

**Houston Texans (1-0) at Minnesota Vikings (0-1)**  
**Friday, August 9, 2013**  
**Mall of America Field at H.H.H. Metrodome**

**FINAL GAME NOTES**

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<b>HOUSTON TEXANS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>MINNESOTA VIKINGS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Paid Attendance: 62,306</b>					

**WITH THE WIN...**

- Houston won their preseason opener for the third consecutive season.
- Houston improved to 2-2 all-time against Minnesota in the preseason.
- Houston earned its first road victory at Minnesota in the preseason.
- Houston improved to 7-5 all-time in preseason openers.
- Houston improved to 20-26 all-time in the preseason.
- Houston improved to 17-12 in the preseason under Head Coach Gary Kubiak.
- Houston opened the preseason with a road win for the second consecutive season.

**TEXANS TEAM NOTES**

- The Texans set a preseason franchise record with 439 yards of total offense. The previous record was 436 yards against New Orleans on Aug. 20, 2011.
- Houston's 306 net passing yards was the second-most in franchise preseason history. It was the most net passing yards for the team since it threw for 316 yards on Sept. 2, 2010.
- The Texans won the time of possession battle, 36:03-23:57. Houston held the ball for 19:45 in the second half. The team led the NFL in time of possession in 2011 and 2012.
- Houston was 9-of-15 on third downs (60 percent) and outgained Minnesota 133-51 on the ground.
- The defense did not give up a run of longer than 8 yards.
- Texans quarterbacks were a combined 31-of-44 for 310 yards, two touchdowns, zero interceptions and a 105.3 passer rating.
- 13 different players caught passes for the Texans.
- Houston took a 20-13 lead with 10:26 remaining in the fourth quarter on a 2-yard pass from QB **Case Keenum** to WR **Lestar Jean**. The drive covered 72 yards on nine plays and ate up 5:18.
- Houston outgained Minnesota in the second half, 240-49. The Texans' defense shutout the Vikings, recorded three sacks and only gave up 49 yards on 21 plays after halftime.
- The Texans racked up 27 first downs (17 pass, 10 run).
- The Texans' first touchdown drive of the preseason lasted 6:02 in the second quarter and covered 85 yards on 12 plays. It ended with a 34-yard touchdown pass on third down from **T.J. Yates** to rookie first-rounder WR **DeAndre Hopkins**.
- Houston was outgained in the first quarter 116-59, but won the turnover battle 2-0. The Texans outgained the Vikings 140-131 in the second quarter but were outgained 247-199 in the first half.

- Nine of Houston's 12 first downs in the first half came on pass plays; three came on run plays.
- Houston was 0-for-3 on third downs in the first quarter. Minnesota was 2-for-3. The Texans were 4-for-5 on third downs in the second quarter and finished the first half 4-of-8 (50 percent). Minnesota finished the first half 2-for-5 on third downs (40 percent).
- Houston held the ball for 7:19 in the first quarter. Minnesota had the ball for 7:41 in the first quarter. Houston won the possession battle in the first half, 16:18-13:42.
- Houston recorded two interceptions in the first quarter by FS **Shiloh Keo** and SS **Eddie Pleasant**. The Texans converted the two turnovers into three points.
- Houston's opening scoring drive went for 36 yards on seven plays and lasted 3:15. It ended with a 48-yard field goal by K **Randy Bullock**.
- Several Texans made their professional football debut: FB **Zach Boren**, CB **A.J. Bouye**, G **Bryan Collins**, WR **Andy Cruse**, ILB **Ja'Gared Davis**, RB **Ray Graham**, TE **Ryan Griffin**, CB **Travis Howard**, OLB **Willie Jefferson**, S **Orhian Johnson**, NT **Chris Jones**, C **Alex Kupper**, WR **Alec Lemon**, WR **EZ Nwachukwu**, T **David Quessenberry**, WR **Mike Smith**, S **Jawanza Starling**, S **D.J. Swearinger**, OLB **Justin Tuggle**, OLB **Trevarde Williams** and RB **Cierre Wood**.
- Veterans who made their Texans debut: TE **Jake Byrne**, C **Tyler Horn**, RB **Deji Karim**, P **Shane Lechler**, CB **Elbert Mack**, ILB **Joe Mays**, QB **Stephen McGee**, ILB **Mike Mohamed**, DE **Daniel Muir**.
- The following players did not play for Houston: WR **Alan Bonner**, CB **Johnathan Joseph**, CB **Brandon Harris**, FB **Greg Jones**, ILB **Tim Dobbins**, ILB **Brian Cushing**, OLB **Sam Montgomery**, OLB **Whitney Mercilus**, DE **Delano Johnson**, DE **Earl Okine**, T **Brennan Williams**, G **Wade Smith**, WR **Andre Johnson**, TE **Owen Daniels**, DE **Antonio Smith**, DE **J.J. Watt**.
- The Vikings won the toss and elected to receive.
- Houston's captains for the game were ILB **Brian Cushing**, WR **Andre Johnson**, SS **Danieal Manning**, QB **Matt Schaub**, DE **Antonio Smith** and DE **J.J. Watt**.

