



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEP. 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- New Orleans moves to 0-2 in the regular season after the 26-21 loss to the San Francisco 49ers. The Black and Gold go on the road for the first time in the regular season, going to Seattle to face the Seahawks next Sunday at 3:05 CT in a contest regionally televised on CBS (WWL 4 locally).
- Defensively, New Orleans held San Francisco to 77 yards rushing on 26 carries (2.0 avg.).
- QB **Spencer Rattler** went 25-for-34 (career-high 73.5 pct.) for 206 yards, threw a career-high three touchdown passes and recorded a 118.1 passer rating. This was his first time throwing multiple touchdowns in a game in his career. He also rushed four times for 14 yards.
- At one point during the game between the first and fourth quarters, Rattler completed 14 straight passes which is a career-high for him.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** secured his first touchdown of the season from an 18-yard connection with Rattler. WR/RS **Rashid Shaheed** also recorded his first touchdown of the season from a three-yard Rattler pass.
- WR **Chris Olave** led the way for receiving, catching six passes for 54 yards. Shaheed was not far off, recording four receptions for 52 yards. Johnson had five receptions for 49 yards as well.
- Johnson passed John Tice in receptions by a tight-end to move into third in club record books with the five he posted today (155 as a tight end from 2021-present).
- WR **Devaughn Vele** tallied his first touchdown of the season and as a Saint in the fourth quarter from a three-yard Rattler pass.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** recorded 99 rushing yards, surpassing Curt Warner, Antowain Smith and Rodney Hampton to be 72nd all-time in NFL record books. He also caught six passes for 21 yards.
- Kamara played in his 117th game today to move into a tie for 36th place on the club's games played list with former Saints TE Josh Hill.
- DE **Carl Granderson** recorded two sacks against the 49ers, which is the second time in his career he accomplished this feat. The first time he did it was at the Carolina Panthers, 1/21/23. It is also his second game in a row this season of more than one sack.
- DE **Chris Rumph II** stripped the ball from San Francisco QB Mac Jones and LB **Demario Davis** recovered to record New Orleans' first takeaway of the regular season for the ninth of his career. It was Rumph's first career forced fumble.

- Davis played in his 116th game as a Saint, which ranks 37th all-time in club records, and led the way in tackles today with 11 (five solo).
- LB **Pete Werner** started in his 50th game on for New Orleans today against the 49ers in just 58 games played and finished with five solo tackles, including one stop for loss and a career-high two pass breakups.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** now has amassed 500 career solo stops in his career with his one solo tackle against the 49ers.
- Jordan played in his 228th career regular season game, which tied QB Drew Brees for most games played in club history. He also moved into sole possession of 13th place in NFL record books among defensive lineman today, surpassing Jim Jeffcoat.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 134th career game, taking sole possession of 25th place by surpassing Sam Mills in club record books.
- A pair of rookies in CB **Quincy Riley** and LB **Danny Stutsman** had one special teams tackle apiece.



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(Opening Statement) “Really good battle right to the end again. I thought our guys’ playstyle - everything that we wanted, they brought. There’s pain just losing again, another short one that really comes down to we have to do more what winning football teams do. We have to play better situational football. We’ve got to pounce on opportunities when they’re presented, and we have to give ourselves a better chance. There’s too much good in there to miss these opportunities. We have to play better, faster, learn from these things and go from there.”

(On the first half struggles) “Certainly. We have to, so call, ‘clean your own house’. We have to play cleaner football in all three phases. There’s only so many opportunities in these games, and we have to value each and every opportunity in all three phases. When they present themselves, you have to take advantage of them. There’s only so many.”

(On defending against QB Mac Jones) “He just did an excellent job finding completions. He hit a lot of inbreakers, especially a couple in those downs. They hit some inbreakers in situations where you have a little bit of an advantage in some third-and-longs. That’s the story. When you get them behind, and it’s ten-plus, you have to take advantage of those opportunities from a defensive perspective.”

(On enhancing the offensive performance) “For us, we have to put ourselves in better situations. We can’t be in these third-and-longs. When the opportunity presents itself, we have to play clean football. We need to have everyone on the same page.”

(On the third down defense) “It’s a combination. We want the rush to show up sooner. We want the coverage perspective of it to play cleaner and give ourselves a better opportunity to be successful. Everyone is going to design plays. Plays are plays. We just have to execute at a much higher level on those situations. We are doing too much good on first and second down to put ourselves in those situations, and it’s happened two weeks in a row these third-and-ten-plusers. We are giving up way too much in that situation.”

(On RB Alvin Kamara’s fumble) “Obviously, the main component that they were discussing is if it was a catch or no catch. There’s enough action in there. I haven’t seen it. I just saw the TV perspective of it from the big screen. Obviously, he had kind of controlled it with his hand. Once that happened, it became a catch, and there was a fumble.”

(On if he thought Kamara caught the ball) “It’s close. It’s close. I think it has to be conclusive and have a defined look there. They felt compelled to say that.”

(On the playing surface) “A few guys commented on it pregame, but I feel like I didn’t see anything that drastically impacted the game necessarily.”

