

Smith ready for challenge of rebuilding the Texans

BY TYLER TYRE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a coaching search spanning nearly a month, the Texans decided their best option was in house, as the organization announced Monday that they had hired Lovie Smith as head coach.

Smith becomes the fifth head coach in organization's history, following Dom Capers, Gary Kubiak, Bill O'Brien and David Culley.

"There's been a lot of special moments that have happened to me, but this one is pretty special, it's right up there," Smith said. "It's not often you get a chance to lead three professional football teams. I don't know if there's a guy that looks like me that's had the opportunity to do that. Just what I know about the organization and the potential, I know the potential here, I got to see it this year and I'm glad that we can keep building on it."

The Texans interviewed a vast array of candidates, including Jonathan Gannon, Brian Flores, Joe Lombard and Hines Ward before deciding to give Smith the job.

"There was a lot of conversation, a lot of dialogue with a lot of people around the league. Players, coaches, executives and different people. Said Houston Texans general manager Nick Caserio. "My job was to take that information and try to put ourselves in a good position and make the best decision. I believe we've arrived at that point."

This is Smith's third NFL coaching job, after coaching the Chicago Bears from 2004-2012 and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2014-15, he was also the head coach of the University of Illinois from 2016-2020. He was praised this past year as the Texans defensive coordinator for his calming presence in the locker room and the relationships he built with players.

"I was asked in this search to be very thoughtful and process oriented



Houston Texans defensive coordinator Lovie Smith during an NFL game between the Texans and the Colts on December 5, 2021 in Houston, Texas. The Colts won, 31-0.

and just be consistent," Caserio said. "When you look at Lovie (Smith) on a day to day basis, that kind of defines who he is as a human being. He doesn't get to high, doesn't get to low, and he has certain convictions that he believes in. He's one of the most well respected people throughout the league, not only in our building but outside of the building as well."

Smith, who was a high school graduate of Big Sandy, always dreamed of being an NFL head coach in his home state and is excited for the opportunity of leading the Texans.

"I'm a high school product of our great state of Texas Smith said. "I knew I always wanted to be a coach and I knew that I would always want to lead a team in my home state. I can't thank the people in this organization enough for having the faith in me to lead our great program."

Another internal move along with

Smith happened Tuesday, as Texans quarterback coach Pep Hamilton was promoted to offensive coordinator.

"It was a must to keep Pep (Hamilton)," Smith said. "One of the first things I did was say 'Pep, we need you.' We have a relationship."

Smith didn't just sell himself to the Texans, but Caserio and the Texans sold themselves to Smith as well.

"It's not just the finished product that you look for," Smith said. "I saw the potential here of starting from the bottom floor and building it up. What it looks like and where it can go are two different things. Our history that we have in this program, just not too long ago this was a team in the playoffs with a chance to get to the super bowl, that opportunity is there. Working together with Nick (Caserio) and with the commitment we have from the McNair family, I know we can get back there."

SEVEN LAKES

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another opportunity."

Seven Lakes came away with a 58-47 win in a scrappy game to advance to the area round, winning their first playoff win in four years.

"It means everything to get this win," said senior forward Summer Halphen. "It's really a proud moment for us, we worked so hard for this and we wanted it so badly. This is really what we were trying to do."

Seven Lakes led 11-6 after the first quarter and used a strong second to make it a 17-point lead heading into the half as the Spartans jumped on Elkins early.

"The first half, we really dominated rebounding, that was what got us ahead was being so good with rebounding," Carlton said. "We struggled a little bit at times, but we picked it up as the game went on."

Elking went on a big run to open the third quarter and continued to trim things to single digits.

But every time the Knights got within five points of Seven Lakes, the Spartans would go on a mini run of their own to extend the lead, and this trend continued as Seven Lakes worked its way to the victory in the fourth.

"When somebody comes at you, you have to be able to respond to that," said Seven Lakes head coach Angela Spurlock. "I was just extremely proud more than

anything of the fact that when Elkins came rallying back, we stayed calm. We didn't execute as perfectly as we would have liked, but we stayed calm enough to push the lead back to nine and make it more comfortable."

