



HOUSTON TEXANS vs. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



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POSTGAME QUOTES FROM HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN
RB ALFRED BLUE
RB JONATHAN GRIMES
WR DEANDRE HOPKINS
QB BRIAN HOYER
CB KAREEM JACKSON
CB KEVIN JOHNSON
CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH
OLB WHITNEY MERCILUS
DE JJ WATT
QB BRANDON WEEDEN
NT VINCE WILFORK

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

Whose decision was it to put DE J.J. Watt in on offense at the goal line?

"Mine, next question."

How do you explain what happened to QB Brian Hoyer tonight?

"It just wasn't good. It's a combination of us having to do a better job coaching and execution all the way around on offense today. Today wasn't very good."

There was a report that OLB Jadeveon Clowney left the stadium after he was ruled inactive.

"Not true, next question."

Did you consider taking QB Brian Hoyer out of the game?

"No, I felt like – I know what you're asking, I do. I did not consider that. I just felt like sticking with him was the right thing to do."

What can you tell us about injuries to DE J.J. Watt and CB Kevin Johnson?

"I don't know. I just walked in here. The game just ended like two minutes ago. How the heck would I know that?"

What do you know about the injuries just from being on the sideline?

"Yeah, I have no idea. I don't get doctors reports on the sideline. They tell me whether they're in or not."

How frustrating was this result?

"It's disappointing. You never want to end the season this way. There were some good things this year, but to end it this way, it's not a good feeling. We have to regroup and figure out how we can improve our team and improve the coaching. Make sure that everybody knows we are all in it together. But obviously, we have a long way to go here."

Do you think QB Brian Hoyer lost his confidence during this game?

"I don't know. You'd have to ask him that. I just felt like the best thing to do was to stick with him."

You didn't even consider making the switch from QB Brian Hoyer to QB Brandon Weeden?

"Yeah, I just felt that the best thing for us in this game was to stick with him. I named him the starter. With the game plan and the amount of reps that Brandon (Weeden) had gotten during the week, which was basically none, I felt like the right thing to do was to stick with Hoyer."

What was the idea behind putting DE J.J. Watt at running back?

"It was a jumbo package and we felt like it was going to work and it didn't work. That's on me."



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Did the fans booing bother you?

"No, our fans are great. Our fans are fantastic. When you're not playing well, they're going to let you know. It's a football city. We're going to work really hard to put a better product on the field next year."

How could you not consider switching from QB Brian Hoyer to QB Brandon Weeden with how poorly Hoyer was playing?

"I think you have to look at the whole picture. I don't know if you can just put it on one guy. Did he make mistakes? No question about it. But I think it's a combination of a lot of different things, starting with coaching. We have to coach it better. I think everybody just had to do better. We just weren't doing well enough. But I felt like at that time, during the whole game, I was going to stick with Brian."

Do you expect to have a similar quarterback situation in 2016?

"Again, the game just ended. Every year is different. 2016 will be nothing like 2015 based on our schedule, our team, free agency, the draft. I mean, every year is different and I have no idea what 2016 will look like five minutes after the game ends."

Chiefs TE Travis Kelce was able to have another big game against the Texans this year.

"He's a good player. They threw the ball well to him. We had a plan for him. At times, it worked. Sometimes it didn't. That's football. We have to learn from it and try to fix it."

How important is it for this franchise to get a player at quarterback that they feel more comfortable with?

"I think there's a lot of things that are important. Not just that position. I think we have to look at everything. That's what you do every season. At the end of the year, you look at everything that you've done and you start with yourself. You start with coaching. You try to see where you can get better and you start with the roster, which is a combination of myself and Rick (Smith). All those things that go into that with the personnel department and the coaching staff. You look at everything, it's; not just one thing. There's a lot that goes into fielding a football team. Obviously, we have to get better."

After the season you've had, what's this feeling like right now?

"It's terrible. Anytime you lose like this, it's what I just said to the team, it's not a good feeling to go out there in a playoff game and lose like this. It's not good at all. Obviously, where we want to go, we have to get better. We have to get better. I don't know what else to tell you guys. I mean, it's obvious. I'll tell you for 50,000 times, it starts with me. I've got to get better. I've got to figure out how to improve myself which then I think will help improve the team. Execution, quarterback, defense, offense, special teams, everything's got to get better in my opinion. That's what we're going to try to do."

Is this the type of loss that will linger and hurt for a while?

"These losses – I think you remember the losses more than you remember the wins as coaches. I think hopefully we can use it to build on it, even though it was a bad day. Hopefully, we can improve from the things that we didn't do well, whether it was preparation or execution or strategy or whatever it was, we've got to figure out how we can get better."

How close was OLB Jadeveon Clowney from playing?

"I don't think he was close. We talked about that towards the end of the week. I felt terrible for him. I mean, he wasn't able to push off the foot and run basically. Really do the things that he was going to have to do in this game, so that was why we decided to try to give him another week if we were to – obviously, it didn't happen that way."

What did you feel happened early in the game on special teams?

"Well, the first play of the game was a touchdown return, which is just a horrible way to start the game. I have to look at the film, I think they double teamed our four or our five, and they kicked out on the three or the two, and they ran it right up the middle. We didn't win on the backside. We got to figure out how to coach it better and get the guys to execute it better."

Do you look back on the drive where you threw a screen to WR DeAndre Hopkins on third down and wish you had that play call back?