## INDIVIDUAL PLAYER NOTES

- OLB **Bryan Braman** split a 6-yard sack of QB **Bethel Thompson** with NT **Terrell McClain** on third down to end the Vikings' last drive of the quarter.
- **Randy Bullock** booted a 48-yard field goal to cap Houston's first possession of the game. Bullock came up short on a 54-yard field goal attempt as time expired in the first half.
- Both of Bullock's first-quarter kickoffs reached the end zone, including one touchback.
- **Bullock** was 2-of-3 on field goal attempts and connected on all three extra-point attempts. Four of his six kickoffs went into the end zone with two going for touchbacks.
- TE **Garrett Graham** caught five passes for 49 yards.
- Rookie RB **Ray Graham** scored the only rushing touchdown of the night, a 5-yard run in the fourth quarter. He finished with 26 yards on four carries (6.5 average).
- Rookie WR **DeAndre Hopkins** caught two passes for 6 yards in the first quarter. He finished the first game with four receptions for 52 yards (13.0 average), all in the first half.
- **Hopkins** caught the first touchdown pass of his professional career on a 34-yard third-down strike from QB **T.J. Yates** with 6:24 remaining in the second quarter to even the score at 10-10.

- WR **Lestar Jean** caught three passes for 32 yards in the first half. He had a game-high six receptions for 52 yards, including a 2-yard go-ahead touchdown reception in the fourth quarter.
- Rookie RB **Dennis Johnson** had four carries for 14 yards in the first quarter. He finished with seven carries for 11 yards (1.6 average).
- **Johnson** returned three punts for 34 yards.
- QB **Case Keenum** started the third quarter. On his second series in the game, Keenum drove the Texans 90 yards on 15 plays in 6:33. The drive ended with a 21-yard field goal.
- **Keenum** was 5-of-10 for 44 yards and a 62.1 passer rating in the third quarter. He finished the game 13-of-18 for 125 yards, one touchdown and a game-high 109.7 passer rating.
- FS **Shiloh Keo** picked off Vikings QB **Christian Ponder** on the second play of the game at the Houston 25-yard line and returned the ball 10 yards.
- NT **Terrell McClain** finished the game with 2.5 sacks for 19 yards, two tackles for loss, three quarterback hits and tied for the team lead with five tackles.
- **McClain** recorded Houston's third sack of the night, dropping QB **James Vandenberg** for a 10-yard loss in the fourth quarter.
- NT **Earl Mitchell** recorded the Texans' first sack of the preseason in the first quarter, dropping QB **Matt Cassel** for a loss of 4 yards on Minnesota's second possession.
- **Mitchell** led the Texans with four tackles in the first half, including a sack and three tackles for loss.
- ILB **Mike Mohamed** tied for the team lead with five tackles.
- S **Eddie Pleasant** recorded the Texans' second interception of the first quarter, picking off Cassel at the Houston 49-yard line and returning the ball 2 yards.
- QB **Matt Schaub** was 5-for-5 passing for 34 yards and a 95.0 passer rating on the Texans' first possession of the game. He did not play another series in the quarter.
- Rookie P **Andrew Shapiro** averaged 47.3 yards on four punts. He placed his first two punts inside the 20. His first punt went for 59 yards. He had a net average of 42.5.
- Rookie RB **Cierre Wood's** first carry went for 4 yards in the second quarter to extend a Houston drive on third-and-2.
- **Wood** led all rushers with 59 yards on 10 carries (5.9 average).
- QB **T.J. Yates** took all the remaining snaps in the first half for the Texans following the team's first offensive series and completed 13-of-21 passes for 151 yards, one touchdown and a 99.5 passer rating.

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**TEXANS QUOTES**  
**(Transcribed by Minnesota Vikings PR)**

**Head Coach Gary Kubiak**  
**WR DeAndre Hopkins**  
**QB Case Keenum**  
**FS Shiloh Keo**  
**NT Earl Mitchell**  
**RB Cierre Wood**  
**QB T.J. Yates**

**Houston Texans Coach Gary Kubiak**

**Q: What did you like and what didn't you like about tonight?**

A: I think the biggest thing to work on the first time out is to protect the ball all the night. We didn't turn the ball over, we got some turnovers, so that's pretty encouraging. I thought we started off a little rusty but we got better as the game went. I think tonight shows what kind of camp we had. A lot of players getting a lot of time in training camp and our young players really showed up tonight with some good stuff.

