

# **houston texans qb history**

Houston Texans QB History: A Journey Through the Franchise's Signal Callers

**houston texans qb history** is a rich and evolving narrative that reflects not only the growth of a relatively young NFL franchise but also the challenges and triumphs of finding a true franchise quarterback. Since the Texans' inception in 2002, the quarterback position has been a rollercoaster, marked by promising talents, injuries, and moments of brilliance that have shaped the team's identity in the fiercely competitive AFC South division.

## **Early Days: Establishing a Quarterback Identity**

When the Houston Texans were awarded their expansion franchise, the search for a foundational quarterback began immediately. In the 2002 NFL Draft, the Texans selected David Carr as their first-ever overall pick, signaling their hope that he would become the cornerstone of the franchise.

### **David Carr: The Franchise's First Signal Caller**

David Carr's tenure with the Texans is often seen as a tale of unfulfilled potential, yet it's crucial to understand the context. As a rookie quarterback on an expansion team, Carr faced relentless pressure behind a struggling offensive line, leading to a record-setting 76 sacks in his rookie year alone. Despite these challenges, Carr showed flashes of leadership and resilience, throwing for over 10,000 yards during his time in Houston.

His struggles weren't due to a lack of talent but rather the growing pains typical of a brand-new team trying to find its footing. Carr's time with the Texans laid the groundwork for what fans hoped would be a brighter quarterback future.

## **The Transitional Years: Searching for Stability**

Following Carr's departure in 2006, the Texans cycled through several quarterbacks, trying to find a consistent performer who could lead the offense effectively. This period was characterized by short stints and a revolving door at the position.

### **Matt Schaub: Bringing Respectability and Playoff**

## Success

Matt Schaub, acquired from the Atlanta Falcons in 2007, became a significant figure in Houston Texans QB history. Unlike his predecessors, Schaub provided stability and productivity, leading the team to multiple playoff appearances and setting several franchise passing records.

In 2009, Schaub threw for over 4,770 yards and 29 touchdowns, cementing his place as one of the most prolific passers in Texans history. His ability to read defenses and deliver accurate throws made him a fan favorite and helped elevate the Texans from expansion struggles to playoff contenders.

However, injuries and inconsistency eventually curtailed Schaub's momentum, and the Texans began to look for their next franchise quarterback.

## The Recent Era: The Rise of Deshaun Watson

The 2017 NFL Draft marked a new chapter in Houston Texans QB history with the selection of Deshaun Watson. Watson's arrival infused the team with excitement and hope, as he was widely regarded as one of the most talented dual-threat quarterbacks in the league.

### Deshaun Watson: A Dynamic Playmaker

Watson's rookie season demonstrated his potential, but it was his sophomore campaign in 2018 that truly showcased his skills. Leading the Texans to an AFC South division title, Watson threw for over 4,100 yards and 26 touchdowns while also rushing for over 500 yards.

His ability to extend plays with his legs and make accurate throws on the move made him a nightmare for opposing defenses. Watson's leadership helped the Texans reach the AFC Championship Game in the 2019 season, marking the deepest playoff run in franchise history.

Despite his on-field success, Watson's time in Houston was marred by off-field controversies and a strained relationship with the organization, leading to a highly publicized trade request.

## Quarterback Challenges and Future Prospects

The quarterback position for the Texans remains a critical focus as the franchise seeks to rebuild and reestablish itself as a playoff contender. After Watson's departure, the team experienced a period of uncertainty, turning to various quarterbacks in search of a long-term solution.

# Post-Watson Quarterbacks: Trials and Tribulations

Following Watson, the Texans have experimented with several quarterbacks, including Tyrod Taylor, Davis Mills, and others. Each brought different strengths, but none have yet matched the consistency or star power that Watson exhibited.

Davis Mills, a third-round draft pick in 2021, has shown promise with his arm strength and composure under pressure. Still, he is in the early stages of his career and represents the Texans' hope for developing a homegrown quarterback who can lead the team into the future.

## What Makes a Successful Texans QB?

Reflecting on the Houston Texans QB history, it's clear that success at the position requires more than raw talent. The franchise's early struggles underscore the importance of a strong offensive line and a supportive coaching staff to nurture quarterback development.

Modern NFL offenses demand quarterbacks who can adapt, make quick decisions, and sometimes contribute on the ground. This evolution means the Texans must prioritize acquiring or developing a quarterback who fits their offensive philosophy and can handle the pressures of a passionate football city.

