



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES SUNDAY, JANUARY, 1, 2023 • LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The New Orleans Saints beat the Philadelphia Eagles Sunday, improving to 7-9. Sunday's win marks a three-game winning streak for the Black and Gold. The Saints now have a three-game winning streak in six consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history.
- The Saints snapped a two game losing streak against the Eagles, with Philadelphia now leading the regular season series 18-13 and the Saints leading the postseason series 3-1.
- With Philadelphia dropping to 13-3 in 2022, this is the second straight season New Orleans defeated a team that finished with 13 regular season wins away from the Caesars Superdome. On Sept. 12, 2021, New Orleans defeated Green Bay 38-3 (finished 13-4) in a contest played in Jacksonville, Fl. due to Hurricane Ida.
- New Orleans finished the regular season with a 3-5 record on the road, finishing the slate with two straight victories away from the Caesars Superdome.
- New Orleans improved their record on New Year's Day contests to 2-2 overall, 1-2 on the road.
- Surrendering only ten points, New Orleans has given up 20 or fewer points in seven consecutive games for the first time since an eight game span from 12/16/91-10/11/92.
- New Orleans' six sacks tied the season-high total of six at Pittsburgh on November 13.
- The total net yardage totals between the two teams were split at 313-313 apiece.
- The Saints managed 130 yards rushing while limiting the Eagles to just 67 on the ground. Running back **Alvin Kamara** led way with 16 carries for 74 yards. Tight end **Taysom Hill** added 14 carries for 46 yards and a touchdown.
- The advantage in the ground game helped the Saints win the time of possession battle. New Orleans had the ball for 37:04 compared to 22:56 for Philadelphia.
- The Saints had just three penalties for 20 yards while the eagles had eight for 49 yards.
- The first quarter 15-play, 75 yard touchdown drive of 8:58 was the longest scoring drive of the season for the Saints in both number of plays and time chewed off the clock.
- Defensive end **Cameron Jordan** played in his 191st career regular season game as a Saint, putting him in sole possession of fourth place in club record books ahead of Black and Gold punter Thomas Morstead. Jordan finished with five solo tackles, a season-high three sacks for a loss of 16 yards, one stop for loss, four quarterback hits and one forced fumble.
- Following the three takedowns, Jordan's 115.5 career sacks rank 23<sup>th</sup> all-time in NFL record books, as he passed Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker Rickey Jackson's total of 115 as a Saint and now holds the franchise record for takedowns.

- Jordan's three sacks, bring his tally of multi-sack games to 27 for his career, tying him for first in the club history with Jackson. His six three-sack games also ties him for first in club record books with Jackson.
- The Saints tight end trio of **Taysom Hill**, **Juwan Johnson** and **Adam Trautman** have accounted for 17 touchdowns (rushing and receiving) this season, which is tied for the most in the NFL in 2022 with Kansas City as a group and the second highest total in franchise history from the tight end position. The tight end group is now in a tie with the 2014 Saints in tight end touchdown production.
- Quarterback **Andy Dalton** is now 4-0 against Philadelphia as a starter, including wins as a member of the Cincinnati Bengals (2012, 2016) and Dallas Cowboys (2020).
- With 204 passing yards, **Dalton** has 37,978 career passing yards. He surpassed Boomer Esiason and now sits at 25<sup>th</sup> all time in passing yards.
- Linebacker **Demario Davis**, who led the team with seven tackles (three solo) and one pass defense, now has 1,206 career total stops, ranked third among active players behind Bobby Wagner and Lavonte David. Davis has 101 tackles in 2022, notching his sixth consecutive 100-stop season overall and fifth straight as a Saint. With 101 stops in 2022, Davis became the first Saint to reach the century mark in stops in five consecutive seasons. In his 11-year NFL career, Davis has reached the century mark nine times. In the fourth quarter, Davis stopped Philadelphia quarterback Gardner Minshew for no gain on a fourth and one quarterback sneak attempt at midfield to give the Saints offense the ball back. Both Davis and Minshew prepped at Brandon (Miss.) High School.
- Defensive end **Carl Granderson** received the start and had 1.5 sacks against the Eagles, as part of two stops (one solo), one quarterback hit and two stops for loss. Granderson's 5.5 sacks on the season are a new career high, surpassing his 2020 season of five sacks.
- Linebacker **Kaden Elliss** had 1.5 sacks Sunday as well, as part of a five stop day, including two quarterback hits and three stops for a loss, bringing his takedown total to seven on the season to lead the linebackers.
- Punter **Blake Gillikin** had a career day in Philadelphia with a career-best five of his punts downed inside the 20-yard line. Overall, Gillikin punted six times for 256 yards with a 42.7 gross punting average and a 41.5 net. With 30 inside-the-20 for the season, Gillikin surpassed the franchise record of 29 that he shared with Thomas Morstead (2019) from his first season handling punting duties for the club in 2021.
- Kicker **Wil Lutz** had a perfect Sunday going two-of-two on PATs and two-of-two on field goals. His longest of the day was a 54-yarder. Lutz has made four-of-five field goal attempts of 50 yards or more.
- Cornerback **Marshon Lattimore** returned to action for the first time since October 9 vs. the Seattle Seahawks. Lattimore helped close out the win with a fourth quarter 12-yard interception return for a touchdown. It was New Orleans' first defensive touchdown of the season. It was the first time he returned an interception for a touchdown since his rookie year in 2017. This was Lattimore's second pick of Minshew, having served the signal-caller his first career interception in a Saints win at Jacksonville on Oct. 13, 2019.
- With his rushing touchdown Sunday, Hill has 23 career rushing touchdowns, bringing him into a tie for eighth place with Rueben Mayes and George Rogers.

