



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 2020 • LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss, New Orleans' record drops to 10-3, putting them two games ahead of the 8-5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers for first place in the NFC South.
- Head Coach **Sean Payton** now has a 4-3 regular season record and 2-0 postseason record against Philadelphia.
- The loss drops Payton's road record against Philadelphia to 2-2.
- New Orleans now has a 2-3 overall record (regular season and postseason) at Lincoln Financial Field.
- Offensively, New Orleans racked up 358 yards in the loss with 262 net passing yards and 96 rushing yards on the way to scoring 21 points.
- Quarterback **Taysom Hill** started and completed 28-of-38 passes for 291 yards with two touchdown passes and a 102.0 quarterback rating while carrying five times for 31 yards, leading the Saints on three scoring drives resulting in three touchdowns.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** led the team in rushing with 50 rushing yards and a touchdown on 11 carries while also catching seven passes for 44 yards. Kamara now has ten rushing touchdowns for the second time in his career (14-2018) and joins Deuce McAllister (13-2002 and 10-2006) as only the second Saint to reach double-digits in two seasons.
- Kamara has 52 career touchdowns, breaking a tie with Jimmy Graham (2010-14) for sole possession of fifth place in club record books. Kamara also becomes the first Saint with three seasons of 1,400 total yards from scrimmage.
- Kamara now has 3,131 career rushing yards, surpassing Ricky Williams (1999-2001) for eighth place in club record books.
- WR **Michael Thomas** led the team in receiving and caught eight passes for 84 yards.
- WR **Emmanuel Sanders** and TE **Jared Cook** each caught touchdown passes from Hill in the second half. Sanders finished with 48 yards receiving on and Cook finished with 37 on three catches each.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** caught six passes for 60 yards.
- S **Marcus Williams** and LB **Kwon Alexander** each led the team with seven tackles each. Alexander forced a fumble by Eagles' QB Jalen Hurts which was recovered by S **Malcolm Jenkins**. The turnover led to a New Orleans touchdown, making it a one possession game in the final minutes.
- LB **Demario Davis** played in his 141st consecutive NFL game on Sunday, having never missed a contest in his nine-year NFL career. Davis finished with six tackles.
- DT **Shy Tuttle** posted a career-high six tackles, including a career-high two solo tackles.
- CB **Janoris Jenkins** appeared in his 125th career game today and finished with two tackles.
- DE **Cameron Jordan**, CB **Marshon Lattimore** and DB **C.J. Gardner-Johnson** each recorded a pass defensed in the game.
- Jordan's pass defensed was the 50th of his career.
- DT **David Onyemata** appeared in his 75th career game and finished with three tackles.
- LB Craig Robertson recorded his 50th career special teams tackle.
- P **Thomas Morstead** played in his 187th regular season game on Sunday, surpassing T **Stan Brock** (1980-1992) for sole possession of fifth place in club record books. Morstead punted four times for 211 yards with a 52.8 gross punting average and a long of 58 with one inside the 20.
- The Saints extended their NFL-leading streak to 301 regular season games without being shut out. The streak dates back to September 6, 2002 when New Orleans defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 26-20 at Raymond James Stadium.

Saints Head Coach Sean Payton

On the offensive struggles in the first half:

"I don't think we did much of anything well in the first half. We just finished talking about it. At halftime, we came out and played with a little more sense of urgency. This league is too good, regardless of who you're playing. We have to be better and do a better job, and that starts with me. I felt we were flat. In the end, we rushed for about 70 yards and got sacked five times. They rushed for 250 yards. We miss a field goal; they make a field goal. Overall, you have to tip your hat to Philadelphia. They deserved to win today."

On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts:

"I felt like he played well. He played exceptionally well. He hurt us. We'll take a look at the tape. Obviously, we didn't do a good enough job of slowing [his run game] down. When a team rushes for 250 yards, not a lot of good can happen. I'll say this – he was impressive just watching him. I thought he played with poise, made some throws, and was smart. He did a good job."

