



HOUSTON TEXANS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



Houston Texans (2-1) vs. New Orleans Saints (3-0) Sunday, August 25, 2013 Reliant Stadium

POSTGAME NOTES

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New Orleans Saints	0	17	7	7	31
Houston Texans	7	9	7	0	23

Paid Attendance: 71,611

WITH THE LOSS...

- Houston ended a five-game home winning streak in the preseason. It was the first home preseason loss since a 24-17 loss against Tampa Bay on Sept. 2, 2010.
- Houston fell to 3-4 all-time against New Orleans in the preseason.
- Houston fell to 21-27 all-time in the preseason.
- Houston fell to 18-13 in the preseason under Head Coach Gary Kubiak.

THE TEXANS...

- Extended their streak of sellouts in preseason, regular season and postseason games to 114 at Reliant Stadium.
- Set a franchise preseason record for single-game attendance with 71,611. The previous record was 71,401 against Miami on August 17.

TEXANS TEAM NOTES

- Houston set a franchise preseason record with 496 yards of offense, eclipsing the previous mark of 439 set against Minnesota on August 9. The Texans have produced 400 yards of offense in all three preseason games this season.
- Houston set a franchise single-game preseason record with 355 net passing yards, surpassing the previous mark of 316 yards against Tampa Bay on Sept. 2, 2010.
- Houston ran for a 2013 preseason-best 141 yards.
- Houston won time of possession, holding the ball for 34:26. Houston led the NFL in time of possession in 2011 and 2012.
- The Texans outgained the Saints 164-28 in the first quarter and held the ball for 11:15. Houston outgained New Orleans 281-245 and held the ball for 17:59 in the first half.
- Houston's first-quarter touchdown drive spanned 69 yards on nine plays and lasted 4:48. The team ran for 53 yards on the drive, 51 of which came from RB **Ben Tate**.
- The Texans won the toss and elected to receive.



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- Houston's captains for the game were ILB **Brian Cushing**, WR **Andre Johnson**, QB **Matt Schaub** and DE **J.J. Watt**.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

- K **Randy Bullock** improved to 6-of-7 on field goal attempts this preseason with field goals of 48, 55 and 21 yards in the second quarter. Bullock's 55-yard field goal would have ranked as the fourth-longest in the team's regular season history (57 by Neil Rackers 12/26/10 at Denver and Kris Brown 10/7/07 vs. Miami; 56 by Brown 11/8/09 vs. Indianapolis)
- DE **Jared Crick** recorded his first sack of the preseason, dropping QB Drew Brees for a 6-yard loss in the first quarter.
- TE **Garrett Graham** caught three passes for 27 yards to run his preseason receptions total to 12, moving him into a tie for second place in Houston's preseason single-season record book.

Houston Texans Single-Season Preseason Receptions

2008	Kevin Walter	13
2013	Garrett Graham	12
2010	Andre Johnson	12
2010	Jacoby Jones	12
2010	James Casey	12
2008	David Anderson	12

- WR **Andre Johnson** led the Texans with seven receptions for 131 yards. It was the second 100-yard receiving effort of Johnson's career in the preseason and the fourth ever recorded by a Texan in the preseason.
- **Johnson's** first-half receiving total of 131 yards ranks behind only Jacoby Jones' 148 yards against Tampa Bay (9/4/09) in Houston's preseason annals.
- RB **Ben Tate's** 39-yard run to the left side on Houston's second offensive series was the team's longest of the preseason.
- **Tate** capped Houston's first-quarter touchdown drive with a 1-yard run, his first of the preseason. He ran for 51 yards on the drive.
- **Tate** had eight carries for 69 yards (8.6 average) and a touchdown in the first quarter and finished the first half with .
- P **Shane Lechler's** first punt as a Texan came at the end of Houston's first drive. It went 44 yards and was downed by FS **Shiloh Keo** at the Saints' 2-yard line.
- QB **Matt Schaub** completed 7-of-10 passes for 91 yards and a 98.3 passer rating in the first quarter.



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- **Schaub** finished the first half 15-of-26 for 213 yards and an 84.3 passer rating. Schaub's 213 yards passing is the most by a Texans player in a preseason game, surpassing David Carr's previous high of 205, set on August 23, 2003 against San Diego.
- QB **T.J. Yates** spelled Matt Schaub to start the third quarter. Yates completed 7-of-9 passes for 73 yards, one touchdown and a 137.5 passer rating.
- Yates moved into a tie for second on Houston's preseason single-season touchdown list with his touchdown pass to rookie **Alec Lemon** in the third quarter.

Preseason Passing Touchdowns

2007	Sage Rosenfels	4
2013	T.J. Yates	3
2008	Matt Schaub	3
2006	Sage Rosenfels	3
2005	Dave Ragone	3



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sunday, August 25, 2013

POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK
T DUANE BROWN
K RANDY BULLOCK
DE JARED CRICK
TE OWEN DANIELS
WR ANDRE JOHNSON
QB CASE KEENUM
P SHANE LECHLER
SS DANIEAL MANNING
NT TERRELL MCCLAIN
T DEREK NEWTON
NT EARL MITCHELL
QB MATT SCHAUB
S D.J. SWEARINGER
RB BEN TATE
QB T.J. YATES

HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK (Transcribed by Tiffani Walker)

(on any injuries) "Other than a few nicks, we're checking out (TE) Garrett (Graham). The last play of the half he got a little hip flexor. He is the one we are kind of checking out right now. But other than that we just got some nicks and stuff, so we came out ok."

(on if checking him out means an MRI) "Checking him out. I don't know. That's what they told me before I left."

(on if he's worried) "No I'm not. Because he said he could have gone. He wanted to play in the second half and I told him no."

(on the running game this week) "I felt good. I wanted to get (RB) Ben (Tate) somewhere between 10 and 15 carries. What did he carry? Like 12 times maybe? Eleven or 12 times? He looked good. He looked very good. Obviously he's only been our one healthy veteran back. But I think Ben is ready. I think he's going have a really good year. I've been impressed with his camp. I thought (RB) Deji (Karim) did some good things there in the third quarter. Then obviously in the fourth quarter there throwing the ball and trying to get ourselves back in a position to win. We moved the heck out of the ball, its just scoring enough points. We have to be better in the red zone and those types of things."

(on the first team offense) "We're moving the ball well. We have to keep the focus. We get off to such a good start. We missed a couple plays on the first drive. I think we had a 280-yard half in this league, which is excellent, but you've got to have some points to show for that. That is a disappointing thing. We jumped off sides one time, dropped a couple balls. But we got the ball moving. We've just got to get more out of it right now. But I felt better about us running the ball. I liked their tempo. One of the good things a bout tonight, we had a ton of snaps. I think my offense played 40 snaps in the first half, and I think the defense played 32. There was a lot of football played in the first half. So it was good."

