



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the 23-3 loss against the Buccaneers, the Saints now move to 1-7 on the season.
- Up next, the Black and Gold travel to Los Angeles to play the Rams at SoFi Stadium. Kickoff is set for 3:05 p.m. CT and will be broadcast regionally on FOX (WVUE FOX 8 in the New Orleans area).
- QB **Spencer Rattler** went 15-for-21 for 136 yards and an interception. He also carried three times for 12 yards.
- QB **Tyler Shough** came in late in the third quarter and played the rest of the way. He 17-for-30 for 128 yards and an interception. He also carried three times for 12 yards.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** rushed for 21 yards to surpass Vikings RB Aaron Jones for 69th all-time on the NFL's list.
- With his second reception of the game in the second quarter, Kamara tallied 600 receptions for his career (two receptions for 24 yards), only one of five running backs to achieve this feat, joining Larry Centers (827), Marshall Faulk (767), LaDainian Tomlinson (624) and Keith Byars (610). He is also the first player in NFL history to record 600+ rushes and 600+ receptions for only one team in his career.
- He played in his 123rd game to move into a tie on the club's games played list for 31st with former RB teammate, Mark Ingram II, the two having played in the most games for Saints running backs.
- WRs **Chris Olave** and **Rashid Shaheed** led the receiving effort with eight receptions for 63 yards and nine receptions for 75 yards, respectively. Rasheed also returned one punt for eight yards for 83 all-purpose yards.
- WR **Brandin Cooks** caught three receptions for 22 yards, and surpassed the late WR Demaryius Thomas for 56th all-time in career receptions.
- QB **Taysom Hill** played in his 109th career regular season game, moving into a tie for 42nd on the club's all-time games played list with CB Fred Thomas, rushing for six yards and recording a six-yard reception.

- This was the Saints' first time all season holding an opponent scoreless in the first quarter, and the first time the New Orleans defense did not allow any offensive points (touchdown or field goal) in the first half this season.
- The Black and Gold defense held Tampa Bay to what were season-lows for an opponent in first downs (14), third down conversion rate (3-of-13-23.1 pct.), total net yards (212), net yards per play (3.8) and net yards passing (124), while also holding the Buccaneers to only 88 yards rushing on 29 carries (3.8 avg.).
- S **Justin Reid** recorded his first sack of the season and it was the second consecutive game where DE **Chase Young** tallied at least a half-sack.
- Young strip-sacked Tampa Bay QB Baker Mayfield in the second quarter, bringing his total for the game at 1.5 quarterback takedowns. It was the first game with more than one takedown for Young since vs. Washington on Dec. 15, 2024, and it was his fifth such contest of his career. His 14.5 sack yards are also his second-most in a game in his career.
- LB **Demario Davis** led the tackling effort today with 11 stops (four solo) and one forced fumble. Reid recorded all seven of his tackles (four solo) in the first half, and it surpassed his season-high. It also ranked second on the team behind Davis.
- Davis played in his 122nd game to move into a tie on the club's games played list for 32nd with current Vice President of Player Engagement and former RB/special teams ace Fred McAfee.
- CB **Kool-Aid McKinstry** finished with four tackles and a club-best two pass breakups.
- DT **Nathan Shepherd** recorded his first sack of the season in the second quarter and tallied three total tackles.
- DE **Cam Jordan** played in his 234th regular season game, moving into sole possession of ninth all-time among defensive linemen in games played, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Fame DE Jason Taylor, recording one tackle.
- He also played in his 245th career game (regular + post), and tied QB Drew Brees for the most total games played in Saints history.
- K **Blake Grupe** knocked in his only field goal attempt of the day from 48 yards out.
- P **Kai Kroeger** punted three times for 121 yards with a 40.3 gross and 37.7 net, dropping two punts inside-the-20 with a long of 55 yards.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 139th career game and moved into sole possession of 20th in Saints history, surpassing Saints Ring of Honor member DE Will Smith.
- S **Terrell Burgess** and LBs **Isaiah Stalbird** and **Danny Stutsman** each recorded one special teams tackle apiece.



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(Opening Statement) “First division game, didn’t get it done. Unfortunate. We didn’t play enough smart, winning football, just the fundamentals of the game of football, how simple it is sometimes. I thought our defense battled, big-time goal line stop, turnover before half that they created. I thought that group did a lot of good. If you said the box score looked like this on their offense, I’d say we had a chance in this game. The team battled. Offensively, at the end of the day, we turned the ball over four times. We didn’t do enough good. We didn’t do enough good on offense to give ourselves a chance. That’s the unfortunate part of this thing. We have a lot of stuff to work through, improve and get better at. That’s the journey we get to take.”

