



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss, the Saints fall to 10-4 on the season and fall in back-to-back games for the second time this season. New Orleans returns to action on Friday, December 25 when they take on the Minnesota Vikings at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Kickoff is set for 3:30pm CT on Fox.
- With the loss, New Orleans' all-time record vs. Kansas City falls to 5-7.
- Offensively, New Orleans amassed 285 total yards, including 225 passing and a season-low 60 rushing. The Saints were held to a season-low 18:46 time of possession. New Orleans' 29 points scored is their most since scoring 31 at Denver on Nov. 29.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Kansas City to 232 passing yards, their lowest passing total since October 25 and ended a Kansas City streak of six straight games with at least 300 yards passing. New Orleans also surrendered 179 rushing yards.
- New Orleans' defense extends its streak to 17 straight games without allowing 300 yards passing to an individual player, second to Pittsburgh's 23 among active streaks.
- New Orleans recorded four sacks of Kansas City QB Patrick Mahomes, moving New Orleans' total to 40 sacks on the season. New Orleans has now recorded at least 40 sacks in four consecutive seasons for the first time since the team did so from 1995-2001.
- New Orleans' defense forced one turnover, a Patrick Mahomes fourth-quarter fumble forced by DE **Trey Hendrickson**, extending its streak to seven straight games recording at least one takeaway. Seven games is the Saints' longest streak since recording a turnover in nine straight games in Weeks 8-16 of the 2018 season.
- New Orleans forced its first safety of the season, when LB **Craig Robertson** forced a fumble by Kansas City PR Demarcus Robinson that traveled out of the end zone with 20 seconds to play in the first half. The Saints last recorded a safety on October 20, 2019 in a 36-25 victory at Chicago.
- For HC **Sean Payton**, the loss drops his record to 1-2 all-time vs. Kansas City and 0-1 at home against the Chiefs.
- QB **Drew Brees** made the 285th regular season appearance of his career, good for sole possession of 17th all-time in NFL record books. In his first game since November 15, Brees finished 15-of-34 for 234 passing yards and three touchdowns, marking the 96th time Brees has thrown for at least three touchdowns in his career.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** scored his 15th touchdown of the season on a 14-yard reception from Brees with 9:49 to play in the game. Kamara becomes the first player in Saints history to score 15 touchdowns in two separate seasons, having scored 18 touchdowns (14 rushing, four receiving) during the 2018 campaign. The touchdown was the 53rd score of Kamara's career, which moves him into a tie for fourth place in club record books with RB Dalton Hilliard. Kamara finished the game with 54 rushing yards on 11 carries and 40 receiving yards on three catches.
- WR **Emmanuel Sanders** recorded his longest reception of the season on a 51-yard completion from Brees with 11:38 to play in the second quarter. The catch set up the Saints' first score of the game, a Taysom Hill two-yard touchdown run two plays later. Sanders finished the game with four receptions for 76 yards, his highest total since recording 122 yards in the Saints 30-27 Week 5 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers.
- QB **Taysom Hill** rushed for his sixth touchdown of the season on a one-yard run with 10:24 to play in the second quarter, setting a new franchise record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a single season (breaking a tie with Archie Manning's five in 1977). Hill finished with three yards on two rushing attempts

