



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
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NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 • GILLETTE STADIUM
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The New Orleans Saints defeated the New England Patriots 34-0 Sunday.
- With the win, the Saints are now 3-2 overall and 2-1 on the road. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, October 15, when they take on the Houston Texans at NRG Stadium in Houston. Kickoff is at noon central time with the contest regionally televised on FOX (WVUE FOX 8 locally).
- After the win, New Orleans' all-time regular season record against New England is now 6-10 and 5-5 in games played in Gillette Stadium.
- New Orleans outgained New England 304-156. The Saints also allowed the Patriots to convert just 7.7% of their third-down attempts, converting just one of 13 attempts.
- The Saints pitched their first shutout since October 30, 2022, against the Las Vegas Raiders. It was the first time New England has been shut out since October 2, 2016.
- The Saints defense allowed just 76 yards in the first half and gave up just one-of-seven third down attempts.
- New Orleans dominated time of possession, holding the ball for 39:34 compared to just 20:26 for the Patriots.
- QB **Derek Carr** completed 18-of-26 passes for 183 yards and two touchdowns. Carr completed a pass to eight different receivers.
- Carr surpassed Dan Fouts to move into 24th all-time in completions, now standing at 3,839 career completions.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** scored his 73rd career touchdown, breaking a tie with former Saints WR Marques Colston for the most touchdowns in team history. The three-yard score also gave Kamara 50 career rushing touchdowns, joining Mark Ingram as the only Saints to rush for at least 50 scores.
- Kamara finished the game with 22 carries for 80 yards and a touchdown, as well as three receptions for 17 yards.
- RB **Kendre Miller** carried the ball 11 times for 37 yards and added four receptions for 53 yards through the air.
- WR **Chris Olave** scored his first touchdown of 2023 in the second quarter on a five-yard reception. Olave finished the afternoon with two catches for 12 yards and the touchdown on five targets.

- WR **Michael Thomas** led the saints with 65 yards receiving on four catches and seven targets.
- TE **Foster Moreau** scored his first touchdown as a Saint in the fourth quarter, increasing the New Orleans lead to 31-0 on a six-yard score.
- S **Tyrann Mathieu** scored the first touchdown of the game with a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown in the first quarter.
- The touchdown was Mathieu's first pick-six since he had a 34-yard return touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens on September 19, 2021.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** played in his 197th career regular season game Sunday, surpassing K Morten Andersen for second most in Saints history.
- Jordan sacked Patriots quarterback Mac Jones in the second quarter Sunday. Jones became the 46th player Jordan has sacked in his career. Jordan finished the game with two total tackles, the sack and a fumble recovery.
- LB **Pete Werner** grabbed his first career interception in the third quarter off a deflection for New Orleans's third forced turnover of the contest. Werner had three total tackles.
- CB **Alontae Taylor** and LB **Demario Davis** led the Saints with six total tackles apiece.
- K **Blake Grupe** hit a career-long 54-yard field goal in the third quarter. Grupe made all of his kicks Sunday, hitting all four of his extra points and two field goals, both from 50+. Grupe has now started his career hitting 11-of-12 field goal attempts and three field goals from 50 yards or more

**SAINTS HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN
POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8, 2023**

DA: Look, obviously pleased with the win. I think it's probably as complete a game as we've played around here in a while. I thought all three phases of the game came in and did their job and did what we needed to do to win the game. I'm pleased with the win and now we start to turn our attention to next week at Houston.

Q: What are some of the things offensively that kind of stood out?

DA: I think we were able to score points in the red zone. I think that was probably the number one thing. I thought we ran the ball pretty well in the game. So I thought – overall I thought up front, overall, thought we did some good things, and I thought we did a good job of kind of being able to control the line of scrimmage a little bit.

Q: You mentioned last week that offensively everything they did could have been a little bit better, did you feel they answered that challenge?