## Notable Quarterbacks in Houston Texans History

While David Carr, Matt Schaub, and Deshaun Watson stand out, several other quarterbacks have made contributions worth remembering:

- **Case Keenum:** Known for stepping in during injury crises, Keenum provided veteran leadership and stability in limited action.
- **Terrelle Pryor Jr.:** Attempted to bring dual-threat capabilities but struggled to secure a starting role.
- **Tyrod Taylor:** Brought experience and mobility but faced inconsistency in performances.

Each quarterback's journey adds a layer to the Texans' evolving narrative, highlighting the complexities of building a winning team from the ground up.

# **Looking Ahead: The Future of Houston Texans QB History**

As the Texans enter a new phase, the quarterback position remains central to their ambitions. With young talents like Davis Mills and ongoing scouting efforts to find emerging prospects, the franchise is determined to write a new chapter in its quarterback legacy.

The quest for a franchise quarterback who can deliver championships continues, but the lessons from Houston's past signal that patience, development, and a strong supporting cast are essential ingredients for success.

Houston Texans QB history is still being written, and fans eagerly await the day when a quarterback can lead the team to sustained glory, carrying forward the hopes of a vibrant football city.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who was the first starting quarterback for the Houston Texans?**

The first starting quarterback for the Houston Texans was David Carr, who was selected as the first overall pick in the 2002 NFL Draft.

### **Which Houston Texans quarterback holds the franchise record for most passing yards in a single season?**

Deshaun Watson holds the Houston Texans franchise record for most passing yards in a single season, throwing for 4,165 yards in the 2018 season.

### **How many quarterbacks have started a game for the Houston Texans since their inception?**

Since their inception in 2002, over 20 different quarterbacks have started at least one game for the Houston Texans.

### **Who is the all-time leader in touchdown passes for the Houston Texans?**

Deshaun Watson is the all-time leader in touchdown passes for the Houston Texans.

## **Which Houston Texans quarterback led the team to their first playoff victory?**

Matt Schaub led the Houston Texans to their first playoff victory in the 2011 season.

## **Have the Houston Texans ever drafted a quarterback in the first round besides David Carr?**

Yes, besides David Carr in 2002, the Houston Texans also drafted Deshaun Watson in the first round of the 2017 NFL Draft.

## **How has the quarterback position evolved for the Houston Texans over the years?**

The Houston Texans' quarterback position has evolved from struggling early years with David Carr to playoff successes with Matt Schaub and Deshaun Watson, though the team has faced challenges finding consistent starting quarterbacks in recent seasons.

## **Additional Resources**

Houston Texans QB History: An Analytical Review of the Franchise's Quarterback Journey

**houston texans qb history** is a compelling narrative marked by highs and lows, developmental challenges, and moments of promise. Since their inception in 2002, the Houston Texans have experienced a fluctuating quarterback landscape that has significantly influenced the team's trajectory in the NFL. Examining this history not only highlights the evolution of the franchise's offensive identity but also sheds light on the complexities of building a winning team around the pivotal quarterback position.

## **The Early Years: Establishing a Quarterback Foundation**

The Houston Texans entered the NFL as an expansion team in 2002, instantly facing the challenge of finding a franchise quarterback to lead the fledgling squad. The initial seasons were characterized by a search for stability under center, with several starting quarterbacks cycling through the roster.

## **David Carr: The First Franchise Quarterback**

David Carr was the Texans' first-ever draft pick and starting quarterback, selected first overall in the 2002 NFL Draft. Carr's tenure encapsulates the difficulties faced by expansion franchises when trying to develop young quarterbacks. Despite Carr's natural arm strength and potential, the Texans' porous offensive line exposed him to relentless pressure, resulting in Carr being sacked a record 76 times during his rookie season. This led to significant struggles:

- Completion percentage hovering around 57%
- Low touchdown-to-interception ratio
- Limited offensive production due to lack of protection

While Carr showed flashes of promise, the lack of supporting infrastructure hindered his development. Ultimately, his time with the Texans ended in 2006, marking a difficult but necessary phase in the franchise's quarterback history.

## **Mid-2000s Transition: Searching for Consistency**

Following Carr's departure, the Texans cycled through various quarterbacks, including Sage Rosenfels, Matt Schaub, and Sage Rosenfels again briefly, before settling on Matt Schaub as a more stable option.

## **Matt Schaub: The Franchise's Most Productive Era**

Matt Schaub, acquired via trade from the Atlanta Falcons in 2007, provided Houston with a period of relative quarterback stability and success. Schaub's tenure from 2007 to 2013 saw the Texans make multiple playoff appearances and set franchise records. His passing prowess was evident:

- Career-high 4,770 passing yards in 2009
- Leading the team to its first playoff victory in 2011
- Establishing franchise records in completions and passing touchdowns

Despite his success, Schaub's later years were marred by injuries and

inconsistency, leading to a decline in performance. His ability to execute a West Coast offense and maintain a steady presence under center made him a critical figure in the Texans' quarterback lineage.

