



**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS DALLAS COWBOYS**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME**  
**SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES**

- With the win, New Orleans improves their record to 3-1 and remains in first place in the NFC South. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, October 6 when they face the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Kickoff is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. CT.
- The win improves the Saints all-time record against Dallas to 13-17 and gives them a three-game winning streak at home against the Cowboys. The win also improves New Orleans' record against the Cowboys to 8-3 in games played in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.
- With the win, New Orleans improves their home record to 2-0, marking the first time since 2014 the Saints open their home slate 2-0.
- With the victory, New Orleans' record on Sunday nights improves to 19-15 and their record improves to 12-2 on Sunday Night Football since NBC adopted the package in 2006. The Saints' overall record on prime-time games improves to 46-45 and 32-17 since 2006.
- The Saints finished the game with 266 total yards, including 149 yards passing and 117 rushing yards. New Orleans' 27 rushing attempts is highest total of the season and their 36:04 is the teams' highest since Week 11 of 2018 against Philadelphia (37:34).
- The win is the Saints' first victory without scoring a touchdown since October 25, 1998 when New Orleans defeated Tampa Bay, 9-3.
- New Orleans had five players record at least three receptions for the first time in 2019.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Dallas to 10 points, 257 total yards, and 45 rushing yards – the lowest rushing output of any New Orleans' opponent since holding Tampa Bay to 43 rushing yards on September 7, 2018. New Orleans held Cowboys RB Ezekiel Elliott to 35 yards on 18 carries and have yet to allow a 100-yard rusher in 2019. New Orleans' defense also forced three turnovers, their first multi-turnover game of 2019.
- In his second start in place of an injured Drew Brees, QB **Teddy Bridgewater** led the Saints on a fourth quarter come-from-behind scoring drive and finished with 193 yards on 23-of-30 passing. 23 completions marks Bridgewater's highest completion total since December 10, 2015 when he completed 25 passes against Arizona as a member of the Minnesota Vikings.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** finished the game with 69 rushing yards on 17 carries and added three receptions for 20 yards. Kamara has now recorded at least 10 carries in every game this season and at least 17 carries four times in his career.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished the game with nine receptions for 95 yards. Thomas now has 355 career receptions, becoming only the fifth player in Saints history with 350 receptions and also tying Odell Beckham Jr. for reaching 350 catches quickest in NFL history (52 games).
- K **Wil Lutz** converted four field goals for the first time since September 30, 2018 at the New York Giants and the fifth time in his career. Lutz converted field goals of 40, 42, 19, and 26 yards.
- S **Vonn Bell** recovered multiple fumbles for the first time in his career, recovering two Dallas fumbles, both in the second quarter. Bell's two fumble recoveries are the first time a Saint has recovered multiple fumbles in a game since DT Anthony Hargrove did so on November 8, 2009 against Carolina.
- Bell has now also recovered a fumble in consecutive weeks for the first time in his career and is the first Saint to record three takeaways in two weeks since S Kenny Vacarro did so in Weeks 6-7 of 2017.
- Bell led New Orleans with 10 tackles and added a pass defense and forced a fumble.
- TE **Josh Hill** finished with a season-high three receptions for 29 yards, his first game with 3+ receptions since September 30, 2018 at the New York Giants.
- S **Marcus Williams** sealed the Saints' victory on the final play of the game with his second interception of the season. Williams added two tackles and one pass defense on

the night. The New Orleans safety duo of Bell and Williams have accounted for all five of New Orleans' takeaways.