"I think there's so much that goes into every play call. I think that I could sit up here and dissect every play call, good and bad. When it's 3rd and 10, what we had seen on film with their pass rush and things like that, we felt like the plays that we had were the right plays. Look, it didn't work out that way. So, sometimes it works out well."



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Sometimes, it doesn't. Today, it didn't work out at all. Again, we have to figure out what we did wrong and then try to get better."

Do you think the Chiefs were that much better than you or did you guys hurt yourself?

"I have to give them a lot of credit. They're a good football team. They've won 11 in a row now. They're certainly better than us. I have to give them all the credit in the world. Certainly, we made a lot of mistakes. Turnovers, obviously, kickoff returns for touchdowns, those things aren't good in a playoff game. But obviously, with the way the score was, they're a better team than us."

What will stick out to you about this season when you reflect back?

"I don't know. I'm not in the reflective mood right now, to be honest with you. But I'm proud of these guys. I know it didn't go well today and it's not a good way to end, but I do like this team. I enjoy coaching this team. But I'm not ready to reflect on anything."

RB ALFRED BLUE (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

How did you feel after the long run in the second quarter? Is there a reason why you sat out the next play?

"Oh yeah, I was fine. I think they just wanted to take me out so I could get my wind back and then put me back in."

What went wrong with the offense in the first half?

"Turnovers hurt you. I was always taught the team that makes the most turnovers is going to lose the game. Turning the ball over, making mental mistakes like that, you just can't do that and expect to win a professional football game."

What did head coach Bill O'Brien say to the team at halftime?

"He said that we were only down 13 (points). We've been here before, we still have a ballgame. We go up and score a touchdown, we get the ball back then it is still a ball game. We tried to go out there and do that. Like I said, you can't turn the ball over and expect to win."

How did the goal line interception and the way that drive finished impact the team?

"I think it affected the team a lot. It kind of gets the team down. Mentally, you have to stay in it. I think everyone was still fighting and fought to the end."

How has injuries impacted your performance over the last few games?

"It's football. Everybody is nicked up that's a (running) back at this point in the season. You just have to play through it. The strong will survive. Everybody that's nicked up just has to dig deep and play ball."

What do you take from this playoff experience towards next season?

"I take a lot from it. Being my first playoff game, I learned a lot and I think we can learn from it as a team and get better next year."

RB JONATHAN GRIMES (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver)

How much did turnovers take out of this team?

"Turnovers are going to kill any team any game of the year, especially in the playoffs. Turnovers, you can't do it."

What are your emotions after this game?

"Really just disappointed because I know how hard we worked, and we just didn't perform how we wanted to perform today."

Was the direct snap to JJ Watt something you had practiced this week or what was the mindset?

"Yeah. We practiced it. We were just trying to get in the endzone. That's the mindset once we get in the red zone. We're trying to get points."

Was this a spiraling thing, just one thing after another?

"It seemed to be that way. I don't know what it was. We just needed to fix the problems, and we weren't fixing them fast enough."



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How much did the opening play take the wind out of the sails for the team?

"I don't know if it took the wind out of our sails. It's disappointing. You don't want to start off like that. I didn't really see people dwell on it. We had to keep playing, and we had plenty of opportunities to win the game. You can't win the game on the first play or the last play. You've got to play every play. We just never bounced back."

WR DEANDRE HOPKINS (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

How frustrating was it to go turnover after turnover?

"We lost the game so very frustrating."

When you look back over the season are you going to remember the season or just this game?

"Definitely going more positive than negative for this season. Definitely a lot to build off of and a lot of things to move on forward with."

What do you take from this playoff experience?

"You have to come out and be prepared, you have to play your best football every down."

How do you think they covered you and what was tough about it?

"Wasn't nothing tough about it."

So you were open the majority of the game?

"What do you think? Do you think I was open? I mean you watched the game. I just run my routes."

Was it just a matter of getting the ball to you?

"A lot more goes into than just getting me the ball."

Can you elaborate on that?

"No, I can't."

How do you move on from this game?

"We have a lot of things to build off of. First, everybody wrote us off from even contending in the playoffs. We are not satisfied with the season at all, but it is a lot of positive to build off of."

QB Brian Hoyer just took all of the blame for making all of the bad decisions. How bad do you feel for him?

"He is a grown man. I can't sit here and say I feel sorry for a grown man. You learn and this is football, you make mistakes. I don't feel bad for him because I know he is going to move on and be a better player from this game."

How tough is it when your quarterback is having a bad day?

"The quarterback runs the offense, everything goes through him."

How do you build on this season?

"A lot of work in the offseason. It is me and Brian's (Hoyer) first year together. I don't think a number one receiver and starting quarterback is going to have the best chemistry in the world just off of one season. A lot of work in the offseason for sure."

Are you looking forward to working more with QB Brian Hoyer?

"Oh yeah, without a doubt. We made it to the playoffs, while a lot of people are sitting at home watching us."

QB BRIAN HOYER (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver and Rachel Jacob)

What happened in this game?

"You know what, it just didn't go well for me personally, obviously. I've obviously got to go back and watch the film, but I think I made some bad decisions that really hurt the team."

How were you reading plays today differently than you have the rest of the season?

"Obviously I didn't play the way I've played all year. I think up to this point I'd thrown, what, six or seven interceptions, so to throw four in one game obviously that's not the way I play. I'm disappointed in that. We talked about it all week."