- Hill has a club-best seven rushing touchdowns in 2022. He needs one more to match his career-high of eight back in 2020. His overall touchdown total of nine, ties the career-best from 2020.
- Rookie wide receiver/return specialist **Rashid Shaheed** led New Orleans in receiving with a career-high six receptions for a team-best 79 yards. Shaheed also returned three punts for 15 yards and one kickoff for 17 yards.
- Linebacker **Andrew Dowell** led New Orleans with two special teams tackles and downed a punt at the Philadelphia 14-yard line in the fourth quarter.



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **New Orleans Saints Head Coach Dennis Allen**

#### **Opening statement:**

"Hell of a win for our team. To come up here against an outstanding football team that we played against today and be able to come out of here with a win. I've been saying that the last few weeks, we have a gritty, tough group and there's a lot of fight in those guys in the locker room and they continue to do that. So really proud of our team, players, coaches, everybody."

#### **On the offense in the first quarter and what the key was to taking the early advantage:**

"Well, I think we executed. There's a lot of talk about [Saints QB] Taysom [Hill]. I think we got Taysom involved early. I think we got Taysom involved late. He was a big part of what we did in terms of helping us win this game. I thought we threw the ball pretty well early in the game. We were good on third down early in the game. It became more and more difficult as the game went on. You're down basically what amounts to three starting offensive linemen against that defensive front so tough deal to do. But I told the guys in there, man, just the way that they finished this thing out, pounding the football there at the end was really impressive to see especially being down three offensive linemen."

#### **On Saints CB Marshon Lattimore being back, not showing any rust and how big the play was:**

"It was huge. Yeah, huge. Man, he did a great job. I think the defensive back coaches made a couple adjustments over there on the sideline, little play that we kind of anticipated we might get. [Saints CB Marshon Lattimore] did a great job of jumping the route and finishing it. That's the other part about it, we've had some opportunities throughout this season and we haven't quite finished like we need to. Yeah, he finished the play, it was huge."

#### **On the first drive of the game and going for it on fourth down:**

"Look, we knew that this was going to be a game, it was going to be hard for us to win the game for us to kick field goals down there. We knew we were going to have to be aggressive in certain areas. And that was an opportunity that we felt like we could be aggressive. Look, the next time we were down there I thought about going for it again on fourth down but we took the points there to make it a two touchdown game and felt like at that time that was the right decision."

#### **On Saints DE Cam Jordan setting the franchise sack record today and what it means to him having been in New Orleans for most of his career:**

"Does that mean I'm a big part of it? [Laughter]. [Saints DE Cam Jordan] won't let me take credit for it, but I'll take a little credit. [Laughter]. No, that's awesome. It's awesome. Cam has been a great ambassador for our organization, for the entire National Football League. He has been a great player and probably an even better person. I couldn't be happier for our guy and it's an awesome accomplishment."

#### **On what he has learned the last five weeks of the season:**

"I don't know that there's something I found out about them. I think I already knew. I've been saying this. I think we've had a tough, gritty group of guys. I know we haven't won as many games as we would've liked, but when you look at all the things this team has been through this year and continue to fight and scratch and claw. We've been in every single game and we found a way to close them out in the last three weeks. So that's been good to see. That's the type of team I think we could be."