(On making the decision to change quarterbacks) “We just need to find a way to create something on offense. It has more to do with the offense collectively. We are just not executing or playing at a high enough standard. We have to find a way to move the football consistently, protect the football and score points. This is a pure full offensive evaluation point. We’re just not there.”

(On deciding the starting quarterback for future games) “I think we just have to evaluate this whole thing for the next 48 hours on offense and find the solutions that give us the best chance to win. I thought Tyler [Shough] went in there and looked the part. He made some plays. The one interception was unfortunate. He gave us a chance to convert there. We will obviously make that evaluation quickly, and we will make some decisions moving forward. This had more to do with the whole offense just not playing well enough and hopefully trying to generate some sort of a spark there. Unfortunately, it wasn’t able to be done. “

(On the decision to pull QB Spencer Rattler) “This has so much to do with the entire offense. We’re not playing well enough. I have to coach better. I have to find the solutions. I’m not doing a good enough job, obviously. We were trying to generate a spark. Spencer, I thought, he has done plenty of good through the course of the season when you look at it from a bigger perspective. We did not move the ball well enough and created some turnovers in this game, unfortunately. We need to find a way to get the thing going. That’s our project, and that’s our efforts moving forward is to find the solutions moving forward, however it looks.”

(On the timing to make the decision to change quarterbacks) “I just felt like we were close, but we weren’t making enough, we weren’t getting it going. There was not enough on offense. I just felt like we were trying to create a spark, trying to create something that felt a little different and see if it would provide us with the urgency to execute at a higher level and play cleaner football. There were some little moments in there, some good plays, but not enough collectively.”

(On if the change at quarterback did what he was looking for) “Ultimately, we weren’t able to really get anything else going. Unfortunate how we moved the ball. There were some spurts where we moved the ball okay, and unfortunately, we weren’t able to execute over the course of the drive. This is on me. I have to find a better solution here to put ourselves in better situations to be successful. We’re just not there yet.”

(On Shough’s performance against Tampa Bay’s defense) “Todd [Bowles], Tampa, they’ve always done a great job on defense. It’s a challenge. I felt like he hung in there. Tyler hung in there; he battled. We will see how this thing progresses.”

(On mending the offensive struggles) “I have to find the solution so that we can execute at a higher level, be more consistent and protect the football. We have to be a cleaner football team, particularly on offense. That showed up a lot today. That’s on me. I have to do a great job with this. We’re not there.

We're not executing at a high enough level. I have to find the components and pieces from my standpoint that will allow us to do that."

(On Spencer Rattler's turnovers) "The ball security one was just protecting the football out in space. Guys are coming in pursuit. You have to be ready. There's always that guy coming from the backside. That was an unfortunate one. Then, the backed up one, I thought their guy made a tremendous play. Again, we have to protect the football, and that's an unfortunate sequence."

(On eight turnovers in the last two games) "Great question. Defenses sometimes create those snowball effects. Unfortunately, we are in that. The facts are the facts. We're turning the ball over too much. It is fair to view it that way. Has it happened in your career? Obviously, we have all gone through these moments. We acknowledge it and must be a cleaner, higher, efficient football team, particularly on offense. Again, we just didn't do enough winning football."

(On the navigating the quarterback room this week) "We will navigate this thing over the next 48 hours to put ourselves in a good position to have a good week and be ready to roll. I'm not into flip-flopping quarterbacks and all that sort of stuff. Just an element of lately not executing high enough football and not playing well enough on offense and trying to create a spark. I'm not into this back and forth game, but we do have to make some decisions here moving forward, really as a whole offense. There's a lot to look at with a lot of decisions"

(On if there will be competition this week at quarterback) "No, we will have to make a decision and get the reps allocated properly so someone has a chance to be successful on Sunday."

(On locker room morale) "Frustration. Guys are battling. I love this group. This group competes in every way. You always talk about the playstyle, physicality, the finish, and those components are out there. That's the tough part. We just have to play cleaner. We have to play better. We have to play to a higher standard. The frustration is there's not the consistency in all three phases where they can all complement each other. Again, our defense, there were some really good plays in there. They had a drive or two where they got some momentum going. I thought our guys battled. I think if we'd look at the box score there, I'd say we'd have a heck of a chance in this game. I thought team-wise we battled, as well. There were moments on offense, certainly. There were moments that gave us momentum at times, but we just have to find a solution that works best for us."

(On the turnovers' impact) "Turnovers obviously make a huge impact on this game. It has popped up. We have to execute at a higher level, protect the football. It's hard downs in this league. We have to find some solutions there whether it be third down, red zone and put ourselves in these challenging situations and come up with success. Again, we will do this collectively as an offense. I have to lead the way and help these guys and put them in better positions."

