



# HOUSTON TEXANS vs. NEW YORK JETS



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## POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

**OWNER BOB MCNAIR**  
**HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN**  
**RB ALFRED BLUE**  
**OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY**  
**LB BRIAN CUSHING**  
**S ANDRE HAL**  
**WR DEANDRE HOPKINS**  
**WR CECIL SHORTS III**  
**WR NATE WASHINGTON**  
**DE J.J. WATT**  
**NT VINCE WILFORK**  
**QB T.J. YATES**

**OWNER BOB MCNAIR** (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on today's win) "We did the things we wanted to do. I think we only had three penalties and we protected the ball, we controlled it and ran it when we needed to. It was big and T.J. (Yates) did a great job and (DeAndre) Hopkins, my gosh, what can you say about him."

(on the play of Texans WR DeAndre Hopkins) "He's unbelievable, you know. He's so good with one hand there, I feel he is resting the other one. He is spectacular and T.J. (Yates) made some great throws to him. Also, (Cecil) Shorts on their play where he threw to (Alfred) Blue, I just thought that was perfectly executed. It was a good game plan and it worked well."

(on the creativity of the offense) "It really made a difference and caught them off guard. I thought the coaching staff did a great job."

(on Texans DE J.J. Watt) "He is so stupendous that you almost take it for granted, unfortunately. He is a difference maker, he is disruptive on every play and I was glad to see (Jadeveon) Clowney get in there. He knocked a pass down and had half a sack, I think. He's getting there."

(on the key to getting things turned around) "I think we are playing well. If we just keep playing with the energy that we are playing with now, we are competitive with anybody and this is what we were expecting and I am glad to see it happening."

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

(on initial thoughts on the game) "Look, I just told the team I think it's a really good team win. I think all three phases are feeding off each other right now. I think offensively for the most part we were taking care of the football. The one sack where T.J. got hit I mean he didn't even, he had no shot on that one, so I think for the most part we're taking care of the football. We're opportunistic. We're taking advantage of some shots. Obviously defensively we're playing good football, rushing the passer, stopping the run, got to shore some things up here and there but overall – and I think special teams has been a big part of this too. They're playing well, covering kicks and getting good kicks, good punts, and we have to continue it. I told them the reason why we're where we are right now is because we're practicing hard. We're doing a good job in practice. Our show teams are doing a great job of giving us a good look, everybody's buying in and I think that's important."

(on what it means for this team to 5-5 and tied for first place) "It's a long season. I think the big thing for us was when we came in here, I think the bye came at a good time for us, we came in here and we just reevaluated, coaches players, everybody, basically said, 'hey look, it's a new season'. Thankfully we were still in it at that point. We knew that if we could just fix some things that we could win. These games aren't going to be easy. Now we're into six one-game seasons and that's important to understand. This is a great win for us but we've got a big one



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this week – the key is that when you're in Thanksgiving and you're in December is that you're in the hunt, that's the key."

(on the freedom that establishing the run gave the offense today) "Yeah I think that that has something to do with it, no question. I thought that offensively we had to be creative this week and some of the things that we were doing regardless of defense playing how they're playing, I just thought for us to be able to move the ball effectively against this Jets defense, we were going to have to give them something that we hadn't shown and I thought we did a good job of that. Then obviously our defense playing well really helps things. I think we're playing pretty good for the most part, pretty good field position football, and that has a lot to do with our special teams, and even when we drive the ball to say the 45, 50 yard line and we stall out, at least we can punt it and kind of pin them which didn't happen as much today, but I think that's part of it too. I think all three phases are kind of feeding off each other which is important."

(on if QB Brian Hoyer will start against New Orleans if he is healthy) "Hoyer is our starter. When he comes back when he's healthy he'll come back in there and we've spoken to T.J. (Yates) about that – you can't say enough about T.J. T.J comes in here two weeks ago, he's actually kind of, for this type of situation, similar to Case Keenum, just a perfect guy for this situation where he can come in and have the demeanor and calmness and confidence and the respect of the locker room to be able to go out there and help us win and really fun guy to coach, really soaks it up and tries to work at it. I just remember when we got back from Cincinnati he was in here, he must have slept probably three hours. I saw him in here early Tuesday watching the Jets. I thought that said a lot about him."

(on WR DeAndre Hopkins matching up with Jets CB Darrelle Revis) "Hopkins is a heck of a player. He's big, he's got really good hands, he's fast, very smart player, understands leverage. These guys, any receiver that I've been around I've been very fortunate to be around some really elite receivers. They're very intelligent players and that's what he is. Obviously going up against Darrelle (Revis) today, I think Darrelle got injured, in the first half at least that's a tough matchup on both guys. I thought Hop really held his own and did a good job today."

(on if there's been a different intensity in the second half of the season and if the players have bought into QB T.J. Yates) "I don't know, buy in, I don't know if that's the right phrase. I'm just saying that we've got a good locker room. We've got a bunch of guys that really believe in each other and playing hard right now. I think the fact that T.J. had been here before helps. He won a playoff game here, a lot of these guys have played with him and are really close friends with him, things like that. They believe in him and I think that helped. I think our locker room, I think the addition of a couple guys here whether it was (Quintin) Demps back in training camp or Charles James recently here, that's helped our locker room, so I don't know if it's 'buy in', I guess we're throwing that one out today, but I just think it's a bunch of guys that believe in each other and have to keep it going."

(on QB T.J. Yates seeming to some like he was overly cautious before and if there is a difference in him now) "I think that he's probably at a stage now where he's been around the block a couple times and he probably understands the game better. I know he understands our offense better than when he was here before. He just has really good recall of it. I think in these game plan meetings he really understands what we're trying to do with the play. He knows when to take the shot to Hopkins or when to check it down. I thought he actually did a really good job of checking the ball down a few times today to the backs and to Grimes and to Blue and that was important too. I just think he's comfortable where he is in his career right now and I think he sees it probably better than even a year ago."

