



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NEW ORLEANS SAINT AT KANSAS CITY CHIEFS MONDAY, OCT. 7, 2024 • GEHA FIELD AT ARROWHEAD STADIUM SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints fell to the Kansas City Chiefs 26-13, dropping to 2-3 on the season. New Orleans returns to action in the Caesars Superdome next Sunday, October 13th, for a division matchup against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Kickoff is set for noon CT.
- QB **Derek Carr** finished 18-of-28 passing for 165 yards and two touchdowns.
- With 165 passing yards against the Chiefs, Carr became the 25th player in National Football League history to reach 40,000 yards. He also became just the seventh quarterback to reach 40,000 passing yards in their first 11 seasons, joining Drew Brees, Peyton Manning, Matt Ryan, Dan Marino, Matthew Stafford and Russell Wilson.
- With two touchdown passes against the Chiefs, Carr eclipsed 250 for his career.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** added 66 yards from scrimmage for the Saints offense, 26 yards on the ground to go along with six receptions for 40 yards.
- Kamara's 528 career receptions now rank fourth in franchise history.
- WR **Rashid Shaheed** led the Black and Gold in receiving yards with four grabs for 86 yards, including a 43 yard touchdown pass from Carr to open the scoring for New Orleans. He also added a punt return for ten yards and a kickoff return for 38 yards on special teams.
- Shaheed now has 619 punt return yards in his career, passing Rich Mauti for eighth place in franchise history Monday night.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** set season-highs in catches (five) and receiving yards (31)
- TE **Foster Moreau** added two grabs for 13 yards including a seven-yard touchdown grab in the fourth quarter.
- LB **Demario Davis** led New Orleans with 11 tackles (five solo). The 11 stops brings his Saints career total to 704.
- LB **Anfernee Orji** finished with ten stops (seven solo).
- In his second game of the season, DT **Khalen Saunders** finished with seven tackles, one pass defense and an interception returned for 37 yards.
- It was Saunders first interception of his career and first by a Saints defensive lineman since Malcolm Roach at Carolina on September 19, 2021.
- DE **Chase Young** added three tackles to go along with his first full sack as a Saint.
- DT **Bryan Bresee** added four stops (three solo) and added another sack for the Black and Gold defense. The takedown brings his season total to four, tied for second among DTs and tied for tenth overall.

- CB **Alontae Taylor** was active again for New Orleans, totaling five tackles (four solo), two stops for loss and a forced fumble.
- P **Matthew Hayball** punted four times for 199 yards (49.8 gross avg), including downing one inside the 20 yard line and a had a long of 53.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 120th career game Monday night, tying LB Vaughan Johnson for 32nd in club record books.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN

OPENING STATEMENT: “I thought we got outplayed in the game today, got outcoached. They did a good job. We really couldn’t get a whole lot going on either side of the ball. Offensively, we really couldn’t get anything going in the run game or in the passing game. Defensively, I felt like we made too many mistakes early on in the game. I don’t think we tackled as well as we needed to. I think for the first time this year, I felt like we didn’t play the way we are capable of playing. I was disappointed in that. I think as a coaching staff, we have to look back at what we need to do better and try to improve and put our guys in better positions to be successful.”

Q: What happened to Derek Carr?

ALLEN: “It is a left side. That is all I really know.”

Q: Is he going to have to get more tests?

ALLEN: “I have no idea. I mean the game is going on. The trainers told me it was a left side injury, and he is out. I have not gotten any updates on that.”

Q: Are you worried the Paulson Adebo and his penalties are something other teams might try to use against you in the future?

ALLEN: “They are going to take their shots. I am going to have to go back and look at the tape and see what I thought of the call, whether I agree with it or not. We have to force them to have to make completions and finish the catch. I think we just have to look at it and see what we can do better.”

Q: On Chiefs winning in the trenches on both sides of the ball and not holding to your standards.