(On Tampa Bay's aggression defensively) "They've always done an excellent job of it. Todd's defense has always attacked the ball at a really high level. I do think when you create turnovers, when your offense has turnovers, it is the old they see it in the waters. They see there is an opportunity presented there. The defense sees it's close, and if we can keep attacking it, odds say based off evidence that's previously happened that we're going to get this football at some point. We just have to address it and kind of get ahead of this thing. It's been a couple of weeks now."

(On what he told Rattler) "I told him what I told you guys here. I am trying to create a spark here. I am trying to create something on offense. Hang in there. I love Spence. I love Tyler. I love these guys to death. These are never easy things. They're really, really challenging because I know what these guys put into this thing each and every day. We are just trying to find a formula that works to our advantage, and I will continue to address that."

(On offensive concerns) "We have to find explosive plays, absolutely. We have to put ourselves in situations to allow it. We can't be playing from behind or teams can play all this blitz and coverage game. Any play in those situations is going to be really, really hard to get anything downfield. We have to put ourselves in better situations, I think is more of the main thing. We have a shot downfield and take a sack at the plus-40 in the second drive of the game, moving the ball. Protection issues, and we don't get our shot downfield. Now all of a sudden, we were close to getting a field goal, and now we are punting. There's just too many opportunities not getting enough chances."

(On if Shough was limited today in what the team ran) "Tyler ran (it) just fine. Obviously, we were limited more from the circumstance than anything. Tyler was not limited in any way."

(On if he is satisfied with the team's buy in) "I love this group. I love the way our guys lead, the way our guys practice each and every week. They battle. I love the effort that we play with. We just have to play some cleaner football and give ourselves a chance to be more successful. There's a lot of little details in the League, and there are some really small margins in the NFL. We have to find a way to close those margins and those gaps."

(On the quarterback evaluation) "I don't know. We'll see. I think the most important thing is finding who gives us the best chance to go play in L.A. next week. We will make those decisions here shortly."

(On how Rattler received the news in-game) "He's a really special person because he handles this as well as anyone possibly can. A lot of guys in this league have to navigate these challenging situations, and he understands that. I have all the respect in the world for how he handled it, how he's operated. Again, there has been plenty of good through the course of the season. Spencer is a really good quarterback in this league. We haven't done enough good collectively as an offense to be successful. We have to continue to navigate that."

(On the penalties) "They obviously impact the game. We have to play cleaner. Too many of the pre-snap again. Those judgement penalties, and those go 50-50 all the time. Pre-snap, we have to be able to control them. It's not to our standard, and we've had plenty of games where we've met our standard, but we slipped a little bit this week."

(On the goal line defense) "Incredible performance. When you look at the last few weeks, we had a really good one against Chicago. We've had some in the past few weeks show up where our guys have done a good job battling each and every play. That's all we can ask for. Every play, there's a big time opportunity, first quarter all the way through the fourth. I thought our defense did another good job to take them all the way to fourth down to finally get it in that second drive. They're competing. They are right there."

(On shutting out Tampa Bay in the first quarter) "I thought our guys executed really well. I thought the urgency, the effort, I thought we did a really good job early in the game. It allowed us to be right in there. All the way to the second half, we were still in it. The turnovers created some opportunities for them (Tampa Bay)."

(On Baker Mayfield's comments during the week impacting the game) "I don't know. I do not know about that. The guys I thought just played really good football on defense a lot of this game and executed at a much higher level."

(On his coin toss philosophy) "We have navigated it a few different ways this year. The most important thing we are trying to get in the game and trying to take the lead. We are trying to find a way. Taking the football gives us the best opportunity to create that, and unfortunately, we did not capitalize on that this week."



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DE CARL GRANDERSON

(On the goal line stand in the first half) “We just had the mindset to stop the run. We were getting after it. On the second (stand), we were just into it. We knew we could continue to keep stopping them.”

(On if this loss will sting) “We knew this game was going to be a bloodbath. We knew they were going to come with it. They tried to come out and run the ball. They only had like 87 (88) rushing yards. We were just prepared on defense. Offense had a few turnovers. We (compete) as a team. We will look at the film and (see) what we can do better.”

(On the defense being able to get pressure today) “They were like 3 for 14 (3 for 13) on third down. They weren’t really trying to throw the ball. Their mindset coming into this game was to try to run the ball after what happened to them last week against them. We knew that. We were stopping the run. After halftime, they tried to do a couple of play action to get Baker (Mayfield) going. I think that he only had 124 (net) passing yards. We had a good game plan for him.”

DE CHASE YOUNG

(On playing in a new defensive system) “Honestly, (I’m) just going out there and playing my game. I wasn’t trying to step in, fit in, or nothing. I’m just trying (to play).”