(on if he and Offensive Coordinator George Godsey like picking up quarterbacks when they are on golf courses) "You guys keep asking me about that and I understand why because this was our sixth quarterback we started in 26 games, and I think that one of the things about us is we love to coach quarterbacks. We really enjoy it. We enjoy bringing a guy in and teaching him the system and trying to figure out what he's all about. What plays is he good at, does he like and things like that and getting feedback from him. That's our job, though, that's part of our job that's what we're paid to do is next man up. We've got to train them and get them ready to play."

(on the strategy with WR Cecil Shorts) "George Godsey and I came out to practice on Wednesday and we were talking about – we got back Monday night and went right to work on the Jets because they're such a good defense. We had to really get to work on them. We felt like we had to be creative, so we were kind of throwing out some names. Did this guy do it? Has this guy every played wildcat? We knew (Jonathan) Grimes had done it for us last year, so we knew we had him and then I went up to Cecil and he said he did it at Mount Union. So I said stay after practice and throw a few. He threw and he looked good throwing. He can throw and he can run the wildcat. Who



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knows? Maybe next week it will be somebody else. I was reminded that he was the one that threw the touchdown pass against us last year in the Jacksonville game. He threw it back to (Jordan) Todman on the trick play last year. Me being the moron that I am, I forgot that. I was reminded of that, so we put some plays in for him.”

(on the team being able to fight back) “I do think every year is different. I think this team is a lot different than last years team. There’s different people at certain positions playing really well. We’ve got guys who played corner last year playing safety now, Dre Hal. We’ve got guys on special teams that are playing really well, Brian Peters, for example is playing well for us. (Kurtis) Drummond, the rookie safety, is playing well for us on special teams. Keith Mumphery is doing some decent things, although he’s got to hold on to the ball better there at the end, but overall doing some decent things. I think overall we have some good leadership. I think the key is, again, that we’ve got to remember why we’re in this position. It’s because we’re really grinding it out in practice. We’re working hard in the film room. We’re really putting in the extra time to try and figure out how to move the ball, how to stop people, and how to be good on special teams. We can’t forget that.”

(on the key to running the ball today) “The offensive line I believe has blocked well and I think that the backs have gotten a chance now where they’re seeing what we’re trying to do. These are backs that haven’t always played a lot for us because of Arian (Foster) being in there and things like that. I think they’re into more of a rhythm. I think that we’ve done some different things running scheme-wise, I think that’s helped. I think that we’ve stuck with it. We’re not going to just abandon ship on the running game just because maybe the first five or six runs don’t go so well. Today we had some runs that we’re schematically a little bit new and I think that helped us.”

(on RB Akeem Hunt) “When you bring a guy up to the 53 and put him on the game day roster, you should use him. There’s some guys that didn’t play today, but for the most part, we’re trying to use everybody. We knew that he had a little bit of juice and maybe could help us. I think he did help us a little bit.”

(on three AFC South teams winning this week) “I think that these games are really difficult to win. I think that our team really doesn’t – we don’t look at the other teams that much because we have enough to worry about in this room. I think we really focus on ourselves. That’s what we talked about last night and this week a lot. Just focusing on our game plan against the Jets, but focusing on ourselves. What do we have to keep doing in order to win these games? These games are all going to be like this. They’re going to be close. They’re going to be tough, grind it out type games. I think it’s going to come down to the team that makes the most of its opportunities and makes the least amount of mistakes. Those are the teams that are going to win. That’s always the way that it is in December. We’re getting close to thanksgiving and December now, so I think we got to keep focusing on ourselves and not worry about all that other stuff.”

(on the team playing complimentary football) “It was. That’s what I was saying in the beginning, I guess I didn’t use the phrase, but I think that’s what’s been good for us the last few games. You’ve had the different units feeding off each other. I think that’s important. I told the team last night, it’s really important to keep that going. The special teams feed off the defense and offense, then offensively if the defense pins them and they force them to punt, we get good field position. We got to turn that into points. Defensively, if we score a touchdown, you guys got to go out there and stop them three and out or get a turnover and get back to the offense. I think that’s something that the guys are really doing a good job of right now. We have to continue that. You can’t have one unit not play well. That won’t be good for us.”

(on sticking with Offensive Coordinator George Godsey through the criticism earlier in the season) “George is doing a good job. George called a lot of plays last year. George does a really good job. I didn’t even know how to answer that question. I don’t know, ‘a lot people say this, a lot of people say that.’ A lot of people say whatever they want. It’s a free country. I know that George does a good job and Romeo (Crennel) does a good job. (Bob) Ligashesky is doing a good job.”

(on how Head Coach Bill O’Brien is doing) “He’s hanging in there. He’s hanging in there.”

(on the job he did today) “I’m not going there. I just think that I really appreciate these players and the way that they’re playing right now. I think they’re practicing. I think they’re really sacrificing. They’re practicing hard. They’re coming in early. They’re staying late. They’re putting time in. I really appreciate that from our players.”

(on the play calling today) “I think that we looked at this game and we felt like – part of it was game plan. We looked at this game and said ‘you know, these types of plays might be good against New York.’ I think part of it was our



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personnel in this game, what was available to us in this game. I think part of it is our team is being identified. This is what we are. What you see out here the last couple weeks here, the last three games, Tennessee, Cincinnati and this game, is kind of what we are. Let's play really good defense. Let's get some turnovers on defense. Let's make sure that we're doing enough on offense taking care of the ball and let's play really good on special teams. I think that's what we have to continue to do in order for us to win. Whatever that means, I just know that's what we have to do to win."

