



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT DETROIT LIONS SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, 2026 • FORD FIELD SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the 31-30 loss to the Lions, the Saints now sit at 0-1 on the season. Including the 2011 NFC Wild Card Playoff victory by the Saints, the series is tied at 14-14-1. This was the first overtime contest in a season opener for the Saints since a 37-34 loss at Atlanta in 2014. It was the third overtime season opener in franchise history.
- Up next, the Black and Gold travel to Baltimore to play the Ravens at M&T Bank Stadium. Kickoff is set for 12:00 p.m. CT and will be broadcast regionally on CBS (WWL 4 locally).
- QB **Tyler Shough** completed 35-of-56 passes for a career-high 410 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions, posting an 87.6 passer rating. His 410 passing yards marked the 18th-highest total in franchise history and the 18th 400-yard passing game. Shough joins Drew Brees and Aaron Brooks as only the third Saint to throw for 400 yards. His 325 passing yards in the second half and overtime marks a club-best for passing yardage in a second half/overtime and is tied for the 17th-highest total in NFL record books. Shough also rushed four times for eight yards in the contest.
- RB **Travis Etienne Jr.** led the Saints in rushing with 46 yards on nine carries, including an 18-yard long. Etienne also caught seven passes for 32 yards, finishing with 78 total yards from scrimmage. His seven receptions marked a career high. RB **Kendre Miller** carried nine times for 30 yards, including an eight-yard touchdown run.
- WR **Chris Olave** led the Saints receiving corps with 10 receptions for a career-high 182 yards, including a 47-yard long. Olave recorded a career-high in receiving yards and his 300th career reception. His 10 receptions tied his career-high. The receiving yardage total is tied for fifth in club record books.
- WR **Devaughn Vele** caught seven passes for 69 yards, including a 31-yard reception, and scored a one-yard touchdown from Shough.
- On his 30th birthday, TE **Juwan Johnson** caught two passes for 27 yards, including a game-tying nine-yard touchdown reception with 1:07 remaining in the fourth quarter. Johnson finished with three receptions for 54 yards.
- In overtime TE **Noah Fant** came down with an eight-yard touchdown grab in overtime, finishing with four receptions for 33 yards.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Detroit to 204 net yards passing.
- S **Jonas Sanker** led the team with ten tackles (seven solo).

- LB **Pete Werner** recorded seven tackles (three solo), including one stop for loss and one pass breakup.
- S **Justin Reid** finished with eight tackles.
- DT **Vernon Broughton** recorded five tackles, a career-high, and forced a fumble on a hit on Lions RB Jahmyr Gibbs that he recovered.
- LB **Kaden Elliss** played in his 100th career game as a Saint against the Lions. Elliss finished with nine tackles (three solo).
- Edge **Carl Granderson** finished with two tackles and one sack.
- K **Daniel Carlson** made a field-goal attempt from 28 yards and three PAT attempts. Carlson also attempted a potential game-winning 62-yard field goal as time expired in regulation, which he missed wide right.
- P **Ryan Wright**, in his Saints debut recorded 238 yards on five punts, for a gross average of 47.6 and a net of 40.6, with two inside-the-20.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 150th career game on Sunday, surpassing DB Dave Waymer for sole possession of 15th all-time in club record books for most games played.
- LB **Isaiah Stalbird** led the team with three special teams tackles.
- DB **Jordan Howden** played in his 50th career game and recorded two special teams tackles
- With appearances on Sunday, these Saints made their NFL debuts in the season opener: WR/RS **Barion Brown**, RB **CJ Donaldson**, WR **Bryce Lance**, DL **Christen Miller**, CB **Jayden Price**, S **Mike Reid** and G **Jeremiah Wright**.
- With appearances on Sunday, these veterans made their Saints debut in the opener: Carlson, G **David Edwards**, CB **Martin Emerson Jr.**, Etienne, TE **Noah Fant**, EDGE **Anfernee Jennings**, CB **Decamerion Richardson**, EDGE **Tyree Wilson**, DL **Colby Wooden**, and P **Ryan Wright**.

