



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The New Orleans Saints were victorious against the Carolina Panthers, 20-17, to improve to 4-10 on the season and to complete the series sweep against Carolina. Next up, the Saints face the New York Jets at the Caesars Superdome for a 12 p.m. CT kickoff. The game will be regionally televised on CBS (locally on WWL 4).
- The Saints victory improved New Orleans' overall record (regular + post season) to 34-29 against the Panthers and improved the team's divisional record to 3-2 on the season. The Saints became the first NFC South team with three division wins this season, with the season finale at Atlanta remaining in Week 18.
- The Black and Gold victory over the Panthers gave the Saints a 17-14 edge in games played in New Orleans.
- The victory was the 200th regular season victory by the team at the Caesars Superdome.
- In the second quarter, the Saints went on a 11-play, 95-yard drive that lasted 11 minutes and 22 seconds, capped off by a RB **Devin Neal** four yard rushing touchdown. It was the longest touchdown drive of the season for the club.
- It was the longest drive since an eight-play, 98-yard drive that ended with an eight yard touchdown run by RB **Kendre Miller** at the New York Giants, 12/8/24.
- QB **Tyler Shough** went 24-for-32 for 272 yards with a touchdown pass, zero interceptions and a 110.4 passer rating. He also rushed 8 times for 32 yards. With his 272 passing yards today to increase his season yardage total to 1,484, Shough broke the Saints' rookie single-season passing record of 1,317, set last year by Spencer Ratter.
- Shough engineered an eight-play, 62-yard drive that took 55 seconds, ending with a 47-yard field goal by K **Charlie Smyth**. In it, he completed three-of-four passes for 43 yards and also gained four yards on a rush. With Shough's fourth quarter game-winning drive last week, it is the first time a Saints signal-caller has had fourth quarter/overtime game-winning drives in consecutive contests since Drew Brees in Weeks Five (team had bye in Week Six), Seven and Eight of the 2020 season.
- His 12-yard touchdown pass to WR **Chris Olave** put Shough at six for the season, tying Archie Manning's rookie mark of six, set in 1971.

- With the win today against the Panthers, Shough is the first Saints rookie QB to ever win a start in the Caesars Superdome and the first to win back-to-back starts.
- Neal led the backfield until being ruled out of the game after halftime (hamstring). He carried seven times for 28 yards with one touchdown. He also caught one pass for four yards.
- WRs **Chris Olave** led all receivers in yards and receptions, catching six passes for 85 yards and a touchdown. HE caught a touchdown to tie up the game at 17-17 late in the fourth quarter, and caught four of his six receptions for 63 yards in two minutes and eight seconds.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** assisted in the receiving effort with four receptions for 30 yards. With those four catches, he has now totaled 61 catches on the season, joining Jimmy Graham (2011-14) and Benjamin Watson (2015) as only the third Saints tight end with 60 catches in a season.
- The New Orleans defense surrendered only 281 total net yards including only 154 net yards passing. After giving up 74 yards on 16 carries in the first half, the Saints run defense tightened up, giving up only 53 yards on 15 carries (3.5 avg.) in the second half
- LB **Demario Davis** posted five tackles (four solo). He also played in his 224th career game, tying Pro Football Hall of Famer Derrick Brooks (Class of 2014) for 11th all-time in NFL history among linebackers.
- DE **Chase Young** recorded six total tackles (four solo), one sack and two tackles for loss. His six tackles today is his season-high and ties his previous career-best.
- That sack on Panthers signal-caller Bryce Young was his sixth of the season and his third in the past four games.
- Young, rookie S **Jonas Sanker** and DE **Jonathan Bullard** all led the tackling effort today with six stops each. Bullard had a key fourth down stop of Panthers RB Chuba Hubbard on the Saints 35-yard line early in the fourth quarter.
- Rookie CB **Quincy Riley** led the team with a season-high two pass breakups. Riley also recorded two total tackles (one solo).
- LB **Pete Werner** finished with three solo tackles and one fumble recovery on the game's final play to set a new career-high with three on the season after recording two in 2023.
- LB **Danny Stutsman** continues to shine on special teams, leading the way with a team-best two stops to increase his season total to 13. LB **Isaiah Stalbird** had one to increase his season total to 14.
- Including postseason contests, DE **Cam Jordan** played in his 251st career game, tying PFHOF DE Reggie White and DE Ron McDole for sixth all-time in NFL history among defensive linemen. Jordan finished with three solo tackles.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 146th career game, tying WR Marques Colston for 16th all-time in Saints history.
- Smyth made both of his PAT attempts, a 42-yard field goal and a 47-yard game-winning field goal with two seconds remaining.



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DEC 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS HEAD COACH KELLEN MOORE

Opening comments

“Awesome game. Awesome game of resiliency, the group kind of sticking together. I think it’s a good example of not every game is going to be perfect. There’s going to be highs and lows. For our guys to stick together, that’s a beautiful formula for a comeback win like that. All three phases contributed.”

(On QB Tyler Shough’s poise during the last two drives)

“Just a phenomenal performance. When your best is needed, he showed up. Obviously, he made some big-time plays. From a pass-game perspective on the last couple of drives, I thought our receivers were dialed (in). (Devaughn) Vele goes down, and Kevin (Austin Jr.) pops in there and makes some plays. I thought it was big time.”