#### **On what the determination to win does for the team's culture and identity:**



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

"I just think it shows we're all on the right track. We're not there yet but we're on the right track. We're moving in the right direction. To have success starts with people in your building and I think we've got a lot of the right people in our building."

### **On what it means to still have a shot to make the playoffs:**

"We're still playing for something. I haven't paid much attention to it so I don't even know what happened today. I think our focus really has been to take care of our business. We set out three weeks ago that we wanted to try to go 4-0 and that's all we could really control. We've been able to get three of them and we've got another tough opponent next week and we'll be excited about going home and playing [the Carolina Panthers]."

### **On how tough it was to navigate Saints CB Marshon Lattimore's injury:**

"Well look, yeah, [CB] Marshon [Lattimore] is not the best communicator in the world either. I know you guys have tried to talk to him before. It's been a challenge. But I also know that I've been with Marshon here since 2017 and he's battled through things before. Last year he broke his thumb in the first game of the season, had surgery, and I think he missed a week and was back right after that. It's just good to have him back. I thought he played well today. I'm excited that he's back in the fold."

### **On how they game-planned for their cornerbacks today:**

"Look, we like a lot of what [CB] Alontae's [Taylor] been doing. We like a lot about what [CB] Paulson Adebo's been doing. We like a lot about what [CB] Marshon Lattimore brings. These are good problems to have. We felt like that was the game plan going in. I feel like we played pretty well defensively today. I feel like that kind of worked in our favor today."

### **On their decision not to play OT Trevor Penning after OT Ryan Ramczyk was injured:**

"We've been repping [OT] Trevor [Penning] at the jumbo tight end [spot] for the last three or four weeks. I don't know if it's fair to have him repping in one spot, repping in one spot, repping in one spot and all of a sudden we're just going to throw him out [there]. There could've been a lot of shuffling of the deck that could have potentially been involved in a move like that. We felt like one-for-one plug and play, felt good about [OT] Landon Young. We'll see where we're at next week. We'll see what the plan will be next week. We'll talk about that. We felt like in this game that was the right thing to do."

### **On how tough it was to give up six sacks today:**

"It's a challenge. A challenge. I really felt like after [Saints OT Ryan Ramczyk] went down, well really in the first half, I felt overall we did a pretty good job. It became a little more difficult later in the game. Look, I feel like those guys overall with what they were faced with did a pretty decent job. I think [QB] Andy [Dalton] would tell you this, probably a couple that he might have been able to step up in the pocket and maybe avoid one of them. But look, it was big for those guys to be able to step up and at least give us a chance. That was good to see."



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **Saints QB Andy Dalton**

#### **On how they have battled these last few weeks:**

"I think if you just look at our season, we have had games similar to the last couple, but we haven't been able to finish them. The last several games we had we have been able to find ways to win. I think that's one thing when you look at our season, we are going to look back at several games and say, 'Man if we would have done one or two more things' then the record could look a lot different."

#### **On how big the first drive of the game was:**

"Yeah, I think that's exactly what we did. I think we set the tone early on of what we were going to be today. There are the ebbs and flows of the game, which is natural of how this thing goes but for us to start fast that way, have a long drive, end in a touchdown, I mean that's exactly how you want to start."

#### **On Saints DE Cam Jordan setting the franchise sack record:**

"I have followed [DE] Cam [Jordan] for a long time, just being in the same draft class. It doesn't surprise me that he set the record. Such an unbelievable achievement for a guy that does things the right way and is a great player. I am definitely thankful that I am on the same team as him."

#### **On how Saints DE Cam Jordan brought up the sack record:**

"We knew. He got a game ball at the end. He set the record, as he should. I think he's feeling pretty good today."

#### **On the offensive efficiency in the first half:**

"We were in a great rhythm. I think that's one thing, it felt like we were getting in that huddle, guys were making plays. We were efficient in what we were doing. That allowed to have that long drive. I mean, converting on third down, fourth down, whatever it took. I liked that we were aggressive, going for it and all that kind of stuff. Like I said that's how you want to start a game."

#### **On having Saints CB Marshon Lattimore back:**

"I think everybody was happy [CB] Marshon [Lattimore] was back out there."

#### **On how the offensive line adjusted with three starters out and T Ryan Ramczyk getting hurt:**

"I think it's a testament to those guys. Our group that we have. We have a ton of guys that just step up whenever their number is called. I think it goes from [Offensive Line coach] Doug [Marrone] and [Offensive Line Assistant] Zach [Strief] getting those guys ready to go each week and I don't think we missed a beat out there."

