team that are not going to let us hang our heads. It sucks to lose but we are moving forward.”



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(on his individual performance) "I lost tonight so my stats don't really mean too much to me personally."

CB KEVIN JOHNSON (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on Colts WR Andre Johnson) "He's definitely a good player: a big, athletic guy. He uses his size very well, has good hands. He's a very good player."

(on keeping Colts WR T.Y. Hilton in check) "We were just executing our assignments and playing good ball. I thought we did a pretty good job with their receiving corps as a whole. Just in certain moments in the game we have to make certain plays."

(on the Colts opening drive after halftime) "They just got some steam rolling, and they were able to capitalize on the possession. We just have to come back coming out of halftime, we have to really come together as a defense and do better on that."

CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on if 'frustrating' is an understatement) "Yeah, it is. You come out and you play and you do a good job and you still come up short. You think you play a good enough game to win the game sometimes and still come up short. It's very frustrating, but at the end of the day, we have to find a way to climb out of this hole and just continue fighting."

(on penalties wiping out big plays) "No question. Thirteen or 14 penalties for 100-and-something yards, there goes seven points itself right there. And then some of the times it came on third down, some of the times at the most important, critical moments of the game, and we can't have that happen as a team. That hurts us, so we have to find a way to correct those penalties and try to keep them at a minimum."

(on if the penalties are due to the team pressing too hard to make a play) "It could be some of that. It's kind of hard just to see without watching the film, but I definitely think it could be some of that, for whatever reason. Just trying to make a play, just being a little over-aggressive, just different things at times because it's not just one guy in particular. It's coming from a few different spots, so it's kind of all over the place a little bit."

(on how he helps the team move forward) "Just take it one game at a time. Of course, you can't keep saying the same thing, but I think we have a long season ahead of us. There's still, I think, 12 or 11 games left, so we definitely have enough time, but the time is now. We have to definitely start putting some numbers over there in the win column and try to stack some wins up. You have to go out and look at this film and just try to correct the mistakes first and foremost, and then move on to the next game."

(on if the extra days off comes at the right time) "I guess maybe you could say that. It would feel much better to have this mini break with a win, but unfortunately it's a loss. So, I think on the flip side, we have a lot of time to go and evaluate ourselves and see what we're doing as football team also."

QB RYAN MALLET (Transcribed by Omar Majzoub)

(on if he got hurt in the game) "I just got the wind knocked out of me."

(on if he felt good enough to go back in) "Yeah."

(on if he expected to go back in) "Yeah, never question that."

(on if he attempted to go back in the game) "I did. I did."

(on if Head Coach Bill O'Brien kept him from going back in the game) "That's not my call. I just do what I'm told."

(on his level of frustration) "I'm frustrated, frustrated in that loss. Obviously we want to win."

(on leaving the first half early) "I thought the half was over. That's all that was."



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(on if he left the half early because he was frustrated) “No, not at all.”

(on if he got a chance to tell the coaches he was ready at halftime) “Nope.”

(on if he thinks he will get a chance to play next week) “I’ll be ready.”

(on what he thinks he can do to fix the turnovers) “What else do you want me to do? Throw the ball better, I guess.”

(on not being able to get back on the field) “I don’t know. It’s not my call.”

(on if he thinks he got things accomplished on the first drive) “I feel like we were putting on a clinic the first drive. Yeah, it felt like that. The rest is history.”

(on finding rhythm on the first drive) “We just came out ready to go, ready to play.”

(on if he is surprised the team is 1-4) “It’s a long season. We still got a lot of games left to play. What we got to do is get on the right track.”

(on the frustration level around the team) “The only people that matter to me are the people in this locker room.”

WR JAELEN STRONG (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on his two touchdown performance) “I mean we lost the game so I am not really excited about that right now.”

(on his Hail Mary catch) “Hoyer threw it up and I just boxed everyone out there and made a play.”

(on does this game boost his confidence) “It definitely got the jitters out of me.”

(on how can he build on this performance) “Just continue to do what we have been doing as a team, try to stick together, working harder and harder and eventually we will start winning.”