(On if he felt more dialed in calling the plays)

“I just felt like our guys executed really well. Positive gains allow you to play with some tempo and some urgency. I thought our guys executed really well in those situations.”

(On QB Tyler Shough during pressure)

“Just his steadiness. His steadiness is really special. I think it’s really important when you play quarterback in this league. There are a lot of hard downs. You’re not going to convert every single one of them. Your ability to go from one to the next and take advantage of the opportunity presented, again, he made some big-time plays.”

(On how Shough is growing in these moments)

“I think just executing at a really high level and understanding the situational aspect. There were a lot of situational plays that came up toward the end of this game. To execute at that high of a level, I thought, credit to him and really the entire offense. Defense with a big-time stop. Obviously, special teams executed, and Charlie (Smyth) finished it off the way that it was.”

(On WR Chris Olave in the fourth quarter)

“Just really steady. I think credit to him. Games take different flows. His ability to stay right in it and be ready to go, opportunities will come their way. It’s kind of a cycle. I thought [Vele] made a bunch of plays early. Then, C.O. kind of came alive. Kevin hopped in there and made some plays. [Mason] Tipton

got some plays called. I thought all of those guys executed really well. I think it shows Tyler is trusting the progression, whoever's open is open and playing to play."

(On how the team has come together over the last two weeks)

"It's just been awesome, resiliency for our guys. Obviously, we are not going to be able to go to the playoffs this year, but we are building something really special and doing it the right way. Every single guy in that locker room, the way they prepare and compete and stay together through every experience - the last two weeks have been an awesome example of these guys."

(On what he saw in K Charlie Smyth throughout the game-winning field goal)

"I did not bother him. I just stayed away from him. He was ready to go. This team has so much confidence in him. I think the juice and energy that provides -the guys have a lot of confidence when he goes out there. The guys are fired up for him. For him to make that kick and execute at that high of a level, the celebration in the locker room, you'll see it with Charlie and the team. This team loves that guy, and it was awesome."

(On the QB sneak in the fourth quarter)

"We felt like it was going to be as tight as it possibly could. We were at a 66-yarder (field goal) at the time. We could take that. It's a long one for Charlie. It felt like five more yards would be huge. We just had to make sure everyone was on the same page and dialed in on that whole operation. It's something we work. Each and every week, we go through these situations. I felt like we needed a couple more yards to put ourselves in an even better position for Charlie."

(On the win at home)

"It's just awesome. I thought the Dome (Caesars Superdome) came to life. Obviously, that was a really cool example of how as that game went on and we caught a little bit of confidence and got a little momentum, I felt like the crowd got into it late in the game. It was awesome. It was an awesome atmosphere for our guys to kind of rally together with. It's a good example of what our team's built."

(On Shough going into the medical tent during the game)

"There was one time where they checked (for a concussion). He was OK. Obviously, he was fine."

(On if he checked in with Shough)

"They communicate well with me, and I knew he was ready to roll."

(On Shough getting hit when sliding)

"Obviously, those are challenging positions for defenders as well, quarterbacks sliding. I thought Tyler did a good job of getting the yards, getting down. Obviously, the penalties occurred, and there was a benefit toward us because of that."

(On DE Chase Young's performance)

“Just effort and resiliency. Not everything is perfect on film. We are going to have plenty of things to correct as a team. I thought for Chase to just keep going for it, keep going for it, keep going for it, eventually he has a big moment late in the game.”

(On the defense’s consistent fourth-and-one stops)

“It’s just incredible. I think it’s confidence-building. A lot of times you get to a fourth-and-one, those are challenging situations. Our team has so much confidence that we are making these stops each and every opportunity we have. It’s obviously been a huge impact on a number of these wins for us.”

(On what constitutes “building it the right way”)

“Just getting the right people and just building this thing around people who are connected like no other. Each and every week, each and every circumstance, no matter what it is. I think that is a credit to our guys. For the last two weeks, to respond coming out of that Atlanta game and coming back and responding the way we have the last two weeks is just credit to the people we have in the locker room and their connection, but also their willingness and effort to get better and take advantage of each opportunity.”

(On playing well in December)

“We talk about December football is really, really important football. Ours is a slightly different path this year, but we have to create habits now that we play meaningful games in December. We create these big-time opportunities for us. These last couple of games are division games, and these are teams we are going to play a couple of times a year for the rest of time. These are meaningful games that will impact the future as well.”

(On having a challenge go in favor of the Saints)

“I finally got one. I felt like it was going to go for a full year. We were close.”

(On the rookies at this point in the year)

“It’s just an awesome class, a bunch of guys who are just getting better with every opportunity. They are playing all their different roles, and I think that’s the beauty of this team. When these guys have opportunities, they’re ready, they’re dialed (in), they have all the confidence in the world, and they’re ready to execute at a high level.”

(On Smyth’s range being at 65 yards)

“We were kind of right around that range there. Those are long field goals, obviously. You can look at the percentages of those. We felt like getting a couple of extra yards was going to be beneficial.”

(On Smyth’s patience)

“I think it’s just a good example of a ton of things—the international program, practice squad development, guys that are continuing to learn at each and every opportunity. It’s a perfect example of what our league loves, and loves to represent is opportunities for people from all across the world now. Charlie’s taking advantage of that.”

(On injury updates)

“We had a few guys who left the game. Obviously, we will get the full update tomorrow with the medical thing with Devin [Neal], Devaughn [Vele], Cesar [Ruiz]. Those three guys obviously weren’t able to come back, so we will get clarification tomorrow.”

