



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- New Orleans' franchise-best six-game streak of season-opening wins comes to an end after the 20-13 loss to the Arizona Cardinals. New Orleans will return to action and seek to even their record at 1-1, when they host the San Francisco 49ers on Sept. 14 at the Caesars Superdome. The contest will have a noon kickoff and will be regionally televised on FOX (WVUE FOX 8 in the New Orleans area).
- New Orleans outgained Arizona in total yards 315-276. The Saints had 208 net passing yards and 107 rushing yards. The Saints had 21 first downs compared to Arizona's 19.
- QB **Spencer Rattler** completed 27-of-46 passes for 214 yards with no touchdowns and rushed for 29 yards on four carries.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** led the backfield with 45 yards on 11 rushes and one 18-yard rushing touchdown. He also had two catches for 12 yards, totaling 57 total yards from scrimmage. With Kamara's 45 rushing yards, he surpasses Wilbert Montgomery and Robert Smith for 75th all-time (6,824) in National Football League record books, and his 12 receiving yards passes LaDainian Tomlinson for 13th all-time for running backs (4,774).
- Kamara's touchdown in the second quarter was the 1,000th by the team in the Caesars Superdome regular season and postseason combined since 1975. The Saints are the third team all-time to do it their facility, joining the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field (1,114 prior to Green Bay's late afternoon game) and the Kansas City Chiefs at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium (1,029). The Buffalo Bills have 998 at Highmark Stadium.
- Kamara's rushing touchdown ties Pro Football Hall of Fame WR Lance Alworth for 53rd all-time with 87 total touchdowns.
- Kamara extends his franchise record with 11,598 career scrimmage yards and passes James Brooks for 80th on the NFL's all-time list.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** led the receiving core with 76 yards on eight receptions.
- Johnson (150 career receptions as a tight end) moves past former Black and Gold TE Benjamin Watson for fifth in receiving among Saints tight ends.
- WR **Chris Olave** finished with seven receptions for 54 yards, and WR **Brandin Cooks** hauled in three passes for 26 yards in his return to the Saints.

- Cooks moves into a tie at 58th all-time in NFL record books with former Saint Jarvis Landry with 713 career receptions.
- • RB **Kendre Miller** had five carries for 24 yards and three kickoff returns for 88 yards, including a 43-yard runback, the longest kickoff return by the Saints since a 75 yards return by WR Deonte Harty vs. San Francisco on Nov. 15, 2020.
- LB **Pete Werner** and LB **Demario Davis** led New Orleans with nine tackles apiece. Seven of Werner's nine stops were solo tackles including a sack, and Davis had six solo tackles, two stops for loss.
- DE **Carl Granderson** totaled six tackles (five solo), 1.5 sacks and two pass deflections. It was the seventh multi-sack performance of his career.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** finished with three tackles, including 1.5 sacks for 14.5 yards, two stops for loss and one pass deflection.
- Jordan now has 123 career sacks, surpassing Clyde Simmons and Simeon Rice, and tying Robert Mathis for 20th all-time in NFL record books.
- Jordan now has 29 career multi-sack games, extending his club record.
- Jordan played in his 227th career game, tying Jim Jeffcoat for 13th all-time among defensive linemen.
- Jordan enters his 15th Saints season, tied with Drew Brees for longest tenure in club history. Next week he will play in his 228th regular season contest, moving into a tie with Brees for the club record.
- CB **Alontae Taylor** recorded a sack on third-and-four with 2:23 remaining in the contest, forcing the Cardinals to punt, giving the Saints a final opportunity beginning at their own 42-yard line with less than two minutes in the game. Taylor now has five career sacks, tied with Fred Thomas for second in club records by a cornerback.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 133rd career game, tying Pro Football Hall of Fame LB Sam Mills for 25th in franchise history.
- LB **Isaiah Stallbird** led the team with a career-high and team-high two special teams tackles.
- In his NFL debut, Rookie P **Kai Kroeger** punted four times for 202 yards with a 50.5 gross punting average and a 43.0 net punting average, including two dropped inside the 20-yard line



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(Opening Statement) “Good battle today. The effort and play style were some things we talked a lot about going into this game, and I felt like our guys played with really good effort, really good play style. I thought the energy was really, really good in The Dome (Caesars Superdome). We made a couple of stops toward the end. The big field goal block put us in position to tie the game right at the end. Ultimately, the story for us and the lesson for us is you can’t beat yourself. 13 penalties, a lot of mistakes in there that we have to clean up to put ourselves in a much better position to be successful. We have a lot of work to do. That’s the beauty of this thing. There’s a lot of work coming forward to us, and we will move the page and get ready for San Francisco here shortly.”