(on what kind of boost did his catch give the team at halftime) “It gave us a tremendous boost. A tremendous boost.”

(on QB Brian Hoyer’s performance) “I felt like Hoyer did a great job.”

DE J.J. WATT (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on the mood of the team) “We’re not happy, obviously, but we’re going to go back to work and figure it out.”

(on the level of frustration) “Yeah, I’d say there’s frustration.”

(on if he was surprised by the play of Colts WR Andre Johnson) “He’s a good football player. He made some plays. I’m not sure, I don’t cover him. So I couldn’t tell you what happened.”

(on putting the loss behind him) “You have no choice but to come back to work, to watch the film, to get on the practice field to figure it out. You have no choice. There’s no option. So, you go out there and you do whatever you can to figure it out to get it back on the right track.”

POSTGAME QUOTES FROM INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

HEAD COACH CHUCK PAGANO

S MIKE ADAMS

RB FRANK GORE

QB MATT HASSELBECK

WR ANDRE JOHNSON

G JOE REITZ

K ADAM VINATIERI



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HEAD COACH CHUCK PAGANO (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver and Hannah Pietsch)

“Good to see everybody. No injuries to report. It’s a great thing. Obviously very excited. It’s a great team win. The guys played outstanding football. Credit the Texans. They’re a good football team. We know every time we go up against them, it is going to be a 15-rounder. Proud, proud, proud, of the guys. Played really good in the first half. Gave up a big play obviously with one second to go in the second quarter. We’ve got to get that cleaned up obviously, but the guys really bounced back. We talk about it all the time. Sixty minutes, one play at a time. All you’ve got, don’t judge. We came in, said forget it. Move on. It’s over. We got the ball in the third quarter. Offense came right back and responded with a touchdown drive and got that score right back and then just battled their tails off to pull off the victory. The offensive line was outstanding. Great protection. (RB) Frank (Gore) ran for 94 yards. I think we averaged four to a carry. No sacks. I don’t even know if the guy got hit. Maybe once, and they called roughing the passer. Offensive line was tremendous. Receivers made plays. Andre Johnson coming back home. What a fabulous game he had. Got him going with six or seven catches, a couple touchdowns. Outstanding defense. They got some timely stops when they needed to and kept them out of the end zone. Got some things to fix obviously in the back end. Kicking game was excellent. Lot of good things. We’ll come in tomorrow and watch the tape and get things cleaned up. Again very, very proud of our quarterback Matt Hasselbeck who came in a second week in a row and won another game for us. He was literally on his deathbed Monday and Tuesday and mustered up enough to come in on Wednesday and practice. He was getting IVs and fighting a virus. Grittiest performance I have seen in a long, long time. He was outstanding.”

(on how QB Matt Hasselbeck and the team play through adversity) “It speaks to the character of this football team and our coaches and their ability to block out the noise. Keep the blinders on. Keep the earmuffs on. Stick to the grindstone. Keep chomping. Keep working. Keep preparing. Keep playing. At some point it’s going to turn, unless you give up or unless you quit and just give into it. These guys have never done that, and they will never do that. We’ve got great character on this football team. They have been through a lot. Go back to the start of the season and all that stuff. Nobody listened to that stuff. They just kept their heads down, and they kept working. When you do the right thing and you serve and you get back and you treat each other right and you work and you prepare and you keep fighting and you keep scratching, eventually it’s going to turn. I love this football team, and they’re starting to come together. We’ll have some time off to get healthy now. We’ve got 10 days before our next game I believe. We’ll come in tomorrow, and we’ll get things cleaned up. We’ll take a few days off and get on the mend and get ready for the next one.”

(on having 16-straight wins in the AFC South) “We gave everybody a game ball from this one. We could have given out some individual ones, but to surpass the only team in the NFL that had a perfect season – the ‘72 Dolphins – and go 16-straight division games and hold that record now, that is something that every man on this football team and everybody in our organization can share. That is something nobody can ever take away from you, so very, very proud of what those guys were able to accomplish so everyone will get a game ball for that one. That is huge, but again, we’re going to stay grounded, and we’re going to stay humble. We’re going to continue to work. We’ve got to get healthy obviously. Success is sometimes harder to handle than adversity. They’ll keep their heads down, and we’ll enjoy this one for 24 hours. Then we’ll move on.”

