



DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS vs. HOUSTON TEXANS

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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

On the offensive balance

“We really got off to a rough start. We made two big third downs that got called for holding calls and had a bunch of penalties. The thing is we stuck with our game plan. We needed to play physical and win the line of scrimmage. Defensively, we held them to some field goals and offensively we got it going in the second quarter. Just looking at the big picture, good defense, good red zone plays offensively and winning the turnover battle gives you a chance to win in this league.”

On what the team focused on this week in practice

“We had a lot of time on our hands. We had 11 days between games and so we went back to preparation detail, the little stuff. It was just the little things, trying to remind ourselves on how we went about our business and [getting] really focused. We had a good week. We made mistakes tonight, but the bottom line, we didn’t beat ourselves. We didn’t beat ourselves with turnovers. We calmed the penalties down in the second half, late in the game and then we got back to playing. We played very consistently defensively throughout the course of the game. That was our focus. We need to hand on to that. That’s the key, to be consistent doing it.”

On receiving the game ball from CB Aqib Talib

“Coaches get game balls when players play well. Our players played really well tonight. I’m proud of them because I asked them to do some things for me over the course of the last 10, 11 days and kind of regroup ourselves a little bit. You have to do that in this league sometimes and they did. They responded. You could tell last night that they were locked in and ready to play. Like I said, I liked the consistency of how we played.”

On RB Devontae Booker getting an expanded role and the running game’s overall success

“I think it was really important because you can see he has some young juice to him. He gives us the ability to make some big plays. He’s pushing [RB] C.J. [Anderson] to be the best he can be, and C.J. responded tonight and played extremely well. It’s going to be really important. We have some key players in young positions. [FB] Andy [Janovich] played really, really well tonight. ‘Book’ and our young tight end [TE Jeff Heuerman] played tonight and helped us out. It’s going to be important along the way that these guys grow up. We’re seven games into this deal, so it’s good to see them step up.”

On how big plays open up the offense

“It’s important. We got played in a lot of quarters early and it was tough. When we were able to run the ball, we were able to get them out of some quarters and get some one-on-one type coverage. [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] and ‘D.T.’ [WR Demaryius Thomas] always make big plays when they get opportunities. They played really well tonight. They worked in the run game. It’s going to be important. If we can run the ball, then we can give them a chance to go against some single coverage. That’s extremely important, so hopefully we can do that.”

On whether this is the formula he would like to win with

“I think we’re continuing to build on what we are. We’ve been through some issues at tight end and stuff with this football team. We’ve been playing a lot of three and four-wides. Tonight we settled down a little bit. We played some more two-back type offense and two tight-type offense. We’ll see. And like I said, that’s more about young players becoming better players for us right now. We just have to keep going.”

On the decision not to attempt to score points on the last drive first half

“I’m not going to explain it too much because you’re not going to agree with me. We had our reasons why we did it, let me just say that. I know we had a third-and-six to make right there. We had some issues protection-wise. We had an issue with some of our punt protection with [Texans DE Jadeveon] Clowney rushing the punter. There were some things that came up in a conversation. We’d like to be more aggressive right there, but we had some issues that made us make that decision.”

On facing Texans QB Brock Osweiler

“I can’t speak for Brock. He’s a great kid. I talked to him after the game. I was concerned there late in the game because of what he did last week even though we had a two score lead. This team thinks the world of him. These guys were in the same locker room with him for a long time. They won a championship with him. That’s part of football. There were other players on that field that’s played for this team or that team. It’s kind of part of the game. I think once it’s all said and done you go play and like I said, I’m proud of how we played today.”

On winning with the Ring of Fame players in attendance

“We need to have more Ring of Fames (laughs). That’s pretty cool. We had a nice moment on Sunday with ‘Fletch’ [Broncos Ring of Fame LB Simon Fletcher] and [Broncos Ring of Fame K] Jason [Elam]. [Broncos Ring of Fame S] John [Lynch] was not there. John was doing a telecast somewhere. I understand they had a great banquet last night, a great weekend. This organization really cherishes its former players and treats them great. This weekend is just a great example of that. It’s good to see everybody. [Broncos Ring of Fame] Coach [Dan] Reeves was in my meetings last night. He’s been on me all weekend. It’s good to see everybody.”

On frustrating the Texas’ offense

“I think we made them move enough. I don’t think we had one and I don’t think we got to him one time from a sack stand point and they did not get to us. That’s the one thing that both teams do best. I thought we made him move around and got our hands up really well and knocked down about four or five balls that were very important. I’m thinking of a fourth down play. [Defensive Line Coach] Bill [Kollar] does a good job with the guys.”

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK C.J. ANDERSON

On his first career 100-yard game before November

“I am just excited. We played really well up front. Our offensive line played tremendous. You have to give them all the credit, I just picked the right spots and just tried to run through tackles. I put more on myself to make more plays and we did that tonight.”

On playing with a chip on his shoulder

"I think I always played that way. I've always tried to show my ability and let people know my story. It just feels good to be fresh, that's how I look at it. If [RB Devontae] Booker and I can keep this 1-2 punch, we can help our defense out. We can definitely go as far as we want to."

