

# TEXANS POSTGAME NOTES

## Texans vs. Broncos (8/13/05)

The Broncos defeated the Texans 20-14 in front of 70,016 fans at Reliant Stadium on Saturday night. Houston's first unit started strong, holding the Broncos to three-and-out on their opening drive. With time winding down in the first quarter, QB Tony Banks completed a 31-yard touchdown pass to TE Matt Murphy to put the Texans up early. After going scoreless in the second and third quarters, the Texans gave fans something to cheer about at the end of the fourth. QB Dave Ragone led a seven-play, 54-yard drive to the end zone, completing a 10-yard touchdown pass to WR LaTarence Dunbar with just two minutes remaining in the game. The Texans next host the Oakland Raiders on Saturday, Aug. 20 at 7 p.m.

**Preseason series history:** Broncos lead 3-0

**Last meeting:** Broncos 31, Texans 17 (8/27/04 at Denver)

### Game Notes

\*RG **Zach Wiegert** was shaken up on the Texans' opening drive and left the game with an ankle sprain.

\*The Texans gained 72 yards on 10 plays in their opening drive that lasted 4:59.

\*QB **David Carr** played one series, finishing 1-for-2 with an 11-yard run.

\*TE **Matt Murphy** caught a 31-yard touchdown pass from QB **Tony Banks** with 3:40 remaining in the first quarter. It was Murphy's first touchdown reception as a Texan.

\*The Texans' scoring drive lasted six plays and went 44 yards in 3:55.

\*RB **Tony Hollings** grabbed a 23-yard pass from Banks for a first down with just over 10 minutes to play in the second quarter and ran the game for the first time at left end.

\*RB **Jonathan Wells** left the game with a sprained right index finger.

\*CB **Demarcus Faggins** broke up a would-be touchdown pass intended for Jerry Rice, forcing a 27-yard Broncos field goal with 3:47 remaining in the first half.

\*QB **Dave Ragone** started the second half for the Texans.

\*RB **Vernand Morency** illustrated his explosiveness running up the middle to pick up 12 yards for the Texans.

\*LB **Shantee Orr** beat his blocker down the field, jarring rookie punt returner Darrent Williams at the 19-yard line for a loss of one yard. A few plays later, Orr sacked quarterback Bradlee Van Pelt for a 10-yard loss.

\*WR **Kevin Kasper** opened the fourth quarter with an impressive 31-yard kick return.

\*With 13:22 left in the game, QB **B.J. Symons** entered the game.

\*Kasper made another notable play with 5:56 remaining, downing a punt at Denver's one-yard line.

\*Symons left the game with a right shoulder injury in the fourth quarter.

\*With 3:14 left, Ragone re-enters the game, completing a 15-yard pass to wideout **Kendrick Starling** followed by a 24-yard completion to WR **Devin Pitts**.

\*From the shotgun, Ragone completes a 10-yard touchdown pass to **LaTarence Dunbar** with 2:00 remaining in the game.

\*The Texans picked up 54 yards on seven plays during their final scoring drive.

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## Texans Quickie Quotes

### Texans TE Matt Murphy

(On his touchdown catch) “We had a 142-stutter-go-play, in which I run down the middle if the middle is open. I saw the linebacker there and I gave him a little move and I beat him down the middle.”

(on it being his first touchdown catch as a Texan) “It feels great. Tony made a great throw. Me and Tony work on this all the time in practice and it feels good to have it happen in the game.”

### Texans QB Tony Banks

(on his touchdown pass) “Well the preseason is like my season. As long as I get to come out here and have a little fun, even though it's my 10<sup>th</sup> season I kind of look forward to the preseason. That play right there, Murph was stretching the middle one-on-one with the linebacker in the two-deep zone. Murph's a huge target on the inside and we hook up like that a lot of times in practice, sometimes last year in the preseason.”

(on being out there with the first team offense) “It's nice to see Dre and Corey in the huddle. I don't get too many reps with those guys in the preseason so any time I see 80 and 85 out there it's a lot of fun.”

### Texans QB David Carr

(on being out there with the first team offense) “I thought it was pretty smooth until we got down to the one-yard line as far as what we wanted to do. We had a plan last night and the day before that we went over and we executed pretty much flawlessly except when we got down obviously inside the one-yard line we'd like to get that in.

(on what happened on the goal-line stand) “I don't know. Once you run it the first time, the second time you got to stick with it. You don't want to give up on the linemen, you want to enforce the fact that we're going to be down here, we're going to try and get the ball in. And there's no doubt they're going to be able to nine million more times after this, that was just a great job by their defense, we've got to give them credit.”

### Texans RB Domanick Davis

(on the opening series) “Well, the first half we had a good drive, got down to the goal-line and we couldn't put it in. I had like three tries and I didn't put it in, but before that, I think we did pretty good moving the ball.”