- Playing in his 132<sup>nd</sup> career game, DE **Cameron Jordan** surpassed T William Roaf for sole possession of 25<sup>th</sup> place on New Orleans' all-time games played list. Jordan finished the night with three tackles and one quarterback hit.
- LB **Demario Davis** finished the night with nine tackles, marking his second game this season with at least nine stops. With two tackles next Sunday vs. Tampa Bay, Davis will reach 800 for his career.
- LB **A.J. Klein** finished the game with seven tackles, moving his career total to 299 stops. Klein also forced a Jason Witten fumble in the second quarter.
- WR/RS **Deonte Harris** made an impact in both facets of the return game, posting a 29-yard kickoff return and a 23-yard punt return in the first half – both of which led to Saints' scoring drives. Harris also recorded 10 rushing yards on one carry.
- TE **Jared Cook** finished the game with three receptions for 21 yards, his first game with at least three receptions as a member of the Saints.
- Playing in his 175<sup>th</sup> career NFL game, WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** finished with three receptions for 19 yards.
- QB **Taysom Hill** recorded the Saints longest rush of the game, with an 18-yard first quarter run. Hill finished the game with two carries for 16 yards.
- RB **Latavius Murray** rushed for 14 yards on four carries.
- DT **David Onyemata** recorded his first sack of the season and finished the game with three tackles and one quarterback hit. Four of Onyemata's career 7.5 sacks have come against the Cowboys.



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### DALLAS COWBOYS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019 SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening comments: "Obviously, it was a hard fought game by both teams. And, I'm sure that when we look at the tape of tonight, there will be a number of things that we want to improve upon, and yet it's a win against a good opponent. We will play in a lot of those close games. I thought that our guys finished well."

(On if it would be this type of game) "Yeah, sometimes you think that going in and it's the opposite, and then other times (it is). So, I think that you are really focused more on the things, the keys that we feel like (you need) to win the game, (like) winning the turnover ratio, that was a key to victory; winning the rushing battle, that was a key to victory. If you win both of those, you have a really good chance of winning the game. I thought that both of those were important stats."

(On the significance of being 3-1 without Drew Brees) "I think that it's what you said it is, we are 3-1. You get back to work. You work on improving. It's still early enough in the year, and I say this, I can't get into all of the things that we are still not doing well, and yet we are doing enough to win some of these close games. That's encouraging. There's a lot of things, fundamentally, that we have to improve upon. Fortunately, we are coaching off of a win and not a loss in making those corrections."

(On winning a close game) "I get angry at myself because it starts with me, relative to things, maybe, that we are putting in that we think will be easily replicated. Yet, we get in the game and recognize there are some challenges. It is a different group. It's different than a year ago. We have to adjust a little better. I think that really starts with me. I was pleased with how we ran the ball in the second half. I thought that was significant. I hated my call at the end (final offensive drive) on third down where we took a sack. I know better. I put him (Teddy Bridgewater) in a tough position there. We were thinking field goal, obviously to make it a touchdown game. I thought our special teams did a great job of controlling the field position. Obviously, defensively we were outstanding."

(On if he remembers when was the last time that the team won a game without scoring a touchdown) "No, I can't recall (when). We did what was necessary tonight. I was proud of how we played to win this game."

(On the timeout before the last play) "It was just a look timeout just to see their alignment."

(On if he decided to blitz before the timeout) "It's a zone pressure. I wanted our guys to get a picture of what the last play was going to look like. We had two timeouts. We will do that once in a while just to get a snapshot. They have to go back in the huddle. They were short in their protection. The ball came out early."

(On if it's been tough for Teddy Bridgewater to get into a rhythm with the offensive line) "Listen, I don't know who you can put in there, and it will be hard to overcome some of those penalties. Those have to get cleaned up. They are going to get cleaned up, I promise you. It's been too difficult to overcome. We have to do better in that area."

(On the defense during the final drive) "Our crowd was great. Our crowd was fantastic. I thought that we hit the quarterback. We defended well. We had to overcome some tough calls tonight. That's part of the deal. We can't control that. I thought that our guys, defensively, that was something else."

(On the team's nine-minute drive) "Look, I would love to feel like I can dial up a nine minute drive any time that I want to. You know that you are going to have to have some balance there, so I think, certainly, that kind of put the advantage back into our court, relative to the time."