(On how Juwan Johnson was to scoring a touchdown at the end of the game) “It was close, obviously. I haven’t seen the slow replay, so I don’t know how close it was. It certainly looked like we had a moment there where he had it.”

(On commonalities with the penalties) “Certainly, a lot of it – the main stuff you have to deal with are the controllables pre-snap. The pre-snap was simply not good enough. It doesn’t meet the standard in any way. We had a bunch of penalties on both sides of the football in the pre-snap world. That’s all under our control.”

(On Spencer Rattler’s play) “I thought Spencer did some good stuff and put us in position there. Obviously, there are highs and lows you go through in a game, but I loved the way that he approached it, the mindset he played with. He gave us a chance.”

(On opting not to take timeouts during Arizona’s final offensive drive of the first half) “We were close. We talked through it—getting the ball at the start of the third quarter. They still had all three timeouts in their pocket, so we felt like we would let it play out and see if, on our possession, something popped there. If something popped, you keep it alive and put ourselves in position, but it was definitely something we talked about.”

(On the defensive performance) “I thought our defense gave us a chance at the end. There were a couple of big stops as the game progressed, and I thought they did some good stuff. Penalties killed big plays and some situational football came up on some third-and-longs there. They were able to convert a few third-and-longs, and that extended some drives, unfortunately.”

(On Alontae Taylor’s blitz in the fourth quarter) “It’s certainly available to us in a number of other situations, but there’s a risk-reward with that. I thought Brandon (Staley) did an awesome job calling this game and putting us in a really good position with great opportunities to compete each and every down, and I thought it was a great call in that situation.”

(On if he would have gone for the extra point or the two-point conversion at the end of the game) “I mean, certainly we talk about that all the time. We will see whether or not it presents itself. I’m not going to go down that road.”

(On opting to kick a field goal on fourth down) “Once it became five (yards), if it’s two (yards) and three (yards), the numbers will lead you to convert that, but once it got to fourth-and-five, it was a little bit behind us. We felt like to keep it a one-possession game, we were going to have to make a big-time stop, which our defense did and gave us a chance.”

(On game management) “It felt like we gave ourselves a chance. Ultimately, that’s not good enough. Ultimately, we are here to win football games, and we have to compete and clean things up. While I love the effort, love the energy, love how the guys in the locker room played, we just have to play better.”

We just have to clean it up, and it starts with me helping to emphasize that through this entire next week.”

(On the injury to Taliese Fuaga) “He got banged up on a knee. We will see how it goes.”

(On if Chris Olave was evaluated for a concussion) “He was not.”

(On Chris Olave’s play) “He battled each and every play. He had a couple of things come up, and he just kept getting ready. Once he was available (after chest evaluation), he hopped out there. I thought our guys, at the end of the day, they gave us a chance.”

(On the approach in game play for Spencer Rattler) “Certainly a combination of that. I think it’s important to give him completions and move the ball downfield. They did a really good job. The few opportunities that we tried to get downfield, we had potential stuff, and I thought they did a good job. They played a lot of shell on us and forced us to play blank on the drive. We weren’t able to make those explosives that we were probably hoping for.”

(On Rattler’s composure at the end of the game) “At the end of the day, I thought our operation was really clean. We gave ourselves a chance at the end. We had essentially three opportunities to get into the end zone. That’s all we can ask for under those circumstances.”