(On his overall thoughts through two games) “Through two games, we have a great group of guys who work their tail off. Their playstyle, you can’t assume those sorts of things. We have everything we need, but we have to play cleaner football. And, we have to do what winning teams do in each and every moment from the beginning of the game all the way to the very end. Every play matters. We can’t take it for granted.”

(On QB Spencer Rattler’s performance) “He did some good things. Obviously, when you look back, you’re going to see some missed opportunities, just like for all of us. He will have some missed opportunities in some critical situations, and there are only so many snaps in this game. You have to take advantage of them.”

(On the pass rush) “There were some situations where he (Mac Jones) was able to sit in the pocket for too long. You let any of the quarterbacks in this league be comfortable in the pocket, and they’re going to be able to deliver some things downfield. You have to find a way to get to them sooner.”

(On the if 49ers fans impacted the game) “We know they travel well. They always have, historically, no matter where you’re at. It’s all part of this experience.”

(On the pass protection) “We just have to be cleaner in our protection game. We have to give ourselves a chance. It was a quick win on their end. (Bryce) Huff did a nice job off the edge. We weren’t able to give ourselves a chance.”

(On the final offensive play) “It was left to right. There were a couple of options within that play, and really, we couldn’t get the play started.”

(On the team morale) “Our guys are competing. It hurts when you lose games like this. That’s how it’s supposed to feel. There are no feel-good moments out of this. There are plenty of positives, but you have to focus on winning and really focus on – the last drive, yes – but you really have to focus on the first three and a half quarters that had a huge impact on winning this game. We had plenty of opportunities to take advantage of them.”

(On balancing the positives while improving the negatives week-to-week) “That’s the journey you’re on in the NFL. You have to take it each and every week. You have to educate yourself. You have to go through a growth process. Certainly, tomorrow’s an important part. We have to grow from this. We have to get better. There is a lot of football ahead of us. We need to take the next steps, and this next week will be our first time on the road. Big time challenge going up to Seattle, and our guys have got to lock in. When you play on the road, you have to lock in.”

(On positives from close games) “We are putting ourselves in positions to win games. Ultimately, again, we have to do what winning teams do and take advantage of those opportunities.”

(On the penalties) “There are still some completely controlled penalties. That’s the main thing. We can’t have the silly ones – third down penalties when we were in great position on defense, the silly things on offense that are 100 percent in our control. We have to play better from that standpoint. I feel like we took a step (forward). I think our operations are cleaner on offense. We were able to use tempo and play under control. I thought Spencer (Rattler) did a good job from that standpoint. Again, we just have to play at a high level.”

(On the opening drive miss by WR Chris Olave) “Obviously, we are going to look back at that, and I’ll watch the film and see exactly how it went down. Obviously, it’s a missed opportunity. It’s a critical missed opportunity for us. It’s a big-time moment for us on the opening drive. We are right there and just have to get it done.”

(On opting to go up-tempo at the end of the first half) “Certainly, we felt like the drive was extending. We felt like there were a lot of positives to stay on the field and force them to stay organized. I felt like that was a good drive for us.

(On QB Spencer Rattler) “His legs certainly showed up. The fourth down was a really good decision with the ability to throw it. He ran with it. Certainly, he made some plays this week, got some first downs in some situations. Certainly, it was a good thing for him.”

(On the missed passing opportunities) “We had some deep, deep opportunities. I think we hit some, and we did miss some. We have to continue to find ways to get downfield with our guys. We’ve got some really talented players who can play with speed and are vertical threats. We have to find ways to hit more of them.”

(On the offensive struggles) “Probably both sides of it. Naturally, defense is going to dictate a few things here and there. Certainly, we are trying to find more opportunities as we go on.”

(On playcalling as the head coach) “I feel like it has been good. We have a good group of coaches. We’re all on the same page. There are certainly opportunities we can keep growing from, but I feel like the communication has been really good. We just have to play better.”

(On if Week Three’s prep work will change) “Just really lock in on the plan. We talk about a blueprint each and every week. There’s a defined blueprint for all three phases and how we want to win the

game from a team perspective. We have to focus on that. We have to get that done. This will be our first game on the road in a really loud environment in Seattle. It'll be our first time with this group in those environments. There is great opportunity and excitement when you go on the road and do it together. You have to rally together. It's an exciting opportunity for us to go do it."

(On the communication) "It felt like, for the most part, communication was good. I don't feel like we had a bunch of miscommunication on the back end. We gave ourselves opportunities. We just have to take advantage of the ops (opportunities)."

(On if there's anything that can be done about the playing surface) "I don't know. I don't think it really had an impact on this game."

(On trading for Ja'Lynn Polk) "Ja'Lynn is obviously on injured reserve already. He was already on injured reserve with New England. We were able to acquire him. We are really excited about that. Everyone watched him coming out the draft just last year. It felt like everyone when I was at Philly and our staff here in New Orleans, everyone had great feedback on him and felt like this was a great opportunity for the future to bring a guy in who we all think highly of and add to that room. We feel like we have a ton of depth in that room, certainly for this year. His (acquisition) becomes a factor next year. That will be a different experience there, but we feel like we are adding to a really talented room right now."