#### **On the offensive line having the next man up mentality:**

"For sure. You know I have got a ton of confidence and faith in those guys and they have proven it each week. A ton of confidence in everybody."

#### **On how proud he is for the run this team has made:**



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

“There is no quit in this team and I think that shows a lot. I think when you look at how you finish a season, there is a lot to say for that and there is a lot you can carry over and you want to be playing your best football at the end of the year and I feel like we are doing that.”

### **New Orleans Saints TE Taysom Hill**

#### **On the offensive advantage in first quarter and how things were going:**

“I mean I felt like everything was clicking. First and second down was really good so we got ourselves in third and manageable situations and had some really big third down conversions but we ran the ball really well in that opening drive. Man, if you can run the ball well it sets everything up. And we kind of saw that early in that game.”

#### **On the fourth down call early in the game, what he saw on that play and if he liked the idea of being aggressive in that situation:**

“Yeah, for sure. Fourth and short there. We talk about this gaining numbers with me and the quarterback. And that was just one of those design runs where let’s get in heavy personnel and we have enough faith and trust in our guys to get us the surge and get us one yard.”

#### **On it being a tough season but having won three in a row and what it says about the team to be finishing strong:**

“I think it’s a reflection of our leadership from the top down. I think if you see some of your leaders, coaches or players, that aren’t giving what you expect or what you are used to seeing I think that can trickle. But I think it’s been the exact opposite. I think you are seeing guys put more into it and saying ‘Hey, the expectation is that we are going to go and put our best foot forward and do everything we can to win every game.’ And we’ve seen that and it’s nice to come out and have some momentum, have some confidence, you know, looking at the future.”

#### **On having trouble finishing games at times but then today being able to run out the clock especially against this defense:**

“Look, I have a lot of respect for that defense, that front seven. But I think that goes to show you how well our guys played up front too. It’s a tough situation to line up and run the ball when you know it’s going to be run and be able to roll off a few first downs and to get on a knee. So man, that is a lot for a team offensively, especially upfront, you know, their confidence.”

#### **On what the difference is between earlier in the season and now with closing out games:**

“I don’t know. It’s hard to give you a really insightful answer just off the top of my head. We had a lot of turnover here in the last few years and I think you’re trying to figure out what is this team’s identity going to be. As you get toward the end of the season, you start to see who we are and what we’re going to do. I think it’s a reflection of really good leaders in the building and guys stepping up and making plans when they have an opportunity to finish games.”

#### **On how he would describe the identity of the team:**

“I think it’s kind of a whatever it takes. I was joking with [Saints TE] Juwan [Johnson], you know Juwan for 3 or 4 plays in a row was kind of coming across the line of scrimmage and having to kick out defensive end that knows he’s coming. It’s that mentality that ‘Hey, you know I’m coming but we’re still going to be successful here.’ I think everybody has accepted their role and embraced it. You see a positive result when that happens.”



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **On how cool it was for Saints DE Cam Jordan to break the franchise sacks record today:**

"It's awesome. He's been my teammate for six years. He's a guy that I really respect. He's a great locker room guy. He's a great leader. We talked about the identity of this team and figuring out who we are. He's one of those guys that's right in the middle of all of it. To see him having the success that he has had and to see him break the record today was pretty cool."

### **Saints DE Cameron Jordan**

#### **On the team's victory today:**

"Yeah. We got a win against a team that hasn't lost a lot. Granted it was against [Eagles QB] Gardner Minshew and not [Eagles QB] Jalen Hurts. You have to play whoever you play. I think that our defensive line was up to the challenge, [Saints DE] Carl Granderson had two sacks, [Saints LB] Kaden [Ellis] had a sack I appreciate him. Our defense showed up and showed out today. There was a crucial 3rd and 1 we needed and got that done. There was a 4th and 1 we got that done. I think our unheralded heroes would be our nose tackles. [Saints DT] Shy Tuttle on that 4th and 1 had a big stop against a Pro Bowl caliber center. It takes a whole team, we talk about [Saints CB] Marshawn [Lattimore] showing up and getting on the field and doing what he does. You love to see it. I've been pressing him for weeks but he's got to be right to play this game. You've got to be mentally acute if you will, to be a part of that DB position and when he's healthy he's one of the best."