On the fourth-down play call in the fourth quarter:

"Yeah, it ended up being a sack. We got a little bit of a different coverage, and was more of an aggressive call by me; a shock play. That's one of those where I'll want that back relative to the timing in the game. We had the momentum, but kind of had a bust in protection. We were trying to take a shot to score."

On why the team got off to a slow start:

"It's hard to point to one specific thing, but it's something as a coach you think about every week. Are we ready to play? Did we do everything necessary to be ready to play? You evaluate your preparation, and we didn't do a good enough job as coaches, starting with myself, in preparing our guys and getting ready. At halftime, we came back out with a little bit of juice and energy, making it a closer game. But clearly, we didn't play one of our better games today. That was obvious."

On preparing for a running quarterback:

"Each week, we're seeing unique and different offenses. Was this one a little more specific? Yeah, you might say that. Yet, it's an RPO-driven team. [Eagles QB] Jalen [Hurts] played well. He played really well."

On the team's sense of urgency in the fourth quarter:

"We're always mindful of where we're at with the clock and where we're at with our timeouts. There are various tempos that we use. That's what I would say. We play close attention to our tempo."

On whether there is a difference in two-minute offense knowledge between QB Drew Brees and QB Taysom Hill:

"Absolutely. I think that's an easy question to answer. When you take someone who has played as long as Drew, the two-minute is obviously going to be different. Significantly, from an experience standpoint."

Saints QB Taysom Hill

On whether he feels the two-minute drill in the last six minutes of the game took too long and whether he can fully operate a no-huddle offense:

"I feel like we can. I think there's an element of what we're doing offensively is so personnel driven. I think sometimes when we're obviously trying to go fast and knew we were up against the clock and needed to score, we wanted to make sure we were running our best stuff. Some of that, as I mentioned, is personnel driven where you start to do two-minute stuff and you're really limited in your substitutions and what you can do. That was really the reason why we were doing what we did at that point."

On what he attributes the slow first half to:

"I don't know. It's hard to say just without watching the film. I just feel like there were little things every drive that killed drives. We weren't converting on third down. Some of those were favorable situations where we were third-and-short and manageable where you're trying to get to. At the end of the day, I think obviously we came out flat. I think you have to credit Philly for the way they came out and played us. They got after us the first half."

On what he saw during the fourth-down play when he was sacked in the fourth quarter:

"We were trying to take a shot. We thought we would get a look that would be advantageous to go over the top. We didn't get that. As I was scrambling, I was trying to see if [Saints WR] Tre'Quan [Smith] on the sideline had kind of uncovered and he had worked to get open. As I was doing that obviously I got hit in the back. That

was the intent there. I think in hindsight it's one of those where you can just throw the ball up to a man when it's fourth down. I was really trying to see if Tre'Quan came open on the sideline. That was my thought process."

On how he navigates the balance between staying in the pocket to find someone down the field and running when pressure is coming in:

"It's a work in progress. I think sometimes they get you and sometimes you get them. I would say when I feel pressure my eyes are down the field and I'm trying to find a guy to get the ball to. It's just finding that balance of man, you could go get seven, eight, nine, 10 yards before contact. I think it's one of those things that we will in the future continue to be more and more comfortable with that. Certainly from a scrambling aspect and what our rules are, and our receivers expecting to get the ball when they see me outside the pocket."

On whether this loss feels different than losing in September or October when the stakes aren't as high with regards to the number one seed:

"We know every game is important in the NFL. While I would say every game is important, we knew what was at stake. We knew what was at stake here. Which again is why as I think about that game we should've played better in the first half. I have to take some blame for that as a quarterback. I think at the end of the day this one does sting a little bit because we knew what was at stake. We worked really hard to put ourselves in this situation to be in the driver's seat where we could control our own destiny. Yeah I would say this feels a little bit different."

On whether it was frustrating to lose a fumble today:

"I mean you never want to lose a fumble. It's fourth down. You're standing in the play. You get hit in the back. It is what it is. I don't know what the outcome would've been differently if you chuck the ball versus trying to make something happen in that situation."