(On a fresh start for Polk) "It's the first year in the NFL (last season). I'm not going to overreact to whatever happened in New England. There are some circumstances there. We liked him coming out and are excited for where he's going."

(On the performance of Jonas Sanker) "I thought Jonas did a really good job. I'll, obviously, have to watch the film and evaluate it, but from my standpoint just watching the game, I felt like he made a couple of really sound tackles. I thought he and Justin (Reid) communicated at a really high level on the back end. I feel like we are in a good position with those guys back there."

(On K Blake Grupe's missed field goal) "I'll have to get the feedback on that later. Obviously, we just have to get better. Blake's got too much good going on. He's just got to get better and clean it up."

(On injuries) "Nothing that impacted the game. Everyone finished the game."



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QB SPENCER RATTLER

(On what's standing out to him most) "Yeah, I thought we came out really well in the second half. We got to start fast — missed a touchdown early on with (Chris) Olave, so that was a big play, big moment, got to have that one back. Just starting faster, finding a rhythm, I thought we ran the ball well all day. Man, we're close, though—we're close. These games come down to the wire, and we got to do what winning teams do. That's what Kellen (Moore) was telling us, and I thought our procedure this week was much better because we didn't have as many penalties. We moved the ball well all game, but we just have to start the ball faster those three or four drives, that changes the game. Back to work, but that's what we need to get better at, improve at, is starting faster."

(On the one to Olave and how close it was) "That's such a timing route. The ball has to be out before he even cuts, which it was, just a little bit to the left. I think I had a little bit of pressure. But we make those throws. You got to make those throws. I can make that throw any day."

(On what's causing the slow starts) "I got to look at the tape and see what we did, but our emphasis on this game was stay ahead of the chains because they are going to use up a lot of time offensively on their side, so we got to start well on first down, stay at third and manageable. Those drives, we were at third and long a lot of the time. It's hard to convert on those downs when you're playing with depth at third and long. Stay ahead of the chains, I think that's the key."

(On 49ers fans impacting plays) "No, I just had to be really loud. They travel well. They were loud at one point, but we were loud enough, and I'm happy we didn't have any procedural penalties."

(On the last drive's fumble) "Yeah, you got to have that - fourth down - tried to step up, and I think it was (Nick) Bosa back there, and I slipped a little bit, and they made a good play. Those sting, but you have got to have one on that fourth down. We were confident we were going to drive that ball down, and defense gave us two shots at the end, and you have got to find a way to finish right there."

(On seeming more comfortable in the second half) "We felt comfortable in the first half; we just had to find a rhythm. I liked how we came out aggressive. I wanted to be aggressive today. Hit a nice shot to (Rashid) Shaheed over the top early. Loved the play-calling, loved how aggressive we were. Was there a few spots where maybe I could have dumped it down and been a little more aggressive? Sure, but at the same time, you have got to play your game and take what they give you. I liked how we were aggressive toward our shots today."

(On if San Francisco gave them the looks to be aggressive or if it was an adjustment from the first game against Arizona) “Yeah, they gave us the looks. I mean a little bit of both. We wanted to have more explosive plays this game, and I think we did. But yeah, they gave us the looks for them, hit a few of them, got to find a way to hit more.”

(On Alvin Kamara's play that got reversed) “Such a bang-bang play. That's a tough play. I think it was (Fred) Warner — made a great play on it. That's all I really got to say about that one.”

(On if this surface in particular was giving any trouble) “A little slippery, but you have got to overcome.”

(On if this is his best game here as a Saint) “Yeah, but you want to win at the end of the day. We play this game to win. We play together. We battle every week. We're so close as a team, I think we're doing the right things during the week. Our coaches have us prepared, and we have got to go out there and execute at a high level from start to finish. I think there's growth in all of our games. Got to keep building—it's that simple.”

(On how special it was to go to Juwan (Johnson) after last week's play at the end of game) “He made a big-time catch. They pressured us a little bit right there, and he knew where I was going to go with the ball, and he was ready and made a big-time catch in a big moment. And made some other big plays throughout the game as well. Yeah, he's a baller and got other guys that are making big plays as well, which is awesome.”

(On Juwan starting fast) “He's a team guy. He's a team-first guy. He doesn't care if he has one touch or ten touches; he's going to play the same way every time. He's going to make those big-time plays, and if that's in the block game, in the screen game, or in the pass game, he's going to step up and make those plays.”

(On taking positives from the game) “There is growth, that's the thing. But you want to win at the end of the day. It was a close game again, and all these games come down to the little details. And it seems like all of these games come down to the wire, so we have got to do what winning teams do, on both sides of the ball, and attack those moments when we have them. Like that momentum and convert and make plays to keep us in the game and get us to win these games. I think that's going to be the key going forward— we just got to keep working.”

(On using his legs) “Yeah, I love it. If they want to drop out and leave an open lane, I will take it. And then I love the fourth down call Kellen called with a little RPO. Same with the touchdown to Shaheed. Two great play calls. We executed well, and in moments like that, you have to take over and go get that first down if you have to. That brings a little juice to the team to the crowd, so you have got to do that more.