(On what he saw from RBs Evan Hull and Audric Estime)

“I thought they took advantage of their opportunities, big time plays in the run game and the pass game with a couple of screens in there. Those guys did an awesome job of getting vertical and getting a bunch of yards out of those. Those were critical.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME

PANTHERS HEAD COACH DAVE CANALES

(Opening statement)

"First and foremost, got to give credit to the Saints, taking advantage of their opportunities and putting together some amazing drives. There is stuff we certainly have to look at and make sure that we [Carolina] sure up. As far as we're concerned, just the penalties. The penalties is really what killed us. We gave up some third and longs and when you do that, you don't give yourself a chance. You know, when you're sitting in first and 20s and those types of things, then the untimeliness of the penalties, you know, the field goal block two offsides, you're giving them [New Orleans] another opportunity. In that fourth and one we end up getting the stop, but still, you know, gives them another shot there. We talk about our play style and about playing smart and finish. That did not show up for us today, and that's something that we certainly have to talk about."

(On if he considered kicking a field goal on that final fourth and one that did not convert)

"With inches to go, I felt confident in our guys. I wanted to give Chuba [Hubbard] the ball on that play, make that first down, and continue that drive right there. So, we made that decision. It didn't work out for us. I couldn't pass up on fourth and inches right there. I trust my guys to get that done. We've been really successful in those situations, but the Saints beat us on that play."

(On the mood in the locker room after letting an opportunity slip to control the NFC South)

"Yeah, there's two things going on. There's a lot of guys who are really disappointed because of the missed opportunity that we had, and at the same time, there's a lot of great leaders in that locker room that understand we got a lot of football in front of us. We have to make sure that we move on quickly. We look at the film and make sure we tidy up the things that we need to and get ready for the next game. And that's really got to be the mentality so that we stay together and finish this thing."

(On the last roughing the passer penalty and the difficulty of making that play)

"Those are difficult plays, but we have to be smarter in those situations. You know, Tyler [Shough] has done a great job running the ball in different situations. We just have to be better about approaching that tackle and making sure that we're not leading with our shoulder, because as he goes down, you're going to end up in that head and neck area. They were good calls. Those are just situations we have to be more aware of when you're facing a mobile quarterback."

(On attributed to the volume of untimely penalties)

"I don't know that. Maybe it's coming off the bye week. The results in not having penalties has been the discipline of how we how we've been playing, and for all those penalties to show up the way that they did today, it's something that we have to attack head on and have conversations about when they happen, how they occurred, and make sure that doesn't happen again."

(On the last offensive drive)

"We were just trying to take advantage of our matchups and the coverages that I was seeing them [New Orleans] roll out there. We didn't get much out of it. Bryce [Young] took a scramble and made a play for us, but I thought they [New Orleans] did a good job of matching it. At the end of the day, whether it's zone or man, it ends up in one-on-one matchups, and we count on our guys to get that done."

(On what worked so well for New Orleans offense)

"We had a few unfortunate misses, but we were attacking the ball the right way. The effort was there, the physicality, the style of play that we're looking for was there, but the execution was not and that's the part that we have to look at and talk to the guys about."

(On his messaging towards the team moving forward)

"Yeah, just get back to work. Trust in our process. It'll lead to good results. Make sure that we look at the things, learned from this, learn from the mistakes that happened throughout this game, so that we can go play our best football because that was not it today."

(On going back home with three games remaining in the regular season)

"We are fortunate to be in this position where we can play Tampa Bay, a division opponent, twice in the last three games. To me, it plays into a great opportunity for us, but it's going to be about the toughness, mental toughness, to be able to move on, focus on the Bucs this week and make sure that we sure up



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DEC 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS PLAYERS

QB TYLER SHOUGH

(On what it means to get a win like this in New Orleans)

"It was huge—for me it was, and just personal for all the guys. Coming back here, I felt like we had played well on the road, but we wanted to show the fans what we could do here just as a team collectively. Just the resiliency. It was a lot of fun. I was proud of everybody throughout the whole game, especially against a really good team, two playoff teams kind of back-to-back. It was just a lot of fun."

(On how he played the last two drives & what was different)

"I think throughout the game we just were not able to sustain some of the stuff and kind of get into on-the-ball scenarios, and they did a good job of mixing things up. But I think in those, we were all on the same page, and we were going to go drive down and score and everybody was clicking. So preparedness and operation field nod was going through my head the whole time. So I was operating, and I was proud of the whole offense, being able to sustain that and get down there. Obviously we'd like to get in the end zone as much as we can, but it was a great, great finish."

(On rising to the occasion)

"Yeah, I just, I felt prepared, you know, I felt prepared with it. And for me, I like being able to just, they know we're throwing it, we're going to throw it, and just go out there and get it. Yeah, (Devaughn) Vele, he had some insane catches. I had to put some better ball placement on him, but he's unbelievable when it comes to just throwing it in his radius. All those guys stepped up. (Chris) Olave, he wasn't getting a lot of action early on, but the way he kind of stepped up—it was unbelievable for him and Kevin (Austin Jr.) and everybody. I was just really proud of him. It's tough whenever you're not getting the ball early on. You have ebbs and flows. It's a tough position, so the resiliency of those guys, the resiliency of the whole line, it was just a great effort."

