



**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME**  
**SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES**

- With the win, New Orleans improves their record to 4-1 and remains in first place in the NFC South. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, October 13 when they face the Jacksonville Jaguars at TIAA Field. Kickoff is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. CT.
- With the win, the Saints move to 3-0 at the Mercedes Benz Superdome this season, their first 3-0 start at home since 2013, when they went 8-0.
- The win improves New Orleans' all-time record against the Buccaneers to 34-21. The Saints' 34 regular season wins over Tampa Bay are their second-most wins against any other NFL franchise, breaking a tie with the Rams, and trailing only Atlanta (48 wins).
- Today's win is the 375<sup>th</sup> win in franchise history, including regular season and postseason. The win is also the 200<sup>th</sup> regular season home victory in franchise history, including games played at the Mercedes Benz Superdome, Tulane Stadium, San Antonio's Alamodome, and London's Wembley Stadium.
- The win evens the franchise's record in home contests (including regular and postseason) at 207-207-1.
- With the win, HC **Sean Payton** improves his record against Tampa Bay to 15-10 and his home record against the Buccaneers to 8-5. This is the seventh time Payton's Saints have won their NFC South opener (7-6 in his career in NFC South openers). The Saints have qualified for the postseason five of the six previous times they have won their division opener under Payton. Payton also improves his record against Tampa Bay HC Bruce Arians to 3-1.
- The Saints offense racked up 457 total yards including 112 rushing yards and 345 passing yards.
- Three players (Teddy Bridgewater, Taysom Hill, Alvin Kamara) completed passes for the Saints for the first time since Billy Joe Hobert, Danny Wuerfell, and Lamar Smith did so on September 6, 1998 when the Saints defeated the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis in their 1998 season opener.
- Defensively, the Saints help Tampa Bay to 252 total yards, their lowest offensive output of the season. Buccaneer running backs Peyton Barber and Ronald Jones II gained 32 and 35 yards, respectively, as the Saints have yet to allow a 100-yard rusher this season.
- Tampa Bay's Jameis Winston was held to his second-lowest passing yardage (204), lowest completion total (15) and matched his lowest completion percentage (55.6%) of the season. Winston was also sacked six times in the game, the second time this season the Saints finished with six sacks, sacking Houston's Deshaun Watson six times in their season-opening defeat of the Texans.
- The Saints' extended their streak to 277 consecutive games without having been shut out, the longest running streak in the NFL. The fourth longest streak of its kind in NFL history, the Saints haven't been shut out since Week 17 of 2001 (38-0 vs. San Francisco).
- QB **Teddy Bridgewater** earned his 20<sup>th</sup> career victory as a starter, finishing the game 26-of-34 for 314 yards, four touchdowns, and one interception. This is only the second four-touchdown game of Bridgewater's career, the last coming on December 20, 2015 when Bridgewater threw four touchdowns as a member of the Minnesota Vikings in a 38-17 defeat of the Chicago Bears. Bridgewater passed for over 300 yards for the sixth time in his career, the last coming on December 10, 2015 when he threw for 335 yards as a Viking in a 23-20 loss at the Arizona Cardinals. Bridgewater's 42-yard completion to Michael Thomas on the first play of the third quarter is his longest completion as a Saint.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished the afternoon with 11 receptions for 182 yards and two touchdowns. Today is Thomas' fifth multi-touchdown game in his career, and his 12<sup>th</sup> career game with at least ten receptions. 182 yards is Thomas' largest output since his 211 receiving yards in a Week 9 victory over the Los Angeles Rams last season, which was also the last game before today's first half in which Thomas finished a half with 100 receiving yards.