#### **On starting off 2023 well:**

"I'm stepping into 2023 with a beautiful fu manchu. It won't be here long, I'm over it. I'm just overly happy to give the lord praise for waking me up this morning and giving me breath and we're well into 2023. What are we 16 hours into 2023? And we had three sacks today, that's a really good way to start 2023. Don't know what tomorrow's going to hold but January 1<sup>st</sup> was a good day."

#### **On what broke free for the team:**

"It was just one of those games that eventually you're going to find where the quarterback wants to escape through the B-gap and I wouldn't say hold the rock because he started wheeling and dealing in the second half. Just one of those games where all the things were working, you know they had offensive lineman missing. Whatever that was we were in sync. We knew going into this game it was going to be our defensive line vs. their defensive line. We were going tit for tat. I was talking to [Eagles DE] Brandon Graham as we're switching out like "hey man just know we're still coming" and he was saying "we're going to get the deal done" but not with my defensive line. I love that friendly banter. You know how stacked their defensive line is, they rush five like I dream of that."

### **Saints CB Marshon Lattimore**

#### **On what he saw from the Eagles that lead to his interception:**

"They've been doing it all game, I just picked up on it and when it came to me I had to get it. I told my team that I owed them for the first half, I owed them that and so I got it done."





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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **On if there was some rust in his first game back:**

"The whole first half I was trying to get the rust off. When the second half came, I got more into it. That's when all of the plays started happening. It felt good to be back."

### **On how hard this season has been not being able to play:**

"It's hard but I know that this comes with it. The NFL is a rough game anyway. You all know it's going to come with it but I just have to get over it anytime I have a situation like this."

## **Eagles Head Coach Nick Sirianni**

### **Q. As you went into the locker room what did say to the guys after the game? (*Sal Paolantonio*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: Our goal from the very beginning has just always been about taking it one day at a time, trying to go 1-0 each day, in attempts to go 1-0 this week. Obviously, it was disappointing what we did today. Coaching, playing, everything.

But next week we'll have a chance to win the division title at home.

### **Q. Why did the offense perform so poorly? (*Jeff McLane*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: I think you have to give credit to that defense. That's a good, well-coached defense with good players. Obviously, we didn't put the players in good enough positions to succeed. We didn't execute well enough.

It's always going to be those two things. I'm going to have to watch the tape and see what's going on, but there was no -- we didn't really have a rhythm going in that first half. I think we had three, three-and-outs, however many three-and-outs there were.

In one of them we got way behind the sticks. When you're not converting on third down, it's hard to convert on the one that was third and forever, but when you're not converting on third down and not getting drives sustained, it's hard to get in a rhythm, and that's exactly what happened when we didn't get a first down.

Why did that happen? Again, it's always going to be coaching, always going to be execution; and then obviously give them credit as well.

### **Q. What's the concern level that you guys aren't playing at your best right now? (*Tim McManus*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: We'll take it one day at a time. We're going to try to get better from this one right here. I don't get too high when we play a really good game; I don't get too low when we play a really bad game. We played a really bad game today offensively.

We'll just have to look and get better from it. Again, I'm not ever going to be somebody that is going to hit a panic button. We're going to double down on the things we think are true and that we know are true, and we're going to get better from this.



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

That's all we can do. I mean, we have to own what we just put out there and get better from it by owning it and correcting the mistakes with great detail.

**Q. How much do you think the bad holding call on G Landon Dickerson affected the Eagles? (*Howard Eskin*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: It's never going to be about one play. Ever. It's never going to be about one guy. It's never going to be about one coach. It's never going to be about one play. [There were] a lot of plays that went into us not winning that football game.

First of all, again, credit to New Orleans. We didn't play our best game. I think that's known. Also, they prevented us from playing our best game.

So, whether I thought that was a hold or wasn't a hold, that doesn't matter, and it's never just one play that defines a game.

**Q. What did you see from QB Gardner Minshew today? (*John McMullen*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: Obviously, he's going to want plays back. We're all going to want plays back, right? I'll have to look at the tape right there. Obviously 23 made a good play on the interception in a critical time on that one.

I'll look at what that really looked like up close. I don't want to comment yet. Obviously, it wasn't Gardner's best game and it wasn't our best game as an offense. Not even close, right?

Gardner is capable of playing better. We're capable of coaching better and we are capable of playing better as an entire unit.

**Q. Any word on DE Josh Sweat? (*Zach Berman*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: I haven't received any update there. Just haven't had a chance to talk about it yet. All I know is he's doing better. [Senior Vice President, Communications] Bob [Lange], do you want to add anything to that?