(on the goal-line stand) “I don't know the guys just pinched down and brought the outside guys and kind of just cramped down on me at the line. Their defensive line got under the offensive line.”

### Texans CB Dunta Robinson

(on how the first unit played out there today) “I think we played pretty well. We came in, we went three and out right off the bat. I think it shows you what this Texans defense is going to be like this year.”

(on if there was anything different) “No, there was nothing different. We're still calling the same plays that we called last season. We're trying to mix it up a little bit. A little man, a little zone, try to keep them off balance so they didn't know exactly what we were doing. We were able to confuse them a little bit.”

### Texans DE Robaire Smith

(on the defensive effort) “I think we came out, this being our first time in game mode. I think we did a pretty good job. Of course we've got a lot of things that we can work on. But this is a good first step. The starters being out there at one time and do the things we did, I think it's always a good thing to start the season off with.”

(on playing fullback) “It was a little different but at the same time it's still a job. There's a couple things coach came back to read, but this is my first time doing it in a game mode and he just told me just to continue to work at it. And I'm going to take it just like me being on defense, I'm learning what to do and trying to perfect it.”

### Texans LB Morlon Greenwood

(on playing in the new system) “Just got to get used to the defensive line, playing the inside linebacker position. But so far, it's been very good. I think tonight I showed that I've been coming along and I'm learning the defense and I'm playing more confident.”

## Texans Post-Game Quotes

### Texans Head Coach Dom Capers

(On Game Summary) “Tonight was our first opportunity to really evaluate our team in game conditions. I like what I saw with our offense in terms with taking the ball down the field. We had four shots at the one yard line, we didn’t get it in so we have to invest in time in our goal line work. We are experimenting there with a couple of new people, so I know we will benefit from that. We have a pretty good goal line offense and I feel like we will be a good goal line offense. Other than that, I really liked the way the offense moved the ball down the field the first series. I liked the way the defense went out and stopped them three and out. We had them backed up, they made one first down and we stopped them forcing the punt four plays from where we were able to get excellent field position. Tony Banks went out in the second series and hit Matt Murphy down the middle of the field for the touchdown. From that point on, we really didn’t get a lot done so we are going to have to take a good look at that as we go through this process of preseason. The number one goal is trying to find 53 players that you feel will enable you to have the kind of team you can move forward to accomplish the things we want to accomplish. I did see many good things early, there were a couple of guys that showed up. Shantee Orr, I thought had a real nice punt coverage, had a sack and made a nice penetrating play on the run. Matt Murphy’s catch was a real nice catch. We are always looking for individuals. We tell them all the time there are so many opportunities and you have to take advantage of those opportunities. Our injury situation, Zach Wiegert has a high ankle sprain. He is going to have an MRI tomorrow. Jonathan Wells, I think he may have torn a tendon on his right index finger. We’ll have to have him see a hand guy. Chris McKenzie, you saw him pull a hamstring on a long touchdown pass at the end of the game. B.J. Symons separated his shoulder when he took a sack on the blitz coming from the backside.”

(On first play series of game) “I was pleased with the consistency of our first offense. That was one of the nicer drives that we had in preseason, we went right down the field. We did have one ball that we didn’t catch. Other than that we were hitting it on all cylinders. When you are sitting down on the first and goal of the one yard line, you want to be able to punch it in, so we are disappointed in that. I feel like we’ll get that squared away and make some plays the first two series. After that, you’ve got a lot of different combinations of people in there. So we weren’t able to get the kind of consistency we needed to move the ball. They made a couple of good plays. The quarterback run on third down play was a big play which put them down in scoring position.”

(On Vernand Morency, Tony Hollings, and Jonathan Wells at RB) “We didn’t get to see Wells play as much as we wanted because of the finger. He went in, competed hard and did a good job. Hollings had a couple of nice plays, he caught the screen pass. He looked real good doing that as you can see, he had a burst and some speed. Morency is a young guy that has really good cutting ability. He has a lot to learn in terms of his reads and when to cut and when to stay and continue to press the hole. I’m not disappointed in any one of these three. I think we have good competition and these guys will continue to compete through the preseason. Things I think will get clear as we move along. I think all three of them have the ability to help us.”

### Texans CB C.C. Brown

(On possibly leaving to go fight) “If something like World War III broke out, I would be leaving the team. I hate to, but I have to go serve my duty.”

(On what made him decide to join) “When I was growing up I didn’t have any parents, I just had Grandma’s in the house hold. So it was either sell drugs in the street or join the army, so I decided to join the army.”

(On the opinion that the coaches are very high on him) “I hear it every now and then, but I try to downplay it. I just go out there and play ball.”