SAINTS HEAD COACH KELLEN MOORE POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

Opening Statement: “This was a fun battle. This was a battle against a really good team on the road – Ford Field, great atmosphere. Love the way our guys fought and battled, and we rode a little bit of a roller coaster in all three phases, I think, at times in this game. Gave ourselves a heck of a chance to go win this thing. And so, proud of the way our guys battled and competed and continued to keep going for it. There’s a lot of stuff we got to clean up, a lot of stuff we got to get better at. I think our guys should have some positive juice coming out of this game – with the idea of, hey, we got to get better and we got to keep going. This is Week 1 of the NFL season. We got 16 more opportunities and then some, and so we’ve just got to get better, and so that’s the focus of this thing moving forward.”

On what made the second half so starkly different from the first: “Well, I just say – I think our defense did a lot of good things in the first half. I thought they competed, they battled, they kept that offense from scoring for the most part, and so we were able to stay in it because of that. I think in the second half we started slow again on offense, those first two drives on offense, and then I think we just finally got to that point where we started executing, and I think that allowed us to use some tempo offense to get some more plays where we can get the ball downfield. Just felt like the game was very congested with the run game and the pass game in the first half. I thought, credit to Detroit, they did an excellent job of that. I think our guys just finally started – it felt like there was more air in the game moving forward, and so I think in all three phases we’re going to have some stuff we like and we’re going to have some stuff we’ve just got to get better at.”

On his message to Saints QB Tyler Shough and his team at halftime: “I just say we just couldn’t find the rhythm. We’ve just got to find it. We’ve got to play better than we did in the first half, we all know that, run game, action game, drop-back game- all three components of that. We’ve just got to play better there. I think once we did find some rhythm and earn some first downs, I think that allowed us to play a little bit more the way we’re capable of playing.”

On whether it was an easy decision to go for two points after the touchdown in overtime: “Yeah, there’s 1:34 left. That’s a really talented offense. You have a chance to go win the football game.”

On whether he would have still gone for two points if there had been no time left: “I really viewed it as we’re going for two there to win the game if we have a chance.”

On starters playing in the preseason: “We can over-analyze every aspect of training camp and days and preseason. You know, our defense did the exact same thing. They played some really good football early.”

On why their Expected Points Added metric was much higher in the second half: “No, that’s a good question. We just got to execute and give ourselves a better look and I got to look at the plan and just make sure we’re finding a way to move the football better in that early part because, you know, we spent a lot of time on it and felt good about it going in. We just – the first drive, we were close. We had some opportunities there. We missed the third down after that drive extended, you know, right around the 50-yard line, and then we stalled out. We just had some turnovers and some mistakes there that weren’t us.”

On why he chose to go for it on fourth-and-12 near the two-minute warning and what he thought of that play: “I think, at the end of the day, it’s fourth-and-12. You control the future at that point as long

as you possess the football. If you punt it, you've got to get them to go three-and-out, and you're going to get the ball at basically the same position with no timeouts at that point, potentially even further back depending on how they punt it. Let's control the variables as much as we can. We have a chance to convert here, and you know, credit to our guys getting it done."

On Saints EDGE Chase Young's strip sack being overturned: "A little bit of a challenging circumstance, but I understand what the rules view it as. Once the arm is moving, really there's no matter where the ball is going. There's a protection there, so unfortunate outcome for us."

On whether the officials explained the overturned call and if his opinion changed as a result: "No, they explained the rule."

On whether he would have gone for it on fourth down in the red zone instead of kicking: "The one down kind of in the red zone? Yeah, it was close, it was kind of a flip scenario there as far as going for it. Felt like our defense had been playing some good football. It was 4th-and-4, if it's 4th-and-1 or two, maybe you're in that sneak opportunity, some sort of short-yardage situation. But (Saints WR) Chris (Olave) was out as well on that play, so Chris wasn't out there at that point for a couple of plays, and so we were kind of missing a few pieces there, so it felt like, 'Hey, we can kick this and then we can kind of force these guys at least to a field goal, we have our last possession opportunity.'"