(On the Saints recovering a fumble late in the first half) "I thought it was big. I think that they (the officials) are just more judicious relative to make any changes in New York. I thought about challenging the call in the second half on their touchdown drive and I just (decided against it) unless it

is egregious. (The fumble) it was significant. It was one of the turnovers I referenced earlier. My take, as I evaluate preseason and early into this season, I just see a much more conservative approach in New York. So, we have to pay attention to that.”

(On holding Ezekiel Elliott to minimal yardage) “I thought that we populated him well. I thought that we tackled well. He is a really good running back. I thought that we got hats on him. I am anxious to watch the film, but I thought that we did a really good job.”

(On if Alvin Kamara is a stronger runner this year) “I think that he is more experienced, but I think that he’s had great strength and balance since he arrived. The type of games that he’s in right now are a little different than maybe the type of games that we’ve been in (his first two seasons). Again, there is an old saying that it doesn’t have to be aesthetically pleasing to be effective. I think that we did what we needed to do to win tonight, but we are going to have to improve in a number of areas.”

(On being able to be 3-1 at this point) “That’s the record right now. That’s what it is. You keep going. There is no stopping. Acknowledge where we are at, take a bow. We are 3-1. We have to get ready to play the next opponent.”

(On if this is the type of game that he anticipated tonight) “I thought that the type of teams that we are playing, I didn’t expect it to be a high-scoring game. I probably felt like both offenses might have had the opportunity to score a little bit more, and yet it unfolded that way. I was really pleased with how we played defensively against a good offense.”



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### DALLAS COWBOYS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

#### **S #24 VONN BELL**

(on the defense's play) "It was a great team win. I'm so proud of the defense and how we responded. We were able to finish the game and put four quarters together. We have a resilient group and I love being out there with those guys."

(on the impact of his fumble recoveries) "On one I just grabbed the ball and the other I forced the fumble and recovered it. I was glad that I could make an impact play. I just wanted to make a play so the offense could put some points on the board. I just like going out there and making plays and having fun."

(on how the game played out) "I knew it was going to be a physical game. Their offense goes through #21. We had to react to the play action pass and the drop back passes. We knew it was going to be a physical game."

#### **DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN**

(on the defensive play) "We knew what we had to do. We had to be focused and limit Ezekiel Elliott. We knew that was the driving force of their offense. We did just that. We put Dak (Prescott) on the spot a couple of times. We had a big sack. I thought I had a sack, strip, fumble. When it came down to it, we had to come up with pressure and we did just that in the fourth quarter."

(on taking pride on winning a game without an offensive touchdown) "We scored four times. They just happened to be field goals. We have to make that work. At the end of the day, there is a lot of things that we need to clean up. There was a late penalty on defense that we need to clean up."

#### **LB #56 DEMARIO DAVIS**

(on the defense's play) "We know that whoever the opponent is that it is all about us. We focus on doing what we have to do. If we are doing that, then we are good. Defensively, we created takeaways. We did good in the running game. We got off the field on third downs. The offense executed well. Special teams did great controlling the field position. We did what we had to do and we did alright."

(on the defense stepping up more since Drew Brees is out) "Our mentality is to step up all of the time. The philosophy of our team is that everybody has to carry their weight. Every week looks different no matter who the quarterback is. Sometimes the defense has to play better. Sometimes the special teams has to play better. Sometimes the offense is hot. We just have to play the game that is in front of us. Today was a defensive game so it was great for us to make those stops and create those turnovers."

(on dialing up pressure) "We knew we needed to defend him. It's hard to defend him if you give him a lot of space. We were able to get shots at him and I think that helped make a difference."

#### **LB #53 A.J. KLEIN**

(on the forced fumble) "To be honest, I played the route bad. Jason Witten slid underneath me and caught the ball. I was lucky enough to come from behind and make a punch out. I think it is one thing that we have been preaching as a defense especially in the backend. It has been a focus for us in the offseason and through the season. Anytime that I can make a play for this defense and shift the momentum is huge."