**Q: How about the job DeAndre Hopkins did tonight?**

A: He's been doing that all camp, and if you give him a chance, he'll develop. He might have had a couple more if we gave him the ball. He might have made better plays, but that's why he's here. And it's just fun to watch all these young players do great things.

**Q: How do you think your back up quarterbacks did?**

A: I thought they did well. I'm trying to cut it right down the middle, and I want to throw the ball with both of them. I thought TJ did some really good things, Case [Keenum] did really great moving the football team the second half and putting the game away. You take away the competition and it makes them much better pros when it's all said and done.

**Q: What's your thought on that 3<sup>rd</sup> back up running back spot?**

A: We did not run the ball very well in the first half, not very much, but we got a little better the second half. I was impressed with some of the things Cierre [Wood] did, and Deji [Karim] coming in there at the end, and (Ray) Graham gets a few. There are some things we need to work on; I want to see Dennis (Johnson) a little bit more on our return games, but for the most part, it was a good start.

**Q: How did Earl Mitchell play?**

A: He's an improved player. We went into the game knowing Earl more, Brooks (Reed) more than the normal starters. So it was good for all of those guys to get more reps and take a good step forward.

**Q: What about your work in the return game?**

A: Yeah, there are some things. Special teams coverage was not very good the first half. Obviously on our return game, we were putting Keshawn (Martin) on anything we were doing tonight. That's got to pick up. We've put a lot of confidence in Danieal (Manning) but we're trying to look at some young players. We may look at EZ next week?

**Q: What do you think about Randy Bullock's performance?**

A: I think some good and some bad. Consistency is key in this business when you're that guy. I know he missed that one right before the half. I want some consistency on his kick-off. It was interesting when we took the 13 point lead – I told him I want this kick-off to be like a 0-0, and it was the worst one he did all night. I'm just trying to get him to be consistent with his approach and everything.

**Q: Any health issues?**

A: I think we are pretty good. They came out okay, which is pretty good because we came out here with 70 guys available tonight. We have a big week at training camp next week.

**Q: Do you like what you saw from the quarterbacks?**

A: Yeah, I did. I think they competed well. Obviously, there are always things you can do better, but they found ways to make plays and keep us on the football field and move the ball well once we got our third downs going. I thought Matt was very sharp in his brief appearance.

**Q: What about Willie Jefferson?**

A: Willie showed up, I can tell you that. I have to go back and look at the film, but he obviously showed up and did some things on special teams.

**Q: What about Wood?**

A: He has been doing some good things. He exceeded expectations. We have to get him on board with the team about running out of bounds. That one time we had to pull him out and remind him how we do things around here. He has talent and he has opportunity, and when those two things come together, good things happen.

**Q: Did you say anything to Klint before the game?**

A: I haven't really seen him. He gave me a wave. Hopefully, I will see him in the tunnel. I am proud, I am glad he is here. I am glad Leslie (Frazier) is giving him a chance.

**Q: You have a lot of young receivers. How does Hopkins stand out so far compared to what you have seen from other guys?**

A: It is very early, but he has had probably as good a camp as it can get for any young player, and it carried over tonight. It is good to see that as he gets more comfortable with what we are doing, the more plays he is going to make.

**HOUSTON TEXANS WIDE RECEIVER DEANDRE HOPKINS**

**Q: How did it feel?**

A: It felt great coming out here, you know, it felt even better getting the W.

**Q: Tell me about the touchdown catch, you went up and grabbed it didn't you?**

A: T.J. (Yates) put the ball where it needed to be. I have to give all of the thanks to my quarterback, he put it where it need to be and I came down with the play.

**Q: Can you take us through the play as you saw it develop?**

A: I knew it was man-to-man coverage so I kind of felt like I was going to get he ball and T.J. put the ball in the right place and I came down with it.

**Q: You said several times during camp you felt that every ball was yours?**

A: Yeah, that is how I feel and that's how wide receivers on this team are.

**Q: What did it mean to you at that moment to come down with that play?**

A: It felt great having my first preseason touchdown.

**Q: Was your heart beating any faster knowing that this was your first NFL game?**

A: Not at all, once I got out there heard the fans and the kickoff. It kind of set in and all of the jitters went away.

**HOUSTON TEXANS QB CASE KEENUM**

**Q: Take us through the play where you were rolling left and hit Lestar (Jean) down to the three-yard line.**

A: Just a little play-action bootleg with Lestar coming from underneath there. It wasn't a very good ball, but he made a good catch and got in the endzone to put us out front.

**Q: On the touchdown pass to Lestar you showed some significant emotion there on middle of the field with a little high-stepping, what were you thinking?**

A: Yeah, it was fun. That was my first touchdown pass in the NFL. I know it's preseason, but it was a long time coming for me.