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long, just trying to protecting the ball. Obviously I didn't do that so it's disappointing. I've got to be better than that. That's the bottom line."

Did you try to play your way through nerves?

"I don't think anything had to do with nerves. I think it was just lack of execution really. That's just what it came down to."

Were you surprised the coaches left you in the game?

"No, I mean, I'm the quarterback of this team. It's been a long year. I fought my way back to play out here. I didn't want to be coming out of that game. I think those guys that were playing out there deserve from me to finish that game. We've put a lot of work in this year and as bad as it was going, I wasn't going to come out of that game. A lot of guys had put a lot of work in, and for me to cop out I think would show lack of being a man and lack of leadership."

Emotionally, where do you go from here?

"I've dealt with a lot of adversity. Obviously, this might be one of the worst parts of my career. I think it's hard to kind of see past this right now. I think as time goes, I'll reflect on this season and realize there was some good parts too. Unfortunately, I picked the wrong time to have probably the worst game. It's tough. The biggest thing for me is stand up in front of you guys and own up to it and learn from it. I really think that is the only way you can go about it. It's disappointing. It's embarrassing. Bad things happen in life. Obviously, in my football career this was a bad day, but I'll learn from it and always try to get better."

How much did the Chiefs and what they were doing factor into your play?

"Obviously, they are a good defense. They've won ten games in a row or whatever. But I think for me, it was just a lack of execution to be honest with you."

What did Bill O'Brien say to you during the game or after?

"Just keep fighting. For me, it was just keep going out and keep playing. Like I said, I owed it to my teammates to stay out there and play through it. Like I said, things aren't always going to be great so you just man up and own up to it and keep fighting. I owed it to my teammates to do that."

What happened with the interception at the three-yard line?

"It was just a bad decision. I think you know for me I've got to be smarter about that play. I saw (Alfred) Blue flash and I've got to know better than you know - someone at my feet, just be smart and throw it out of the back of the end zone. It was a dumb decision. Like I said that hasn't been how I've played this year and for whatever reason you make a bad decision. It definitely took points off the board and that's on me."

Going forward what will you do in this offseason to try to make it different the next time you are in this position?

"Like I said you've got to learn from the mistakes. Obviously I made a lot of those today. You've just got to look yourself in the mirror and be - trust me no one will be more critical of this than I will. As tough as it is, you go and watch the film and realize what you did wrong. There probably wasn't a lot of good, but you learn from it and you just keep fighting. I think that's how I've dealt with things my entire career, so to me it's something I'll take and learn from and always try and become a better player."

Do you anticipate being the Texans' starting quarterback next season?

"That's nine months away. I am going to prepare everyday like I am that's for sure. I owe it to those guys in that locker room and these coaches to do everything I can to be a better player the next time I step on the field."

How would you describe this season?

"It's been a rollercoaster. I think for me it's always been trying to stay right there in the middle - not get too high, not get too low and I think that's what has gotten me to this point in my career is just dealing with the highs and the lows. You just take it a day at a time, realize the sun's going to come up tomorrow. For me I look at it and there is no one who feels lower than I do right now but one day does not make my career, one game does not make my career. Obviously I am disappointed like I said, no one is going to be more critical of it than myself and I'll take it and learn from it."



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What did that kick off return at the start of the game do to you guys?

"Nothing. That had nothing to do with our lack of success. Really at halftime it's 13-nothing, you know what I mean, we're two scores away. We just, really me, I just didn't execute the way I needed to to help my team win."

CB KAREEM JACKSON (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

What makes QB Alex Smith effective?

"He's very versatile. He's definitely the leader of that team. We can have the guys covered up, and he can take off with it. He's a dual threat, and he showed that today."

Was the game as tough as you expected?

"It was definitely tough, considering how the game went. You definitely don't want to go out and get beat like that in the first round of the Playoffs, especially after you worked so hard to get there. It's playoff ball, but it's just sometimes that's how it is."

How tough do the turnovers make the defenses job?

"At the end of the day, at some point you're going to have some type of adversity. You have to bow up. In the second half, I think they put together two long drives on us. With regards to the turnovers, we still can't let that happen, but as a defense, we have to ball out as a defense."

CB KEVIN JOHNSON (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

Health-wise, are you OK and what happened?

"Yeah, I'm alright. I just kind of messed up my neck a little bit on the play when I went in and tackled that dude. But yeah, I'm good."

What are your thoughts on how the game played out?

"It's just a tough game. We didn't execute the game plan on defense. It's definitely a learning experience, especially for me personally, as far as just going through that last game, and then really just the whole season."

What parts of the game plan do you feel you didn't execute?

"I just felt like we could've played better as players on defense. Just getting guys tackling, just the little details of football. Just tackling and covering and all that stuff."

Was the game spiraling out of control?

"I don't know, just one thing led to another. Like you said, I guess it's kind of like a snowball effect."

CB JOHNATHAN JOSEPH (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

How tough is a game like this for you?

"It's tough anytime you fight to get where you are in the season, of course, you know you never want to exit the playoffs on your first game. There's nothing you can do about it once it's over but learn from it. It is definitely good experience for some of the younger guys. I think we have to take a look at it and get better from it."

Were you encouraged at halftime that it was a close game, despite the struggles?

"Of course, you have to play the game for four full quarters. At the end of the day we played really good in the first half and there were some plays, that as a defense, would like to get back in the second half to keep things tighter than what they really were. I think overall, there were some good points in the game, but definitely not good enough."