(On his teammates saying that they are confident in him)

"That's why I play football, really. I think that's why any of us are out there is because when you can make the game simple as far as you're out there playing with your boys and you're out there operating on an every single day basis, that's what's fun to me. It means a lot coming from those guys because I have full trust in them, and we put them in some tough scenarios. They responded time and time again, and I think that's how we can operate as a team when we're playing together and trust each other."

(On the final drive)

"It was laser focus. We worked in that scenario every single day. Our defense knows that play like the back of their hand because they are, like, sick and tired of us. We do so much situational football, and that's a credit to Kellen (Moore) and all the guys and all the coaches. And we got the look that we wanted, and it was everybody on the same page, and it was a great finish."

(On how often they run situational football in practice)

"I would say every week. But, yeah, since training camp, every week, those end-of-game, end-and-a-half scenarios at least once per week."

(On how long the slide, get up, spike play takes)

"Usually you're going for 13 seconds. Cutting off at 12 is a little bit risky. I mean, it can be done, but I knew how to get down. I may have sold a little bit because I know we didn't have any timeouts. So, I mean, it definitely hurt, but I was good. And we had to be in that scenario. We were going to clock it."

(On the last play and Spencer Rattler playing a snap)

"Yeah, I was fine, but we had to do it. And, yeah, just got to be smart, get down earlier. But, yeah, it ended up working out."

(On 'selling it a little bit')

"Yeah. I mean, it was, I don't know how to say any of this, but it was just a great effort. But, yeah, it was."

(On what he went into the tent for the first time)

"I took a knee on that fourth down, right on my hip. They put a pad on it. Yeah, it was definitely hurting, but I knew it was good as long as I could throw and move around. But, yeah, it should be good to go."

(On if they were playing a different defense that he felt he could take advantage of or if he needed to be aggressive)

"A little bit of both. We were obviously going to be aggressive as much as we can. And we knew we had to get chunks. A lot of the stuff earlier on, we were trying to keep the ball moving positively. But in those scenarios, you have to be a little aggressive that way, just with time management-wise and how much time you have on the clock. So it was great play calling by Kellen, great operation by all the guys."

(On the 17-play drive)

"It just builds confidence as an offense and sustainability, because that's what I feel like the Panthers have been really good at, is just possessing the ball. And we knew that we had to do that ourselves. We had to sustain those drives. That's the name of the game in the NFL, really, is you've got to stay on the field. Give your defense that break, and obviously you're operating, you want to drive. So it was a really, really good effort by all the guys, because you get tired down at the end. You've got to mentally train, physically train, but you train for those moments."

(On Kellen Moore's comment about building something and if he feels it in the locker room)

"Yeah, for sure. It feels like week Three within the locker room. It feels like we are gearing up, hitting our track. I think we're just having fun. I think at the same time, we're building something here that we

all want to be here forever, and we're here to stay. So it's a lot of fun being around the guys every single day, but knowing we have to go back to our process. All the results come if we kind of continue what we're doing process-wise and have fun day-to-day."

(On not having Vele or Cesar Ruiz for the game-tying and game-winning drives)

"Yeah, it's tough. I'm not sure on the status of those guys, but obviously, they're huge. They're huge for us because of the plays that they're making, who they are as individuals and people. So hopefully they will be good. But I was really proud of how everybody stepped up in that role. And nobody blinked. Audric (Estime), Evan (Hull), Kevin, all those guys, nobody blinked. They stepped up and made plays."

(On what he's saying to the team when getting the ball back with one minute left)

"One play at a time. Let's go get it. Everybody was on the same page—we're not going to get it back all in one play, but how can we play each play for its own and go get it done? So, I could see it on everybody's face, and I would just constantly talk to them, 'Hey, let's go win this right here. Let's go win this.' This is why you do it. Train, focus, and everybody operated really well."

(On coming out of the injury tent and what he was thinking)

"I just wanted to make sure I could throw, just grab the ball and throw. So, once I did that, I was good. And then once the adrenaline kicks in, you don't feel it until you're off the field."

(On if the coaches checked in with him)

"Yeah, the trainers communicated with the coaches constantly, so they came up to me, and I was just saying, I'm good to go, we're good. So, part of it."

(On his level of confidence in Charlie Smyth when he came off the field)

"100% confidence. We had no doubt—he does that every single day in practice. He had been great throughout the game so far. I know just seeing it on his face, you've got to have a level of cold blood in this to kind of play that position. So, I had full confidence in him. You know, you're waiting to see it go in, but, I think everybody knew what the result was going to be."

(On the touchdown to Olave)

"Yeah, I have full confidence in Chris. That's my guy. That's our guy. He's going to win one-on-one no matter what. If I give him a chance, and, I've got to continue to give him more chances. He made a huge play, a great route, and a great catch. We got the look that we wanted on that, and it was just an unbelievable, unbelievable job. He came up big there."

(On coming back to Olave)

"100%. I told him I'd come right back to him. I'm coming right back to him. I could have put it out there a bit earlier, and outside, so part of that's on me to make it not a bang-bang play. So, I was telling him, 'Hey, man, all the guys, I'm coming right back to you. We're going to get in the end zone.' So, mentally, I think I've seen just him be so sharp, as just that guy, and I was really proud of him and how he responded."