(on how pleased he was with how the offense held focus) “It was tremendous. Again, they did a phenomenal job, and that’s a really good defensive unit. They’ve got great players over there. Our offensive line, tight ends, and the backs ran hard, receivers made plays, and the quarterback played outstanding. Speaks a lot about those guys.”

(on if this is what he envisioned the offense looking like) “Yeah, I believe we’re starting to come together. You’re starting to see what our vision was for offense, defense, and special teams from the onset. Sometimes you’re going to go through some stuff to make you stronger, to galvanize you so to speak, and not one guy flinched. A lot of stuff swirling around and nobody flinched. Guys stick together and when you do that, you’ve got character. You’ve got gritty guys, you’ve got tough guys and good things happen.”

(on how much doubt he had about QB Matt Hasselbeck being able to play in tonight’s game) “He looked bad and all that stuff. I knew they babied him for a couple of days. He’s in there getting IVs and blankets on and stuff. They were taking good care of him. He knew that everybody was counting on him, and I think it would have taken something really, really severe to keep him from playing in this one. He’s probably going to get on that plane and pass out. And luckily, we’ve got the time that we have. That was one heck of a performance for a guy that was ailing big time.”



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(on how the team's veterans led the way in tonight's game) "Fountain of youth. Guys are from Miami, so I guess you go down there and find Ponce de Leon and find the fountain of youth. I spent six years down there sipping out of that thing myself. Again, those guys are warriors, great players, pros. They prepare, they practice hard, they study hard, they're team guys. Everybody knew the start that 81 (WR Andre Johnson) had and not one word. You guys know, you were in the locker room. You can see his personality, see his mannerisms, see his character, and not one time did he ever, and that's why he's a hall of famer. He's a great player. He's a great human being. He's a great person. He's a great teammate. Fortunate to have those guys. Our 40-plusers are doing pretty good. Eighty-two years between those two – the quarterback and the kicker."

(on his confidence about playing New England) "Supremely confident. Got the best backup in the league right now. We could argue that. He's getting better every single day. He's really, really close. We've got to make decisions based on what's best for the player, first and foremost, and then what's best for the team. We've got full confidence in everybody. A lot of guys stepped up for injured guys. Nate Irving stepped in. I don't know how many tackles he had, but I think he was involved in some plays. Stepped in for Freeman. And, Sio Moore stepped in and contributed. A lot of guys stepped up. It was good to have Greg (Toler) back, and he can knock the rust off so to speak and he'll continue to get better."

(on if the decision to not play QB Andrew Luck was made today) "We brought him in this morning, evaluated him, see where he was, worked him. He did the pregame stuff and then made the decision."

S MIKE ADAMS (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on shifting the momentum away from the Texans on the first drive) "It was big. They were driving the ball and it gave us a chance to settle down. The game just started and they were getting a good drive in. Tips and over throws, I always hear that, tips and over throws. It was a good play, but we had to move forward after that."

(on his interception at the end of the game) "It was so easy, I was afraid I was going to miss it. That's why I caught it like a punt, but again it was huge. We had to put that hail mary pass that they caught before the half behind us because we dug our self that hole. But, we recovered and when we needed a play, we made it."

(on what this says about the team to win two division games in five days) "I mean the only people that do believe is us in this locker room. That's all that matters. They can write us off, but it's a long season. Sooner or later everybody will be jumping back on the bandwagon. So, I just let the critics be the critics and we're just going to do what we do."

RB FRANK GORE (Transcribed by Crystin Pactor)

(on how he feels winning two games in a row with a backup quarterback) "Feels great. I believe in our plan. We aren't surprised, we are comfortable with Matt. He's been with us for a long time. He's been successful in the league. We know what he can do in this league. As long as you love the game and still want to play this game, you can do whatever you want. He's been showing it."