How tough is it to watch the offense struggle throughout the game?

"That's football. You never know the way the game is going to be played out. You practice for everything to be perfect throughout the week but you never know when you get into the game how it is going to be played out. Us as a defense, whatever the situation is and whatever happens throughout the game it was our job to show up and hold them to three points or no points at all."

How tough is it to see QB Brian Hoyer struggle the way that he did today?



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"You can't place it on one guy. I didn't really notice it myself. Obviously he's a great player, he's a leader out there. There are going to be games like that and we as a team have to rally around him. He's a leader of our team and whatever the situation is, us as a defense we have to do our job. We can't really look to other guys, worry about what they're doing, we have to do our job to help our team win."

How would you describe the performance of their tight ends?

"They did a good job of creating certain situations where Travis Kelce was running open and other situations where we should of made some of the plays and minimize their gains. For sure, I know of one play where I missed a tackle on a long play that had that I could of minimized things. You have to give him (Kelce) some credit also. He's a good player and they have good players also. We definitely, coming into this game, wanted to keep (Kelce) under the radar and keep a guy on him at all times, and keep all eyes on him. Today, he had another big game."

As a leader and veteran, what do you tell the younger players about moving past this game?

"You have to move on from it. It is one simple goal at the beginning of the year and that's to get to the playoffs and win the Super Bowl. There will be six or seven - however many more teams - that will join us also. It is good for the experience for the younger guys and it is definitely good for them to get their feet wet, but you have to keep it in their head that you have to be hungry for more and you want to advance, definitely further into the playoffs."

How far away is this team from accomplishing that goal?

"We are right there. I think the first step is to win your division and get in the playoffs. You hear a lot about how the division was won and the type of division it is and that's not our fault. Our job is to just go out and accomplish that and win your division, and we did that. It is good for those guys to get that experience and kind of hang their hat on that. Be proud of that, you should and definitely heading into the playoffs you have to remind guys that it is never going to be easy. When you get to the playoffs, that's the best of the best. If you don't show up that day and give it your best you could be sitting at home and that's where we are right now. It is definitely a learning experience for some people."

OLB WHITNEY MERCILUS (Transcribed by Stephanie Weaver)

How do you sum this one up?

"It's tough. It's tough. You don't want to lose like that, especially in the first round. Defensively, we tried everything we could. Offensively, we've just got to play better and especially special teams as well. Just play complementary football, and we didn't do that today."

How shocked are you right now?

"I honestly can't really tell you. It's tough. It's tough. You prepare all week, especially having a second chance at this. Just to go out there and just play like that is really tough."

Does this put a damper on what you accomplished in the regular season?

"No. Nobody gave us a chance to be in this thing in the first place. It's just the guys in the locker room, and we believed. Definitely this end is not going to put a damper on anything."

Do you feel like you are building to something important?

"Of course. We've got the future to look forward to. We've just got to learn from this, that's it."

Did the amount of time the defense had to play because of turnovers affect anything?

"From a defensive standpoint, it doesn't matter. Especially our offense. If they turn the ball over, and defense comes up, we've got to play some style D. In certain areas we didn't do that."

Was it bittersweet to have a good individual game and have this result?

"If it would have won us the game, then great. I would definitely have given up those three, you know, my individual performance just to win this game for sure."

DE J.J. WATT (Transcribed by Ryan Cantrell)

What are your thoughts on today's game?

"It didn't go well. We are done. The other team played a lot better than we played."



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What did you think about the blow to your head when you injured your groin?

"That had nothing to do with the injury. The injury came before he hit me. That's just a dirty play, but the injury was before that moment."

What did you think of the fans booing Chiefs T Eric Fisher after that play?

"That's my fans having my back. That's what you would expect. It's fine."

What are your thoughts on how this played out?

"It's terrible. That's not what we expect. That's not how we expect to play. That is just not the way it was supposed to go. We didn't do enough and they did, so you have to give them the credit. They played a hell of a lot better than we did today."

How hard was it to not be out there at the end?

"It was terrible to not be out there with my teammates. I have been trying to do whatever I possibly can to be out there with them and I tried to do, today, whatever I could to be out there with them, but there comes a time when you are doing more harm than good and when you can't go you can't go. It was extremely difficult."

Does this put a damper on everything you accomplished this year?

"Yeah. You can say moral victory, you can say came back from 2-5, you can say whatever you want, but at the end of the day this league is about winning championships and we didn't win a championship, so it is a disappointment. Quite frankly, I don't care what anyone else says about that. We did accomplish some great things, but that doesn't matter to me. In this league it is about winning championships and we didn't do that."

Talk about the red zone play and what happened there?

"Yeah we have had that play in there for weeks now and just never had the opportunity to run it. We ran it today and they did a great job stopping it. They get paid too, so they did a great job."

Is it more painful that this happened in front of your home crowd?

"It doesn't matter where it happened. When your season ends in the first round it is extremely painful. It is disappointing and it's awful. It is not how we expect to play."

What did the first play of the game do to you guys?

"Nothing. It put us down 7-0, but adversity happens all the time in this league and you have to be able to fight adversity and to come back from it, obviously, we didn't do that today."

How are you feeling with your injury?

"It is extremely painful. It is pretty bad."

QB BRANDON WEEDEN (Transcribed by Edgar Veliz)

What do you take away from this season?