ALLEN: “Probably some. I thought defensively, they did a good job of controlling the line of scrimmage and they made it really difficult for us to be able to run the ball. They had some good pressure packages that gave us some problems that we needed to do a better job of picking some of those things up. I thought the biggest thing from the defensive perspective was our inability to get Patrick Mahomes down at times when we had opportunities to. He did some really unbelievable things and made some really good plays in terms of scrambling. That was a challenge for us.”

Q: On winning the coin toss and electing to receive.

ALLEN: "I certainly don't think you want to start a game off that way. We had a few good plays there to start the game and then we throw the interception. All of the momentum goes to them a bit. It felt like we had some things we would like to open with against these guys and if we could go down and get some points and get some momentum ourselves, that would be big in this game. Unfortunately, it did not work out."

Q: What was something you hoped would have been successful on offense tonight?

ALLEN: "We only had 49 offensive plays and a little under twenty minutes of possession. There really wasn't a lot we were able to get done really in either phase, offense or defense. We had uncharacteristic mistakes that we had not made in the first four weeks of the season. Like I said, that is why we have to go back and see what we are asking our guys to do and make sure we are putting them in the best position to be successful."

Q: There were some deep shots you had. Was that in the game plan or was that the best that was available?

ALLEN: "We went into the game saying that we wanted to take some shots down the field. We talked about how they don't give up a lot of explosives, but there are going to be some opportunities that we have to make the moment-of-truth-play. Unfortunately, we were not able to make some of those on some deep shots down the field."

Q: On the Chiefs limiting Chris Olave.

ALLEN: "They did some good things to try to take him away. I will have to go back and look at the tape and see what all they were doing. They have a good team. They have a good defense. (Defensive Coordinator Steve) Spagnuolo does a really nice job defensively. Offensively, they have some talented players and obviously they have the engine that is Patrick Mahomes that makes it go. They played better than we did tonight."

Q: What was behind the decision for Lucas Patrick to go in as left guard?

ALLEN: "I just thought we wanted to make a change at left guard. I would like to go back and look at the tape, but I thought we should put somebody else in at left tackle."

Q: How do you view the defense today, especially in the red zone?

ALLEN: "I thought the one thing we did well defensively was red zone defense. I thought we played well in the red zone. I thought (QB Patrick) Mahomes made too many plays scrambling. We made too many mistakes and had some free runners, which we don't normally do. Look, I have to put that on me and do a better job of getting those guys understanding what we are asking them to do and get them better prepared to play."

Q: What did you see with TE Travis Kelce?

ALLEN: "Same thing."

Q: Paulson Adebayo had some important penalties. How do you coach that out of him?

ALLEN: "We just have to continue working, keep practicing and working on the technique and fundamentals to keep improving. I think we have to do a lot of that in a lot of areas of our football team"

QB DEREK CARR

Q: Can you describe how you're feeling right now?

CARR: "Not good. We'll get an MRI and all that stuff tomorrow and figure it out. To not be out there with my guys, no matter the situation, it takes something."

Q: What was it that they saw that made the decision for you to not return?

CARR: "I just couldn't do what I needed to do in the simplest form. I asked if there was anything we could do about it. There was not enough time to be able to do that. I would've done anything to stay out there and keep fighting. I couldn't, it sucks."

Q: Was it that last hit that hurt you?

CARR: "It wasn't even the hit, honestly. It was just when I dropped back to throw that ball to Tip (WR Mason Tipton), that's when I felt it."

Q: What happened on that interception at the beginning?

CARR: "We had someone come free, so I tried to throw it away over his head. Clearly, I didn't throw it out of bounds. It was boneheaded, it was stupid. I was trying to be legal because I thought I was still in the pocket but, my reaction was just to throw it away over his head and it obviously didn't get out of bounds. I was trying to throw it away, but they ended up getting a free one."