(on his huge game) "I just had to calm down, stop pressing and just have fun. Don't worry about what people think about me on this team. Whenever my number gets called, help this team. Don't press. I am just going to take one play at a time and whenever my number gets called I am going to fight. That's what happened today. I took one play at a time. O-line did a great job. Our coordinator told me earlier that he's going to ride me today and I was up for the challenge. We did a great job on the ground."

(on being a decent front seven) "My o-line. We were hearing all off season, even me making the decision to come here, saying we can't run the ball, we can't do this up front and we listened to that. We want to show the world that we can. We can do whatever we want to do. As long as we are on the same page, we will be fine."

(on winning a road game with the short rest) "It's big. Especially to get a W with our second string quarterback. It's not a surprise on how he played because he's been successful in this league. I am just happy about starting 0-2 and just taking small steps. Taking small steps in the right direction. When we do play bad, finding ways to win the game. Now you can that we are starting to gel as one as an offense and that's a plus for us. We have to keep practicing hard, studying the playbook, meeting inside the meeting rooms and just grow."



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QB MATT HASSELBECK (Transcribed by Christiana Johns)

(on what his day was like being sick and how he managed to get through the game) “I really don’t have an explanation. I really had nothing this morning. I tried to get as hydrated as I could. I can’t thank the team enough, my teammates and friends praying for me and letting me be just completely lethargic all day and letting me do nothing. I don’t know. I’ve got nothing. I have no explanation.”

(on how he feels physically) “I honestly feel like this isn’t even real right now. It’s special. There’s a special group of guys in the locker room. To come away with a win, that was really my No. 1 goal, to give the team anything that I had, which I didn’t know how much it was, but just giving anything that I had to help us get a win.”

(on if there was a point today or this week he felt he wouldn’t be able to play) “I actually got a call; I was on the bus ride over here. I came in early on the bus before the first bus with the trainers and our staff. I got a call from Clyde Christensen, our quarterbacks coach. He said something like, ‘Hey, I just want you to know that you don’t have to do this, if you feel like you can’t.’ He knows me pretty well; we’ve been together for a couple years now – he was probably worried that I didn’t have it. He said, ‘We’ll find a way. You don’t have to do this.’ And I sort of felt that way. That’s exactly how I felt. I felt like hey, I’m here for one reason. And everyone hopes it never happens and probably never will, but if Andrew (Luck) is not able to go, then I’ve got to be able to go and get this team a win. And here it was and I’m sick. I’ve got something going on. That’s how I felt. He said that and I’m on the bus and we’ve got to win. There’s no turning back. I wasn’t sure.”

(on what happened after the last game against the Jaguars and what the past few days have been like) “I got sick. I actually got sick during the game just before halftime. A lot of stuff coming out of the attic and then stuff coming out of the basement. I really, really lost it after the game. Then from there I spent all week just trying to figure out what I had. I didn’t know what I had until about an hour and a half before the game just with tests and stuff. It wasn’t just a stomach bug. I’ll just say that. Again, all I can do is thank the medical staff for helping me and for coaches getting me ready without practice and my teammates for just stepping up and playing great. Our offensive line, we ran the ball phenomenally. Our receivers are just the best.”

(on if he has felt worse in a game before) “I have felt worse in a game. This was no fun.”

(on what type of sickness he has) “I’ll let someone smarter than me explain it, or not. Maybe I’ll keep the HIPPA to myself. Yes, I have a bacterial infection.”

(on if he got sick tonight) “No, I can’t explain it either. I was tired and lethargic. I was sick all day long, and then during the game I was OK. I really can’t explain it.”

(on how critical it was to get a separation during the game) “It was great. We had some missed opportunities and some penalties that hurt us. Just getting in a rhythm and also neutralizing what we think is the best part of their team, the pass rush, they’ve got really good guys up front and they’re also really good at stopping the run. If you turn on the film, they’re a really good defense. Particularly third down was an emphasis, we tried to keep it third and 6 or less that was kind of the goal for the day, try to keep it at third and 6 or less. Our guys stepped up and made plays. Andre (Johnson) showed up for us in a big way, and everyone tried to gas him up, like ‘Hey, this is a big game for you going back to Houston’ and he was just his old self. It’s a big game because it’s the next game. It was great. I’m happy for him. He didn’t let on that he was that happy, but we’re happy for him anyway. You could tell the crowd still loves him here.”

