



HOUSTON TEXANS vs. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN
G ODAY ABOUSHI
K RANDY BULLOCK
OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY
S QUINTIN DEMPS
WR DEANDRE HOPKINS
CB KEVIN JOHNSON
CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
QB RYAN MALLETT
OL DEREK NEWTON
FB JAY PROSCH
WR CECIL SHORTS III
DE JJ WATT
NT VINCE WILFORK

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

(on what the difference was in running the ball this week) "I would say that as a team, as a coaching staff and as a team, we stuck with it. Sometimes in this league when you run the ball early, and maybe throughout the game, it's not always going to look pretty. It's very, very difficult to run the ball in this league. I call them car crashes, especially early in the game. They're just a bunch of car crashes, and you're hoping that if you stick with it that in the fourth quarter it pays off for you. I give our guys a lot of credit. Our guys have worked hard, linemen, tight ends, backs. It wasn't always pretty, but I thought that last drive for the offense was a hell of a drive."

(on the play of LG Oday Aboushi) "That's kind of our philosophy. We don't think about it as putting a guy in so quick. We say, look we've got to add some depth, so we went out and claimed him. He had been a player for Mike Devlin in New York so the terminology, the line calls were similar to what we did in New York. He worked hard to get up to speed on some of the other things we're doing. We'll have to watch the film to see how he did, but it looks like he hung in there and fought hard all day."

(on if the season is now reset as RB Arian Foster will soon return and the entire AFC South is at 1-2) "I don't ever look at it that way. I really think it is 16 one-game seasons, so that was game three which gets us to 1 and 2. That's obviously not where we want to be, but now we go to a very, very tough Atlanta team. We've got to have a really good week of practice. It was a very physical game out here so we're not going to be able to have a real physical week of practice. So we have to make sure that we come fresh, and ready to go, and travel to Atlanta and try to win a game. It's going to be a very, very tough game."

(on QB Ryan Mallett's performance) "I thought it was better. I think he's a tough-minded guy. I think the more he plays, the better he'll get. I think he understood how we wanted to manage the game better today. He did what we asked him to do. He played within the scheme. There's a lot of things he can improve upon, but it was definitely improvement."

(on the play of T Derek Newton) "He's probably one of the most versatile linemen that we have. He can play four out of five positions, and he really could probably play center if we really had to have that in a pinch. He plays right tackle, right guard, left guard, left tackle. He's a hell of a guy. He's very, very smart. When I got here, all I ever heard was bad stuff about Derek Newton as far as this guy didn't have a great year in 2013, and this guy and that. I'm telling you, this guy is a hell of a football player and I'm glad he's with us."

(on if O'Brien was frustrated early in the game with getting into Tampa Bay territory without scoring points) "We really took the approach this week – look we want to come out with points, don't get me wrong, I understand that. I think we always want to try to come out of those situations with points. I thought our defense fought hard all day."



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One of the approaches we took this week was last week, 13 out of 16 games in the NFL with about six minutes left in the game either had a field goal or a touch down difference in the game. We took the approach this week of we're going to focus on each play. We're going to really try to do the best we can on that play to do our job well. If that play doesn't work out, we'll move to the next play. We keep grinding it out. I think that's the approach our guys took, and that's the approach we are going to take all year. Can it be better? No question. We have to play better complementary football. We're going to work hard to do that, but I really liked the approach, the mental toughness, that our guys had today."

(on trying not to force it on 3rd and 11) "I think you have to take into account who you are playing, where the ball is, you're backed up in your own end, your defense is playing pretty good, you're playing (DT) Gerald McCoy, you're playing (DE) Jacquies Smith. You're going to drop back and try to fire an 18-yard in-cut or maybe let's run it here. Maybe we scoot it and we get it. Maybe we don't and we punt it with Shane and we play good defense. That's not always the way I think but that's the way I thought a little bit today to try to manage the game. I thought that our guys really understood that, and we kept hanging in there. In the fourth quarter like I said, I thought that the offense really had a hell of a drive there at the end of the game to seal the game. I wish that we had scored a touchdown there, but we kind of sealed the game. I would say that was a five or six minute drive there at the end, so good drive."

(on play by the defense on 3rd down against QB Jameis Winston) "I thought that the defense played a very good game. I thought, maybe they didn't sack him, he got the ball out quick, but they really pressured him. I think he's a hell of a player. I really think he's got a bright, bright future in this league. I think that he made some great throws against us. They made some good catches, but I thought our guys really fought hard and competed on the outside and rushed them. I thought it was a good job by our defense today."