(on K Randy Bullock) "He's gaining confidence is what he's doing. Every week he's gaining confidence as a young kicker in this league. We talked about this game being an important game. 'How are you? Are you ready to go?' And boy did he step up. Really excited to see his progress and (P) Shane (Lechler) got to get in there and hit a couple balls, so that's good."

(on the receivers being so young behind WR Andre Johnson and how QB Matt Schaub has dealt with the younger receivers) "I think he is gaining more and more confidence in them. I mean (WR) Lestar (Jean) continues to



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make plays. (WR) Keshawn (Martin) is doing good things and had a chance to make a couple big plays. I just feel like right now [this is] the most confidence we've had as far as, ok, Andre comes off the field and we keep doing what we do. Nothing is different and I think those kids have gained confidence. We really have a tough, tough call. (WR Alec) Lemon continues to play well for our team and do some good stuff. We've got (WR DeVier) Posey coming back; he had a great workout today. We ought to have to good group behind Andre, probably as good as we've had."

(on not completing lots of balls to other receivers aside from WR Andre Johnson) "I'll tell you a little secret, he's going to throw it to him some more. That's what we do. We'll have to sit down and game plan them, and try and find a way to get 80 the ball. I think we've been distributing the ball a lot better and I think we have confidence across the board in what we're doing. In a lot of ways, its kind of a compliment to the other guys that Andre can still get the ball that much. I hope that doesn't go away."

(on RB Ben Tate looking good due to the offensive line play and if he feels better about the right side) "We are more firm on the right side right now with (G) Brandon (Brooks). I just think that that's what's happened. I told you all that (T Derek) Newton is making progress as a player. I think we're just a little bit more balanced in what we're doing. Obviously (G) Wade (Smith) is missing, hopefully we get Wade back here. We have to battle through that. I don't feel one sided. I feel like we're back to balanced in what we're doing."

(On QB Matt Schaub's play) "I thought he played good. He missed a few throws. Getting his legs going and playing 40 plays. I thought right before the half he missed a couple. I'm always coaching quarterbacks with their feet. I said some things about his feet and those types of things. But I think he's had a good preseason and he's moved his team. He's ready to go. (QB) T.J. (Yates) came in and was excellent and played well. I think (QB) Case (Keenum) played well. We had a couple plays we could have made for him that could have been the difference."

(on the pressure the front seven put on Saints QB Drew Brees) "The thing that excited me, you're sitting there and (DE) Antonio (Smith) is obviously not here, and we don't play (DE) (Watt). I talked to the team about (DE Jared) Crick last night and (DE Tim) Jamison and then you watch them go out and play like starters. That's every encouraging for our team. That's part of this business. Opening night we're going to be without one of our excellent players so those guys are going to have to step up. So to see those guys do some good things was encouraging."

(on if he was satisfied with the first team on both sides of the ball) "I wouldn't say that. I think offensively, like I said, we have to finish some things. Defensively, we are giving up too many big plays in the first half of each of our preseason games. That's not all first team, but in the first half of our three preseason games, we have given up some movement of the ball. A couple 100-yard half's, which is very good in this league. We have to eliminate that. But we have been battling through some situations trying to get some guys to the season, but I think that will make us better when it comes time to go. Some young players getting a chance to play."

(on any concerns with DE J.J. Watt) "None at all. We talked about letting him rush the passer this week and then what we went through with (DE) Antonio (Smith) late in the week, we just said, 'no, we're not going to do it.' He's had an incredible camp. We know what we're going to get fro J.J. and we're going to make sure he's there."

(on the play of the cornerbacks) "I think we are giving up too many big plays. And I think J. Jo (CB Jonathan Joseph) will be the first one to tell you, and (CB) Kareem (Jackson) from that standpoint. We are a man-coverage football team. And those guys get put on an island quite a bit. We're trusting them to make those plays. And I know they will. I think they've both had good camps. And obviously you've got to have a short memory in this business."

(on the lack of snaps having something to do with poor tackling during the preseason) "I always feel like our tackling improves as we go through the preseason. I know looking at, especially some with the second group, I know we had some poor tackling, but I have to go back and look at the first group. I know we got beat on a couple screens and those types of things. But, its something that's got to improve for our football team. And obviously it wasn't good enough tonight, especially in the second half/."

(on the fourth game of the preseason – is he where he wants to be) "I feel good about who has been out there. The guys that have gone through camp and have been out there, yes, I feel really good about that. But I do have



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some concerns about some guys that we are counting on that have not been through camp, and there is nothing they can do. I mean from (RB) Arian's (Foster) standpoint, or (LB) Whitney's (Mercilus) standpoint, those types of things that concerns me because they are both very young players in what they do. But we have to do what we have to do to. But the guys that have been through the camp and been there everyday, I think they've had a very good camp."

(on QB T.J. Yates) "I think T.J. has answered a challenge in a lot of ways. He has been pushed and it has made him better as a player. I think we maybe go back a couple weeks in camp and T.J. struggled a couple days and he and I had a big sit down talk about just his approach and what we're doing. And since then he has been really, really good. It continues to be a very difficult decision. I think they're both playing well (QB T.J. Yates and QB Case Keenum) and I'll split them half's this week. We're going to have three good ones. I know that. I think they've all done their job."

(on if QB Case Keenum starts next week) "My expectations would be to start Case and let him play the first half, and (QB) T.J. (Yates) the second. Or I may swap quarters. I don't really like to do that. I would rather let a guy get his rhythm."

(on if they are trying to get WR Andre Johnson more involved along the goal line) "One of the things that happens in the red zone, is that Andre gets attention everywhere, and he gets extra attention down there. He's always involved with what we're doing. But, we have to beat coverage, wherever coverage goes to go with the ball, we have to do that. But, we were 2-for-5 or something in the red zone tonight, so that's the difference in winning or losing. Wasn't very good."

(on injuries leading up to week one v. San Diego) "I've got to see (LB) Whitney (Mercilus) come back on the field. He hasn't come on the field yet. Obviously (RB) Arian (Foster) has had a good week of work. (WR DeVier) Posey has had a good week of work. Those guys are ahead of the game. But we've got to get Whitney back out there. (G) Wade (Smith) should start to work on the field this week. So, that is a process and we go from there. And then obviously (S) Ed (Reed) is leaving tonight to see his surgeon. We'll see where we are at in the middle of the week. I know we are very, very close, and hopefully its sooner than later."

TACKLE DUANE BROWN (Transcribed by T.D. Durham)

(on playing against the New Orleans defense and finishing drives in the red zone) "Against a defense like that, it was very encouraging heading into the regular season. The only thing that we needed to do was finish drives. Getting into the red zone and getting into touchdown territory. We have to convert those field goals into touchdowns. That's the only thing. Because playing against a team like New Orleans, you can have three field goals, four field goals and then a couple of big plays and they get back in the game. I think we moved the ball very well, but just trying to finish those drives with touchdowns instead of field goals."

(on playing against a playoff contender like New Orleans) "It was great. It was great going against them. We were able to get the most reps that we've got all preseason against a great front seven and a great defense overall. I think it's good for our team and it's good for me personally facing some good competition over there on that D (defensive) line. It's good for our team as a whole. They always play us tough every game we've played them. We expected that. This game wasn't any exception. I thought we performed pretty well."

