



**OAKLAND RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME**  
**SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON**

**Opening Statement:** “Obviously, this was a disappointing end to the game. There was the period in the fourth quarter where that momentum swung a little bit. They had a quick score, and we had settled for a field goal. We were able to respond with a score, but in the end, we were not able to play well enough to finish the game. I thought our guys fought hard, and credit Oakland, because those guys came with some big plays down the stretch. Of course, that two point play for the win was huge. One thing that I mentioned to them is that we are in a race with everyone else from week one to week two to really get on this tape and make the corrections that we need to correct before we get onto the next game. I think we will do that, but nonetheless it’s disappointing to end up like this today.”

**On Craig Robertson pass interference call late in fourth quarter:** “Honestly, it’s hard for me to see that one from my angle. I’m not going to start the season off complaining about the officials. We have to play better, however, because that’s just one play and it’s a fourth down call. We have to be able to get off the field. I didn’t agree with it, and yet, this crew had been calling a pretty tight game for the most part. In the end, I honestly just didn’t have a good angle on it.”

**On the uncatchable component on that call:** “There’s a lot of components to it, but again, we have to be able to overcome some of those.”

**On Oakland going for two:** “It’s late in the game and it’s a high-scoring game, so it wasn’t unexpected. I kind of thought that was the direction they would go, considering how they had moved the ball in the fourth quarter. If you looked at that quarter, we were having trouble stopping anything, and on the road, in a game like this, I probably would’ve done the exact same thing.”

**On Wil Lutz’s performance:** “We’re obviously going to have to look at the film, as we had one [field goal] that was blocked and (it) still goes in, but I like this guy a lot. He is going to be kicking long after I am coaching here. He’s really talented. There are obviously going to be some bumps along the way, as there will be for any of the rookies that played tonight. One thing about him that’s encouraging is that, at the end of the game, he’s got the leg to give us the chance there. I can’t really tell from the angle, but I think he just missed it wide left. He’s got a bright future here. He’ll be kicking here a long time.”

**On Delvin Breaux’s injury:** “Anytime you lose a guy like Delvin [Breaux], there’s an element to it. Josh Hill going out of the game took away some of those two tight end packages we were hoping to be in, but it’s what you get used to. You’re constantly paying attention to matchups and how they change to determine what you can do.”

**On Offensive Line play:** “We will have a chance to see the tape, but the one thing we said going in was that we couldn’t allow 52 (Khalil Mack) to become a force in this game. He’s a very talented player, and they’ve got some great pass rushers like Bruce Irvin, so we spent a long time in the preparation for just handling the edge. The first sack fumble was just a play where we held onto the ball too long, and our protection was still good there. After that, I thought we blocked pretty well, and again, when we see the tape, we will have a better idea of how everyone did individually.”

**On Defense struggling in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:** “Just watching the game like you had, obviously that momentum shifted, and I think that their long run hurt us, along with a few other plays. There will be a lot of things for us to look at and correct when we get to watch the film, but I don’t want to jump to a conclusion and just give an answer before we get to see everything played back. There’s a point where you have to dig down and get off the field, and we had a chance on that fourth down play, but we weren’t able to do so. From then on, you’re just hanging in there, and we didn’t make enough plays. One thing we do know stats wise is that we didn’t have any sacks on the quarterback and we weren’t able to create a turnover, which is one of the things that you’re going to have to be able to do at some point if you want to play good defense. Look, in a game like this, conventional wisdom would point to the defense, but I would say that we didn’t score enough offensively. That’s how the game was being played today, and we didn’t do a good enough job of that. We had a chance with a kick return after the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to get in good field possession. That’s a big penalty with how much time is left in the game. They kicked it deep, and we got it to the 21 or 22-yard line. That’s an opportunity where I’m expecting us to be around the 30 or 35-yard line and get in good field position to start the drive, and

we weren't able to take advantage of that either. There will be a number of these things that we will correct when we look at the film."

**On Pete [Carmichael] calling some of the plays:** "Yes, he did call some plays today, and we have worked like that together for a long time now. He has the headset to the quarterback, so yes, he absolutely called some plays, and we will continue to work like that."

**On receiving core having a good day:** "Those guys stepped up, and they had a lot of bump and run coverage. We got behind their secondary a lot, especially when Brandin [Cooks] scored. Willie [Snead IV] made some big plays inside, and Michael [Thomas] had some good plays as well. There were a number of guys that had good performances today, and yet, we just didn't make enough in tonight's game, and that's the thing that is disappointing and frustrating. We have to quickly get some of these mistakes covered and get ready to go to next week."



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**SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES**

**DB Ken Crawley**

(On his first time out with the Saints) “I went out there and did the best that I could. I had a couple of miscommunications out there. I thought I could have done better on those.”