(on if the play was instinctive) "I saw the ball out. In my head, I was like I just gave up a play and now I need to go tackle this guy. Lucky enough I was able to come behind and punch it out."

## **WR #13 MICHAEL THOMAS**

(on the team's resilience) "We played a tough competitive team. They are a great organization. We knew they were going to come in here and battle and play for one another. We knew we had to win the game. We knew it could be a close game. It didn't matter if it was a shootout. We just wanted to win the game."

(on the defense's efforts) "The defense played tremendous today. There were a lot of balls on the ground. They forced a lot of turnovers. That's a big deal in this league. My hat is off to them. They definitely helped us a lot today."

## **QB #5 TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**

(opening statement) "First, hats off to the defense. Overall, great team effort. We knew it was going to be a battle coming into this game. Last year we heard about how physical and how much more physical they were than us and we knew coming into this game we had to be the most physical team. We need that we had to possess the ball, we had to lead in certain areas of this game. Of course, when we watch the tape tomorrow there will be certain areas that we need to improve on. I know for myself taking that last sack on that last drive, taking us out of field goal range now making it a field goal game opposed to guys having to drive down and scoring a touchdown. In this league we know how hard it is to win games, and no one said they had to be pretty. The only stat that matters is the wins keep adding up. We will get back to work tomorrow and watch the tape, find some things that we have to improve on and continue to build on the things that we're doing well."

(on being more comfortable at QB) "Each week I'm getting that experience and getting more comfortable. Of course, we all have to get on the same page and stop shooting ourselves in the foot. For every big play that we have it was brought back by a penalty. We just have to lock in and do what we do best and play Saints football. We can't think too much. I think often times when we think too much penalties happen. We need to play fast, play with some tempo, and it starts with me. I'm going to continue to challenge these guys as the week goes on and challenge myself to play with a sense of urgency and tempo."

(on doing something differently when sacked in his final offensive play of the game) "I have to be better in that situation. I was aware that we had points on the board, and I think I have to find ways to throw it over Alvin's (Kamara) head or something or throw it down the field. It is one of those situations where you wish it did not happen, you never want that to be the last play of the game as an offensive player, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth. At the end of the day we won the football game and that is why we play this game, to win."

(on watching the defense on the final drive) "It was a great thing to see. We practice situational football and practice situations like that on Fridays and Saturdays. To see practice translate to the football field is a great thing to see. It's great to see the defense hold those guys. As an offensive player you don't want to put your guys in that situation where you're on the edge of your seats hoping and praying that we get a stop, get a sack, or force a turnover. Hats off to the defense for creating turnovers and holding those guys on offense. We know how great their offense has been this year so hats off to the defense for just accepting the challenge this week."

(on scrambling) "It feels great. It's something that I continue to get better at. There's sometimes where I just have to live to see another down, end up trying to outlive in a scramble and end up taking a sack. It's a great thing to be able to bring that extra tool to the table and take the ball down field and being able to use my legs to keep the play alive. It's something that we will have to get comfortable with, whether it is me knowing how deep I'm going to get in the pocket, or if things break down and my escape plan. Just getting everyone on the same page."

(on Alvin Kamara) "Alvin, you know how special he is. He's a guy that works really hard and one of the smartest football players I've ever been around. To watch him bounce off tackles, catch the ball out of the back field, and make plays for this offense. He's so valuable to this offense and I'm so glad that he's on this team."

(on balancing when to take risks or be safe) "It all depends on matchups and which opportunities present themselves. Today we had the opportunity to take some shots down the field and Mike Thomas on some back-shoulder throws. Playing against a sound defense like that you know that they picked up things in the zone, so trying to keep things in front of them. We understand that we may not be able to push the ball down field but when they do come up and play man coverage and things like that, we have to take advantage of those matchups. We tried to do that today. For me, it is understanding that my job is to get the ball to the playmakers and allow those guys on the outside, our tight ends and our running backs to make plays. Whether it's me dumping it down to Alvin and he's running for seven yards or it's hitting Mike Thomas on the back shoulder. My job is just to get the ball to those guys and allow them to make plays."