(On if the quarterback had an impact on the timeout decision in the first half) “At the end of the half, it’s certainly something we talked about. We were really close to banging a timeout there. We just stuck with the opportunity that we had. We will start with the ball. We still had a little bit of time left to see what happens. If we were able to gain some yards there, we would play the timeout game, and we would have plenty of time to get ourselves into field goal position.”

(On what worked in the final offensive drives) “I think just any time you’re in those situations, the tempo and the completion game that Spencer (Rattler) played with. I thought he did a good job. I thought our guys played faster as the game went on. There’s certainly a lot of stuff in the first three quarters that we just have to clean up to put ourselves in a better position.”

(On Arizona’s defensive play) “I thought they did a good job of it. We were not able to get any explosives that we were probably chasing as we went through that game. They were not presenting themselves. They did a good job there. Run game, we probably did not get it going as much in the second half. I thought they did a couple of good jobs just playing gaps sound and fitting things really well in the run game where you weren’t able to squeeze anything out.”

(On the field goal operation) “I have not communicated with that.”

(On cleaning up the pre-snap penalties.) “That is something that is obviously one of the most important things we have to do to narrow that down. We need to figure out a plan of action to get that better. That will be what Monday is all about. We have to clean it up. We have to play at a higher standard there. It’s not something that’s come up the last week, so that’s a frustrating thing when it shows up on gameday and puts us in a bad position. We have to get better there.”

(On why the pre-snap penalties happened) “It’s just a discipline thing. Obviously, when it starts, you have to make sure that guys play to our standard, and we have to play better there. We have to make sure that the guys play to our standard. Too many drives, the momentum was created, and then the momentum stopped because now we are behind the chains in too many situations on the field.”

(On DE Cam Jordan’s performance) “I thought Cam (Jordan) was just really steady, really steady. I thought he did an excellent job. He was able to make some big-time plays for us early in the game and even down the stretch. I can’t say enough good things. He did a great job. “

(On if he feels good about his decision to not take timeouts late in the first half) “Yeah, I mean, we can play the rewind game a lot. I get that aspect of it. We felt like we had the ball. We still had a chance before half to kind of see how that thing played out. I felt like we were in a good position; it was a one-score game. We still had plenty of football ahead.”

(Timeouts cont.) “If we got a little more (yardage), it would have put ourselves in a better position.”

(On the defense in the second half) “I thought the defense did a really good job. There were some third-and-longs and some of those things that showed up early that we weren’t on top of. We missed some

opportunities there, but we settled in and got a number of stops down the stretch. I thought they did a really good job of getting Arizona behind the sticks in a few situations. They gave us a chance.”

(On third down play calls) “We will have to evaluate it, just the communication. When we are pressuring guys, we have to be really close on the pressure then, the back end has to be tied and tight together and matching people up.”

(On Alvin Kamara’s touchdown) “I thought it was just a really good job up front. Combination blocks were really good. Alvin had some great patience, and he found the space to the right. He did a nice job with his vision, just seeing it and giving us a chance.”

(On the passing game in the second half) “We just weren’t efficient enough in the run game. It felt like there were some opportunities on first down to maybe get some completions and not put us behind the sticks a little bit more. That led to a little more passing.”



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RB ALVIN KAMARA

(On his touchdown run) "It was the look that we had in practice. I think we got what we want. The tempo was getting to them and we knew that we had an advantage. It was a great block by Juwan (Johnson) on the perimeter. It's easy when you have guys selling out and bringing a game to life. Kudos to them upfront for getting the job done. It was easy for me."

(On if he would have wanted more of those opportunities in the second half) "Of course. Every game has a different flavor. There were a couple of things that we were doing that we were trying to get to. There were some runs that I would have love to have gotten to, but we just didn't. You see how the game ended. We were just pushing and trying to come back and get a victory. It was a tough play for Juwan. It's tough when you are playing from behind and pressing."

(On Spener Rattler's performance) "I think that he played well. There is a couple of things that I see and I go to him. Before I even say anything, he says I have to do this and I have to do that. He is very cerebral and understanding of what is going on. I think that he is processing as the game is going on. There is not a moment that slips by him that he is unaware of. I think that is something that you go on."