"I enjoyed the time I spent in Dallas, I loved every single minute of it. I got an opportunity to come down here and nothing short of that it has been a good time. We won a lot of games while I was here and it's a great locker room, great town, everything. It was all a very good experience."

Do you have options now that the season is over?

"I hope so. It is really all I could do was to go out there and try to play well and try to create an opportunity down the road. Hopefully it will work out."

Did you think you were going in during the third quarter?

"We talked about me going in there with Brian, but Brian wanted to finish the thing out. I don't blame him. I've been in that situation before and it is the kind of person he is. He's a competitor, he felt like he wanted to finish the fight with his guys. If he would of went down then obviously I would of gone in, but he himself wanted to finish it."

When was the last time you heard fans cheer your name like that?



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"I'm used to the boos when I was in Cleveland. That's all they did. I'm not a big fan of that maybe it's because I've been on the bad side of it. We know we're not playing well. You hear that, and not only does it affect the quarterback, it affects everybody else - offense, defense, kickers, it just affects the entire team. It's unfortunate but like I said, I've been there. Unfortunately, we don't get to strap up next week, that's the hardest part about this situation."

After experiencing the playoffs here and at other teams, do you want to keep playing?

"Yeah, it's amazing. The atmosphere, speed of the game, everything just amps up when it comes to playoff time. It was the same last year when I was in Dallas. We played Detroit and especially in Green Bay, It is what you go through OTAs, the summer, training camp and the grind of all the stuff to get an opportunity to play to get in the postseason. You've got a chance, unfortunately this one stings a little bit, but it drives you to come back. Absolutely."

NT VINCE WILFORK (Transcribed by Stefan Nolet)

Did the turnovers take some of the wind out of the defense?

"It's part of the game. You go in and try not to turn over the ball, but it happens. At the end of the day, we get paid to stop people. I don't care what the situation may be. There were times we did tonight and times we didn't. When we really needed plays defensively, they drove the field 90 yards. They moved the field about two times. For a good little bit, we were on the field for a good while, but that was on us to get off the field defensively. You have to be able to play together. All three phases have to be able to play together. I don't think we did a good job of that tonight like we have been in the previous weeks. We didn't do a good enough job today for us to win that ball game, and that's what happened."

How big was it when DE J.J. Watt left the field with an injury?

"We didn't really think about that. I just think we didn't capitalize on our opportunities, we didn't execute when we needed to execute with whoever on the field - with J.J. on the field or without him on the field. But, anytime you lose your best defensive player, it hurts. It hurts, but I don't think anybody on this defense looked at it that way, but I think we just played on. I'm pretty sure a lot of guys didn't even think about it, about him being out. We just didn't make enough plays, that's the bottom line. They came in with a good game plan, they executed, they played well. The game kind of got out of hand, and that's when we struggled, when the game got out of hand. Giving up too many plays, defensively. We gave up too many plays in the second half and it really cost us."

How much does the opening kickoff return touchdown affect the team?

"I don't think it affects us because it's a long game. I think with that play, it took 10 seconds, 15 seconds, so you're still in a game that really hasn't started. I don't think it affected it us at all because it was so early and there was so much football left to play. Even coming in at halftime, there was so much football left to play, we just didn't play well enough."

How disappointing was it to lose in this fashion?

"Anytime you lose, it's tough. Especially in the Playoffs, it's tough. At the same time, this team has a lot to be proud of. Losing is losing, and it sucks to lose, but to be 2-5 and make the Playoffs and win the division. It's hard to win, and I think we took a step in the right direction. So, we have a lot to look forward to. We definitely do with offseason and our guys getting back together and trying to see what we can do to get over that hump. It's going to be exciting in the upcoming season."

POSTGAME QUOTES FROM KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

HEAD COACH ANDY REID

FS ERIC BERRY

RB KNILE DAVIS

T ERIC FISHER

LB JUSTIN HOUSTON

TE TRAVIS KELCE

CB MARCUS PETERS

DT DONTARI POE

QB ALEX SMITH

HEAD COACH ANDY REID (Transcribed by Ellie Pardee)



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Opening statement:

"Alright, as far as injuries go, (G Laurent Duvernay)-Tardif has a concussion – Larry went out fairly early. Jah Reid stepped in and I thought did a real nice job for him. Then Jeremy Maclin strained his knee so he'll have an MRI tomorrow. We'll just see where he's at with that. Really that was the main injuries. My hat's off to the Texans. Bill (O'Brien)'s building this thing the right way, he and Rick (Smith), and it's never as good as you think, never as bad as you think in the National Football League. The margin between winning and losing is a very small thing. I appreciate our fans for showing up here. I mean at the end of the game there were thousands of them here, and we feed off of their energy and we feel them. We feel the chop. The turnovers were probably the story here, so six turnovers, five interceptions, that's a tough thing. The offense capitalized on some things, had that long 11-yard drive that I thought kind of was a turning point right there, then listen there were a bunch of individual accolades that you could put out there in a win like this. I'm going to focus on Cairo (Santos) for – field position man in the playoffs is a huge thing. His ability to kick it deep in the end zone and make the Texans drive a long field is a son of a gun and I'm proud of him for doing that. Time's yours."

1-5 to start the season, how fulfilling is this win considering RB Jamaal Charles getting hurt and starting slow?