### Texans DE Travis Johnson

(On his new hair cut) “I didn’t lose a bet, Robaire and Gary gave me a hair cut, and this is what I have going on. It was just a welcome to NFL type of thing... I can cut it off tomorrow, but I think I’m going to wait until it grows back.”

(On playing in his first professional game) “It feels great, I am excited to play a whole lot more for a long time out here.”

(On the difference between college and NFL) “I think a little bit of speed, but I am enjoying myself.”

(On what you learned) “It was just like college as far as the cut blocking, and trying to get up before you hit the ground”

### **Texans CB Demarcus Faggins**

(On defending Jerry Rice) “It feels good. I draw from the competitiveness that he has. He has been in the league for a long time, some 21 years, and growing up I always watched him and then I end up lining up against him. I have to play and compete. I don’t want him making any catches on me.”

(On the pass deflection in the end zone) “It was just me on him, one on one, and he ran the route. I read the route and I came up and made the play.”

(Comments on the game) “It’s just a learning experience, just trying to get back competing against different players, other than those that we practice against on our own team. Just going out there playing hard and having fun.”

### **Texans TE Matt Murphy**

(On the game) “It was really good to get out there, it was a good time.”

(On the most important objective for the game) “The most important thing is winning, whether is preseason or not, no matter what, we never want to lose the game. We need to keep in control and keep our heads up, and I like the way we fought.”

(On playing against another team) “It’s good to be out there again, after seeing each other for so long, it gets old. It’s good to get out there and hit someone else.”

(On not playing the past couple years) “I’ve been keeping my head straight, you go from high school playing a lot and then college playing a lot and then you get to the NFL and your playing with the best players. Its tough you know, bring you ego down, maybe I need to work on a few things to be able to play, but I have been trying to work with Marciano, my tight ends Coach, he has been teaching me a lot of things.”

(On catching a touchdown pass) “Me and Tony Banks, we joke around a lot of times in practice. Whether it was scout team or practice, we hook up a lot of times on passes like that and I said to him it’s about time that we got one in a game.”

### **Texans C Steve McKinney**

(On not scoring on the first series) “Whenever you can move the ball down the field on the first series like that, then you know you’re doing something good, Usually things come out a little rusty, for instance, Denver went three and out on their first series.”

(On Zach Wiegert’s injury) “It’s very unfortunate. It’s hard to lose a starter like that.”

(On Fred Weary filling in after Zach Wiegert) “Fred did a nice job, he’s been around for a while. We feel comfortable with him in there. He’s a good football player, he knows what to do.”

### **Texans RB Jonathan Wells**

(On his physical condition) “I lost about fourteen pounds since camp and I’m still really explosive. Right now I’m focused on getting in the best shape of my life.”

(On today’s performance) “I’ve definitely got to get better. It was good to get in there and get my feet wet. I need to get better, break more tackles and get longer runs.”

### **Texans QB Tony Banks**

(On his touchdown pass to Matt Murphy) “Me and Murph hook on that route quite often actually in practice. A lot of coverages try to take that away from us. When I first came into the league, that was a pretty common route. They gave it to us today, me and Murph got the chance and made a pretty good play.”

### **Texans QB David Carr**

(On first drive on offense) “We went out there and went all the way down the field. We executed the game plan that we talked about last night and the day before.”

## **Texans WR Reggie Swinton**

(On performance on offense) “I didn’t make any mistakes on offense, but I didn’t play the way I wanted to play.”

(On being New to the team) “I’m new here and so I’m trying to adjust. I don’t like losing.”

(On team’s effort) “I’m working hard and the team is working hard, and I can promise you that you will see a better team next weekend.”

## **Broncos Post-Game Quotes**

### **Broncos Head Coach Mike Shanahan**

(On the way Bradlee Van Pelt played) “Bradlee did a good job tonight and he has played excellent through out camp.”

(On the offense making adjustments after the first drive) “No not really. The first time we had a chance to hit Adams deep and then Plummer was chased out of bounds. We expect people to do their jobs and when they don’t you get stopped.”

(On the running backs) “They did a great job and had a couple of big runs for us in the game.”

### **Broncos RB Mike Anderson**

(On moving back to the running back position after playing at fullback last year) “It’s an adjustment, but as a runner, whenever it’s tough out there you want to get back and look at the film. Maybe it might have been something else there that you didn’t see during the course of the game, and you just try to build on it.”

(On the play of backup QB Brandlee Van Pelt) “I’ve had high regards for that guy ever since his rookie season. I remember the game he got in during preseason that year, he didn’t even take any reps the week leading up to the game and they threw him in there and he was operating like (a veteran). I was very impressed (then) and I’m still impressed. What he did tonight, that doesn’t shock me.”

(On how he feels about the remainder of training camp) “Now we get to go back and we have a little time off tomorrow. And then we have to game-plan for next weekend’s opponent. It’s starting off, so I’m excited.”