- WR **Lil'Jordan Humphrey** scored the first touchdown of his NFL career on a 17-yard reception from Brees with 2:12 to play in the game. Playing in the sixth game of his career and first of the 2020 season, Humphrey becomes the 73rd different player to catch a touchdown from Brees, the 94th to catch a pass from him in the regular season. Humphrey finished with two receptions for 29 yards and the one score.
- LB **Demario Davis** led New Orleans with 15 tackles, marking his fourth game this season with double-digit stops and his most as a Saint. Davis recorded the 1,000th tackle of his career on his fourth stop of the game, tackling Kansas City RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire with 19 seconds left in the first quarter. Davis now has 106 tackles this season, becoming the first Saints defender to surpass 100 tackles in three consecutive seasons since Curtis Lofton did so from 2012-14.
- S **Malcolm Jenkins** finished second on the Saints with a season-high 12 total tackles, marking his first game of the season with double digit stops. Jenkins added one tackle for loss.
- Defensive End **Trey Hendrickson** recorded his third game of the season with at least 2.0 sacks, moving his season total to 12.5 sacks good for first amongst all NFL defenders alongside Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald and Green Bay Packers linebacker Za'Darius Smith. Hendrickson added five quarterback hits and one forced fumble.
- CB **CJ Gardner-Johnson** recorded a career-high three pass defenses and has broken up at least one pass in each of the Saints' last six games. Gardner-Johnson added four tackles in the game.
- DE **Carl Granderson** recorded his third sack of 2020 and second in December, taking down Mahomes for an eight-yard loss with 4:23 left in the first quarter. The sack was Granderson's lone tackle in the game.
- LB **Kwon Alexander** recorded the 500th tackle of his career, stopping Kansas City RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire with 5:55 to play in the fourth quarter. Alexander came into the game with 494 career stops, and finished with six tackles, one pass defense, and one fumble recovery.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 47.3 yards on eight punts, which included one punt downed inside the 20-yard line, the 250th such punt of his career. Morstead becomes the 35th player to have 250 career punts downed inside the 20-yard line since the statistic was first tracked in 1976.
- TE **Jared Cook** recorded two receptions for 29 yards. Cook now has 498 receptions in his career, which moves him into a tie for 21st all-time for receptions by a tight end with former Vikings TE Steve Jordan, the father of Saints DE Cameron Jordan.
- RB **Latavius Murray** recorded his first touchdown reception of the season on a third quarter 24-yard catch-and-run from Brees. The score capped off the Saints four-play 75-yard drive to open the second half and gave New Orleans its first lead of the game. Murray finished the game with two receptions for 26 yards and rushed four times for three yards.
- The Saints extend their streak to 302 regular season games without being shut out, the longest such running streak in the NFL and fourth longest all-time. The streak dates back to September 6, 2002 when New Orleans defeated Tampa Bay 26-20 at Raymond James Stadium.



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New Orleans Saints Head Coach Sean Payton

On if Drew Brees started slowly due to missing several games: “Offensively, we didn’t start real well, so it’s hard to just, obviously, you can point to one position, but I felt like our third down numbers weren’t good enough today. I didn’t feel like we ran the ball efficiently when we tried. Give Kansas City credit. We battled back in the game, but you’ve got to be better on third down. When you’re not, you don’t have those attempts; you don’t have the snaps, the time of possession, all of the things you need against a good offense like that. We talk about time of possession in a game like this; and, that includes converting third downs. Overall, offensively, we weren’t very sharp.”

On Cam Jordan’s ejection: “We talk all of the time about playing with emotion, but not emotional. They are pushing back and forth. I see what the official saw. They viewed it as a blow or a punch to the head. We’ve just got to be smarter.”

On if the team took Taysom Hill out of some situations: “We took Taysom off punt return; we left him on punt. There was quite a bit of personnel where he was involved offensively, so we weren’t just going to not play him. I wasn’t going to do that. Certainly, we had to be mindful of how many snaps (he received today).”

On if he received an explanation on the reception by the Kansas City offensive lineman: “A couple of things (on that play). Basically, I think they ruled it a forward pass. (It’s) a penalty, obviously, that can happen on fourth down. Had it been ruled a fumble, there is a chance that the ball would’ve been back where it occurred. Obviously, they didn’t charge the timeout. There was a pretty long delay just sorting it out. The ruling on the field was a forward pass. And, that can’t be on fourth down to an ineligible player like that, so it stayed fourth down. We wanted to challenge whether it was a fumble or not, we could’ve gotten the yards right there on fourth down, and they wouldn’t have been able to punt. We only had one little, quick snapshot of it.”

On the play of the defense: “I was proud of how we competed. I thought that we flew around. I thought guys (played well) against a really good offense. I thought we played our hearts out. It wasn’t good enough, obviously, but I’m proud of the effort. There will be things we look at. We have a short week here before we play on Friday. Again, tip your hats again to a really good Kansas City team.”

On if the two minute drive loosened things up for Brees: “He’s outstanding in those situations. He made a number of plays. The fourth down and one play was a big play to Jared Cook. He’s someone that can see the field real well and feel the defense changing. It gave us a chance to win.”

On the reasons for the lack of cohesiveness on offense: “I think that it starts with the third down numbers. We will look at the film. We were minus a few guys, obviously, but that’s not an excuse. We’ve just have to be better.”

On if the team had to shift its plans with Michael Thomas being ruled out: “That was the plan at the start of the week, getting Mike healthy when the postseason rolls around. And, I think that we are doing the right thing. The challenge is that he’s got one of those nagging injuries that you want to see an upward curve with the recovery. As long as he is playing, it’s hard for that to happen. I think that we are doing the smart thing with Mike.”