DA: Yeah, look, the challenge really was for everybody to be better. This wasn't an offense, defense, kicking game deal, this was the New Orleans Saints need to be better. We had to coach better. We had to play better. And I thought everybody, coaches, players, everybody alike, answered the challenge this week.

Q: Did you put an emphasis on being more aggressive early on to set the tone, we're going to go down the field and look different than we did last week?

DA: Yeah, look, I think we wanted to come into the game and be able to run the ball and throw the ball effectively. Really thought we had some opportunities that we could have taken advantage of that we didn't take advantage of. There's still a lot of things we have to clean up. We obviously wanted to be aggressive. We wanted to be able to move the ball and score some points. Ultimately we were able to do that.

Q: What was the atmosphere like in the facility this week?

DA: I thought it was great. I thought our guys knew what we needed to do. I think they understood that the previous performance wasn't good enough. And we knew we had a better team than what we put out there. And I think today we came out and answered the bell.

Q: What did you think of the defense's performance today?

DA: Defensively, I thought we played well. I think third-down defense was really good. I think our ability to be able to get off the field on third down helped us. And then our ability on offense to be able to run the ball, kind of maintain time and possession. I think that got out of whack a little bit in our favor in the game. So I think that was a huge part

of the game. Again, I thought our guys did a pretty good job up front being able to stop the run and also being able to kind of get after the quarterback a little bit.

Q: Talk about the spark from Tyrann Mathieu with that pick-six.

DA: I think that's huge. Being able to take the ball away early in the game like that and create a little momentum on your side, I think our whole team kind of fed off of that and certainly great to see. It's been a while since I can remember that we scored on defense. And so that was a little bit of an emphasis this week to take the ball away and potentially score on defense.

Q: I know Pete Carmichael was pretty adamant about taking on the blame with the offensive struggles. On Friday, he said, "100 percent my fault; I've got to get better." What kind of conversations did you and him have? Not asking for details, but about him wanting to come into this game, be different, get a different outcome, not just on the scoreboard?

DA: Listen, we talk every week, and if you're having struggles in an area – there's very few times you can point in one individual direction and say, "that's the issue." So the challenge this week was for everybody, players and coaches, to show up. And I thought our guys answered the bell and showed up today.

Q: Obviously can get lost in a 34-0 game, but Blake Grupe with the two long kicks, what's your confidence level in him right now?

DA: I think it's extremely high. I think he's kicked the ball exceptionally well for us. I've had zero reservations about having him attempt a long field goal. It was great to see him do that.

Q: Alvin Kamara just walked into the room and he's now the all-time career Saints touchdown leader...

DA: It's pretty good, huh? Yeah.

Q: Can you speak about the overall nature of him?

DA: Look, he's been outstanding for our football team, both in terms of his production on the field and in terms of his leadership in the locker room. I think it's been awesome. There's some plays in the game today that probably don't stand out to the naked eye. And yet you just watch his ability to make guys miss and create plays is pretty awesome. I thought he ran the ball exceptionally hard today. We've been working to get that 73rd touchdown. It's been a while for us to finally get it. So it was good for that to happen.

Q: This is the largest home loss, shutout loss in Patriots franchise history. Could you have seen anything like this coming this week?

DA: Look, our deal this week was just focus on us, focus on what we have to do to be better and then go out and execute our jobs on Sunday in the game. I thought everybody as an organization did a good job of doing that.

Q: Is this what you thought this offense was capable of?

DA: This is what I want our team to look like. And now the challenge is, can you replicate that week in and week out in a tough league that we play in. So I thought we had a great week of practice. I thought our preparation was awesome. I thought our focus was awesome, and I think the results showed.

Q: Is the buy-in level – what are the elements from this game specifically, the two or three things that you wanted to look at?

DA: I think scoring a lot of points and not giving up a lot. I mean, look, I thought we did a good job being efficient offensively. We were able to run the football. We took the ball away, which created some good field position. We played smart football. We still have to eliminate some of the penalties, but overall I thought it was a well-played game.