(on the Texans secondary) "Give a lot of credit to the players. The players- they've really done a good job of tackling better in practice. We've practiced that, when we're allowed to, at least once a week. We've had some really tough practices. I think we're doing a better job of stopping the run. I think the coaches and players are doing a really good job of working together to really understand what we're trying to do. I think we're doing more things where we allow the players to play, so the players can go out there and just have at it and play. I think the players are really doing a good job of, like I said before, putting in extra time to figure out how this is going to work against the team that we're playing."

(on Jets QB Ryan Fitzpatrick) "He's a gutsy guy. I've got a lot of respect for Fitzy, for what he did for us last year. He's a tough guy. He's a guy that competes every single play, never thinks the play is over. That run that he had for the touchdown. I mean, got his helmet knocked off. I mean, just a real tough, tough guy. Great family guy, great guy to coach. Like I said, the only issue with me with Fitzy is that he went to Harvard. That's it."

### **RB ALFRED BLUE** (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on the touchdown throw to him from WR Cecil Shorts III) "He made a great pass. At first I thought he wasn't going to throw it because (Antonio) Cromartie was sitting over there, but when I saw Cromartie start driving across the field, I knew he was about to let it go, and he made a great play."

(on what he thought when the wide receiver pass was called) "I knew it was a touchdown. We practiced it all week, we executed great all week and I just knew if it was called, we had an opportunity."

(on if running a play like that is fun to execute) "I think so. When the coaches draw up something like that, it makes practice fun, it gets the offense excited, it just brings everybody together and you have fun out there. When the coaches came into the meeting, they brought it up, and we executed it in practice. It livens practice a little bit. They said they were going to call it in the game and they did."

(on if the offense has confidence after seeing a creative game plan) "Yeah, they put a great game plan together, the coaches. We executed it all week, and we just felt good as an offense going in this week. The way the game went is the way practice went all week."

(on if he saw more continuity from the offensive line) "I would say so. I would say everybody was in sync today, the whole offense, everybody was out there. The quarterback played well, the running backs ran well, the o-line did a great job blocking tonight and the receivers did a great job blocking and catching the ball."

### **OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY** (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on what it meant to him to play well today) "It's great. I had fun out there. We got the win, and I'm excited for the team. We've won three in a row, and it's good to be back out there with the team and get prepared for New Orleans."

(on how difficult it has been for him not being healthy) "I can't worry about that. I put God first, pray, and everything else will take care of itself."

(on being back out on the field) "It's great. You're upset when you're not playing something you love to do. I'm back out there with my teammates and we're winning games. Everything's coming together the way we want it to."

(on if the defense is finding a rhythm) "We're playing complimentary football and we're all playing together. The offense is going to score, we get a stop, get it back to them, and keep pushing. Everybody is doing their job."



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(on how he played today) "I think I played pretty good with what they put me in on. I think I did good on the rushes. Playing inside isn't an easy task, but it was fun. We got pressure on the quarterback. A lot of pressure caused some interceptions and everything, tipped passes, so I think it was good to help the defense out and we won the game."

**ILB BRIAN CUSHING** (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on the improvement over the past few games) "Obviously, it's been a lot better. We are playing up to our capabilities, playing physical, playing tough, playing smart and playing the way everyone expected us to, including ourselves."

(on if there is a fun factor involved in the change of play) "Yeah. It's a lot more fun to win. It's a lot more fun to win. It's a lot more fun to play up to your standards. I think a lot of guys have really held each other accountable, put a lot of responsibility on each other and not wanting to screw up. It's guys going out there and having confidence and just really attacking offenses."

(on the win and beating Jets QB Ryan Fitzpatrick) "He is a difficult quarterback to play against. He can extend a lot of plays and make a lot of throws. He's a competitor. We saw him tuck the ball and ran through some tacklers for a touchdown. That's just the mindset that he has. The guy is a winner. I just have all the respect in the world for him."

(on third down defense) "I think that's been one of our bright spots defensively all year, third down defense. We have good pressure, we have really good coverage and the play call has really helped us. We are all on the same page and we are just focused on third down, we know how important it is to get off the field on third down and get our offense the ball back."

(on if he was amazed about how far this team has come) "No. I was not amazed because I knew we had the potential. I knew we had it in us and we just had to get it done and we finally are."

**S ANDRE HAL** (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on how he felt the defense finished the game) "Like I said, we've been practicing real well, everybody's running to the ball, everybody's making plays. If you run to the ball, good things will happen to you."

(on what winning three games in a row says about the team) "We're strong, man. We came together and we put together and we're winning now. Everybody's running to the ball, everybody's playing great defense. The offense is doing well and special teams is doing well, too, so we're all playing together."

(on the defense having fun) "We're out there having a lot of fun. You can tell, we're jumping around, hopping around, high-fiving, everything. It's just fun."

(on the performance of DE J.J. Watt) "I love J.J. He's one of the greatest players I've ever played with. If he's playing like that, it makes our job really easy in the back end."

(on if the team has a different vibe) "Oh yes, for sure. You're winning, and when you're winning, you always have a different vibe. It's fun, it's better."

**WR DEANDRE HOPKINS** (Transcribed by Laci Theriot)

(on the description of his first and second touchdown of the game) "The first touchdown, it was a great ball. You couldn't have placed it any better. I ran post and saw man-to-man, so, it kind of figured I knew I was getting it before the play. I knew I had to run a good route. TJ put the ball where it needed to be. The second touchdown was just a simple go-route, and just the quarterback trusting me, putting the ball up, and me going out there to make a play."

(on putting a move on Jet's CB Darrelle Revis) "Just a post. You know, playing football. I ran a post and being open."

(on what was said between him and Jets CB Darrelle Revis) "You know out there, there is a lot of commotion going on. Two grown men playing football, so I can't really recall what was said. A lot of words back and forth."