On what went right tonight and how to sustain the success

"Everything was clicking today. I said this Week 1 when I was up here and Week 2, our whole thing is being consistent. We did it tonight and we have to turn around and do it again Sunday against San Diego. Turn that around and do it on the road against Oakland. We just have to continue to keep going, keep grinding, keep preparation and focused the way we want to."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On whether the team takes pride in the pass rush despite not registering a sack

"I take pride in wins. I take pride in great defense. I'm not sure exactly how many passing yards or rushing yards, but I think we did a really good job in the passing department and in the rushing department. They got a couple runs on us, but we did a great job on defense. For us to do a great job on defense we have to have a great pass rush. [DE Derek] Wolfe has to get off and [OLB] Shaq [Barrett] and [OLB] Shane [Ray]. We all have to get off."

On what allowed them to have a solid start on defense

"I don't know if there was a difference. The last two weeks we let the team go down on the first possession and score. There was a big emphasis for us to get a three-and-out. I'm not sure how many three-and-outs we had in the game, I want to say we had two or three. That's what we want to do. We want to give our offense a short field and let them do their thing."

On if he had any words for Texans quarterback Brock Osweiler

"I did. There was one play where I spun around and came on the side. He could've just laid down and taken a sack, but he didn't. I said 'Man, why didn't you lay down and just take a sack', and he said he saw me every time I came around. But for me and Brock, we're good. I love the big guy. I wish him the best. I want to see him be the type of quarterback that we all know he can be. There's nothing but positive vibes between me and Brock."

On if he's disappointed that he lost his sack streak

"There was a sack streak? I wasn't paying attention to it. My bad, guys. I'm all about wins. I'll take a win any day. Sacks are great, that's what I do. That's my job. I wasn't able to get it done today, but we got the win, so that's even better."

On what he was thinking on Houston's second fumble

"I thought somebody tipped it. Me and Wolfe ran a stunt game. Usually when I run a stunt game, I'm the sacrificial lamb. I'm setting a pick for [Dallas Mavericks F] Dirk Nowitzki to come around and shoot the three. I'm setting the pick and I couldn't really see anything. I just saw the ball float, and I thought Derek had tipped it or something. I was just getting ready to go to the next play, and they said it was a fumble. It was all good."

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN

On how the success of the running game makes his job easier

"I think we said all along that we need balance in this league to have success and keep defenses on their toes. The guys up front did a heck of a job and I can't say enough about what the two backs did."

On the play of WRs Emmanuel Sanders and Demaryius Thomas

"You've got to have them. It's tough to go four yards, four yards and do it that way, and 'D.T.' [Demaryius Thomas], those guys are going to make plays for us you just have to give them a chance."

On whether defenses will have to come out of deed coverages if they keep running that way

"You're probably going to get a lot of single-safety stuff. We have to run the ball, that's a staple of this offense: run-play, pass,-boot, the keeper, etc., so hopefully we'll be able to continue to build on the things we did tonight."

On whether the Texans showed them anything different then he saw on film

"They showed us a lot of what we saw. They did what they do and they're pretty good at it. They have a good front and one of the things that we saw was not quarterbacks holding onto the ball too long with those guys back there. They do a lot of things to create pressure and they have the personnel to do it, too. They have great players up front so we knew it was going to play out that way."

On attempting half the number of throws he did against San Diego

"I think obviously last week we had 50 throws. It's going to be tough to get it done that way. It was good to have some balance back in the offense. We did a lot of good things and hopefully we'll be able to build back up to it."

On how the team was able to bounce back from consecutive losses

"We had a lot of energy at practice. 58 [OLB Von Miller] on defense brought it every day and Pug [Outside Linebackers Coach Fred Pagac] brought it, too, his position coach. [I'm] very thankful to have those guys out there every day pushing us at practice."

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK DEVONTAE BOOKER**On he and RB C.J. Anderson complementing each other**

"Absolutely, we did complement each other well tonight. Him going in there and running hard, then I come in as a change-of-pace and run hard again. It's just breaking the defense down. They're thinking that since he's running hard and they spell him that I'm going to come in and run soft, but it's the same way. We're going to just run them down."

On how it felt getting his first career touchdown

"It felt great. I thought I should have had it back in preseason or a game before, but tonight I ran hard and got my first NFL touchdown. It felt great."

On the chemistry in the running back room

"It means a lot. We talk about everything throughout the week and just when we're not watching film, we could talk about anything on what we see or what we would like to run and we will try to pitch it to our coach. Tonight we went there and ran our butt off and made defenders be punished."

On if he kept the ball that he scored with

"Yeah, I kept the ball. I have to. I'll probably put it up in a case, but will probably put it in my parents' house in California."

On whether he felt any added pressure to get the running game going during the week

"Absolutely, I think so. Everybody expects more out of us and we wanted to make a difference out there tonight and we did."