On preparing for Friday’s game on a short week: “We will be smart with the walkthroughs, like we normally have been. These guys will receive some recovery work in tomorrow; they will rest. We will come back and really monitor the snaps as we get ready for a Friday game. We’ve played on short weeks before, so we will pay attention to our schedule.”

On if he has ever seen a team run 92 plays during a game: “That’s a lot. Certainly, when you finish one of whatever (1-of-11) on third down offensively, your time of possession (is hurt). I cannot tell you what that does relative to your snaps. Everyone will scream you have to run the ball 30 times. It’s impossible if you are not converting on third down.”



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New Orleans Saints Defensive End Marcus Davenport

On how many plays did he feel like the Saints contained Patrick Mahomes, only to allow him to extend a drive by making a big play: “Most of the time, that’s the goal anyway. That is something that I am going to have to go back and watch film over. When you play good play, they are able to do stuff like that. That’s just going to come back on us.”

On how the team was affected after Cam Jordan and Trey Hendrickson exited the game: “It’s simple. We just didn’t have the same rotation. Even then, we’ve just got to win and do everything we can to win.”

On if the defense can take any positives from today: “I take all of the positives. As a team, we are a good team, still. It’s just like any game. You’ve got to do better. Now, you’ve got the 24-hour rule, and then it’s on to the next.”



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New Orleans Saints DT Sheldon Rankins

Look, I know you guys knew coming in Patrick Mahomes can extend a lot of these plays. But I mean, how many times did you feel like today you played him really well and had him kind of backed into a corner and then he kind of came up with some magic, if you will?

“Yeah. Yeah, I mean, listen, like you said, we knew that coming into the game, we knew, he’s kind of the straw that stirs the drink. You know, he kind of gets them out of some bad situations. And make some plays for them. So yeah, I mean, there’s a few we want back, obviously. But, I really won’t be able to tell too much until we get into the tape. But you know, off the top of my head, definitely a few we want back, definitely a few that, you know, we feel that, you know, if we just do this here and this there, or this guy gets off and does that. You know, we’d have them where we wanted and be able to make a play. But, yeah.”

It's probably been since your rookie season, since you lost like consecutive games late in the year like this, with the playoffs coming on? I am just curious, where the team's mindset is right now? If you think it's still in a good spot, even if, you know, this is kind of new territory for you?

“Yeah, listen, I think, the thing about this team is, we’re resilient. You know, we’ve seen it all, been through it all. So, teams in a good spot, you know, obviously, never want to lose a game, never want to lose consecutive games. But like I said, the good thing about this team, you know, got a lot of guys who played a lot of football, been through a lot of things and seen a lot. So I think it starts, like I said, starts at the top. Sean (Payton), you know, going down into the locker room with Drew (Brees), Cam (Jordan), Demario (Davis), those guys. Those guys have played a lot of football and are going to lead the right way. We are going to rally that message to the rest of the team and we are good. And I think we got a short week ahead of us, get ready to play on Christmas. We’ll get back to work, find film on some things and get ready to come back out here for a better showing.”

Speaking of Cam (Jordan), how does it change things when you lose a leader like that in the fourth quarter? And he can't even be on the sidelines with you all, because he's got to go back to the locker room?

Yeah, that’s big. We could sit up here and talk about the next man up, which is true. Listen, the guys stepped in great, Carl (Granderson), Trey (Hendrickson) and Marcus (Davenport), those guys are hellacious players in their own right. But, it’s hard to replace a guy like Cam Jordan. So obviously his absence was there. But at the end of the day, the way this league works is, you have to make plays, regardless of who’s out there. So, obviously, we always miss him, we know he can go change a game on any play. But, we also got other guys who are more than capable of filling that spot and they went out there and played well and did their job and were able to harass Patrick Mahomes.”

Obviously, you guys would like to get the win here. But if you look at it kind of like as a process, being on the field, 40 minutes against this team, holding them to 230 (yards) passing and just kind of how you guys played. Are there positives you can take from this as a group that can, you know, help you guys learn about yourselves?

“Anytime, you lose, things are going to seem a lot more down then what they may be when we watch the tape. So, once I watch the tape, I’ll definitely be able to kind of see, see a lot of those things, if we can pull some positive things from it. But all in all, to be able to play this team close and be able to

have a shot to win at the end of the game was big. And obviously we didn't come up with it. But we like our team, we love the guys we got in this locker room, the guys who go out there and play, our coaches, everybody that contributes to the product on Sunday. We love everybody and we'll go to war with these guys every time.”