"Yeah I'm proud of the guys. Coaches had a nice plan. The players played their hearts out, I mean absolutely played their hearts out, especially the bigs. You've got to give them some credit. The offense and defensive line I thought stepped up. You're talking about the best defense here arguably in the National Football League, statistically and so, our guys came out and took that challenge to heart there and they had a great week of practice and they played good, tough football. We'll enjoy it tonight, and then I'm not sure when we play. We'll find out later tonight, but whenever it is we'll get right back on it and get ourselves ready, not a lot of time to relax here. It's a single elimination tournament. We've got to keep going."

T Eric Fisher seemed to mix it up a little bit tonight.

"Yeah, that was a Central Michigan thing, Central Michigan thing going on right there so you remember J.J. (Watt), before he transferred to Wisconsin, went to Central Michigan and those are competitive kids up there. So they had a nice little battle going against each other. That's how it rolls. Each one of them got a little piece of each other and each one you could say had a win somewhere along the line against each other. That's an old relationship there."

Have you felt the pressure of not winning in the playoffs for 22 years?

"You know I didn't, was that 1994? Listen, I didn't feel it, but I know how important it is too, and you get to the playoffs in that first round, if things don't go well that rips your heart out a little bit. I got it, I understand. I've been on both sides of that, here I've been on both sides of that, that first year. I'm happy for the Hunt family and the fans of Kansas City. They're unbelievable."

On the road to get a kick return for a touchdown to start the game, how big was that?

"That's a big thing. (Special Teams Coordinator) Dave Toub reminded me when he was in Chicago, they had one of those things happen in the playoffs and – might have been the Super Bowl even – and they lost the game. We understood that we had to keep playing, and the guys, they stayed focused through that. They get it, they understand. It's a good way to go. Once an isle breaks, he's a big man that can run fast, so he's been so close on so many and to start off that way and the guys who blocked for them did a great job and Knile (Davis) hit it and hit it fast."

TE Travis Kelce has had two big games here, is it just the matchup that favored him?

"He had eight catches I believe, somewhere around that number, and over 100 yards. That's a positive a thing. He's a talented kid and loves to play the game."

How pleased were you with the ability to neutralize Texans DE J.J. Watt?

"The execution, yeah I thought we were short on just a couple in the first quarter but after that man, the guys I thought did a nice job. It all starts up front. Alex (Smith) and the runners, (Spencer) Ware ran hard, Charcandrick (West) ran hard and it was all good."

Talk about the way you guys executed against Texans DE J.J. Watt.

"Yeah, so listen you're not going to win every battle against J.J. Watt. I mean you're talking about the defensive player of the year two-timer, but the one thing you can do is battle against him and I thought our guys did that. He



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got us a few times but that's what great players do. On the other hand, we did a pretty good job there. He's a heck of a player."

Defensively, did you throw any different looks at Texans QB Brian Hoyer?

"Listen, you do that in the National Football League right, so you give these guys one look and they'll gobble you up. (Defensive Coordinator) Bob (Sutton) did a pretty good job of mixing things up. I thought he had a nice plan, but that's kind of what you do. That's what you do."

Can you talk about the performance of QB Alex Smith?

"I thought Alex was on point, very focused. Nobody works harder than Alex Smith. He's a leader of our football team and a heck of a job. Even when Jeremy (Maclin) went down he went right back to (Chris) Conley for the touchdown, I believe it was after the 11-play drive. I mean that was a nice job there."

FS ERIC BERRY (Transcribed by Crystin Pactor)

What does this win mean for a team that hasn't won a playoff game in 22 years?

"It's big just because we set out a goal and accomplished it. All this week we practiced hard. Focused on the little things and I think we came out and executed like we were supposed to."

Does that 22 year drought mean anything to you as a player?

"I think it means a lot for our fans. I think that's important. They have been supporting us since we were 1-5, throughout my ups and downs. They happy, we cool but at the end of the day it comes down to everybody in that locker room and that building from day to day so we just wanted to make sure we did what we could do and just control what we can control. I think it showed today."

How pleased were you with the way you guys executed defensively from forcing all the turnovers to stopping them?

"Those were our goals coming in to today. We are going to look at the film and I think it's a lot of things we could get better on. Obviously we came out and played a great game, but you know it's about getting better every week and capitalizing on other teams mistakes and eliminating ours, so that's what we are going to go in and focus on this week."

This is the first shutout in the playoffs in 10 years, what does that mean to this defense?

"I guess it's a good deal. We wanted to come in and get a win. We wanted to come in and dominate and right now we are just locked in ready for next week. We are just taking it one game at a time. One day at a time. One play at a time so we are just going to keep that mentality. It has got us this far, so we are just going to keep on rolling in that demeanor."

Are there any jitters early in the game and how much does it help when you get a touchdown on the opening play to give you guys the lead?

"It helps out a lot. Any time you get seven on the board, or three, it helps us out. Like I said from a defensive stand point, we just try to control what we can control. We can't go out there and run any plays on the offense, but we can help put them in good situations to where they get a lot of opportunities to get seven or three. That's what we came out and did. We wanted to help our offense any way we could and just play good football."

How will this team focus without WR Jeremy Maclin out there?

"The same way, next man up. Every player, every play. Coach always stresses let your personality show. You can't be anybody else. If you be somebody else that's not what we want. We want you to be yourself. You're here for a reason, so next man that comes up just come out and play ball. Take it one play at a time and just handle business in that demeanor."

RB KNILE DAVIS (Transcribed by Laci Theriot)

Just quieted everybody up real quick in the stadium, didn't you?