(on CB Johnathan Joseph and the corners doing a good job against Tampa Bay's big receivers) "Yeah, you know look, some of those you're going to win, some you're not going to win. Those guys, they get paid a lot of money too. Those guys are big guys. They can run routes, they're good receivers, I thought that probably our guys won more than they lost in the one-on-one matchup and that was good, but when you're playing that much matched coverage and you're contesting every throw, sometimes those guys are going to make catches. I thought J-Jo (Johnathan Joseph) came up big for us. He was really in tight coverage where he was able to get his arm up through the bread basket and break up some throws or maybe the guy landed out of bounds. I think Kareem (Jackson) competed hard. I really think Kevin Johnson has a very bright future in this league and he competed hard. I thought those guys played what we asked them to do which was tight match coverage."

(on what he can do to improve the special teams) "We've got to work hard at that. We have to do better on special teams. I probably wouldn't put it in the category of really rough day, but I would say that it was a little bit up and down. We have to keep working, look at the personnel there, see what we're doing coaching wise, schematically, and we really have to improve there."

(on any injury today with CB Johnathan Joseph) "I don't know too much about it. I think that he feels better right now than he did obviously when it happened, so we'll have to see as the week goes on. I'm not sure. I would definitely put him in the day to day category."

(on putting in WR Cecil Shorts in for WR Chandler Worthy at punt return) "Every decision I make I try to make in the best interest of the team. I thought that at that time Shorts, that was the right decision for the team."

(on what they can do now that they're not already doing to improve special teams) "We need to cover better, obviously we need to kick better, extra points, field goals, we need to kick better. I thought Shane (Lechler) punted pretty well today. We need to understand the sky punt situation, and we go over this a lot, but we've got to do a better job of coaching, of how to guard the goal line and try to down the punt inside the five yard line. We need to cover better, keep leverage on the ball better, get off blocks better, there's always things that we have to improve on, but we really need to improve there."

(on what style points mean to him) "None. Only thing that matters – I learned this a long time ago – I think was coaching in college and there's no comparison between college and the pros, but there is a comparison in this respect, a great college team that I was coaching beat a lower level team, it was like 50-21, and they scored 21 points and we're in the locker room, coaches locker room after the game, and a couple of the coaches are down and one coach that was in there coached for 35 years and said, 'whenever you win a game, don't ever feel down



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about it. You can never replace the win. There's nothing better than winning, nothing better than winning.' Whatever you have to do to win the game, you come in that locker room and you have a win, it's very difficult league to win in and I'm happy for our guys, but it's only one and we've got to try to just keep it going."

(on if QB Ryan Mallett's low passes are designed that way so just the receivers can catch them) "Well, I think sometimes it was from my vantage point. Like I always tell you, I've got to watch the tape. I think sometimes from my vantage point, he was trying to throw it away from the defender. The other times he needs to get the ball up. He's trying to fire low because usually that happens with throws on the inside, a high ball on the inside never, usually doesn't end up well. It's batted in the air and it's not good. He's trying to throw low, and I don't know if he has to throw it that low every time, but I think he is trying to throw it away from the defender."

(on if he takes anything away from what he saw from Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston tonight) "I think he's, like I said before, I think he's a very talented guy. I think he's got a great future in this league. I'm glad he's not in our division. He's a hell of a player. He made some big time throws today. He's a competitor. I think he was yelling at me when I threw the challenge flag there late. He's a competitor, you know, he's a competitor. You've got to respect guys like that. He's got a real good future in the league."

(on how it feels to be in first place in the division) "It's three games. There's no such thing as first place after three games, no such thing."

T ODAY ABOUSHI (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on how comfortable he felt and how much fun he had) "It was fun. I felt comfortable, and I felt like I put in the preparation and the time, as well as the guys around me helping me really bring it along. So, I felt good out there. It felt good to get a win with the squad and really go into week four going strong."

(on how many defenders were in the box) "It was all over the place: five, six, seven, but it didn't matter what they did, it came down to us executing."

(on having to shuffle the offensive line after G Brandon Brooks left the game) "Well, that's the league. That's a part of business. Guys get hurt, guys go down, and you have to be the next man up. (T Kendall) Lamm did a great job of being prepared and coming in, and Derek Newton did a great job of moving inside. Like I said before, it's what the league is about. You just have to be ready."

(on if he felt Tampa Bay wearing down as the game went on) "Things started working for us, things started plugging, and we just kept at it and kept doing well at it."

(on RB Alfred Blue being in sync with the offensive line) "That's what it's all about. That's why we practice every day and we try to get in sync with the backs, and we try to get to know how they're going to run and how they know we're going to block it. So, it's good to see him get out there and get his yards, and for us to really jell together."

RB ALFRED BLUE (Transcribed by Carla Hartman)

(thoughts on Tampa Bay's performance and them wearing down through the run game) "As an offense, when you are running the ball, you just get in the flow of running and you wear them down. I think the coaches tonight stuck to the run. We were effective on it and the offensive line did a great job tonight."

(on the difference in the run game today) "I think everyone came out with a chip on their shoulders. We had a great week of practice. The offensive line, they were blocking real good tonight. I just got in the groove real good, and got comfortable in the run game, and started gassing. It was working for us and the coaches kept calling it and we just kept gassing them."