(on if this game makes him feel better about where the offensive line is heading) "Absolutely. The run game is something that we put a point of emphasis on all week. We wanted to get our ground game established and not have to drop back so much. We came out smoking. Everyone was firing off the ball, very physical. (RB Ben) Tate did a great job of running and that's very encouraging for us heading into the regular season. We also passed the ball well. We moved the ball very effectively. Only bad thing I had to say was not finishing in the red zone. Not getting touchdowns. But very good performance overall I think."

(on the Texans' passing game getting over 300 yards in three straight games) "It's awesome man. All of our quarterbacks have done a great job of dropping back."

K RANDY BULLOCK (Transcribed by Trevor Caswell)

(on the importance of touchbacks) "It's important. I had one that was five or six yards deep in the end zone that they brought out, so it's important that I continue to drive the ball in the back of the end zone to make it easier for our coverage team."



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(on K Randy Bullock's progressing rhythm and accuracy) "I think it is just confidence. The more I have had the opportunity to work here and get reps in front of the team here in pre-season, even in games, I think it has helped a whole lot with confidence and everything moving forward."

(on P Shane Lechler holding the ball and his experience) "It helps a whole lot. It is a security blanket out there. I have (LS) Jon Weeks and (P) Shane (Lechler), who have both been doing it for a very long time. They are both very good at what they do, so it makes it a lot easier on me. I don't have anything to worry about. The ball is going to be there whenever it's my opportunity to do what I need to do."

DEFENSIVE END JARED CRICK (Transcribed by Matt Bodiford)

(on getting this much preparation for the season) "It's crucial to get these snaps in. Especially in a starting role to get the feel of the game, and the speed of the game going against other teams starters. Come regular season, you'll be going against the best. It's good to go against that kind of talent."

(on the feeling of the first team defense) "You know we're gelling together, especially us younger guys up front. You know with (DE) Antonio (Smith) and (DE) J.J. (Watt) being out, I thought Timmy (DE Tim Jamison) and I did a great job of stepping in and filling in with the communication and knowing our roles. We can keep on improving through practice into Thursday, and then into the regular season. I think we'll be great defensive linemen."

(on the pressure put on the quarterback at a unit) "I thought we did a good job. You know they resorted to going to screens and stuff like that. I think that was probably due to the pressure we were putting on. You know we have great pass rushers on this defense. It's nice to see them going to work. If we can keep doing that into Thursday down in Dallas, we'll be good."

TIGHT END OWEN DANIELS (Transcribed by Adrian Jones)

(on what the offense needs to work on before the beginning of the regular season) "The next two weeks we need to continue to progress and get better in all areas. I think if we look at tonight we want to finish drives better and (score touchdowns) when we are in a position to do that. To drive down the field all the way and only get three points out of it. It is easy to that team to get right back in the game. Finishing drives and getting touchdowns is going to be big for us."

(on the continued success of the passing game during the preseason) "The quarterbacks have been doing an excellent job. Everyone has been doing a pretty good job catching the ball, and obviously the (offensive line) have been protecting well for us. Everyone has been doing a great job in practice and it has been translating over (to the games). That's what we want to see. We have two really good backup quarterbacks. They have done a heck of a job these past couple weeks. It is fun to watch."

(on how to finish drives with touchdowns more often) "Making sure we don't have any lost yardage plays. That is always to come back from when you are closer down to the red zone area. Penalties also hurt in those situations. Erasing those mistakes and staying in normal down and distances and just continue to do what we do. We know it is important to get touchdowns instead of field goals."

WIDE RECEIVER ANDRE JOHNSON (Transcribed by Adrian Jones)

(on takeaway from today's team performance) "I mean, it is a game. You play to win. We just try to make the best of the opportunities. We got a lot of opportunities in the first half of the game. I just did what I could."

(on amount of playing time during a preseason game) "We're just playing. We are given opportunities and we try to make the best of them. They work us a lot in practice. Whether it is preseason or regular season we are trying to win."

(on readiness of first team offense for the regular season) "We will continue to work through next week. You can never be satisfied with where you stand. The regular season is a marathon, not a sprint. We have to continue to get better as a team."

(on readiness of entire offense for the regular season) "I think we have to become more consistent on third downs. We had a few third downs that we should have converted that we didn't. I think just being more consistent



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overall, having blown drives and things like that. We had some dropped balls today which is rare. We have to eliminate stuff like that.”

(on today’s performance of RB Ben Tate) “He ran the ball well. He has been having a great (training) camp. Nothing has surprised me about what he is doing. He has been working his butt off. I am a big fan of Ben.”

(on the chance to run a two-minute drill during today’s game) “When (the Saints) had the ball, I was looking up at the clock, hoping we have a chance to get our two-minute drill in during the preseason. You don’t do just do something like that in practice and go into the regular season not having done it during a real game. It was great to have that happen. We handled it well. Of course you would like to (score a touchdown). But we got points, and that was a big thing. If the situation was different and the game was on the line, we would have had to go for it and try to win. But it was big for us to drive the ball down (the field) like that.”

(on today’s performance of K Randy Bullock and P Shane Lechler) “Those guys are going to be great for us this year. (The Saints) only returned one kickoff today I think. It is great when you can make a team need to go 80 (yards) every time. It is a great thing.”

QUARTERBACK CASE KEENUM (Transcribed by Matt Bodiford)

(on his performance today) “You know, it wasn’t my best. We put ourselves in a chance to win the ballgame there, and I missed a few throws. Missed one really important throw there on fourth down. You know I’m disappointed. I’m competitive and I want to win. Preseason or not, I want to go win. We had a chance to go tie it up, and go into overtime. You know you learn from it, go watch film, and we had a guy, (WR Alec) Lemon ran a great route and I’ll hit it next time.”

(on where he feels he is in the quarterback competition) “There’s no telling. You know I think we both got a lot better, and progressed. I’ve gotten a lot better, and you look at the film there’s a lot of ways I can get better. I’m not really worried about it.”

(on potentially starting against the Dallas Cowboys) “I’m excited about that. To be able to go play, really that’s the closest I’ll ever play to my hometown. That’s a really good opportunity for me, to go prepare as a starter and start the game. I know it’s a short week, but we’ll cram it in and get it going. We’ll go out there and see what happens.”

(on getting extended minutes) “Yeah we’ll get multiple situations. Tonight, everybody got their own little situation that they were in. Mine was in the fourth quarter with two minutes. To be able to start a game get a rhythm going, and keep it going for a while will be nice.”

PUNTER SHANE LECHLER (Transcribed by T.D. Durham)

(on his first time kicking for the Texans in a game) “I was a little bit nervous for my first shot here in Houston, and it worked out good.”

(on being nervous) “Yeah, I mean, that’s part of it. I think when that nervousness leaves, it’s time to stop playing.”