"It is quiet in the stadium right now, yes sir."

When you break in the open like that, obviously you can't see behind you. Are you just hoping that there are no flags out on the field?



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"Oh yeah. When you turn around, that's why you turn around quick. You are just hoping that there are no yellow flags. It's just surreal man."

So how did you know today they weren't calling it back?

"Because I didn't hear the crowd. The crowd will just let you know."

What was it like for you to watch you run 106 yards?

"Well, first, this is my hometown so it was good to set the tempo in my hometown. When I saw the ball in the air, I saw the coverage; I knew that they weren't on me yet. I was like, this is a good opportunity to do something, make something happen, and when I went left, I saw it split like the red sea, and I took it to the house from there."

There is a game played in San Francisco in a few weeks, and I am sure you would love to be there.

"Oh yeah. We will just wait and see what happens. We will be ready. We have to go back to the drawing board and keep doing the things that got us here."

Winning is fun, isn't it?

"Very fun. Two years ago, I was in the same situation, and it didn't work out. It felt good to make it happen and be part of it. It really does."

T ERIC FISHER (Transcribed by Omar Majzoub)

Opening statement:

"It's huge. We haven't had a playoff in 22 years and being able to bring back something to Kansas City. What an awesome feeling and it was a team effort today. We all came out there to battle [and] started out the game strong with that kick return for a touchdown. That really got us going. Just take one play at a time and doing the same thing we've been doing and definitely enjoying it right now. "

I know you guys weren't around 22 years obviously, but how much does that weight on everything going on? Did you guys really needed to win one?

"I think that after the Royals had their little run, we kinda got the same attitude they did. Coming out poor last year had to be terrible and to do what they did this year, we are just trying to follow suit. I think this is awesome for the town of Kansas City and we are just taking it one week at a time."

How would you describe your battles with DE J.J. Watt today?

"He's a tremendous player. A relentless guy and we respect him but you definitely got to study him and come after him one play at a time."

Do you guys think you got the better of him DE J.J. (Watt) today?

"I think he was out most of the second half, but we all did our job up front and obviously they are going to make their plays, we are going to make our plays and we just came out on top today."

Did you have something extra in you from after week 1?

"Yeah, I had a little chip on my shoulder coming onto this week. Obviously you can go back and read the articles from week 1 and all that, but come on battle. It was a little frustrating in the beginning of the year but came back and got the job done."

When Watt was taken out, would you take us through that final play that put him out?

"Not sure what happened, like I said, he's a relentless player. You literally have to finish every play with that guy because that's where he makes his plays. Some guys give up on him when the play isn't over. So I didn't know what going on behind me, all I know was that I had to finish the play. I'm not sure really what happened."

LB JUSTIN HOUSTON (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

Opening statement:

"It's not a surprise to us. We're on a mission. We had the same goal since day one. A lot of people gave up on us and we still focused. It's on to the next game."

How did you feel physically?



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"I felt great. I had to knock some rust off. I didn't do as good as I hoped or wanted to do out there. I was kind of rusty and they played a fine game. I'll definitely do better next game."

Is this the kind of game the team expects to play?

"Every week that's our plan, that's our goal: dominate every snap."

Did you think you'd get that many turnovers that quick?

"That's our goal, that's what we want to do. We know if we can create turnovers it will give us a great chance to win. That's what we did today."

What does this win mean for the franchise?

"It means a lot. Like I said, we're not surprised by this at all. We had a goal in mind since day one, since we showed up for camp and we're still on that same mission. Nothing changed, we just continued to get focused. We're going to enjoy this win but move on to the next."

Can you take this momentum in to next week?

"Definitely. Any time you can come in and put up a goose egg, no matter if it's playoffs or regular season, that means a lot."

Does not winning a playoff game in almost 22 years matter to the current Chiefs players?

"No, that's the past. This is the future and we're trying to make history."

Do you feel like you affected the turnovers from the Texans?

"Any time you can get to the quarterback and put pressure on him or make him uncomfortable in the pocket, you can create turnovers. I think we did a good job. The interior guys did a great job as well."

TIGHT END TRAVIS KELCE (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

Can you explain the individual success you've had against this defense twice this year?

"They're a very good defense. Up front they're as stout as they come. In the secondary they've got some smart players, at the same time you've just got to go out there and play for the guy next to you and come up with a win and that's what we did today."

What most impressed you with quarterback Alex Smith's performance?

"The intensity. The non-stop, keeping us going, keeping everybody under control and going out there and playing for one another. It's a hard thing to do, especially in the playoffs. You've got so many distractions and things like that."

CB MARCUS PETERS (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

What created the opportunities for turnovers?

"Man, we were just aggressive. We wanted to go out there and just play our style of football. We wanted to get after the quarterback and make our plays in the backfield. Just play our style of football. We knew they had a great defense. We knew they had some great players on offense, so we just wanted to go out there and play Chiefs football."

Did LB Justin Houston's return help?

"Oh yeah. His presence alone on the field, you got to put two on him. You don't put two on him I feel sorry for you."

What kind of mentality develops when y'all start creating the turnovers?

"Man, it just makes us that much more aggressive. We got Justin Houston, Tamba Hali and Dontari Poe up there in the front so you know if us on the back end can do our job and make the plays when the plays come our way and that's what we did today. We just make our plays."

How great was it to never be behind in the game?