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(on if he takes pride on his performance against Jets CB Darrelle Revis) “He is a great defensive back, You’ve got to give him a lot of credit. You know, I just came out and put on my hard hat on today, and I was ready to play.”

(on calling for the ball this week) “Yeah, the test, with the media blowing up Revis Island, you know, I had to come out and answer. Times like this, for a great defensive back and a young receiver, not a lot of people have me as their eyes. So I know it was a big chip on my shoulder to go out there and play extra hard.”

(on how he feels about his performance since the Miami game) “Ah, we don’t really talk about the past in here. We move forward. That’s kind of our motto, something we live by. We had a break after eight games, got refreshed, and it is a new season.”

(on the difference he sees in QB TJ Yates since he has returned to the team) “He’s always been a guy I knew that was going to let the ball go. He threw my first touchdown with the defender 15 yards off, so I know he’s a guy that will give his playmakers a chance to make a play on the ball.”

(on what has changed in the team these past few weeks) “You know, having a losing season and coming off the bye, your antenna is up a little bit, you know you have to do something extra, if it’s watching film a little more or staying out to practice a little longer, so the guys are buying in more and realizing that the season is long, but it short also.”

(on how it feels to be so close to the playoffs at this point in the season) “We are taking it one game at a time. We don’t want to look forward. Next week, who we have, is who we have. That’s how we are going to prepare for it. We don’t really look long term, with that alone, I speak for myself.”

(on if he heard stuff during the week that it might be a tough day for him today) “Yeah, of course. It’s Revis Island.”

(on what he did to “Revis Island” during the game) “I play football. Went out there and played my game. Nothing special.”

(on if they started doubling when Jets CB Darrelle Revis went out) “Yeah a little bit more.”

(on if it was better to be in single coverage even if it was against Jets CB Darrelle Revis) “With my mentality, and one-on-one, I am going to win. So no matter who is out there, I don’t really care.”

(on whether he was showing off making one handed catches) “I was making plays. Just instincts.”

(on how are you running a route with a defense player like Jets CB Darrelle Revis) “A guy like Darrelle Revis has been in the NFL for a long time, they still get tendencies. They know what you are doing from the way you line up. When you run a route, you almost have to be perfect at it, you can’t slip, timing has to be perfect with the quarterback going against a smart guy like him.”

(on if he can catch equally with both hands). Oh yeah. That’s why I am at this level.”

(on if he is right handed) Yes, I am.

### **WR CECIL SHORTS III** (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on his touchdown throw and how it went down) “Good play call at the right time. Coach put it in this week. (Alfred) Blue is coming to me every day, ‘hey, don’t lead me too much.’ and I am like ‘relax, relax, I got you.’ It was a good play call, Blue did a good job selling the run and it worked out well.”

(on him being pressured on the play) “I did get hit a little bit, but that’s part of the game.”

(on when you saw him wide open what did you think) “I was excited. Even before the play started, I was just thinking, I am going to launch this bad boy as far as I can. But no, when I saw him open, I was just thinking just complete the ball and didn’t want to lead him too much because I didn’t want him to get nervous.”



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(on him having one of the best quarterback ratings in the world) “Three for three. Three for three, two touchdowns, not bad.”

(on the wildcat package) “Coach came to me during the week and asked me if I could do it. I did some in college, I played quarterback my whole life and just switched to receiver in college. I am real familiar with the zone read and the offensive line did a great job blocking.”

(on if the Jets were caught off guard) “Yeah. They had no clue what to do, even when my man (Jonathan) Grimes was back there. It was just a shock because we haven’t done it all year. We kind of figured that it would be something different. They struggled with it at times, I think the last couple of times they did a good job of recovering and figuring it out, but it was good for us today.”

(on the vibe in the locker room and how it has changed) “We are very focused. We are playing with a lot of energy out there. Like coach said earlier today, we are playing all three phases the best we played all year and we are complimenting each other throughout the game and if we keep playing like that we will be hard to beat.”

**WR NATE WASHINGTON** (Transcribed by Carla Hartman)

(on the win today) “Huge for us to put some wins back to back to back. It’s been just steady work from this team. Everybody from the guys that are on our active roster to our scout team and the guys that are on our practice squad that are making us better throughout the week. They take pride in making us better and we take pride in working and competing throughout practice. It’s been going really well for us, we just have to continue to press forward.”

(on the Texans QB T.J. Yates) “This is a team, an offense right now with a very stern, strategized offensive scheme. T.J Yates, with his mentality toward the game, he’s very smart, very cool, calm, and collected. We knew he was going to be able to come in here and carry out the assignment. George Godsey and Bill O’Brien they do an awesome job of getting these quarterbacks ready to play the game and everybody else. It’s really up to everyone else to do their assignment. We knew T.J. was going to do an awesome job today and give us the chance to win. It was a matter of us being smarter and that we were on our assignment and having his back with those things.”

(on Cecil Shorts’ touchdown pass) “Cecil chucks that ball around practice all day every day, just playing around. I think the coaches were finally tired of seeing him play around with that arm and brought it out in the real game. He’s a guy that’s going to come in here and do whatever it take possible to help this team win. Whether he is running the ball in the wildcat, or throwing the ball. He’s a complete guy. He’s much more than just a receiver and that’s what we need.”

(on trick plays) “I think we did some things today that they weren’t prepared for. Some wrinkles that we haven’t shown throughout the season. Just another compliment to Bill O’Brien and George Godsey. They spend countless hours in this building trying to make sure we get the strategy together to come out and do whatever we can to win. Straight off the Monday night game they came straight in here and got to work. It’s a requirement on us as players to go out and perform but we wouldn’t be here without that strategy.”