- Thomas now has 4,330 career receiving yards, surpassing Lance Moore (4,281) for seventh place all-time in club record books. Thomas's two scores gives him 26 career touchdowns, good for sole possession of eighth in club record books, surpassing Quinn Early and Robert Meachem (25).
- TE **Jared Cook** turned in his best game as a New Orleans Saint, finishing with season highs in receptions (four), receiving yards (41), and his first touchdown of the year.
- WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** finished with two receptions for 35 yards and his first touchdown since Week 3 of last season. Ginn's 33-yard touchdown came on the third play of the third quarter, capping off a 75-yard, 1:16 touchdown drive.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** accounted for 62 rushing yards on 16 attempts, 42 receiving yards on six receptions, and 13 passing yards on 1-for-1 passing. Kamara's first career pass attempt and completion converted a Saints' 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3 for a first down. The Saints scored on the following play, with a Michael Thomas 12-yard touchdown capping off a 13-play, 91-yard third quarter drive.
- Kamara has now carried the ball at least 13 times in each game this season and at least 16 times in each of New Orleans' last three contests.
- TE **Josh Hill** finished the game with 39 yards on three receptions, his second straight game with three receptions.
- QB **Taysom Hill** finished with two rushes for 16 yards and completed his first pass attempt of the season, an 18-yard completion with 12:53 to play in the second quarter, extending a Saint's 9-play, 75-yard touchdown drive.
- RB **Latavius Murray** finished the game with seven carries, his highest total as a member of the Saints. He finished the day with 28 rushing yards and added six receiving yards on two receptions.
- LB **Demario Davis** and CB **P.J. Williams** led New Orleans with seven tackles each. Davis surpassed 800 career stops and added one tackle for loss and two pass defenses. Williams also added a tackle for loss and pass defense.
- DE **Marcus Davenport** tied a career high for sacks in a game, taking down Winston two times in the contest. Davenport added three quarterback hits and one forced fumble, which was recovered by Tampa Bay.
- NT **Malcolm Brown**, DE **Carl Granderson**, DE **Cameron Jordan**, and DT **Sheldon Rankins** all recorded one sack.
- LB **A.J. Klein** surpassed 300 career stops, finishing the game with six tackles, moving his career total to 305. Klein also finished with a tackle for loss.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** recorded his third sack of 2019, and now has 75.5 career sacks. He is .5 sacks away from becoming only the fourth Saint with 75 career quarterback takedowns. Jordan has now sacked Winston eight times in his career, tied for his second-most takedowns of any signal-caller all-time, having also sacked Carolina's Cam Newton eight times and Atlanta's Matt Ryan 14 times.
- Jordan played in his 133<sup>rd</sup> career game, moving into a tie with LB Sam Mills for 24<sup>th</sup> in the club's all-time games played list.
- Three days after being named the NFC's Special Teams Player of the Month for September, P **Thomas Morstead** punted three times for a 37.7 yard average and dropping one punt inside the 20.
- K **Wil Lutz** converted a 29-yard field goal for the Saints' first points of the game and has now converted his last 10 field goal attempts.



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

#### SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(Opening comments): I thought, obviously, it was a good win for us. It's a division opponent. We felt like they (the Bucs) were playing well. When you watch them on tape this year, it's noticeably different in a lot of areas. That's a credit to Bruce (Arians) and that team. We felt like we knew that we were going to be in for a tough game. Fortunately, we did enough things to win."

(On if the team focused on shutting down the Tampa receivers) "Obviously, those guys are catching a lot of balls. I thought that we did a good job disrupting the passer. It was going to have to be with some seven man and also with some eight man fronts, because they are a patient running team; and, we knew that, so it was going to have to be a few different looks. I thought that Marshon (Lattimore) played well. I am going to look at the tape. Conversely, offensively, we knew that we were playing a real good run front, so we were going to throw it a little bit more early on. We were efficient doing that and made enough big plays to get a lead."

(On if this was Teddy Bridgewater's best performance) "I would agree. He got into a rhythm. I just felt like we did a good job protecting for him. We got the ball down the field more. A bunch of different guys made plays. I was happy to see some of the longer throws and the way that he played."

(On if Teddy Bridgewater and Michael Thomas have spent more time working together in recent weeks since Drew Brees got hurt) "There is a ton of practice that goes into long before we even get to a game. I don't know that there is anything behind the scenes. I just think that there is a preparation element. When you play quarterback in this league, the attention to detail is significant. I know that he plays close attention to that. He will stay after practice and work with certain guys. We work a lot of different combinations."

