



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS MIAMI DOLPHINS THURSDAY, AUG. 29, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints were defeated by the Dolphins 16-13, moving their 2019 preseason record to 2-2. New Orleans will open their regular season on Monday, September 9 when they play the Houston Texans at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Kickoff is set for 6:10pm CST on ESPN.
- Miami outgained New Orleans in total net yards 345 to 302.
- QB **Teddy Bridgewater** started the game and finished 9-of-13 for 83 yards with one touchdown, zero interceptions and a 112.0 passer rating. Bridgewater finished the preseason, completing 43-of-70 passes for 400 yards with two touchdowns and one interception.
- QB **Taysom Hill** completed 13-of-17 passes for 100 yards and carried five times for 35 yards. He finished the preseason, completing 40-of-59 passes for 443 yards with three touchdowns and one interception. Hill led the Saints in rushing during the preseason with 18 carries for 148 yards (8.2 avg.).
- RB **Devine Ozigbo** got the start at running back and finished the game with 22 yards on four carries and three receptions for six yards.
- RB **Jacquizz Rodgers** finished the game with 33 yards on seven carries, including a one-yard rushing touchdown. Rodgers also caught a nine-yard pass.
- WR **Simmie Cobbs Jr.** led the Saints in receptions with six grabs for 42 yards.
- WR **Lil' Jordan-Humphrey** led the team in receiving yards and caught the Saints' longest offensive gain on a 43-yard reception from Bridgewater.
- WR **Emmanuel Butler** scored the first points of the game for the Saints and his first touchdown of the preseason, hauling in a 12-yard reception from Bridgewater. The touchdown capped off a 10-play, 93-yard drive from the Saints.
- P **Thomas Morstead** punted four times during the contest for a total of 196 yards (49 avg.) and two punts inside the 20.



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**How do you summarize the preseason for Emmanuel Butler?**

"I think he made a really good impression on us. He's someone that has a good upside. Obviously, we have a lot of tough decisions we're going to make here in the next few days. Overall, (he was) good."

**With potential final cuts this Saturday, what do you find more difficult, would it be scouting other teams' players? Is it talent? Potential fit?**

"First off, it's the amount in a short period of time. I think the fit and vision is important. Obviously, the ability has to be there. What's your role for the player? How do you think he can help the team?"

**Jermon Bushrod coming back to retire – how meaningful do you feel like that is for players to have the opportunity to do?**

"Especially someone like him who has had a great career I think it is important. He's a really good player and a great teammate. The guys have so much respect for him. It was good seeing him at the game tonight."



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### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

#### **RB #32 DEVINE OZIGBO**

(on his preseason experience) "It was a huge learning experience as it is for most rookies. I learned a lot. I got to see the speed of the game on a great team. Overall, I enjoyed it."

(on growing as a player) "I definitely did. I learned a lot and I am better for it. It is something that I plan on taking with me the rest of my career."

(on earning a spot on the roster) "I definitely gave it everything that I have. It's in their hands. I tried to put my best foot forward every day. I am definitely happy with what I did. There are some things that I need to work on and I will work on."

#### **WR #17 EMMANUEL BUTLER**

(on his touchdown reception) "I was very happy. It was just a simple fade route in man to man coverage. Teddy (Bridgewater) gave me a great ball and I just went up and made a play."

(on growing as a player) "I've grown up so much. This is such a great program with so many veterans that have been around the league for so long. They have given me a lot of guidance. They helped me focus on a lot of different things that I didn't use to focus on. I feel like I have matured as a player and as a person."

#### **WR #83 CYRIL GRAYSON JR.**

(on getting returns) "It felt good being back there. I got a bunch of funky balls early. I didn't want to split hairs early. I wanted to look at them and see how they were coming. I happen to make something out of the one. I had the mindset that I was going to take whatever they gave me."

(on his preseason) "Personally, it's the best preseason that I've had out of the last three years. I am excited about seeing the growth. It was great being around the guys and learning from them. I am excited to see what's going to happen."

(on his confidence) "I feel good. He threw me the ball and I caught the ball. I returned the ball pretty well when I did return it. I'm good. I'm just like everybody else and anticipating tomorrow. It'll be great to see where it goes. It's all out of our hands now and I feel like I put my best foot forward."



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#### QB #5 TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

Opening comments: "It was a great experience this offseason, all spring, and training camp, being a part of this organization, coming together, and seeing what really made us a special team last year; and to see the foundation be laid all offseason and throughout the spring. It was great to be a part of it, but now we know that it's for real now. Every game counts..We use the preseason as a tool to continue to sharpen our ship. It was great for a lot of guys to get a lot of playing time. This was the longest that I have played in the past couple of years, so it was great to just be out there and move around with guys, and continue to show that we all can play in this league. I'm excited to move forward. We've got a big opener Monday night against Houston back in the dome. We know that we have to get to work. Coach mentioned that, I think, the last five years (the team) lost the opening game. So, we need to see what we can do to change that."

On if he knew that he would lead the pregame chant: "Not really. Drew (Brees) looked at me. I looked at him. He just gave me his shoulder and said, 'Hey, go ahead.' Of course, it was my first time. It was a little uncomfortable. I wasn't prepared, but it was great."