**DE J.J. WATT** (Transcribed by Crystin Pactor)

(on what’s changed in the last three weeks) “I think we are just playing good football. I think we are playing well as a team, well together. Everybody is doing their job, everybody understands their roles and playing those roles very well. I think on defense we are tackling well, we are taking the ball away, we are stopping the run. We are doing the things we need to do to win football games, and when you do that you are going to have success.”

(on if the intensity has been picked up) “I don’t know about. We have been playing intense all year. I think there’s been some great energy and I think the more plays you make the better you play. The more energy is created and the more momentum you create.”

(on if there was an “aha” moment with the defense) “No, not really. I think it’s just been a combination. We had to start playing our style of football and for the last few games we have, and we need to continue it. It’s a week to week basis. You need to go out there every single week and prove it. It can’t be up and down. I think we have been doing well the last couple weeks.”



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(on if he's disappointed his perfect offensive record is ruined) "Yeah. I think anybody would be disappointed when you don't make a play. You have to remember those guys get paid too. That was a heck of a play by that guy. He earned it."

(on what was said to him after he didn't get the touchdown) "It doesn't much matter to me. When you make the play you get to trash talk. That's what you earn when you make the play."

(on complementary football) "I think that's why we are having success. When everybody buys in, when everybody plays their role, everybody does their job, everything works in unison. The DB's cover well it gives us more time up front. We play well up front pressure, and it forces bad throws so the DB's can make plays. It's all in unison. That's why it's the ultimate team sport. Everybody has to be doing the right thing to have success. I think we are in a groove right now where everybody is playing really well."

(on if he remembers the play WR Cecil Shorts beat the Texans with last year) "No."

(on if there was a sense of pride in not giving up a touchdown in 12 quarters) "I don't think anybody was really keeping counts by any means. But obviously, the goal is to not give up touchdowns. That's the whole point of defense. It was going well for us, and we just want to go out there and win games. However little amount of points we can hold people to, that's the ultimate goal."

(on what Head Coach Bill O'Brien has done to keep the team focused) "You know, I don't really know. A lot of people wrote us off at 2-5. A lot of people wrote us off, so you're always playing with a chip on your shoulder. You always try and go out there and attack the day with a chip on your shoulder. So even now that we are back in it at 5-5 you still play with a chip on your shoulder. It's just a matter of going out there and working every single day and doing your job."

(on if O'Brien's different team schedule has helped) "I don't know. Sure. Yeah, I guess. You know the schedule better than I do, John. Yeah, I guess it is. I don't know, I don't leave until about 8 o'clock anyways."

(on what the win says about QB T.J. Yates) "Pretty incredible. To come in here on two weeks notice and start a football game against a very good football team and win, very impressive. But T.J. is a smart guy. He's a calm guy. He knows his job. He does his job very well. I mean we have a lot of confidence in him, a lot of trust in him. It also doesn't hurt when you're throwing the ball to 10. He can make you look pretty good, too."

(on the plan for QB Ryan Fitzpatrick) "He's a good quarterback. I have nothing but the absolute, most respect for Fitz as a player and as a person. He's very smart. He's very tough. He takes a lot of hits and gets right back up. He's a good leader. I mean you have to look at that play down at the goal line where he ran it in. That's the epitome of what Ryan Fitzpatrick is. He's going to give it everything he has. He's the ultimate competitor. That's why his teammates love him. That's why people around the league love him. Because he plays the game the right way, he plays the game hard. Our goal today was to just try and minimize his ability running the ball because he does like to run the ball. And also put him in tough situations. Obviously, our offense helped us when they put points on the board, and they have to throw the ball, and we can get after them a little bit. Just have fun doing so."

### **NT VINCE WILFORK** (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on the defense having fun) "Football needs to be fun, and I think it's a mixture of a lot of things we're doing well. We're executing at a pretty good level, we're having fun and we're making plays. Guys are making plays and guys are stepping up. All different people are doing their jobs. I think that's the key -- everybody's doing their job. It might never show on the stat sheet, but when you put the film on and you see everybody where they need to be, that's what it's all about, and that's what we did. We're just going to keep plugging away. Like I said, I think our best football is yet to come, and when that does happen, we're really going to be rocking in this locker room."

(on the third down defense) "Part of our strength of our defense is our third down defense. We know if we can win on first and second down and force our opponents to throw the ball and be in the situations, we feel real good about



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that against anyone. That's our goal every week is to try to get to that spot, third down, third-and-long, and let our guys go to work, and they've been going to work."

(on how the team stayed confident) "Stay humble. You have to stay humble. You have to control your emotions, stay even-keeled. When you lose, stay even-keeled; when you win, stay even-keeled. Make the corrections and move forward. You never can get too down on a loss, and you can never get too high on a win, and I think we've been doing a real good job of that around here. The leaders have stepped up. The coaching staff stepped up and made sure that we're staying humble, we're practicing well, and make sure we doing everything we have to do on the practice field and the film room to stay even-keeled. That's the biggest thing because we know it can go south really quick. We've been down that road, and now we've won three games in a row. We're balling real good, but at the same time, we can't get too high off this. We still have a lot of football to play ahead of us, a lot of important games to play ahead of us. We just have to keep it one game at a time. Each week approach it as the last game, and then go forward from there. The more we do that, and the better we get at that, the more successful we'll be on Sundays, or whenever we play. I think the team has been doing a real good job of that, just staying even-keeled, and I think that helped us in the long run."

**QB T.J. YATES** (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver)

(on what he was doing when he got the call from the Texans) "Having a cup of coffee on my couch in Atlanta. The first couple of weeks of this season, I was just trying to figure out the process and working out as much as I can. Trying to find receivers, trying to find fields. Just staying in shape as much as possible."

(on if he envisioned the it would be like this when he signed) "No. The last place I ever thought I would come is back to Houston to tell you the truth. I was just hoping and wishing for an opportunity. I was thankful that Rick gave me a call and brought me here."