Saints S Malcolm Jenkins

On playing against Eagles QB Jalen Hurts:

"I think it's obvious that his ability to run and not only put stress on us as a defense in the run game but also in the pass game. His ability to scramble just adds another element. You need all 11 to be able to stop the run. So they did a great job, obviously giving him opportunities for looks, good runs, the passes, being able to take care of the football, not really putting him in harm's way, and he executed. Hats off to him."

On how tough this loss was considering the Saints were the number one seed going into this game:

"We still have it in front of us, we just have to play. At the end of the day, you can't control everything but the game in front of you. We thought we had an opportunity. We didn't play well earlier in the game, [and we] dug ourselves back out, so obviously [it's] frustrating, but for us our goals are still very much alive and in front of us. [We have] a really good opponent coming up next week, so it's really about making sure we make the corrections and show up better next week."

On how they adjusted to Hurts and bringing more pressure in the second half:

"It really wasn't much of an adjustment; we played the same calls throughout the game. We executed a little better in the second half and created some negative plays and got them behind the sticks; that helped us out on third down. But nothing really elaborate or unique, we just executed the plan better. And that's what we needed to start the game, so a little bit too late."

On the defensive breakdown on Eagles RB Miles Sanders' 82-yard touchdown run:

"For me as a post safety, whatever happens up front, it doesn't really matter. It's my job to get him down and make sure that a bad play doesn't turn worse. I didn't do that, so that touchdown is on me."

Eagles Head Coach Doug Pederson

Q. What did you think of QB Jalen Hurts' overall performance and why do you think he was able to get the whole team, start to finish, to play better and are you ready to commit to him for next week yet? (Rob Maaddi)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: We went into this week – a lot of stuff has been piled on this football team all season, negatively, positively, a lot of injuries, different things have really piled up. Sometimes you look for an opportunity to just sort of jumpstart things, right? Kind of almost reset a little bit. You do things -- and obviously Jalen got the start this afternoon, and I thought overall, there were some good things and really, kind of gave us a spark as a team that I was looking for, and I think we were looking for as a team. But you know, this win today is not about one guy. This win is about this team and how resilient this team is.

We went through it again today, injuries piled up a little bit in the second half. Guys stayed strong. He obviously was a part of the win, but my hat's off to a lot of guys in this football game.

Defense I thought played outstanding with the two takeaways. [DE Josh] Sweat, [DT Javon] Hargrave, guys are battling their tails off, and offensive line against -- this is the No. 1 defense in the National Football League. They did a nice job. They did a really nice job against that front. My hat's off to really every member of this team.

Q. How do you think the overall offense executed to this game plan that you guys had this week? (Mike Kaye)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Well, bottom line is you try to win the game and we were successful there. I thought that there was some good, there was some bad. But I thought they executed the game plan pretty well, again, with what we asked them to do.

Q. We saw some principle tenets of your offense really on display I think tonight. There's some of the mesh concepts, the RPOs, getting your quarterback out onto the move. Can you help us explain why there was more of that in this game than maybe we have seen when QB Carson Wentz was under center? (Tim McManus)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Well, I mean, don't misunderstand kind of what you're seeing. A lot of it was QB scrambles, too. So, they weren't necessarily designed rollouts. But it's just part of the -- I guess part of the game plan to be able to get -- and really, the defense, too. You've got to consider the defense and how they play, which can allow for your quarterback to get on the edge just a little bit and throw quickly, and just kind of cut the field in half for him and keep it as simple as I possibly could in certain situations.

Q. Your comments about Jalen Hurts seem kind of tempered considering the performance. Is that because you have to take into account Carson Wentz? (Jeff McLane)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: I have to take into consideration the entire football team. Jalen played well. Obviously, we won the game. But there's a lot of good performances out there tonight, and again, as I said, defense stepped up, offensive line, some of our young receivers and obviously Jalen.

It's a start and we're excited to get the win.

Q. Nobody runs on the Saints like that. I think it's been 56 games that they haven't allowed a 100-yard rusher and you guys had two today. What was the difference in the running game? (Zach Berman)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: I don't know, I think some of it was we had a couple more designed runs with Jalen. And then just, the style of run plan that we put together. Coach Stoutland [offensive line/run game coordinator Jeff Stoutland] does a great job studying the front and what these guys do. We kept it to where we could have more probably repeat plays and just execution with the guys up front. Guys did a nice job there, and it was fun to watch them out there play and get this win today.

