



**MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME**  
**WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- The Saints loss on Monday night drops New Orleans' record to 7-8, returning to action on Sunday against the Carolina Panthers at the Caesars Superdome at 3:25 p.m..
- The Saints loss drops their record against the Dolphins to 6-7. The loss gives the Saints a 4-2 mark in the Saints-Dolphins all-time series when played at the Superdome. The loss also gives the Saints a 2-2 record on their AFC East slate in the 2021 season. Monday's loss is also Sean Payton's first as the Saints head coach. Jacksonville and the San Diego/Los Angeles Chargers are now the only two teams that Payton has an undefeated record against.
- The Saints loss gives New Orleans a 1-1 record on Monday Night Football in their two appearances in 2021, a 24-23 record overall, and gives the Saints an 18-16 home record all-time on Monday Night Football. Monday's loss gives the Saints a 1-1 mark against the Dolphins on Monday Night Football.
- The Saints extended their streak to 319 regular season games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002 at Raymond James Stadium, the longest running streak in the NFL.
- Rookie QB **Ian Book** made his first career start Monday night, finishing 12-of-20 passing for 135 yards and two interceptions. Book became the first Saints rookie to start a game at signal-caller since **Danny Wuerffel** on October 19, 1997 vs. Carolina.
- WR **Lil 'Jordan Humphrey** led the Saints in receiving yardage Monday night, recording three receptions for a career-high 70 yards. Humphrey's 56-yard reception in the fourth quarter also set a career-long.
- DE **Marcus Davenport** had five tackles, one sack, two quarterback hits, and a forced fumble Monday night. Davenport now has 35 tackles in 2021, a career best, surpassing his prior career-high of 31 in 2019.
- LB **Andrew Dowell** recorded one special teams tackle on the night. Dowell is now tied for fourth in the league with Buffalo's Tyler Matakevich and Seattle's Cody Barton for special teams tackles.
- RB **Mark Ingram II** finished with 4 carries for 17 yards. Ingram became the second player in Saints franchise history to accrue 8,000 career scrimmage yards as a member of the Black and Gold, joining WR Marques Colston.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** recorded six tackles on the night, a tackle for loss, along with 2 sacks. Jordan now has 102.5 career sacks, passing William Fuller, Charles Haley, Cameron Wake, J.J. Watt, and Justin Houston in NFL record books on Monday night. Jordan moved into a tie for 31<sup>st</sup> in NFL history on the all-time sack list with Jim Jeffcoat. Monday night was also Jordan's 24<sup>th</sup> career game with multiple takedowns, putting him three behind franchise leader and Pro Football Hall of Famer Rickey Jackson. Jordan now has eight sacks on the season. Jordan's seven seasons of recording at least eight sacks is second all-time in franchise history behind Jackson (eight). Jordan recorded sacks against both Dolphins signal-callers, **Tua Tagovailoa** and **Jacoby Brissett**. Tagovailoa and Brissett became the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> signal-callers that Jordan has a quarterback takedown against.
- LB **Pete Werner** made his first start at MLB in place of **Demario Davis** on Monday night and led the Saints defense with 10 tackles in the contest. Werner also tied a career high for solo tackles with 8, a mark set earlier this season at Washington (10/10/21).
- CB **Marshon Lattimore** finished with 3 tackles and recorded an interception, his third of the season. Lattimore's 3 interceptions in 2021 is the second-most of his career and is tied for the team lead. Lattimore needs two more interceptions to tie his season-high of 5 set during his rookie season in 2017.



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(On the difficulty of the situation today, given the lack of available players) "I think it's kind of where we are at, to some degree, a little bit as a league. It seemed like, obviously, a lot went on the last week and a half. I thought that our defense battled. We did some positive things in the kicking game. In fairness to Ian (Book), it's impossible to evaluate his play. Hopefully, we can get a little help here, get some guys back, and be ready to go next week."