Carlton finished the night with 23 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks, while Halphen had six points, and 13 rebounds. KK Tucker also played a big part in the win with 13 points and four other players chipped in with four points to help the Spartans advance.

Seven Lakes advances to play Cy-Fair in the Class 6A area round, time and date to be determined.

"It's a great win for us," Spurlock said. "But this isn't the final goal, we have to go back to practice, regroup and get ready to go on."

Class 6A b-district

Seven Lakes 58, Fort Bend Elkins 47

Points: (SL) Justice Carlton 23, KK Tucker 13, Summer Halphen 6, Lenore Hudspeth 4, Aliyah Atiqi 4, Caitlyn Quintero 4, Shea McFarland 4; (E) Zaya Adagbada 15, Cecily Callegari 8, Kathleen Mbatchou 7, Mad-die Rhea 7, Paris Anderson 4, Kaylan Woodrow 2

Halftime: Seven Lakes 31-14; 3-pointers: (E) Adagbada 3; Records: Seven Lakes 31-6; Elkins 11-17

PLAYOFFS

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first quarter and 19-18 at halftime, but Tompkins kept adjusting and finding ways to be successful.

Junior guard Macy Spencer had 21 points on the night but George Ranch did a good job keeping the ball out of her hands, which opened up extra opportunities for Nash.

"I knew that with the full court press they were running that they were playing really tight on me, and I knew that there would definitely be an opportunity for me to have some blow byes," Nash said. "I knew that when I did that and I got past my defender it would open up things for both me and my teammates."

Tompkins finally took the lead late in the third and took a 31-30 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Falcons and George Ranch continued to go back and forth and George Ranch took a three point lead with 1:12 remaining in regulation, but

Tompkins fought their way back and after a steal and basket from Kayla Boven with 30 seconds left took the lead, but George Ranch tied things up at 43 to send the game to overtime.

"I can't say enough about Kayla Boven," Ray said. "She's a varsity soccer basketball player, she's a varsity soccer player and she goes back and forth all the time. Jarrett Shipman and I, we get our calendars out and see when we both need her and she actually had her backpack ready to go to play soccer tonight if she needed. She's a difference maker, we're different without her. Two of our three losses this year came when we were without her."

George Ranch kept coming back in overtime, but every time they got within one, Tompkins increased the lead and eventually came away with the win.

Tompkins will play Stratford in the area round, time and location to be

determined.

"This game made us stronger," Boven said. "We had a lot of support today, especially from our football team. We just know we have to keep pushing through and even if we're down, we know we can always come back."

Class 6A Bi-District

Tompkins 52, George Ranch 47

Points: (T) Macy Spencer 21, Brooklynn Nash 19, Kayla Boven 4, Fiyin Adeleye 2, Kennedy Boroque 2, Gabby Panter 2, Emma Potts 2; (GR) Savanah Velazquez 15, Lauren Stevens 11, Logan Riley 7, Leslie Forun 7, Rachel Okoye 5,

Halftime: George Ranch 19-18; 3-pointers (T) Spencer 2, Nash; (GR) Velazquez 2, Riley; Records: Tompkins 32-3; George Ranch 19-12

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NOTICE

The City Planning And Zoning Commission And The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas, Will Each Conduct Public Hearings At Their Regular Meetings To Be Held At City Hall, 901 Avenue C, Katy, Texas.

CITY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, 2022

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

6:30 p.m., Monday, March 28, 2022

The Hearings Are Being Conducted To Receive Comments From The Public On A Proposed Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Katy, Texas Amending The Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 621; Amending Ordinance No. 2445 "West Ten Business Park" Planned Development District; Amending Certain Requirements And Restrictions For Development Within The "West Ten Business Park" Planned Development District; Providing A Penalty Of \$2,000 For Each Day Of Violation Of Any Provision Of This Ordinance; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict Herewith; And Providing For Severability.

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