Q: Head Coach Dennis Allen mentioned this being the first game all year you guys didn't play up to your standard. Would you agree with that?

CARR: "They came out to play. We didn't execute early. We fought back and we started playing better, all those things, but against a team like this, you've got to be on it from the get-go. We were not on it from the get-go and that's what happens. You get down on a team like this and it's hard. With the pressures, the different coverages, the games they do, the timing, all that stuff makes it hard. We felt confident and comfortable in what we were doing schematically, but they beat us."

Q: You had to work around some injuries on the offensive line and the presence of DT Chris Jones. What were some things you thought would be effective that weren't?

CARR: "He did a great job. I've played him, I don't know how many times now, and Spags (Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo). He does a great job of trying to get outside of your protections. Chris (Jones) does a great job of winning. He's one of the best players in our league. I have the utmost respect for him, he knows that. When you play a guy like that, you know stuff like that is going to happen. Good players are going to win. He's able to get back there and cause some chaos a couple of times. That's going to happen, that's football. I was proud of us that we kept fighting. We had to move some guys after that. We kept playing, went down and scored a couple of times. I was fully confident up until I got hurt, that we were going to win that game. Again, going down early to a team like that, makes it really hard."

Q: Is this injury similar to anything that you've had before?

CARR: “I just don’t know yet. It wasn’t a pain thing. It wasn’t if you can deal with the pain, then you can go. I just can’t do what I want to do. It’s fresh and just happened. You know me. I’m going to do anything I can to make sure I am there on Sunday.”

Q: Who were you telling “I told you” after one of the touchdowns?

CARR: “That was just me and my quarterback coach. It was a good thing.”

Q: On that throw to Mason Tipton on the play where you got hurt, was he the hot read or was he the No. 1 there?

CARR: “He was the No. 1. They brought an all-out pressure. I saw the all-out coming, so I knew I just had to buy time and give him a chance to get his hands on it. He was the No. 1.”

Q: During the early part of the season where you guys were winning big, do you think that masked any flaws you guys may have?

CARR: “It obviously can. I think (Offensive Coordinator) Klint (Kubiak) does a great job. I’ve told you guys this, I think he does an outstanding job even in the successes, that we just worry about the process. After a good practice or a bad practice, we turn the film on, and we correct it. Good game with 40 points or not 40 points, we correct it. I don’t think that’s a problem with our guys or the character of the guys in our room. Can it happen? Absolutely, you’re right. I’ve been on teams where you win, and you overlook some things sometimes. I think Klint does a great job of hammering those things out.”

Q: What did they do to take Chris Olave away?

CARR: “Yeah, that’s frustrating. It’s not from a lack of me wanting to throw to him. I tell you guys all the time, everyone knows I want to throw it to Chris. Chris knows I want to throw it to Chris. There was one time they came free, and he was wide open on a third down for a big play, but I couldn’t get it to him, and we ended up having a sack there. We hit the go route and if we hit those two plays, then it feels different. It is frustrating when you grab the sheet afterwards and see that. He’s an unbelievable player and an unbelievable person, a good friend. I love him to death. I never want that day to happen for him. Those two plays right there would’ve felt a lot different. We were able to hit other guys on some things when they did try to take him away. You never want to see that at the end, it’s not a good feeling.”

Q: There were a lot of deep shots in this game. Was that part of the game plan or was that all that was presented to you in some situations?

CARR: “It was a big emphasis for us, trying to hit those shots. We were able to hit a few. When you’re throwing them that far down the field, you’re not going to hit them all. Maybe that makes third down tougher sometimes, but that’s the game you play. We hit a touchdown sometimes. We said that we’re going to call these shots this week and if we don’t hit the first or the second one, we’re not going to stop calling them. We’re going to keep taking our shots. That was definitely an emphasis for us, and I love that aggressive mindset. You must be against a team like this.”

Q: Your injury is an oblique injury, correct?

CARR: “I think so. Yeah, I think so, but we’ll find out more tomorrow.”