BOB LANGE: Positively, he's going to be released tonight. So that's a positive thing. If we get anything further than that, we'll let you know.

**Q. Why accept a penalty instead of taking third and six on that first drive? (*Jeff McLane*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: The one that they ended up getting the third and short?

**Q. Third and two. (*Jeff McLane*)**

NICK SIRIANNI: I wanted them to be in a little bit more of a down and distance second and long in attempts to go to third and long; didn't work. When it doesn't work, I have to own that. I understand that.

I'm not beating myself up about that call, but just trying to get them into third and long and see if we could get a stop on second and 12.



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Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

**Q. Do you have any update on QB Jalen Hurts' health since we talked to you Friday and do you think he'll be able to play Sunday? (Eliot Shorr-Parks)**

NICK SIRIANNI: He was close this week. Obviously, we will take it one day at a time. I mean, for me to say right now and today that, yeah, Jalen is playing or, no, he is not playing I don't think is fair to anybody, because so many things can happen in a week.

We're going to have to evaluate and see where he is. Nothing changes in that aspect of it. His health is the No. 1 priority and not putting him in a position that is going to risk his health.

We'll evaluate that as the week goes. Obviously if he's ready to go, he'll play.

**Q. If you do get Jalen Hurts back, what's it going to mean for you guys? (Tim McManus)**

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, I mean, Jalen has been playing obviously really good football the entire year and he's one of our better players. He's a leader of our football team.

Again, we'll see what happens. Obviously, it would be good to have him back just because of the type of person and the type of leader he is.

**Q. If he is medically cleared to play, will Jalen Hurts play? (Sal Paolantonio)**

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, if Jalen is able to go, he'll go.

**Q. On the QB sneak, what went wrong there? (Zach Berman)**

NICK SIRIANNI: I am going to have to see that. There was a mess of bodies in there that is pretty typical on that play. We have been pretty darn successful on that play this year, and it didn't work out on that particular one.

I'm going to have to look at that, because there were just so many guys in the box. But give them credit. They stopped it and they made a play, and we didn't.

**Q. Things had been going great for you most of the season. With Gardner you've had some setbacks. How humbling can the NFL be? (Jeff McLane)**

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, sure, you always -- I mean, you always understand that -- that's why you never want to get too up, and you don't want to get too down.

We're here now. We're 13-3 right now with a chance to go 14-3 next week to win the division. All our goals are in front of us. Any time you lose a game, any time you don't perform the way you think you should perform you're going to be upset and humbled, but that's not a bad thing.

You go back to work, and you get better from it.

**Q. On not having T Lane Johnson, and I think there were six offensive line penalties, how much does what factor in? (John McMullen)**



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

NICK SIRIANNI: I'll have to look at what happened with some of the false starts. We'll have to look at what happened there, if it was a miscommunication or whatnot.

But any time you lose a guy like Lane, obviously same thing we talked about with Jalen, that's the way this game is. We feel like we have good depth, that guys are ready to play. We'll look at the tape and see how they played, but obviously you always are going to miss guys that are the best at their position in the NFL.

That's never an excuse. We have guys that we really believe in. We'll go out there, and whoever needs to play next week will go out there, and we'll try to put them in the best positions to make plays and I'm confident we will.

### **Eagles QB Gardner Minshew**

#### **On the offensive issues today:**

"We just couldn't get rolling. It is one of those things that you try and get that first, first-down and we kept shooting ourselves in the foot and getting in our own way. They are a good defense, too. There is not much room for error when you play a team like that. We didn't do enough to win."

#### **On whether he thought he was holding the ball too long at times that led to some of the sacks:**

"Probably. Our offensive line is a really good offensive line and I probably did hold the ball too much on some of those without watching the film."

#### **On whether they did something differently in the second half when they started to get on a roll:**

"No, it was the same stuff. We just started hitting and guys were getting open and running the ball well. We were protecting and everyone was doing their job. It was little things here and there, a penalty, taking a sack, whatever it was getting in our own way. It is frustrating when games go like that."

#### **On whether the defense did anything different that they did not study for:**

"Not necessarily. They did a good job in coverage. Like we said all week, they are a really good defense and they did a great job today. We just didn't do enough to overcome it."

#### **On whether he was comfortable early with the balance of run versus pass:**

"Yes, I was comfortable for sure. We had a great plan and that wasn't the issue. We didn't execute the way we should have."