On whether he would have considered taking a timeout before the delay-of-game penalty on second down: "I was considering it, but the timeouts we'd already - , we were already down to one or two probably, at that point."

On what Saints WR Chris Olave was dealing with when he went to the injury tent: "He landed kind of goofy on his back there, on that big catch and then he had just a couple of cramp moments."

On what he learned about Saints QB Tyler Shough watching his slow start as a former quarterback himself: "I think we're a resilient football team, and certainly Tyler showcased that, as far as that wasn't the first half he wanted, any of us wanted, even to start the second half, with the interception and then there's a fumble in there. That's about as challenging as a circumstance as you can have and so I credit our guys for hanging in there. We know we can't have games that look like that in the first half, and the start of the second half. But our guys hung in there and gave ourselves a heck of a chance to go win it on the last play of the game."

On what he thought of Saints WRs Chris Olave and Devaughn Vele making big catches: "Yeah, some big-time catches, some big-time contributions by both of those guys. They're good players. We expect that, and they expect it of themselves, and I thought there was some big-time moments that they took advantage of."

On what he was going for with the two-point conversion: "Yeah, a little bit of a traffic thing to get (Saints WR) Chris (Olave) to the front pylon. We have (Saints WR) Bryce (Lance) to the back pylon and (Saints WR Devaughn) Vele was kind of controlling the middle of the field, and so it was a little triangle read, and they matched it well, and we were kind of down to the outside corner shot, and we weren't able to get it done."

On what Saints TE Juwan Johnson's touchdown says about him and his play in big moments: "Yeah, I think for all of our guys, just keep battling, keep going for it, and you never know when your opportunity is going to present itself."

On why he chose not to play a ton of starters in the preseason: "I mean, it's a good observation. I think our defense didn't play anything in preseason, and I felt like they played some good football in the first half. Again, we got a lot of snaps through preseason, joint practices, and all the different opportunities. Our guys are prepared. We just didn't get it going early."

On the rotation between Saints CB Quincy Riley, Saints CB Martin Emerson Jr., and within the defense as a whole: "Yeah, just a little bit of rotation there. Nothing big. Feel really good about all those corners and felt like MJ kind of earned some opportunities to get in there, get his reps and experience going in our system. I felt like those guys did some good things."

On whether the rotation within the defensive lineup was planned in advance: "Yeah, we talked about it going into it."

SAINTS QB TYLER SHOUGH POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On what his thoughts were on the game overall: “Yeah, well it wasn’t good enough in the end. I am proud of how we fought as a team and how regardless of the adversity and circumstances we kept going. And I just got to play better in the first half. We have got to play better as an offense, we were too inconsistent. Credit to them, they had a lot of really un-scouted looks. And obviously it’s the first game, there is going to be some new looks and we have got to be able to handle that swing better and it was a good fight until the end.”

On what he thinks plagued him in the first half: “They just did a really good job on defense presenting some looks. Obviously new year, they are going to change some things up and they kind of broke us down. They Covered 0 quite a bit, they only done a couple times last year. We’ve got to be able to handle that better. I think we were able to do that in the second half. And it was a little too sped up with my feet that was something I was able to sure up on some of those. And I think we got it fixed, but at the same time I have got to play better. We have got to play better as an offensive. We can’t have zero points. We can’t have that at all. It wasn’t good enough at the end of the day that way. But, I was really proud of against a good defense, against a good offense. Our defense played extremely well. I mean they held them to I mean minimal points the whole time. We’ve got to be able to play complementary and I think at the end of the day I was really proud of how we finished.”

On if confidence was a factor when the team took a turn for the better in the second half: “Yeah, there’s definitely a natural rhythm whenever you start getting some chunks, getting the ball out of your hand. At the end of the day, the first half, they presented some look we weren’t necessarily ready for and that starts with us being able to handle that and then also me responding as well as not trying to speed my feet up or force anything. I think a couple of times I have got to be better there and distribute it. And I think we got that shored up and continue to run the ball better. We were kind of going backwards a couple of times there. And I think the second pick, I made a great play on it. So, it just stuff like that. So, I just think it’s great for us as a team to face that adversity especially early on and respond. But, that’s not how we want to hang our hats on those to come back. We will get fixed up and keep getting better.”