Q: You emphasized tackling and pass rush in previous games. How do you feel on the progress that you saw today?

DA: I thought it was better. I thought it was better. Obviously I'm going to go back and look at the tape. I'm sure there's going to be some things that I won't be happy about. But overall, I thought overall as a whole team I thought it was better.

Q: You said last week that Derek Carr had to deal with some shoulder soreness toward the end of the game. But this game it seemed like he was still throwing deep, even towards the end. How did he hold up?

DA: I haven't talked to the trainers yet. But I'm assuming he's okay.

Q: That seems like a good thing though if you didn't even have to talk to him about it.

DA: I didn't see anything in the game. It's all good.

Q: We saw Chris Olave getting in some work before the game. Was he dealing with something today?

DA: He had a little bit of a toe prior to the game but made it through fine. We'll see where he's at. But I thought he looked good.

**SAINTS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR
POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8, 2023**

Q: Kind of had to wait on this kind of game five weeks in, but is this is what you envision this offense being like when everything is working?

DC: Like I said at the beginning of the year, we want to be able to go into a game and it doesn't matter who scores, who has the touchdowns, who plays, we just want to play good football and win. And today was the perfect example of what we've been hoping for, right? No one's in here thinking about stats and Pro Bowls and all that. We're thinking about how many wins can we rack up, and can we win the last game of the year? To see us play the way we did today from a whole team aspect makes us feel good for sure.

Q. From the opening drive – you guys had the ball first – there was a different approach for the offense. Seemed like you guys wanted to be aggressive with a couple balls you threw down the field. It didn't end up in the hands of a Saints player, but it was kind of a different mindset this week from what it was last week. Is that a point of emphasis?

DC: It definitely was, absolutely. Because if teams are going to play us a certain way, especially if they're thinking about my shoulder and that things we're trying to do, we had to show them the potential for down-the-field shots were there. And, we were able to hit a couple – not on the first drive, but you throw enough of them, you can hit a couple. We were able to do that today because we had some good looks to do it. And so, as an offense, we still have so many things to correct penalty-wise and so many little details that could have got us an easier field goal or an easier first down or a completion. We've got to clean those things up. And if we can clean those things up and be better next week, we feel like we can keep getting better as a team.

Q. How big was the third-and-11? You hit Michael Thomas for 26 and eventually got that first touchdown. Was that kind of the spark of the game for you guys offensively?

DC: Yeah, I think I don't think our demeanor or mindset changed at any point throughout the day. I thought we came in with a great focus. I felt like that play, obviously it was third-and-long, we don't want to put the defense out there again so quick. And Mike did a great job going across the middle, taking a hit and making a play. He did it a couple times for me today. He even knew it was going to be that type of day. It's just one of those things. He was able to stand in there and make every play that we needed, except for the first one that we talked about.

Q. Earlier this week you said the running game and the defense are the quarterbacks' best friend. Just specifically on that running game today, having that be as effective as it was, how much of that opened things up for you?

DC: Well, then we ran a play action, and they get back under the play action because they come up for the run, then they turn their backs and go for the play action and I check it down for 30 yards.

Q. To Kendre [Miller]?

DC: To Kendre. That's a perfect example of how it all works together. If they come down a little farther, and there's a window for Mike or Chris on that play, I throw it to them. If not, I check it down and if they're playing the run, now they're getting back -- they can't just be one dimensional. So, it all works together, and this is the ultimate team game. And so, if I can do my job, it helps AK [Alvin Kamara]. If AK does his job, it helps us. If the line -- it's all moving and working together, all the time.