(On Kelvin Banks Jr.'s demeanor on the field, being tested with Bosa) “He's a dog. For a rookie to go head-to-head with Bosa — one of, if not the best, edge rusher in the league, it's impressive. It's a handful to deal with. I thought we had a good plan, protection-wise. They're going to make some plays. They got some great players on that defense. It's a great scheme, and well-coached as well. But Kelvin is a heck of a player. I wouldn't want another guy out there. He's our guy, him and Tali (Fuaga) on those edges. They did a great job. It's great to see those guys run over after that late hit to know they got your back, and I'll do the same for them.”

(On being 0-2 and how it affects the team mentally) “We see where we’re at. We see how close we are in these games. Like I said earlier, we’ve got to keep harping on those details, keep executing early on so that we don’t have to be in those situations late in the game. A lot of these games are going to come down to the wire, and we’re built for that, and we can go out there and finish these games.”

(On how he’s speaking to his guys at 0-2) “Yeah, it’s not an issue with this team. It’s early in the season. We are two games in. It is a long season. We have got a lot to build on. We’re coming right back to work tomorrow. We’re not flinching. These guys, we’re built for it. We’re not down at all. We know what we can be capable of as a group, and we’re going to go attack.”

LB DEMARIO DAVIS

(On San Francisco starting eight-of-15 on third down, how hard it is to win when that’s happening) “That’s a very important part of the game, is that you want to be able to get off the field on third down, and I think we did a better job of doing that in the second half and want to be able to do that in the first half as well. (We) Got to give them credit. I think Mac Jones threw some really good passes and played really smart, executing the offense. They’re a really challenging offense to stop. They did some good things in the first half, and we were able to stop them in the second half a little bit better.”

(On if he believes this team is close) “Absolutely. We do and have done a lot of good things. I think our offense has put together some really good drives. Defense came out and made some really great stops in the second half. Unbelievable play by Chris Rumph. (A) Really tough system, their offense, to stop. No matter who we have on the field, they can be explosive. So, even when they’re limited on guys, they can dial you up, and were able to hit some. For multiple weeks, we have a shot to win at the end and that’s really what you want, these games are close, we’ve got to find a way. I do like our team being right there and I believe we’ll find a way to get better.”

(On the atmosphere in the Caesars Superdome today) “I mean, I think it’s been that way before; they’re one of those teams that travel really well. I think our fans showed up in an electric way and gave us a competitive advantage. It’s great playing in front of home base and home crowd. They are definitely right there with us. In those crucial situations, it becomes that much more important to win those games at home.”

(On the best ways Davis has seen teams handle 0-2 before) “I don’t think you have to make it any more than it is. These games are about execution. You stay locked in, and you don’t let one game turn into two games. Last year, we started 2-0, and it totally went off the cliff. So you can start 0-2, and it can totally go the other way. That’s the way I like to look at things, is one moment at a time, but always believing that the next move is going to be in your favor. I just live like that, and I believe that this team has the makeup to move in that way.”

(On how he feels mentally and physically) “I feel great. I feel really good. I’ve been blessed to have played this game for 14 years. I know the source of that, and I’m not ashamed. I know where I get my strength from. But I also have an incredible team that’s behind me, and it requires a lot to give your best each and every Sunday. I think in general, this is a very tough sport. And the longer you go, the more challenging it becomes. But I have a phenomenal team that helps me stay spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically ready. I think it requires all of that. My mindset is constantly on, at this point in my career, it’s not just about individual greatness. It’s about collective greatness, and how can I make sure that I’m moving in a way and living in a way and performing in a way and leading in a way that it exudes from me to those around me. And, I think that’s what I’m most excited to see, is the level that

some of the young guys are playing at. I thought Spencer (Rattler) played phenomenal today. We had (Jonas) Sanker, had to come in and step into a major role at safety and he did it at a high level. I think our CBs are coming in and continuing to play at a level that we need. (Carl Granderson) Grando is ferocious, as always. I think that's how I'm trying to move and how I can play in a way that it moves past just myself."

(On Spencer's growth this year vs. at this time last year) "It is unreal. There is something unique and dynamic about him. He can make all the throws. He is very shifty with his feet and (in) being able to keep plays alive. I think he has a unique swagger and confidence about him. I think he can just continue to play with that and let who he is come out the more he puts himself on display, the city as a whole will be pleased with him. I know QB is the most challenging position to play in this league and sometimes people can put pressure on you to look and act a certain way, you just have to be you at the end of the day. And our HC just says 'let it go' and I think a couple times on a couple drives you can see him out there just letting it go. And, it's electrifying. And we need that, we need him to continue to play at a high level, and we'll be all right."

(On the fumble recovery and continuing those opportunities) "Yeah, got to get more. Got to get more. That has to be a part of our culture. I think we do a lot of good things, getting after the QB, being physical in the run game. I think schematically we are doing things that put us in an advantageous position. Getting the ball, I think, is the name of the game in today's football, and we have to be able to do that. I think we're continuing to emphasize it, and I think it was great to be able to get one today, but we have got to get more."