On having previous games like this last year with first quarter struggles: “It is always going to be to be an aspect of early call sheets. They are going to present stuff that is going to be different from maybe what they have presented every single week. There is going to be some nuances and how we manage those. And we are going to do the same thing, but at the same time as you get going you start understanding the flavor of the game and how we manage that. But, at the same time we have to control what we can control and operate within our plays. And that starts with me and we are going to continue to get better at that. I am going to continue to get better at that. I just wasn’t necessarily settled in early and I learned from it, we’re good. We will continue to get better and that is credit to them for doing a good job on defense.”

On when they called his number on fourth down and the two-point conversion: “Yeah we are always going to be aggressive, that is our mindset. I am going to be aggressive. I threw two picks in the first half, we are down. I don’t care, we are going to keep going and responding and he is the same person every single call. Credit to (Saints Head Coach) Kellen (Moore), he did a really good job and credit to our defense for holding them the whole time. We have got to play better for them and that is what I told the guys, and we are going to do that and keep going.”

On what happened on the two-point conversion from his perspective: “Yeah, they did a good job. They’ve always locked a lot of stuff in man, especially on the two-point conversion. They did a good job passing off, so they bumped it off at (Saints WR) Chris (Olave). And then we had a reset to the corner for (Saints WR) Bryce (Lance) in the end zone, it was a close play. Was trying to give him a chance, and they made a good play on it, so just sucks, they had a good response to it. But also, I was really proud of how we got down there, finishing, getting the touchdown. It was just one play away, it’s football.”

On if he flushed the first half mentally and if he has done that before: “Yeah, I was flushing every single play, previous start, regardless of what happened, that’s the whole goal. Throw a pick, why did I throw the pick, footwork, eyes, deep, guy made a good play, just be analytical about it. And then, maybe we had a good play, why was that, and then next play. I feel like we did a good job as an offense, just keep going, keep battling that way and it was a lot of fun. But at the end of the day, we’ll learn from our mistakes and there were some critical ones by myself and all of us early on and we’ve got to sure that up.”

On Saints WR Chris Olave’s performance: “He’s just – he’s the best bro. He had obviously – went back early and comes back and makes a huge play, huge catch. The whole game, he was steady. I think he was just cramping. He was grinding the whole game, so I was really proud of his performance and who he is. And we were talking to each other the whole game. Man, it’s football, there’s going to be things that go wrong, dropped ball, pick, protection, sack, all that stuff happens. But we’ve got to respond and we did. So, we’ll figure out how we can get rolling earlier.”

On how he learned not to let his internal voice get toxic: “It just really – there is no, the previous play doesn’t affect the next one. And I’m just learning as I’m going, I feel like, I’m learning about what they’re trying to call and I’m learning about myself. I was too fast in the beginning, I was trying to distribute it too fast. And just slowing myself down, letting the game come to me a little more but still be aggressive. So just kind of part of it and it’s still early, you want those things but how can you respond to those situations, and I think we did. But good play or bad play it doesn’t really matter, we just need to keep going.”

On his pride in resilience of coming back from 21-0, to having multiple chances to win: “Yeah, 100%. I mean, that shows the character of this team and the leaders behind it. Everybody kind of sticking together no matter what – playing off of each other. That’s a good football team. We’re in their environment, and we were able to continue to operate there and we had it really close. Its week one – how do we kind of sustain that growth throughout the entire season, and we’ll be in a good spot. But at the end of the day, we reevaluate in how we can get better early on. But it shows what we’re made of from that aspect for sure.”

On his thoughts on how starters performances may be affected by not playing in preseason: “No, we were prepared. We had joint practices – all that stuff. Like I said, there is just going to be stuff that they present that will be different. Its week one. You know, later in the year we’ll be seeing a lot more film, but we just have to play our style of football and control what we can that way. I’m going to get better at that. I wasn’t necessarily in a rhythm early -- how do I get myself better in a rhythm and how do we get going in a rhythm as an offense too – get all those guys going. So, that s part of it, and were going to be ready to go next week.”