(on where he thinks he’s at after having a chance to do some work in tonight’s game) “I think I’m ready. I’ll see. I’ll put some work in again this week and then we’ll have the long break before we go to San Diego, so I’ll get plenty of work then. But as far as game situations, I’ve gotten two balls and I felt good with both of them and we’ll see. You don’t want to get a lot of work in games, but I got two punts tonight, so it’s going to work out. I like where I’m at.”

(on if he will kick against Dallas) “I haven’t heard. That’s going to be up to (head coach) Gary (Kubiak). I’m happy with it either way. I did want to get two balls at least tonight. That was the plan, and that worked out well. It’s one of those things. You can’t emulate the same things in the practice field as you can on game day. So it felt good, but one or two more probably wouldn’t hurt me.”

(on playing in preseason given all the years he’s played in the league) “You’re right, exactly. I just needed to feel of the flow of the game and when everybody is staring at you for the first time, you want to react right and it felt like it worked out.”



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(on how strange it felt to punt for someone beside the Oakland Raiders) “It did feel strange. It’s kind of been a learning process this whole time on how everything has felt from day one. From the day I met with (general manager) Rick Smith and signed the contract until now, it’s been learning for me. I’m still getting to know everybody here. There are a lot of players on this team right now. But it’s going good. I’m happy. I couldn’t be more happy then being here right now.”

SAFETY DANIEAL MANNING (Transcribed by T.D. Durham)

(on New Orleans’ game plan against the Texans’ defense) “Their game plan was more getting us out, spreading us out and screening. Where as we ran a lot of 1’s. A lot of guys backs were turned. It was a great game plan for them. I think we had a great game plan, we wanted to have a lot of cover-1s, and we ran a lot of that.”

(on how the team game planned for New Orleans) “I mean, like I said, we game plan certain formations and certain routes predicated on what we are going to call. And after that, it’s preseason. We didn’t go through a thorough game plan against this team like we would in the regular season. And that’s the thing that a lot of guys have to understand, I think, for most of the veteran guys that we do around here. But for the young group that we have and we brought in, have to come in and step in. You don’t want to get that mindset across for them to see that, so you have to play all those plays all the way through as if it was the regular season. And that’s the thing that I think the coaches are trying to convey over to the young guys.”

(on if the intensity was amped up in the third preseason game) “Yeah, I mean, for myself, and a lot of guys, I go out there and I just play. But it definitely stepped up more. When you’re playing against a real guy in (QB) Drew Brees, he’s definitely going to make those calls and checks. And in the past, certain things that we didn’t do because we were just in training camp, he forced us to do and we had to make certain calls.”

(on the third preseason being against a higher octane offense) “It’s always like that, but I like the way they set it up and planned out a team like that for going into the regular season. It’s the third game; you want to go against high caliber offenses and a type of quarterback like that, speaking defensively. Offensively, I think they had a great team too. They give them different looks as well. They have a lot of big guys, a different defensive coordinator that they have. So I think we all had a challenge, even on special teams. Those guys – it was a different vibe out there.”

(on if he’s been impressed by WLB Willie Jefferson) “Yeah. I mean obviously he’s out there with the ones and taking lot of snaps. Barring injuries and all, I think the guy still deserves a chance to come out there and play with us, and rightfully so. He put pressure on them ever since he got in – he’s definitely holding up. I’m glad he’s a part of this team. He can only get better.”

NOSE TACKLE TERRELL MCCLAIN (Transcribed by T.D. Durham)

(on the Texans needing a backup nose tackle, and if that’s him) “It can be. Just have to keep showing up and making plays, and hopefully that will become me.”

(on showing his speed running down a running back) “I’ve always had the speed, but y’all just ain’t know about it. I just had to go on and show it out there and show that the big boy can move a little bit.”

(on how good of a journey this has been) “It’s been great. I have to thank the Lord. I also have to thank (General Manager) Rick (Smith) for giving me another chance to come in and show what I got. I just have to take my opportunity and take it to another level.”

NOSE TACKLE EARL MITCHELL (Transcribed by Roman Petrowski)

(on if the defensive line was using reps today to prepare for the Antonio Smith suspension) “You know, I’m not really sure what’s going on upstairs, but you know it’s really good to see you know just our guys getting more reps. You’ve got guys like (DE Tim) Jamison and (DE Jared) Crick and (DE Earl) Okine and you know they’re all getting reps at that defensive end spot so they all getting the opportunity to show what they got.”

(on what he expects to see from both DE Tim Jamison and DE Jared Crick) “No doubt. I mean I played with them you know for the entire time I’ve been here so I know what they are capable of. So, they’re great players and you know whoever is in there it really doesn’t make a difference because you’re gonna get a lot of production from both of them”



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(on if he accomplished everything he wanted to during preseason) "I just really wanted to just come and start off strong and just make sure I feel good going into the regular season. I feel like, you know, I've done well, and there's a lot of goals that I want to continue to accomplish. So I'm just gonna try to keep doin what I'm doing."

(on if he accomplished everything he wanted to during preseason) "Defense as a group, you know, I just felt like we just needed to communicate a little bit better. Just the little small things that we can just work on. You know, nobody's perfect but we can definitely get better."

TACKLE DEREK NEWTON (Transcribed by Trevor Caswell)

(on today's game being the most important in August) "You have to play every game the same, no matter how many reps you get. It's not all about the different teams you play. You have to play every team the same. Every team plays different, but at the same time, you can't let that affect how you play. You have to play your game and not their game."

(on being on the first offensive line unit) "I feel pretty good on where I am at right now. I just have to continue to work day in and day out and I know I am going to get better. I just have to come in and work hard every day."

(on the offensive line as a group) "We are doing good. Everyone is communicating with each other. That was the big thing that was our main focus. Me and (RG) Brandon (Brooks) are doing good and the offensive line as a whole are doing good. We are preparing for a great season this year."

QUARTERBACK MATT SCHAUB (Transcribed by Cali Roper)

(on why running game was working so well) "It was important for us going into this game after the first couple of weeks to get the running game going and to feel good about it in San Diego, week one. The guys did a great job all week understanding their assignments because of so many defensive fronts that the Saints will present to us. They handled it. (RB) Ben (Tate) did a great job of reading those blocks and making the right cuts. It was great to see him get in the secondary."

(on confidence in WR Keshawn Martin after misconnection in tonight's game) "I have a ton of confidence in what he is doing. With just watching him work every day and watching how he went about his business in OTAs throughout training camps, I am not going to shy away from him. He has been making plays for me and I am going to continue to go to him."

(on running game being as good with LG Wade Smith being back) "I think it is going to be as good as it's always been. Anytime you get those guys healthy with Wade and (RB) Arian (Foster) being full strength, I am very confident that we will be hitting them all cylinders."

(on his pre-season overall performance) "I felt it was good. I felt progression through the three weeks of pre-season were good. I was proud of my normal "snap count" as you could call it, that Coach (Gary Kubiak) puts me through each year. It was good. We led some scoring drives but would have liked to score more sevens especially on a two-minute drill. We had it down in there. We handled the clock in the game situations the right way to get three before the half but I felt it was overall pretty good."