(On what it means to him to show people he can fight through injury, given his past)

"Yeah, it's just part of the game of football, and a lot of the injuries I have are fluke bone breaks that suck timing-wise. So, as I said, it's part of it. You're going to get bumps and bruises. You've got to play through stuff. I understand the narrative at the time, but I think, obviously, it's helped me out more than

anything, mentally, being able to just grind through all that adversity—being able to see a different point of view from that standpoint. So, I think everybody's battling through stuff, and I think that's why you show up every single day to go out there and battle.”

(On what went well on the screen)

“It's just a great play call. You know, he stepped up big there. Just extremely explosive. A great job on the O-line as well. It's not an easy play to get out there in space and make those blocks. So, he just stepped up really big.”

(On the growth from his rookie class)

“I think it's twofold. Just the mental fortitude to understand throughout the season, going through, you know, our own process, having fun each day. It's a long journey from January, training for the draft, going through interviews nonstop into OTAs, and you're kind of just drinking through a fire hose, and you don't really know what you don't know, and I think there's a lot of growth that is necessary through that moment. So, I think all the guys are seeing them flourish with their own process and their own, you know, kind of position, and it's just a credit to the staff, the whole team. We're brothers off the field. It's one of the closest rookie classes and groups I've been a part of, and so I think we're just having fun being around each other.”

(On his comment about it feeling like week Three, and if that has to do with him becoming the starting quarterback)

“I'm just trying to do my job and operate within that realm. It feels that way because I think we're playing off of each other really well, and I think everybody's just having fun—coming to work each day, we're having fun doing it. So, obviously, it's a long season, and we still have a lot of football that has to be played. So, there's just an encouragement of, you know, let's keep going, let's keep it going.”

(On having big performances in the fourth quarter for three straight games, and how that impacts his confidence)

“For me, it is just a reminder of how important the preparation is and just, keep stepping up to the plate, really. We would like to continue to start faster, and how I can facilitate that. But for me, it shows resiliency of our whole offense and our whole team, the special teams, defense. Everybody is on the same page— we are going to grind it out. We are always in this game. So, it is just a whole confidence for the whole team.”

(On if the team's recent success is an example of the team's staying the course)

“Yeah, I think staying the course is the right phrase. Obviously, settling in is a tough thing, because there's so much change throughout the year with different guys. So, I think the message that you try and preach from Ted (Rath), our strength coach, with Kellen, is one— going through your process, which I said before, and then just going for it. So, I think when you have that mindset of, I'm going to step up to the plate, and I'm going to attack each day, and whoever's in, everybody's kind of in that same mode of operation. So, if you can get everybody on the same page and we're here to have fun regardless of the circumstances, we're here to do our job, and then good things can happen.”

DE Chase Young

(On his big sack at the end of the game)

"I believe the tight end was on the ball, so I knew I had a little bit more width. Tried to show speed, and I just converted to power."

(On running down Bryce Young on third down)

"Do not let him do the first down. More so that last play, I was like, okay, he going to run. He has been running. And it was kind of like that the whole game. Sometimes I catch myself high. He go through the big sack. He wasn't dropping too far back in the pocket. It was hard to have been edged at six yards. So it was more so. It just had to be as big to power. And that play—somebody had to make it. You know what I'm saying?"

(On this being the second straight week where the defense gets to play a big role in a close victory)

"We fight. We fight. I give my hats off to our leader, Coach (Brandon) Staley. A hell of a leader. He is always challenging us. He's always talking about controlling what we can control. Great leader—Demario Davis—he keep us on it. Always challenging us every day. You know, we got a real good group. We really feed off each other. We're family. And that's all you can ask for."

(On Kellen Moore's comment about building something here, and if he feels that)

"I do. I do. Like Double D (Demario Davis) said—I think maybe last week or two weeks ago—how you can respond when everything isn't going your way. I feel like if you look at our team, regardless, we never stop fighting. I feel like that's just all you can ask for. I do, man. Tyler Shough—He built. Every week, I can just tell, he's getting more comfortable. He just started to look like that guy. You know what I'm saying?"

(On what goes into him timing the snap so well)

"That's just playing ball. You got it or you don't. You look at a lot of stuff, the hand movement, the guard always tapping, they do the little head nod, all that. But you look at that film, you've got to watch the film to really get that. And as the game goes on, you know, you make mistakes. I jumped a little bit—It was a hair shy, right? But, it happens sometimes. And I'm just glad that God gave me the ability to make that play."

(On how back-to-back wins feel after having a lot of close games)

"Feels good. Feels good. Guess, Coach, he felt like we earned a victory Monday. Haven't had one of those in a little minute. So, it feels good. Feels good."

(On the confidence in Shough, knowing that he can get the job done)

"All power to Shough. He's doing whatever he's doing, and you've got to get him to keep doing it."

(On confidence in Charlie Smyth to make the kick)

"Everybody on the team, we always had confidence in Charlie. He is hitting 60, 70 yards in practice all the time. And Charlie, he was ready for that moment. He is always dialed in in practice. He is really hard on himself. His whole journey, he couldn't make that many mistakes to be able to be where he is, right now. So, hats off to Charlie. He came in clutch."

(On looking at the schedule and the probability of going on a run to end the season on a positive note)

“You know, we're going to take it one day at a time. We're going to go in on Wednesday. We're going to look at this film still. And, I still made a couple of mistakes because no game is perfect. So, that's where we're at right now. We're locked in on what will be day-to-day.”