(On how Rattler handled the last two drives) "During the week, you wouldn't think that this is only his second season playing. He walks into those situations and attacks them. When you look at him in the huddle, you don't see a young guy. You see a guy who is ready to go win. That's a good thing moving forward that he is going to attack any situation."

DE CAMERON JORDAN

(On getting a sack and half today) "One was free, one was earned and one I missed. So, we have growth. We have growing to do. As far as last season, I will let accolades be where they are. I just want to help the defense try and win. I feel like I can do that. Just call my name and I will answer every time. I think that our defense has shown some possibilities, but we still have some room to grow. We let a long streaky run happen headed toward the sidelines that went for like 40 or 50 (52). We had a quarterback scurry. Eliminate those two and I feel a lot better about the day. At the end of the day, we showed up big in our two minute. I'm excited to be part of the defense again."

(On his reaction to Juwan Johnson's almost touchdown) "I got excited. I almost ran onto the field. That was dumb. I love the way our team fought through the very end. I love being a part of this team. I kept smiling all throughout the fourth quarter because I knew that we were going to come back. If you see pictures of me, I was smiling and I was laughing. The energy was high and the vibes were great. I knew we were coming back and we did until we did not. That is the game of football. That is what makes it so exciting. That is why everyone is so vested into it. That is a brotherhood that we bonded (into) over

training camp. It was exciting to take the field for the first time and have live ball. Every play matters. It's so precious to me. You just don't know. Every given game could be your last one. That's how I have played the last 220-plus (227) games. You have to play it like it is your last because you never know."

(On Bryan Bresee's blocked field goal) "It was a redemption run from his one from last year. He buckled. He didn't buckle. He stood strong. He got another one. At this point he is stacking them. He's already doubled mine. He's better than me in that facet. There is always some 6-5 freak that can do it and Bryan is our 6-5 freak. If I was 6-5 then they would call on me. I'm the short one. I am 6-4."

S JUSTIN REID

(On the defense's fight at the end of the game) "It always sucks to lose. We were so close and we have a lot of work to still do. There was a ton of fight in there. There were some things we did well. There are some things that we can get better at. I felt like the offense moved the ball very well throughout the end of the game. Defensively, I felt like we held strong especially toward the end of the game. Throughout the middle part of the game, I thought we lost too much on third down. I think we need to get off the field. It starts with myself. I can't miss that tackle on that one third and long. That extends that drive that ends up in points. I let my team down in that moment. There are other moments that we can continue to learn and do better."

(On if they let the game slip away) "Yes, there is no game that I feel like we are ever out of. I feel like we can win any game. Our feel like our best is good enough. You see that when we are playing at a high level. We were getting the stops that we needed to make. We were moving the ball when we needed to on offense. We can't have the penalties. I think that we had 13 penalties today. We can't fight against ourselves."

(On the difficulty of containing Kyler Murray) "That's what he specializes in. He's going to bide time for his receivers and move around the pocket and hope he breaks something open. That is the challenge. We did a fairly decent job of it. Obviously, there were some plays that we wish that we could have back."

(On the feeling of making a play on third down and then seeing a penalty flag) "In those moments, you can't harp on it. Our job is to go and play the next play. That goes back to what I said earlier. We can't fight against them and ourselves at the same time. If we eliminate the penalties and play smart football, then we will have a chance in any game that we play."

QB SPENCER RATTLER

(On the last two-minute drive) "It was a really well-executed drive. I thought we had two completions when we were there and moved the ball on that last drive and been in that situation so much, and we are very comfortable doing that tempo at the end. Game of inches. I think that guy made a good play on that ball to Juwan (Johnson), but I told Juwan before that play that I'm coming at you, so be ready. I'll throw that ball to him 100 times out of 100. Very close, but you got to somehow finish that out."

(On if he put it where he wanted to on the last drive to Johnson) "Yeah, that's the only spot it could be. They were playing very soft in that situation at the end of the game. We've repped that play many times, and that's where we wanted it to be."