(on the “old guys” stepping up) “I think everybody stepped up. Zurlon Tipton came in and got that short yardage run for us. That’s something the coaches have been preaching this whole year. The next guy’s got to step up. You don’t get any practice; you’ve just got to be ready to go.”

(on how the team wanted WR Andre Johnson to play well after struggling the first four weeks) “Four weeks – that’s a preseason. Everyone knows Andre Johnson can play. The dude’s for real. We knew that. That’s never wavered for us. Again, I think it’s like fantasy football sends people into panic mode. He’s a great player, has been for a long time and still is.”



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(on the third down pass to WR T.Y. Hilton) “It was a gutsy call. Chuck Pagano last night gave a talk to the team about Roberto Clemente. The baseball games were on, maybe that got him going. He talked about Roberto Clemente hitting an inside the park grand slam in 1956. The third base coach was trying to hold him up and Roberto Clemente said no way. I can ice this game. No more baseball if I score. So he told this story, you know, don’t listen to the third base coach. I don’t know, as players, we were like – what are you saying – don’t listen to our coaches? I think he told Pep to make sure you run the ball, run the ball. Pep called a fake run, a play action, and a pass – kind of a slant and go to T.Y. So Pep was paying attention to the Roberto Clemente speech last night. It’s really Chuck’s fault, I guess. It was a great play by T.Y. He always, always plays well down here so we’re happy to have him.”

(on what QB Andrew Luck said to him after tonight’s win) “He said he was so proud of me. Once again proving, he is the mentor. And I’ve learned more from that kid than I could ever teach him or rub off on him. He was incredibly helpful. He ran every meeting like he was playing. He spoke for me last night. I had nothing. I was in the room, and he was speaking for me. I felt it was very awkward. Andrew is a great teammate, and he got the offensive line going, the receivers going. He helped me study. I can’t say enough about him. He’s a great kid.”

WR ANDRE JOHNSON (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on coming to work tonight) “Yeah, I mean, just came in here wanting to get the win. That’s all that mattered and we got the job done.”

(on scoring a touchdown in NRG Stadium) “Every play that was made out there was very important. We knew this was a big game for us, a big division game. We had two in a row and the whole thing was getting number three, and we got that done.”

(on how much of this game was business and how much was personal) “Never personal, you know? It was never personal. I know the nature of this business, I always said if the greatest player of all time, Jerry Rice, can be released then it’s going to happen eventually if you play long enough. So, you know, I never had any ill will towards the Texans. I had 12 great seasons here. I just went out and tried to help my team.”

(on if he’s stayed in touch with any Texans players since leaving) “Yeah, I’m very close with a lot of the guys over there. I talk to them a lot. We really didn’t talk this week, but it was good to be here and see some of the guys and catch up with them.”

(on Colts QB Matt Hasselbeck’s performance) “Great. I mean, he’s played great for us. I always say it’s great to have two guys that can come in and play for you, so just in case one guy goes down, you have another guy that can step up.”

(on Matt Hasselbeck’s illness) “He’s been battling it all week. That’s big of him to put the pads on and go out there and play through it. I know what kind of guy Matt is, he comes to work every day, works very hard and it shows when he goes out there and plays.”

(on his degree of satisfaction winning in Houston) “Our biggest thing was just winning. My biggest thing was coming in and doing what I needed to do to help the team win.”

(on the field conditions) “The turf feels a lot better. The last field they had in here had a lot of seems and stuff, so I like the turf better.”

(on having a bigger role in the offense in tonight’s win) “A lot of people probably thought this was a ‘get back’ game for me or something like that. It was never like that. I just wanted to use my role. I was involved a lot more today and I was able to go out and make the best of my opportunities. That’s the way I looked at it. I just wanted to do what I needed to do to help the team win.”