**Q: What do you think of this battle between you and T.J. (Yates) right now?**

A: I think it's good. I think we're pushing each other and making each other better. That's what football's about. What's great is that T.J. is a great guy and I've got a lot of respect for him (not only) as a player, but as a person as well. We bounce things off each other and learn from each other on and off the field. It's a good chemistry we've got going lately.

**Q: Matt Schaub said earlier last week that it's night and day for you from last year to this year. Do feel that way when you're out there now?**

A: I do. The preseason from last year to this year is completely different. You know, I feel like I am playing quarterback as opposed to trying not to get hit last year. Being able to go out there and complete passes and move the offense, it's a lot of fun. That's what I love.

#### **HOUSTON TEXANS FS SHILOH KEO**

**Q: Start off by telling us about your pick.**

A: I had the deep middle third. They ran quick routes; I saw the quarterback throw the ball and I made a break for the ball. It bounced off the receiver's hands, and I was in the right place at the right time.

**Q: What did you think of the defense when the ones were out there, and how you did?**

A: We did well, but I think there might have been one or two things we might have communicated wrong. For the most part we were on the same page, and we did a good job with the time we had and the reps we had out there. There is always room for improvement, but we need to go back and watch film and see what we did right, what needs to be fixed and work from there.

**Q: How are you a better safety this year than from last year?**

A: Each year you get better and better. You can ask anybody. As the years add up, they just feel more comfortable out there, which is how I feel. I have a better relationship with the guys. I hold myself to a higher amount of accountability now that I'm a veteran guy.

**Q: Not thinking as much?**

A: Exactly, no thinking just playing.

#### **HOUSTON TEXANS NT EARL MITCHELL**

**Q: What did you think of your production in the first quarter when you had three tackles for a loss?**

A: It felt good to finally get out there playing football and making plays. I just wanted to step up for my team.

**Q: What were your emotions when you got the quarterback sack?**

A: I just felt good. I'm just trying to make plays any way that I can. They just left it open, and I just tried to take advantage of it.

**Q: It looked like the nose tackles as a whole did pretty well tonight against the interior of the Vikings offensive line.**

A: We're definitely trying to step up for this team, trying to just make sure that we're battling inside, making plays any way that we can. We have J.J. (Watt) and Antonio (Smith) making plays; we have to do our part as well.

**Q: What was happening that you did that you took advantage of to be able to make plays?**

A: I tried to take advantage of what they were giving me, playing a little more firm, a little more comfortable. It's my third year, so I'm just doing what I can.

**Q: What was it like being that dominant in that stretch?**

A: It felt good. They were definitely giving me some opportunities to make plays, and I capitalized on them. That was all I could do, so that's what I did.

**Q: What have you done to improve going into this season?**

A: Being more comfortable, being sure that I'm playing loose and understanding my position on the field. I'm trying to be more technical, understanding the down and distance, and know where I am at the time and finding my game.

#### **HOUSTON TEXANS RB CIERRE WOOD**

**Q: What type of impact do you feel you made with your performance today?**

A: I felt I made a tremendous impact. That's just a little bit of what I can do. I really didn't take that long to get started. I just wanted to get out there and prove I could play this game with everybody else.

**Q: What's that like for you, you got that moment, you were able to seize it and make something happen.**

A: It was just like being in college except for everybody's bigger, faster, and stronger. My reads and everything had to be precise. There couldn't have been any hesitation.

**Q: How good was the line tonight?**

A: The line was great. They did everything they were supposed to be doing and more. It just shows this team has a lot of great things to come.

**HOUSTON TEXANS QB T.J. YATES**

**Q: When you threw that ball, you knew he could go get it. Was that on your mind?**

A: Absolutely. He's shown to everybody all camp long that he will go up and get that ball for you. Luckily we got the right coverage, and I just threw it up and he made a heck of a play.

**Q: Talk about this battle right now what you and Case, what you all are doing?**

A: It's good. We are both playing some good football right now. The quarterback room as a whole today played really good. That's just what we are here for. We're all helping each other out, rooting for each other. Coach Karl is going to be happy tonight.

**Q: When you walk across those lines onto the field are you, somewhere in the back of your mind, aware that you are being pushed hard?**

A: Yeah, absolutely. That's how it is in this profession, especially at the backup quarterback position; you know there is going to be competition every year in that spot. We have one heck of a quarterback room, lot of good quarterbacks and there's always going to be really good competition.

**Q: What was your thoughts when DeAndre came down with that catch?**

A: I thought he jumped too early at first so I was like, "Ahhh," but then he hung up there for a really long time, made one heck of a catch in traffic, and used those big hands to his advantage right there.