On his excitement after the coin-flip for overtime: “Are you being sarcastic?”

On his quick reaction to wanted to begin overtime on defense: “I told him we wanted to go that way, but—I don’t know. We had to go and get a chance and go play. That was my mindset, even when we tied it—we still have football to be played. There’s nothing to celebrate yet, so I was just proud of how we responded, I feel.”

On what he saw on the fourth and 12 conversion in the fourth quarter: “Yeah, we were hot. They brought good pressure, and we just kind of avoided it and stepped up. Then fourth down, we got through it and had to make a play, so we just gave (Saints WR Bryce Lance) him a chance and he did a really good job of making a big time catch there in that situation. I was proud of all of our guys the whole day. We’ve just got to be better with communication and well be fine. We’ve got to just continue to get better.”

On his thoughts on the overturned strip sack: “It’s tough when the ball goes backwards. It felt like, you know, even if your arm is going forward--- the ball went backwards it looks like. But I don’t know. I didn’t get to see the replay or anything like that. It’s obviously a huge momentum swing, but at the end of the day, we weren’t good enough on offense to go out there and finish it either. So, you just control what you can that way. That just kind of shows that our defense played their butt off the whole time.”

On being aware of his body language and staying positive as a leader despite the fumble that occurred when down by 21 points: “Yeah, you can’t fake that. For me, I was just trying to be neutral. There’s nothing to be positive about, it sucked. It was a bad situation, but at the same time, how do we be neutral and be like ‘man, that was out of our control?’ We got to get out to that guy, you know, we’re sliding that way and we got to be better with our communication. Pick was a good play. The first one, I got to be better with my footwork. It’s all stuff that we can control, so more than anything, it’s just relaying that message of not shooting ourselves, being better that way, and you know, we had everything that we wanted. It was kind of a credit to us as an offense and as a team for staying neutral and staying mission focused.”

On finding a cadence with Saints TE Noah Fant, the intended target in his earlier interception, later in the game: “He great because he’s got the athleticism, he’s got the big body. I was just a little too quick. We had the option route. I thought he was going to sit down, he broke out, which he was right in doing, and the guy made a good play on it diving. It sucks that way, but for me, like I said, I learned about how I can slow myself down there and in that situation. It’s part of it, part of football, and he’s going to continue to make really good plays for us because he’s a great player and that was him staying neutral too. It was good to bounce back.”

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environment, and we were able to continue to operate there and we had it really close. Its Week 1 – how do we kind of sustain that growth throughout the entire season, and we'll be in a good spot. But at the end of the day, we reevaluate how we can get better early on. But it shows what we're made of from that aspect for sure."

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continue to make really good plays for us because he's a great player and that was him staying neutral too. It was good to bounce back."

LIONS HEAD COACH DAN CAMPBELL POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

Opening Statement: “Look, give them credit, you know, they played hard. We knew they'd come in here ready to fight. They got that whole O-line back after last year. Quarterback's kind of what I said, man. He's here to stay, I think. He's a good player. But man, our guys showed up when we needed it most and it came in waves. But we kind of talked last night about, at any given time, man, you're going to have to rely on the unit next to you, the man next to you. And when somebody goes under, man, you got to pull them up. That was really what happened today. We found a way to get the win, and now with the win, we can clean up what needs to be cleaned up. Man, defense, three takeaways, that was huge. That was huge for us, and we were able to turn those into points. I thought (Lions WR Amon-Ra) St. Brown and (Lions RB Jahmyr) Gibbs had some really big-time performances for us. O-line blocked it up pretty good. There's some up and down in there, but you rush for 160, and we're close to breaking three or four of those. (Lions EDGE Aidan Hutchinson) Hutch played really well. That was big by (Lions CB) Rock (Ya-Sin) at the end. And (Lions LB) Derrick Barnes was all over the field. You could really feel that. And then special teams (Lions WR) Tay Martin, man. He was a difference maker today. Good to get the win and it's good to have the win where you know you can clean it up, and you don't have the L to where you got to clean it up. So we'll take that.”