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER TODD DAVIS**On if he spoke to Texans QB Brock Osweiler on the field**

“Not too much. I told him that I came in on a blitz one time, I almost got to him and I told him that I was coming for him next time, but it was all love. It was all love.”

On the importance of this win to the season

“It was huge. I felt like losing two in a row, you start looking around and people start asking questions. To lose three in a row, we just could not have that happen. We just had to go back to playing our game and get back on the right track.”

On if he’s excited for the rematch against San Diego

“I’m very excited to see them again. I think that we have a nasty taste in our mouths from Thursday night, so we need to get that out.”

On if tonight’s game was a total effort by the defense

“I feel like it was a great game. We’ve played a lot of good games, but tonight it was special.”

On his fumble recovery

“The play was where I had to get over the top. He ends up cutting back. I tried to get back over, ‘Stew’ [S Darion Stewart] came down and lays the hit like he always does on him, and the ball fell right in my hands.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.

On the defense forcing two turnovers

“They were crucial. We just need turnovers. Our goal was three tonight and we only ended up getting two, but those were crucial for us. We needed those tonight. Our goal was to get three turnovers on [Texans QB] Brock [Osweiler]. He played a little safe. He was overthrowing those deep balls, the ‘pickable’ balls. We came out with two turnovers today and that was huge for us.”

On taking the passing game away from the Texans

“First half they tried to go deep with us, so we knew we had to take away the deep shots with Brock. We know he has a really strong arm so we wanted to eliminate that off top. Once we were able to take away his deep shots, we knew he couldn’t beat us going short all night. That was the plan; we knew if we took away the deep shots and made him throw underneath that he couldn’t beat us. That’s what we did today.”

On the defense playing a complete game

“Being able to have a complete game like this today, getting a turnover and not giving up any touchdowns. Getting that stop on the first down [was crucial]. We knew that if we could come out strong on the first drive and get a stop, then we’d be back to normal.”

On holding Osweiler to his passing total

“That’s what we’re capable of doing. If we come out playing Broncos football and everyone on the secondary is on the same page, we’re capable of doing this every week. We just have to have another great week of practice like we did last week and keep it rolling.”

On the defense’s fast start tonight

“That was a point of emphasis all week, to start fast and we did that today. We knew that if we could come out and start fast that it [would] set the tone for the whole team. [Head] Coach [Gary] Kubiak had faith in us. We deferred the ball and started on defense again. That’s the type of belief he has in us.”

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On what today's win does for the team's confidence

"It's just getting back into our winning ways. We had a tough two weeks so it wasn't just about going against Brock, but just getting a win for ourselves and our confidence in this team."

BRONCOS TACKLE RUSSELL OKUNG

On staying committed to run after a slow start

"The running game is a patient game. You have to be extremely resilient after the first half and into the second. We able to show how dynamic our offense can really be."

On the offense's overall performance

"Book' [RB Devontae Booker] did a tremendous job and [RB] C.J. [Anderson] and [QB] Trevor [Siemian] definitely did a good job at getting the ball out. Hats off to the wide receivers, they were blocking on the outside as well, too. It was a team effort, when we play like that, we're hard to beat."

On the confidence of the offense

"I think that it's more that we were resilient and we were really patient with the running game. We knew that if we stayed at it and we stayed consistent, we would start breaking some big runs and we did."

On big performances for the running backs

"I think we stay true to who we are, our group and who we are as a team. Every day it's a process and we're still working to get better."

On how to build off of this win

"You just keep eating humble pie and you realize that it was hard to get there and it's a process. We made a lot of mistakes. There are tons of things that we can do to get better. We stay true to the fundamentals, keep our head down and keep working hard."

On the feeling when he saw the running backs score

"It's a great feeling. All week we've been really putting in the work to see those guys have great success and we saw that today and want to see that a lot more."

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHANE RAY

On reestablishing a defensive identity

"It was huge for us just to get back to our identity, offensively, defensively and special teams. We made plays, put points on the board and helped each other out. I think that we've been beating each other as far as maybe the defense not doing enough or the offense not doing enough, but today we were complete and that's the best part about tonight, honestly."

On preparing for San Diego

"Just film study and get ready to go. It's next week."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER EMMANUEL SANDERS

On this being a win the team really needed

“We definitely needed that win and thank God we got it. Obviously we got an opportunity to get on a roll and that’s what it’s about. Obviously this Texans team, they’re a good team but we came out and the whole motto was, ‘We can’t be 0-3 and we can’t do that.’ We got back on the right track tonight.”

On something changing in the first half offensively

“We started running the football really well. [RB] C.J. Anderson started toting it. [RB Devontae] Booker came in and started toting it. The offensive line started toting it. I just remember talking to the offensive line and telling them, ‘hey look, we are in a bar fight right now and we have to go to war.’ That was a physical game. I have all types of cuts on my legs and my arms. That was a physical game, but that’s the type of ball that we play. That’s Broncos football.”

