





HOUSTON TEXANS VS. OAKLAND RAIDERS



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POSTGAME QUOTES

	
<p>Head Coach Bill O'Brien</p> <p>ILB Dylan Cole</p> <p>CB Gareon Conley</p> <p>ILB Zach Cunningham</p> <p>TE Darren Fells</p> <p>WR DeAndre Hopkins</p> <p>RB Carlos Hyde</p> <p>OLB Whitney Mercilus</p> <p>S Justin Reid</p> <p>QB Deshaun Watson</p>	<p>Head Coach Jon Gruden</p> <p>QB Derek Carr</p> <p>DE Maxx Crosby</p> <p>WR Hunter Renfrow</p>
<p align="center">HOUSTON TEXANS MEDIA WEBSITE</p> <p align="center">Postgame quotes, notes and more available on the Houston Texans Media Website</p> <p align="center">Username: Your Email (Custom access) or 'HoustonTexans' (Generic access)</p> <p align="center">Password: TexansMedia</p>	

HOUSTON TEXANS

HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN (Transcribed by ASAP Sports)

Your thoughts on another dramatic comeback engineered by QB Deshaun Watson and the touchdown where he got kicked in the eye.

"I think we came in at halftime not having played very well offensively, especially, and so we knew that we could play better. And I think that we went out there, and Deshaun did a great job, and the offense did a great job, and it was a really good job by the team. To finish the game like that is really a good thing. When you can finish the the game with possession of the ball was a really good deal."

What have you heard about DE J.J. Watt so far?

"I haven't heard anything. We took him to the hospital right away for an MRI, and I'm sure I'll hear something tonight here pretty soon, and then I'll be able to update you tomorrow."

How tough is that to lose a player like that if it is a season ending injury?

"That's an easy one to answer. He's a great football player. He's an even better guy. Unfortunately we have been in this position before, and I think we have got some guys here, a lot of different guys. It's not going to be one guy that takes his place if that's the case, but we certainly will miss him. I mean that's obvious."

What did you think of how the defense played and also what CB Gareon Conley did?



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"I think what we try to do is we try our best to fill the roster with smart, tough, dependable guys. I think if you can continue to fill the roster with smart, tough, dependable guys that you're going to have guys that go into the game that can learn quickly. They're going to fight, scrap. They're going to do whatever it takes to try to help the team win the game, and I think that's kind of what we have. I think that we've got guys in there that have played football in the past for other teams or for our team, and so they know what to do. And they know how to play. And we have a lot of confidence in them."

Was this the kind of game you were expecting knowing what the Raiders had been doing this season?

"Absolutely, Jon Gruden does a great job. He's done a great job with that football team. They believe in what he's doing. They're very physical, very physical team. Big up front on offense, big up front on defense, physical on special teams. He's a Super Bowl winning coach, and we knew it was going to be a tough game. We knew that in order to win it, we were going to have to play better than we did in the first half. And luckily it was still close at halftime and we were able to come out in the second half and play a lot better."

Did you get the sense that the second half was going to have fewer possessions than the first half?

"That's a good point. Yeah, I think, I always think about that though. I think that's a great question. I think I always think about the fact that really you're only going to get maybe 12 possessions in the game if you're lucky. I'm not sure how many we had. I know we possessed the ball for another good amount of time. I think we were above 35 minutes time of possession maybe. I think, which most of that came in the second half. And that's good. Any time you're possessing the ball that means you're converting on third down and moving the ball. I thought Deshaun (Watson) did a great job of getting us into the right plays and making plays. But, yeah, I always think about that. I think about the limited amount of possessions, really in pro football that's kind of the deal, so you've got to make the most. And when you don't you have a couple possessions there where you're three and out or it's not very good, it's just, it doesn't feel very good so we got going there in the second half and did better."

Can you describe that last touchdown that QB Deshaun Watson threw and then getting kicked in the face and still having the ability to throw the touchdown.