On his emotions after the game after what felt like a 12-round fight: “I mean, Week 1, you just – you never know. You have a feeling, and you never know the way it's going to go, but you know, especially a team like that, man, that's up-and-coming. They're young, they're hungry. Man, this is their new hope for the season. They're going to throw it out at you, and they did that. It became that kind of game, and we hung in there and made the last play. We made the last play to win it, and that's the most important thing. So yeah, I'm going to go home and prop my feet up for a minute – my foot, my one foot. Prop my feet up for a minute and then get on to Buffalo. Clean this up and get on to Buffalo. But we'll take that.”

On what changed in the third quarter after a 21-0 Lions lead: “Well, really, I think more than anything, when you're able to get more swings at the bat, and they come a lot quicker, you can find a little rhythm. And that's kind of what happened. We were playing pretty good defense. We possessed the ball a little bit more in that first half, and then we fizzled on offense. And so, if I'm going one way or another, I'm like, man, we got to be more efficient on offense. We kind of spit and sputtered there, and then they get more cracks at it. Then they've kind of found a little rhythm, you know, had some tempo going. They trickled it in the first half and then came back to it in the second. (Saints WR Chris) Olave got going. He got through the defense. There was a couple of things where – and we know what Olave is, he's dangerous. If you don't get hands on him sometimes, man, he has entry into the defense and if he's able to hold, (Saints QB Tyler) Shough's able to hold it for a minute, he can find him. So those plays were significant, but at the end of the day, man, the three takeaways were big for us. We shut down the run game, which is our bread and butter. That's got to be our bread and butter. We were able to pressure this quarterback. At the end of the day, the very last, the two-point conversion, we got pressure, and (Shough) had to get rid of it, and it worked out.”

On what his theory is of deciding to play or not play starters in the preseason: “Yeah, I mean, to each his own. Man, that's up to you. However you want to, you know? You want to play them, you don't want to play them. That's each coach's own decision. I have no thought. I know what I did and why I did it, but we're all good.”

On what he thinks of Lions RB Jahmyr Gibbs' increased workload in Week 1: "Well, I thought it was a very promising Week 1. Certainly, we know what Gibbs is, what he's capable of, and he's still not there yet. And I mean that in a good way. I'm telling you, we were this close to breaking three or four more of these, like breaking them wide open. I mean, shoestringing away, just a little longer block at the second level. We were close. We're going to get that cleaned up, and he's going to get better. Week 1, yeah, I like where he's at. I'm glad he's here."

On if he is OK with Gibbs having 24 carries before overtime and being on pace for more carries this season: "You know what I like? Winning the game, man, and we were going to win this game. That guy's our hot hand, and ultimately, do I want to set records with how many carries? No, that's not something I want to do. When you look at a guy, and you feel like, 'alright, man.' He's in good shape. I mean, he had a really good camp, and he is in phenomenal shape. He's in the best shape I've seen since he's been here. Now that doesn't mean we're not going to monitor, and we're going to keep an eye on this guy because we understand that too, but we did what we had to do today."

On if he expected the Saints to go for the two-point conversion at the end of the game: "Yeah. Yeah, for sure. I think, man, it turned into that kind of game. You got it all the way to overtime. You had the last possession, you score, it's time to do it. At that point, yeah, maybe they could answer back, you know, we could answer back. There's two minutes left, whatever. The point is, I just know if I'm (Saints Head Coach Kellen Moore), I'm doing that. Man, you're going for two. You've battled, you slugged it out for that long. Over 60 minutes, it's time. Because you get that, and now it breathes a little life into your group there."