On getting down inside the 5-yard-line and other players getting the touchdowns

“You know I have to give D.T. [Demaryius Thomas] a hard time for that one. I was like ‘Hey man, did you do that on purpose?’ He came in and still scored and that’s what it’s about. Obviously we have a team and we speak of last year’s team the World Championship Team and the thing that I enjoyed the most about that team was the camaraderie that we had. We’re starting to develop that as a team here and it’s starting to become fun to go to work, and that’s what it’s about.”

On Texans QB Brock Osweiler coming up to him after the game

“Brock walked up to me and told me he loved me and I told him I loved him. Obviously, there is a respect there. I had the best game of my career with Brock at the helm against the Steelers where I had 180 yards and it was pretty cool. I always wish Brock nothing but the best.”

BRONCOS TACKLE DONALD STEPHENSON

On creating big holes for the running backs

“We finally got all of us together, got a full week of practice and we had more intensity during our practice this week. [Head] Coach [Gary] Kubiak and all of the offensive coaches did a good job putting us in the right positions too.”

On having a long week to prepare for Houston

“We definitely needed it, get that bad taste out of our mouth and run the ball for a change.”

On bringing back the toss play

“That’s always fun to get out there in front and block for our guys.”

On anything being done differently that led to success

“I think it was just more intensity. We knew what we had to do tonight. We’ve been disappointed the past couple of weeks and we just wanted to get that out of our system.”

On getting the running game going

“The play action really helped us out tonight, and that’s our offense. We have to be able to run the ball and when we get that going everything else opens up.”

BRONCOS SAFETY DARIAN STEWART

On his forced fumble

“I thought that big play right there was the turning point right there. Our offense was able to get the ball back and put some points up. I’m taking it. T.J.’s [Ward] already got two on the season. I need one. I definitely think that was me, and shoot, I felt every bit of it, so it had to be me.”

On Texans QB Brock Osweiler's fumble

"I'm happy it happened, and it was a great, heads up play by [Broncos CB] Chris [Harris Jr.] picking the ball up. That's why we practice it. Any time the ball is on the ground, we pick it up. It's good seeing plays like that."

On how special it was to shut down a quarterback the way the Broncos did

"It was very special. We had to welcome Brock back the right way, and I thought we did that defensively. I thought we came out and were the more physical team."

On how important it was to reestablish the team's dominant defense

"It was very important. It's always slow starts that get us behind, so this game, we wanted to come out and start fast and just keep our foot on the pedal."

On facing the Chargers again on Sunday

"Looking forward to it. That [Week 6 loss in San Diego] put a bad taste in our mouth. I think we've got something for them this week."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB**On bouncing back after consecutive losses**

"We had a great week of practice and it showed today. We kept [Texans QB] Brock [Osweiler] out of the end zone and that's perfect. That's the goal every week, so we got our job done this week."

On what was different about this week versus the last two games

"I feel like we started fast. I think we came out, and that first drive of the game, they didn't get any points. Then they came out and got points on their second drive. But we had, like I said, a great week of practice, paid a lot of attention to detail and we started fast. It carried over to the game."

On giving Broncos HC Gary Kubiak the game ball

"It was cool, man. I had a little foul language, so I don't know if it's going to make it to the TV or nothing. I don't know if it's going to make the TV, but it was awesome. It was awesome."

On if it was more rewarding to have success against Osweiler

"I looked up in the fourth quarter, before I think that last drive, and he had like 70 yards passing. I just smiled on the inside. That's what we wanted to do. We wanted Brock to come out here and struggle. He came out here and struggled."

On if practicing against Osweiler for years helped the Broncos' defensive gameplan

"To tell you the truth, I didn't really focus on what I knew from Brock. I just went off like I never met him, never played against him. I just watched the tape and went off what I knew on the tape."

On if he gave Osweiler a hug after the game

"Yeah, he said: 'Good game.' I told him: 'Good game.' I don't know all what I told him."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER DEMARYIUS THOMAS

On the spark that Broncos WR Emmanuel Sanders delivered early

"It was even before the catch. It was the talk in the huddle. He just [said], 'Go out there and fight like it's your last. Act like we're in a dog fight.' And then, next thing you know, he comes up and makes a play. He got the running game started, and that's where we've got to start as an offense. We've got to get our running game started and stuff starts to open up for the passes."

On if he's frustrated that he's not getting bigger numbers in this offense

"I'm not worried about the numbers. It's about winning now. I've been playing this game for a long time. I can't worry about the numbers anymore. All I care about is getting the chance to go back to the Super Bowl and winning one and putting ourselves in that situation. You want the individual numbers, but you've got to get the run game going and stuff. Whatever we've got to do to win."

On the offensive struggles in the third quarter

"I really don't know, and that's one thing we've got to work on. That even started in the first quarter. The first quarter, we go out and sometimes three-and-out and same thing with the third quarter. We've just got to get over that hump and go down and try to put some points on the board. Of course, coming off first down one the defense just got a three-and-out, you try to give them some rest."

On forcing opposing defenses to change coverages by effectively running the ball

"I hope so. We'll just have to run it all night. It helps us a lot. You've got to hope that the defense gets out of what they were doing. They did a little bit, but most of the time, they stayed in what they were doing so that's one reason we almost had 200 yards rushing."