"Just a great play. We made the play call there, thought we had a good play, wasn't open initially, he had to move around, he broke tackle. You see him do it time and time again. And then delivered the ball and ended up taking an, accidentally, taking a foot in the eye and just came back and finished the game. That's who he is, he's a winner. We're thrilled that he's on our team. He's a great player and he's a great leader."

Is there a reason that WR Keke Coutee didn't play today?

"I think just in the game plan, I think to be honest with you, probably should, probably had chances to get him in there a little bit more. But the way that the game was going and talking about the limited possessions that we had we just didn't get him into the game, and I think probably could have done a better job of that so there really wasn't any reason other than me doing a better job of getting him in the game."

What did you think of the offensive line's performance today?

"I thought they played tough. We did, we had some shuffle in there, Chris Clark came in and started at right tackle, LT (Laremy Tunsil) went out late in the game and (Dan) Skipper came in, A-Rod (Roderick Johnson) had a couple plays in there. I thought that these guys played tough. They hung in there. We ran the ball pretty well there in the second half, and pass protected decently when we had to. So I thought that those guys really played tough."

Your thoughts on WR Darren Fells's performance today.

"Fells has been a great addition to our team. Somebody out in the hallway asked me about Fells. I mean he's been a great addition. He's a very mature guy. He's a guy that cares. He wants to do what's right for the team, very much of a team oriented guy. He's been a really an excellent addition to our team. He's helped us tremendously."

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ILB DYLAN COLE (Transcribed by Carrington Gilbert)

How much grief are you going to take for the pick?

“Plenty of it. I’m taking plenty of grief right now. And rightfully so. I should’ve had that one. And I should have taken that one back for the touchdown.”

What was different with that interception opportunity compared to Tennessee in 2017?

“Maybe he just didn’t throw it well enough for me. That one for Tennessee, I mean that was right to my chest. It was beautiful, tight end ducked for me. I think he just threw it a little bit too high for me. We’ll talk about it. See if I can talk to Gardner Minshew. See if he will throw me one.”

Going across the pond, it’s a different environment and a lot of adjustments to make on top of the injuries. Is there anything more to focus on beyond then next man up mentality?

“I think like you said, next man up and making sure that we get our sleep. Making sure that however we’re going over there, whenever we’re going over there, that we do get our sleep. You know nutrition, everything that stacks up on top of each other, we’ve got to really focus in on that. And then our game plan, that’s probably one of the bigger things. If we do all of that, we will be good.”

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CB GAREON CONLEY (Transcribed by Hannah Pietsch)

How did it feel to be with the Oakland Raiders last week and now playing against the guys who were just your teammates?

“Yeah, it felt a little weird, because it’s just a different situation. Playing with them last week and playing with this team. Like I said, I was just trying to contribute to the win and that’s what we got.”

Down deep, was there anything extra because they traded you and then you win the game against them?

“No.”

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ILB ZACH CUNNINGHAM (Transcribed by Raj Sheth)

What was the difference in the defense this game, especially the fourth quarter?

“Just as far as the difference, guys stepped up on all phases from offense, defense and special teams. And, we continued to fight until the very end. That was the big difference throughout the game.”

Do you ever get excited watching QB Deshaun Watson, especially on the last touchdown?

“For sure. It definitely gives us a lot of energy on the other side of the ball. Seeing him play hard and not giving up that’s just something that gives us energy.”

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TE DARREN FELLS (Transcribed by John Holt)

What do you think about the way QB Deshaun Watson is able to keep plays alive and finish plays, especially on that touchdown to you?

“It just shows how great of a playmaker he is. He’s just one of those guys, like you said, that will keep plays alive. You’ve got to be able to read his eyes and go from there.”



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Why did you guys have so much success with those rollouts to the right today?

"I mean, that's been a part of our game plan every week, so we practice it a lot and we just know that Deshaun (Watson) is going to make the right read. It's one of those plays where if he's reading it right, it's hard to stop."