On if Saints QB Tyler Shough's ability to pick apart the defensive pressure is any cause for concern in regards to the Lions secondary: "Well, no, I'm not concerned. I don't know if concern is the right word. I know there are some things that we got to tighten up on. There are things we need to tighten up on mentally. We know the responsibility. We got to get there a little bit quicker and a little cleaner and know where your help's at on some of these. But we also know by what we were doing, we're going to get strung out a little bit, you know, that can happen at times. Your guys got to get there up front. They have to. That's the trade-off now, that's the trade-off. Somebody's going to get a one-on-one, one of our guys, and they have to win. And if they don't, our back end could get strung out a little bit. I don't care who you are. If it starts getting long, it turns into a five-second play. There's some of that, but I'm not concerned. I just know we can tighten some of it up, and we're going to get better on defense. Just like offense. We're going to tighten some stuff up, and we're going to get better."

On how much of this game can be chalked up to the uncertainty of Week 1: "Well, I mean, there's nothing I can say that's going to convince anything one way or another. I think we all know that. But, I think that, man, Week 1 is always, you never know. The most important thing is find a way to win and you're going to have some areas you're going to have to clean up, you're going to have to correct and you got to correct them in a hurry. And that's the most important thing. Look, I'll just go back to this one. I can't even remember what year it was, the Saints. It may have been 2017. I don't know. We started like 0-2 and man, it was doom and gloom, but we got better every week. I mean, Week 1 to Week 2 to Week 3. Even though we even lost in Week 2, we were significantly better. Now, we played a better opponent in Week 2, and we just got better and better. And that's it, man. Just clean these things up. Don't do those again. We can't have repeat errors. And collectively we get a little bit better. We play a little faster. You know where your help's at, and you continue to grow in real time against real

opponents, real games, 60 minutes, full speed. And so, I'm not worried. I know we got to clean it up and we will. And now it's hard to do on a short week, but Buffalo will be on a short week too. So, glad we got the W."

On an update on Lions OL Christian Mahogany's injury: "I don't really know. I hate to say one way or another. We did do a scan that really ended up being negative, so that's good news, but that doesn't mean we're out of the woods. Sounds like it could be more hipp-ish maybe, but we'll see."

On if he considered going for it rather than punting at the end of regulation: "Yeah. I mean, it certainly crossed my mind and I wanted to, however that thing played out, let the clock run and drain as much as we could and just get enough to where we could get in (Lions K Jake) Bates range to swing at one potentially. But I didn't want to use a timeout just in case it didn't work out and it goes the other way. But I thought about it, but I also felt like, man, our defense kind of had the hot hand. They'd found their footing a little bit again and let's put it back with them and see what happens here."

On explaining the call reversal on Goff's sack-fumble: "Well, I think it was just the fact. Look, I'll take that one. I'll be the first to say, man, I thought we lost that one. But, the arm was going forward. It had a forward motion. That was how they saw it. We got one. We'll take that."

LIONS QB JARED GOFF POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On his emotions following the end of the game: “Yeah, I mean, after we scored I kind of figured if they do score, they'll go for two. And if that were to happen, that game would come down to that and sure did. And listen, football's a weird, hard game. And if you want to say we were one play better than them, fine. We were and we got the W. I got a lot of respect for them, the way they played. And yeah, it was a good game.”

On his thoughts about Lions RB Jahmyr Gibbs having a high volume of runs and on cleaning up the offensive game: “I mean, the total volume there is great. I think it can still be so much more efficient, and it's so close on so many of these runs from coming out the back, the way (Lions RB Jahmyr Gibbs) he has in the past. Not to say it's game one stuff, but this stuff will continue to gel and get better. And then the pass game, I think it is similar. We're so close on so many of these little things. And yeah, we just got to go back to work, man. Just keep getting better. I think in Week 1, being able to not play your best and come out with a win is a great thing. And we did have good plays, though, and we had good stretches of plays. It just wasn't all game. And that's where we hurt ourselves.”

On his backward pass that was overturned: “That was a great call.”

On whether he knew the rules on the overturned backward pass: “Nope. I was trying to figure it out on the fly too.”

On his early thoughts in relation to the rapport with Lions WR Jameson Williams: “(Of) course. I talked to him too. I mean, some of those throws aren't my best, getting it to him in the right spot and on time. So that's kind of one of those little things. I'm not worried about him in the slightest and I got to be a little bit better for him too, but so proud of him late in the game. Game is on the line, I find him down the sideline and he makes the play and that was the difference.”