Q. RB Miles Sanders called Jalen Hurts a natural leader today. How did you feel about how he commanded the huddle and conducted himself, even when things got a little tight there at the end? (Daniel Gallen)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Yeah, I would say that's pretty accurate.

Q. Is Jalen Hurts your starter next week and if so, what will the challenge be now that more tape is out on him? (Nick Fierro)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: I'm going to enjoy this one. I'm going to go home and relax and be with my family tonight and enjoy this win and get ready for the week.

Q. That fourth-down touchdown throw that Jalen Hurts made to WR Alshon Jeffery at the 15-yard line, first of all, the decision to go for it there, what went into that thinking and what did you think of that play that he made? (Ed Krcz)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Just where we are on the field. I mean, early in the game, I believe it was fourth and, what, two maybe, I think. But no, just an opportunity there. I mean, listen, you know me, in situations like that when it's favorable, I'm going to go for it. It was a great play by both those guys. Great catch, back-shoulder throw. Alshon pulled it in. Great play.

Q. Did Jalen Hurts show you anything you weren't expecting to see from him tonight, anything that surprised you at all? And also wanted to ask while I'm on here if any of the injuries, if you have any idea if any of these guys is really seriously injured and isn't going to be able to go forward in these final three weeks? (Les Bowen)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Injury-wise, I'll get an update here tonight, first thing in the morning. I'll be able to update you tomorrow a little bit better on that, but we definitely had some guys that got banged up in this game and hopefully we get them back this week.

As far as Jalen goes, really nothing that he showed today he hasn't shown in practice or this week in practice or the season. Just his ability to obviously to escape the pocket and throw on the run and some of the QB runs and things like that that we have seen early in this season and for the majority of the year. But nothing really out of the ordinary from him that we didn't expect.

Q. Your rookie quarterback in his first start just beat maybe the best team and the best defense in the league. Carson Wentz struggled all year. Do you wish you had done this sooner? Do you wish you had given Jalen Hurts a start sooner? And if not, why not? (Marcus Hayes)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: It took everybody in uniform to win this game, not just one guy. And I'm going to repeat myself again that it takes a village to get this stuff done, and Jalen was a part of it, yes. But it took a team effort to win, honestly. Again, I talked about the defense earlier, the plays that they made just time and time again. Again, Jalen was a part of it.

It's great to get this win. These guys are excited. It's been awhile since we've won a football game. I'm happy for those guys in the locker room, for the coaches, the hard work that everybody put into this. But we've still got three games left and got a great opportunity. We've got to go on the road here the next couple weeks and try to continue it again.

Q. You lost CB Avonte Maddox, CB Darius Slay went down, then S Rodney McLeod went down basically at the same time. S Jalen Mills had to move from safety to corner, what has his leadership and versatility meant to your team this year? (John McMullen)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: It's meant a lot. He came into the season, we moved him back to safety. He was willing to go back there and fill a big role for us there and has done a great job. But his versatility to be able to play corner today and he's done that a couple times throughout the season, I think it's a credit to him and his versatility, the way he approaches the week, the way he attacks the week.

But great leadership on and off the football field, and he was another one that helped us win this game today.

Q. You didn't give up a sack, this is just the second time all season that's happened. What went into that? (E.J. Smith)

COACH DOUG PEDERSON: Great protection, and the ability that Jalen [Hurts] has to escape the pocket. I think that was the two biggest things. We did a great job with their blitz packages. It was an extensive blitz package, backs are involved, tight ends are involved, but I thought the offensive line for the most part blocked pretty well when we threw the ball down the field, or at least the drop-back world. Then of course his [Jalen Hurts] ability to escape the pocket really helped out there.

Eagles QB Jalen Hurts

On his first NFL start and his success in the running game:

"I think, first and foremost, it's a great team win. Everybody played together, believed in one another and we put an emphasis on that this week – playing together, playing as one, bringing the energy and creating our own energy. Moving with urgency and scoring out there and believing in one another. I'm happy this group got it done today. I'm happy."