(on RT Chris Clark and RT Oday Aboushi) "I think they did a great job just to come into this offense, late in the game and late in the season, to go out there and have a great game out there blocking. I would say those two guys on the left side did a hell of a job."

(on his happiness and feelings about the game) "I was having fun out there. The offensive line was encouraging me and I was encouraging them. The receivers were out there encouraging me on. We were just having fun as an



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offense. That's what it takes, when you go out there and have fun out there, you compete, and you have great games like that."

(on being impressed with the offensive line despite injuries) "It was real impressive, they have as many injuries on the offensive line. I know Brandon (Brooks) left out of the game. There were some guys, young guys that stepped in and took on the role. It shows the diversity we have as an offensive line. Kudos to those guys, they came in and got the job done."

(on the run game being the identity of the Texans' offense) "I would say so. In the past we would run first. We ran the ball tonight, we ran the ball effectively, and we got a win. I think that is the formula of this offense, run the ball first and compliment the run with the pass."

(on his personal vision about this game) "As a runner I just got in the zone of running the ball. The coaches, they trusted me tonight, and I just got in the zone just by getting a lot of carries. As a runner you get in that mode, you start to see it and the game slows down. I think that's what happened, the game slowed down. I was able to see blocks more effectively and just make that one cut and get up field."

(on seeing FB Jay Prosch in the open field) "I know when they called the play I was telling him, man, if you break it, you better get in the end zone. He said, yea man, I'm trying to score. It was good to see another guy carry the ball and have success with it."

(on it being special to see a FB that clears the way for him getting some attention) "It's always good to share the wealth. Just to give props to him, he goes out there and blocks really well for the running backs. Just for the coaches to give him a carry every now and then and let him run the ball too."

K RANDY BULLOCK (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on today's game) "That was big. I mean that was a team win."

(on missing an extra point) "It was frustrating, it was frustrating for sure but at that point you flush it. You kickoff and go to the next play, and that's part of being a kicker."

(on if the turf affected his footing) "No, I think the field was fine."

(on what he saw when he missed the extra point kick) "Honestly I didn't feel like I hit it poorly. So when I looked up and saw it go wide that was surprising to me. I'll have to watch it on tape and see what happened for sure."

(on his performance this season) "I feel like I'm where I need to be. I just need to continue to fine tune things. At this point, I'll probably work with my kicking coach on our day off on Tuesday. I'll watch some film, do some fine tuning and continue this season."

(on the significance of this win for the confidence of the team) "It's big. We needed to get one in the win column, and get this thing on the right track."

(on Tampa Bay K Kyle Brindza's performance today) "He hit the first one really well and then the second one he didn't hit as well. That's part of being a kicker, make or miss you have to be ready for your next opportunity. That's how everybody judges you."

OLB JADEVEON CLOWNEY (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on how he felt during the game) "I felt pretty good. Just trying to do what I need to do out there to help the team win."

(on how he thinks the defense played today) "We played as a unit. We played good, complimentary football. We played pretty good."

(on how his health is doing) "I'm going alright. I'm doing good. Some nicks and bruises, but that's going to happen."



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(on getting pressures against the quarterback) “Yeah, you want to make those plays, though. You don’t just want to make pressures, you want to make the play. So I always pride myself hard on making the play, so I went to the sideline mad. My teammates are telling me, ‘Good job,’ and I’m like, I have to make those plays, but that’s football.”

S QUINTIN DEMPS (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on the play where he intercepted Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston) “It was a play that we kind of practiced all week. You have to credit JJ Watt and Jadeveon Clowney and those guys for getting pressure and stuff like that. RAC (Romeo Crennel) too. Credit RAC, Anthony Midget, John Butler and Mike Vrabel, just for the play call. It was a really good call and a pretty good scheme for this week. Just executed the call and I caught it.”

(on what happened during his interception) “It was a coverage we had in all week that we put in for them. I think we did a good job executing it. I’m just glad I caught it, because it’s a fine if you don’t catch it. So, I’m just glad I caught it.”

(on the defense only allowing one third-down conversion) “That’s good, that’s good defense. It’s great defense, actually.”

WR DEANDRE HOPKINS (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

(on the offense starting fast) “It was great. That is something that we practiced and something that we preached this week; to start fast and that is what we did.”

(on his touchdown catch) “That was just (Ryan) Mallett making a play, giving me a signal to be able to make a play and that’s on him.”

(on his 30 yard catch in the fourth quarter) “Ryan made the right read. He saw that I was one on one. The safety was kind of covering me a little bit, but not exactly on me and he (Mallett) put the ball in the perfect spot. If you see the replay, you see the defender badly missed the ball so you got to give credit to the quarterback there.”

(on his connection with QB Ryan Mallett) “It felt good today. We got the win and that is all that matters.”