(on the two touchdown passes to WR DeAndre Hopkins) "It's kind of what I said last week. Just throwing it up to DeAndre. That guys is a special talent. Obviously it doesn't matter who is on him. He'll go get the ball for you."

(on what getting the win at home meant) "Coming back to NRG and playing in front of our fans was really special. It's been a long time since I've been able to go through an entire week of preparation, practicing with the team, and getting ready to start a game. It worked out well. We still have a lot of things to work on as far as timing with the receivers. I made a lot of mistakes out there. I'm glad we got the win."

(on how his play today is different from his last game played with the Texans) "I don't even know what you are talking about. I blocked that completely out of my mind. Last time I was out on that field, it was a struggle. It was a bad time for our team and myself. Seriously, that thought never came across my mind until you just said it. My main focus was getting ready for the Jets and practicing with my teammates and getting ready for a win."

(on if there were passes he threw today that he would not have thrown earlier in his career) "Going into the whole situation with me this year and getting another chance, getting another shot, the last thing I was going to do was be cautious and pull it back a little bit. I wasn't going to do that. I've got nothing to lose. I was going to go out there and have fun today."

(on what Yates has noticed about the current culture of the team) "They talked a lot, and obviously I wasn't here for the beginning, but they talked a lot about forgetting the first half of the season. That wasn't the brand of football that we wanted to play. I haven't really seen that team that I saw on TV the first half of the season. Every single day guys come into work. It doesn't matter what your record is. It doesn't matter what people are saying in the media about what the chances are we have in the game. We just come to work, and we go out there and play. It's our preparation and our practice throughout the week that gets us ready for wins."

(on how he feels knowing Hoyer will be the starter when he is healthy) "That's why they brought me in here – to come in and back up Brian. If something happened to him, hopefully come in and win a couple games. If he's healthy, he's the guy, and I knew that situation going in. He's got my full support, he's got everybody's full support. When he comes back everybody, not only team but everybody in the city, needs to be around him."

(on how it helped being able to run the ball against the Jets' defense) "It was good. It definitely helped establish some type of a run game, getting things going. We gave them some different looks that we haven't done much."



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You know, splitting me out wide. We had to figure out something with the run game, and I'm glad we got that going because that helps a quarterback."

(on if defenses will adjust in the future to his play) "I didn't expect any passes out there. A couple of times (CB Darrelle) Revis was one me, and I should have thrown up a hand or something. It definitely gave them a different look and opened some holes for us. Cecil did a great job running the read option."

(on the play of WR DeAndre Hopkins) "Hop was asking for the ball from the get-go. He knew that we were going to pick and choose our times to throw at him because you have to give a guy like Darrelle Revis the respect he deserves. He was getting frustrated early. I missed him on the one on the first drive, and I'm kicking myself for that. I kept coming back to him, and he made some great plays."

(on if this is the proudest moment of his NFL career) "It's hard to beat that rookie year when we did all those special things. This is very special for me too. You go through the beginning of the year. There is nothing worse than watching football on your couch at your house. To go from there to being in this position, I'm definitely very proud."

### **POSTGAME QUOTES FROM NEW YORK JETS**

**HEAD COACH TODD BOWLES**  
**WR ERIC DECKER**  
**QB RYAN FITZPATRICK**  
**WR BRANDON MARSHALL**

**HEAD COACH TODD BOWLES** (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)

(on if their problems stemmed from not being able to convert on third down) "It's a lot more than that. It's about execution, it's about understanding situational football when it's time to be played and that's not getting done right now."

(on if he feels like he's repeating himself) "No I'm not repeating myself. I'm stating the obvious."

(on the status of C Nick Mangold and CB Darrelle Revis) "Revis had a concussion and he's got to go through protocol, and Mangold's got lacerations in his hand between his pinky and his other finger that prevented him from snapping."

(on if he's more upset about this loss than other ones this season) "I'm extremely upset today, but I'm not going to take it out here. We'll discuss that in-house when I get back in the locker room and we get in the meeting."

(on what in general is making him upset about the loss) "Like I said, we'll discuss it when we get back in there. There's a lot of things that make me upset that we didn't make a couple plays on them. We busted some things that we better damn well get better at."

(on what happened on the deep touchdown that CB Darrelle Revis gave up) "He gave up a touchdown. That's about the size of it."

(on what specifically happened on that play) "He gave up a touchdown."

(on if they were surprised by the wildcat play the Texans ran) "The first time or two, yes, after that, no."

(on the play that CB Antonio Cromartie got beat on) "He missed the ball. He had great coverage. He missed the ball."

(on if that was the correct play by CB Antonio Cromartie) "Evidently not because he missed it. Reach with one hand to knock it down, secure the tackle. You make it it's a great play. He didn't make it, he missed it."

(on if the team was prepared to play having the additional time from the bye week) "They were prepared to play. They didn't execute in key situations."



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(on if he worries about CB Darrelle Revis getting beat on deep balls) “No, I don’t.”

(on if they could have played the trick-play touchdown any differently) “Play took a long time. We’ve got to have a better awareness than that.”

(on the fourth and five play) “There wasn’t much time left right there. We punt it right there with two timeouts left in two minutes, we weren’t getting that back and we might have got it back with 30 seconds and maybe try to throw some desperation things, but that was the only shot we had.”

(on if RB Chris Ivory was banged up) “He got banged up early. He came back in, he was okay.”

(on offensive drops) “Our rookies have got to stop being rookies. They need to grow up. They get paid like everybody else and they’ve got to start acting like they’re not in college any more.”

(on why WR Devin Smith was active over WR Kenbrell Thompkins) “Devin made good strides. He’s made good progress during a couple weeks and we wanted to see him play.”

(on if WR Devin Smith playing today had anything to do with his draft status and being taken in the second round) “Absolutely not.”