(On early insight into Seattle's game since they have some new offensive pieces) "Still early. We have got to be able to correct his game, and then you put all of your time and energy into the game that's in front of you. So, when that game happens, you have got to look at the past game and what areas of opportunity are in front of you to get better. Whether you win or lose, there's always an opportunity to get better, and at this point in the season, the league is in a race to get better. So we'll do that, finish our process there, and then we'll transition to Seattle, which is playing good football, and they played a really good game against the team we just played the week prior. It's going to be a challenge, going on the road, and we have to get hot really fast— that's no secret. You look forward to the challenge. Look forward to going on the road."

(On if the plan today was to rush less, knowing that Mac Jones was going to be quarterback today) "No, not necessarily. We knew that the likelihood of him running off was very similar to (Brock) Purdy, which he did. I thought he made some unbelievable throws. He looked really good out there. It's no secret — he's a first-round draft pick. I think they did a great job getting a QB who can efficiently run their system. There was not a whole lot of drop off with him stepping into the offense. This is the pros. This is the pros for a reason. The guys that are coming off the bench are very good players, and they can get hot quickly, just like starters, and he did that today. So, we have to give him credit. I think there are some things that we can tighten up and do better. And that's what we got to fix."

(On how quickly frustration can go from locking in to focus on the next opponent) "It's hard to be frustrated when you're doing so many really good things. I think it's disappointing because you understand that this game is about wins and losses. So, it's disappointing any time you don't accomplish a goal, but frustration isn't going to help you when you have so many things you can build upon. I like the way guys are emptying the tank and showing up and preparing. Just tighten up a few things, and it's just finding those one-two score plays. You're right there. The fight is there. The intensity is there."

We're just a play or two away, and we could easily be sitting here 2-0. I think if you lose sight of that, you put yourself in a bad situation. Just keep putting water at the dam, and eventually it'll break, and when it does, it rushes. So, we're looking to move in that kind of direction."

(On being a leader and turning it around) "I am the type of person who embraces whatever situation I am in. Would I choose to be 0-2 if I had the opportunity to be 2-0? No, I think that would just be a foolish statement. But, we are sitting here 0-2, and that is what is in front of us. I just see it as the trial and the test that is in front of me. I am a man of faith, and it says rejoice when you face trials because it produces character. And life will never be about the person who can smile and be up and continue to focus when you're up. It's about what you can do when you're down. That's where it becomes real, and I choose to thrive in those types of moments, because I don't run from it. I face it. I go right into it. And that's where success comes from. Success doesn't come from just winning. It comes from getting knocked down, making the correction, and getting back up, and eventually it breaks— that's what I was talking about, if you continue putting water at the dam, it breaks. And I think we are doing a lot of the right things to be successful. We just have to continue to do those and tighten those screws up and everybody just continuing to find those one and two plays, so if it's two plays per game, we're about four plays from being 2-0 vs 0-2, and we got to keep that perspective. So we'll have that mindset and go back to work and come back stronger."

(On their performance bottling up Christian McCaffrey today) "I think we did some good things in the run game. We knew they were going to try to run it on us. He's a very tough back to stop, just like our guy (Alvin Kamara) is. Just very challenging, and with them being limited at some other positions, we knew they were going to try and put the ball in his hands. And I thought we did a really good job in the run game. I think he made some plays that we'll have to go back and look at and see if we could do a little bit better job, but overall, I think I was pleased with the effort."

WR DEVAUGHN VELE

(On his touchdown catch) "I had to (run) inside. The route wasn't for me to be running inside. Once I saw (he) had the outside leverage, I knew the ball most likely was going to come to me, so I made my opportunity count."

(On if he is still learning the playbook) "Definitely making strides. (There are) still little things that I can fix, X's and O's for the offense, in general. The guys are helping me out in the (meeting) rooms and I am getting extra study time in, so I am just waiting for the opportunities to make when I get them."

(On if he was brought to the team to make plays like he did today) "I don't know. I am just here to run the plays that they give me and contribute where I can."

(On how he feels about his comfort with the playbook) "I definitely feel more comfortable about the playbook. Things are clicking a lot better. Obviously, I am understanding the guys and understanding my role as well. I am trying to fulfill that role that they have for me. I am just happy to be here and I want to contribute to help us get our first win as a team."

DE CAMERON JORDAN

(On the 49ers having success on third downs today) "Yeah, they did what we didn't want them to do. They got the ball out fast. They were able to complete reads. We knew that he (Mac Jones) was going

to get the ball out fast. We've got to be able to tackle in front of the first down marker. (We have to get our) hands up.

(On the defense not being able to have time to make enough plays at the line) "We (defensive line) only had one pass defended from (Bryan) Bresee. We knew that sacks were going to be scarce. We couldn't make him hold the ball. I think that Chris Rumph had a great, possibly game-changing sack/strip (forced) fumble, which I was excited for him. I was like, 'Man, you're (Mac Jones) going to start holding the ball now. He started to speed up his cadence. We have to be able to affect the quarterback. We knew we would have to get him off of the spot. He was able to do what happened in the game to get the ball out fast."

(On the mindset of being 0-2 after losing two close games) "I guess it matters that they were close and within reach. We were never out of it. At the same time, it is a game of inches. You have to be able to figure out how to finish."