(On if this is the type of performance that the team expected from Bridgewater when they signed him) "I felt all along, and I think our players (felt) the same way. It's hard in this league to win if you don't have talent at that position. We did enough good things today around him, guys were making plays outside. Like I said, we blocked him well. It's a (Tampa defensive) front that's difficult to run on. I think that we made our attempts and managed to rush for over 100 yards. (We) won that battle. It was encouraging."

(On if Jared Cook's success today was part of the game plan) "Part of it. We liked the matchup in man (coverage). We felt like we could get him the ball. The touchdown that he makes early on was good to see. It was a good throw and catch. We've just got to continue to get him more opportunities. That's on us."

(On the team being able to get multiple players involved on offense) "We knew that we were going to see some man coverage. They (Tampa) do a good job of mixing up the looks. Then, it was just trying to work (to take advantage of) the individual matchups. They had an injury at corner. That kind of moved some guys around. It was good to see."

(On the team's defensive play today) "I thought that our third down numbers were good. If you look at, defensively, what we did third down-wise (was good). The rushing numbers were good. And, for the most part, we eliminated big plays. It was a good formula."

(On the good play of Marshon Lattimore in recent weeks) "He has been a good player for us since he's been here. I like his length. I like his competitive nature and how he prepares. I think that he has really good ball skills. It's not (just) like the last few weeks (that he has played well). He draws a tough matchup each week"

(On how much the crowd noise can help the team) “I think that it is very important. One of the first advantages for offensive football is the snap count. To some degree, that gets reduced or eliminated (when the crowd is loud). I think that it’s real important.”

(On Taysom Hill and Alvin Kamara throwing balls today) “They are both talented players. It’s a situational call. It’s good that it worked out.”

(On is Marcus Davenport’s play is ahead of schedule) “There is no schedule. He’s a young player that we feel like is playing better and better. I was pleased to see the production that he had. I thought that we had really good pressure on the quarterback.”

(On limiting Mike Evans’ production today) “When you face a player like that, you know that you are in for a challenge, especially a player we know in the division. I’m sure there are a number of things (that factored into that). Coverage was good. I am sure there are a handful of things that we will see on tape.”

## **DE #92 MARCUS DAVENPORT**

(on his performance) “We just go out there and try to do our jobs. We need to be a little bit more consistent and we have to keep working. I need to get better. I can’t keep leaving plays out on the field. There are plays that I am going to have to watch on film that I’m going to have to correct.”

(on if he is satisfied with his progression) “I don’t like missing things. I left some things out there, so I need to get better.”

(on if he is getting into a rhythm) “I don’t know. I’m just trying to play my game and keep it consistent.”

## **QB #7 TAYSOM HILL**

(on throwing a pass) “It was awesome. I loved it. It was a favorable look for us and we were trying to take advantage of it.”

(on Michael Thomas’s big game) “That’s who he is. Mike prepares like he is going to get the ball every play. During the week he thinks it’s gameday. He just goes out and makes plays. He’s a rare guy of size and talent. He’s going to catch it if you put the ball anywhere near him.”

(on the gameplan today and its execution) “This is one of those weeks where we prepared for certain looks and we got those looks every time. We had a big touchdown play with Ted Ginn. We were hoping for that coverage. We got it and we executed it.”

## **CB #23 MARSHON LATTIMORE**

(on if he has hit a rhythm lately in defending top receivers) “I’ve just been taking it one play at a time. (Mike Evans) is one of the best. I just took it one play at a time. You forget the last play good or bad and move on to the next one.”

(on holding Evans to no catches) “At corner, you can’t ever feel like you have one up on somebody. Anything can happen at corner. My teammates were coming up to me and telling me that he didn’t have any catches. Don’t jinx me. Let me keep playing. I just stayed focused and locked in.”

## **WR #19 TED GINN JR.**

(on attacking the middle of the field) “We just went out and executed our plays. We did everything we could to make that happen.”

(on Teddy Bridgewater’s play the last three weeks) “He was in a hard position to be in. You come in. You play. You get criticized. The guys in the room are playing hard for him.”

