

Texans sign former Browns QB Jake Delhomme to be backup

Written by Yolande Lezine

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HOUSTON—Desperate for a veteran to back up rookie quarterback T.J. Yates, the Texans brought in Jake Delhomme and Jeff Garcia for tryouts.

It was the second time in two weeks Garcia worked out for the coaches, but coach Gary Kubiak chose Delhomme, who retired to raise horses in Louisiana after Cleveland released him in late July.

The Texans were not interested in Brett Favre or Sage Rosenfels.

“It had to be the right fit for what we’re doing with T.J.,” Kubiak said.

The Texans are committed to Yates, the fifth-round pick from North Carolina. With Matt Schaub and Matt Leinart undergoing season-ending surgery this week, they’re hoping Yates can do for them what Pat Haden did for the Los Angeles Rams in 1976.

Haden, a seventh-round pick, replaced the injured James Harris and Ron Jaworski and helped the Rams finish 5-1-1. They beat Dallas in the playoffs before losing to Minnesota.

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Kubiak is watching Delhomme and Kellen Clemens, signed last week to be third team and run the scout team, in practice before determining who will be the active backup for Sunday's game against Atlanta, which is 8-0 against rookie quarterbacks during the last three seasons.

Delhomme, 36, drove his truck to Houston. He threw the ball well and accurately in his workout. He also impressed Kubiak with his knowledge of the West Coast system.

Most important, perhaps, is that Delhomme pledged to support Yates and do everything possible to help the rookie on and off the field