(on getting that first win of the season) “It feels great. It’s motivating for us to get this win. Starting off 0-2 is not the way we wanted to start, but one win can change a lot of things.”

(on how RB Alfred Blue’s performance impacted the play of the offense) “You have to give credit to the offensive line for that. It says a whole lot about them and that it doesn’t matter who is in at running back, we can be successful running the ball.”

(on the strong play of the offensive line even when losing RG Brandon Brooks) “It was great. Next man up, this is the NFL.”

(on his timing improving with QB Mallett) This is why we practice. We do a lot of stuff outside of just the practice field, working after practice on that timing and seeing things that the defense is doing to make last minute adjustments and it showed today.”

(on how many more touchdown leaps he is planning on doing at home this season) “Plenty more. A lot more.”

(on making the NRG leap) “I got that from my man (former Texans WR) Andre Johnson. I got to give credit to him. I stole his celebration.”

(on if the fans said he anything to him when he made the leap) “They were saying a lot. Somebody was trying to grab some body parts and stuff so you just got to close your eyes when you jump up there.”

(on doing a celebration with T Derek Newton) “Yeah, its something like a yoga pose. It’s a local Houston rapper called Sauce Twinz. It was an ode to him.”



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CB KEVIN JOHNSON (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on playing against Tampa Bay's big receivers) "It's good for us. Me being a young guy, it's good for me just to be able to go out there and learn."

(on the play of Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston) "Great player. I played against him multiple times in college and he's the number one overall pick for a reason. He's just a great player."

(on if he talked to Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston after the game) "Yeah, after the game we talked, just told him to keep doing his thing."

(on if the game is slowing down for him) "Yeah, every game is slowing down. I just try to come out and study during the week, do my job preparation wise and then go out there and play as fast as I can."

(on the threat the Tampa Bay wide receivers posed every play) "Those guys are definitely great players. We just went out there and we competed with those guys and they made some plays, but we did too."

(on winning the first game of the season) "It is real good to get that first W. We've been working hard and just to come out here and get that W is contagious. We've just got to come out here next week, go back to work and get it in."

(on the condition of CB Jonathan Joseph) "J-Jo is good. J-Jo is good to go."

(on the play of the team in the fourth quarter) "It's just coming together and playing complementary football. The offense had a great drive at the end of the game, defensively that picks us up and we just came out there and fought."

CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on if he was checked for a concussion) "I think it's protocol with the league now that anytime you come out of the field shaken up or something like that they have to bring you in, but I don't have any concussion. I'm not in the protocol or anything."

(on what he remembers from the play where he got hurt) "I think my head just got driven down into the ground. I went head-first into the turf. I had a slight little headache or something. I came to the sideline and shook it off, but with the protocol they have to bring you in and examine you."

(on the difference between playing on turf compared to grass) "I think that's kind of all the same when you go head first, from a collision standpoint and things like that. Overall, I think the turf felt great."

(on the play of the defense against this group of wide receivers) "I think we did great today. You know obviously you have to go up and challenge and compete against those guys who are 6'3, 6'4. Obviously anytime you have a quarterback that can make all the throws it is going to be a tough day. I think we held up in coverage and we competed all day."

(on if he was more aggressive in this game) "Yeah, I think we just locked in more. Shaking the rust off or whatever it may be but I think that today we just did a great job altogether. The rush up front, applying pressure on the quarterback and us being tight in coverage on the back end."

(on getting the first win) "It's great. Once they come they started flowing. I think today was a step in the right direction to get that one win in the win column. We just have to build off it."



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(on the defense's success on 3rd down) "I think we've been doing a great job on 3rd down all year. We came into this game third in the league on 3rd down rate. I think today was another example of it, we were 1 for 12 or something like that. I think when 3rd down comes around we have to give the ball back to the offense to try to give them a chance to score with the ball. I think we were locked in on 3rd down today."

QB RYAN MALLETT (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)

(on what seemed to get them going in the fourth quarter, particularly the pass to WR DeAndre Hopkins) "It was a three-man route. I just tried to read the coverage. I didn't see the catch, so I don't know what it looked like, but apparently it was pretty good."

(on how big it was to be able to start fast today) "That's what we talked about and put an emphasis on, starting fast. I think we did that, now we have to put it all together moving forward. There were good things we've still got to work on obviously, but it feels good to get a win, that's for sure."

(on RB Alfred Blue's performance today) "Yeah I mean it's a testament to the o-line. They had a great game. We need that every week from them now and we need it from Blue every week, need it from me every week, the receivers, so it's about putting it together and continuing to take that momentum off what we did right and fix what we did wrong and try to get a win next week."

(on feeling like he's getting into a groove) "Throughout my career, high school, college, whatever, I always feel better the more I play, the more comfortable I get. Hopefully that'll continue."

(on his chemistry with WR DeAndre Hopkins) "Like I said before, he's one of the best to do it right now, so we've got two or three other guys that do it well too. We've just got to keep working on our time, working on our routes, just getting better every week."