(on what RB Chris Ivory hurt during the game) “He went out for a few plays because of his knee then he came back in. He was fine. He just hit it on the turf.”

(on if he thinks the team as underachieving in the past month) “I don’t think we’re underachieving. I don’t think we’re executing. I don’t think we’re executing. It’s not about under or overachieving. It’s about doing your job and understanding what you have to do. Past couple of weeks we haven’t done it, whether it was one person here or there, one assignment here or there, or whatever the case may be. It’s not getting done. That falls on me and I’ll correct that.”

(on if they thought they would go from a 4-1 start to now being 5-5) “It’s a long season. There’s still a lot of optimism. Nobody’s giving up on optimism, but we have to make sure just like we started out 4-1 and now we’ve lost four out of the last five. We’ve got to turn that around too.”

(on if he feels like his message is getting through to the team) “It’s getting through. We have conscientious guys. We have guys that understand the game and guys that play hard and it’s a bust here or there that we’ve got to correct.”

(on Texans DE J.J. Watt’s two sacks today and why they didn’t double team him) “We used it a lot on him. The ball’s got to come out quick. We understand in these one-on-ones, in certain situations where the balls got to go and they’ve got to hold him up a little bit and then the quarterbacks got to get rid of it a little bit.”

(on his thoughts on QB Ryan Fitzpatrick’s play tonight) “He had turnovers. You can’t have turnovers. I don’t think we played great as an offense.”

(on if there’s any consideration to switch him with QB Geno Smith) “Not at this time. We’ll meet on all that stuff on Monday.”

(on if they’re forcing too many passes to WR Brandon Marshall) “No, I don’t think so.”

(on if they’ll discuss this week who should start at quarterback) “We meet every Monday and our discussion involves who should start at every position.”

(on if he’s committed to QB Ryan Fitzpatrick as his starter) “I’m still committed to Ryan. I just don’t think he played very well, just like a lot of other people on both sides of the ball.”

(on if that will have anything to do with whether or not he starts next week) “We’ll discuss every we do on Monday like we always do.”



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(on if CB Antonio Cromartie will start next week) "We'll discuss everything on Monday like we always go."

(on if there were any other injuries from today aside from C Nick Mangold and CB Darrelle Revis) "Those are the only two at this time."

(on the big run play they gave up, if ILB Demario Davis played it wrong) "No he just had the most awareness out of the bunch."

(on if QB Ryan Fitzpatrick was physically affected at all by his helmet coming off on his touchdown run) "He didn't look like, no."

(on if there's anything RT Breno Giacomini could have done to shut down Texans DE J.J. Watt) "Breno fights I mean the guy is a great player. Breno won his share. Watt won his share. You take it hard when the guy beats you like that. He's a talent."

### **WR ERIC DECKER** (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on what the team needs to do to improve for next week) "We have to start fast, put points on the board and offensively we are just too late to get to the scoreboard. They're a good football team, give them credit."

(on if there was one play/moment that defined the game) "Just lack of execution. That's really what it is. We had a good first half then we didn't do enough to start the second half, it is all about execution."

(on the play of the Houston defense, specifically on 3rd down) "I don't know what the stats are, but when you are in 3rd and long it is a very hard distance to complete and get a first down. For us it starts on first and second down, moving the ball getting us in manageable situations - we have to execute. That's what it all comes down to."

(on how the team can turn things around) "I would just say that we have to refocus on what our goals are, what we need to do to accomplish throughout the week. I mean it is preparation throughout the week that gets you started Sunday. It has been a slow start for us in these games so, find a way to get a quick score, take the pressure off the defense and play in that kind of game instead of chasing the game for three or four quarters trying to come back. That's something we need to focus on and get better at."

(on if there are any recurring issues with the team) "We watch film and this game is a matter of little details and who makes the big play. We just haven't made enough plays to allow us to have success early. I don't think it is really a problem, it is just execution. Seriously, that's something we need to figure out how we are going to move the ball more efficiently and when a big play comes make that opportunity. I think that's something we just need to get better at."

(on if the details are changing from week to week) "Football is football. You run the ball, you pass the ball, I think that we've played enough this year that we have our base offense in and now it is just making plays. You don't throw too much every week so it's just what we do we have to do well. We need to get back to that."

### **QB RYAN FITZPATRICK** (Transcribed by Rachel Jacob and Christiana Johns)

(on how he felt after the collision) "Good. Physically came out of the game fine."

(on biggest problem for the offense) "There were a lot of problems. We knew they have a good defense, good front, because obviously they have some great players up front, so we needed to execute better. I think a lot of that falls on me, especially on the third downs getting some of those completions, but when you don't and can't get into a rhythm and can't stay on the field it gets tough and we had that for a while there in the first half until we scored in the second half."

(on the Texans' pass rush) "They're good. They're smart. Coaches over there did a nice job isolating, getting guys one on one. That being said there were plenty of plays to be made out there. They're pretty good with their pass



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rush.”

(on how he would evaluate his performance) “I didn’t play well. There were a lot of throws I needed to make that I didn’t make and obviously having two chances there at the end and not coming up with the touchdown on one of those drives hurts.”

(on if his thumb affected his performance) “No, my thumb was fine throughout the game. It wasn’t an issue at all.”

(on if it was different taking all the shotgun snaps and lining up like they did) “Not really, it’s kind of stabilized doing the same spot the whole game. I can take snaps under center fine.”

(on the last two interceptions) “The last one was a 4<sup>th</sup> and five maybe, they played two man, we had an out breaking route which is what we like and he just kind of intercut the route. Good play by Eddie Pleasant. Wish somehow I would have been able to make a better throw. The last one, they were doubling guys on the front side and it was a double on the back side on Brandon (Marshall) with the corner and the safety, but I thought the safety was deep enough to where I could throw a slant in there, Brian Cushing ran out, he was covering the back and sprinted out to the right, so I waited for him to clear and unfortunately that took more time than I wanted to and the safety (Andre Hal) was able to get in there.”