(On seeing the divisional opponent twice, and causing Bryce Young to stress twice)

“Yeah, it feels good. But hats off to the whole D-line. I mean, we were communicating a lot out there. And Staley, he said before this game, we were going to be on the front four. We were rushing forward. We weren't bringing no blisters. We were going to be on the front four to get nine (Bryce Young) down. We were up and down a little bit throughout the game, but at the end of the day, we got it done—that's all that matters.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DEC. 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

WR CHRIS OLAVE

(On QB Performance)

"It's huge. Having somebody back there that's fearless. He took a great amount of hits today, kept bouncing back in, and getting back up, so that shows a lot as a leader, and it is great for the team. We got to keep up the momentum and keep winning.

(On seven-yard game until the game-tying drive for him that he played such a pivotal part of)

"It was tough. I'm not gonna let my emotions, or anything get in the way of the flow of the game, that's just how the game was going. It wasn't coming my way. ___ was having a huge game until you went down. We were still in the game 17-10 and it was a tough drive: Second down in the red zone. Had a bounce back, made some plays, and somebody had to make a play. I'm glad he kept coming to me. I'm glad we put a drive together to tie the game up and getting the ball back and getting a field goal was huge, so it was a great thing for us.

(On Touchdown play)

"We got the coverage we wanted. We had two players for zone and man. We got the exact thing we wanted, our one on one on one match up for the boundary. We just had to make a play at the end of the day. He was kind of inside leverage, but he still threw the ball and he trusted me to win. He threw a great ball, a great placement. We made the play

(On Message to the team after plays)

"Bouncing back. It's a four quarter game and It's been tough. I don't know how many drops I got this year but for certain, it was a career-high. I'm just trying to bounce back from that dropping, and like I said, somebody had to make a play. I'm glad Tyler trusted in me. O-Line stood up, we had screens and all them doing things, and a lot of people got

hurt. I'm glad for Kevin Austin. Just be ready when the opportunity presents itself, that's what we preach. So I'm glad we did that in the fourth quarter and came back and won.

(On going four-for-four on that game-tying drive)

"It was great and it felt good. Coach (Kellen Moore) called a great play, especially with us, we had a score. We got on the ball with a lot of tempo, just trying to take a couple shots in the two man drill. I'm glad we got in that position. It was tough to be in that position, but we all came together and showed our character, and I'm glad we got the win.

(On Difference in making successful plays)

"Everybody is taking advantage of opportunities. I feel like it been like that all year. We had a lot of close games, especially earlier, and we kept dropping them, and it was just opportunities. Because somebody will miss a player, somebody will do this or do that, and I feel like recently, these past few games, we've been taking advantage of making the play. We know what type of team we are, we got the players, we got everything we need in the building. Those close games, we got to find a way to close it out. In these past two games, we did that."

(On Tyler's Shough's impact on close games)

"Just having that trust and having that trust in us, especially as a quarterback position, like I said, I had that drop, and he kept coming to me the next drive. Just him being fearless back there, taking those hits like I said, it's an NFL league or it's a contact contact League, so I'm glad he was able to get up from that and bounce back and just deliver the ball. I feel like he's doing a great job."

(On The confidence in Charlie Smyth)

"I knew he was going to knock that down, that's my boy right there. He is the most down to earth dude. He deserves the opportunity and to be able to kick the game-winner that is huge for him. I know he's been waiting for his opportunity since he got out here, and like I said, I'm super proud of him and that he delivered in the clutch moment."

(On mood in the locker room after the win)

"Man it feels good winning, it's a great feeling. Kind of shows with everything that we've been lacking, just winning is the number one priority in this business, and it feels like we've been doing that recently as far as in our preparation. That's a great feeling, man, it's one of the best feelings in the world."

(On Reference on the drops)

"Oh yeah, of course. It's kind of like I said, it's been kind of weird, as you're having more drops than usual, but just trying to bounce back. I really wanted to get the ball exact next

play, really, that's my mindset, but I know I don't work like that, I don't let my emotions get in the way of the flow of the game. I'm just trying to attack every play like I'm getting the ball. I'm trying to attack every opportunity and not have those types of drops or not have those types of negative plays, but just keep pushing and bouncing back after that."

(On being open down the sideline play)

"That's how it is, everybody got to execute. Like I said, I just got to keep it pushing. At the end of the day, I'm glad we came out with the win."

K Charlie Smyth

(On what this moment meant to him)

"Yeah, I suppose I am like... they converted, and we thought, you know, they might have had a chance, but I thought our defense did a really good job getting off the field. I think it was 50 seconds left, and we are down inside our 20, and I was like, here we go. Great confidence in the offense, the talent in the offense, they have been clutch these past couple games. So, yeah, look, I'm just delighted to get the opportunity. And look, we've got a great operation here. Like, I never even have to think about the ball being in the right spot because Zach (Wood) and Kai (Kroeger) are so good. It was a good moment, and one I'll never forget."

(On if he was ready to hit it from 66 yards out)

"Yeah, there was, there's a part of me that was like I have got confidence from that range. I have hit a lot of the longer ones in pre-game recently. I suppose when you get in those moments you get more adrenaline. For me, that means I get more power in the kick. So that's the way I like to channel it. You know, 47 we'll take it a little easier. But look, I was ready to hit that one if we needed it as well. It was a good moment. You know, the base and the protection as well today, got really good feedback. So I was just delighted."