I'm just curious what it means to your to see Drew (Brees) back out there, even if today was what it was? Just to have him back out on the field, how important is that for you going into the stretch run?

“Yeah, that’s big. Obviously, (a) walking Hall of Famer, you can’t (discount) having that back out on the field. (The) guy’s played as much football as he has and been as successful as he has, been to the mountaintop. He does nothing but add another piece to the team, getting back out there and being able to command that huddle and get our offense flowing in the right direction. Like you said, (it) didn't come to where we wanted it to. And obviously it would've been great to have him back out there, first game, win. But, this is something that we'll grow from. It's not a loss, it's a lesson. We will continue to grow from it. And when it's all said and done, our coaches will put us in the right positions to make plays, in the right situations to win the biggest games.”

When you mentioned you like your team, obviously, has it been frustrating at all for everyone on this team that when you look at the whole year, it seems like, I don't even know if we've been able to see them 100%, or see you guys 100% at any point. It seems like every time that somebody's been on demand it's like somebody else's going out. I mean, has that been a frustrating thing from like a rhythm standpoint?

“I mean, it's football, that’s just kind of what comes with the business. There's going to be some years where you feel like everybody's great, you never really have too many key guys or too many important guys, that go out. Then there are going to be years where it seems like a revolving door of, we get a guy back, we lose a guy, we get a guy back, we lose a guy. So, it's just kind of the way the business works. Listen, at the end of the day, the team lining up across from you doesn't care who's out there. They're going to go out there and try to win a football game. And we feel the same way. Whoever's out there we're going to war with those guys. And we have the most trust in those guys to go out there and execute and help us win.”

I know a lot of times you guys hate these short weeks, but in this case, are you guys a little more anxious to get back on the field, maybe get a win and get some momentum back?

“Definitely. I think, obviously, the shorter week, from a recovery standpoint, you’ve got to harp on that a little bit more. But all in all, listen, I know this team, I know my guys and we're definitely going to be excited to get back out there and get this ball back rolling in the right direction. Two losses back to back, definitely leaves a bad taste in our mouths. But all in all, we're a resilient team. We’ve faced adversity before and we’ll battle back out of this and get back to playing the style of football we're known to play.”



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New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees

On how it felt to return to action: “I came out of the gate okay; it was great to be back out there with team just competing again. Obviously, it was tough over the last four weeks, so it was great to be back out there.”

On how difficult it is to find a rhythm after being out for a period: “Well I can tell you the first four drives were not what we want, obviously, with four three-and-outs. We didn’t really find a rhythm until the second quarter and the fourth quarter I would say if you kind of broke this down, second quarter, fourth quarter. Unfortunately, there were quite a few moments where we weren’t able to get that first first-down. In so many cases you get that and then you are able to get a drive together, convert some third downs and find some tempo and rhythm. Unfortunately, I’ll say it wasn’t really efficient in the passing game. I think it was a combination of forcing some things down field instead of just taking a completion underneath. There were some miscues. They hit us with some looks defensively where you just had to throw the ball away to avoid a negative play or a sack. So, a combination of all those things, they did a great job, but I know we could have been more efficient. We could’ve found more completions.”

On attributing the slow start to rust or personnel or a combination: “Listen, you have to find ways, and I feel like we’ve done a good job of that all season long. The next man up mentality with a lot of guys being banged up or unavailable for whatever reason and other guys have stepped up and done a great job. I will say we came in without Mike (Thomas) and then we lost Tre’Quan (Smith) kind of midway through so that was tough but I feel like the young guys stepped up and did a nice job.”

On the process of returning to play and benchmarks for that: “I think being able to throw the ball good enough and that was kind of a ramp up from last week into early this week and throughout practice. I still have a little way to go, I’ll be honest. There are some things I am still kind of working on, but it is what it is.”

On a sense of urgency to get back for this game knowing what is at stake: “Here’s the thing, at this point every game is so important. Down the stretch everybody is battling something, everybody is fighting to get out on the field and put together our best effort in order to help our team win to advance our playoff status. Right now, the most important thing is getting our next win so we can officially win the division and then we will worry about the next one after that. So, we have a one game season and that is this Friday night.”