(On the goal line defense) “Fight. Between the two-yard line, you’ve just got to fight and push them back. We know they’re going to run the ball. Everybody knows they are going to run the ball. We just got to stop them. I feel like hat’s off to our interior D-line, (Davon) Godchaux, (Bryan) Bresee, Bull (John Ridgeway III), (Nathan) Shep(herd). They stood tall.”

(On the fight in this defense) “Our motto is just to control what we can control. When we get out on that field, just control all of the controllers. We’ve just got to continue to do it. Offense is going to get right. When they get right, it’s going to come together. The defense, we ain’t stopping.”

(On his fumble recovery) “It was like a blur for a second. I just went down. Somebody’s got to come get the ball out of my hands.”

(On the team having play from two quarterbacks) “You can’t control that. That’s over our head. Edge rushers, we are just locked in on what we’ve got to do. Those things, really, you just can’t worry about.”

(On getting off of the line of scrimmage quickly once the ball is snapped) “I try to jump it sometimes. Being an edge rusher and just being out there, feeling how they start to snap the ball (and) feeling the cadence, feeling the tackle, you can start feeling the motions. A lot of teams like to snap the ball right on the motion. You start timing things like that. You just get into the feel.”

(On what went right about his matchup today) “Just balling.”

(On not allowing any points in the first quarter) “We talk about every man taking care of their assignment. This week, that was real heavy, holding each other accountable and not getting our feelings (hurt) when we are not holding each other accountable, (and) just going out and executing. That is what Coach (Brandon) Staley preaches that we have to execute.”

QB SPENCER RATTLER

(On the moment and decision to change QBs) “Yeah, I mean, we came out of the half, didn't have a great drive, kept getting backed up, backed up, backed up, just really couldn't catch a rhythm, and he said, ‘Hey, we're going to go with Tyler, get a little spark, see what's going to happen, and, it's part of the game. I understand you can't control everything, but, hey, I'm going to be a great teammate and respond the right way, you know, be a pro about it, and help in any way I can.”

(On turnovers the past two weeks) “Yeah, (we were) moving the ball great the first drive, great opportunity in the rush lane, try to make a little juke move and just try to tuck it away too late and had a great punch out. So, I've got to protect the ball better when I'm running and make sure it's tight, and the backed-up one off the play-action keeper, that's unfortunate. He (Anthony Nelson) got his hand on it. Good play by him. Trying to move on after that one was tough, but I thought we were going to respond, and try to bounce back from that.”

(On the main theme of the turnover struggles) “I think last week I started pressing. I don't feel like I pressed at all this game. I got careless with keeping it high and tight on that first drive on the run. Would have had a great run there. And then the tip pick was unfortunate.”

(On putting pressure on himself after Chicago) “No, I know I wanted to play a cleaner game. (I) was not happy with the fumble, obviously, on the first drive. But try to respond in the right way. I think as a group, it starts with me. We've got to just execute better. Execute better, see things better. Credit to their defense. They did a lot of great things. Knew they were going to give us a lot of different looks, which they did. But, no, I don't feel like I put too much pressure on myself. I just have to control those moments and tuck the ball tighter, literally.”

(On not being able to convert on drives across the midfield) “Yeah, I mean, we were converting on third down well. Our numbers were okay in the first half. They brought some good pressures. We had the right answers versus a good amount of them. Could have gotten the ball maybe quicker on some checkdowns when we crossed that 50-yard line. We knew that was a high-pressure area. A couple missed stops, but got to watch the tape and see what happened when we crossed the 50 because it seems like we couldn't really get anything going once we passed that 50. So we've got to watch the tape, figure that out.”

(On what is next this week) “I just go at it the same way. It is part of the game. I have been through adversity before. I'm going to be a good teammate, have good body language, and still be a leader. So I just got to show up to work, keep a smile on my face, keep working. And you can only control what you can. I've said that before. So control what I can and keep attacking the same way.”

(On surprise at the decision to insert Shough) “A little bit, but hey, no bad feelings at all with Kellen. He's my guy. He's awesome. He's been awesome all year. And we haven't really gotten anything going on offense the last two weeks. So, hey, understood. Just got to show back up and figure out what we're going to get better at.”

(On if the decision was disappointing, but not surprising) “A little bit of both. Definitely not happy with the turnovers— you're not happy with that. Not scoring points offensively the whole game— you're not happy with that. But, hey, it is what it is. Move on. That's all you can do.”

(On his thoughts on the defense) “They played great. They gave us a chance. It's been like that the last few weeks. They played with energy. They played with more energy than us, more focus, more effort, and you can see it. So we've got to respond better, especially when they give us the opportunity before half(time) to go score at midfield. We have got to convert on that and get seven instead of three. So defense is doing their thing. Offense has got to wake up. So, we've got to figure that out and keep working at it.”

