

BRONCO POOP

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Special points of interest:

- Broncos win second game in a row, doubling win total from last year
- Veteran QB Duante Culpepper playing well since returning from injury
- Defense holds Texans without a touchdown
- The victory over the Texans is Denver's first against a team with a winning record since 2008

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BRONCOS STEAL ONE FROM TEXANS, 21-12

Porter Pick-Sixes Manning in Fourth

November 5th, 2010: With the Broncos clinging to a narrow 14-12 fourth quarter lead, Tracy Porter picked off Eli Manning and returned the interception 44 yards for a touchdown with 13:11 remaining in the game to give the Broncos a 21-12 lead.

With a nine-point deficit, the Texans mounted two long drives but both came up empty. Starting at their own 20 following Porter's pick six, Manning quickly moved the Texans to the Bronco 26 in just three plays, with a 27-connection to Roddy White deep across the middle the biggest play. But Fred Jackson went nowhere on a run up the middle, and after an incomplete and a five-yard penalty moved the Texans back to the Denver 31, Manning scrambled for just a yard on third and 15. On fourth down, the Texans, going into a five mph wind, passed up the field goal attempt and Manning completed a pass

to Jerheme Urban, but Urban was tackled short of the first down at the Denver 21.

After the Broncos mounted a good drive of their own that took almost seven minutes off the clock but eventually came up empty (a 32-yard field goal miss by Mason Crosby), the Texans tried again, moving from their own 22 to the Denver 12, this time mostly on runs by Fred Jackson against the Denver prevent. Jackson ran five times in the final Houston possession for 46 yards, but from the Denver 12 with just over a minute to go, Manning mishandled the snap and the Broncos took possession with just over a minute to go when rookie defensive end Connor Barwin fell on the ball and the Broncos ran out the clock.

The Broncos defense came up big early in the game, forcing the Texans to punt the first two



Texans celebrate sack of Culpepper in second quarter

times they had the ball, then after Denver punter Jon Ryan mishandled the punt snap and went nowhere at his own 27, the Broncos defense stuffed (continued on page 2, Steal One)

Culpepper Red Hot Since Returning From Injury

When Daunte Culpepper went down with a knee injury in the first half of the Broncos first game, the Broncos knew they were in dire straits. Losing their first nine games under rookie Josh Freeman and journeyman QB Rex Grossman, the Broncos were counting the days until Culpepper came back.

Culpepper finally did come

back last week and led the Broncos to their first win of the season, beating the New England Patriots. That win perhaps could be discounted somewhat as the Patriots, like the Broncos, were also winless going into last week's game. But the victory over the Texans cannot, as Houston came into the game with a 7-3 record, and are a legitimate playoff contender.

Last week Culpepper completed 25 of 32 for 271 yards and two touchdowns, with one pick (109.8). Against the Texans Culpepper threw for 189 yards on 16 completions in just 22 attempts (98.5). He did not throw a TD pass or a pick, but the Broncos are more than happy with his performance since returning from injury.

"We had inserted a package into our game plan just for Josh and it seemed to work well. We may use it more as the opportunities arise."

Steal One (continued from page one)

Willie Parker on a third and one goal line stand, forcing a John Carney 24-yard field goal that gave the Texans a brief 3-0 lead - their only lead of the contest. It was the first of four Carney field goals in the contest, as the Broncos held the Texans without a touchdown in the game.

It only stood up for the next Broncos possession, as the Broncos drove 65 yards in eight plays, with Daunte Culpepper hitting Nate Washington on a long pass for 29 of the 65 yards, and connected

with Dwayne Bowe and Jermichael Finley for separate 12 yard gains to help move the ball to the Texan two yard line. After Albert Haynesworth jumped offside to move the ball to the one, rookie quarterback Josh Freeman took it over on a quarterback sneak to give the Broncos a 7-3 lead early in the second quarter. Although veteran QB Daunte Culpepper played most of the way, Freeman was inserted into the game when the Broncos got to the Texans two. "We wanted to give them a different look and give them something to

think about down there," Bronco coach Hank Sienzant said after the game. "We had inserted a package into our game plan just for Josh and it seemed to work well. We may use it more as the opportunities arise."

The Texans bounced back with a long drive from their own 31 to the Denver 14, but three plays from their (all Manning passes) advanced the ball only to the seven yard line, and the Texans cut the Denver lead to just a point at 7-6. The 12- (continued on page 3, Steal One)

Broncos Report Card



Bronco Report Card

Denver came away with their biggest win in two years so the grades reflect that.

QB: B+ Culpepper managed the game well and didn't make any glaring mistakes, although he was sacked twice. Freeman scored twice on short runs and completed one of two.

RB: C+ Ground game picked up only 78 yards. Rookie Glen Coffee picked up nearly half of that total (37 yards).

REC: B- Bowe and Finley came up with big plays when needed the most. Washington had big catch as well.

OL: C Allowed two sacks and did not do usual good job in ground game. Steady but not spectacular.

DL: C Surrendered 126 yards on 30 rushes, little pressure on Manning (no sacks), but three forced fumbles, recovering one.. Did contribute 4 hurries and one pass deflection.

LB: B- Witherspoon and Sims combined for 12 tackles, 3 stuffs, and two forced fumbles. Diggs all but invisible (1 tackle).

DB: A Did not allow a touchdown pass, held Manning to 69.3 passer rating, and scored clinching TD on pick six. CBs Porter and Terrell Thomas had 20 tackles combined. Landry had six tackles, a forced fumble, a stuff, and a pass deflection. Burned by Roddy White for 10 catches, otherwise grade would be A+

Special Teams: B- Returns were negligible, missed FG, but 52.8 punting.