How much do you enjoy how much you've been involved in this offense and being able to help the team this year?

"It's always fun to be able to help my teammates. I've always felt that the more weapons you have on offense, the harder you are to stop. So anything I can to help out the team – pass game, run game, I'm going to do and try to get my teammates involved as well."

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WR DEANDRE HOPKINS (Transcribed by ASAP Sports)

After seeing QB Deshaun Watson's eye after getting hit in the face on that game-winning drive, what was your reaction?

"Deshaun's a warrior. I knew he was going to come back and help us finish that last drive that we needed and that's exactly what he did. I wasn't worried at all. I think even if he couldn't see out that eye, he was still going to come out there."

What did you think about the play of the offense overall today and the way you all were able to come back in the fourth quarter?

"We know the kind of offense we have in this locker room. We know we had some mistakes that we made ourselves. We knew what we had to do in the second half, and that's play mistake-free football. Nobody's perfect, but we came out and played better in the second half, tried to focus on our assignment. There are 11 people out there that play at one time, so we're all in this together."

Before that fourth quarter started, they were going to you first down after first down. Were you calling for the ball or was there a mismatch that you all were exploiting?

"You've got to thank OB (Bill O'Brien) for trusting me in that situation to help us come back and give this offense a spark. I've done that for years in this offense, so just thank OB for trusting me, giving me the ball to help us win."

Your team has had a number of games that have come to one possession. What does that say about where the league is and the resilience of this team?

"It speaks a lot about us, not just as an offense, but as a team, special teams also. There're big plays out there being made not just from offense and defense, but from special teams. So the way we practice and what we've been through before, we know the team we have and we know that we feel like we can come back no matter how down we are. You got a guy like Deshaun in there, we don't panic at all, no one on the sideline panics. And the defense, we had a lot of young guys come in there and make plays, (Keion) Crossen, those guys, they stepped up today."

Having been in the league for a few years now and then having been with Deshaun for a couple years, do you feel like you're playing maybe the best football of your career?

"Yeah, some would say different. They might, like, I'm getting old, year seven, and what not. But honestly, I feel like I am. I feel like being on the same page with Deshaun, I feel like we have been clicking. I feel like not just that but just everybody in the offense, all the skill positions. I feel like us guys, we talk together, not just on the football field but outside the football field about football. So I feel like this is the most we have all been together, honestly."

Based on what you saw on film, was what happened out there on the field today what you expected to see, just a nip and tuck all the way to the end of the ball game?



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“Of course, you got to give your hat off to the Raiders. They're a tough defense. You got some Clemson guys over there making plays, of course. But no, that's what we expected. Of course, we come out and want to win, but we know this is the NFL, it comes down to the last play, last drive a lot.”

You hit 8,000 receiving yards today, only Randy Moss and Larry Fitzgerald did it before you did as far as age-wise. What does that mean to you?

“That means a lot. That means a lot. Those two guys that are in front of me, they're going down with yellow jackets. And I'm in year seven, but I'm 27 and I look up to those two guys right there. They're two of the greatest at my position. So for me to be able to do that with the carousel that I've had over my career. I don't like patting myself on the back, but a lot of people go like this (hand motion indicating roller coaster) when things aren't going their way. But you got to thank how my mama raised me to always stay persistent and never give up. I always keep my head up no matter the situation and what's going on around me. But some people just look at stats and think it's just stats, but it's more to it, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes. No matter what kind of season you have, 2-14, 7-9, whatnot, especially at the receiver position, it's one of those positions that's the individual position a lot. When you're out there you're going up against a man one-on-one most of the time and I got to thank the quarterbacks that's helped me get 8,000 yards, because I can't throw the ball to myself, even the Brock Osweiler, the Brandon Weedens, I got to thank those guys, honestly. Y'all might laugh, but I can't throw the ball to myself.”

What are your thoughts on losing DE J.J. Watt for the year?

