

Texans disappointing in loss to Colts as injuries pile up

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Houston took one step forward and two steps back on Sunday.

The Texans (0-2) came into the week after a strong defensive performance against Baltimore but with an offense that struggled. They hoped to build on the defense and fix some offensive problems going into a winnable game against the Colts in Houston's home opener.

Instead though, it was a reverse of what happened last week. The Texans offense took a step forward, but the team's defense struggled mightily, as the Texans faced an early deficit and were unable to turn things around in a 31-20 loss.

"I thought the guys on the offensive side of the ball got better today and showed improvements," said Texans head coach DeMeco Ryans. "But our defense wasn't good enough. We have to be better up front — we didn't stop the run and we didn't tackle well. If you want to win games in this league, you have to be better at that."

The Colts got out to a hot start in the game, scoring on their first possession, which spanned seven plays and 75 yards, which Anthony Richardson capped off with an 18-yard run. Then the Texans gave the ball right back on a fumble inside their own 20-yard line. Indianapolis took advantage as Richardson ran in another score from 15 yards out on the next play.

Houston came back with a strong drive of its own after that. CJ Stroud led an efficient drive that went 68 yards on 13 plays, which Stroud capped off with his first NFL touchdown, an eight-yard pass to Nico Collins as the Texans found their footing in the game.

Houston's defense held the Colts scoreless their next two drives, but couldn't keep things up all the way to halftime. The Colts strung together another long drive early in the second quarter which Zach Moss ended with an 11-yard touchdown,



PHOTOS BY SCOTT W. COLEMAN

Above: Colts linebacker Zaire Franklin (44) tackles Texans running back Dameon Pierce (31) during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 17, 2023 in Houston. The Colts won, 31-20. Right: Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) looks to pass the ball during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on September 17, 2023 in Houston. The Colts won, 31-20.

putting the Texans down 14. Houston came back with a field goal drive to trim things but the Colts answered right back with a long touchdown drive right before halftime.

"We just have to keep getting better," Ryans said. "We have to get better throughout the game and better throughout the week of practice. There were too many self-inflicted wounds that hurt us today, whether it's on defense or offense. You have to control what you can control and not help the other team."

The Colts added a field goal midway through the third quarter. The Texans responded with a 36-yard field goal and then a touchdown pass from Stroud to Tank Dell, the first touchdown of Dell's career, but couldn't muster anything else to get closer.

Two bright spots for the team were Stroud and Collins. Stroud looked very solid despite playing with an offensive line missing four starters. He finished the game with 384 yards passing, completing 30 of 47 attempts with two touchdowns while looking in control of the offense. Collins meanwhile had seven receptions for 146 yards as the two players'

chemistry seemed to blossom. Tank Dell and Robert Woods both added over 70 yards receiving as the Texans' pass game showed improvements.

"We got better and took steps forward as an offense," Stroud said. "From getting in and out of the huddle to executing plays, you could see that improvement. But we have to keep taking steps and getting better. Our operation has to be clean — we have to get guys lined up right and we have to do better in the red zone. We're putting in that work to make it happen and we're going to try our best to continue to do that."

The Texans will play Jacksonville on the road next before heading back to NRG to play the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I'm not happy right now of course, but there are definitely some things we can take from this," Stroud said. "We did a lot of good things both offensively and defensively. Once we get that together on both sides and play as a team, watch out because this team is ready to win. We just have to keep getting better and putting it together in all three phases. I'm excited to get to work on it."



Water District Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Rate

The WILLOW FORK DRAINAGE DISTRICT will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2023 on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the offices of LJA Engineering Inc., 1904 West Grand Parkway North, STE 100, Katy, TX, 77449. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

FOR the proposal: Gregg Nady, John Savage, Joseph S. Robinson, Sarah Hubbell

AGAINST the proposal: (none)

PRESENT and not voting: (none)

ABSENT: Alexander "Alec" Bray

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	Last Year \$0.17200/\$100 Adopted	This Year \$0.17000 /\$100 Proposed
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)		
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$-0.00200 /\$100
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		-1.16%
Average appraised residence homestead value	\$380,406.00	\$420,560.00
General homestead exemptions available (excluding 65 years of age or older or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average residence homestead taxable value	\$380,406.00	\$420,560.00
Tax on average residence homestead	\$654.30	\$714.95
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-) and percentage of increase (+/-)		\$60.65 9.27%

NOTICE OF VOTE ON TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 3.5 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23602, Water Code.

If the rate adopted by the board is less than the mandatory election rate then no election will be required.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

Should you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact the tax office at 281-482-0216.

STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

With news and sports coverage from the **Katy Times**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR JUST \$35.00 per YEAR!

- Go to [KatyTimes.com](https://katytimes.com) and click the **SUBSCRIBE** button in the top-right corner
- OR
- Call 281-391-3141
- OR
- Mail your name, address and payment to **Katy Times, PO Box 678, Katy, Tx 77492-0678**

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOBILES

CARS ARE CHEAPER OUT WEST!

TEGELER

CHEVROLET

4062 NE I 10 Frontage Rd, Sealy, TX • 979-987-7900

CHEVROLET

FIND NEW ROADS

BUSINESS SERVICES

POSTNET

Design, Printing, and Shipping Solutions.
Notary, Mailboxes And Much More!

23144 Cinco Ranch Blvd. Suite B
Katy, TX 77494 | 281.396.4773