(on how nice it is to have a few games under his belt and to have gotten a win) "It feels good. It feels kind of like after Cleveland but we need more, we want more, we tasted finally what it tastes like to win and that's just all about how hard we worked, how much effort we put into the game plan, know what we're doing, know our assignments and then execute."

(on his thoughts on the offensive line) "It goes back to how much work we put in and the chemistry, we're mixing and matching linemen back in camp, because stuff like that happens in the NFL. People are going to be hurt some weeks, so you've got to be able to mix and match and not miss a beat, and I think they did a good job as far as chemistry and making their calls and working together, communicating at the line."

(on if he feels like the team is his now that he has two starts under his belt) "I'm just going to keep playing football like I have and keep doing what I'm doing as far as studying, getting prepared, I'm not going to change anything."

T DEREK NEWTON (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on the last drive that took up nearly seven minutes) "It's all about fight. We're a team that fights, and four-minute drill closing the game out, is one of our emphases in practice. We work hard on that each week, and when we have the ball like that, and we're up, we're going to want to keep the ball and keep the defense off the field."

(on moving inside to play guard) "It's pretty good. I played right guard before, so it was kind of cool. Plus, I stayed on the right side, so it wasn't too bad."

(on if he saw improvement from the offensive line) "Oh yeah. We ran the ball well, did some good things in pass pro as well. That's what we wanted to do, be better than last week, and I feel like we were very productive."

WR CECIL SHORTS III (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)



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(on his key third down catch late in the game) "It was man coverage. Coaches say you got to beat man coverage. Ryan (Mallett) threw the ball away from the defender and I knew the ball was possibly coming to me since it was press man coverage. Mallett threw a good ball and the line did a good job protecting and made my job easy."

(on settling into the middle of the field role) "I am getting better at it. I got a long way to go. I am getting more comfortable. I'm understanding it more. Still have some things to work on, but I am getting better at it."

(on the quarterback and wide receiver communication this week) "It was good. It was very good. I think you saw that out there today. There is always room to work, always room to improve, but it was good."

(on what things he feels he can improve) "We just have to continue to get better on our assignment. There were some situations where we missed on some big plays and stuff like that. We just have to continue to get better and I think we will be alright."

(on how the wide receivers played as an overall unit) "If we all do our job, we compliment each other well. I think we have a good group here from the first guy to the last guy and we are going to keep on working and see what happens."

FB JAY PROSCH (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

(on if he felt Tampa Bay wearing down after having success in the run game) "Yeah, definitely towards the end when we were just pounding. You could tell they were just getting tired, and we kind of took their will from them and just kept going."

(on how RB Alfred Blue was in the huddle) "He was good. He was ready to go, we were all ready to go, all happy because we were moving the ball. The clock was ticking down, which is what we wanted, and everything was going good."

(on the how the offensive linemen performed) "I thought those guys did a great job of jumping in and doing their job great and really helping the team today."

(on if he's happy to see Alfred Blue score a touchdown) "Yeah, for sure. As a running back group, that was our first touchdown as a group on the season. It was one of our goals today, so it was great that we were able to get that done."

(on if he knew the team would have to have a big day running the ball to get the win) "We didn't know exactly how it was going to play out, but we knew we wanted to come into it and be physical and run the ball. Either way, whatever happened, that's what we were going to do and that's what we did."

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

(on how it felt to get the season's first win) "It feels good to win. It always feels good to win. It's difficult to win in the National Football League, so it feels good. Good here at home. Thought it was a good game."

(on how he and OLB Jadeveon Clowney are working together as they get more playing time together) "Just going out there and trying to make plays. I don't think there's anything crazy to it, just trying to make plays."

(on how much fun it is playing with Clowney with both of them drawing double teams) "Yeah, it's fun."

(on how Buccaneers QB Jameis Winston played today) "I think they did some things. They tried to run the ball a little bit early. You could tell they focused on getting the ball out of his hands real quick. I think they tried not to make him hold it back there for too long. They protected him a lot, and that worked at times. But at the end of the day, we came out of here with a win and that's all that matters."

(on the if the defense took a battle mentality to the field today) "Yeah, I mean you go out there and one of our main goals going in to the game was to stop the run, and I think they had 57 yards rushing, so we did a good job at that. A very good running back, so give them a lot of credit, but I think we did a good job at that. Then you just go out



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there and you try to get stops. Even if they drive down to your end of the field, try to get a stop and obviously put them in a position to kick a field goal. Their field goal kicker kind of helped us out a little bit. Appreciate that.”

(on if anything in particular worked on third downs that led to missed field goals by the Buccaneers) “I mean we got the stop. I don’t have anything to say after that. We didn’t block any of them. They just didn’t go through the yellow things. Just got to get the stop and get them to fourth down. See what happens, I guess. Sweet. I hope that happens every time.”