(On his evaluation of his performance today) 'I thought it was fine. I think as a group, 13 penalties- you aren't going to win many games with that. We have to finish in the red zone when we have opportunities. I think we got down there and kind of stalled out. Got to figure out a way to be better there, but I thought our energy was great. I thought we were very balanced in the first half with our running pass game and moving the ball pretty well. It was a battle the whole game til the end. Defense played well. Bryan had a great blocked kick. We got down there, and I think we got a field goal right there, but literally came down til the last second. Telling the guys we were going to go down there and win this game, and we all 100% thought that was going to happen.'

(On anticipating finishing this game with 46 pass attempts before the contest) "We are always ready for whatever happens. Still a couple of missed opportunities out there, obviously. I thought we were efficient. A couple of third downs we could have been better on. Being behind the sticks, I thought we found a way to convert in certain situations on fourth down as well toward the end of the game. But I think the flow of the game, we ought to take advantage of momentum and finish in the red zone when we have the opportunity.

(On the last two offensive drives being more efficient) "I think we are a really good tempo team. We do a good job of distributing them when we are playing fast. Obviously, in that situation of the game, you're going to get different looks, so I thought we did a good job of pushing the ball down the field when needed, but also taking what's underneath when it's there. Credit to them, they made some good plays, but we shot ourselves in the foot too much today. I think if we cut those penalties in half, we win this game."

(On what he likes about how he's been playing compared to the preseason) "Just decisive. Decisive. You've got to protect the ball in those situations and make good decisions. We didn't have any turnovers today, which usually the outcome is better, but I think we are a good tempo team, and we can take a better step when we are on tempo."

(On the called back interception) "I saw (Rashid) Shaheed one-on-one, and the corner (Will) Johnson, he's a good ballplayer-good ball skills. And he got a little deeper than I thought, and just a little miscommunication, I tried to get a shot early, and we got lucky on that one (with the Cardinals penalty).

(On not calling timeouts the last two minutes of the first half) "I think that's a tough situation. We had timeouts, I think, right, but we are going to trust what Kellen (Moore) does, and he called a run, and they're going to play so soft in that situation, you probably had to get 30 yards to get in range or 25. There's risk and reward to that. We trust what Kellen's going to do, and we had the ball coming out, so we wanted to go out and score, and obviously didn't, so we got to be better there. We trust in what the coach is calling."

(On process this week for cleaning up pre-snap stuff) "It's all details in practice and walk-throughs, whatever we're doing. We used a lot of different cadences today. We've got to be settled in. We've got to be better at communication, myself. We got to be detailed as a group better on both sides of the ball. I think there are details throughout the room. Locker room talk - 'hey, we got to lock in on these situations, let's not flinch, let's not have a motion.' Refs were very tight-knit on that stuff today, and we knew that coming in and thought we could have gotten some more calls. I think that ball to Shaheed was pass interference. Had an opportunity for a touchdown there and obviously didn't get the call, but hey, next play mentality, got to finish, got to be better in the red zone."

(On penalties not being much of an issue in preseason, and if tempo was maybe a cause of that today) "We want to be clean at all times of the game. Guys are going to be tired. Defense is tired. We're tired, going fast, but we have got to be focused when we're tired. Just repping that throughout the week and being detailed in the game. Communicating at a high level- we can be better there."

(On anything that sticks out from the first and goal from the three-yard line in particular) "We just got to punch that in. We had an opportunity. You think we'd get that in, but hey, on to the next. We'll get it next time."

(On Juwan Johnson's day in general) "Just like last year, he's the guy we want to go to. He's a great player and made a lot of big-time catches today on third down as well. He's just such a safe target to throw to - big frame and a competitor. So in that situation, we want to go at him and he's the best match on that field. He can get up higher than anybody. And he high-pointed the ball really well on that play. I got to see it on film. I don't know what happened, I think the safety somehow got it out, but I'm throwing him that ball 10/10 times."

(On Chris Olave's concussion history) "I was very relieved he didn't get injured on that. That was such a bang-bang play. We are coached on if that nickel comes and that end squeezes, we are throwing that out there. They had the perfect call for that play. And it kind of caught us off guard with that. I'm just happy first that it wasn't a backward pass and second that he's healthy after it. I went up to him and said, 'Hey, I'm not trying to get you blown up there. I want to get you the ball and space, but we all have to be on the same page.'"