(on personal stats) "I base everything around my past couple of years. The past couple of years I had zero stats. The stat box said zero in every column, but the one stat that did add up for me over the

years were the W's. I was winning in life. So now I approach the game with that mindset. I'm not playing this game for the numbers, I don't care to impress anyone, sorry to say it the fantasy teams and things like that. I play this game for the guys in the locker room. We all come here to the stadium with one thing on our mind, and that's to win football games and help this team win football games. I understand the league's evolved into numbers and things like that, but the most important number is wins and the wins column. We've been able to win two games back to back against tough opponents. The first four games this year have been against playoff teams and we walk away from this stretch being 3-1. I could care less about the numbers. I'll leave the numbers to Mike Thomas, Alvin Kamara, those guys, they can put up the numbers. My job right now is to help this team win football games."

(on having Drew Brees on the sideline) "It's always great to see Drew. To ask him questions as the game is going on and ask him, 'What's something that you're seeing right now?' Like I said last week, he mentioned to me at halftime that 'completions are good.' Just take completions and exploit the matchups that you like and just play fast. To have him here and his physical presence is a big asset for us."

(on offensive penalties) "It's tough. To be in a second and twenty and the call sheet is getting thin. Then to get to third down and it's third and long, we only have so many third and long calls. If we could just eliminate the negative plays, we will be much more explosive. We'll have more opportunities to do certain things. It all starts with being on the same page. Going back to day one football, OTA's without the pass, just lining up, breaking the huddle with tempo, playing with confidence, and playing fast. That'll eliminate the penalties and the rest will take care of itself."

(on flag being picked up after giving himself up on the slide) "It's part of the game, things happen. Calls go our way calls don't go our way. We keep playing."

(on being hit again) "You never want to take hits, but it serves as a reminder that hits still feel the same. It's pretty cool to run around and get hit a little bit. It just wakes you up sometimes. These guys are real so let's go."

(on how loud it was in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome) "It was very loud. You talk about the travel schedule that we had these last couple of weeks and being away from the Dome, to come back here and play in front of this city, to play in front of these fans, it helped us in big ways. The fans were loud on third downs, they were loud on defense creating turnovers. If we could continue to have them and use them as an advantage it'll be very beneficial for us."





## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

DALLAS COWBOYS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS  
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### DALLAS COWBOYS COACH JASON GARRETT AND PLAYERS

(on holding the Saints to 12 points) “Obviously, the defense did a really good job in this game, particularly down in the red zone. They had some opportunities to move the ball, but we did a good job of creating some negative plays and keeping them out of the red zone when they got down close. I thought we did some good things offensively, but obviously not good enough. The turnovers hurt us in the ballgame. In a game like this, there is limited opportunities. You have to take advantage of the ones you have, the best you can. We did not do that, we did not play consistently well enough on the offensive side of the ball and didn’t generate enough big plays to give us the scoring opportunities that we needed.”

(on Robert Quinn’s impact in the game) “Robert did a great job in the game just by the naked eye without watching tape. He was certainly very active in the game. He was around the quarterback the whole game. He was very distributive guy, big sacks in the game. Harassing him and making the quarterback uncomfortable in the pocket and forcing him to go through his progressions and moving around the pocket. His presence and impact were certainly felt.”

(on turnovers and not sustaining drives) “One of the best things we have down the first three weeks were converting third downs and we were not quite as good tonight and obviously we did not run the ball as consistently and effectively as we wanted to in this game. That’s really what we have been able to do up to this point is keep drives alive by controlling the line of scrimmage in the running game, and converting third downs. We did not do good enough job in either of those tonight.”