(on if team is where it should be for beginning of season knowing starters won't play Thursday night) "I know offensively as a unit we are where we want to be. After the third game, walking out of this building knowing that we are probably not going to be getting any time on Thursday. We are going to let a lot of the young guys play. I feel like we are where we want to be heading into week one. Absolutely."

(on if team is ahead of where they were at this time last year) "Yeah, I think we are right there, if not a little bit ahead. With how many veterans we have in the lineup coming back that have been in the system and have been with us. I feel like personally, last year coming back from my foot injury, it was basically three weeks back on the practice field this point from that. Having gone past that, this year, where we are at is definitely further along."

(on usually having to preserve rights for fourth down, how it feels with weapon P Shane Lechler) "It's great to know that he is there for us. If we do in fact have to punt that he is going to pin them down in the red zone or kick a 60 yarder, and really flip the field for us. Even if we are backed up or we don't get the first down, he is going to flip the field for us anyway. But the less he is on the field for us the better."



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(on seeing as much confidence in the team as head coach Gary Kubiak) "I sure do. I feel like we could go out there with five wide receivers and move the ball up and down the field. I have that much confidence in each one of those guys. Obviously we have a lot of play makers, tight ends, and running backs. So, it's hard to take them out of the game when you have (TE) Owen (Daniels), (TE) Garrett Graham, (RB) Ben (Tate), and (RB) Arian (Foster). You want to keep your play makers on the field, but I have total confidence in those young receivers. We've had so much time on task working with them in the summer and in camp. (WR) Lestar (Jean), (WR) Keshawn (Martin), and (WR) DeVier (Posey) are coming back. I've had a year with those guys and we like what (WR) DeAndre (Hopkins) is bringing. I feel very confident in them."

(on TE Garrett Graham seems to keep getting open) "He does. He has a knack for finding a way of getting open. We get some good match ups with him. With all the attention that (TE) Owen (Daniels) is getting and the receivers outside, he is getting some favorable match ups. Especially in scrambled situations, when they do a rise they find a way to get some dead spots and get open for me."

(on being on same page with (WR) Lestar (Jean) meaning anything to do with chemistry) "That has nothing to do with chemistry. It just has to do with what routes being called versus what coverage they are running. That, basically is what dictates where the ball goes throughout our progression. So it has nothing to do with chemistry."

SAFETY D.J. SWEARINGER (Transcribed by T.D. Durham)

(on how his mentality has changed from the first preseason game until now) "Yeah, it's changed a lot from game one to game two because of reps. Experience comes with reps, and I've been getting a lot of reps. I went into today with a lot of confidence from the last two games and the practices I've had. Before, it was just building that confidence with my reps."

(on taking bad press last week, and if it affected him at all) "Not at all. I ignored all the press. I left last week in the past and just focused on this week. And that's what I'm going to do for this week and just focus on Dallas."

(on if he's looking forward to Dallas, or focusing on the start of the season) "Yeah, Dallas is the next step, but day by day I have to get better at my craft. At just defense, and just understanding everything and just getting better and better every day."

(on things he has to get better at) "I'd say coming in balanced and tackling. Coming in balanced and tackling. And my eyes – eyes just keying on the right things."

(on playing special teams) "Special teams, I like playing special teams, especially the defensive side. And the offensive side too – you can lay a block on somebody. So special teams, I like playing special teams. I'm an important role in special teams, I have to love doing it."

(on what he takes away from playing an all-time great in QB Drew Brees) "It's great. I studied him tremendously, a whole lot, in film this week. I saw a lot of things that you won't see in the college level. And it's just great to study him and going against him."

(on how precise QB Drew Brees can be) "Most definitely. Whether the DB (defensive back) has the wide receiver covered or not, in his eyes, he's never covered, because he pinpoints the ball so well and he's so accurate. So it was good going against a Pro Bowler and Hall of Famer like him."

RUNNING BACK BEN TATE (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver)

(on his performance and the running game) "We just had a big emphasis coming out tonight. The big emphasis was on running the ball and getting back to that. We thought, as with other preseason games, even though we didn't play much, we felt as though we hadn't run the ball well enough. I felt we definitely had to step up as a unit, and we did that tonight."

(on how he feels about where he and the rest of the running game is with RB Arian Foster coming back) "I feel good. I feel good coming out of this third preseason game. I'm right where I want to be. I'm feeling good, excited, and ready for the season to get going."

(on how he feels about his game work load) "Yeah. I really wasn't worried about how much I got the ball in the first couple games at all. With this game, I was amped up and pretty ready to go."



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(on RB Arian Foster being ready to play against the San Diego Chargers) "I haven't really watched him. I've been busy focusing on me and focusing on practice. I haven't really watched him work at all."

(on his expectations for the running game to be effective to start the season) "Of course. Why would it not be?"

(on how he feels about the right side of the offensive line) "Did you see us run today? I feel good about it."

(on his chemistry with FB Greg Jones) "Good because we had a lot of work, not necessarily in games, but all during summer camp and OTAs. Me and Greg are always talking, and he wants to know how I'm thinking, and I'm asking him what he's thinking. We are always on the same page, for the most part, with just about everything. I was with him on the touchdown run. I was right there with him. Me and him, we communicate a lot. We have a good chemistry right now."

(on if he prefers the I-formation or a one-back set) "It doesn't matter."

(on if he set out to prove something with his performance) "Yeah. I was definitely out there to prove a point tonight, and I felt like I got my point across."

QUARTERBACK T.J. YATES (Transcribed by Adrian Jones)

(on his personal performance throughout the preseason) "Just managing the offense. In this offense, you have got to do your job. Give the ball to the open guy and (the offense) will run smoothly. Don't make it too big, don't think too much, and we have our run game going it really helps out. It opens up everything, with a lot of open guys out there."

(on competition with QB Case Keenum with one preseason game remaining) "It has been neck-and-neck this entire time. Both of us have been playing some good football. Case did a really good job in the fourth quarter, moving the ball and putting us in a position to score. Through this whole process I have been trying to keep the mindset of 'I control what I control.' If I try to get caught up in anything else it just won't be any good."

(on upcoming preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys) "It's good. I am excited to play more than just a quarter or a couple of series. It will be good to get out there and get into a full game rhythm other than just knowing what quarter you are going in and working a couple of series."

(on difficulty of that mindset as a quarterback) "Yes. There are a lot of outside factors as far as media and other people at practice, and you start to look into how many reps is somebody getting over another person. Once you start counting those things and looking into other stuff, it will just get you in the wrong mindset. Every day I just worry about myself and continue to go out there and perform."

(on whether the competition with QB Case Keenum has brought out his best performance) "I think so. It makes you have to be on your game at all times, no matter if you are in the game or in practice or in drills, or even meetings, you have to be on top of it at all times. If you are in a competition you know you are being evaluated nonstop. It definitely makes you have to perform."