On the intentional grounding call and if he thought Jared Cook was going to run a different route: “I thought he was running by the safety. They brought an all-out pressure so the guy who had blitzed off covering him, the corner, we didn’t have a guy to block him, so he was the free guy. It’s one of those things we had talked about various things during the week and just got signals crossed.”

On his response to the narrative that he was not ready or just too rusty: “Listen, my first pass of the game I should have thrown a check down and if I threw a check down, we’d get the first first-down and get a drive going but I tried to sort of fit one in to Taysom (Hill). And then the next play they brought another sort of all out pressure look and I had to get the ball out sooner than I wanted to. That could’ve been a completion as well, just kind of off by a hair whether its split-second timing or split-second decision and just communication with the guys we are throwing to or me just throwing a check down instead of trying to force it down field. And that’s every game, every game there is stuff like that. We are a very efficient offense; we are a high efficiency passing game and we are going to get back to that.”



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New Orleans Saints RB Alvin Kamara

How was it getting Drew (Brees) back out there? And is it just going to be a little process for you guys to knock off the rust and get everything going?

“It felt good. Obviously just having Drew (Brees) back out there, it means a lot to this team. His energy, his leadership, obviously his play. So it was good to have him out there.”

What did you see, if anything, that was giving you guys problems on third down today?

“We’ve got to execute. That’s it.”

How do you think they played you specifically? Did they pay attention to you more in the passing game? With this defense, any different than maybe some other games you've played this year?

“A little bit. Obviously, they didn't want the pass to be a threat. And they did alright.”

Would you say this one felt like a playoff game? Did it feel bigger than a normal regular season game?

“No.”



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New Orleans Saints LB Kwon Alexander

How tough was (Patrick) Mahomes today just with the way he could extend plays and keep plays alive like that?

“Man, he’s just a legendary quarterback, man. We just have to do our job, stay in our lanes and we just stop him. You know, he’s going to make plays scrambling, but you’ve got to stop him. That was the main goal. We just have to get it done.”

They ran 92 plays today, did it feel like it was 92 plays, I mean just given how long you guys were on the field today. And I guess the one positive to take from it is, did you feel like you guys played relatively well given how long you were out there?

“I feel like we played hard. We just have to finish (and) get more takeaways. I did not know we were out there that long. But we were just out there having fun and playing fast. We will see them again. We will just get back to the drawing board and just get ready for this week coming up.”

Were you shocked at all at the effectiveness that they had running the ball because that's something that they haven't done as much this season? But that's a couple of weeks in a row that some teams have had some success running the ball against you guys, I mean was that something that surprised you at all?

“No, we just got to go out there and play hard and play fast. Man, just do us and be us. We don’t have to do anything different. We’re going to get back to work tomorrow. We’re off tomorrow, but the next day we’re just going to finish it up and get ready for the next game that’s coming up.”

A big picture question for you, I know this was a disappointing loss today. But, what has this whole experience been like for you coming back to Louisiana now being part of a contender with the Saints?

“I’ve been having fun and I’ve been loving it. They took me in as a family (member) and they’re just my family now. We just got one goal, man. We’re going to get that goal and keep pushing.”



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CHIEFS HEAD COACH ANDY REID

(Opening Statement “Clyde (Edwards-Helaire) got twisted up. He had the splits. The X-rays were negative, but we will evaluate him as we go. Emmanuel Smith tweaked his hamstring. You know about the guys who didn’t play (Mike) Remmers had the stinger. Darwin Thompson was ill. This was a good football team that we played. We had ups and downs. We had opportunities. There were things where we were off a tick on the offensive side. Defensively, I thought we played good football. Exclude the last drive. I felt like all in all we started the game fast offensively. I thought we beared down on them. It carried through for three quarters and parts of the fourth. I talked (to) them about playing four good quarters of football. Offensively, you have to bear down when you’re playing one of the best defenses in football. Everything’s not going to be pretty. You have to stay with it, trust each other and go. I thought we did some good things on special teams with the exception of the fumble. We try to keep moving forward and keep getting better as we go. The bottom line is that we won the football game against a good football team. Sean (Payton) does a heck of a job.”

(On if they needed toughness to win the game) “I think so. I felt like that. We needed resiliency and mental toughness. We had drops. We had guys open down the field and we weren’t quite able to get to them. We had linemen playing in different spots. These are not excuses, but there is a point where you have to bear down. Things are going to happen and you have to go. I think the guys did a heck of a job with it. They didn’t let it bog them down mentally. If they got beat, then they got beat. The got back on the horse, kept going and tried it again. I appreciated the fighting part.”