“J.J.'s a great player, but it's football, somebody else has to step up.”

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RB CARLOS HYDE (Transcribed by Haley Morris)

Any additional emphasis on the offensive side helping the defense side, particularly on the back end, to get the outcomes you want.

“I mean, yeah, most definitely You have to have a next-man-up mentality. We got some good players that can go in there and fill those roles. They did a good job today. Got us a win. That's all that matters. It wasn't pretty but we came away with the win.”

Does it do anything at all when you have a guy like RB Josh Jacobs cross you, is that an extra incentive?

“He's got all of my respect. I came up to him after the game and told him to keep it going. He's got all of my respect. I love the way he runs the ball. I like watching him run the ball. He's definitely one of the top backs in this league and he plays like it each week. Just to be a rookie playing like that, that level that's big time for him. Keep it going and stay healthy.”

What does it mean when you see your leader get kicked in the eye and still be able to complete a pass for a touchdown?

“D4 (Deshaun Watson). He's big time. Each week, he comes in and plays at a high level. Definitely motivates me to play at a high level, step my game up. I think it motivates the whole offense, honestly. You see guys starting to play with a little more sense of urgency. He knows guys (are) starting to finish. Sees the offense start to open up. We did a good job today closing the game when the ball was in our hands.”

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OLB WHITNEY MERCILUS (Transcribed by Taylor Turner)

Talk about the defensive effort in the fourth quarter?



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“We settled down in the second half and really just concentrated on doing our job one play at a time. Sure enough, we did that. They had a big play third down, whatever down the field it was, but it got broken up. It got broken up, so that was great. Our DBs did a tremendous job in the second half, even though we had a lot of guys down, so we really took that next man up mentality to heart.”

What was it like trying to come back from all the injuries and get mentally in the right space?

“I think every guy in this locker room has a dog mentality, which is it doesn’t matter what happens, whoever gets injured, the next guy is ready to step up; make a play. No matter how dire the situation might be, the fat lady hasn’t sang yet, so we’re just going to go out there and make plays.”

How critical was this win given you guys are going abroad?

“It’s huge. We want to win our division every year. That’s really a lot of the focus, it gives us a chance to get in the playoffs if win our division, so just being up one game is huge. We didn’t want to lose last week, but we shot ourselves in the foot. But we came back and won this week. We have a big divisional game next week; we have to turn the page now.”

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S JUSTIN REID (Transcribed by Brianna Lewis)

What did you think after CB Gareon Conley made the touchdown saving pass break-up?

“Huge, I think we’re 4-0 on guys old teams, Los (Carlos Hyde) one, Gip (Tashaun Gipson) one, Leel (Jahleel Addae) one. Rob (Bradley Roby) going to win, so we’ve got to keep that going. It was a big win for us, great team effort all around. Phenomenal effort by GC (Gareon Conley), coming in and playing the way he did, having those PBUs. It’s awesome.”

Your team is almost out of cornerbacks, are you ready to line up as a cornerback if you need to?

“Shoot, if they need me to play, I’ll play. I feel like I can play any position on the field honestly, but that’s just a testament to dudes stepping up. We have the depth, we have everyone we need. We’ve got to get through Jacksonville, get through London. The bye week is going to be huge for us, getting everybody back healthy again, so that way we can finish the second half of the season strong.”

How big of a blow will it be to the defense if DE J.J. Watt's injury is serious?

“We’re going to have to talk to the medical staff and see what’s really going on with him. We’ll just have to see what happens, either way. He’s a phenomenal player on this team; he’s a leader on this team, so we’ve just got to see what happens.”

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QB DESHAUN WATSON (Transcribed by ASAP Sports)

Can you take us through that play where the guy kicks you in the face and what, where he hit you and in terms of your eye?