## **TE #87 JARED COOK**

(on standing out in man coverage) “I absolutely can. Even if you play a team that I predominately zone, you still have to find the holes. In man, with my speed and size, you are able to get favorable match-ups against a smaller corner or safety in the secondary. It is all about getting open the best that you can.”

## **DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN**

(on the play of the defensive line) “We knew that we had to be the strong part of our defense. I have that much confidence in our defensive line. It seemed like everybody got in on the sack party.”

(on getting six sacks on the day Will Smith is honored) “He was the first veteran on the defensive line that really showed me what it was like to be a true veteran. He was somebody who had been to the Pro Bowl. He was somebody who won a Super Bowl. He was somebody who embodied being a veteran defensive end. Not only on the field, but off the field. It’s huge for him to get that ring of honor for him, his family and his legacy. It was great for us to go out there and get a win. I saw his kids out there on the sideline. It’s a big blessing for their dad. He showed what the Saints way is. He was a hard-nosed person who had the grit, the will, the power and the speed. He was married to someone from (the) New Orleans (area). He had kids in New Orleans. He was a big part of the community. Now he is in the ring of honor and will always be remembered.”

(on getting a sack today) “I was relieved at the end of it all. I thought I had one in the first quarter. I thought I had one somewhere in the second quarter. I almost had one in the third quarter. I got one in the fourth. I love the way our defense played. I love the way our D-line was eaten. We have some things to tighten up in the run game. These are things that we have to keep in mind. If we want to go the distance, then we have to keep getting better every day.”

## **#5 QB TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**

(opening statement) “Big win for us. Talk about a win in the division, talk about our week of preparation leading up to today. It was a great week. Coach talked about playing with energy, playing this game off of emotion and having tempo. I think we did a good job of doing that today and we were able to come off with a victory. Going to live this moment and try to get better.”

(on having a big game today) “Should have been five touchdowns. Kidding but it was great and a real team effort. I feel like I have the easy job. All I have to do is throw the ball to Mike (Michael) Thomas, Jared Cook, Ted Ginn, Austin Carr, Alvin Kamara, Josh Hill, and Taysom Hill. Finding ways to get guys involved and make plays for us. Today was a day when everything was clicking and we can come in this game finding opportunities to score points and get down in the red zone to do some good things.”

(on wins mattering more than statistics and showing what he can do) “The stats mean nothing to me. That is the individual goal and I play this game (because) it’s a team sport. The best feeling about today was running off the field into this tunnel and seeing the fan’s faces, walking into this locker room and seeing the smile on everyone’s faces. That is the number one thing on my mind when I wake up on gameday. What can I do to help this team win a football game? It was a team effort today, but it is not about the numbers.”

(on hearing the fans chant his name) “That’s pretty cool, but the best feeling is running into the locker room (after the win).”

(on if his mom is allowed to check social media this week) “No.”

(on defense playing man coverage) “I play this game the way I play it. I understand that going into each week we’re going to see different coverages and each defense is built different, designed different, different things. I knew coming into this game we would have an opportunity to be more aggressive and Coach Payton, Pete (Carmichael), and all of those guys to prepare us all weekend. For us, to get the game plan and we see this play and we’re going to hit the shot right here. We go into the game with an aggressive mindset.”

(on playing with Michael Thomas) “Mike and I were just talking in the locker room and I just told him that when games come around I can just see it in his eyes. You don’t have to say a word to me, I know. It’s that nonverbal communication that I can thrive off of and he thrives off of. When you’re calling plays and look at a guy in his eyes just lights up. You know he’s looked in and it’s comforting.”

(on building a relationship with Michael Thomas) “Mike is the ultimate competitor. He wants to be great and continue being respected. He plays this game with a chip on his shoulder. We all understand his background and things like that. The last couple of weeks he’s just been the guy that’s shown up for us, as he’s done his past couple of years here, his first couple of years here. For me, it’s just one of those deals where you continue to trust the guys and continue to believe in the system and the guys. It’s been working for us these past couple of weeks.”

