

# Houston Texans Media Conference

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Houston, Texas, USA

## Bo Nix

### Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Denver Broncos 18, Houston Texans 15

BO NIX: Well, we knew it was going to be a patient game. They don't lead the league in yards and points for no reason. They're a good team. It's not like a fluke so we knew it was going to be tough sledding but I thought we did a good job managing the situations and we played a little bit of a field position battle there at the very end and we knew it was a matter of time until there was a drive that we went down and scored and had a big one in the first half, a big one in the second half and led to the field goal there at the end. We knew it wasn't going to be easy but we also knew our defense was going to play well like they did. They changed the game for us and they pretty much led the entire game and made stop after stop so we could go down and finish the game.

#### **Q. Can you tell us about that big run you had late...**

BO NIX: Yeah, we had given that kind of play, style a few different times. They had seen a couple of them. You want to move the pocket and get a new launch point, change up the pace for those edge guys and we got out on the end and felt like everybody was running over there for the pass. Just ended up being a good lane and finally got to be able to use my legs there at the end. They did a good job of closing lanes and rushing, keeping me in the pocket there for a while.

Finally that movement, I think, caused a little bit of a lane in the defense and then it was just all about getting all you could and at that point, we were in field goal range, we just wanted to get closer. That was a really important play for us on the last drive.

#### **Q. Sean said that at half time everyone was expecting to win even though the situation you were in. Has there been a shift where the team just expects to win every single game now?**

BO NIX: We are at the point to where we expect to give ourselves a chance to win every game and we're going to expect, the expectations are that we're going to compete

and find a way. How far it looks, we've had good-looking games. We've had bad-looking games. I've never, obviously, been on many teams, but this is a good win streak and we've won in many different forms and fashions, so I do think the expectations are different.

I think we understand what it feels like to have confidence that we can go in there and win against a good team in a tough environment on the road in the league. It's hard to win on the road in this league and it's hard to do it continuously, but we're just finding ways to do it and we found another way today so it's just good for the character and the continued development of the team.

#### **Q. You talked about the defense and how good they played. They had those two goal line stops with the Texans on the 1, didn't get into the end zone. What does that do for the emotional shift for the entire team?**

BO NIX: It's huge. It shows their competitiveness. It shows you their toughness and grit as a defense and that just kind of turns over to us because if they're going to play like that, if they're going to get stopped like that, we owe it to them to go down there. We're responsible to go put points on the board and they held them enough times to where we could go do that and it wasn't pretty, but we knew it wasn't going to be and it turned into a field position battle there at the end.

Like we talked about all week, it was going to be about field position, field position, and sure enough it was and we just made enough explosives there to get three points at the end.

#### **Q. You said a second ago you won in different ways, 33 and 44. This week you had to grind it out. To be able to win in different ways, what does that do for the team's mentality?**

BO NIX: I think it goes back to the earlier question. It just proves that we can win tough games and proves that our mentality can adjust to where we expect to find ways to win and it's, I think, a really good issue to have is when you're finding these ugly wins because I don't think it will always

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be like that and sometimes maybe you'll win bigger and you'll find it easier, but for right now, the ugly wins are how we're doing it so that's what we're going to continue to find ways to do.

Obviously we have to improve in many different areas, but the ugly wins, they're important. They're important down the stretch and if you can find them and you can win these one-possession games, it helps you in the future. I feel like all playoff games and tough games in the post-season are one-score games. You got to learn how to win those.

**Q. Sean said that y'all never talk about running the ball instead of looking down field. As long as you're following your eyes, he's not going to say anything to you. But do you -- (inaudible) how often does that cross your mind?**

BO NIX: Sometimes I think it's always unfortunately for me it's a results-based decision which isn't where you want to live but to me it's always like I probably had an opportunity to take it down and run, but I thought they did a good job. The pocket was constantly moving. They changed up their pressures. They didn't just rush in one lane and give me rushing lanes and you could tell that that was a big thing for them because they continued to switch up the pitch that we were getting. In saying that, our O-line did a great job of keeping me in the pocket and giving me a pocket.

So it's always hit or miss. Sometimes you have more opportunities than others and you definitely don't want to go looking for the rush lanes because then you get your eyes down and you miss the big ones. Like I said, it's a happy balance of hitting it when it's open and going maybe one, two, three in the read and then getting it down.

**Q. You say three yet you miss Evan down the down the left side and then you go right back to Court the very next play for the touchdown. Did you just know that was going to be there?**

BO NIX: No, I had a feeling they would switch up their defense, which they did. We got the nickel into the boundary. Evan did a good job of running a good route. He slipped inside and I tried to get it up and down before that safety could get over there and probably threw it a little bit too early, let him set the angle a little bit more and then put it on him.

The next one, we had a different coverage. We had more of a man, nickel was away to the three receiver side. Court ran a great route getting inside and the safety stayed a little bit more to the middle because we had more population over there. He ran a good route, got up to seam and then it was all about giving him a good, adjustable football so he

can go up and get it like he always does.

You don't hit them all, even though, like anybody else, I wish more than anymore I hit them all. Unfortunately sometimes you got to miss a few and then you just learn and the next time, you just get more air and make sure you see the post safety. It just happened to be back to back. It didn't really have an effect on the play I don't think.

**Q. Teammates talk about your competitiveness. Where's the short memory, the ability to come back when you have three quarters of struggle in different ways and you always getting it done at the end?**

BO NIX: It's never feeling like you're out of the fight. I've learned a different kind of patience as I've grown. In high school, I was not very patient. It was like an every drive thing and if I got off the field and we had to punt, it was like the end of the world.

In college, it was learning how to win certain battles and field position and just getting completions and checking it down and moving in the next play. You just have to eventually learn as a quarterback how important that next play really is and if you can just get to it in a better situation than you were the play prior, then you did your job, so I just learned how to get to the next play better. I've learned a little bit more patience as I've gotten older and more mature and experienced in the game of football.

Each level I just feel like I've been able to learn a lot and grow a lot and I'm definitely not the same as I was this time last year, much less when I was in high school. I've come a long way, still got so much to learn, which is the fun part, but I'm going to continue to work and not stop until I maximize my potential. I don't know when that will be but I'm excited because there's a lot to learn, a lot to grow from. It gives us another opportunity next week to go out there and change it up, but I'm sure we'll learn from the mistakes we'll make next week as well. Just learn how to be a little bit more patient and go into the next play.

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