(On Olave going back to the tent and toughing it out) "He's a tough dude. He's reliable. He's tough. Obviously, you want to keep him out of situations like that. We will try to do better in that part, but you've got to play ball at the same time."

(On outside of the end result today, if he's happy with the overall direction of the team) "That was a four-quarter battle. Obviously, we are not happy with losing at all. We've got to be better first of all. Penalties, stuff like that, situational football, I thought we were good in, but it's week one, like Kellen said after, we aren't going to go undefeated this season. We have a lot to build on. We are looking on to next week and got a lot to clean up from this week, but we could have won that game if you clean some things up."

(On starting the game) "It was obviously a great opportunity. It's a blessing to be able to play here and get a chance at starting and lead the guys. I'll do my best to put my best foot forward and try to lead and help us win games. We are going to keep building, keep working. Love these guys, love playing with them."

(On negotiating whether he should throw or run) "There was one today to CO (Chris Olave) on the left side, and I tried to throw it, and it kind of faded on me. I probably could've run there. Towards the end of the game, I was more decisive with running because of how soft they were. Obviously, you've got to pick your right spots for it. I'll look at the tape and see what we can do in that area."

(On if the tempo was game-plan specific or an all-year plan) "That's something you want to use all year to your advantage. Obviously, some stuff on tape we saw game plan-wise wise we wanted to use that."

It worked out well. Like I said, when we're not doing tempo, we've got to be cleaner. Have better communication and execute those plays."

(On Asim Richards coming in) "Yeah, you hate to see Tali (Taliase Fuaga), one of your best guys up front, go down towards the end, but I think he stepped up. I thought the O-Line did a great job all day. Only took one sack, and that was my fault. I should've got to the back on third and eight, but one sack against a team that causes a lot of havoc, I mean, that's a good stat. Obviously, it can be better, but the O-Line did a great job."



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(On injuries) “Cody Simon had to come out and is getting evaluated for a concussion. Joey Blount had to come out and is getting evaluated for a concussion.”

(On the game today) “What we said all week, the most important thing is a win, so I feel really good about that. I told the team all three phases made plays to help us win the game. I am sure all three phases, for sure, wants plays back. The most important thing we do now is tomorrow (begin to) learn from it, get better, and move on.”

(On the play of the defense late in the game) “Execution in some end-of-game calls was really good. The end of the game was awesome, but I thought holding them to a field goal on the second to last drive, that, obviously, was a huge, huge stop there. I think Dante (Stills) made a play. He rushed pretty well there (and) covered some people up. That was good. You never know how a game is going to kick out. Every yard counts. I thought that (stop) was big.”

(On the play of Will Johnson) “I thought that he played pretty good. One time he was not on the right person, and it happened quickly. He was just a little late getting to it, but I thought that he held his own. One of the keys to victory is no balls getting over our head, and I thought that we did that tonight.”

(On if, he is unhappy that it took until late in the game to put the game away) “Week One in the NFL, there’s a lot of unknowns. I’m most pleased that we came out 1-0.”

(On if, he learned anything about the team today) “Yeah, they didn’t flinch. We had the lead there, and then the momentum rather swung when they (Saints) blocked a field goal and went all of the way down the field. The defense showed some resiliency there to hold them to a field goal. I think the two drives before that, we were, kind, of backed up. Kyler (Murray) probably wants a throwback on second down. One third and ten converts to Marv (Harrison Jr.). That was huge. We ended up with a punt there, but it took off four minutes. (We were) trying to eliminate some possessions there. That was good, too. As I said, there is a lot to learn from. I am happy that we came out of here with a win.”

(On the big passing connection to Harrison) “That was good. That led to a touchdown. I think the one Trey Benson run maybe got to a field goal there. When you have some explosives, you have a chance to score points. I thought that the one third down, too, off of the top of my head, Kyler (Murray) extended and hit Trey, that was a huge play. That was a third and long. Those can be backbreakers for you on defense. It was good. I thought that Kyler operated well. We did what we had to do.”