(on if the look in Michael Thomas different on different plays) “No, it’s the same look. He’s locked in and wants the ball every play. It’s one of those deals where you have a play call designed for Mike and either Mike is going to catch it or he’s going to make sure no one catches it. As a quarterback you approach the line of scrimmage with that mindset, I’m going to give my guy a shot. You throw it up and he makes a play for us and we’re all smiling.”

(on testing limits on third and ten on the sideline) “His catch radius is off the charts. He made a great play on third down for us on the diving catch. That’s what we expect from him. He’s a great wide receiver and one of the best wide receivers we have in this league. I’m glad he’s on our team.”

(on being 4-1) “It’s a great feeling to win football games. This locker room is special and this is a group of guys that show up to work every day and they demand greatness from everyone. From the training room staff to the equipment room staff with Bum (John Baugertner), the standard is held high. Just being able to be a part of something where there is such a high standard you continue to want more and more. To be sitting where we are right now just speaks highly to this coaching staff and everyone who has played a role these last few weeks.”

(on walking to the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on gameday) “No, I actually bought a Beach Cruiser so I ride my Beach Cruiser home after the games. Once I’m done here I’m going to ride home today.”

(on the ride home after a game) “It will be a nice little chill ride. Probably listen to some music.”

(on Alvin Kamara’s throw) “It was one of those plays that we knew we were going to call it in a short yardage situation. This week in practice he hit it and we were excited about it. I’m pretty sure he was pissed, he wanted the touchdown. To be able to convert right there was a big play us and continued to give us momentum moving forward.”

(on getting Jared Cook going) “I was very excited. Probably apologized to him about seven times, not for the missed touchdown, but on the out route that he got hit on. It was great just to see him flying around out there. He’s one of those guys who is very explosive and we like our match-ups when we get him out wide. We like to exploit our match-ups.”



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS QUOTES

#### BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH BRUCE ARIANS

“Obviously, disappointed with the outcome. I think the game came down to third down. Our inability to get off the field, and our inability to stay on the field. A little better pass protection for us offensively to get into the more manageable third downs. Defensively, we just have to make plays and I think we didn’t make them. “

#### On Michael Thomas’s performance

“It was both man and zone. We just did a poor poor job covering him. He is a big, physical guy, and we know he is going to push off. We just need to be more physical than him.”

#### On the challenged pass interference

“If that is not it, I do not know what the hell is. A two-hand shove and knocked the guy backwards. They said they were hand fighting. Yeah, they were hand-fighting, but that doesn’t knock the guy backwards.”

#### On the challenged fumble recovery

“It looked pretty good, didn’t it?”

#### What did the refs tell you?

“Just like they said. That it was not a clear recovery. Baffling.”

#### On Mike Evans’ Performance

“It was a poor job on our part. We moved him around not enough. Rolling to him, doing things that we have seen. Sure, we got the ball to him at the end. Twice he was open and we got sacked. We just have to do a better job at moving him around.”

#### On the end of the first half and beginning of the second half

“Yeah, anytime you get a two scores like that, it is going to be huge. We talked about it at halftime. This is the third time we have come out at halftime on defense, and failed to get them off the field. It is a trend. Maybe I’ll start deferring. We’ll see. We’ve been doing pretty well with the ball starting games. I like that. Defensively, we just are not answering the bell coming out of halftime.”

#### On Devin White not playing

“He just was not ready. He is too great of a young player to put out there, not ready. He has too good of a future.”



On losing Carlton Davis and back end depth covering Saints WR's

"We were not today. We have been at times. But still are too soft, we are too soft. I do not know how else to put it. When we are press man, we have some guys getting after it, we have some guys that are just off."

On the lack of defensive pressure on Bridgewater

"I think that is a huge part of it. We were close a couple times and we let him get out."

On being frustrated with the officiating.

"No, they blew the call. Simple. It was a clear recovery on the fumble. Luckily, we get a ball to bounce and get an interception and score off of it. He came running out of the pile with it, and they knew it before going to replay. It is all coming from New York."