“Yeah, I just kind of just trying to make a play and try to spin him off and when I spun him, his leg kind of came up and I’m not sure where it hit. It just hit my helmet, that’s all I remember. And this eye went shut and just kind of was, could kind of seeing Fells kind of going to my right, I had to re-adjust my helmet and then this eye was actually going closed too, so I kind of threw it blind. But I kind of assumed where he was going and kind of adjusted and let my arm guide it. And then I didn’t even see the play until after the game. I just kind of just laid there and heard the crowd go crazy and knew we scored.”

Did you have to get stitches on your eye?



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“No, just patched it up.”

Have you ever had a play like that where you got hit where you couldn't see and were able to complete?

“I've got poked in the eye before or I got, some turf got in my eye before, but nothing as crazy as this, not that I remember.”

You really used your tight ends a lot today and I guess it's like National Tight End Day, did you know that?

“I actually saw something this morning but I thought it was a joke. I thought someone was just tweeting that, but I guess it is. So I'm glad they came in handy today for us, for sure.”

How is your eye feeling now?

“I'm fine. Got vision and everything, so I'm good.”

This was your eighth time you've had a comeback in the fourth quarter for a win. So is it just, I know you may not think about it beforehand, but you guys just always think you can win it, is that pretty accurate?

“For sure. We're never out of a game regardless of what the score is. We got to play 60 minutes. It's the NFL, everyone's good, the swing and momentum changes all the time. The game comes down to the inches and we just wanted it. At the end of the game we kind of put a drive together, defense did their job, we went down and scored, defense did their job again, and we put it in the four minute offense and kept getting first downs. And Carlos (Hyde) did a good job of running the ball and O-line did a good job of getting him a little crease and the receivers blocked, so it was a good team win. The first half, is of course the first half, we didn't play to our capability but the second half we came out and did a little better and came out with a W.”

DeAndre Hopkins said he thinks that he's playing the best ball of his career regardless of what the stat says and then he also said that the offense feels like they're the most together they have been in recent years from a talking on field off field togetherness standpoint. Do you sort of feel the same way on both those things?

“For sure, because since I've been here DeAndre (Hopkins) became, he's becoming a better leader each and every year. And he's a guy that really wants to win and he's doing whatever it takes to be able to get guys open, because he understands that he's one of the best receivers if not the best receiver in the NFL, so every week someone's going to double, especially on third down. They got to take our best receiver off the field, because anything that comes his way he's usually going to catch it, he's going to make something happen. So he's got two guys trying to double him and he's trying to free up other guys, so they can get receptions and keep the chains moving for this offense. He's an unselfish person, he's a guy that just wants to win. He don't care what the stat line says, he doesn't care how many touchdowns he has, as long as we get that W on Sundays and we're aiming for what we want to go to, the ultimate goal, that's what it's all about. And this offense is just continuing to fight through the injuries, through the adversity. And, yeah, we just love each other, we love each other, we help each other, we care about each other, we hang out with each other off the field, outside of this locker room. So it's one of the best offenses since I've ever played I've been a part of. It's special.”

Jon Gruden compared your athleticism to Michael Jordan. How do you react to that?

“Well, I mean Jon Gruden and (Dabo) Swinney are close for sure. But, yeah, Jon, ever since I came out of college I've always loved him. And the same thing he said after the game, he's always loved me, he's always supported me. Since we went to his camp during the pre-draft, like I said, in the previous interviews this week, me and him when I went down there we didn't talk about ball as much. He wanted to get the person, he wanted to know my heart, he wanted to know the person I am today, Deshaun Watson. That's what he wanted to know. And he just fell in love, I fell in love with him and his energy. And he's a great coach, he's a great person and that's pretty dope to come from a guy who's played and coached and been around a lot of football.”

Since you said you weren't able to see the play, what were your guys telling you after the game and how were they describing what you were able to do?



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“They just said it was amazing. I kind of seen it, someone sent it to me after the game and I showed them and everyone thought I got poked in the eye and it was just really a cleat caught me in my left eye. And it was just, I don't know, it was just something that everyone was excited about and just said it was a freak play, but they loved me and that they're happy that I'm all right and I'm a part of this team.”