(On why the defense would be playing with more focus than the offense) “Maybe focus is not the best word. I think just playing with more fire. I think you can see that. I think offensively we can get some things going, create some momentum, create some energy. And that starts with just basic plays, right? Moving the chains, hitting the shot when it's there, getting first downs, and then ultimately finishing in the red zone, which we haven't been doing. So, we've just got to do better in those areas and keep our, really up our level in energy and fire, all that. But it comes with execution.”

(On why the fire hasn't been there on offense) “We've got to catch a rhythm. Our rhythm wasn't there. Started out the game well, turned it over. That's not great, but how you respond is everything. So, we

didn't respond well. And, you've got to execute to have that fire. We play with fire—don't get it mistaken. We play with energy. We're dialed in, but we've just got to execute better. It comes down to execution. It comes down to situations and just trusting the play that's called and getting the ramble on.”

(On if Tampa did anything that Chicago also did) “No, a little different. We knew Tampa's a heavy-pressure team. We had a good plan coming into it. I want to say the first third down of the game, they brought cover zero, blitzed everybody, and we made the right check and got the ball out. But (Todd) Bowles is going to give you something different every single play, and it's what we expected. They out-executed us, it's clear, and all game. And so we've just got to look at our preparation, take it to the next level, and move on from this one, move on to the next.”

(On how he processes the last two games with the overall improvement this season) “You want to improve each week. Last week, obviously, you got careless with the ball a little bit. But this week, first drive, again, high and tight. That is on me. I got to keep it high and tight. We preach that every day. You are never safe when you're out there running, especially as a quarterback, so you have got to keep it high and tight. I think just protecting the ball, that's it. And then taking the completions when they're there, I felt like I was taking them. A few missteps, but got to go back on the tape and watch it. But, yeah, got to be better. Got to be better.”

QB TYLER SHOUGH

(On his first time playing QB in the regular season) “Ultimately, we didn't score enough points and did not get the job done. So I was proud of how those guys battled. But ultimately, we just got to go back to the drawing board and keep getting better.”

(On stepping in with little practice as a young QB) “I felt prepared. The whole quarterback room, the offense, I think we're preparing well. I've got to continue to increase that. But for me, I was just going out there and doing everything I can and just having fun with it. But I'm going to continue to look at what we did wrong, what we did well, to try and improve on those and go from there.”

(On the conversation to switch QBs) “I was just ready to go in there and try and do my job and go out there and play. It was awesome to get in there and play. But ultimately, we're going to continue to get better and just go from there.”

(On if he knew there was a possibility of playing after halftime or if it was in the moment) “I was just in the moment, yeah. Just in the moment. Just told me to get ready to go. That was it. But, yeah, just, I mean, preparing each week and my head from every game since, you know, I was ready to go and got to continue to be ready.”

(On the nerves and emotions when told) “No nerves. Preparation-wise, body-wise, I was feeling good. So just going out there and doing everything I can. Like I said, we'll continue to kind of get in the groove, get better. It was ready to go. I just got to continue to keep building.”

(On reception from the fans cheering when he went on the field) “No, I was more focused on the play. You're not really focused on that as much. But I think my earpiece wasn't really working on the first drive as much. So I had to switch helmets immediately, which was not ideal. But we got (it) fixed.

(On his self-evaluation and what he liked/disliked about how he played) “Not yet. I mean, obviously, I've got to watch the game to completely look at everything. But at the end of the day, we didn't score enough points. So it sucks. But we will look at it, and especially myself, and see how I can get better. And then we'll continue to grow as an offensive unit to try and get the job done. Because ultimately, the defense, they played really well. They made some huge stops. They're bringing the juice. We just got to go up there and execute and protect the ball. That's really on us.”

(On his approach this coming week) “The same as I have been. I think going in each week preparation-wise, like I am going to go in, you have to continue to do that no matter what. So nothing is going to change. Just continue what I'm doing and try to have a sense of urgency this week coming into offensive meetings, preparation, and practice, because ultimately that's on us, and we've got to get better.”

(On if he's ready if it's time for him to start next week) "Oh, 100%. Yeah, I feel ready. I feel ready every single week. Obviously it's good to get there and get some reps. But, like I said before, we continue to have that sense of urgency to continue to grow and do everything we can to win."

(On what it's like having to wait for the opportunity) "Yeah, I've learned a lot. I've learned a lot because Spencer's done some really, really good things. I've been able to see that growth myself. I've been getting, most of the reps in practice from a scout team perspective. You're going against live bullets with those guys, and it's usually not the best look. Each week I've been continuing to grow, and I feel really ready to go. And, it's been good, but I've got to continue to grow. So that's got to be the answer."

(On his first completion being to another QB) "Yeah, it was a good play call. Taysom obviously was out there in the flat, but it just kind of happened that way. Yeah, it was pretty good."