(On if there were any discussions with the National Football League office about postponing tonight's game due to the lack of players available) "No, look, I'm not involved in that; that would be Mickey (Loomis), Dennis (Lauscha), or Mrs. B (Gayle Benson). My job is to really focus and prepare, get the players ready to go. That is something that, pretty soon your energy gets wasted. Obviously, we didn't do a good enough job tonight. It's frustrating. I'm sure it was frustrating to watch."

(On not being able to evaluate Ian Book's performance) "I don't think (it was) preparation (that was the issue). I think that he prepared well. I think that it's one of the challenges that, sometimes, it can take place, even in the later part of preseason games, where you want to try to evaluate, especially at the quarterback position; but, just keeping him upright tonight was a challenge. I'm sure that there are some plays that we will look at and he'll look at. The first interception is a throw that he'll want back. It's a tough position for him to be in."

(On if he can recall a game as difficult as this one as a play-caller) "Hopefully, you forget those games so you can't recall them. Look, our jobs are to give our players a chance in the gameplan, the best chance possible. We are not making any excuses. There were a number of things offensively that didn't sit well, I'm sure, with all of us as coaches. Nonetheless, this is a game that we are going to want to quickly get behind us. We have a short week and two important games coming up, two division games that are going to be important relative to the NFC (seeding)."

(On how Ian Book will mentally handle tonight's game) "He is competitive and tough. He is going to be fine. He'll be frustrated like all of us with some plays. Certainly, it's not going to define his growth or his career or what he does. It was one of those kind of perfect storms. We are all anxious to see him. And, yet, it was just a tough spot for him to be in. I think he is smart enough to understand that."

(On the play of the defense) "I thought they competed. I thought they did a good job. The first set of points was the turnover. At halftime the score was low. I thought they did well. They had some short fields (to defend). Certainly they played well enough for us to be in this game, which we were for a good majority of it. I thought that they battled."

(On if it is hard to learn about the team on a night like tonight due to so many missing players) "I think we understand (the situation). Look, we had two players today getting fitted for equipment in the locker room in the equipment room that had just arrived. I think that we have a good idea of what this team is capable of doing. Hopefully, we can get some guys back here this week and be ready to go for next week's game."

(On what is the biggest challenge with starting a new quarterback on short notice) "It's not him getting ready with a few days notice (that is an issue). It's being able to have some efficiency being able to have some efficiency running the ball when he's in there, being able to protect a little bit longer when he's in there. He handled the workweek and understanding what to do. Look, there were some tempo issues in and out of the huddle, but I think it is just having enough where he can have some success. I think that was the bigger challenge for him this week."



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

#### LB ZACH BAUN

**On what the week was like:** “We can’t seem to get away from adversity. As the week went on, you kind of expected more guys to test positive. You just have to roll with the punches and it’s next man up. I got my opportunity and tried to make the most of it.”

**On when he knew Kwon Alexander was not going to play:** “I found out that Kwon wasn’t playing yesterday. It was short notice for me, but I was preparing like I was going to be the starter the whole time. Your role changes quickly especially this day and age with Covid and everything else going on. You have to be ready.”

**On the defense playing well and not getting the desired result** “All we can do is to control what we can control on the defensive side. We hope the offense produces. We are just focused on the defense and what we do.”

**On if they were anticipating other guys ending up on the Covid list as the week progressed:** “Yes.”

**On how this week was different compared to last year:** “With Covid, you always know that it is lingering around. Last year we were prepared like we were going to be the next man up. It can happen at any time. We saw that last year with multiple teams. It just so happened that it wasn’t us last year. It was us this time and it was really next man up. We just fight adversity. That’s how it goes.”

#### WR LIL’ JORDAN HUMPHREY

**On the mindset going into this game:** “The mindset going in was know your job and do your job. You just go out there and play to the best of your ability. If you mess up, then mess up at 100 miles per hour. I feel like for the most part that we did that.”