(On if he was surprised that Jones was clean in the pocket for much of the game) "No. As fast as he was getting the ball out...we knew that his average time was going to be under three seconds. I think that he met that even faster, which can get frustrating for a defensive line. At the same time, if we can't get there, we have to be able to get our hands up, at least and blur his vision a little bit. We made some plays in the fourth quarter. You saw the affects of that with Bryan Bresee had a pass (breakup) and you saw some things go our way. At the same time, we have to be able to affect the quarterback more."



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPT. 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME 49ERS HEAD COACH KYLE SHANAHAN

(On injuries) “Ben Bartch had an ankle and didn’t return. Juice (Kyle Juszczyk) had a concussion and didn’t return. Siran Neal & Upton Stout were evaluated for concussions and didn’t return.”

(On the win) “It was a big time win. Lots of stuff went real good in the game. Lots of stuff went bad. I thought all three phases...Offense, defense and special teams contributed in the win. I thought it was real cool. Offense finishing in the second quarter with a touchdown. We had that bad turnover to start the third. They went down and scored. Fred’s (Warner) turnover was huge. JJ (Jauan Jennings) capitalizing on that turnover was huge. Those two punts by (Thomas) Morstead at the six and the ten on those last two drives were huge. Everyone had their part in not doing great and everyone also had their part in doing really well.”

(On Mac Jones’ performance) “I though Mac played really well. There were a number of things that we had to change up especially with (George) Kittle out and the stuff we had to do with the other tight ends. We were scrambling there for a little bit trying to figure some things out. He handled the situation well. He took care of the ball real well. Obviously, we would like to have that fumble back. Hopefully, he can get rid of it a little earlier. It didn’t look like anyone was really open though. I think he did a hell of a job.”

(On the play of Luke Farrell and Jake Tonges today) “It was huge just like last week with (George) Kittle going down. They had to be ready for a lot of stuff that they weren’t expecting. Today with Juice going down was huge too. We had to flip their positions a number of times. They do not receive many reps at fullback. Jake had to be ready at fullback and Luke (had) to be ready. Those guys are studs.”

(On two road wins to start the 2025 season) “It is awesome however you do it. We are 2-0. It all counts the same. We had to overcome a number of injuries and we are proud of the guys doing it. It was awesome that Trent (Williams) was able to go today. JJ was able to battle through that game and had big plays. I’m really proud of the guys.

(On having confidence in Mac Jones) “We look at how people are playing us. We had no concerns about Mac going into the game. We have confidence in him.”

(On the time Jones has put in) “It is the way that he approaches every day. Every day he’s on it. He never takes a day off as far as he works on the practice field and how he is in the meetings. He is always grinding. He has been ready since OTA 1.”

(On the fourth down play at the end of the game) “That was awesome. I forgot to mention (Bryce) Huff finishing at the end. I would have loved for us to stay on the field, finish it and run out the clock. We did not do that. We had the huge punt and then Huff finishing it was big time.”

(On the clock situation at the end of the first half) “They messed up the clock. I think they maybe stopped it. We had a big play before that. I think they stopped the clock. We couldn’t figure out what was going on. We waited until they got the clock right.”

(On the amount of fans) “It was so cool. One of my favorite times in my career was in 2019 and how many fans we had here and how loud that game was and seeing them on Bourbon St. We were driving around yesterday and coming back from our walkthrough on the bus and seeing all of the Niner fans walking around. I know our guys travel well, but it seems like we travel here better. The stadium almost seemed 50-50. There were times that we didn’t need to do the silence cadence during the game which was unusual. You could hear our guys at the end.”

(On if he went to Bourbon St. after the 2019 game) “No I didn’t Some people sent me the film.”

(On the pass defense to close out the game) “I thought the drive before with the penalties we had gotten them to third down a number of times. I don’t know the numbers, but I feel like there were three penalties that we gave them first downs on. Maybe two. We have to tighten it up, but it was good enough to win.”

(On if he had flashbacks after Eddy Piniero missed the first extra point) “No. It was good.”

(On the play of Nick Bosa and Bryce Huff as closers) “That is what separates those guys. There are not many people that coaches will call closers. Those are two that are closers. They did an awesome job. Bosa last week on a sack fumble and Huff this week. Two big time plays by those guys.”

(On if Brock Purdy will play next week) “I think there is a chance, but we have to see how the toe goes. It’s very up to debate. We are sort of just taking it a day at a time.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME 49ERS PLAYERS

QB MAC JONES

(On what he wanted to accomplish in today's game) "I've worked a lot on my mindset this offseason. Obviously, when you are having your first start you're going to have a couple nerves, and I've been working through those. I finally got into a rhythm, and I felt like the line did a great job blocking for me and when they do that, I know I can sit in there and let it fly. There are definitely things to clean up, but I'm proud of the guys in defense and special teams. I had a plan coming in, and I'm going to learn from the mistakes I made and fix them. That's all you can do; you got to start somewhere."

(On how he works through nerves) "I think it's just not making it bigger than it is. Sometimes when you have them you fight them, but you can't really do that. You have to let them come and figure out how to work through it. A lot of it is just breathing and slowing down your pulse. I worked on that this offseason and have to continue growing in that area. The guys around me, like Trent (Williams), came up to me and said, 'you're good dude just go out there and hoop.' I said, 'I got you I can go hoop.' Once he said that, I was like alright let's go play ball. That was kind of cool."