#### **On what happened with the interception return for a touchdown:**

"We ran that same play earlier and it was the same coverage and they made a great adjustment to jump the route. I should have seen that leverage when we made the motion. I assumed since it was the same coverage, [Saints CB Marshon Lattimore] was going to play it the same, but he made a great adjustment and made the play to beat us."



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **On why the quarterback sneak did not work today and what he wishes went different:**

"Like six inches. I wish that would have happened. That is tough. I don't know what to do differently on that one."

### **On what opened the play up on the touchdown to Eagles WR A.J. Brown without going deep in the first half:**

"That was part of it. We were not going deep. I think they were sitting on some of our stuff, so it was a good chance to get [Eagles WR] A.J. [Brown] a ball down the field. I wish we could have gotten a couple more to him throughout the game."

### **On what was going on the sidelines after three four-and-outs on the first few drives:**

"It is not panic. We never panic or stress. We believed in the plan and believed in the guys. Just couldn't make it happen."

### **On the difference between last week and this week on the throws:**

"I don't know, man. For that one, I would have to go watch film and get a better understanding."

### **On whether there were significant adjustments made at halftime:**

"No, it was the same plan. We knew going in, it was getting that first down and getting us into that situation where we can go tempo and start moving the ball like that. It just has to get itself going. I finally caught it in the second half a little bit."

### **On whether he took all the reps during the week:**

"Yes."

### **On the big takeaway from today's game:**

"I don't know. I would have to watch film. Shoot, we had chances to win and didn't make them and didn't take them when we had them. That is another one we will have to go figure out."

### **On trying to get one more win:**

"We have everything we have ever wanted still in front of us. It is all right here. We are going into a big game next week and we are excited to get out there. This team doesn't flinch. We have gone through a lot and adversity is hitting us now. That is okay. We are ready for it."

### **On whether they were expecting Saints CB Marshon Lattimore to play:**

"We heard all week that he might be playing."

### **On whether he is expecting Eagles QB Jalen Hurts back next week:**

"I don't know. I am not him or a doctor."

### **On his conversations with Eagles QB Jalen Hurts throughout the game:**

"He has been great. [Eagles QB] Jalen [Hurts] just wants the team to win and he is going to do everything whether it is him out there or me, he is going to help. I couldn't be more grateful or appreciative of having him in the room."



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

### **On whether there is a common theme with the false starts:**

“No. There were three different things on that one drive that happened. That was frustrating and it can’t happen.”

### **On how impactful it was to the team when Eagles DE Josh Sweat went down with an injury:**

“It is hard. A guy you are with every day and you care about goes down, you don’t know what is going on. You obviously care about him and worry about him. It can be any one of us, any play so it is pretty sobering. We are all thinking about him and hoping everything is okay.”

## **Eagles WR A.J. Brown**

### **On the Saints’ interception returned for a touchdown late in the game:**

“It was initially a press [coverage]. I was trying to get [Eagles QB] Gardner’s [Minshew] attention to look up, but he never looked back at me. [Saints CB Marshon Lattimore] actually caught it right out, and he basically doubled me on the play.”

### **On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts missing the last two games:**

“Jalen’s not on the field. We’re not thinking about what he would do or none of that. We’ve got to focus on who’s playing and try to win a game with the people playing.”

### **On any pressure the Eagles might feel to clinch No. 1 seed in the NFC next week:**

“There’s still no pressure. We’ve got to go out and play ball. We’ve got to go out and execute. Today was just unacceptable.”

### **On not clinching the No. 1 seed in the NFC for the second straight week:**

“It’s definitely frustrating. That was definitely a winnable game. We didn’t make enough plays to win the game.”

## **Eagles WR DeVonta Smith**

### **On the offense being unable to find their rhythm today:**

“We just played terrible. That’s that. We didn’t execute. We didn’t go out there and do the things we’re supposed to do. Had small penalties that set us back. Just played bad.”

### **On concerns about the two-game losing streak:**

“You’ve got to find a way to stop the bleeding. Right now we’re not playing our best ball, so we’ve got to find a way to stop all the downpour and things like that, and find a way to get back on track.”

### **On how the team is going to get back on track:**



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## Philadelphia Eagles vs. New Orleans Saints Post-Game Quotes

“Come in everyday and get back to playing fundamental football because right now we’re not playing fundamentals.”

**On how the team is going to respond to facing adversity:**

“Like I said, find a way to stop the bleeding.”