DE J.J. Watt just tweeted that's out for the season. What does it mean to lose a guy like him for the year?

“It's tough. I mean, that's a big part of this team, but he knows that this locker room, this organization, this town, this city, the Houston Nation is definitely going to support him through his recovery. We always love him, he's going to be right there with us supporting, helping us out and you hate to just see not just him, but anybody go down and any injury and especially season-ending injury. All the work that he put in to get to this point I mean it's crazy, it sucks, but we all send our prayers towards him, we love him and we definitely are going to support him.”

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HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN (Transcribed by ASAP Sports)

Your team needed stops and couldn't get them. What did the Texans do to keep things going?

“The quarterback. Couldn't catch him. The guy made a lot of plays. He made a lot of plays. Fourth and 1 coming out of the locker room to start the third quarter, they go for it on their own 30-yard line and he runs for it there. A couple scrambling completions. You've got to tip your hat to Watson. He was awesome today. Doggone Watson. Yeah, we only had the ball three times in the second half, unfortunately. Very unfortunate. Had a lot of penalties, and penalties and not being able to get the ball much in the second half was a problem.”

Is Watson's poise something that stands out?

“If you've watched Watson play, we're not the first team he's gotten. He's a spectacular player. He wills it out of his team, and he makes something out of nothing, and he did a lot again today, and I credit him. It's a credit to him.”

Speaking of that, on Watson's last touchdown, it looked like they had him down and he just extended that play.

“I don't know. I saw it. What do you want me to say? You see Michael Jordan, you see some of the great athletic plays in any sport, you've got to tip your hat to the guy. We had him three times, and then he makes an unbelievable throw and the kid (Darren Fells) makes a great catch. It's a lot of unscripted offense that they're really good at, and it makes no excuses for us losing a football game. We have to get off the field. When you have 100 yards in penalties and give up 30 first downs, it's going to be tough to win against a playoff team.”

Do you have an update on C Rodney Hudson?

“I don't know, I'm concerned. He was huge today. We've had a lot of adjustments on our line. We felt really good about having the starters together for the first time. I don't know the severity of it, but we'll have to deal with it.”

How did C Andre James do filling in for Hudson?

“Did good. He did really good. I'm really proud of that kid. We had a lot of young guys step up today again, and for that I'm very proud. This has been the most ridiculous road trip I've ever been on. I'm going to become a travel agent after this trip. I know a lot about moving around, flying around, and different hotels now.”

How do you feel about having a lot of home games coming up?

“Well, I feel pretty good. I feel pretty good about the progress we're making, and I'm going to continue to beat that drum. We're building our team around a lot of young players that are playing critical roles. Really proud of



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our young players. It doesn't mean we're a finished product. We want to win some of these tight games. So we'll continue to work hard, and we know the Lions are another team coming off a big win today. They'll be a handful. But we've got to get better in all three phases, and it starts with me."

When a team leaves everything out on the field like they did today, what do you share with them?

"Well, I just encourage our guys to stick together. I know they will. And you know, we've got to hit the weight room tomorrow. We've got to study the tape. We've got to make the corrections, and we've got to keep laying blocks. We've got to keep building. We've got to keep pounding the rock, as I used to say. And that's all you can do right now. But you've got to be proud, if you're any kind of football coach, of your young players and your team in general for withstanding a very tough road trip and a lot of injuries and adversity against good teams on the road."

On the pass to WR Hunter Renfrow, did it surprise you the way he shook off that guy?

"Not really. He's a pretty good player. We had some really good plays today in the passing game. Had a big play called back to (Darren) Waller in the first half that still upsets me terribly. But we had a lot of contributors today and we've had a lot of contributors so far. Hope it continues. Today (Zay) Jones made some plays too, so it was a good day for the young guys."

How did drops hurt your team today?