Q: What is the process with Connor McGovern taking over in the game?

CARR: “He is unbelievable. I said that in practice his first day. I looked back at (Offensive Coordinator) Klint (Kubiak) and said, ‘This dude is pretty freaking good.’ His communication, his mentality and on Monday Night football in Arrowhead, he doesn’t even blink. He is out there with great snaps, great communication. I was very impressed with him.”

Q: Was the reason for the run game not being effective due to the movement on the offensive line?

CARR: “Anytime you have new guys playing next to each other, there is a learning curve. That’s just a fact. I don’t know if that is the right thing to say or not but that is just a fact. We have work to do. We all know that. I just want to be there to be a part of it.”

Q: When you missed on some of those deep throws, did the balls go to the spots you wanted them to?

CARR: “When we throw those deep balls, it is hard to hit on a lot of those. The one early to (WR Maston Tipton) Tip, I was trying to throw him away from the safety. He took a higher angle but, that is something for him and I to learn from. I threw him another one on the sideline on 22. It is hard for me to see the sideline. I’m trying to place the ball over the corner to him. The one to Shid (WR Rashid Shaheed), on the right, I’m trying to give him a chance on the other side of him. Those fifty-fifty (balls), it’s hard to hit them all, but our standard is high. We are going to keep the stander the stander and try to hit them all. We felt confident about them all and that is why (Offensive Coordinator) Klint (Kubiak) kept calling them. He knows we’ve hit a lot of those early, we just didn’t hit them all tonight.”

Q: Was there any improv involved with the touchdown pass to Foster Moreau?

CARR: “That was all our staff. That is how they drew it up. He wasn’t first in the read. I had two reads before that. Someone was coming free so I know my outlet would be there. It was a really good design.”

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS QUOTES

HEAD COACH ANDY REID

OPENING STATEMENT: “First of all, thank you to the fans, it was a great atmosphere for a football game. The guys could feel that, they rose up. I thought all three phases did a nice job tonight. It started with the o-line and d-line, they both put a lot of pressure on the quarterback and took the pressure off the quarterback and we ran the ball well, so my hat goes off to those guys. Individually, there were some nice performances. JuJu (Smith-Schuster), it was great to get him going here, seven catches for 130 yards. Kareem (Hunt) had 27 carries and (will) spend his bye week in an ice tub. He’s doing good for 102 yards and a TD. (Travis) Kelce had again nine catches for 70 yards and Pat (Mahomes) had a big day with – it was 28/39 for 331 yards. Then defensively, (Bryan) Cook with the big pick right there, that was a very impressive catch and then it led to points so that’s always a plus. (Nick) Bolton with 11 tackles, Tershawn (Wharton) got a sack which is great for him. (Jaylen) Watson, (Trent) McDuffie gets a lot of the credit but he’s playing like an All-Pro. We just kind of take that for granted but this Watson kid man, he’s playing his heart out and doing a great job for us at the other corner spot. (Harrison) Butker was 4/5 on the field goal part. Then last, but not the least here, the Royals. My hat goes off to Matt (Royals manager Matt Quatraro) for the job he did there with his crew and they got the playoff win against a pretty good Yankees team so that is impressive. With that, time’s yours.”

Q: You’ve seen Travis Kelce lateral it in practice and in games, so you’re fine with him doing that, right?

REID: “Yeah, we do it every day. He (Travis Kelce) does a great job of the decision to do that or not do it. If he doesn’t do well with it, I tell him don’t come back to the bench.”

Q: On Samaje Perine being ready to catch the lateral from Travis Kelce after never having caught one in practice from him.

REID: “He’s (Samaje Perine) getting a welcome to the crew there. He had another one where, you know I always tell those guys (to) keep running because Pat (Patrick Mahomes) when he starts moving around you have to stay on the run and he got caught kind of pulling up thinking the play was over and that was pretty amazing with that ball. Good lesson to learn but then he came back and did a nice job on that play.”