(On the pass rush of the Saints) “I thought that it was a function of how well they are coached. I thought that Kellen (Moore) and their staff did a really good job of not letting us rush. And, that is real in a game. When they do that, you can’t give up explosives and you should keep the score down. That is what we did.”

(On if he has any concerns about the run defense today) “They had some good schemes in there. I thought that it was pretty good. I know that (Alvin) Kamara had the one explosive for a touchdown. He is a good player, man. I thought we had it bottled up. They chose to run the quarterback a little bit, which was a little bit unscouted, not totally. They used their quarterback in a way that made it hard. Our guys made some adjustments and kept that where it needed to be.”

(On planning for Murray to scramble) “It was a point of emphasis for us. Obviously, we practiced it. I trust him explicitly out there to do what he sees. I did think that there were some high leverage snaps in that game where he used his legs for our advantage. That’s what you want to see.”

(On what it means to that it was a point of emphasis for Murray to scramble) “When you go through your reads and you’re clean and there is nowhere to go with the ball, let’s be smart with the ball and extend plays and use your legs.”

(On Murray being sick this morning) “He woke up with a little bit of a bug that was going around, honestly, a little bit. (It’s) nothing serious, but it was going around. There was no threat of him missing Week One, I know that.”

(On only giving up 13 points today) “(The defense) really stood up when they needed to. I thought that there was a span in there...I liked how we started the half. I loved how we ended the half on offense to go down there, get points and not give them a ton of time there. Coming out, you’re looking at the score, and you need to get a stop, we went three and out and (our defense) forced a punt. That was good. You keep the score at 13, you should win a lot of games.”

(On Trey Benson) “I thought that he was decisive. He had that one explosive. They did a good job. They have (Saints) got a good defense. That is going to be a good crew. I thought that he made the correct decisions and was decisive and had good ball security.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME CARDINALS PLAYER QUOTES

QB KYLER MURRAY

(On how he is feeling now) “Physically? I woke up with something, but I wasn’t going to miss the game. I don’t really know what sickness could make me miss a game, but I plan to always play. That was the plan, and I felt good enough to go.”

(On how it felt to get the win) “Feels great. You know, that’s the thing it’s the NFL. It’s never easy, never will be easy no matter who you’re playing. I’m grateful to go out here on the road and get a win. Obviously offensively, yes, we want to do more. Do I want to do more? Of course. But week one, there are a lot of things that we can get better at.”

(On how it felt to find some explosive plays) “Yeah, it was good.”

(On how the first half sparked the offense) “Was it the second drive? Second or third? Yeah, I think it was honestly Drew [Petzing] just called the play, I’m going through my progressions and reads. I had Marv (Marvin Harrison Jr.) one on one, and he slipped by the safety. I gave him a chance, and he made a play.”

(On if there are certain plays where the offseason pays off) “I think so. I know it’s minute and small, like it looks easy. But, I think that maybe last year we don’t connect on that. I’m just glad we did. He [Marvin Harrison Jr.] played his ass off today. I could feel the confidence; I could feel the progression in his mindset and in his game. I’m very confident in where he’s at, and I hope he feels good about today.”

(On the passes that he completed over the middle) “I guess I was going where I was supposed to with the ball. I had a tipped one on third down. Again, there were a lot of things that I feel like we could do better. We didn’t play our best game today, but we’re leaving with a win.”

(On the team being able to respond in the first half) “Facing adversity. Like I said, it’s the NFL and it’s never going to be easy. How do you respond? I think we did that well today. Obviously being a perfectionist there are some things that I think we could have done better, that I could have done better. In the grand scheme of things what matters most is that we leave here with a win and that we need to respond when adversity hits. We responded, and I’m proud of the team.”

(On the play that looked like a draw but ended as a pass to Trey McBride) “No, no, no. They actually had us. They schemed up a really nice blitz off of the edge and that was just improvising, me and Trey. He did a good job, and I just tried to step up and find him to make a play.”