(on if he was evaluated for a concussion) “Yeah, they came over to me, one of our doctors and an independent neurologist came over to me and asked me a few questions, but I was fine.”

(on losing four of the last five games, after such a good start) “Yeah, there have been some disappointing losses and the kind of fashion in which we lost, especially offensively, just not playing well. It’s been tough but we have to continue to work at it and continue to work hard at practice and put a better product out there on the field.”

(on playing against his former teammates) “It was tough. It is always tough to lose no matter what, but it probably added a little bit to it not being able to come back and having two opportunities at the end and not being able to lead the team down to at least tie the game. It makes it tough.”

(on if he is concerned about starting next week) “No.”

(on what it was like to line up against his former team) “It’s a great group of guys over there. We had a lot of fun together last year, but you kind of get in between the white lines and you’re out there competing so there was plenty of chatter and banter, especially during the timeouts and stuff, but they’ve got some great competitors over there. It’s fun to go against guys like that every Sunday.”

(on the challenge of getting into the postseason) “We’ve just got to focus on the next game rather than focusing on what’s going to happen in six weeks or whatever it is. We’ve got to get back on track and start feeling good about ourselves again.”

(on if it affects him when his passes that were on target were not caught) “No, no. My job is to put it in a place to give those guys a chance. We had some today we didn’t come up with. We had some today where I didn’t give them a chance. So a lot of that falls on me and just making sure that everybody’s on the same page and making the throws when I need to make the throws.”

(on if the opposing defense is dictating getting off to a slow start for the second straight game) “No. You give credit to the defenses the last two games. We’ve played good defenses, but it shouldn’t matter who we play. We came out slow in both games and we’ve got to find a way to come out faster and make some of the plays that we’re not making and stay on the field.”

(on what the defense did to take WR Eric Decker out) “Not a whole lot. It wasn’t anything special that they were doing. That first quarter flew by so fast. We had one drive, and we didn’t get anything going in the first half, so I think it was more how the game was going than them necessarily having to do something to take him away.”



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(on what he said to WR Devin Smith after the dropped pass) "Things happen. This is football. The great thing about this game and really like people always ask are you going to let your kids play football, that's a moment right there where you can't recreate that anywhere else. We didn't catch the ball. I didn't throw the ball perfect on certain plays. I threw two interceptions at the end of the game, but there's always going to be adversity in this game and it's just something you can't recreate. In other spots where he needs his teammates to pick him up, I need my teammates to pick me up, but he's got to know that's going to happen again, and he's going to get that same pass and that same ball in a similar situation and I'm going to expect him to make the play. The thing about this game is that there's going to be more chances for him. He's got a bright future ahead of him, and he's just got to learn to put that one away and be great."

(on if WR Devin Smith was beating himself up about his performance) "You'll have to ask him. As a rookie it's hard to come in and play in this league. This is an offense where he's got two great guys to sit back and watch the way they work every day. He's just got to continue to get better. He's working hard in practice and study the path there."

(on team morale) "The feeling in the locker room sucks right now because we don't like losing, especially in the fashion in which we came out and started slow and I throw an interception to end the game. Nobody feels good about that. That being said, we've got a veteran group and we know that it's week by week, and if you start feeling sorry for yourself, that's where you're going to get in trouble, and you're not going to give yourself a chance."

(on coach Todd Bowles being upset with the team) "He wasn't happy with our effort. I'm sure he let you guys know that. When you come out and you don't play well a couple games in a row now where we're sort of in games and have these teams that we're playing that we feel like we're better than but we're not winning, it's very frustrating. We're not better than these teams because they're beating us so we've got to find a way to get over the hump."

### **WR BRANDON MARSHALL** (Transcribed by Francisco Casillas)

(on what happened on the dropped ball followed by the touchdown) "We ran a slant route. Threw it, put one hand out and I didn't come down with it. I thought the safety was there, he wasn't there so I tried to sit in there and hold it, put one hand out and work when I catch it all the time and I just didn't come out with that."

(on how the team hasn't been able to produce in the last quarters in previous two games) "We've just got to make plays - getting on the same page and making plays."

(on if the team was prepared entering the game) "Absolutely, it has nothing to do with getting passion. I've always said these guys love football, we love football. It comes down to some chemistry of - we've got a lot of guys coming in and what we're trying to do is impress it, but that's no excuse. It's hard for guys come and gather and really be hitting on all cylinders, but at this point of the season, when we're are late, we are deep in it, we have to start going. We can't wait until we are behind in a fight. Players like myself have to make plays. It's really, it's simple. There's a lot to it, but it really comes down to some simple things."

(on whether referring on the team's chemistry on offense or as a whole) "Just the team as a whole."

(on if the chemistry issues are due to injuries on the team) "What we have to do is watch film and look at where we are missing on plays as a team and try to figure it out quickly. It's a bad position to be in but at the end of the day, we still have life. I've seen some wow things happen at the finish at the end of the season so we'll see what happens."

(on going from 4-1 to 5-5) "It's very frustrating. It sucks, but at the end of the day you have to pick yourself back up and fight. It's going to be tough, we don't control our own destiny but we just have to make one play and one play turns into one game and one game turns into a couple. That's what we have to do. It sucks right now. We're not playing good football and that's everybody in the locker room and what we have to do is pick ourselves back up and continue to fight. I'm not going to answer any questions about this guy, that guy, this coach, that coach. For me, my hands are moving forward and its simple. Coaches coach and players play. That's all it is. Does it suck? It sucks. Are we a better team? We are. Can we do something these last six games? Yes. Special teams need to be better. Offense needs to be better. Defense needs to be better."