Game and Season Notes



Broncos have won two in a row for first time under Hank Sienzant

After the game, Houston coach Frank Aluzzi congratulated the Broncos and Hank Sienzant, saying the Texans were outplayed and out-coached. Roddy White caught ten for Houston for 140 yards to lead both teams in receptions and receiving yards. Jermichael Finley caught six for 41 to lead the Broncos in receptions, but Dwayne Bowe gained 87 yards on five receptions to lead the Broncos in receiving yards. Daunte Culpepper had a good game, with 16 of 22 for 189 yards and no touchdowns or

picks (98.5 passer rating). Eli Manning completed 23 of 38 for 253 and the one interception by Porter (69.3). Fred Jackson rushed for 83 yards on 16 carries (5.3), but was held to 11 for 37 until the final Houston possession. Willie Parker had a better game in the first 57 minutes, rushing nine times for 42 yards (4.7). Glen Coffee picked up 37 yards on nine runs, as the Broncos spread their 28 runs among eight different players. Tracy Porter had 12 tackles to lead the Broncos and along with his

big pick six, garnered the MVP of the contest. The Texans outgained the Broncos 379 to 262, but the Broncos took the ball away twice and had no turnovers. After beating New England last week, the Broncos now have a two-game winning streak. The win against the Texans marks their first victory over a team with a winning record (Houston came in at 7-3 as a legitimate playoff contender) in over two years, since they beat the 5-2 Colts in week eight of 2008.

Injuries and a Look Ahead

There were no injuries in this game, and the Broncos are getting healthy, getting back Jermichael Finley and linebacker Ernie Sims for this game against the Texans and next week starting rookie guard Eric Wood should be available to play as well.

Last week they got back

Daunte Culpepper so they are now at the healthiest they've been since the first half of week one, when both Bowe and Culpepper went down with injuries that cost Culpepper half a season and Bowe the better portion of six games.

Next week the Broncos get to travel to New Jersey to face

the undefeated Jets, a team that decimated them in a 30-0 shut-out in week nine. Houston plays the 8-2 Bears in Chicago, in what may prove to be a big game for both teams. The following week, the Broncos get to host Houston in Denver, in a rematch of this game, with Houston seeking to avenge their loss.



Daunte Culpepper is Healthy Again

Broncos Release Three Players

The Broncos announced the release of three players after their victory over the Houston Texans.

Wide receiver Sinorice Moss,

who was signed when Dwayne Bowe was injured in week one, and looked good on punt returns until going down with an injury himself, was the first of the three players released.

Moss averaged 13 yards per punt return on five returns, and 21.4 per kickoff return. Wide receiver Mark Jones and safety Kevin Kaesviharn were also released.

Steal One (continued from page two)

play drive of 62 yards took nearly five minutes off the clock, with the biggest play on the march a 24-yard connection to Roddy White from Eli Manning that got the ball to the Denver 14.

But the Broncos weren't about to fold, although that has been the case too many times in the recent past to count. Starting at their own 23, the Broncos scored their second touchdown of the game to up their lead to eight points, with rookie QB Josh Freeman extending the ball over the goal line from the Texans one yard line on a dive play for the score. Again it was Culpepper who did most of the heavy lifting on the march, including connecting with Dwayne Bowe for 43 yards deep down the middle on a third and two that Bowe took to the Texans nine yard line. After Delanie Walker

was stopped a yard short of the goal line on a sweep, Freeman scored his second touchdown of the contest to make it 14-6 in Denver's favor.

The Texans got three points back before the half on another Carney field goal, this time of 43 yards. The Texans picked up 44 in one chunk as Manning hit Roddy White for 29 and B.J. Raji was flagged for roughing the passer on the play. But a short hitch on third and third fell incomplete from the Bronco 26, and the Texans has to settle for the field goal.

The third quarter was scoreless as the two teams exchanged punts as they jockeyed for field position, with neither team breaking the mid-field barrier until the Texans mounted a drive late in the third quarter that spilled over into the fourth. Starting at their

own 20, they mixed runs and passes effectively to move to the Denver 17, where the drive stalled when Parker went nowhere on a second-and-eight dive play, and then Manning's pass to Mark Clayton was dropped by Clayton on the first play of the fourth quarter. So the Texans settled for the Carney field goal again, this time from 34 yards out, to cut the Denver lead to 14-12 with nearly the entire fourth quarter to go.

Plenty of time to come back. And these were the Broncos, so no need to be concerned. And after a Bronco quick three-and-out, the Texans got the ball back in a hurry at their own 20, ready to march to victory. Things were looking good for the Texans.

But then Tracy Porter stepped in front of a Manning pass, and took it the other way for the touchdown that decided the contest.

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Denver
Broncos

Never say Neigh

The Broncos are in rebuilding mode and have acquired a number of good young players since Hank Sienzant took the reins of the organization at the beginning of the 2009 season. Although they have won only 3 games and lost 24 under Sienzant, the Broncos believe they are on the right track and will be a winning franchise again very soon.

Young stars like Jermichael Finley and Brandon Pettigrew at tight end, Dwayne Bowe and Louis Murphy at wide receiver, and All-Pro offensive lineman like Ryan Clady and Joe Thomas give the offensive side of the ball a strong foundation, while first and second-year defenders like Tracy Porter, B.J.Raji, and Terrell Thomas will help the defense improve as well.

A special mention of rookie quarterback Josh Freeman must be made. Although Freeman has had his share of ups and downs in his rookie year, his rare talent, size, and work-hard ethic makes the Broncos confident that Freeman will be the long-time answer at the most important position on the football field.

BRONCOS REMAINING 2010 SCHEDULE

Week 12: at New York Jets

Week 13: Home vs Houston Texans

Week 14: Bye

Week 15: at Cleveland Browns

Week 16: Home vs San Diego Chargers

Week 17: at Seattle Seahawks