"Yeah, I thought we had some chances. We're playing a team that plays 100% man-to-man, really. They're not screwing around. They're playing in your grill man-to-man. I wouldn't say 100 percent, but a high percentage, and with that being said you've got to take some shots and try to win those 50-50 balls."

How did you think CB Trayvon Mullen did in his first start?

"He did pretty good. He had to go in and get IV'd. He lost a lot of fluids. He's probably excited here, first time out, but I thought he played physical and played pretty good against one of the best in the game."

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QB DEREK CARR (Transcribed by ASAP Sports)

Does this feel like one you should have had?

"1,000 percent. This one hurt my heart so much. I mean, we only had three possessions, I think, in the second half. You know, got points on two of them. The third one we should – I felt we should still be on the field. But we're not. You know, this one hurt, and I'm just not – that's all I can say."

Being able to single-up Tyrell Williams and get chunk yards there, that was pretty effective for you guys.

"Yeah, absolutely. I know there's two there that he wants back, two or three of them. But you guys know me, when Tyrell (Williams) has been in there, when we had Coop (Amari Cooper) and Crab (Michael Crabtree) rolling, I don't care if they drop the ball, whatever, they're going to get their chances. If we don't connect, if I miss a throw, the ball is still coming with confidence. And so whenever teams want to single him up and say, all right, make him beat us, whoever that guy is, over my career, no matter who's guarding him we're going to take that chance. Tyrell did a great job, and there's probably two or three I could have maybe thrown a better ball for him that we could have back."

What was your reaction to C Rodney Hudson getting hurt today? How did you think C Andre James did?

"Yeah, any teammate that goes down your hurt, but especially someone you're really close with. You know, it's more as a brother than – the first thing I asked him, I said, 'How's Amber?' Did you call your wife, make sure she's OK? Because sometimes we can forget those things as players. We're more concerned about trying to get back on the field or something like that. We made sure that she was all right, and it hurts your heart, but I thought Andre



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(James) did a great job I thought against a really good front. They've got a really good nose tackle, also, and I thought Andre competed his tail off, made some great calls. I didn't have to override any of them. He was on it. I'd ask him -- I'd check for the point, check what decisions he was making, and he was right on almost every time. He did a great job. He did a really, really great job."

Now with four or five games at home, do you feel like you still have a lot in front of you?

"Absolutely, and it is. Let's be honest, it really is, especially in this league, right? For sure. No one is hanging their head. We're disappointed, it hurts, first time coming back to Houston I wanted to win this for more reasons than one, you know. Had a lot of friends here at the game. I want to play good and win in front of them and beat their team, because it's not my team anymore, as much as it was. But everything is still in front of us. We don't really have a lot of control over a lot of things, but we can control how we prepare and try and win these football games."

The first half there were no targets for WR Tyrell Williams and then you had three in a row to him. Is that an adjustment you guys made?

"Yeah, and it's an adjustment, if you think about all the games that he missed and the practice time he missed, it's an adjustment when someone comes back in the huddle. When teams are used to certain coverages, I'm used to going to (Darren) Waller or I'm used to (Hunter) Renfrow, Tyrell is here, too. It is an adjustment. And then we saw, 'Hey, man, we've got to get him the ball.' Going back and looking at the pictures, there was one I threw to Trevor (Davis) on a go route, he stumbled -- if he doesn't stumble he catches it, and it's a big play. But you look at the other side, Tyrell is there now, and you go, 'Oh, man, that's a good match-up, too.' You replay those and then you get in the second half, and 'Hey, this is what we're all seeing.' Come out and just try to get him some touches, especially with how much of a dynamic playmaker he is."

They were missing several starters in the secondary and then one more went out with a concussion. It seems like there were opportunities, openings there on the outside?