(On his reaction to the last few seconds of the game) “I was motionless over there at the end. I had a lot of confidence in the defense, but I wasn’t really trying to watch per se, but I was watching at the same time.”

(On what he thinks the offense will look like in the future) “The way I feel about it, it doesn’t really matter who it goes to. I have trust in all of our playmakers to go out there and do the job. Obviously those two [Marvin Harrison Jr. and Trey McBride] get most of the attention. With all things equal, it doesn’t really matter who gets it, I got confidence in both of those guys.”

(On one of Trey McBride’s big plays) The two previous plays before that, that was two incompletions to start the drive. Then, that third down was actually huge. Obviously, to throw the ball short of the sticks, it speaks to his abilities when the ball is in his hands.”

(On working on scrambling in the offseason) “No, you do not ever want to have to do all that. But, I think if you are a defensive coordinator, it is just what people told me playing this game for so long.

Defensive coordinators hate when they're playing a mobile guy, a great guy that can make those types of plays happen. I went in there, and I got to make those plays."

(On the difference between Marvin Harrison Jr. last year versus this year) "I mean, you can just tell. You just watch him move, his mannerisms and all of it. I have been around him for two years now. You may not see it, but I see it and feel it. He's more confident in himself, and it is what it is."

(On the zero blitz on third and four) "What do you mean? You snap the ball and obviously you have two seconds, if that, not much time."

(On Will Johnson's performance) "The bubble? Good play, great play. I love the way that Will (Johnson) played today. Obviously, they snatched one from him. I wanted that one for him too. First game, get a pick, that would have been tough. He played well."

S BUDDA BAKER

(On the secondary play) "Exactly you know we practice for these situations and it was one of those situations where the quarterback threw it and our job is to try to just lock and that's what happened."

(On the second half) "That's great, they were doing some scattered looks that we had to adjust to and coaches did a great job at adjusting"

(On his opinion on first win) "It's great to get our first win and make our corrections and go on to the next week."

(On there being no such thing as an "Ugly game" in the NFL) "Yes definitely, as long as that 1-0 happens that's a good thing."

(On practicing a violent play when you can hit in practice) "It's just one of those situations where we're professionals so we know when to not hit and when to hit, so in fortunate game situations that's our number one job, my number one job as well in that circumstance. "

(What happened during the violent play) "Man to man my job is that when the quarterback breaks and he throws it i try to dislodge it and JT's (Jalen Thompson) the man, he tries to dislodge it as well and lock the ball up."

(On starting the season) "We were very excited to get out there and play with each other for the first time and it's definitely something special but we talked about; it's going to be our worst game because we're going to continue to get better and take it one day at a time and go on to the next one."

LB MACK WILSON SR.

(On how the first win of the season feels) "It feels pretty great honestly, with all the new pieces we have on defense. (It was) good to see everything come together today, it was pretty dope. It was nice to get the first dub, see the guys make plays on the offensive side of the ball, special teams and defensively. As a whole, it says a lot about the team we had to be. I feel like it's always great to get the first one, especially on the road."

LT PARIS JOHNSON JR.

(On Week One play) "I feel like the one thing we can appreciate is the pace, the motor, the execution, those are great things to work on, put that on film, flash out on tape. But I feel like there is a lot that could be cleaner. I can only speak to the offense, defense, I'm watching like everyone else. But offensively, we could be cleaner. I was thinking as we walked back to the tunnel, I think today was good, today was cool, good, but not great. I think it was the finish. I think it was an awesome way to start.

(On the blocked field goal) "I would say, I could feel the difference a little bit on that. But I do need a little bit more leap by the hem on that. I think the timing was already in his face, we can get enough space, take a set and jump, might have been on me."

WR MARVIN HARRISON JR.

(On coverages he faced) "I feel like it was pretty base stuff, they did a good job of trying to disguise whether it was quarter my side or cloud my side, kinda flip flopped throughout the game. I felt pretty confident with what I was seeing out there and was trying to play fast."

(On his and Kyler Murray’s big connection) The deep ball. I think that is somewhere that we need to be able to connect on. I am going to try and tell him to put some air on it, and I’ll make a play.”