(On the Edwards-Helaire injury) “He got stretched. You probably saw that where he did the split. Both legs were sore. He is going into evaluation right now. He already got the X-rays done and they were negative.”

(On how the offensive line played) “We scored points against a good defensive front. You are talking about one of the best defensive fronts if not the best statistically. I thought we ran the ball efficiently especially in the second half. We threw the ball well with the exception of a couple of blitzes that they had. They got us at the end, but we were clean for the most part.”

(On having a perfect record on the road) “I’m proud of them for that. It’s different when you are on the road. It’s unfamiliar territory. You still have to crank it up on the road and rally things. There were a couple of people here, but not as much red as black and gold. I thought the guys did a good job.”

(On responding to a team when they have just scored) “I don’t know. I can’t tell you that. The way they respond to urgent situations is unique. It doesn’t have to do with me or anybody else. It’s how they go.”

(On the close games) “You are not trying to do it. You figured this one would be close. This is a good football team. They are coming off a loss, so you figured you would get their best shot. It’s like most of the teams that we’ve played. They bear down and give us what they got. I’m proud of our guys of being mentally strong and working through everything.”

(On the offense handling the physicality) “I thought they were real physical too. I agree with you on that. There back are against the wall. You have two teams that need to win football games right now. I thought our guys did a nice job to run the football like we did and throw the football like we did. We had a couple of more opportunities that let get by us. I thought the guys did a nice job.”

(On scoring in the red zone) “Things worked in the simplest form. We were able to capitalize on it. I wish we would have gotten a touchdown on the last one. It worked out the ones before. I think the guys did a nice job with execution. Patrick (Mahomes) made some really nice plays. I thought the offensive line controlled the line of scrimmage very well.”



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QUARTERBACK PATRICK MAHOMES

(On the play of the offensive line): “They battled. They fought the entire game. They got better as the game went on. The guys stepped up into their roles and found a way to get us across the finish line. Obviously, that’s a good defensive line. I thought they did a good job of battling the entire game.”

(On the Le’veon Bell addition) “He has been a great addition. You have seen him in spurts. Big plays happen when he is in the football game. We are hoping Clyde (Edwards-Helaire) gets back quickly. We have good guys in that running back room that will step up and embrace that role.”

(On his conversation with Drew Brees today) “It is just a bunch of respect. Obviously, I watched Drew growing up. I have the same financial advisor as Drew. I have met him over the years at different things and he’s given me advice. I just show him the ultimate respect. He’s one of the best to ever do it. He is still doing it at a high level. It was a great game. Obviously, we came out with the win, but it was a great game by him as well.”

(On the third down conversion to Sammy Watkins earlier in the game) “Sammy was my last read. I got flushed out to the right. I was trying to get the edge and realized I wasn’t going to get there. I stopped and stepped up. Sammy kept working and I was able to get him the ball. You see the offensive linemen continue to work as I am out there scrambling. You have to have guys that are going to continue to battle the entire game. It was a great job by them and a great job by Sammy.”

(On the touchdown pass to Travis Kelce) “We actually ran it a couple of years ago against Denver in a Monday Night Football game. It takes a lot of practice to get the blocking right that quickly and finding a way to push it in there. The guys gave me a lane to throw. I got it to Kelce and he punched it in there.”

(On having trust to win a game) “It’s trust in the entire offense. A lot of times in those four minute offense you’re getting straight man-to-man coverage. When the linebackers come up to stop the run, then you have to have guys win. Kelce won today and you’ve seen guys win over the last few weeks. We have to be able to run the ball. I thought we did a great job of that all day long especially at the end. We have to execute every time we have an opportunity to throw the ball.”

(On being 8-0 on the road): “It’s mentality. It’s all about coming in with the right mentality. You know it is going to be a dogfight wherever you are playing. We do a good job with mindset. We step up on offense, defense and special teams to find a way to win.”

(On winning the close games) “I’ve always felt it was a strength. You have to be able to win games in this league. It looks cool and feels awesome to win by 20 or 30 points. Teams that find a way to win on offense, defense and special teams no matter what the score is are the teams that make a run every year.”

(On the red zone scoring) “It’s just execution. Being able to run the ball and executing. I thought we did a great job of both of those today. When you play a defense like that, you know there are going to be few opportunities. You have to make sure that you execute when you are down there. I think the guys did a great job executing the game plan. The coaches called great plays and we ran the ball whenever we needed to.”