On his first-quarter touchdown pass to WR Alshon Jeffery:

"It was a look where – I believe we had cover zero, a man-to-man look – and had a free guy out on the edge and I knew I had to get the ball out fast. I kind of wanted to keep the aggressiveness there and took that shot to Alshon and hit him on his back shoulder. He made a great play."

On how his ability to run the ball altered the Eagles' offensive game plan:

"I just think going out there and extending [the play] sometimes always helps. I think, up front, we did a great job to allow some of those things to happen. One thing when I look back on this game, a lot of money [was] left on the table for us. A lot of money on the table we left out there. We're very excited. We're happy we got a 'W' against a really good team. But we're going to go back to work. We have a 24-hour rule on this thing, we clearly understand that. A lot to work on, a lot to build on. I'm excited to get back to practice, honestly, and get ready for the next game."

On his expectations going forward this season:

"I think going into next week, I want to continue to impact the guys around me and work hard every day. I always try to encourage somebody to bring somebody with them and I want to continue to get better at doing my job. I have a lot I can learn from this game, as well as us as a team. Just continuing to work, keeping that hunger and building on this thing this week."

On his mindset entering his first career NFL start:

"It was a new experience for me, for sure, my first NFL start out there. I'm excited that I was able to do it with this group of guys, with this team. We're ready to get back to work and fix the things we need to fix."

On how the offense changed with him at quarterback and his interactions with QB Carson Wentz:

"Yeah, [Wentz] had a few tips for me. A few little things pointing out here and there – certain looks, seeing the space of the defense – so he was really helpful this week. As far as the team, the guys just told me to be you. [To] go out there and be J-Hurts, everything else will take care of itself. We all had each other's back, that's the beauty in all of this. We had each other's back going out there against a really good football team and we had so much money we left on the table. Moving forward, we just want to continue to build, learn from mistakes and, hopefully, progress."

On the confidence Eagles Head Coach Doug Pedersen has in the offense to attempt four fourth down conversions:

"That's trust in his 11 on the field. That's belief in all 11 guys on the field. That's how we're going to play it, we're going to play it that way. Every time we touch the field, at least my mindset is, to execute. Execute what's called and, I'll say it again, [there's] a lot to learn from and a lot to build on. Execution is everything and always will be."

On what he expected going into his first NFL start and how it compared to big college games he played in:

"When I say new experience, I mean, first NFL start, first time starting in the NFL, it's a different game. I think we're all happy here, we're all excited and, more importantly, we're excited to get back to work. That's what I'm ready to do. I'm ready to get some work in."

On his emotions following his first career NFL start and the Eagles' victory:

"It felt good, it felt good. [It's] always a great feeling to get a 'W'. All week we talked about going out there and executing and dominating our box. Coming out at halftime without looking at the scoreboard. I've said it a lot, just having a standard for play. We got this win, but is it up to our standard of play? No. So that's why I say we have so much to build on and so much more to work for. [We] have to continue to build, continue to learn. Every game is an opportunity to learn and we need to use it to our advantage moving forward."

On Eagles RB Miles Sanders' 82-yard touchdown run and the Eagles' success running the read-option offense:

"The big guys up front. The big guys up front blocked their tail off all game. I think [Eagles WR] Alshon [Jeffery] had an impactful block on the outside. It's' all 11 playing as one. All 11 doing their job and dominating that box and doing what they're coached to do. We have confidence that if all 11 can do their job on every play it's going to be a positive play. That ended up being an explosive run and definitely a game-changer."

On the emphasis of playing as a team this week:

"We talked about energy. We talked about urgency. We talked about [having] a lot of enthusiasm and being there for your brother. Being there for your brother. We control what we can control. We go out there and try to control the controllables and go out there and play ball and have fun and trust in one another. That's what we did today. A lot of grit, a lot of perseverance, and we were there for one another. We have to continue to stay rolling."

Eagles RB Miles Sanders

On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts' first start:

"He played awesome today. The tape shows for itself. He's so confident and he's a natural leader. We just needed that and he gave us that spark to start from last week. But ya'll seen it all. I think we played a whole total of four quarters today. I think we looked like a complete team, minus the penalties, we have to clean that up, but overall though I think this whole team did a hell of a job."