(On preparing during the course of the week) "Just like I said, continual preparation. I think being a backup quarterback, you have to prepare like you're the starter because you don't know when you're going to go in. And obviously, that can be mentally and physically just a different challenge. And then when you go in there when you are playing, you lean on that preparation. So for me, it is going to be no different. And that's why you can come into games and go out there and play."

(On what is unique about developing and growing on the scout team) "For me, it's just football. You are not going against a scouted card look at what you may see. You've got cards, and you're essentially in the same plays you're running. So, how can you make it like a game? And that's kind of been the emphasis that my quarterbacks coach (Scott Tolzien), Kellen, and all the guys, how can I make this game like? And I'm trying to be really intentional toward, I mean, there is no difference. And obviously, when you're going against a really good defense like the Buccaneers, it's going to be a slight difference between that. But for me, I felt really prepared and got to continue that preparation."

(On if he finds it helpful to be able to go up against the first team defense in those situations) "100%, yeah. The pocket's real. The coverage, everything, like I said, you've got to find a way to make a play. And that's what I've kind of enjoyed throughout this moment and continue just to build that preparation and attack each day."

(On his conversation with Spencer after the switch) "It was just a dap each other up. There wasn't really a conversation. We're just trying to get going as an offense. So there wasn't too much, but Spencer's my guy. We're preparing every single week. We're going to continue to do that, and we're going to continue to all get better as an offense."

(On if the majority of his practice reps have been with Luke (Fortner) at center this season) "Yes, in the past, not this week, obviously, but yeah, in the past. So I've felt extremely comfortable going out there with him and all the guys just getting those reps in."

(On Fortner getting into the organization so far into the preseason and picking up the offense) "Yeah, he's done an excellent job. He's so smart to come in immediately, learn it like that, and contribute in multiple ways. So really proud of him and his preparation, his work, because that's not an easy task either, especially going against that front. So really proud of him and the whole line. I think they did a really good job. So we just got to continue to grow, and we'll get it done."

(On if there's an area that he's really grown in since the preseason) "Like I said before, making it game-like, because it is game-like, it's the time clock football element for sure. It's a lot different when you're on offense going against scout team B and when you're giving the defense look because they're obviously first team D. So you've got that time clock football element trying to make a game like, that's where I feel like it kind of helped me out a lot, especially when you're going against a good front. But I think for all of us and as an offense and myself, we're going to continue to prepare more and continue to do everything we can."

(On his mindset attacking the field) "My mindset is I'm going to attack no matter what, and I've got to try and do everything I can to score points and then find completions. But also, that's part of the game when you're down and you've got to go, and the clock's against you, and that's just part of it, and you're having to throw it more. You can't run the ball as much just because of the time. So, part of that, a little bit of both, but I think I've learned a lot from Spencer and the offense and around the league, watched

a lot of film, and you don't have the ability to get through four or five progressions, just because of that time clock element. So, you've got to find the best way to get out of your hand and your playmakers.”

(On if he planned to step out of some sacks or if it was instinct) “It's just instinct. You are obviously trying to play the rep as it is, and that's the battle as a quarterback is you don't want to predetermine it. So, you're just playing as it is, and it's an instinct if something happens, and if they give you a certain look, then you might change it a little bit.”

(On if anything surprised him about the speed of the game) “No, no. I think just execution-wise and all that stuff, it has got to be better, but speed of the game-wise, no, I think that is why the past few weeks, and scout team-wise, I think that has been the best thing for me to continue to learn and grow. Even preseason, I felt solid with that, and it's obviously when you get to regular season and continue forward, it's going to continue to build.”

(On opportunities to throw to the starters on offense) “In practice reps, zero, but I'm trying to do everything I can to get some after practice. Routes on there, obviously, you're getting a few but very minimal with those guys, so it was good to kind of get some reps with them. But we've given as much reps as I can after every single practice going through the whole script and throwing to Kevin (Austin Jr.) and Dante (Pettis) and all those guys, and they've done a really good job, so I'm obviously wanting to continue to grow myself., But yeah, (Chris) Olave, (Rashid) Shaheed, (Brandin) Cooks, they did a really good job just getting it out of routes, and I've got to put a couple more balls better on Juwan (Johnson) as well. He's a big difference maker, and I've got to help him out.”

(On if he needed to adjust to the speed of the receivers) “No, I think it's just football. I think there's a slight chemistry element. Each guy has different body movements or chemistry— that can continue to grow, but at the end of the day, you're just playing.”

(On if he got messages from other veteran players going in) “Yeah, Cooks came up to me and we've been talking all year and talking and he just kind of said everything that we talked about to this point, just go out there and be you. I think that's everyone, I couldn't remember, but a bunch of people came up to me and just said to be you, keep doing what you do in practice. So yeah, that was kind of the message from them, and obviously it was good to hear because I look up to those guys, love those guys, and I got to continue to be the guy for them.”