On whether he believes this will be a pattern this season or just a first-game situation: “What, winning games? I don't care how it happens, man. I mean, if we're up and they come back or we're down and we come back, it doesn't matter. I think in the last, rewind couple of years, 15-2, we're spoiled by winning in various ways. And I think that we certainly know, but I'm talking to you guys. Any shape or form, the way they come doesn't matter to us. Yeah, of course we'd love to keep scoring and win 49-0, of course. I'm not saying that, but listen, it's the NFL, this thing's hard. Week 1 is very hard and we're happy to get a win.”

On his thoughts about the Saints defensive performance: “I thought they did a really good job on defense, not letting us get behind them, they really did. They played with a lot of depth. Their linebackers were in tune underneath coverage. They did a good job in coverage, they really did. They had a good plan, and we were trying to work some things potentially down the field, and they weren't allowing it.”

On his thoughts regarding how Lions Offensive Coordinator Drew Petzing adjusted to the game: “He adjusted good, man. Again, I think, it's his first game of the year too, like for all of us. We're all kind of feeling it and feeling what's best, where to go. I thought he did a great job, man. He really did. He settled us down when we needed it and got us into the right plays. Some of the self-inflicted wounds were certainly not on him. Some of the stuff that we need to clean up, I think he called it great.”

On his thoughts on the offensive line play: “Offensive line, I thought, did a great job and coming together, and (Lions OL Ben) Bartch stepping in there and having to play pretty much the whole game. I told them, ‘I thought the pass pro was awesome.’ And then the run game was good, and it's really close to being really, really good. And I think they know that, but they did a really good job today.”

On if New Orleans Saints fans hate him: “They may. I don't know if this game was quite as meaningful as that one eight years ago, but yeah, I don't know. I don't know that - it's an incomplete pass, punt away.”

On how the rhythm of an offense changes over the course of a game: “I mean, they adjust. I gave (Lions WR Jameson Williams) Jamo a crap pitch in the backfield, things like that happen, (Lions RB Jahmyr) Gibbs – you know. There're things that happen that slow you down, that you want to –when you got that momentum, stay on the gas, but things happen. There's not a perfect answer for you. It's just the way football goes. Again, I say this and yeah, we're happy with the win, but yeah, would we have liked to continue to keep scoring and make it 49-7 or something? Yeah, absolutely. That would've been tremendous, but we didn't and we found a way to win.”

On what went right during the final offensive drive: “It was the same thing that was going on all day when things were good. We just weren't shooting ourselves in the foot. Positive play after positive play, staying ahead of the chains, getting in third-and-short. Yeah, I think the drives where we struggled, we had either a penalty or a loss of yardage. It's not a novel concept. It's kind of across the League how it goes. When we stay on track, we score points. And listen, we had 31 today. Again, would we have liked to have more? Of course, but I'm not counting, and I'm glad we got a W.”

On his thoughts on Saints QB Tyler Shough: “Yeah, I thought he did a good job, he really did. I thought he sat in there. He had some plays I'm sure he wants back early, but for him to sit in there in the crowd and the noise and bring his team all the way back, it's pretty good.”



DETROIT LIONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

FORD FIELD

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026; 1:00 PM ET

POST-GAME QUOTES

PFWA Pool Reporter Ben Raven Interview with Vice President of Instant Replay Mark Butterworth
New Orleans Saints vs. Detroit Lions
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Question: Regarding the play in the second quarter (9:34, Detroit 3rd and 16, Detroit 32 yard-line) the ball appeared to come out backwards. Does the intent on the throwing motion override the ball's eventual direction?

Butterworth: "If the defender contacts the passer prior to the passer starting his throwing motion, then it can be ruled as a backward pass. Because Goff already started his throwing motion and then the defender contacted him, it is therefore a forward pass."

Question: What is the determining factor in calling this play?

Butterworth: "The determining factor is does the passer begin his throwing motion prior to contact from the defender. The throwing motion starts as he begins to bring the ball up as a part of his windup and then the defender's contact made the pass go backwards."