Q. How important do you think of a performance this was for Pete [Carmichael] based on what he went through last week?

DC: Again, there's no different thought this week. There's no different feeling. We know what we have in Pete and we believe in him, and I never lied to you all. We think the world of Pete. So, I just know that I've been in tough times, and when you do go out and have a good day, it's always a relief. It's always, like, all right, let's at least get seven days answering nice questions about some things. But, that's this business. He knows that. I know that playing quarterback. The head coaches always know that, right? They've always got to answer questions. It is what it is, but our confidence never changed in Pete, for sure.

Q. Earlier this week you said every time you go against a Bill Belichick defense, it's like mentally exhausting. How are you feeling now?

DC: I'm tired. It is mentally taxing. They do a great job with personnel groupings, putting sub defense, playing base fronts. You've got to get everybody on the same page so we're blocking the right guys. They do a great job of trying to mix those things up, and different pressure looks, not running the ball into those, and making sure they'll hold the disguise until the play clock's at two seconds. And you have to make sure you're right to help the team. Coach Belichick is, like I said before, he's one of, if not the best coach of all time. So, any time you go against him as a quarterback, it's a tough out, it's a tough day. But you try to be efficient and make the best decisions, do your film study during the week, which is a tall task, but I'll be asleep on the plane, probably.

Q. With the red zone conversion today, 3-for-3, how relieving is it that you were able to convert there? Is 3-for-3 okay? I know you said 4-for-4.

DC: I said 4-for-4, and then I'll give you a high-5. Once we go 4-for-4, I'll give you a high-five. I've got to be a man of my word. My yes is my yes. We got three of them. That just helps the defense. If we can get touchdowns when we get down there, it's a big emphasis for us this week. We felt confident, always, in the game plan that, hey, when

we get down there, let's make sure that we execute. And, sometimes, it may be a field goal. But to come away out of a game, especially in this stadium against this scheme with those players, that's an exciting day for sure.

Q. You came into this game with two pretty key injuries on defense with [Matthew] Judon and [Christian] Gonzalez. Did that change how you guys approached the game, or anything like that in terms of going after tendencies, anything like that?

DC: No, but like I've always said, those are two really good players. I haven't played against the young corner, but watching him on film he's very impressive, especially the job he did against Tyreek [Hill] and the things they were asking him to do. And, Judon is one of the best pass rushers in the NFL. Whenever someone gets hurt, it's always hard to replace those guys. But for us, especially when you play Coach Belichick, it doesn't matter what 11 he's throwing out there. He's got something. He's going to try to stop you. It's going to be a tough out, for sure, no matter who is out there.

Q. Kendre Miller, what have you seen of him in terms of progression and trust level?

DC: I just love his mentality when he gets in the huddle. I've been there with some young guys, having to remind them of everything – Make sure you do this, now go fast, trying to remind them to play fast. Kendre is just a football player. You tell him one thing, we break the huddle and I'm, like, make sure on this. He's, like, I got you bro. Boom, I hit him in the flat. He breaks tackles and gets the yards. When you have a young guy like that with that much confidence, you just hope that his confidence just keeps growing, because he'll just keep getting better. He'll play faster and faster and he'll see the cuts faster. He'll play faster. But, he's got a great guy in front of him to learn from, too.

Q. You've talked a couple times in the last month or so about Mike knowing he's going to be in a spot where he might get hit when he's catching the ball. Do you appreciate that in a receiver, just the physicality and knowing that you can throw the ball and he's going to come up with it seven or eight times out of 10?

DC: 100 percent. They brought – we did something today, we didn't even talk about during the week. They went cover zero on one. I saw it versus a certain look. I just looked at Mike and gave him a hand signal. We didn't even talk about it. But, through our communication, our growth together and our relationship, there's certain things I just say, hey, be ready all the time if this, and he's, like, yeah, I like this route. And, they gave us a blitz. They're bringing one free for me, and he's got to stand in there and take a hit. And, I've got to stand in there. That's football sometimes. And, to see us complete that, him take that hit, hang on to the ball and pick up really a big first down for us in that moment -- they're all big, but just the way that that happened, I thought that was a big play in the game. And it shows the rest of the team that 13 will do whatever it takes to win.