(On any standout completions or runs) "Honestly, the first series I felt that I could have done a better job starting and finishing. Everything in between, I felt rhythmic. I know there are going to be things that I missed on tape. I already know. Mick Lombardi did a good job on the sideline, saying 'stay in it' and 'we're going to win this' and he knows me very well. He knows that I can have tunnel vision, focus on my job, and let everything else take care of itself."

(On his thought process behind Jauan Jennings' touchdown) "That's one of Kyle's (Shanahan) favorite plays. We always have it in the game plan. They gave us a different look than what we were thinking, and Jauan just had a drive-by and just caught it. I looked to the left a bit, moved back, and threw it, then he took it to the house. He did a great job playing through some stuff, and I loved everyone's effort and energy out there today."

(On if the same touchdown was a no look pass) "I don't know, I'll have to watch the tape."

(On the drive before the half ended) "We talked about it in our meeting with Kyle. The middle eight is what everyone calls it. Obviously, I came out and did not start very fast, but I felt like the guys did a good job of just having my back. Like 'hey let's double up and see what we can do.' We definitely got a touchdown on that drive and got the rhythm going. Coming out at half, we really wanted to go down there and score. I had a little fumble there and took too long to throw it. It's not on the offensive line, it's my fault. I have got to learn from that and get rid of the ball, try to get a field goal or touchdown on that drive."

(On not having a guaranteed shot being a backup quarterback) "I know I can play well. I know this organization and team has done a really good job trying to get me on track. I got a long way to go, and it is just one game, right? It is good to feel a little bit of confidence again, and I just have to carry that into next week. Like I said, it is one game and if you lose it or win it, it should not matter. Your process should stay the same, and that's what I am going to do."

(On a specific throw or moment where he felt that confidence) "Yeah, we talked about it earlier I don't know if you were in here. I think Trent (Williams) just came up to me and was like 'go hoop dude and go make plays.' I was like 'alright if Trent Williams can say that then I can do it.' That just got me calmed down a bit."

(On balancing being aggressive and staying healthy) "Last week, Brock (Purdy) would run, it was the same thing. I was like 'get down, get down!' Then, Adrian (Martinez) came up to me and was like 'dude you got to get down and stop running like that!' I'm very competitive, and I just saw him

overcommitting and cut back. There are a lot of things I can work on so that I don't have to run the ball and can get it to the guys who can make plays."

(On successful third down conversions) "That's one of the things that I wanted to focus on. First and second down in the NFL, it's tough. You got really good players everywhere. Third down is like the money down, you just have to be locked in. It doesn't matter what happened in the first two plays, you're in the third down for a reason. You just got to try and run the play that's called. I feel like we did a good job of that."

(On his interactions with Brock Purdy today) "It was good. Brock was awesome. He's helped me all week, and he's doing a great job rehabbing. He knows how it is out there, and is like 'you're doing great, keep ripping it.' That's what it's all about, I'm just trying to go out there and help the team out where I can for down the road."

(On the breathing techniques he learned during the offseason) "Yeah, they provide that for our team. It's really cool. I've bought into it and focused on it and done it every day since I've gotten here. I feel like it's helped, and I obviously have to continue with it, learn, and keep doing it."

RB CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY

(On being the third player in NFL history to have 15 rushing touchdowns and 30 receiving touchdowns) "Cool. I did not know that. That's awesome. Thank you."

(On how he would describe the win today) "It is an awesome win. Any time you get a win in the NFL it is awesome. Obviously, we were down a lot of guys and had some adversity come up. Offense, defense, special teams; to close that game out the way that we did was awesome. There's always room for improvement. Overall, the win column being 2-0 right now is awesome. Heading back on that plane will feel much better."

(On what he told Mac Jones this week when he was named the starter) "I did not tell him anything. Mac's played a lot of football games. He's won a lot of games. He has been in that position before. We all had full confidence in him, and he had confidence in us. I love the way he plays. He plays with so much swagger, and he gives it his all. He's so loose on the sideline and a great leader. With a guy like Brock (Purdy) down, and having Mac step up like that was awesome."

DE NICK BOSA

(On if he thought his sack would be enough) "Maybe a little bit but there was a lot of time left and obviously we had to stay and keep our head in it."

(On the fourth down defensive play) "I feel like we saved our best rush for the end, kicked inside and rushed the guard. I saw the ball flailing around; happy for how it ended."

(On how is it being on the road starting the season and starting 2-0) "Huge, big time! We're going home next week and we're excited."

(On his left knee) "It's a little sore. It's been a long game with a lot of power rushes. I'll be good."

(On Bryce Huff's transition to this defense) "He's an in the ground player, he's not an outside backer. He can rush like anybody in the league and we knew that, obviously (Kyle) Shanahan (knew that) and I'm really happy to have him. I'm happy for him and his time in Philly and obviously winning a Super Bowl is great, but I don't think they utilized him great. So it's kind of a resurgence for him and excited to see where it goes."