**On what’s this season been like:** “That’s the game of football. You are going to have adversity to push through to get the outcome that you want.”

**On the mindset of the team moving forward:** “It hurts to lose a game, any game. We have a game Sunday. We have to wash this one out. We have to build on the good that we have. We just have to get ready for next week to get the win.”

**On how Ian Book handled himself:** “I feel like he handled it well. Perfect. I feel like a lot of people in that situation would be wide eyed. He was poised. He made some mistakes, but that happens. It is what it is. He played well to me.”



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS QUARTERBACK IAN BOOK

"It's tough playing these last two years with COVID. It's just something we have to do now. We try to get those guys back as soon as we can and get better as a team. It hits the teams in different weeks. It hit us this week but we're all here to play football so we have to be ready."

"Personally I have a lot to get better at. Excited to watch the film and get back at the drawing board. We go on the sideline and look at the IPads, there are things in my mind that I already want back. It was good to be out there. I'm evaluating it. It's bad. We didn't score a touchdown. We can't win a game that way."

"We thought they were going to come out and play a lot of man and they played zone. They never saw me play, wanted to test my arm and make me throw in certain zones. It was a smart tactic. There were some times they took away some shorter routes I was trying to hit and I just need to move to the next level. There were definitely some of them I could have gotten. There are some other things too, but definitely that first."

"We had that play (pick six). We had a cover zero beater and were going to work one side of the field versus anything else. They came up in a look that we thought were going to be zero and had a few cover zero checks. They came up in it, thought it was zero, I was going to try and work L.J. (Humphrey). I left it inside and they had that same look but bluffed out and had the corner sit, so I left it inside. I can still complete that or not even throw it since it looks like zero. They got me. They left a gap in between the corner and the safety that I could have left a whole shot."

"I have to (move on from it), especially at this league and this position. That's a terrible feeling, having a pick six in your debut. I've thrown one pick six in my life so that sucks, that was my second one. That's not what you want. I don't have a good answer for you on that one. You need to forget about it and I did. It was a nightmare, went to the sideline and completely got it out of my mind. I forgot about it."



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME MIAMI DOLPHINS HEAD COACH BRIAN FLORES

On the overarching message for anyone who has looked at the Miami Dolphins this year: “This team has stuck together this entire year. Obviously, we dealt with a lot of adversity early in the year. It revealed a lot, I would say. It revealed the character of the guys in our locker room. It revealed that some people are with you and some people are on the fence. Our guys kept fighting. They kept sticking together. They support each other. They work hard. They give great effort. When they do those things, you put yourself in the position to get the results you’re looking for.”

On the defensive approach: “Credit to Josh (Boyer), the defensive staff for putting together a nice game plan, mixing coverages, mixing the fronts. They did a good job stopping the run, which was a big emphasis. I thought the guys just played hard. They played fast. They gave great effort. We knew it was going to be a 60-minute game. We knew it wasn’t going to be easy. That’s a physical Saints team. I know Sean (Payton) had them ready. They made some adjustments in the game, and we had to make some adjustments. I thought they had a good plan. We just made a few more plays than they did.”

On being in playoff position: “We will enjoy tonight, but the game ahead is going to be as tough as any game we are going to play. I’ve already taken a look at Tennessee. Obviously, I know Mike (Vrabel). I have a lot of respect for him. I know he will have his guys ready. We will enjoy tonight. Our guys played a hard-fought 60-minute game. We will enjoy this one. Then, we will turn the page and get started on the next one.”

On the difficulty of the team winning seven-straight games: “I think it’s really just one in a row. That’s really all we are trying to do. That’s the approach. The guys have taken to that approach and the preparation and how important the preparation is that’s needed to get results in this League. There’s a lot that goes into that. There’s a lot of work, a lot of working together. George (Godsey), Eric (Studesville), Danny (Crossman), Josh (Boyer), our coaching staff has done a nice job of putting together game plans and giving our guys a chance to have success. The focus is to try to do it one more time.”