On Jermon Bushrod retiring as a Saint: "Bushrod, he's a great guy. He was one of the first guys that I actually had the opportunity to sit down with when I first got here. He and I actually share the same barber, so if you see a nice wave on his head, that's a credit to our barber. He is a great guy, a family guy. I had the opportunity to joke around in the locker room with him. It was fun. He would be around a lot, shooting the basketball. He had a great career. I am honored to have been able to play a year here with him. I wish him the best going forward."

On the touchdown pass to Emmanuel Butler: "EB. I call him EBay. We got him on EBay for a bargain price. He's a guy who has shown flashes all throughout training camp. (We) just had a one-on-one matchup. You talk about giving guys an opportunity to show that they can make plays in this league. That's all that I wanted to do for him. I got a clear release, and I just threw it to the spot and he made the catch. We were all there to celebrate."

On his impression of Emmanuel Butler and Lil'Jordan Humphrey: "Man, those guys, to come in and to be able to do what they've been able to do during training camp (is great). We have asked a lot of those guys...It's their first training camp, so they got to see what it's like to be a pro, to have to juggle demanding schedules, overload information, to be able to apply (all of that), I think that those guys have done a good job of just applying themselves and approaching each day with their hard hat on"

#### QB #7 TAYSOM HILL

(On his growth from coming to the Packers to being with the Saints today) "I think being an undrafted guy, making that transition to the NFL, you really don't know what to expect. Everyone talks about when you get to the NFL and everyone is bigger, faster stronger. You don't really know what to expect and how your role will fit in (somewhere). I will say that I had moments in Green Bay where I felt like, 'Man, I fit in'. Certainly, I came to New Orleans and I felt like I fit in. As far as my development as a quarterback, I feel like every year I am getting more comfortable in my ability to play the position at a high level. Two full offseasons and training camps with the Saints have been really big for my development. Being able to learn and watch Drew (Brees) play and as he prepares for games, I have been able to take all of that and put it into what I do as I prepare to play games. I would certainly say that as I prepare to play a preseason game, it's nowhere near what it is to prepare for a regular season game, but just the embodiment of all of that has certainly led to me being more proficient in the position."

On if this is his best training camp: “Yeah, I think so. I felt really, really comfortable. In 2017, my rookie year, I got here so late, the focus and emphasis was putting together a team that was ready to play week- in and week-out. In reality, I just wasn’t an emphasis in that. In 2018, I was able to learn the system from the ground up, which was really big for me. And, fast forward to now, I just continue to build on the foundation that I’ve had from ’17 to ’18. I feel like my understanding of the offense and being able to manage a huddle, go through different checks, and various responsibilities that are put on a quarterback in the offense, I feel a lot more comfortable doing that. I think that I am able to play faster (because of it).”



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### MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME DOLPHINS HEAD COACH BRIAN FLORES

#### Opening Statement

"Before we start, I wanted to get this out in the open, I told you guys when we made a decision on our starting quarterback that we would let you know. So, we are going to name Ryan Fitzpatrick our starter for game One. (I) Told both quarterbacks, (I) feel like that's the best situation for the team, puts us in the best position to win. That's how we are going forward"

#### On why they picked Fitzpatrick

"Well, like I said, after a thorough eval in OTA's, training camp, games, practice, we felt like this was the best move for this team going into this season. Ryan has done a really good job on a leadership standpoint, on an execution standpoint, and we feel like that's the best thing for this team."

#### When was the decision reached?

"We made the decision, again, the conversations we have as a staff and the decisions we make are internal, but it was made over the last week or so. Again, we are always going to do what we feel like is in the best interest of the organization."

#### What does Rosen need to do to play?

"I have said multiple times, he has improved greatly over the course of training camp. This is a young kid who works extremely hard, and it is important to him. He is talented, but playing quarterback in this league takes time. He is in a new offense. I think we will get there, I really do. That's a conversation we have had. I think he will get there at some point. A lot of it is up to him. He knows that well, not on him. He has worked extremely hard, but I think he will get there. He is a talented player and we are excited for him."

#### How did both quarterbacks react when they heard Fitzpatrick was starting?

"They both handled it well. These are some of the most professional guys I have been around. Fitz was excited. Josh was a little disappointed but he looked at me and said... well, I will keep that conversation between him and I."

#### On if Rosen might be looked on to start later in the season?

"No, Fitz is our starter. You don't go into one of these things, saying you are going to start for this amount of games. We feel comfortable with him as our starting quarterback. There is a leadership experience and an overall knowledge and understanding of this offense. That is what we are looking for, I think we will do a good job."

#### On if not starting will help Rosen become a better quarterback?

“His development is what we are... well the development of every player on this team is our priority. Especially with Josh, his development as an organization is a top priority. I think sitting helps development. Hopefully that will be the case here.”

**On Rosen needing to perform well on the practice field and in the film room to become the starting quarterback in the future?**

“Right now Fitz is the starter. Obviously, we feel really good about Josh Rosen. We feel really good about all our quarterbacks. Jake went out there and played really well tonight. I can’t say enough good things about him and the way he has practiced and performed and when we gets in there and gets his opportunities, he takes advantage of them. I like our quarterback room. Hopefully we continue to grow and build as a unit and it transcends over to the entire team.”