WR JAUAN JENNINGS

(On the touchdown play) "It was a normal routine play that we run a lot, saw a cover two and in my mind I didn't think I was going to get the ball because the backer dropped and got dipped but Mac (Jones) ripped it. It was a beautiful ball that got into the end zone."

(On Mac's fun personality) "It gives us a lot of energy. He plays with a lot of passion. I think that's what San Francisco made this team about. We come out and we're just firing and ready to go and Mac is a great example of that."

(On his ankle injury) "Pain is pain but we work through it. The training staff took care of me really well and we were able to get back out there and perform like normal."

(On seeing 49ers fans in the crowd) "I love it! Everywhere we go, we see 49ers fans and it turns me up. I can't wait. It kills me if I can't play knowing that we have old faithfuls here and that's what it is about."

LB FRED WARNER

(On thoughts on how Mac Jones and offense was performing) "I'm absolutely dialed in on how the offense was doing. He made such big plays in this game to keep our offense in it and of course it's a group effort on that side - offensive line, skill players who are touching the football. Obviously (we) want that fumble back but all around to put up 26 points, that's going to be winning football for us every week."

(On how big is it for the team to win the first two away games) "It's huge. I can't express how big last week's win was to get us going to be 1-0 in the division and on the road to start the year with a lot of young guys. We knew we had a huge test ahead of us this week, especially with some guys down on the offensive side but that didn't change our preparation in any way. It's just an understanding you have to pack your defense on the road. There was so much to clean up today I was frustrated to let up six in those moments, long drives when we should have been off the field but we love to clean it up after a win."

(On the last defensive drive) "I think the biggest thing in those moments is that nobody has to be Superman, they're the one that has to be Superman in those moments. They are the ones that have to try to chunk us down the field all the way to eventually score a touchdown. It's not a field goal situation, they're trying to get a touchdown, so all the pressure is on them. Let them catch the three-five yard catches, make him play quarterback, he's a young quarterback and we have tons of respect for Spencer Rattler, we've spoke on that before the week but for a young player it's hard for him to really dice a defense as talented as you are; you go all the way down the field and especially without a run game. I think the run game throughout the game allowed them to continue drives and obviously silly penalties kept them in the game also on those drives but we made the plays when we needed them and I'm so happy for Bryce (Huff). It was such a big play at the end and he always finds a way."

WR KENDRICK BOURNE

(On being back in it with the 49ers) "It was quick, shoutout to Hank (Leonard Hankerson) and Drew (Andrew Hayes-Stoker), they really got me ready, a lot of extra time, and so they allowed me to feel good and comfortable, just from the start. And it was fun, so shoutout to those guys."

(On chemistry with Mac Jones) "Yeah absolutely, it's still ironic to be that we are teammates, that connection is there, the trust, the understanding, things like that. Just having his back when he comes my way, just trying to be in the right spots, just glad to be playing with that guy at the end of the day, it definitely helped the transition for me."

(On adjusting to injuries) "Yeah it moves fast, shoutout to the coaching staff they did a great job. Kyle (Shanahan) draws up plays that have multiple personnel, so we are prepared. When we study and review, I have to know some things juice may do, because I am a smaller F size. It just really being ready, so shoutout to Hank, shoutout to assistant coach Drew again, just reviewing with me making sure hey this one might come up, I don't know when it's going to come up, but I have to be prepared in my mind. So shoutout to Kyle, they do a good job of when something does happen, being ready for who's next.

RB BRIAN ROBINSON JR

(On Connor Colby) “He went in there and played his butt off, it’s not hard to ask someone to step up in any given moment. But that just goes to show what type of professional guys are to stay ready and stay prepared for when their moment, their time comes.”

(On staying focus throughout momentum changes) “Just always being aware of who we are, and what we do. It’s never about what other people are doing or what other people think. We know the way we are supposed to think to the way we are supposed to play. And we just got to continue to stay locked into ourselves, not worry about all the outside.”

(On Fred Warner forced fumble) “That was a turning point of the game there, ace of a play by him. We were almost prying on it, because we made a mistake and he went and got the ball back for us. Not only that he just said before we left the locker room, that we got to go take it. That’s exactly what he did, we are so pumped to see him do what he had just said he was going to do.”

WR RICKY PEARSALL

(On confidence of the offense at the end of the game from defensive play) “It gives me a ton of confidence, when I see two minutes on the clock. I’m standing up watching the defense, I have all the confidence in the world in them that they are going to get the stop. I literally just put it out there saying, ‘just watch the pass rush is going to get to them this play’ and that literally just what happened.”

(On offensive gameplan coming out) “I mean I always like coming out throwing the ball, so that was lovely”

(On inconsistencies in the passing game) “I think so (on it getting better). We are going to have some of those things, first time going out there with Mac. But I think we still connected on a lot of good throws, I think Mac did a really good job, he kept his composure. He was talking a lot out there, saying next play lets go. I think that’s really big for Mac to step into that role and excel like he did.”

(On having Jauan Jennings and Bourne in the huddle) “It’s awesome, I loved it, those are energy guys right there they set the tone. It’s really fun we go out to practice, go out to the games, we are just dancing and vibing, having a good time, and going out there and playing freely.”