### **Broncos WR Ashley Lelie**

(On his chemistry with QB Jake Plummer) “We’re just trying to get our timing down and get ready for this season. It’s going to be a grind and we just have to keep at it.”

(On how it felt to finally play against another team) “It felt good. Especially since we were able to get in there and put our helmets on somebody else. We’ve been here all week practicing against them too, so this whole week has been fun for us. We got used to hitting and tacking again.”

(On scoring on their third series of the game) “That felt good for us. Especially the first team offense, because it we were so efficient. Jake (Plummer) dropping back and hitting me and Rod (Smith) and the tight ends - it was just a good feeling for us to be so efficient so early.”

### **Broncos WR Todd Devoe**

(On his 93 yard TD reception) “I was just trying to make up for the last ball I dropped. I guess that was the best way to make up for it.”

(On the confidence he gained from that touchdown) “It gives me a lot of confidence but the biggest thing is that hopefully I can give my team confidence and I can keep making those plays.”

(On the accolades he received from Jerry Rice for his reception) “That’s my all-time favorite player, so him (complimenting) me is better than anyone else”

### **Broncos S John Lynch**

(On the first team defenses performance) “I think we were just okay. I was really proud of us on the goal-line stand. I think our goal-line and red zone will continue to get better. I think the one thing we didn’t do that well was tackling; that will be the strength of this team. That often happens in the first preseason game something we have to shore up.”

**Broncos CB Darrent Williams**

(On hitting backs coming out of the backfield) “You know I’m a little guy but I go in there and put my head in there. I play physical that is just my mentality. I don’t back down head on from anybody. If I don’t go in there head on with them. But if I can catch them slipping then I’m going to try and put them to sleep.”

(On his stop behind the line scrimmage) “I caught him as he was turning round after he caught the ball and I was right there. I felt like I could put him on his back and that is what I did.”

(On breaking his first punt return for positive yards) “It felt good. It’s about getting everyone into a rhythm. If I can get some good blocking we can make things happen, it felt pretty good. I’m just getting my feet wet and getting adjusted to how the NFL punters punt the ball.”

(On playing in the preseason as a rookie) “Every game is a ‘real’ game, there isn’t really a preseason for players who haven’t played an NFL season.”

**Broncos QB Bradlee Van Pelt**

(On his performance today) “I think I could have done a lot better. I’m a perfectionists and I want to complete every ball. But it’s the first game and I just got to let it go.”

(On his three yard run) “It was just a quarterback draw. It was the first game and everything kind of worked out on that play.”

(On his confidence and his performance today) “I don’t know if it helps my confidence because I made a lot of mistakes that I should not have made. They (the mistakes) were driving me nuts tonight but I’m just trying to let them go. The film is going to show them and I just have to get better next week and that is part of what camp is about.”

**Broncos LB Al Wilson**

(On practicing against the Texans before the game) “You’ve seen them for a week so the overall enthusiasm isn’t there like it would be if you just saw them on Sunday, but at the same time, as a professional, you’ve got to find a way to get excited.”

(On rookie CB Darrent Williams) “He looked very good, especially on defense. He wasn’t scared.”

(On the benefits of the preseason to rookies) “It’s a period in which they can make some mistakes and try to get all the little things cleared up. That’s what we’re trying to do now.”

(On getting beat on the touchdown pass) “It was just me being too aggressive. He gave me a little stutter move, and it was a good throw by Tony Banks. It was a pass that had to be on the money, and Banks made a good throw.”

**Broncos QB Jake Plummer**

(On the game) “We got a couple of drives in the red zone and ended up scoring. We still have a few more games before the real ones start.”

(On Van Pelt) “We are going to see him through. We are going to play hard, keep going. Things are getting better. Guys are playing hard.”

(On most important things to do in Preseason) “Timing, lead the team down and put the ball in the right spot. We did it tonight. We hope we do it in the regular season.”

(On playing a real pre season game) “We were not very efficient on the first couple of drives, but we found our stride on the third drive. We have practiced with these guys for the past few days, so we kind of knew what to expect.”

(On what the most important thing for him to work on during the preseason) “The most important thing is to go out and be efficient. I don’t need to work on my timing with these guys, because I have been with them for the past nine years. I hope to put the ball in the right spots. I did that tonight, and I hope to do that in the regular season.”

**Broncos WR Rod Smith**

(On confidence in Van Pelt if Plummer gets hurt) “He has heart. He goes out and plays the position. He does his best. I am sure he would like to take a few back...but he made a lot of good plays out there.”

**Broncos WR Todd Devoe**

(On how he felt about his big play in the game) “I feel good, but I think there are more plays out there to be made. I have three more games left, which means I have three more opportunities.”