BRONCOS SAFETY T.J. WARD

On the importance of making a defensive stand early

"I think it was just more intention for us this week because of what happened to us the last couple of weeks. We were very intent on that, worked on it in practice and we started pretty fast, on defense."

On how much his experience facing Texans QB Brock Osweiler helped his preparation

"We knew that he struggles with disguises. We've seen that with him playing here and on film. We tried to do that. It started kind of slow in the beginning but we got better as the game went on, it affected him."

On how the defense's play against top quarterbacks this year

"We pride ourselves on that. Brock is a good quarterback with some good receivers, and to hold him for what, about 120 [yards]? 130? I don't know. We pride ourselves on that. We expect to do that every week. It's not just a one-week thing."

On getting back on track after a losing streak

"I mean, it was huge. Just to get that momentum, get that feeling back in here, that confidence that we've been running with and playing with. After the two losses, you could kind of feel the aura of the team kind of going down. We had great preparation this week, came in and played how we prepared. So we're back up."

On the Broncos' key to success in practice

"I don't think there's a corner that needs to be turned. I think we may have missed a turn somewhere along. We've just got to get back focused and get back to why we play the way we play. I think we relaxed a couple weeks and were looking towards Thursday night [against the Chargers in Week 6] and looking towards the weekend and having a long rest and not taking care of business. I

think that's why we lost. This week was completely different and next week is going to be completely different. We're going to try to keep this mindset the rest of the season."

On how motivated the Broncos were to play against Osweiler

"That was the furthest thing on our mind. We're trying to win ballgames. That's it. I don't care who's on the other side that are here 10 years, 20 years, 30 years, a day. This is the team we have. This is the team we're trying to win with. That's all that matters. When Brock was here, we were real cool. Brock, he lived around the corner from me. He's a good dude. He went to Arizona State, so we're both Pac-12 guys, but when you're on the other team, you're the enemy."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE END DEREK WOLFE

On how the defense combated the slow starts they'd had in previous games

"We just made ourselves aware of it and we came out and attacked. We didn't wait to see what they do. We just came out and attacked."

On how it felt to watch the offense get the running game going

"You've got to be happy when your offense can run the ball and just eat up time on the clock. Plus, turning those into points is more important. Taking time away, eating up the clock and scoring points, that's all you can ask for."

On if he had a nagging injury during the game

"My calf was cramping up on me. When I went down on the field, I went to jump over [DE Jared] Crick, and my calf just locked up on me and then I dislocated my finger on his helmet. I was like, 'Yeah, I'm just going to lay here for a minute and let my calf calm down and pop my finger back in', and then I was good."

On if it was nice to have an extended break after two losses

"You've got to get that recovery time. We traveled a lot. We traveled all the way to the East Coast twice. I'm not complaining, but anytime you jump on a plane it wears on your body."

On if they're disappointed that they didn't register a sack

"Anytime you don't get a sack, you're disappointed. But what matters is that you win. And we won. We won in good fashion."

On if they emphasized getting hands up to bat Osweiler's passes

"On film, he hasn't really had a lot of balls batted. I just know that with him practicing as our scout team guy for so many years that I can get them. It wasn't like getting Peyton [Manning]. His eyes are over here but the ball was going that way. You never knew what was going to happen. Anytime a quarterback throws the ball low, especially when he's a tall guy because you can see him back there and when he's going to throw it, it's easy to bat those balls."

TEXANS HEAD COACH BILL O'BRIEN

On the team's offensive struggles

"It was a struggle all night offensively. I thought we did some decent things with our running game and tried to take some shots downfield but weren't able to hit those plays. Turnovers... We were moving the ball there. Defensively, they fought. I thought that we need to do a better job at stopping the run. We knew Denver was going to run the ball. They're a good running team. I give Denver credit. They did a good job tonight. We need to just regroup here and get ready for Detroit. "

On the team's inability to score a touchdown

"I think any time you're coming up with field goals on every single drive, that's probably not the right recipe. You need to come away with touchdowns and we weren't able to do that. Against a team like Denver, you're going to have to score touchdowns and we weren't able to do that."

On how the passing game performed

"I think there came a point in time there where we had to throw the ball and they knew we had to throw the ball. I think our offensive line played a good football game. We ran it decently at times. Again, we really need to work on the passing game, try to fix that, just try to learn from our mistakes and get ready for Detroit."

On QB Brock Osweiler's play

"He battled. He competes. He battled hard. He's into the game on every snap. He's got good poise, tough environment. We all have to do better. Everybody's got to do better. It starts with coaching. Coaches and players are in it together and that's what I just said to them. We have to get back to work and get ready for Detroit and try to finish the first half of the season here with a winning record."

On T Derek Newton's injury

"He hasn't even had an MRI. I heard that someone was tweeting things out and I don't understand that. I don't even understand where that comes from. We haven't even done an MRI on the guy yet. I don't even know. It's just amazing to me how that even happens."