Q: You’ve had a lot of close games but seem to make the right decisions at the right time, do you practice this, or did this just develop over the years with the success?

REID: “I’ve got good coaches that work on all that stuff and make sure we’re in good – we handle the situations. Then during training camp, we spend a lot of time doing that and we try to review during the season as we go so is there something that will get by you? Sure, but we try to limit that the best way we can, and I give the credit to the coaches though for making sure they have everything covered.”

Q: How proud are you of the guys for being able to find ways to enter the bye week undefeated?

REID: “These guys – and you get tired of me saying this – they don’t flinch at all that stuff, they just – it’s just next guy up and he goes. I’m proud of them for that. There’s an attitude in the locker room. I told those guys that it has to start with that group there and they just know, they trust the next guy is going to come in and do a good job. It’s more of a positive thinking than a negative thinking where you try to find all the things, they’re not doing that with these guys.”

Q: On JuJu Smith-Schuster’s performance.

REID: “JuJu (Smith-Schuster) is a good football player. He’s been a good football player for a long time and you know he had the one down in the endzone that got tipped and he felt terrible about that then he comes back with two huge ones. He’s a pro and does a great job with that.”

QB PATRICK MAHOMES

Q: Why do you think you guys are able to plug guys like JuJu Smith-Schuster and Kareem Hunt into the offense so quickly?

MAHOMES: “I think it’s a credit to not only the guys and how hard they work, but (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid and just knowing their skill sets and how to put them in great positions. I mean, Kareem (Hunt) just runs extremely hard. He gets every yard out there – (he) catches the ball (and) does whatever it takes in order to go out there and win. Then JuJu (Smith-Schuster), even when he wasn’t getting as many reps, he was in the playbook, he was learning the things that he had lost over one year, but y’all saw him two years ago. He fits in well in this offense and so he did a great job today. It was cool to get those guys going and then the step up and it’s going to be like that until we start getting some of these guys back, it’s going to be everybody’s going to have to step up and make plays.”

Q: What about JuJu Smith-Schuster allows him to fit into this offense?

MAHOMES: “I think he has – I’m not going to – I mean, Trav (Travis Kelce) is kind of one of a kind, but he has a good feel for the entire concept of the play and so he knows how to get into in the open spots. He has a good understanding of my timing and so some of those things – I can hit him early in some windows that maybe aren’t necessarily taught, it’s kind of just learned over reps. I think he did a good job today of just doing that – finding those windows, beating man when they played man (coverage) and then (in) zone, finding the windows to get big catches.”

Q: What was your view on Travis Kelce’s lateral to Samaje Perine?

MAHOMES: “I’m shaking my head because I told him before the play, I said, ‘I’m going to throw it to you so that we can get in field goal range,’ and he underhand shoveled it across the entire field (laughter). It’s like I’m talking to (Mahomes’ daughter) Sterling (Mahomes). No, it was – that’s Travis (Kelce), man. He’s a special player and all he does - it works, man. No one’s going to say anything.”

Q: Were you aware of how the fans were responding to the Royals game?

MAHOMES: “100 percent. I was trying not to be. I really wanted to focus on the game and look after and maybe get like a scoreboard kind of shot of it and they gave us a couple of those. You could feel that that stuff was going good. There was kind of a lull there, kind of I think towards the end of the game, and I was like, ‘They’re not showing the score. The (New York) Yankees came back.’ The Royals picked it up and got the win and it was extremely exciting to see the fanbase because obviously, we know that the fans at (GEHA Field at) Arrowhead (Stadium) are going to be loud and (cause a) ruckus and be really into the game, but I haven’t gotten to experience that stadium in Kauffman (Stadium) – sold out, playoffs and that stuff and so it was cool to see that kind of combine.”

Q: Will you go to the Royals game on Wednesday?