(on performance of today's game) "I tell you it's the run game. Once we get that run game going, it opens up everything; the keeper game. You get some wide open guys downfield and it gets you into a rhythm. I don't have to worry about completing a pass to get the guys going. We can get the run going and get the defense on their heels and keep them guessing."

(on receivers being open downfield often during today's game) "Absolutely, especially down in the red zone. We had (the Saints' defense) guessing. There were a couple of options on every single play."

(on connection with WR Lestar Jean) "It has been great. We first started off our first preseason game together back years ago, actually 3 years ago now. He is a great receiver and has a good feel for the game. He knows how to find the little niches in the defense. He is one of those receivers you like throwing the ball to."



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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON
QB DREW BREES
ILB RAMON HUMBER
RB MARK INGRAM
DE CAMERON JORDAN
RB DARREN SPROLES
WR KENNY STILL
RB PIERRE THOMAS
WR NICK TOON
S KENNY VACARRO

HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON (Transcribed by Nida Chaudhry)

(opening statement) "This will be a short turnaround week for us with a Thursday game. There were some things that we got to get cleaned up. I thought the initial start to the game wasn't particularly great, but I thought after that second quarter, we played better. We made some plays on both sides of the ball. I thought we were a little better on third down in the first-half defensively than in the base. There are still a number of things that we're going to have to work on and improve on even though it's getting late in this preseason."

(on QB Drew Brees coming out early) "I decided that coming into this game when we were playing the game on Sunday as opposed to Friday."

(on the difficulty in choosing wide receivers) "I think it's difficult. I think we've got a lot of guys who are stepping up and doing a good job. Andy (Tanner), Preston (Parker); those guys have had good games and there's good competition there. I think that's encouraging. It's encouraging for our team."

(on QB Luke McCown's performance) "I think overall, I want to see the tape, I thought Luke did a real good job of stepping in and functioning. He's an experienced player who knows our system well, so that part of it is pleasing."

(on evaluation of rookie class) "I think we've got a pretty good idea. It's ongoing, but I think we've got a pretty good idea about that class."

(on ILB Ramon Humber's performance) "He's handling a lot of different elements to the game and I said he played very well last week. We'll see the tape tonight, but he's playing a lot of football and getting a lot of snaps and that's good."

(on positives offensively) "We took some shots down the field. I want to see the video and it's a lot easier for me to go through the game. I thought we made some plays against man-to-man coverage. I think it's a good defense we played, a good team we played, and we were able to come up with some big plays."

(on sitting G Jahri Evans and updates on OLB Will Smith) "No updates and that was just my decision on Jahri."

(on ability to rebound after a slow start) "I think that the one play to (RB) Pierre (Thomas) kind of sparked us a little bit and then all of sudden we were able to make a few plays. When (QB) Luke (McCown) came in I thought he did a good job in getting us in and out of the huddle with the tempo that we're used to and the poise that we're used to at that position so it was good."

(on WR Andy Tanner stepping up) "Those guys are all competing well and certainly Andy. Andy's been with us a while, so he knows what we're doing. He made some really good plays tonight; he's smart and he's someone that really has good feel for the game. That group in general, we've seen some younger players step up so that's good."

(on DE Cam Jordan and the pressure he brought) "I thought it was encouraging. He's been a guy that rushes the passer well for us. It helps when you can get presser with your four-men rush especially."



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(on DE Glen Foster's four sacks this preseason) "He has been a pleasant surprise. He's a guy that has been very consistent. He's going to compete, not just make this team; he's going to compete for playing time and so I'm encouraged with him."

(on run game of first team offense) "We'll take a peek at the tape and we'll see. Obviously, we always hope to do well in the first series."

QUARTERBACK DREW BREES (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)

(on reason for slow start) "Our first possession was at the two yard line, so it's always a challenge to get out from a team's end zone. We got to a third-and-5 situation and (RB Darren) Sproles is running open but unfortunately they had a free rusher. Had we been able to hold onto Sproles a little longer we could have continued the drive there. Otherwise the next possession we were able to get close to the 50 and just needed to convert on that third down. Other than that, we got those two big plays on our third drive, the screen and the pass to (RB) Pierre (Thomas) he made a great play of getting that guy off his back and then making the free safety miss and turning that into a big play. So, that was limited action for the first group but I felt like we were just starting to hit our stride when a couple of us got pulled out at that point."

(on the improvement of the receivers) "Yeah, I'm excited for (WR) Kenny Stills; he had a couple big catches today, one for a touchdown. The go-route on our sideline was a big play. That was great to see. (WR Nick) Toon came up with some big plays, (WR Andy) Tanner had some big plays; every running back it seemed like was in on the action and did a great job. So honestly I feel like we spread it around quite a bit today. I felt like we got off to somewhat of a slow start but once we found our rhythm, that second and third quarter, I felt like we were moving the ball very effectively and playing with a lot of confidence."

(on not playing as much as in previous preseason games) "Yeah, you know you're always thinking about time versus number of plays, and one might come before the other. I think we came in with the plan that we're going to play a little bit less this time around in the third game than we have in the past. I knew (RB Darren) Sproles was going to be limited coming into the game as was (WR) Lance (Moore), you know (RT Zach) Strief and some other guys on offense. So that was part, we just went according to plan. We all got some work and then got out."

(on what the young wide receivers have done during preseason) "Well that's how you get better, that's how you gain confidence by gaining that type of repetition. Obviously we try to do that in practice but it's hard to simulate the game during practice, so there's nothing like getting game reps. Against some teams, now over the last couple of weeks, it's been a lot of man coverage. It feels like, a lot of bump-and-run. You get in a game and to get off the jam and execute a good route and get your depth and stay disciplined, do a lot of those things, can be a challenge for a young receiver and our guys have handled it very well."

(on if WR Pierre Thomas will want more time in the slot) "Yeah, he made a bid for that today with that. It's always nice when you can throw a pass three yards and it becomes a 50-yard touchdown. But credit to him, great individual effort, then obviously with (WR) Lance (Moore) blocking down field, it turns a very routine of throw and catch into a touchdown. But it's nice when you have those types of playmakers who can do that for you."

(on LT Charles Brown switching sides in today's game) "Yeah I mean I think that was just today with (RT Zach) Strief coming out a little early. Charles has started a number of games at right tackle, maybe three or four back in 2011 when Strief was hurt. So he's been a swing tackle as we would say. You know Strief was a swing tackle prior to becoming a starter on the right side. So it's nice when you have that versatility, just shows his athleticism."

(on how QB Drew Brees feels the offense did today against the Texans defense) "The third preseason game is always with that mindset, that final dress rehearsal. This last game is a real quick turnaround going to Miami, probably not a lot of guys are going to play, and obviously our sights are going to be set on Atlanta very soon after. I felt like we executed the plan coming in as far as how much we wanted guys to play. Although we did not score every we touched the ball, which is always our goal, I feel like we did get some good things done, certainly something we can look at on film tomorrow and make corrections and be ready to move on."