On the defense's effort on the first three drives

"I think after a while, they did a good job of blocking the edge. They had a couple of toss crack plays that were really good, schemed up for some of the fronts that we have. I thought at times we did a better job. I saw [OLB] Whitney [Mercilus] made a few plays and 'J.D.' [DE Jadeveon Clowney] made a few plays. It just has to be more consistent. It's the same thing with our whole football team. Our whole team has to be more consistent. If we can figure that out pretty quickly, then we have something going. We're too up and down right now and that's why we're 4-3."

On each individual's role on the team

"I would tell you that we're all in it together. I'm not going to get into the details of who's part is what and 'this part is my part,' and 'who's part is that part.' We could be here all night. I think everyone has to do a better job from coaching to playing. Everyone has to pick up their end of the bargain and do a better job."

On Miami RB Arian Foster's retirement announcement

"He's a great player, one of the smartest players that I've coached. He's a great zone runner. He has excellent vision and is big. What we found with him was how good he was out of the backfield in the passing game. He was excellent in the passing game and a great receiving back. I have a lot of respect for Arian."

TEXANS QUARTERBACK BROCK OSWEILER

On the game overall

"I would say just disappointment. I thought we had a great week in practice. Thought we had great focus and traveled very well up here. To go out there and have a performance that we did today is extremely disappointing. But I also think you need to give credit where credit is due. And the Broncos are a great football team they are very well coached. They came in playing all three phases today. That secondary and defensive line made it very tough for us to move the football offensively today. I think you

need to tip your hat to them. We need to refocus and re-examine this tape extremely hard. We need to learn from it and get better.”

On not finishing drives with touchdowns

“Our job as an offensive unit is finishing drives and getting touchdowns. and to score enough touchdowns to win a football game, We didn’t do that tonight as a unit. It starts with me. I need to play better I need to find a way to play better. There’s nobody that’s going to examine this game tape harder than myself. We will find a way to clean this up. At the end of the day, when you’re playing great football teams like you are tonight, field goals are only going to keep you in the game for so long. We need to find a way to score touchdowns offensively.”

On if he is happy that his first game back at Denver is over

“I think a part of me says yes. There was so much that was built up about myself and the Broncos and this game. At the end of the day, it was the Houston Texans versus the Denver Broncos. We came up here tonight and we did not play a good enough football game to get this job done. But once again, give credit where credit is due. The Broncos are a great team. The crowd showed up tonight and they’re very well coached. They came out and they were ready to play for four quarters. We need to find a way to learn from this and get better.”

On the reception he received from the crowd

“Definitely not surprised from the boos. I assumed I would get a lot of boos and I thought it was going to be a little bit louder.”

On his longest completion being 13 yards

“That’s part of this offense. We try to hit our running backs underneath. We try to hit our tight ends underneath. We like to push the football down the field and we weren’t able to do that tonight. There were a couple opportunities. Two tough plays down the field I overthrew the receivers a couple times. But give credit where credit is due. The Denver Broncos defense is a hell of a unit. They are very well coached. They play extremely hard, their chemistry is great and their communication is great. They play extremely fast and they’re physical. They just played better than us tonight.”

On trying to get Texans WR DeAndre Hopkins involved

“Not really sure what the deal is. I need to watch the tape to answer that question. Need to figure out why we couldn’t connect early. But bottom line is it comes down to execution. Coach and I will continue to work in practice. Practice is where you clean up these errors and I promise you no one is going to work harder than coach and myself. Going to get this cleaned up to get some receptions and some chemistry down the field.”

On the team’s second fumble

“That was the first time. They say every quarterback is going to experience it at some point where the ball just flies out of your hands and unfortunately I got to experience it tonight. The refs made the call that they made. It seemed like the ball went forward, but at the end of the day the refs are out there for a reason and they made a call and that’s what we’ll live with.”

On his reception postgame from members of the Broncos

“It meant a lot to me. But all those guys know how I feel about them as well. I have nothing but love, appreciation and gratitude. Those players, the coaches, the organization and the city of Denver, this place had been nothing but great for four years for my wife and myself. It was great to see some familiar faces and give those guys a hug.”

On the team’s issues within the passing game

“Just not getting enough completions. Until I fully examine this tape, I can’t give you an answer as to why we aren’t able to find more completions out there on the field. But without a doubt it’s something that needs to be cleaned up and figured out and [we need to] find a way offensively to move the ball and to score touchdowns. It starts with me. It starts in practice this week.”

On frustrations with the running game

“There was a lot of frustrating things tonight. One thing, our offensive line, our tight ends, our running backs and our receivers in the running game played their [butts] off tonight. If you look at what we were able to do in the running game, I think there were

some good times. Especially against this defense in this environment. So hats off to those other ten guys when we were running the ball. It was a very physical game and they worked very hard for those yards.”

On starting against Broncos QB Trevor Siemian

“Some people probably would say it’s bizarre. But Trevor and myself, we always viewed ourselves as starting quarterbacks in this league. I have nothing but respect for Trevor. I think he’s a great quarterback and an even better teammate. I’m extremely happy for him and the success he has had this year and leading the Broncos. It’s fun to see him get his opportunity.”