MAHOMES: “That’s the plan, I have to just – it’s (the) bye week, so Brittany’s (Mahomes) vacation and me getting to the Royals game will feud for sure.”

Q: What does it say about your team that through all of these injuries, you guys have found ways to win every single game so far?

MAHOMES: “We’ve won different ways. At the end of the day, our defense is playing their tail off and I think people are starting to come to realize that even more, even when we’re getting these field goals (that) are keeping us in these games. Obviously, offensively we had a better day today – a lot of yards. Now, it’s about finding ways to finish with touchdowns in the red zone so we can make these leaps bigger (and) faster and then we can really let (Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo) Spags be Spags. I think if we can do that then we’ll continue to get better and better as the years go on.”

Q: How will you spend the bye week?

MAHOMES: “It’s not going to be a lot of relaxation. It’s going to be – I mean, one, I’m going to work on my own stuff. I have stuff that I need to work out. Then, I’ll be home with my kids so that’s going to be a lot of running around in itself. Hopefully, (I’ll) get to go to at least one of the Royals games during this bye week, so it’s going to be a lot of fun. We’re not going anywhere exotic or crazy, but it’ll be good to kind of get some family time.”

Q: Saints DT Khalel Saunders intercepted you and he was pretty chirpy during the game. Did he come up to you after the game?

MAHOMES: “Yeah, we talked. He’s (Saints DT Khalen Saunders)— I said if it had to be one person, the fact that it was Khalen was probably the best person in the NFL that could’ve got an interception off of me. (He’s) just such a good guy, man, (he’s) one of the best teammates that I’ve ever had. I mean, (he) truly is. (It’s) just a smile on his face every single day and (he) really just loved – not only just football – but the part of the locker room, which I think is really cool. So, I’m super happy for him that he had a good game and that he’s done a good job of having his career go on. It was cool seeing (Saints LB) Willie (Gay), it was cool seeing (Saints S) Tyrann (Mathieu) - all those guys. It’s cool to see those guys because they did so much for this organization and now, they’re going off and doing stuff for others.”

Q: Kareem Hunt mentioned how happy he’d be to score a touchdown. What does that mean to you to see him come full circle and get that done?

MAHOMES: “(It’s) extremely exciting. I mean, he (Kareem Hunt) deserved it. He’s playing hard. For someone who didn’t have training camp, to have that amount of carries and catches and not only that, the pass protection and being able to pick up blitzes. That’s stuff that goes under the radar and he’s done great at that stuff. It’s going to be really tough whenever you get (Isiah) Pacheco back and you have Kareem (Hunt), Pacheco, (Carson) Steele, Clyde (Edwards-Helaire) – (General Manager Brett) Veach has done a great job adding to that (running back) room – (Samaje) Perine. So, we’ll be able to run the football and hopefully the play action game gets even better.”

Q: Can you talk about how you guys seem to make the right decisions at the right time?

MAHOMES: “I think it comes with preparation and experience. Preparation – (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid doesn’t let the small details go. He really focuses on them every single week. Even when it gets tedious and (it’s) stuff that you’ve talked about a lot, he makes sure that you stay on top of that stuff and all the coaches do. Then, we’ve been in a lot of those experiences. Obviously, there’s new ones that come up, but guys are prepared and ready to go out there and execute whenever that time comes.”

Q: Was getting the ball to the tight ends the gameplan or was that just what you were seeing in real time?

MAHOMES: “We have a lot of talented tight ends, so we want to make sure we get them on the football field. It was cool to get those guys out there – Jody (Fortson) coming back and getting a catch. He’s an athletic guy that can stretch the field for the size that he is. When you’re able to run the ball with those big sets and then spread team outs, it’s our advantage with the athletic tight ends that we have. It’s going to be mixing and matching based off the teams that we’re playing but I think (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid and the coaches are going to do a great job of it so we’re going to utilize everybody on the entire team.”