On his 82-yard run and how Eagles QB Jalen Hurts being out on the field opened up things for him:

"Opened up a lot of stuff. From the first play to the last, they had to respect him and his legs and he's been doing a great job just reading it. Reading the [defensive end]. Reading his keys to either pull it or take it. That was a regular inside zone. They'd been playing over the top the whole time, letting the linebackers hit certain gaps. But I think the frontside linebacker hit the wrong gap and I just took it out the front and [Eagles TE] Zach [Ertz] had a hell of a block, made one guy miss and to the house I go."

On whether there was a different energy from the offense tonight:

"Absolutely. Similar to last year, we're down to these last four games and the only thing we control is win every game, but starting just week by week. We wanted to go 1-0 this week and we did that against the number one defense in the National Football League and the number one team in the NFC. So just taking it one more week at a time and get ready for Arizona and then keep this thing rolling."

On what he means when he says that Hurts is a natural leader:

"Just encouraging everybody. Talking to us in the huddle. Constantly talking to us. Just giving us confidence. Saying stuff that Carson does."

On what Eagles head coach Doug Pederson said to the team in the locker room:

"He said, 'Man, it feels good to win, huh?' And it sure does, but right now, we really got to stay locked in and we can't get too excited. Like I said, we're just trying to be 1-0 each week. Starting with Arizona, we just have to get ready for them."

On whether the threat of what Hurts can do kept the Saints off balance:

"Yeah, like I said, absolutely. It's hard to stop a read option or whatever it is. Play fake or whatever it is when you got a guy like Jalen that can extend the play with his legs. And if there's nothing there, even take off and get a first down. So that's pretty hard to stop and we just have to keep this thing rolling. I'm excited."

On what it was like not having Eagles QB Carson Wentz commanding the huddle and what his demeanor was like today:

"It was good. Positive. Nothing negative, as I'd expect that from him. I still got his back. I'm talking to him, he's talking to us, giving us feedback as if he was playing. He's not tuned out of the game or anything. He's still locked in and giving us pointers and stuff like that. Everything is cool."

Eagles WR Jalen Reagor

On what it means to be a bigger part of the offense today:

"Just keep going back in the lab and progressing. Taking the game plan and honing my craft and making sure I do my job the best I can."

On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts' performance and leadership:

"I feel like he played well. We just have to keep building on it and can't get too big-headed. We just have to keep going. Going back in the lab, keep getting smarter, taking the coaching and we will see where it goes from here."

On the difference of this game compared to others:

"Personally, it was just the flow of the game. We just have to control the controllables. Those are the things that look real different."

On Hurts' passing game:

"Ah man, you guys saw, he looked good. He is a fearless guy, just like myself. He is a winner. He knows how to play and I am proud of him. I am proud for him and I am happy to see where he goes."

On not receiving punts today and whether that is frustrating:

"I just make the most of my chances when they come. You all talk to Coach Fipp [Eagles Special Teams Coordinator] and he said he is going to keep the rotation. If he feels like he wants [Eagles WR] Greg [Ward]

back there, then I am rocking with Greg and I am cheering for Greg. If he wants me back there, then its vice versa. I try not to get into the whole frustrated thing. We won so that is great enough for me.”

On the connection between himself and Jalen Hurts:

“You all just see the way he plays. I just know, like all of our quarterbacks, [Jalen has that] don’t-give-up mentality and he carried that over. He has learned things from [Eagles QB] Carson [Wentz]. It’s just the leadership with the way he plays and the way he keeps us up. Just because we go three-and-out on the first possession or something, if something may happen, the game is not over.”

On the leadership of Jalen Hurts and how it is effective:

“He knows how to balance certain things. He knows when to say things and when to get us up. For example, if we are sitting on the bench and we are about to be up with the defense getting off the field, he just knows certain ways and he is a young player. For him to be that natural-born guy, it is kind of amazing. I am proud of him and just seeing him do the things he did tonight, it shows he’s special.”