(On the game winning two-point conversion) “I knew it was coming. I was just out of position. I had bad eyes. He (Michael Crabtree) boxed me out. I was on him and he boxed me out. He’s a big receiver. I should have made a play. He’s a great receiver and he just got the best of me on that one.”

**K Wil Lutz**

(On the potential game winning kick) “I saw that we had the opportunity. Coach (Payton) looked at me and called for me right away. The fact that he has that confidence in me is awesome. I thought I hit it really well, but it just went left at the last second. If I get another chance, then I’ll hit the next one.”

(On what he did during the timeout called by Oakland prior to the potential game-winning kick) “I walked over there and took a breath. Coach Payton told me to have fun. I did. It just didn’t go my way.”

**DB De’Vante Harris**

(On if he expected the two-point conversion following Oakland’s last touchdown) “Yes, I honestly did think they were going to go for two. They were getting hot late in the game. They were having success throwing the ball and getting some runs. I wasn’t surprised, but we have got to hold up.”

**WR Willie Snead IV**

(On his touchdown catch) “It was a great ball and a great catch. I just tried to make plays all during training camp. It’s tough. We’ll learn from this.”

(On Brandin Cooks and himself getting hot today) “We just feed off each other. Drew (Brees) can take his pick. When he does, then we make plays. We just have to keep feeding off each other.”

**S Kenny Vaccaro**

(On the defensive 4<sup>th</sup> quarter struggles) “I thought that we played well heading into halftime. We need to go back and look at the tape. We did not get the job done. Too many explosive plays to remember. Our execution was poor.”

(On Delvin Breaux’s departure changing things) “I don’t think it necessarily changed the calls of the game.”

(On if he was shocked that they went for two) “We practice those situations all of the time. Coach Payton has done a great job all year putting us in those situations. The coaches have done a great job with that. We just didn’t execute.”

**WR Brandin Cooks**

(On the 98-yard receiving touchdown) “It was just one of those things where Drew (Brees) and I were on the same page. He put a beautiful ball out there. All I had to do was put my arms to the ball.”

(On the loss with the great offensive play) “It’s one of those things where as an offense we need to score one more time. That’s what it came down to in this game. We can be on fire as an offense as much as we want to, but at the end of the day we need to score one more time.”

**LB Craig Robertson**



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**SAINTS QUARTERBACK DREW BREES**

**(On the game-ending field goal attempt):** I know this; pre-game, I sat there and watched him (Wil Lutz) kick a 63-yarder so I knew he had the leg for it. So when we got in that final situation at 61 yards, you know you'd like to get a little more yardage. Unfortunately, we didn't have a timeout so the ball has to go out of bounds and we didn't complete it so we didn't get that opportunity and that was OK. He hit it well. It just barely tailed off at the end. I saw a lot from him today and I think he's going to make some big kicks for us in the future.

**(On his performance today):** Obviously could do without the turnover on the first possession. (That was) Completely my fault. Guys in the front did a great job. I just held on too long. What was happening down the field, I should have just checked it down, punted it and moved on because obviously those are three points that when you look at the end of the game, those three points mattered. (There were a) Bunch of other opportunities here and there that if a drive is sustained if we can just convert that. I'm sure the defense would say the same thing on their end. Wrap all those things up, if we could have just made one or two more plays, the result of this game is different.

**(On the offensive line):** They did a great job. They did a phenomenal job. I felt like we were stressing them with what we were doing in the passing game and I felt like a bunch of guys made a lot of big plays. B Cooks (Brandin Cooks), Willie Snead (IV). (We) Had some great efforts all the way around by guys and I look forward to continuing to grow as an offense.

**(On the historic touchdown to Brandin Cooks):** I guess my only regret is that it wasn't one yard further. We were on the two instead of the one, but you figure that when it goes 98 yards that there is only one yardage number that is bigger than that. I felt like we had an opportunity to run a guy loose on our left. Brandin got a great release. (I) Threw it up to him. He did the rest. He looked like Usain Bolt going down the sideline there.

**(On the amount of separation Cooks had in the 98-yard touchdown play):** When I got to the sideline, Luke McCown said, 'Hey, that took him eleven seconds to go one-hundred.' And I said, in full pads. Let's put full pads on some of those hundred-meter sprint champs from the Olympics and see if they can roll out an eleven second hundred. With full pads, that was pretty impressive.

**(On moving on from a tough loss and working on being more consistent):** This is the NFL and a lot of these games go down to the wire like this. I think over 50 percent of them. I think you expect to have to make plays at the end of the game to win. Whether that's to take the lead and win or to secure the win in some way. Listen, we were up fourteen points and at some point in the second half, I don't know exactly when, but I know, offensively, we thought we were moving the ball and had the opportunity to get points. A drive stalls, we get a field goal blocked, there are some things with that, a third down play where I think can get a completion elsewhere and we keep the ball moving and maybe more of a chip at that field goal or maybe we score a touchdown and it changes the game. We end up having to kick a field goal down inside the five-yard line. If we could punch that in. These are all areas where it's more points, more points and I look at those areas as, once again, being more efficient.