(on how important it was for the Texans offense to get going and how much it helped the defense) “It was great. It was a lot of fun to watch those guys go out there. When your offense can drive the ball down the field methodically and just keep churning, keep churning, it’s great. It’s a lot of fun to watch. It’s a lot of fun to catch your breath on the sideline. I think that’s their goal. What they did today is what they want to do. They want to go out there, and they want to run the ball. Make sense of pass plays. It was a lot of fun to watch, especially in the fourth quarter, you know you’re trying to seal the win. They just drive the ball down the field and eat up the clock, that’s what you want to do and that’s a sign of a good football team. If we continue to do that, we’ll be good.”

(on the defense’s efforts) “It’s great. I think, like I said earlier in the week, we’re working to find our brand and get back to playing our brand of football. I still wouldn’t say we’re a hundred percent there yet, but I think today was a great step in the right direction towards where we want to be. I think we did a great job of going out there and stopping the run, getting rid of third down, get off the field on third down, give our offense the ball back, so we’re definitely getting there. Now you’ve just got to get on a roll. You’ve got to use the momentum. You’ve got to continue to get on a roll and let it fly.”

(on if playing on the turf during a game felt any different) “No, I honestly didn’t notice it too much, so I guess that’s a good thing.”

NT VINCE WILFORK (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

(on the significance of the victory) “It’s a good team win, it feels good to win a ballgame. It’s a step in the right direction now, so hopefully when we go back to work this week we come out with a good week of practice like we did this past week. It showed tonight how well we play once we play together as a team.”

(on the play of the defense) “I think we stepped up, everyone stepped up today. We started fast then finished that. That’s one of the things we always preach, being able to start the game and finishing it. I think we did that tonight but a lot of work still needs to be done. It’s a great win and it feels good to win. Like I said, we have to go to the practice field and come out here on game day and show it.”

(on the play of the defense on 3rd down) “Our 3rd down defense has played pretty well this year so we just have to continue building on it. I think we need to do a better job of creating more turnovers for the offense. But we will hit the ground running this week, we’ll watch film tomorrow, make some corrections. It wasn’t perfect but we got the W. It feels good to get that one and move forward now.”



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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

HEAD COACH LOVIE SMITH
K KYLE BRINDZA
WR MIKE EVANS
DT GERALD MCCOY
DT CLINTON MCDONALD
DB DJ SWEARINGER
QB JAMEIS WINSTON

HEAD COACH LOVIE SMITH (Transcribed by Francisco Casillas)

(opening statement) "A lot of lost opportunities, plays talking about our defense for ourselves. You just can't - easiest thing to do is run the football, you can't allow the team to run the football that way. We rely on, of course taking the ball away. One isn't enough, and it's as simple as that. Thought there was a stretch there in the second half where we played pretty good ball, but we didn't finish it the way we need to. They threw the ball a few times. We weren't able to get enough pressure so nothing really went well the way we wanted to on that side.

Offensively, same thing, couldn't establish our run where they establish their run. We couldn't get ours going and you know, dropped balls. Had opportunities that we didn't get enough from, kind of simple as that. Special team wise, course been a strength for us today. It is tough when you miss that many field goals and miss an extra point. On a day like today of course all point pointing toward our corner. Injury wise, had a few guys that went down, I don't know the extent of the injuries. I'll be able to talk about the injuries a little bit about it tomorrow, but disappointing loss, no other way to put it. We have an opportunity of course then to have a division opponent come into our place and try to finish up this first quarter of our season 2-2."

(on missed field goals, taking a risk with a rookie kicker and possible change) "Kyle is our kicker. He like a lot of us had a disappointing day today, that hasn't been the case and you're going to have off days. This was an off day. When a player has an off day, we need to rally around them in many other ways, and that's what we weren't able to do today."

(on QB Jameis Winston's play) "He played pretty good. We would like to have that one pick back, but all together - offensively I think they had thirty more plays than we did. We just didn't enough opportunities for him, for our offense to really get going. Third downs had a lot to do with it, we didn't convert enough third downs. All this things, we'll clean up."

(on having plenty of chances to win the game) "You can look at it that way. It's really disappointing that you were close and there's a stretch, a play is there where it could've gone the other way. To be a good football team, we get in situations like that, it needs to lean on our side, but yes we're close."

(on defensively having missed tackles) "A lot of missed tackles and situations where we should be fairly strong against the run. That's what was most disappointing. On team zone, we are not set up for teams to run the ball like that against us and that had as much to do with this loss as anything."

(on Texans QB Ryan Mallet and WR DeAndre Hopkins connecting today) "I thought they of course did a good job. Of course Mallet can throw the ball, the receivers came up with throws but them being to run the ball way its what really put us on the heels a little bit."

(on how QB Jameis Winston performed against the pass rush) "It's hard to say right now. I don't know how many sacks they got. Again we didn't get enough - they had good pressure, they are good football players but we need more opportunities to be able to do some things."