(On if he feels like it's summer again to make the decision at QB) “I don't know if that's the right comparison, but I think for me, we just got to have a better sense of urgency and as a collective offensive unit be able to go out there and execute. I think the entire defense has been playing really well, and we just got to go out there and help them out.”

(On what he wants to come from this) “I want to win. I want to help growth continue. I think we've got to go out there and execute and win, so I think to do that J (Justin) Reid said you have to go back to the little things and the little details and all that stuff, so it's been great for me to see from afar, watching just how an NFL game goes and how valuable those possessions are especially. So protecting the ball, time clock, all that stuff, finishing in the red zone, how viable that is to collect it, we've got to do it.”

(On if there have been any discussions on if his time was coming) “In the moment, yeah. I think for me, in my own head, I've been preparing the same exact way for that exact moment, so it wasn't a surprise in my head because I have to be ready, but there wasn't a preliminary conversation though.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH TODD BOWLES

(On the play of Anthony Nelson) “He had two sacks. He had a touchdown. He did a great job making some plays and setting the edge for us. He had a heck of a ballgame. A lot of guys went after the ball today. They concentrated and got some turnovers. They came in bunches. They helped us out every little bit. Those guys did a heck of a job holding that team to three points. We have some work to do on both sides of the ball. We have to get healthy. We made the points when they counted, so good teams win. We held the ball long enough and we only turned it over once I think. We got more turnovers than they got.”

(On Baker Mayfield being pressured) “We are allowing that. They are winning first downs. We are creating second and third and longs. We have to do a better job on first down executing, making it manageable and keeping some of that pressure off us.”

(On why Anthony Nelson was effective) “He’s a good ballplayer. We talk about him all of the time. He is a very aggressive player. He is a very smart player. He hasn’t fallen for a bootleg yet. He has great anticipation when he batted the ball up. He is a very good athlete. He can catch the ball very well. He had a heck of a ballgame. Once he catches the ball, there is no one who is going to catch him for one yard.”

(On the difficulties from the one-yard line) “We thought about passing. They stuffed us pretty good up front. We have to be able to get that ball in less than eight tries. It cost us the first time. The second time we got it in. We have to have will to finish down there.”

(On the bye week coming up) “It is huge. It is halfway through the season. We need it more than anybody. Credit those guys for fighting week in and week out. People are stepping up and moving to different positions and helping us win, which you have to do in order to be a good team. We have done that in the first half. That’s going to be a hell of a second half, so we have to get ready for it.”

(On if he knows what players who will be coming back after the bye) “Not at this time. I don’t. This coming week will be key as far as seeing guys move around. When we get back to practice the week after that, hopefully we get some of those guys back.”

(On Antoine Winfield Jr’s day) “He had a hell of a day. I’m still pissed off over some of it, but that’s tough sledding. He did a hell of a job today getting the ball out. We have to do something. We will discuss with the league and go from there.”

(On if he heard a whistle blow on the called back touchdown) “No, he said it was an erroneous error in blowing his whistle. He legitimately stripped him. I have no answer.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS PLAYERS

QB BAKER MAYFIELD

(On how proud he is of the team pushing through despite injured players) “We have a resilient group. To be at 6-2 with all of the players that we have down, guys have had to step up and get thrown into the fire. That is awesome to be able to see. A bye week is much needed for this group, but we will always take the wins, don’t get me wrong about that. Offensively, that wasn’t nearly good enough or close to what we want to look like. Defense and special teams played absolutely outstanding, and it was really fun to watch on their part.”

(On repeatedly getting stopped at the one-yard line) “Yeah, I mean we had tried the two passes prior. Some we just lean our head on, that we are going to be able to run it in when we need to. They made the plays that they needed to, and obviously we got the last one down there.”

(On the confidence he has in his defensive playmakers) “It would be nice if we matched their energy and their play, but watching that is unbelievable. That’s lights out defense. The only reason they got points was because of the turnover right before the half, and they were damn near in field goal range. They played a shutout ballgame in my eyes. Everyone was flying around making plays, and Nelly (Anthony Nelson) obviously had a hell of a game.”

(On the number of sacks he has taken in the past few weeks) “The first third down of the game, they did a good job. It was pretty good dialed up pressure in our protection plan. After that, it was just about getting the ball out on time and being able to pass off some twists and stunts. They get paid too. Some things are going to happen every once in a while, but we do need to get it cleaned up.”

(On Tez Johnson and his performance) “Yeah, Tez continues to make plays for us, flying around the field. The scramble drill aspect of it, it was lights out on that. I know he wants that one play later on in the game back, but other than that, Tez played great.”