(on Tyron Smith’s health) “He is still getting an examination. Obviously, it happened at the end of ball game when Dak fell on him.”

(on Demarcus Lawrence’s health) “Seems like he is going to be okay.”

(on converting 4<sup>th</sup> and 1 and then Ezekiel Elliott fumbling and losing it) “Obviously felt good on being able to convert it, which we did and unfortunately, they ruled that play the way they ruled it. That was an opportunity for us before the half to go and score some more points. We were doing a good job controlling the line of scrimmage a little bit there, and I thought our guys did a good job coming off the ball and Zeke made a good run.”

(on the last play in the first half and two seconds remaining after the play that allowed New Orleans to kick a field goal) “Yeah, there were four seconds before the play and it was one of the fastest plays in NFL history.”

(on the two pass interference penalties on Amari Cooper) “Yeah, obviously they were calling the game that way. We will get a chance to look at those, but again there was a lot more to this ballgame than those plays you are mentioning. I love the spirit of this team. I love the fight of this team. We just did not play well enough to win. We will learn from this and hopefully get better as we go forward.”

(on Saints defense and what was different than the first three games) “Well, they are a good defense. They have a lot of good players. Have first round picks all across that defensive front, first round picks at the corner (position). So, they are a talented group. They did a good job moving up front and not allowing us to consistently run the ball. Obviously, that is a big part of what we want to do and we were not able to sustain drives on a consistent basis. Give them credit, they did a good job in the ballgame and we will learn from this experience.”

#### QB #4 DAK PRESCOTT

“It was tough [to get things going offensively]. Between the run game, the pass game, we just couldn’t get it going really, though we did have that drive in the second half. In an atmosphere like this, and when you’re playing a good team with a good defense like that, that’s too late. You’ve got to convert



on that first scoring drive that we had. I've got to make that pass in the back of the end zone to Cobb. We left a lot of plays out there tonight and it showed."

"[Their defense] may have been a little bit different than what they've done, but nothing different than what we expected them to do to us. Because of the plays we have and the strength of our offense, they could do some of the coverages that way, so it was a little surprise. We continued to step on our own feet and hurt ourselves in this game."

(On the atmosphere): "Communication, I think, was fine. We made enough plays to take them out of it. As I said, when you play in an atmosphere like this and you play a good team like that, you have to do that early. We never got that chance and we never capitalized."

"They've got a good front. That's a good defense they've got. Give them a lot of credit. They came in, they had a great game plan, and they executed. I'm sure they'll look at these stats and be proud of what they did. We just didn't execute. We didn't do what we needed to do to perform in the run game and in the passing game as well as we did these past few weeks. It's a great learning experience for us and we'll learn a lot from it."

"We've got a great team, there's no confidence lost with this loss, I can promise you that. There's a lot of things we'll take from this and learn from. We'll become a better team because of it and that's the most important thing."

"I was expecting to win. And knowing this offense, I wasn't expecting to go out there and to be held to ten points. Give that team credit. Give that defense credit. Give that atmosphere credit. We never got going and we hurt ourselves because of that."

"It may surprise you. When you have all of the talent that we have and the execution we've been able to put on tape, the communication, there's a lot of good things from this offense. To go out there and be held to only ten points is frustrating. It's hard to sit and be able to make rational comments right now. As I said I will have to go back and look at the tape like we all will. There is a lot we can take from it."

"We have got to look at that on tape. We converted some of those third downs, it's as simple as that. We hit that big play to Blake [Jarwin] right down the middle and that put us down there on the five-yard line. We were able to run the ball and get it in. We were missing out on those big plays that we've had in the first few games."

"[Their defense] was doing various things. There wasn't a play that I could turn to. They had a great game plan. The chess match with their calls they were making and our shots, they had the right coverage called. If we ran the ball they were blitzing in the right places. It was a collective effort on their part, and I give them credit."