## **Post-Schaub Era: Instability and the Quest for a New Leader**

After Schaub's decline and eventual departure, Houston entered a phase marked by uncertainty at the quarterback position. This period involved several high-profile acquisitions, draft picks, and veteran signings, but none solidified the role definitively.

### **Case Keenum and Brock Osweiler: Short-Lived Solutions**

In 2017, the Texans signed Brock Osweiler to a lucrative contract, hoping to secure a veteran presence. However, Osweiler's performance was underwhelming, marked by a subpar touchdown-to-interception ratio and limited leadership impact. Meanwhile, Case Keenum, who stepped in briefly, showed competence but lacked the consistency to be a long-term answer.

### **Deshaun Watson: A Franchise Quarterback Emerges**

The 2017 NFL Draft saw the Texans select Deshaun Watson in the first round, a decision that initially promised to redefine the franchise's quarterback history. Watson's early career was marked by:

- Dynamic dual-threat capabilities with both passing and rushing yards
- Pro Bowl selections and franchise records for touchdown passes
- Leading the Texans to multiple playoff appearances

Watson's presence signaled a shift in the Texans' offensive philosophy, emphasizing mobility and playmaking. His leadership and skill level offered hope for sustained success. However, off-field controversies and subsequent legal issues led to a fracturing relationship with the franchise, culminating in his departure and leaving the Texans once again searching for a quarterback anchor.

# Recent Developments: Navigating a New Quarterback Era

Following Watson's exit, the Texans have been in a rebuilding phase, attempting to identify the next quarterback to lead the franchise.

## Tyrod Taylor and Davis Mills: A Transitional Chapter

The Texans signed veteran Tyrod Taylor for the 2021 season, aiming to stabilize the quarterback position with experience and steady play. Taylor's tenure was characterized by moderate success but limited by injuries. Meanwhile, rookie Davis Mills, drafted in 2021, showed promise with flashes of potential despite the team's overall struggles:

- Setting rookie records for passing yards within the franchise
- Demonstrating poise under pressure in limited starts
- Highlighting areas for growth such as decision-making and consistency

Mills' development has become central to Houston's quarterback outlook, representing a potential foundation for the future.

## Analyzing Houston Texans QB History: Insights and Patterns

The Houston Texans QB history reveals a recurring theme of instability punctuated by brief periods of promise. Several factors have shaped this trajectory:

1. **Organizational Growing Pains:** As a relatively young franchise, the Texans have grappled with building a robust offensive line and supporting cast, which impacted quarterback performance, especially in the early years.
2. **Drafting and Development Challenges:** While the franchise has invested high draft picks in quarterbacks, translating collegiate success to NFL consistency has been a hurdle.
3. **Injury and Off-Field Issues:** Quarterbacks like Schaub and Watson faced challenges that limited their tenure, influencing the team's continuity.

4. **Coaching and Offensive Philosophy:** Changes in coaching staff and offensive schemes have affected quarterback play styles and adaptability.

This analysis underscores the complex interplay between talent acquisition, player development, and organizational support in shaping quarterback success.

## **Comparative Perspective: Texans Versus Other Expansion Teams**

When compared to other expansion franchises such as the Carolina Panthers or Jacksonville Jaguars, the Texans' quarterback development shows both similarities and contrasts. While all expansion teams face initial challenges in securing franchise quarterbacks, the Texans' extended struggles post-David Carr highlight the importance of organizational stability and strategic vision. The Panthers, for instance, found success with Cam Newton relatively early, while the Texans had to wait longer for a breakthrough quarterback in Deshaun Watson.

## **Looking Ahead: The Future of Houston Texans Quarterbacks**

As the Texans rebuild, the quarterback position remains a focal point. Davis Mills' progression, combined with potential draft opportunities and free-agent acquisitions, will be critical in defining the next chapter of Houston's quarterback history. The franchise's ability to learn from past experiences—emphasizing protection schemes, player development, and cultural stability—will ultimately dictate the success of their quarterback endeavors.

The Houston Texans QB history is a study in perseverance and adaptation, reflecting the broader challenges faced by NFL franchises in cultivating a leader at one of the game's most demanding positions. With a blend of youth and experience currently shaping the roster, the Texans continue their quest to find a quarterback that can deliver consistent, elite-level performance and guide the team toward sustained competitiveness.

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