(on importance of this last preseason game for the guys who are on the fence) "It's always important. Every preseason game is important. Last game certainly is, because there's always guys on the team who are really making the squad because of maybe their contributions on special teams or their ability, their versatility to do a number of different things and a lot of those decisions go down to the wire. Unfortunately it's always a tough time



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of year, it's an exciting time of year but it's a tough time of year because you gain relationships with guys and then all of the sudden there's obviously some guys who go. There's always some surprises or tough decisions that have to be made, but you still make friendships that last a long time. We've seen guys that left here that we knew maybe unfortunately it wasn't the right timing for them to be a part of our team that year, knew they would go on a do good things and they have. Then again, it's exciting to see the Pierre Thomas' and others of the world that make the team as a rookie free agent and fifth string running back at the time and just playing special teams and makes the team and next thing you know he's your starting running back. You get a little bit of both but that's the tough part of this business is when it comes down to cut time."

INSIDE LINEBACKER RAMON HUMBER (Transcribed by Chris Burkhalter)

(on the third quarter goal line stand) "They had some momentum. They had us on our heels with their play action and some of their runs, but when it came down (to the fourth down run), we knew what they were going to do and we stopped them. The mindset in the defensive huddle was that they were going to run the ball. That's usually what happens, even though they do have a tendency on fourth down to want to pass it. We prepared for the run, but knew we would need to react to the pass if they threw it."

(on the Texans running game) "Their running game is good. They have a good offense. Their running game can beat you just as much as the boot and play-action (can), so it can definitely catch you on your heels. For me, I just need to keep everything in front of me, so I can decipher what is going on."

(on overall play of Saints defense) "I am very pleased with the way our defense played with the effort, but there were still some mistakes that need to be corrected. I have to learn from my mistakes in order for us to get better as a team."

RUNNING BACK MARK INGRAM (Transcribed by Hank Nathan)

(on the running back's impact in the passing game) "We had a couple of big plays early in the pass game, a few screens and (RB) Pierre (Thomas) caught one going across the middle and broke a few tackles. It just put a spark in our offense, got us going, lots of momentum for the rest of the first half and continued into the second half."

(on how important it was for the running backs to help ignite the offense) "It's very critical. We just need to make plays in every phase of this offense, run game, passing game, picking up pass pro. We just need to be effective and efficient in every way possible."

(on how effective the run game was considering how good the Texans defense is) "It's encouraging, but, at the same time, there were lots of runs that we only had one-yard or no yards. There is still lots of room for improvement. Although we did have big runs and we caught some seams and had some big chunks on runs, we still have to be more consistent on every run. We'll just keep practicing at it and working at it and try to improve every single time we come out."

(on RB Pierre Thomas lining up in the slot) "Well, we've got five backs that can line up anywhere on the field and that can run routes and catch the ball very effectively. It just depends on the personnel and play call. If it happens to be they call, 'Empty,' and I'm in there, I can line up in the slot and run the route as well, so can (RB Travis) Cadet, (RB) Khiry (Robinson), (RB Darren) Sproles, as you know. We all can contribute in every phase of the offense."

(on running backs lining up in the slot and if that's a product of Head Coach Sean Payton being back) "We've always had the stuff installed and it's always been a part of our offense. It's just switching up the personnel and letting different guys run those plays. I think that's the difference and you just have to be able to show that you're capable of running it in practice and you have to have the coach's confidence in you that you can go out there and execute those plays. It's not just one person, it can be multiple people lining up in different places and running different things and just nothing but help our offense and expand our offense, and make it more difficult for defenses to scheme us and stop us."

(on how well QB Luke McCown played when he came in) "Yeah, Luke is a good player. He's been playing a long time. He's a student of the game. He and (QB) Drew (Brees) are competing all the time in practice. All their little drills and games they play, they're always competing. He did a great job. He came in and he just picked it up, and led a couple of touchdown drives. He was very efficient out there. He's a hard-worker and he's a veteran. He's a good player."



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(on if he felt like the team didn't perform up to Head Coach Sean Payton's expectations) "We started off slow. We didn't start off how we wanted to start, but we did pick it up towards the end of the half. Like I said, there were things that will show up there were good on the field, but there's also things that we have to improve on. There's lots of things that we have to improve on. We've had a lot of sloppy penalties as a team. We just have a lot of improving to do. As many good things as we did, when you look at the tape and you break it down, there's a lot more things we have to improve on and clean up before the season starts. I think that's where some of his frustration comes from."

DEFENSIVE END CAMERON JORDAN (Transcribed by Shelby Wells)

(on being soft spoken off the field, but being a 'monster' on the field) "I definitely try and do what I can on and off the field. When it comes to conditioning, any of you guys who have seen me out there practicing, I'm pushing myself to the limit every day and when it comes to games I'm definitely trying to improve on what I have and what I've been working for. I'm a lot this year. I'm a lot for our defense and a lot for the team, so at that, I'm just trying to be one of the pieces."

(on how he thinks they compare defensively against a potent offense) "I think that there's still a lot of room for improvement, which is always a plus. I mean, they will be getting someone good against them early on, after that in what, the first or second down, I think our defense got a little bit more stout. From there, I think we just kept that rolling and when we came out off the field, the younger guys stepped on the field with a lot of energy and I liked what I saw. Of course, we've just got (DE) Glenn Foster popping up every week, and (DE) Akiem Hicks is doing what needs to be done and (NT) John Jenkins is going to be a force to be reckoned with soon enough. Going from there, I'm just excited to be a part of such a young d-line that can be so talented. And when you look behind you, you've got a lot of great players, a lot of established players that have been there and you know that they can ball. So it's easy to just go out there and put it all out there."

(on ILB Ramon Humber) "You know, he's under sized for a linebacker, but he definitely has a big, big heart. I mean, he's got a lot of tenacity and that's what I like to see in players. He's down-right nasty and vicious when it comes to what he does and that's what you really want in a linebacker. I think he's going to be a great rotation, a great addition to the team if everything works out right."

(on the young undrafted talent such as DE Glenn Foster) "I mean I love Glenn. Glenn's got to be 22, 23. Just to relate that I'm probably a year or two older than him, I definitely think he's earned a spot, if that's the way coach deems it. I like the way he plays, he plays real, real strong at any position that we put him in. so he's similar to what I've been doing."

(on his performance having highs and lows and if he was frustrated) "I don't know if I ever get frustrated because there's so much that you want to put out there on the field and just to see how much we could get better at, it doesn't frustrate me at all, it excites me especially since this is preseason that there's still such a learning block to be had. And with that, we also have another week just to try and figure things out. It's a new defense and you can't expect to be perfect by game three. It's a process and that's what we're striving for is perfection."

(on his confidence level on the field) "I feel that with our defense as a whole, our DBs do what they need to do, our line backers do what they need to do, and as a d-line it's my job to do what I'm supposed to do. With that being said, I'd like to be in the backfield every play, whether it happens or not, I'm also playing the lead talent every week so I'm happy with that."