**(On the Oakland Raiders going for the two-point conversion on their final touchdown score):** I thought it was a ballsy move and obviously, it paid off. You'll see that from time to time. You feel like you have the momentum and so let's dial it up and win the game. Still feel like we had the opportunity, with a couple of plays, to put ourselves in a position to win, which we did. (Wil) Lutz had the distance. It was just a hair off to the left, but we made a run at it.

**(On what he thought the Raiders were thinking in calling the two-point conversion play):** Who knows what the thought process was, but I could see us doing that at some point.

**(On two opportunities inside the five to score, going for it on fourth down the first time, but not on the second and the thought process behind that):** It was little bit further distance the second time around. At the end of the day, you got that play that you love and we had a play that we loved the first time around and I don't think we had another one for the second time around. Plus, at that point, you've got a lead and any points are good points so I feel like that's where our decision came from.

(On the fourth quarter defensive pass interference call) “I just have to find a way to not get a flag. I just have to find a way.”

(On if he asked the official about the call) “I don’t talk to the refs. It doesn’t help. I have to find a way to be better on that play.”

(On if the ball was catchable) “I didn’t think the ball was catchable, but the ref made the call. I have to live with it myself. I’m just mad that it put the team in a bad place.”



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**OAKLAND RAIDERS HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO**

Opening comments: “What a great finish. (It was) great, gritty performance by the team. There are so many different things, obviously, that we will need to do better. That’s for tomorrow. Today really helps them with finding a way to get a win. We talked about last year learning how to compete for 60 minutes against every team that we played. Except for one game, I thought that we did that last year. This year, we are talking about learning how to win, learning how to close these games, sticking together and making plays at the end. I am really proud of our guys, really happy for them.”

(On going for the two-point conversion late in the fourth quarter to win the game) “I was thinking that we’re here to win. Let’s win it right now. I thought that we took some clock there at the end so they would not have as much (time). That is why we went for two after the score.....I let them know early in that drive (that we would go for it). I said, ‘When we go score here, we’re going to go for two and we’re going to win it right here. I said that right when the drive started.’”

(On trusting Michael Crabtree to make the catch on the conversion) “Sure, I trust Crab(tree) with that. He’s got great hands. He did a nice job. Derek (Carr) gave him a really good ball. Crab(tree) went up really strong (and made the catch).”

(On Jalen Richard) “He is such a great story. The young man came into our camp as an undrafted (player). He did things like that everyday. It’s a great story of a young man that just willed his way onto this football team. Coming home like that and to take his first carry and go 70-plus yards, it was just a special moment for him. Obviously, we are very pleased with him.”

(On being able to come back and win the game) “At any moment, you can let go of the rope and you’re done. We didn’t. There were some moments that really hurt. It hurt to hang in and keep fighting. I think that we are developing that skill and that ability to do that as an organization and as a team with that grittiness that says, ‘Hey, we are going to keep coming. We are going to keep coming all day.’ We came here to win. That is what we are about. I am really proud of our guys for that.”

(On being able to win despite a lot of penalties today) “I thought we fought through and made plays. There are so many different things that you want of them, obviously. There are many different things that we will need to clean up and do better going forward. It will be a lot more fun to go through that tape on the ride home.”

(On both teams targeting young defensive backs) “I thought that it was a good game. I thought that both teams probably did more offensively than the defenses wanted. Coming here and playing Drew Brees in this place, it can go like that and you’re going to need the ball to score some points. I thought that the timing of Derek (Carr) and the receivers, with the things that they have done throughout camp and the time together that they’ve had, it should be good for us.”

(On removing cornerback Sean Smith from the game following the 98-yard touchdown play between Brees and Brandin Cooks) “I thought that he had a rough day, so we took him out. He’ll be back. He’s going to play well for us, but he didn’t play well today.”

(On the missed field goal by the Saints at the end of the game) “I didn’t think that he (Wil Lutz) had much of a chance, really. That’s a lot on a young guy that’s been with the team for a week. It would’ve been a heck of a kick if he had made it. It’s not like it’s impossible in a dome in perfect conditions. We got a hand on a kick earlier in the game. I was hoping that we could block it so there wouldn’t be a question about it.”





## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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#### QB #4 DEREK CARR

“Coach Del Rio came up to me and told me, ‘we are doing to go for two.’ And I just said, ‘OK, no problem.’ It is just that kind of belief and that kind of trust, for a coach to believe in us like that. It just gives us so much confidence to have him do that for us.”

