

Texans Sign Delhomme

Written by Mike Kelly

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The Houston Texans searching for a veteran quarterback following injuries to Matt Leinart, who fractured his collarbone last Sunday against Jacksonville, and starting quarterback Matt Schaub, who broke a bone in his right foot against Tampa Bay on November 13, have signed

former Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme.

The 36-year-old veteran was chosen over veteran Jeff Garcia. He will be the Texans (8-3 and leading the AFC South Division) third-string quarterback Sunday when they entertain the Atlanta Falcons.

Delhomme is a ten-year veteran. He has played for the New Orleans Saints (1997-98 and 1999-2002), the Carolina Panthers (2003-09) and the Cleveland Browns (2010). He started four games for the Browns last season before he was benched in favor of then-rookie Colt McCoy. Delhomme's best years came with the Panthers. He is their all-time leader in pass attempts, completions and interceptions. He also led them to Super Bowl XXXVIII and threw a Super-Bowl record 85-yard touchdown pass in that game against New England. Delhomme has thrown for 20,764 yards with 125 touchdowns and 101 interceptions in his NFL career.

T.J. Yates, a fifth-round draft pick from the University of North Carolina last April, will get the starting nod Sunday against the Falcons. Kellen Clemens, who was signed last week, is the No.2 quarterback for the Texans on the depth chart.

SMITH STELLAR ON TURKEY DAY

Former Appalachian State University football player D.J. Smith turned in a career-best effort on Thanksgiving Day, and he did it on national television.

The former Mountaineer, who was selected by the Green Bay Packers in the sixth round (186th pick) of the NFL Draft last April, came in to play when linebackers Desmond Bishop (in the first quarter) and A.J. Hawk (in the third quarter) both went down with injuries.

Smith made five stops on the day, four of those solo tackles as the undefeated Packers (11-0) defeated the Detroit Lions 27-15 at Ford Field. Smith, a two-time All-America (2009 and 2010) at ASU, made 525 stops in his collegiate career, which is the most made by any active Division I players at the FCS or FBS levels. He led the Southern Conference and ranked fifth nationally

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with 144 total tackles, to go with 4.5 TFLs, two sacks, an interception and a fumble recovery last fall.

The Packers take on the New York Giants Sunday at Giants Stadium.

Photo Courtesy: Jake Delhomme, Carolina Panthers