(on how the key drops hurt them) "The drops hurt, I talked to about them being able to establish the run but that way really hurt. Field goals really hurt, of course the drops did. All the things that losing teams do, we did today. We've got to clean this up with Carolina coming into town next week."



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(on how they are going to deal with the drops) “Concentration, yes every week. Throughout the league, every game there’re drops, we just had too many today.”

(on penalties being a part of today’s loss) “Penalties also, again these are things that losing teams do. You lose, you have too many penalties at the worst possible time, you drop balls, you don’t intercept the ball. You let teams run the ball against you. All of these things normally leads to you losing the game and for us to be in it right up until the end, even right up until the end, if we had made that last field goal. Three seconds left, you never know so that’s the one part I did like about our football team. We hung in there right until the end. Games like this eventually will pay off for them.”

(on QB Jameis Winston not getting enough support today) “Jameis Winston is a good football player, simple as that. He’ll have some bad plays like all quarterbacks do, but his arrow is pointed up, he’ll continue to get that way. He learned something new each week, which rookies do. Again, there’s a lot of us that need to play a lot better, of course he included, but we’re going to win a lot of games with him.”

(on if K Kyle Brindza’s accuracy issues were a concern during the trade) “We weren’t. We signed him based on what he did on his time elsewhere. That was enough to convince us and we are not going to indict a player based on one bad game that he had. It happens, simple as that. He’ll come back next week. He hit one long good one to get us off, a good start right away. That won’t happen again.”

K KYLE BRINDZA (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on what he has to do for the next game) “I have to come back and be ready.”

(on his missed 58 yard field goal attempt) “Just didn’t finish my kick. Didn’t do my job.”

(on if the issues were mechanical) “No, I just didn’t follow through.”

(on the field goal attempts seeming to be pushed to the right) “It’s just not following through all the way.”

(on what QB Jameis Winston said to him after the game) “This is going to make you great. All the greats in this league whether it be quarterbacks, kicker, anything. They’ve all gone through something like this so, for me to just go back and get ready to go to work.”

(on if Head Coach Lovie Smith mentioned anything to him) “Just to go to work.”

(on if he had moments like this at Notre Dame last year) “I had a couple, I had a couple. Just being able to push through.”

(on if it’s harder to do during a game) “It’s tough, but for me it’s one of the toughest jobs in the business. Mentally, I just have to do my job.”

(on the feeling and what needs to be done) “It’s always devastating and disappointing. I let my team down and I just have to get back out there and get my job done.”

(on the difficulty of kicking field goal attempts) “You have to be perfect. There’s a reason why kickers are so important in this league. It’s because you have such little flaws and I had a couple today and it hurt our team.”

WR MIKE EVANS (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on missed opportunities for the offense) “Yeah, starting with me. It’s essentially my first game back, I made some plays, but I put this on me. It was a lot of plays I should have made on third downs that I didn’t come up with. Offense played great, but it was just up to me to make a couple of plays and then could have put us over the hump.”

(on getting out of a rhythm offensively) “I don’t know. There were a couple of tough catches that I’m capable of making. If I want to be the best, I’ve got to make those plays. I didn’t make them, most of them. If I would have made them, then we would have had a better chance to win. I’ll rebound after the off day and watch the film and get better.”



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(on what it meant to play at home) "I forgot I was even here. When the game starts everything goes out and I just become 'Football Mike,' so it didn't register in my mind today."

(on how he felt physically) "It felt good. It felt real good. I had a little issue with my knee, it bent back funny, but I think it's alright."

(on if missed opportunities are to blame for the loss) "I credit the Texans, but I think we're the better team. They just made more plays than us. I don't want to get fined here or anything, but I thought in the end zone I could have got some laundry on one of those plays. But we've just got to play good, and we didn't get the win."

(on dropping a few balls because he missed time with a hamstring injury) "Yeah, maybe so. It'll come through with reps. This is maybe like my first game back with catching the rock and things like that. With time I'll be good."

DT GERALD MCCOY (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on the frustration of this game and how they were able to run the ball) "I can't really give you a big explanation, we just have to finish."

(on how limited he was after coming off the field) "I wasn't able to be me."

(on how hard it is to be out there but not at 100%) "My presence helps and obviously I'd like to be 100%, but things happen."

(on what the Texans were able to do so effective) "Run. They ran the ball on us."

(on if he was surprised on how consistently the Texans were able to run the ball) "Yeah."

DT CLINTON MCDONALD (Transcribed by Carla Hartman)

(on the Texan's run game) "I was surprised on how well we didn't come to perform. We missed a lot of tackles at that end of the field, me included. I missed a lot of tackles and I wasn't in my gap a couple of times. When you're not in your gap, you miss tackles, and that's what happens, you get 150 yards ran up on you."

(on the fourth quarter Buccaneer defense performance) "It's us. We can never say, they are just a better team and we came and tried today. We are the defense, so we are the result. Every game, every quarter, every opportunity we get, we're the result. So, we have to get on the field and we have to go for it."