### **Eagles DT Fletcher Cox**

**On sacking Saints QB Andy Dalton 7 times today:**

“I think the biggest record today is we’re thirteen and three and we lost two games in a row. I think all the sack stuff is out of the window. Obviously it’s a compliment for us out front as a defense but I think the biggest stat for today is that we put an L in the L column. We just have to find a way to win, get back to winning. The energy is still the same in the locker room, nobody is panicking. The coaches and players, nobody is in super panic mode. Obviously not the outcome we wanted today but we get to play next week for the division and I think that’s what’s most important right now.”

**On wanting to play next week or get to rest:**

“Oh I’d rather play every week just to stay in rhythm, but obviously it’s always the coach’s decision. We didn’t get the job done today so obviously we have to game plan for the Giants. They’re a really good team that we played a couple weeks ago so they’ll be ready, we’ll be ready and we’ll be playing for a really really important game for us.”

**On today being a missed opportunity:**

“It was a missed opportunity. It’s one of those deals where it didn’t fall our way. You know we made some critical stops and we took too long to get into rhythm as a team. We came out second half and got the crowd back in it and made some plays and obviously ran out of time.”

**On what changed in the second half defensively:**

“Nothing. Everybody just kind of locked in. They kind of hit us with some things they didn’t show but we finally got a beat on it and guys started flying around. But listen, they won the game and that’s the end of it there. We didn’t win, we didn’t get the job done, there’s no excuse about it. It’s hard, really hard to win games in the NFL and we didn’t get it done, so we’re looking forward to strapping up next weekend playing for a division title.

**On DE Brandon Graham recording 10+ sacks this season:**

“I mean it’s so good for BG. We talk about it all the time, obviously we’re locker mates and we always talk about goals and things you want to get done in your career and what’s important. I always told him it’s just going to take time and I get really emotional for him because I know how hard he’s been working and how hard so many people counted him out after coming back from that achilles injury, it’s really big for a guy that’s in his thirteenth season.”



### **Eagles DE Brandon Graham**

**On the message from the team's leadership following the loss:**

"Stay tight and stay together. Nobody said it was going to be easy. People are going to give us their best shot. We know our issues and we know what's up. We have to stay focused on the task at hand, not get too far ahead, and live in the moment. I think we'll be just fine. We have a special team and we just have to go out there and prove it every week. "

**On whether today's loss is humbling:**

"We've been humble about it. I just feel like everyone wants to see the top [team]. I know that for me, when I see the top [team] I want to beat them, so we know that we have a target on our back and people can't wait for us to fail. There's no pressure. You just have to go out there and do your job within your box and make your plays when they come, and have fun doing it. I feel like we came out in the second half and did exactly what we're supposed to do, but we just ran out [of time] at the end. We made some mistakes and they made some plays. We're going to be alright. I'm not panicking at all. We're in the postseason, and let's just get this one win so that we can breathe a little bit and get some guys back [from injury]."

**On the NFC East Division title coming down to the last week of the regular season:**

"There's no pressure. I think you all [media] are going to make the most pressure about it, because at the end of the day if we have to keep rolling, maybe that's okay too. Life has a way of showing you when you look back on it. Sometimes you say, 'I'm happy that didn't happen because if this didn't happen, this wouldn't have happened.' It's just how you look at it. I wanted to get the win today and that's what we were aiming for, but at the end of the day our goal is to get to the postseason, win the division, and go win the championship. I'm just staying in the moment. Let's just take care of this week and we'll talk about the rest [later]."

**On reaching the 10-sack plateau for the first time in his career:**

"It's a great feeling, especially coming off of an achilles [injury]. People didn't think coming off the injury that I would be back doing what I'm doing. It's a credit to just having a one-day-at-a-time mentality and enjoying the whole process. Now that I'm feeling real good, it's just going out there and making plays when they come. I'm just thankful to make history with the team [team single-season sack record]. With the defensive line, we just want to keep pushing and doing what we can to help this team win. It's a great feeling, I'm not going to lie, to finally get over that hump. I thought I was going to be stuck there for a minute."

**On teammate Eagles DT Fletcher Cox getting emotional when he recorded his 10<sup>th</sup> sack of the season:**

"Fletch knows. We talk, and me and Fletch are always in competition. There was one point where we were going back and forth [on the career sack list] with him leading and then me leading in terms of career Eagles sacks. I'm just happy that I finally got double digits and then on top of that, we actually care about each other as a team so it makes it that much more special because you're celebrating with your guys."