

Image

Sports

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With Earl injured, Texans could look to Hutchins

By DALE ROBERTSON

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A cornerback by trade in the NFL, Von Hutchins is getting a serious look from the Texans at free safety, and that's where he was playing Saturday when he intercepted a Rex Grossman pass late in the first quarter.

Hutchins stepped in front of intended receiver Mark Bradley and made the pick at the Chicago 36, then returned it 20 yards before being run out of bounds at the 16.

The heads-up play, which set up the second of Kris Brown's four field goals in the Texans' 19-17 victory, even drew the attention of owner Bob McNair.





"We've got a lot of competition in the secondary that we haven't had before," McNair said. "I think that's one reason you're going to see more turnovers. The guys have better hands and better speed. We have more depth than we've had."

Hutchins, a fourth-year pro, was signed as a free agent last November after being cut by Indianapolis. He is listed on the depth chart as the backup to C.C. Brown, whose skills arguably make him better suited to strong safety. But that's where Glenn Earl plays.

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