"Absolutely, and I think we did a good job of going after some of those openings. You know, when -- we only had a couple possessions in the second half, so it didn't, we didn't get to attack them as much as we wanted to, but when we had the chances we took full advantage of those opportunities, and I'll say this, too, to close, that I love this city. I love these fans. They were always good to me. They were good to my brother sometimes when he was standing up, and I have nothing but love for Houston, and I just wanted that to be known, because our family really loves this place."

What goes through your mind when you are watching QB Deshaun Watson?

"I mean, yeah, they kept running that same little bootleg, RPO kind of thing, little deal, and it was like, please stop him, please stop this man. He's a great player. He's the leader of their team, you can tell. And he just -- he just beats people in different ways. He's really good at that. It was funny today, like we were laughing because he'll make a scramble play and throw it and then I was able to make a scramble play and throw one and we started laughing, like yes, there we go, we're matching him for the scrambles. But he's a great player. I have the utmost respect for him. I hope he's OK. Looks like he'll be all right. But utmost respect, wish him the best going forward."

Going against CB Gareon Conley so soon after he was your teammate, what was the experience?

"Yeah, I don't know if that's ever happened, right? Like that was crazy. The first time you go somewhere else and play their team. You'd have to look that one up for me. But I know a lot about him. Obviously we've competed a lot in practice, and that's my brother. I love Gareon. I think he's a really good player. I think he's going to do really well here. They're going to -- once they get healthy and all that, they'll be rolling and be just fine. I think them adding Gareon is a really good piece for them, and that's my brother. It's never fun seeing those guys leave."

How would you summarize the last five games?

"Tiring. And I try and do a really good job of nutrition, sleep, all that kind of stuff, taking care of my body and all that kind of stuff, but those miles add up, man. You hate to -- I'm glad that I feel I'm done with it, that's for sure."



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But there's no excuse. Like come game time I felt great. I felt fine. But after a while you're like, another trip, like another Friday we have to leave. Kind of want to take my wife on a date, if I'm being honest. You know, I think being able to be at home, sleep in our bed, extra night or two is going to be really good for our team."

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DE MAXX CROSBY (Transcribed by Joshua Barrientes)

One of these games with QB Deshaun Watson where you have to just tip your hat and go it was just his day today?

"I feel like we could've easily finished a lot of plays. We had him wrapped up multiple times and let him get loose and we can't have that happen. It's about three or four plays in a game that really determine the outcome. We just got to get better. We gotta finish and get better for next week."

What do you guys learn or take away from this game with it being so close?

"Yeah, you learn a lot. They are a good team, I feel like we're a good team as well and we gotta finish games. When we have the quarterback wrapped up at the end of the game, when we have running backs wrapped up, and when we're getting penalties, like my personal foul, it can't happen. There's a bunch of little things and we just got to improve on it."

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WR HUNTER RENFROW (Transcribed by Johan Fotso)

Is this a tough one that you know you had and it kind of slipped away?

"I think for us, and I was just sharing in all my experiences, you learn from games like this. There's going to be a winner and there's going to be a loser. And we're going to have a chance to go make those plays that it takes to win later in the season. There's going to be a game just like this Week 12, 13, 14. There's going to be another one, there's going to be another opportunity to go finish a game, so we have to learn from it and we got to get into what we did wrong and just have that killer instinct."

Is it bittersweet that your first touchdown was in a game that you didn't win?

"I mean it's something you dream about as a kid, but I wouldn't say anything sweet about it. The goal is to win the game and like I said, not really just distraught, because I know we have a chance to get better. I know that we have a chance to go finish that game late in the season. And that's kind of the message that I think we need is to go and just finish it next time."

Can you talk about some of the players on the other team from Clemson such as QB Deshaun Watson, WR DeAndre Hopkins?

"I mean Deshaun's (Watson) a baller, you can tell he's a heart of a champion. That's just who he is. To go out there and put those drives together and like you said Nuk (DeAndre Hopkins) and D.J. (Reader) and Carlos (Watkins), that's bittersweet. They're good friends so you're happy for them, but it's at your own expense."

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