"It's all three phases. That's what Coach Reid talked about. He wanted to play a complete game on all three phases so we took the ball over on defense, we had the one turnover on offense, but we protected the ball on offense"



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regarding that and we scored on special teams. When you score on special teams I think you have a real big chance of winning the game.”

DT DONTARI POE (Transcribed by Lance Jaramillo)

Were the four turnovers the difference in the game?

“Yeah, big. As a defense you preach turnovers. So one is big, four is great.”

When did you realize you all were controlling the line of scrimmage?

“To me, I was just playing.”

What does a shutout say?

“It says a lot. It says a lot about our defense, it says a lot about our team. Just keep fighting no matter what the clock says or what the score is. Just keep playing.”

You were pretty excited coming in to the locker, room what does this win mean to you?

“Means a lot. A playoff win is huge considering there hasn’t been one in KC for a while, that’s even bigger, but a playoff win is big for us.”

QB ALEX SMITH (Transcribed by Christiana Johns)

How did the opening kickoff return make a difference in the game?

“Yeah, anytime our game starts off like that, to just get spotted seven points like that is a difference maker. Obviously, you still have a lot of game left, but it’s a big momentum to start it off.”

What was it like to see WR Jeremy Maclin go down and then make that 94-yard drive with WR Chris Conley?

“I think obviously you never want to see somebody go down. We know how much Jeremy means to us. It’s just kind of the mentality though I think you know. Chris has just stayed ready. He works hard. He stays after every day at practice just working, staying ready. He’s that kind of guy, and we’ve got the kind of coaches that don’t blink either. They don’t care. Chris – we haven’t really repped that full speed with him in there. Those are all Jeremy’s looks, so for him to come in and not even blink and make the catch like he did, it says a lot about the entire group.”

Did you have to have a level of trust with WR Chris Conley?

“Yeah, you talk about it with him. Obviously, on those reps, you only have so many, right? But you talk about it. I think the thing with all of those guys is obviously I think we’ve got good communication and always trying to communicate what we’re seeing, what we’re thinking. I try to tell those guys that. Big, big play by him there.”

Did you say anything to the offense when WR Jeremy Maclin went out?

“No, I don’t think so. Like I said, I think it’s just kind of the make of the guys we’ve got. I don’t think they need that. We’ve got a group that I don’t think thinks twice, they just go. It’s just kind of the way we practice, it’s who we are. You got to go. Obviously, we’ll deal with that. We’ll cross that bridge when it comes, but until that point, we’re in the middle of a game. We’ve got to go.”

What do you remember about the last time you played without WR Jeremy Maclin?

“It’s different. Obviously for Chris [Conley] it was his first real time there going. We all kind of have to pick it up. With a guy like that, when he’s not playing, when he’s missing, we’ve all got to pick up the slack. I don’t think it’s any one person, but us collectively.”

Is it going to get more challenging looking forward throughout the playoffs?

“I don’t think so. It’s win or go home. There’s no tomorrow. You’re living in the right now. It’s no different this next week. I don’t think the attitude changes, and to be honest, I think we been playing like that for a while now. It’s all we know, a little bit.”

How was it preparing for the silent count and factoring in the crowd noise?

“You can never anticipate that. You’d love to do that, but in playoff games you never anticipate getting up by that much that a crowd will quiet down. During the second half we’re able to use cadence a little bit. We mixed it in the first half here and there, but it is a loud place. With a front like theirs, as good as they are, it’s a real disadvantage



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to play like that. They really have kind of an edge playing with that crowd. Getting off the ball, they're good anyway, then you give them the noise, it's tough."

What does it say about the offense to put up that many points?

"I think the entire locker room sees the value in all three phases. We don't underestimate any one of them. Today the defense was just dominant, dominant. I thought they were suffocating, and all of those turnovers. Besides that one long run, they never really had much. I think for them, they played lights out today. We felt good, all three phases. We missed a little bit there in the first half. Albert (Wilson) and me missing that post I thought would have changed the game. You miss it by a foot, the long run gets called back for a hold, Albert tip-toeing on the sideline somehow gets changed. That's another 120 yards of offense plus right there, you're that close, and with a defense like that, you've got to be opportunistic. They're going to win theirs. You just have to be able to hit yours when you do have the opportunity. I felt like we were there in the second half and got that done."

How did you come back from missed opportunities in the second half?

"I thought everybody just staying aggressive. I do think what happened to us a couple years ago, certainly I mean - everybody remembers that that was here, coaches included. So I think our entire mentality about finishing, mentality doesn't change."

What has WR Jeremy Maclin meant to the team both emotionally and talent-wise?

"It's not just down to his physical talents. He rubs off on everybody, the competitor that he is, what he brings on gameday, that energy, everybody kind of feeds off that. We'll find out what it is, but certainly playing without him is tough. He brings a lot."

Does the emotional part of what WR Jeremy Maclin brings stay with the team?

"I think we all try to pick it up and keep that. He has kind of brought that with him. Just playing with that kind of edge all game. Whether he's catching or blocking, that rubs off on everybody."

How have you developed mental toughness over the years?

"I think it just comes through doing it. It comes through playing through the injuries, whether it be the guys up front shuffling around like we had to do today, I don't think anybody blinked because we've been doing that for a while now. When you lose Jamaal (Charles) early in the year, a guy like him, and you overcome it, all of that stuff stays with you. I think you get the confidence from doing it."