

Texans make statement with win over Steelers

Written by Yolande Lezine

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Sports Editor

Houston, we have a problem! But this time it's a problem that we've been waiting to see for a very long time. We finally have a real confident football team that believes that it can win with the best teams throughout the National Football League.

The Texans played well defensively, offensively and even on special teams in a 17-10 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers at Reliant Stadium.

The win elevated Houston to a 3-1 record overall. The Texans allowed only 296 yards and they sacked Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger five times, including two by linebacker Mario Williams. There were vicious hits given on both sides.

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However, the most saddest part was seeing Houston Texans All-Pro wide receiver Andre Johnson go down un-touched without getting hit. Johnson went down on the field in pain and had the entire Reliant Stadium crowd silent in suspense. It looks like he will be down with a hamstring injury for about three weeks. The fans began to chant "An-dre, An-dre, An-dre," before he finally got up on his own power and walked to the bench before going off the field and into the lockerroom.

The Texans were happy to see running back Arian Foster return to the field. Foster rushed for 155 yards and one touchdown in his return to action. Quarterback Matt Schaub threw for 138 yards and one touchdown including the first of the game which went to tight end Owen Daniels. Daniels was the Texans leading receiver with 5 catches for 69 yards.

Defensively, cornerback Jason Allen, who sealed Houston's win with an interception late in the fourth quarter, led the team with 7 tackles. Daniel Manning was second with 5 tackles. Linebacker Mario Williams had two sacks while defensive end Antonio Smith had one sack, giving him his four in four-consecutive games.

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger passed for 206 yards in the game, despite being beat up by the Texans defenders. Linebacker Troy Polamalu led the team with 9 tackles in the game.

*Use with Ray Branch's photos.