“We finally got a matchup that we liked. DA – that’s Coach (Dennis) Allen – does such a good job of forcing good matchups for him. We knew coming in it was going to be a tough game because he knows me and he knows a lot of guys on this team. We knew he was going to do some things to disrupt me, especially, because of him being with me in the past. We finally got a match up with Crab (Michael Crabtree) that we liked, and I just put the ball up on the top shelf and Crab did everything.”

“Obviously it’s a great win for us. When I got the call, I took a deep breath, made sure my footwork was right, and just lobbed it up for Crab. That’s just my thought process. I say lob it up, but obviously trying to put it in a certain spot where he can make a play.”

#### WR #10 SETH ROBERTS

“It was an amazing game and what you saw out there was a team just keeping it together. We just kept fighting to the very end and we all followed our motto, ‘just win baby.’ Nobody fell apart and we executed the plays to win in the end.”

“This is an amazing step for our team. You look at this group the last few years, Coach (Del Rio) keeps emphasizing to us to follow his plan and to finish out games. We were in many games last year but we just didn’t close them out. Even when we got down in the fourth quarter, a lot of guys were going up and down the sidelines saying ‘it’s not over yet’ and reminding everybody there was a lot of time left to score and win. And that’s exactly what happened.”

“I’m not surprised at all we went for two at the end. I heard in the huddle our offensive line coach making the call, just telling us to be ready. And in the end Derek (Carr) made a nice pass and Crab (Michael Crabtree) brought it in for us to win. We’re 1-0 and that’s what I was saying to myself the whole weekend and now we’re looking ahead to the next W next week.”

#### RB #30 JALEN RICHARD

“I’ll remember this game forever and I give all glory to God. It feels great. I’ve been telling people all along it’s been an amazing journey. From high school to going to USM (University of Southern Mississippi), battling injuries like I have, and then coming into (training) camp to win a job and get a spot on the roster, and then to come in here and perform like that in my home state, I’m just so blessed. I can’t even put it into words.”

“I’ll do whatever the coaches want me to do, whatever my role is I will do (it). Even on that long run (in the fourth quarter) my number was called and I made a play. And I felt great I carried the ball late in the game, giving us a chance to win at the end. I am a patient person and a patient player. I was waiting during the game for my number to be called, and when it was called, I knew I had prepared myself to this point to go out there and perform. It doesn’t matter if your first carry is in the fourth quarter or at the beginning of the game, you’ve got to be ready.”

#### WR #15 MICHAEL CRABTREE

“We fought hard and game out with the W (win). On that last play (2-point conversation), I mean, we practice that so much it becomes routine. I feel like we all made a big play out there, and we all won today. When was the last time the Raiders were one and O? I know its only one game, but we want to win and we did. It’s one game at a time and we got the W and I can’t wait until next week. He (QB Carr) gave me a great ball there, and he did that the entire game. That shows he trusts me. And it wasn’t a gutsy call at all, not at all. He (Coach Del Rio) has a lot of trust in us, and we have a lot of trust in him. I mean when you put in so much work in camp and in the preseason, I feel like all we have to do as players is execute.”

“You gotta have heart and we showed it today. We were competitive and never gave up, even when we were behind late.”



**T #72 DONALD PENN**

“It was a great call (two-point conversion) and it shows the coaches having trust in us. You have to have trust in your players to make a call like that. Having trust in your players gives him (Coach Del Rio) the guts to make a call like that. I think everyone in this locker room’s earned his trust by how hard we’re working to win. But we have got a lot of work ahead of us, man. But we are going to enjoy this one right now.”

**WR #89 AMARI COOPER**

“It’s awesome, it really is. It shows we are definitely learning how to win. When we got down late in the game, no one got upset about it. We just kept going. We were resilient today. We all knew we just had to keep playing and make plays.”

(On the call for the two-point conversion) “It was just great - phenomenal man. I knew the play was going to Crab (Michael Crabtree) because the defensive player was crowding up on him at the line of scrimmage and he was the closest receiver. And I just knew Crab was going to make that play. He’s made it a lot of times.”

(On watching New Orleans’ final field goal attempt from the sidelines) “On that final field goal attempt by them, I was on the sideline. And it looked like it had the distance, but I just knew he didn’t make it.”

**DE #52 KHALIL MACK**

“We have a lot of faith in those guys to make the final plays to win the game. By any means necessary. You saw it out there on the first series, when Bruce (Irvin who forced the fumble on Drew Brees in the first quarter) came around the end to make a play like that. Everyone on this team just kept fighting and fighting.”

(On his reaction to Sean Smith being pulled from the game after a 98-yard touchdown connection between Drew Brees and Brandin Cooks) “Of course I talked to him right after that. I just went up to him and told him to let that play go. You need to let those bad plays go and just ride it out. Other guys went up to him to show him support and that’s what this team does.”