On any regrets leaving Denver

“Absolutely not. I always told people that I never live my life looking in the rear view mirror with any regret. So absolutely not.”

TEXANS RUNNING BACK ALFRED BLUE

On his fumble

“The safety just made a good play. He was lower than me and I couldn’t get down low enough to take care of the ball. He put his helmet right on the ball.”

On turning the ball over at a critical moment in the game

“You just can’t turn the ball over in this league and expect to win. The team with the least amount of turnovers is going to win. You just can’t turn it over.”

On the offensive struggles in the red zone

“As an offense, when we get down there we’ve got to put the ball in the end zone. This week we’ve got to get better at that, fix the problems and work at it.”

On Dolphins RB Arian Foster’s retirement

“That’s on him. He was a great mentor, a great running back and four-time Pro Bowler. Obviously, I looked up to him. He taught me a lot in the running game with the zone-running scheme. It’s sad hearing him retiring, but it’s his decision.”

On helping Texans QB Brock Osweiler in his return to Denver

“I don’t think it’s so much about Brock coming in. We come in to every game to win. We try to beat every team. That was the mindset coming into tonight, and try to win.”

TEXANS CORNERBACK A.J. BOUYE

On the defensive struggles after a strong star

“They were just able to run on the perimeter. The corners, especially me, we just have to be able to come forward and make plays. It’s kind of tough when you’re also trying to play the pass. We’ve been working on all of that in practice. Besides that, I felt like we really competed. We just have to make turnovers. We can’t lose the turnover battle and expect to win.”

On leaving the game in the first half due to cramping

“My leg locked up and I had to come in and get an IV, but I was able to get back out there. I’ll be fine. I just have to hydrate better.”

On how to fix the defensive issues moving forward

“I just kept fighting. I was telling [Texans CB] Charles [James] and those guys to just keep fighting and that’s what we did. They’re going to make plays but they just came at the wrong time. We just have to come back and get better.”

On being challenged a lot early on by the Broncos’ passing game

“I already had it in my mind that it was going to be like that. That’s [Broncos Head Coach Gary Kubiak] over there and he already knew stuff about me, so I took it as a challenge. It kind of got me more excited. I just tried to step up. We did a good job in the first quarter and then all of a sudden we couldn’t stop the run. We’ll work on it.”

On letting the game slip away late

“It was just certain plays here and there. I feel like if we would have gone up 10-0, we would’ve had them playing from behind and then we would’ve won it, but we just couldn’t stop the run.”

TEXANS TACKLE DUANE BROWN

On the team’s offensive struggles

“Offensively, we have to continue to play more consistently. I thought we did a decent job running the ball, but we have to be better at converting third downs. We’ve got to be better at finishing drives with touchdowns and not settling for three.”

On the team’s turnovers

“We’ve got to take care of the ball. In this kind of environment and against this kind of team, it’s all about who makes the least amount of mistakes. Turnovers, we can’t have those and give them a short field to work with. We did that a couple times. That’s something we’ve got to work on.”

On T Derek Newton’s injury

“It hurt, it hurt a lot. That’s like a little brother to me. I know how hard he’s worked and how much he puts into this game. He’s been battling through injuries quite a bit. I know how that feels, I went through something similar last year. I’m praying for a speedy recovery for him.”

On the offense not finishing drives

“I’m not sure, I’ll have to watch the film. Running the ball, you’ve just got to string it more and get more yards. You’ve just got to be able to pitch and catch. We dial up passes. We need better execution is what it comes down to I guess. That’s the main thing, when you’ve got a shorter field to work with against that defense, that’s when they get better. They don’t have as much ground to cover. We have to raise our game as well.”

TEXANS LINEBACKER BRIAN CUSHING

On what went wrong defensively after a strong first quarter performance

“They started to run the football and they started to control time of possession and the clock. We just couldn’t stop them for a while there. We have to get that fixed. We have to figure that out.”

On the team’s hopes moving forward

“Well, we have a home game (coming up). We can start talking about that, but we have to start being more consistent. We can’t keep winning then losing and expect to have a pretty consistent, good year. We have to get on a roll. We have to go out and get a big win and then we have a bye week to try to start putting something together.”

On fixing the defensive issues

“We have to put together four quarters in all three phases where we’re playing good football. We’ve done that for one or two games, but not enough this year. Obviously, we know that there’s a lot of football left. We have a lot better football to play.”

On whether he felt like the team let a very winnable game slip away

“You can always play the woulda, coulda, shoulda game and we had a chance in this one against a good football team in their building, but we just didn’t do enough on either side of the ball to win. We have to improve as a whole and that’s the bottom line.”

On retirement of Dolphins RB Arian Foster earlier today

“It was pretty surprising. Obviously, I think the world of him as a football player. It’s not easy to see guys step away from the sport. I admired the way he played and I admired the physical talents. As a teammate, he was a guy I enjoyed playing with. He was one of the most talented running backs possibly ever. It’s sad, but at the same time he’s moving on in life. He’s an interesting character and he probably has a lot to do in his life after football.”