On his comment about people on the fence: There are distractions, always. I think when things aren’t going your way, it reveals a lot about a lot of things. Look, I’ve always had belief in this team, our players, our coaches. Maybe there were some people who didn’t share the same belief, and I understand why, but at the end of the day it’s not about anyone else. It’s about the guys in our locker room, the guys in our building, the people in our building. We believe in each other. At the end of the day, that’s all that matters.”





**MIAMI DOLPHINS AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**  
**Monday December 27, 2021, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME**  
**DOLPHINS PLAYER QUOTES**

**#40 CB Nik Needham**

How was today's game, knowing your defense was dialing it up? "Today was definitely fun, especially when we can just execute like that throughout the whole game. I think they caught a hot drive right before halftime. We went in the locker room and regrouped, and you could see that in the second half. It's tough to beat a team that is feeding off of energy."

What does it feel like to control your own destiny? "We just have to take it one week at a time just like we have been telling each other all year. When it comes down to this part of the year, each week's the most important game of the year. We just have to take it one week at a time and try to execute for Tennessee. We just have to continue to feed off of this energy."

Have you ever been a part of a defense that held their opponent to 0-12 on third down? What was the driving force for the defense today? "Like you said, each game is the most important game of the year. I have never been apart of a game where we held a quarterback or an offense to 0-12. I would say that is somewhat impressive. Hats off to all the guys on defense working hard and executing."

**#94 DT Christian Wilkins**

What do you want the overall message to be when people look at your team and what you guys have accomplished by winning 7 straight games? "Really we just stayed the course this entire season. We didn't grow weary, just stuck with the program really. When things got tough, we just took it one game at a time and one day at a time and that what we will continue to do the rest of the season."

Was stripping Alvin Kamara's towel something you planned to do to get in his head? "I am not really going to get in to too much of that. There's a lot of things I do throughout the game that are just in good fun. I don't mean any harm in anything. I'm a big kid out there and I have a lot of fun. I definitely don't want to cost my team anything, so in certain situations I have to be smarter. But like I said it's just good fun."

What do you see from your teammates day in and day out? "Really just a group of guys who care about each other and love each other. A bunch of guys who just take it one game at a time. A group of guys who want to be their best each time they walk in the facility or the field. That's just the mindset we all have."

**#55 LB Jerome Baker**

Were you aware of the current playoff picture for this team? "No, not really. I just knew we had to come out here and take care of business."

What is the mindset of the team after a seven-game winning streak? "Just keep it going. We have been working. Taking it one game at a time, one day at a time, so why change it? I think that's our approach right now to just keep doing what we've been doing."

When you assess the numbers, can you really ask for anymore from your defense? "I am sure Flo (Brian Flores) will have some corrections. That's just the approach of our team. We want to continue to get better. We know we can accomplish some great things, so that's the approach we are going to take."

## # 1 QB Tua Tagovailoa

Is Jaylen Waddle being this such of a talented player something you could have foreseen back in summer workouts? Well, I'm not a genie, so I'm not going to say I did foresee Jaylen's future. I knew he had a lot of potential since playing with him at Alabama and in the OTAs we've had together leading up until training camp he has done a really good job. I think he's done a great job for us. I did hear about his record, so congratulations to him on that as well."

How does defense playing well benefit you as an offense? "Well, we always stress playing complementary football. It's something that gives us life. Whether it's the offense scoring the first drive or scoring in general or defense getting a big third down stop or big turnover is something that gives this team life."

What does the adversity that this team's faced this year say about this locker room?" I think it speaks a lot to the character of this locker room. A lot of the guys spend time with each other outside of the locker room and I think that's what helps build the chemistry on the field for us and it can only get stronger for us. It's hard to get a win on the road, especially in a hostile environment like this but we'll take it and move on to next week."