On distributing the ball early in the game

"We knew Scotty (Miller) was going to get one-on-one. We just have to trust him he was going to win. I think it was a feeling out process of, do I really trust this guy yet? He has not caught a pass yet. It looked like it when we were throwing him the ball, and then all of a sudden it was like, I trust him now. It was too late. The big thing was third down. Those guys get balls and we move the chains."

On the NFL being a week-to-week league

"It is just a longer home game. Go back and watch the film like we always do and go to work on Wednesday. Jump on a plane and go to London and Carolina is playing really well right now with Kyle Allen playing quarterback. It will be a challenge."

On Teddy Bridgewater

"I have always liked Teddy. Teddy is a good, solid player and he should be a starter in the league."

### **QB #3 JAMEIS WINSTON**

"We tried to execute, that's it. They did a good job playing defense."

(On defensive coverage of Mike Evans) "We've just got to try and find a way. We know teams are going to do this to him. Hopefully we can find a way, and we will."

(On Chris Godwin) "He's just a great player. He works hard and has tenacity. He's relentless. It is easy to have a good relationship with him. When they're doubling Mike [Evans], they're leaving him one-on-one with somebody, so he's been making big plays for us."

(On the defensive coverage of Mike Evans) "They just clouded to his side. Every time he was in singles, he was getting a cloud. Every time he was to the field he was in a cloud. Every time he was in the slot it resulted in them doubling him in the slot. We have got to try and find a way to get him open, and we will."

(On offensive rhythm) "We just can't go three-and-out. We've got to execute on third down. It is what it is. We fought hard. I think we ran the football effectively. They gave us a lot of different looks that we haven't seen on third down. We've just got to be ready for whatever. When we're preparing for the future, we've got to focus on us. We've got to make sure that were fine and not worry about them."

"We've got to focus on us and be the best us and try not to worry about the opponent. We've got to be best at what we do. If we can be good at what we do, then we'll win football games."

"I believe we handled the noise really good. I felt like they had a really quick clock. On that delay of game penalty, it felt like the clock got down really fast. We picked up our tempo there. We used a



time out and got the play off and converted. It was a great environment to play in. They just came out and played really good football. They are in their home stadium and got the fans into it. We have to counter that and play good football back. We had some good spurts, but honestly, we didn't play good enough to win this game.

"Scotty (Miller) is definitely going to have to step up. I think he's ready. We have to continue to build that repore and that chemistry with mike and Chris. The more reps that he's able to get the better he is going to be. I'm excited for him because he's really a talented player. I can't wait for him to get in his groove. Well get a great connection and I'll get the football to him."

"It means a lot. I've got that faith in all my targets; O.J. (Howard) and Cameron (Brate) are great. But Chris Godwin, when they keep leaving him open, and he finds a way to get open, he catches the ball when it comes his way. I know we'll find other ways to get mike the ball, but Chris does a good job stepping up in times that we need him. We have to continue to help him do that and help Mike out and get him in some good situations.

### **CB #33 CARLTON DAVIS III**

(On ejection) "I'm not sure [what they saw], I didn't get a chance to talk to [the referees] or anyone about it. I'm at a loss just like you."

"It was a bang-bang play. I saw the quarterback throw the ball, and tried to make a play on the ball. I was a little bit too late. I tried to make a clean tackle, as clean as I could in that position. It is what it is. I'm just playing football. I'm just trying to make a good play to help my team. The rules are the rules and I don't have anything to say about it."

(On sitting out) "It's the worst. Its everything you could think of. I'm at a loss for words right now, honestly."

"Honestly, as far as I can remember, It was quick throws. He was a new quarterback, so they were trying to get him comfortable. It was easy throws."

### **WR #12 CHRIS GODWIN**

"We were trying to take what the defense was giving us."

(On the Saints defense) "I haven't watched the film, so it could be a variety of things. They could have been blitzing a lot. They were bringing some pressures. They did a really good job on us. I can't take anything away from them. We've just got to execute better."

(On how to move on) "The same way we do with wins. We'll go back and watch the film tomorrow. We'll put it behind us and get ready for Carolina. It's going to be a big divisional game. The schedule will obviously be a little different with it being overseas (game in England), but once the ball kicks off it will be no different.