"This was on us. This was about our lack of execution. Regardless of the way they were doing things there were a lot of plays left out there on my part and this whole offense's part."

(On Ezekiel Elliott): "He's fine. He'll continue to get better to be the pounder and the strength of this offense."

"We didn't make the plays we needed to make. We had some opportunities and simply didn't make them. We were at the end of the game with the ball in our hands and over a minute left. There was a terrible decision by me to take the sack. That's rule 101 in two-minute drives, especially without any timeouts. If you take that out of it, we made some plays to get ourselves down there. As I said, give them all the credit. They won this one and we'll get better because of it."

## **RB #21 EZEKIEL ELLIOTT**

"I'm disappointed. We didn't come out and play winning football at all. The defense did a great job doing their job. On offense we let them down."

(On the fumble): "I just coughed it up. They just took it from me. It's not acceptable. This team relies on me, just like with the fourth and one. I just can't let the team down like that."

"I wouldn't say [the game plan] was more conservative at all. We ran a lot of the same stuff that we've run all year. We just didn't go out there and execute."

(On the ruling of a fumble): "It doesn't really matter if my elbow was down or not. I've got to take care of the ball in that situation. The team relies on me to take care of the ball in that situation. I don't really care if my elbow was down or not. I can't leave any error for doubt."

"Our defense played their ass off. They kept us in the game. They gave us a chance and we just didn't hold up on the offensive end. We can't let our guys down like that."

(On the atmosphere): "It did [feel like a playoff atmosphere]. It was a loud stadium. A lot of Cowboys fans traveled. We are thankful for them traveling so well like they always do. But we did not get the job done. We've got to go back to work and figure out what we did wrong, how we can get better, and how we can get back on track."

“The only positive is the defense played their tails off. Offensively, we just didn’t do our jobs.”

## **TE #82 JASON WITTEN**

“It was a hard-fought game. Give them credit, they are a great team. They gave us a lot of different looks (on defense). We had opportunities and did not capitalize. It was a terrible turnover on my part. I have got to be better there. It is a basic fundamental play. We had an opportunity and you cannot kill drives with turnovers. Certainly, I’ve got to be better in that situation.”

“It’s usually not the guy you see, it’s the guy you don’t see [that causes a fumble]. Line one for tight ends is catching balls over the middle and securing the catch and getting first downs. You want to run after the catch, but you’ve got the hopes and dreams of the team in your hands. I’ve been fortunate over the years to make a lot of plays. I’m disappointed. That was a huge opportunity for our team to get a first down at midfield and have a drive. To have a turnover like that is a costly mistake. They did a good job knocking it out. That’s a mistake on my part. I’ve got to do a good job taking care of the ball high and tight, and secure it. I will learn from that and be better but that was a costly mistake on my end.”

“We couldn’t get [the run game] going. I’ll have to go back and look at the tape. That’s a big part of our identity. I thought Dak (Prescott) was really in command. I think that we handled the noise well. We just could not get a drive with our running game. They were giving us some different looks. They are a good defense up front and they challenged us, forcing us to throw it underneath. We weren’t able to sustain our running game enough. You’ve got to be able to go into these types of environments and play well. That’s a good football team, it really is. We’ve got a good team. Everybody is accountable. You can’t turn the ball over and win going against a team like this.”

“We pride our self on being a team that doesn’t beat itself. That has been a formula around here. You have got to be able to make those plays when they trust you to call it, throw it to you, and give you an opportunity. When you’re on the road in an environment like this and you turn the ball over, it is going to be hard to overcome. All I can say is, it is on me. It was a huge mistake at that time. Our defense did a really good job fighting all night. That is a good offense and a well-coached team. Our defense gave us opportunity after opportunity. Offensively we’ll stay together. I thought Dak did a great job staying in command and fighting to the end. That’s what he’s all about. A lot of confidence in this team, but certainly a lot of work on my part to do. I’m disappointed in the mistakes. All plays aren’t the same and one like that is hard to overcome.