TEXANS WIDE RECEIVER DEANDRE HOPKINS

On the offensive struggles

“They’re a great defense. We didn’t accomplish what we wanted to accomplish, plain and simple.”

On the outlook of the team

“It’s early in the season. Hopefully we’ll pick things up and get it together.”

On the team’s game plan going into the game

“We knew we could do some things on offense and it showed in the first half. We kind of got behind. It’s hard to play against a good football team like this from behind, but we definitely did some good things. We led for a good bit of the game.”

On the score not being a good indication of the game

“It was a lot closer and guys who play football know that. It wasn’t just like those guys went out there and ran over us and moved us around. They’re a great team, but they won fair and square.”

On how Texans QB Brock Osweiler played

“He handled it very well. On the sidelines he was composed the whole time and on the field. We never saw him get rattled.”

On Dolphins RB Arian Foster’s retirement

“I didn’t know that. He did a lot for this league, and done a lot for himself also on and off the field. He’s a great guy. He’s a friend to me more than a teammate. Hopefully, I’ll be seeing him around.”

On a story about Foster

“There’s a lot of good stories. Ask Arian, I could go on for days and days about stories. A good story would say is probably when he was going vegan and his whole transition. I never knew a football player that was vegan until I met him.”

TEXANS CORNERBACK JOHNATHAN JOSEPH

On whether the game changed once the Broncos started to run the ball consistently

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“Obviously the numbers show that, just look at the stat sheet. We didn’t do a good job in the run support. Anytime you want to give yourself a chance to win, stopping the run is one of the first things you have to do.”

On how the defense might improve moving forward

“I think we need to just hunker down. It’s always going to be tough coming into a tough environment against a tough team like this, but if you want to be the kind of football team that we want to be at the end of the season, you have to come into games like this and find a way to win.”

On the retirement of Dolphins QB Arian Foster

“He was a great running back with the Texans as far as all time. He was a great, unique guy off the field with some strong beliefs. He had a great frame of mind and I just wish him well in the future. That’s the way football works though. Everybody has a different life span in this league. Obviously, he did it for a long time in this league so he really didn’t have anything left to prove in this league.”

On the play of Texans CB A.J. Bouye

“He’s played well. I think anytime he’s been in there he’s played well. He’s grown over the years into a complete player and for us a defense, he’s a big part of what we do.”

On the first quarter injury to T Derek Newton

“It’s tough. As a teammate and as a friend off the field you feel for a guy like that. He was just coming back and getting back into the groove after a previous injury. It’s going to be a long road to recovery, but he has a lot of support from us. I just wish him well.”

TEXANS LINEBACKER BENARDRICK MCKINNEY

On trying to bounce back after tonight’s loss despite a short week

“It’s very important. Every game is important. We try to win every game. We have to get into the workshop and concentrate on Detroit. We’ll see what we did wrong in this one and just try to do better.”

On the first quarter injury to Texans T Derek Newton

“Derek Newton is a great guy. He’s a good offensive lineman. I was sorry to see him go down and I hope that he gets better.”

On how the team might fix their mistakes moving forward

“We’re just going to have to just watch more film, work on what we did wrong and just come together as a team. We have to concentrate on playing a complete game.”

TEXANS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER WHITNEY MERCILUS

On the team’s inconsistency

“Honestly, I couldn’t even tell you. That’s the thing, we were too inconsistent. We got to be more consistent for 60 minutes of football. We can’t just play a half or a quarter. We have to go through the entire game and not let up.”

On missed opportunities

“Unfortunately, we didn’t capitalize on those types of opportunities. Of course, we can’t give up touches and we can’t give up the ball. We’ll go back to the drawing board going into the next week and keep playing. It’s a long season.”

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TEXANS NOSE TACKLE VINCE WILFORK

On the loss

“It was a tough loss. We had a shot, but we didn’t take advantage of it. The game kind of got out of hand. It’s back to the drawing board and move on to Detroit.”

On playing on the road

“We’ve got to figure out how to win on the road. That’s it.”

On the run defense

“This is a team sport, so we help the back end and the back end helps us. That’s what the defense calls for, so we’ll leave it at that.”

On Texans T Derek Newton’s injury

“It was tough. You don’t want anybody to go down. Losing a starter – a key guy to our offense and our team – it’s a bummer. I haven’t gotten a chance to see him. I’ll tell you one thing – clearing the field – that rule needs to get looked into. As teammates we couldn’t go out there to just tell him we’re praying for him or anything like that, because we couldn’t be on the field. That kind of bothered me a little bit. I think the NFL needs to look into that a little more, because when you lose somebody, especially like that, you want to show him a little support. We can’t show him any support, because they want the field cleared. That’s a new rule. They want to clear the field with any injuries. We haven’t seen him. It’s tough.”

On Dolphins RB Arian Foster’s retirement

“Everybody has a calling, but I just lost a football game. The last thing I’m worrying about is someone else retiring. I’m trying to figure out how we can win on the road against a good football team. That’s my focus right now.”