(On his takeaways from the first eight weeks of play) “6-2, just got to be able to play one game at a time. Obviously, we have had a lot of people that have played and contributed to this team, and we are going to need everybody down the home stretch. Taking away the fact that we are leading the division right now, but it’s not even close to being over. The real football starts for us right after the bye week, and it could not have come at a better time to rest up.”

(On Anthony Nelson and his huge game) “Unbelievable game. Flying around, starting with the punch out forced fumble, then he gets a touchdown, an interception, it goes on and on. I think he probably got every single stat you would want as a defensive player, and as an outside linebacker/edge rusher. He played lights out, and I think that everybody else on defense did too, just based on how they played.”

(On if this win was satisfying, given his comments about playing the Saints) “Yeah, wins are great. They are very hard to come by in this league, and it’s said all the time. This is a tough ball club, and we know that. We expect that when we play the Saints, especially here. We got to be better on offense, and have to be able to score more points especially down there in the low red. But, we will take all the wins we can get.”

LB ANTHONY NELSON

(On the Saints being too worried about Yaya Diaby) “Yeah, I don’t know. I don’t know. We were flying around, taking the ball away. Everybody was, so fun to get started, and I think it was just good to be aggressive as a defense going out, defense going after a ball.”

(On his touchdown) “Yeah it was like I hit the ball up and uh I guess I caught it, I don’t really remember what happened. I just remembered going up and catching the ball, getting to the goal line, then in the

end zone.”

(On his first interception) “Yeah, it feels great. It feels great to get the first one, you know, like I said, it was like, I’m going to handle the ball, and it bounced up to me. So, it was awesome to capitalize on that opportunity.”

(On feeling like he was in the zone) “Yeah, you definitely get in that zone. And I think a lot of that has to do with the guys around you, like I said punch a ball. But we had a lot of guys going after the ball getting strips, punching at the catch, even some that were close that ended up being incompletions. So, when everybody is doing it, it kind of gets contagious, and you can feel it, it gives you confidence. And then, everybody joins in on it. So, it feels good to get so many.”

TE CADE OTTON

(On the offense today) “We (would) rather be saying we can do better on offense with a win than a loss, and you don’t want to be saying that too much more, but well get it right, and I think it’s probably as well timed for us to get healthy and regroup and get ready for a big win.”

(On Nelson’s interception) “So happy for him, being a guy who just works every single day, super unselfish, contributes on special teams for every single game this year. And just the way he stepped up he is the MVP of the game for us, just awesome. He was starting because of an injury. This is what championship teams do, absolutely just that mentality of next man up and having that no drama when it’s the next guy, so definitely.”

(On Baker Mayfield being vocal in the game) “Yeah it was a physical game. And you know, I think it just comes down to executing whenever you can do better. Obviously, better to know that in a win than a loss. They’re a good team, physical team, and we knew it was amazing.”

S ANTOINE WINFIELD JR

(On the defense’s takeaways this season) “Yeah, that’s our goal try to take the ball away as much as possible, give our offense more opportunities. And anytime you can make that happen, it gives us the best opportunity to win”

(On keeping the Saints out of their territory early on) “Well yeah, I mean that was our goal coming into the game, and so we just did a good job of doing it.”

(On Anthony Nelson’s game) “He’s just always in the right place at the right time when he’s playing, like he just, he just balls. And I couldn’t believe that thing. I was like, I can’t believe he just did it, shocked me, but um, he made a hell of a play on that. And he had a great game, sack, fumble, pick six, ran a quarterback over, that was nasty.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME
NFL OFFICIALS POOL REPORT WITH GAME REFEREE
RONALD TORBERT (POOL REPORT CONDUCTED BY LUKE
JOHNSON OF NEW ORLEANS TIMES-
PICAYUNE/ADVOCATE)**

Question: Can you describe what happened after the Rashid Shaheed fumble that was initially ruled a touchdown on the field but then was called back because of the whistle?

Ronald Torbert: “We ruled that there was a fumble. It was recovered by the defense, but there was a whistle blown from the other side of the field. The official thought that the runner was down. We were able to award the defense the ball after the fumble but because the whistle had been blown, we could not award the advance afterwards.”

Question: And you said the whistle came from the far side of the field?

Ronald Torbert: “Yes.”

Question: And that was determined after a discussion amongst the crew rather than a replay review?

Ronald Torbert: “That’s correct. That was just the crew on the field that had that discussion.”

Question: And I guess just for clarity’s sake, once a whistle has been blown, the play is ruled dead automatically, correct?

Ronald Torbert: “Yes, there are certain situations, such as if there’s a fumble and an immediate recovery in the aftermath after the whistle is blown, in certain cases we can award the ball to the defense. Or award an interception. So generally, yes, the ball is dead when the whistle’s blown. But in this case we were able to award the fumble but not the advance.”