(on the effectiveness of the Texan's run game) "They came out and ran 189 yards. I think that's what executed as an offense for them. We didn't do our job as a defense. We can always say that they did this, and they did that, but we didn't do our job as a defense first and foremost."

(on this being a game of missed opportunities) "That's the way I see it. We left a lot of things out on that field that we could have accomplished but we didn't."

DB DJ SWEARINGER (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on how often he gets to see old teammates) "I don't get to see them often because I'm in Tampa and they are in Houston, so I don't get to see those guys."

(on if he stays in touch with old teammates) "We most definitely stay in touch through the phone and stuff like that."

(on the emotion of coming back after the departure in the offseason) "The emotion was good. I channeled my emotions and you want to get a win when you come back to your old team. But, it is what it is and we got a loss and I'm disappointed in that."

(on his thoughts of QB Ryan Mallett) "Mallett did his thing. He's a tough thrower and he did his thing. That's all that matters. He got a win."



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(on if QB Ryan Mallet looked better this year than last year) “Most definitely, most definitely. This year he’s more comfortable in the pocket. He’s controlling the offense and made plays when the seconds were low on the play clock. So, he did a great job of that.”

QB JAMEIS WINSTON (Transcribed by Crystin Pactor)

(on missed opportunities) “I have to execute on third downs. That’s situational football that we work on every day at practice and I have to come through in those situations.”

(on what he’s most pleased about from his performance today) “No sacks. The offensive line did a great job against arguably one of the best defensive lines in this league. They did amazing. It was a promising loss. I know it’s ironic, but it was a very promising loss. We haven’t had a game where I didn’t get sacked yet and we line up against the best defensive line in the NFL and we do a great job. I just have to help them out on those third downs. I have to come through.”

(on what he said to kicker Kyle Brindza after the game) “I told him he’s the second best kicker I know. Roberto Aguayo is my favorite, but he’s so good man. To have all that pressure on him in the game when all I have to do is put the ball in the end zone. This guy has been carrying us this year, his great field goals. 58 yards. I missed a couple throws. I miss throws every day. Every time he gets up there he only has a small opportunity. He doesn’t get as many chances as we get. This guy he is playing his tail off. He did great. He’s been great for us this whole year.”

(on if the team will rally around kicker Kyle Brindza) “Absolutely. I know I am behind him. His locker is right by me. I am going to pull for him. He’s great. He’s a great kicker.”

(on mistakes) “There is a thin line between winning and losing. I have to meet the quota. I have to produce on third downs, that’s the most important thing. I have to make completions on third downs.”

(on timing) Catch and throw. We have to get back to practice. We have to get better every week. I feel like this was a promising loss. It’s ironic, but it was promising.”

(on how you keep your head up on dropped passes) “Because I miss throws too. Everyone isn’t perfect. What we can do, we can go back and practice hard. Take more reps after practice. I promise you, you’re going to see me and Lewis, me and Mike after practice taking reps. That’s how you get better. That’s how you get better, when everyone is in the locker room, we are going to be taking reps. We have done that, but everyone makes mistakes. We can’t put our head down. We have to get back up and bounce back. We have a great divisional opponent next week that we have to be ready for.”

(on if getting WR Mike Evans the football was part of the game plan) “When you have a great receiver like that you have to try and get him the ball. It wasn’t necessarily part of the game plan. He still was kind of limited, but what an addition it is to have him back with us. I believe Brandon Myers played a great game stepping up for Austin, we have the pieces in place. I am the engineer and I have to do better.”

(on first meeting with J.J. Watt) “I was blessed our offensive line protected me well tonight. As a fan, I am blessed. I am blessed every time I step on the football field. With a chance to play against Jadeveon Clowney and J.J. Watt on both sides, it is exciting.”

(on their running game) “The running game has been carrying us this year. That’s not a worry of ours. Some games stuff doesn’t happen our way. As grown men, as men that are true professionals, we bounce back and keep fighting.”

(on defensive switching out of man coverage) “Yeah. They tried to disguise a couple coverages. I believe we did well against them. That is one of the top defenses in the NFL. Like I say, it comes down to situational football and I have to come through in that situation.”

(on if he’s feeling more comfortable) “Absolutely. My goal is to get better every single week. I believe we got better as a team. I believe I got better. Like I say, I hate to keep saying it, but it’s a promising loss. We got some good things out of it. Offensive line, thank god for them. Amazing day. Two rookies. J.J. Watt playing everywhere. He



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lined up on Ali (Marpet) one play, then he lined up on Donovan (Smith) the next play. So to be able to protect me the way they did is very promising.”

(on how frightening the low hit was) “That was cheap, but it’s the game of football. That guy is going full speed. He is trying to make his play as well. I forgive him for that. Logan Mankins had my back so I let him handle it.”