Eagles DE Josh Sweat

On if he felt like the team had a spark because of QB Jalen Hurts getting the start and can you take us through your strip sack:

“I feed off of everybody, so if the offense is making a good play or defense is making a good play, that’s where the energy comes from. It’s not just one player, it’s pretty much everybody. But yeah, it obviously gave me a big spark and made me want to play a lot harder.”

On how the defense was able to hold it together despite a lot of injuries on defense:

“Pretty much we just have the next-man-up mentality. That’s how it’s always been over here, so if anybody goes down, we already know the next person is up. The way we roll groups anyways on the D-line, it’s like we can all get production.”

On if he saw an opportunity this week to create turnovers based off of how Saints QB Taysom Hill plays:

“Some of the plays we noticed that he was holding the ball. We figured it would be a lot of boot and stuff like that, so we would have opportunities. I’ll be honest, when he did that sprint out, I was like, ‘Damn, I might not make it [laughter]’. Something just made me keep running and he held on to the ball and I pretty much saw an opportunity to strip the ball out. I thought I was going to get the recovery but good thing my boy was there.”

On if the defensive line felt more pressure due to the injuries in the secondary:

“We put it on ourselves anyways. Before every game, throughout the week we always say to ourselves we’re going to be the engine. Everybody going to feed off of us. It never changes, we always come into the game knowing if we do well, we will always have a shot in any game no matter what, that’s the approach we take.”

Eagles LB Duke Riley

On whether they did anything different during the week to prepare for the game:

“No, I don’t think we did anything different than we usually do. I think we come to practice to work every day whether it’s defense, offense, special teams. Our thing is to win every day. Fortunate enough to come out with a win against a really good team. And I’m just thankful for it, our guys fought hard, all phases, defense, special teams and offense. We all made some big key plays. We left a lot of plays out there I think, too. We could have done a lot better and that’s where practice comes in and just keep grinding and keep continue to grow as a team.”

On his interception and how hard it was to pull things together and make stops when players were getting hurt:

“Honestly, I give all credit to [Eagles defensive coordinator] Jim Schwartz on that, on my interception. He called a great call, he put me in the right position to be in that spot for the play. So as soon as I caught the ball I ran on the sideline and gave it to him. At practice he always talks about, ‘next man up, everyone has to be ready.’ He puts everyone in position, he does a really good job of keeping the young guys ready. That’s why some of the guys came in and made some plays so like I said, I give all the credit to Jim. I think he’s doing a really good job with the defense and like I said, that interception was the call that he picked. And [Eagles S Jalen Mills] had good pressure on the quarterback so I give my shoutout to Mills. Everybody just doing their job, it just happens like that sometimes, I’m just fortunate enough it was me.”

On if the interception ball was deflected by one of his teammates:

“Yea I think when Mills was pressuring him. I don’t know how it happened I just know I was in the right spot at the right time. I just looked up and I saw tipped ball and I just caught it. I wish I would have scored though to be honest with you.”

On the lead at halftime and what it does to the mentality of the team in the locker room and coming out to start the second half:

“It’s good. Either way, lead or no lead, we’re going to come out the same way regardless. We came out and they scored two touchdowns, that’s something we can’t allow as a defense either so we have to be better with that. We are always critical of ourselves. We won the game at the end of the day, that’s the main thing, the main goal is to win. But we don’t want to give up two touchdowns coming out of halftime like that as a defense. We have to make those corrections and we will.”

On the reaction on the sideline after his interception and what his teammates’ reaction meant to him:

“Everyone was excited for me. Especially, I’m from New Orleans, it happened against New Orleans. And honestly I felt it before the game. I talked about it with my family. I felt like it was going to happen. I don’t know, just sometimes you feel like you are going to make a play. Well, I always feel like I’m going to make a play but sometimes luck is just on your side. But they were all excited. I love everybody on the team, everybody on the team loves me. That’s the thing, the more energy we can create like that, the more explosive plays, the more turnovers we can get for the offense, the more for this team, it just brings everybody together. That’s the main thing. It was just really good for me to do that at the right time. It was something that the team needed.”