RUNNING BACK DARREN SPROLES (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on combating Texans pass rush with short passes) "We just wanted to get the ball out quick because we wanted to stop that pass rush. So our plan worked pretty good, I guess."

(on New Orleans Saints receivers getting behind Texans secondary when they played too close to the line of scrimmage) "We didn't really have a plan; it just worked tonight. That's all it was."

(on the Texans defense possibly being overrated) "No. The Texans have a great defense. They're not overrated at all."



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(on the difference of the defense when Houston Texans DE J.J. Watt isn't playing) "Whenever you can get 20 sacks in the 3-4, playing (defensive) end, he's actually doing a great job."

(on being surprised they could move the ball so well with their second string QB against the Houston Texans starters) "We've played a lot of games in the League. He's (Luke McCown) a great quarterback; we knew he could do a good job."

WIDE RECEIVER KENNY STILLIS (Transcribed by Roman Petrowski)

(on his one-handed catch) "You know it was a go route down the field and just fighting for, you know, my territory out there and the ball is up in the air I gotta go get it. It was just one of those plays."

(on his touchdown catch) "Touchdown catch, it was just a double move. Work on it all the time. Got the corner kinda sitting on the outside and was able to get inside and the ball was there. Great protection. Great ball."

(on his rising confidence through preseason) "Just getting more comfortable. Just getting used to being out there. Like I said before, relaxing and playing football. That's all it is. Just playing football again and having fun."

(on how valuable the reps he has been getting in games are) "That's huge. You never know what a player can do until they show it out there on the field during a game. So, just for us to be out there, be consistent, be doing our jobs, I feel like we're trying to gain as much trust and confidence from the coaches as we can."

(on what he thinks his dad will have to say about this game) "I hope he has some positive things to say. You know, he always gives me a hard time. Always finds something. Same with my mom. Same with my sister. So, everybody gives me a hard time. They don't want my head to get too big."

(on if he has surprised himself with how quickly he has adapted) "I haven't really been thinking about it. Just getting out there and playing and having fun. You know, it's a blessing the position I've been in, the opportunity that I have, and I'm just having a lot of fun."

(on what it felt like to see the receiving core play so well) "That's huge. That's huge for us. Seeing (WR) Andy (Tanner) out there balling, seeing (WR) Preston (Parker) balling, just making plays you know. And we're one group and we're rooting for each other. So, I had the biggest smile when I saw Andy score twice and then spike it."

(on if the group of rookies are all a tight knit group) "I think so. I think we try are best to, you know, try to stick together as a rookie core, kind of group. We don't have that much free time, but just going to dinner and sitting together at lunch and dinner. You know, knowing what our goal is and that's just trying to help the team win in any way and shape we can."

RUNNING BACK PIERRE THOMAS (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

(on his play last week and this week) "Yeah, I got a few snaps. I wanted to get a little test in before I jumped in to this game knowing I was going to play in to the second or third quarter possibly. I asked the coaches if I could possibly get my feet wet in the last game and they really didn't want me playing just to be on the safe side, but I told them let me just get a feel of it just to get in a rhythm because it's been so long since we've been back playing. Before I stepped in to this game a lot I just wanted to get my feet wet."

(on being lined up in the slot last week) "Yeah, we change it up a lot. We wanted to change it up and put our (running) backs in different positions a lot of people don't see often. Normally we all do the same thing, but we're really switching it up this year. Just a change in our offense."

(on his touchdown and Texans LB Joe Mays trying to strip the ball) "He was reaching for the ball and I talked to him after the game he said 'I tried to get it, I tried to get it,' but I just put my left arm out, he was grabbing me, but somehow I got away and took off from there."

(on if they tried to exploit the coverage of the Texans linebackers on the Saints running backs) "Oh definitely. We think we have very quick and agile running backs who can also run through the holes and take that pounding. Also, we got guys who can run good routes and make the defender miss. We work on that so much in practice



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and try to get all of our running backs doing the same thing. We go out there and don't miss a beat with any one of our guys. We practice so much in practice, we come out here and the game feels like nothing."

(on slowing down the Texans pass rush with short passes) "We had a little game plan coming in to the game; nothing too big. We tried to watch how their defense was playing as the game was going on. In the beginning they were rushing us a lot and we started to figure out what can we do to get around this quick pass rush they got and those quick dump offs and screens we had going was a great plan. (Head) Coach (Sean Payton) did a great job of recognizing what they were throwing at us on defense we had a great plan of great offense and great plays we had in our game plan for this game and we just put it to work."

(on if the Texans defense is average without DE J.J. Watt) "No, that's still a good defense. You have to give them credit. They did a good job of stopping us at the times they did. Their guys were out there moving around fast were hitting hard and you have to give these guys credit. They were missing one of their best players. So give them credit because they did a good job out there."

WIDE RECEIVER NICK TOON (Transcribed by Roman Petrowski)

(on his game today) "Obviously we came out with the win. You know, that's the most important part. I feel like I had a clean game mentally. I had a nice catch in the first part of the game. I should have had the one on the sideline but the DB made a great play. But you know, like I said, the most important part is the win. (WR) Kenny (Stills) had a great game. (WR) Andy Tanner played a great game. It's good to see those guys go out there and have success."

(on the play of the offense) "Yeah. We came out a little slow. We didn't start off the way we wanted to start off, but we got things rolling and had success down the stretch and got the W."

(on how well the team is prepared for the upcoming season at this point) "Every day is a new day. Personally my job is I just try to come out and improve every day, continue to learn. As a team that's obviously something that we try to do as well. It's a long season. We're just trying to get better, improve every day and keep it going."

SAFETY KENNY VACARRO (Transcribed by ReShun Gilmore)

(on his transition from college to pros) "I've grown a lot as a player honestly. Coming from Texas, the Big 12, a lot of up-tempo offenses, a lot of non-traditional offenses. So I had to adjust to the NFL. A lot of pro sets and slot sets, you know that we don't see in the Big 12 so that's been the biggest thing. Always guarding the tight end, I've never done that. I've always been on the tight end. So that's been the biggest thing"

(on critics) "Honestly, they were saying I couldn't tackle and saying that I was way overrated but I have to make sure as a strong safety you need to be a great tackler, but you also need to cover and guys know that I am also a great cover guy. So, I just want to be a balanced safety as much as possible."

(on what we can expect from the Saints defense) "I think we are going to be an 'in your face' defense. A defense that sets the tempo and not necessarily tries to prevent. I think we want to score points and create turnovers. We haven't done a great job creating turnovers as far as picks and interceptions go but I think we're getting there. It's just all about leaning the scheme. The sooner we can learn it, the faster we can play."

(on defensive coordinator Rob Ryan utilizing him in the defense) "He just uses me to the best of my abilities. He just puts me in position to make plays and he knows his players. He's going to play his players to their strength and limit their weaknesses. He's just a great players coach."