(On what he does to stay calm before big moments like this)

"I like being, you know, I like just standing around with Zach and Kai. And then you go back to what you've done before. So I remember my first kick in the preseason last year, it was a game winner. I call it an evidence wall. Any chance we've had, I think the records are pretty good so, just going back to that, you know, the boys did a great job getting us in that position. Yeah, I'm pretty excited right now, to be honest."

(On his job before this being a school teacher)

"Yeah, I graduated as a primary school teacher with Irish language in the summer of 2023 and then started kicking footballs at the start of August. I had signed up to do a Master's at home as well, and some areas in Belfast, but then the kicking footballs kind of got in the way of that. Then, I was told there was a chance to go and kick at the combine in

Indianapolis which I was very much aware of because of how big a fan of the sport I was back home. And, you know, once the NFL was mentioned, I was like, this is what's meant to be. I had a skill in my other sport, to get a football where I could kick the ball pretty far and accurately. I kind of thought I had a good chance to translate it over to the NFL."

(On if he would have anticipated this back then)

"I suppose if 27 months or so ago, you told me I would be playing a game in the NFL, I probably would have laughed at you. I never would have thought I'd have the chance of coming over here and playing sports, even in college or whatever, because I didn't know what way the eligibility system worked. But, you know, just the way things panned out, it's been really a dream scenario. And, you know, like, again, I've been such a fan of sport for so long, and always thought I could kind of do it. And, yeah, look, it was just awesome. I love it here, you know, this city has treated me really well, this organization, everybody you know, to even look at me in the first place when I had no football experience. I'm just so grateful to everybody in this organization that has helped me develop. Look, I think we're going to reap the rewards from that now."

(On how many text messages he has received since the game concluded)

"I don't know, I remember after the Miami game it was probably over 1000 and it was pretty crazy. But, yeah, I haven't really had the chance to look at the phone yet, so that's, yeah, I'd say it's, in my opinion not my top priority, I'm not sure."

(On when he knew the game-winner was good)

"I suppose you feel the contact right, and then you just give a quick glance and see what's going on. I think I've got a habit of looking, seeing if it's good, then sort of turning away. I'm not really in control of my body at that stage, you know, whatever happens, happens. And I think it might have looked at their sideline, and probably shouldn't have done that, but a division opponent, you know, is a big rivalry or whatever. So it was a fun moment for sure."

(On if he's going to frame this moment)

"I don't know what's going to happen, but look, I definitely never forget it anyway. So look, you know for me, I'm still on the practice squad, so I want to be part of this team. I want to play here and I love it here. It nearly feels like home here, obviously in America. I feel like I've got two homes, so it's pretty cool. I'll just do the thing and the rest will take care of itself."

(On his game-winning field goal)

"Yeah, look, it is pretty good. I mean, every kicker in the NFL, I mean, I would like to think most guys in the league would dream of having game winners. And it is a pretty good moment. It's where you feel like you can really help win games for your team. And obviously all the other kicks before that are just as important. But those moments do mean

a lot. And then, I suppose the outside world would say there's a lot of pressure on you, but I like to think I embrace those moments. I know it's gonna be perfect, and it's just up to you to go out and execute everything you've been practicing for the last two years."

(On bouncing back from the missed field goal last week)

"Yeah, and, well, I just looked at it. It was strictly just a technical thing. I watched the film back, and it was great. Actually, this week was alumni week, and we had John Carney in so it was just a perfect week to get working with John and take a look at the film and even analyze some of the makes I've had in practice and games and like, what's the ball doing, and what way am I lined up? You know, just just little, small technical things. And I knew it wasn't like I was nervous in Tampa. It wasn't that. It was just a strictly technical thing, and I think we took a look at the film and made the corrections this week."

(On working with John Carney before)

"Yeah, I've worked with John. I first met John, and I think it was June of (20)24 of last year, just before training camp. And he was really good. And, even just some of the basics, fundamentals, like they are still that make controllable thoughts that I've learned from John. And he's had a great career here as well. I see him up in the banner as part of the Super Bowl winning team. So, yeah he's a part of this place. And it was good. I got to chat to Garrett Hartley yesterday as well. So it's pretty good to get to kick for a team of guests with such star kickers as part of their franchise for this city and this place, and wanting to be here."

(On having this moment in New Orleans)

"Yeah, it was awesome. It is pretty cool here with the Saints fans and cheering like that. I think the crowd got really, really loud today on the third and fourth downs. And look, it definitely helps if this place is rocking. And, it's pretty cool. And it's up to us to give the fans moments like that to celebrate. I came into the city and didn't know much about it when I first came here. It's hot. It's pretty good the night before. I love it, the people are great, you know, everybody is just Saints mad here. I don't think there's too many cities like that in America where the football team is literally the main market of the city. We just want to give this city a winning team, and I would love to be a part of that."

(On still telling Uber drivers he is a tourist)

"Yeah, hopefully. I don't know, it's a good job now I'm driving, so we don't have to, kind of but, I mean, I remember last year just giving them up, making up all the stories and whatever, with my Irish accent in New Orleans, so just trying to, we're just visiting. It's a

pretty good place, good tourist spot, given the whole group an apartment or whatever. And, have a bit of fun there.”