(on if he felt that his ability was falling off) “No, I never felt that way. On this team, there’s so many guys that can go out and make plays for you and you just never know when your day’s going to come. Tonight was my night to make them plays, so I just took it in stride.”



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(on if people get more critical on guys past 30 years old) "It's turned so much in to fantasy football, you have a lot of people talking about stuff like that rather than talking about the game, but they do. Once you get over 30, they look at you differently, but I never doubted myself. I know what I can do as a player. When my time comes and I can't do it anymore, I'll walk away."

(on if he saw the plays Deandre Hopkins was making) "He's a great player, man. He's like a little brother to me. We talk a lot. It was great. You hate to see him make it against your team, but I love the way he plays, I love the way he approaches the game. We just keep in contact a lot and talk about things."

(on where this game ranks among the games he's played in NRG Stadium) "Probably up there. This is the team you played for for 12 seasons and you come back and get a win against them and it's pretty big."

(on still having support from the fans in Houston) "It meant a lot. I really didn't know what to expect, but the fans were great. Even at the hotel, there's an office building by the hotel, I came upstairs to get on the bus and everyone was cheering and things like that, so, you just kind of look back and think about the impact that you left when I was here for the 12 years and I guess it was a good impact. Even now I have fans yelling during the game 'Andre we still love you.' It was a great feeling."

(on who he threw the touchdown ball to) "That was a friend of mine. He used to sit in the front row all the time when I played here and I didn't know he was sitting in the same spot, but he ended up getting the same seats for this game and I just threw him the ball."

G JOE REITZ (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on how big this win was for the team) "Huge win. We have a tough group. We come to work and work every single day and I thought guys really played their tails off tonight. That's as good a front you're going to see in the league. I don't think we gave up any sacks the whole game which is huge for us. Frank (Gore) ran the ball well. Matt (Hasselbeck), I mean I'm going to get emotional when you talk about Matt. What he's been through being sick and coming out here. That guy is a pro's pro and what a special performance by him and just a huge win. Any time you win a game in the NFL is big. A division game is big. A division road game is big, let alone on a short week, flying down here. The guys on this team, the fortitude they have and the grit that they have is special and it's just a huge win. Hats off to Houston. They're a great team and they're going to win a lot of games this year and we'll see them again. But, just a real gutsy performance by a lot of guys tonight."

(on if they took it personally that the media were saying DE J.J. Watt would have his way) "Yeah, I think anytime you play a game you're kind of taking it personal, right? But we know he's had some big games against us in the past and he made some plays tonight. He got us some and we got them some. But at the end of the day we made one more play than them and we got out of here with the win. So, it's going to be a fun plane ride home and one I know we're all looking forward to."

K ADAM VINATIERI (Transcribed by Carla Hartman)

(on playing without QB Andrew Luck) "We're here just to work hard and never going to give up. You say without Andrew, you're right, we love Andrew obviously. When (QB) Matt (Hasselbeck) comes in, he has been doing great job. He's been preparing like he is the starter these last couple weeks, and you can't say enough about the guy. He is just going out there and doing everything right. He is managing the game very well and gives us an opportunity to win. Everybody else is picking up the slack and doing what they need to go do to help this team win too. It's not one or two or three guys, it's the whole team that is putting together some plays and winning these games."

(on QB Matt Hasselbeck having a magic potion) "I'm going to find out because I want some of that too. It's awesome. It's fun to see him. I know how he was around this last week sick and under the weather, to watch him go out there and put that behind him. I remember (Michael) Jordan in the playoffs doing that same kind of stuff. That was some pretty special stuff. "

(on winning two division games in five days) "It's hard like that. It's hard to put in a game play. Guys are still tired and sore from the week before. A lot of grit. Guys just have to dig deep and go out there and do whatever you



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can. It's a fun game and that's why we do it, you know. Watching these guys go out there and make plays, and every time we needed a play somebody stepped up and made it. It was a pretty special win for us."