**On if Fitzpatrick starting is a week to week decision?**

“Ryan Fitzpatrick is the starting quarterback and that’s how I see it.”

**On if he has talked Laremy Tunsil about the trade rumors and if he could be traded this week?**

“Yeah, I talk to him every day. There is no trade in place for him. Look, the conversations I have with players are between myself and the player. They are private and I’m going to keep them private. Same thing goes for any conversation you have or don’t have as an organization, they are private.”

**When will the cuts start to happen?**

“Between tomorrow and Saturday. Obviously, this is a hard time of the year. That group went out there and battled tonight. I thought they really battled and (are) coming together as a team. Obviously, guys that weren’t there were encouraging the players who were out there. (We) Made plays in all three phases. I thought they really tried to play together tonight. That was good to see. This group worked extremely hard over the course of training camp. It was hot and having to practice in pads (isn’t easy). I’m not an easy guy to deal with all the time, so they dealt with that, so I’m appreciative of the hard work they put in and I’m proud of this group.





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#### QB #14 RYAN FITZPATRICK

(On being named starting QB): "I think there's a lot of things that go into being a professional quarterback. In digesting this offense, it's a new offense for everybody. We're trying to get everybody on the same page through the offseason and through the OTAs. Through training camp, I was trying to be the best version of me I could be every day. I was trying to be a guy that could lead us and be the best communicator. I am very excited for the opportunity."

"I know I have more confidence in myself than anyone in the world. So sometimes that is a detriment but a lot of times it works in my favor. I am always confident in who I am and what I am as a player. This is where I wanted to be, and where I worked to get.)

"Playing quarterback is very hard in the NFL. I'm still playing because I want to be out there on the field and out there in those tough times when we're facing adversity, trying to figure things out together and work through things. That's the joy that I have in this game. It's never easy. Even when you're out there and it looks like you have a good game, it is never easy. It's a difficult game. I've spent the last 14 years trying to figure it out and still every week is a new challenge that's presented. That's the beauty of the game and the appeal is the challenge of how difficult it is to master every week."

"All my stuff is so short sided in what I want to do. It's a week-to-week league in terms of success and failures. My focus is on week one and the Baltimore Ravens and getting us ready to play and putting us in the best position to win a football game."

"I think the biggest thing last year was that we made some big plays and had great preparation in the offseason. Just getting on the same page as guys, I feel like there's a lot that's been done here. Obviously [this is a] new year, new team, and new opponent, but I'm excited to see what is to come."

(On if he has started preparing for week 1): "We've looked at them very superficially. We don't have a game plan yet but that will come in a few days. As we move forward we'll get all that figured out and ironed out. We've definitely looked at some tape already."

(On when he found out he was named starter): "I found out before you guys did in just a quick conversation with [Coach Flores]. He's been great throughout the whole process. Not just with starter and non-starter, but in terms of being upfront and letting guys know how he sees things and how he feels. That's very appreciated as a player when you have a coach like that. We had a great conversation."

#### QB #03 JOSH ROSEN

(On how he feels to be named back-up): "Not great, but at least for me the battle for competition never stops. I'll push him every day to get better and if he doesn't get better, I'll hopefully surpass him at some point. We're teammates, we're Dolphins, and I'm rooting for him. A rising tide rises all ships. Our quarterback room has a lot of good talent and it's making me better as well."

"I think that coach challenged me pretty early in training camp as I wasn't playing very well. I was drinking water from a firehose. I think I responded pretty well and made some pretty good progress. A lot of that had to do with focusing on my day-to-day and not worrying about whether coach was looking. I have to play football like I know how to play football. In our discussion when [Coach] told me [Fitzpatrick] was going to get the job, [Coach] told me I've made a lot of really good, steady upper progress. I think it's only time until this team is mine, and until then all (I have to) be (is) as supportive a backup as I possibly can."

"I think I'm in a pretty good spot. It's not the spot I'd prefer to be in at the moment, but it doesn't change my progression as a quarterback. Last year everything changed pretty quickly. They told me I was going to sit out and play behind (Sam Bradford). Any sort of projection on where my career should be is irrelevant, or really difficult to pin down. As far as my progression as a quarterback, I'm substantially better than I was three weeks ago and way better than a year ago. I think the future is pretty bright. I'm excited. I wouldn't say it's a setback, it's part of the journey."



“There’s arguments for both sides. You could say that you want to develop the young guys so when you pull the trigger it’s the real trigger and he’s ready to do it. Or you could do trial by fire which didn’t work great for me last year. But there are arguments on both sides.”

“I would like to answer your question but it’s not up to me. There’s arguments on both sides. If the decision was made after preseason [game] one or two, I think it would be pretty clear-cut decision. I think I’ve made good progress in this offense and I’ve started to get the hang of it so as time goes on I’ll only continue to improve. Coach’s decisions are out of my control. I think I did a good job of making [the decision] difficult for him at the end. If there were a couple more preseason [games] it would be me.”