DE CAMERON JORDAN

(On the team building this year and for the future)

“We are fighting each and every day. We are building. We only have three games left. This locker room has been so great. We have been building towards confidence. Confidence is key. There have been plenty of games where we have been within three points, within one possession. If we establish confidence early, that carries over. Now, we see our offense is like, ‘We know we can get some points.’ It’s a great feeling to have. We are building to a better locker room. We are building towards a better team.”

(On the development of Tyler Shough)

“You go look at his tape and there is a reason why he led Louisville to where he did. There is a reason why when he got his turn, he has shown (his ability). He had time to develop. You don’t just create a diamond. A diamond is out of pressure, hard work effort. It’s stuck in the earth. It’s got to be compacted into what it is. It starts off as dirt (or) coal, whatever. It’s got to get (turned) into a diamond. Hopefully, it’s going to be a diamond. He is being molded. He’s developing. In a few games, you have seen how much growth he has shown. That is potential. Let’s go capture it each and every game. Let’s leave nothing unturned...Guys are playing with so much heart. It just hasn’t turned our way (a lot). Now you see that we are winning. All of a sudden, we are winning these close games. That builds confidence. I wish there was another 13 games in the season.”

CB QUINCY RILEY

(On the team improving)

“I don’t want to speak too much for the future, but as we grow together, we move closer. I am glad to be in the (rookie) class with those guys. I think that we have something special going on.”

(On what goes through his mind when the defense makes a stop and allows the Saints’ offense to take over with a chance to win)

“That gives us a good feeling and just trusting our offense, like we got the ball back for y’all. That just brings the team together. Offense (feels) like defense got us, now we know the offense has got us and we just go play together...Win, lose or draw, we just know that we have each other’s back.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME PANTHERS PLAYER QUOTES

QB BRYCE YOUNG

(On where he felt the game slipping away after the third quarter)

"It was just lack of execution. Credit to them, they played well, and we always got to give credit to our opponents. For us, we're a team that prides ourselves on the finish, and we didn't get that done today. It's not going to feel good for 24 hours, but we're going to go back, grow from it, and turn the page."

(On getting through this division-clinching loss right away)

"We just want to go 1-0, that's always the mindset. We'll watch the film and live it for these 24 hours. After that, we just have to turn the page and that's all that matters."

(On his confidence in converting on fourth down)

"Of course, I always have confidence in us and coach has confidence in us. Obviously, it didn't go our way today, but I'm always going to have confidence in this team, in this unit, in this group. At the end of the day, it just comes down to execution."

(On the team's mindset after the loss)

"Yeah, just turn the page. Again, we have 24 hours, and we'll go back tomorrow, and everyone is going to own it. The locker room is full of guys that look in the mirror and want to be better, and we're going to do that. We're going to grow, and after that every week we want to go 1-0 and that won't change. When we're back during the week we'll be 0-0 and do everything we can during the week to focus and give ourselves the best shot."

(On the penalty calls that impacted the game)

"We pride ourselves on playing smart. With a lot of penalty yards, as a leader I take accountability for that. We want to make sure that we're playing clean and playing smart. Whether it's something we can get better at in practice, whatever it may be. Again, I have full faith in everyone, and that's not our style of ball. You got to turn the page, and for me I take on that accountability. We want to play the game, and it is what it is."

LB DJ WONNUM

(On the last two defensive series)

"Really just execution. We got to execute better in those situations. Too many penalties, too many flags. Today, it was just sloppy bomb. So, I mean, the last stretch of the game in the line, we got to execute better."

(On the penalties today)

"I mean, I really, I really don't know. Obviously, it's frustrating having all those penalties. We could have been up. Just got to keep going back to the drawing board. Season not over three games left and still got everything to look forward to."

(On where to go from here)

"We just keep going. It's not the end of the world. We got to get everything we need in front of us. We still got a chance to go and get the vision. We got to go back to work, but to the drawing board and put the work in. It's never been easy for us. And I said we always grinding and got out of the mud."

(On a good win followed by a loss)

"It's just a discipline aspect. We had the week off last week, so it was just sloppy too, kind of so we just got to go back, watch the film, go back to the drawing board and clean up some of the things that get ready to go for Tampa."

LB NIC SCOURTON

(On being able to bounce back from tough situations)

“You know, obviously we never want to be in these situations, you know. But I mean, it's football. I mean, everybody gets paid in the National Football League. So, you know, honestly, I just, I think, you know, we use it, but you know, we don't always want to be not having to bounce back. You know, we want to go dominate these games, because we can win these games. And, yeah, but, I mean, you know, you got to get back to work.”

(On the penalty of the hit on Tyler Shough)

“You know, we can't always dictate what goes on and what calls are being made, but I think, you know, we just got to play smarter. You know, in critical games like that. We can't make those mistakes. We just got to play smarter.”

(On rebounding against Tampa Bay)

“It's football, baby. We get another opportunity to step touch on that step on that grass, so we're excited to see Tampa next week. Hate that we didn't get this one, but it's the NFL baby, we go back to winning.”

S LATHAN RANSOM

(On the late hit call)

“You know, every yard man is in that situation, so he's running the ball. I'm just thinking stop him as fast I can.”

(On what he wishes he did differently)

“Not hit him at all. I mean, I'm just trying to, like you said, every yard matters, so just trying to stop him as fast I can.”

(On where the game got away from them leading)

“Yeah, because, you know, we get on the film see where that happened. I'll have a better answer.”