Q. That was a third down in the fourth quarter, right?

DC: Yep. I thought it was the third quarter.

Q. It might have been. How has your relationship with him kind of grown even in the season? It seems like it took you guys a bit to continue to build on.

DC: It's growing. I love Mike. And, one thing about him is his communication is so great during the games. Him and I can't grow and do that in training camp. We can't grow and do it in OTAs. You have to play real football games. You have to get on the same page when it's live bullets. I'm not even saying preseason. It's got to be regular season games where teams are really game planning and scheming to do things. For us to be on the same page to communicate about some things and hit those, we communicate about one thing. We asked Pete, hey, we like this play. He's like, okay, boom. We go into a drive second play or first play, he calls it. We hit it. That not only builds our relationship, but it builds the relationship with the coaching staff and the trust. And the trust has grown for everybody. But, you can only do that with real games. And to do it in a hostile place like this against a good defense is always fun.

Q. What did you see on the touchdown to Foster?

DC: Without getting too schematic, it was just a good look for the play. And, it was a great design by Pete. Pete puts the players into good position, and Foster and the offensive line made an amazing effort to get into the end zone. I thought that was a big drive for us. To go down there -- we're winning the game, but to go down there, punch it in and get another touchdown -- and it's not even about the Patriots. It was about us and in that moment for us to punch it in, build that confidence -- I thought it was great.

Alvin Kamara, RB

(On how it felt to set the Saints all-time touchdown record)

"I hate to sound boring about it, but I just wanted to win. It feels good. I'm happy because my teammates were so hyped about it. I'm in a blessed position because it's like my teammates almost wanted it more for me."

(On how the running game helped the team in the red zone today)

"We talked about it during the week. When we can run the ball efficiently, it just opens everything up. We were collaborating today. We have too many playmakers to be a bad offense and I think today was a good example of what we can do when we are collaborating."

(On if today's game was closer to the standard they can play at)

“In the seven years I’ve been here, offensively, we are used to operating at a certain level of efficiency and effort where we could score at will. When you can do that in this offense and limit the self-inflicted mistakes and penalties, the possibilities are endless. With the playmakers we have, there is enough for everybody. And as a team, when the defense is doing what they are doing, it can get ugly. It’s a great feeling to go out there and put that on display.”

(On what is what like last week after the loss)

“It was another work week. A win or a loss, the losses hurt, but it’s the same thing. You have to have a short memory in this profession. You never want to lose, but sometimes it’s easy to get stuck in that lull and worrying about what we are going to do, instead of saying, ‘ok, we lost, let’s flip the page and keep going forward and doing what we have to do in practice to put our best foot forward at the next game.’”

Michael Thomas, WR

(On his confidence going into each play)

“My love for the game, having a sense of urgency, knowing that my teammates need me and accountability. When I get an assignment, I know I have to get out there and execute it to make sure the play happens.”

(On how important it was for the offense to get back on track)

“Very important. Every week it’s going to be really important for us to play like we played today and keep building to play complementary football and do the things that we are capable of doing. This is just one game, and we will enjoy, but we know we have to get back to work and keep finding ways to get better, pay attention to details and execute and I know we’ll have fun days like today.”

(On the importance of collaboration between offensive players and coaches)

“Just that sense of urgency and communication. Everything we did today, I think it benefitted us in the right way. We tasted it and we want more.”

(On what he said to Coach Dennis Allen during shared moment after the game)

“I just congratulated him on the victory. He coaches us hard and I know how much he wants to win. He does so many great things. As our head coach, you of course want to see him win, so to be able to shake his hand after a performance like that, hats off to him. You have to give him credit where credit is due. He did a great job today for us and I was proud of him. That is ultimately what we want to do every week so just to be able to do that, he did a tremendous job today.”

Tyrann Mathieu, S

(On his pick-six)

“It feels better when we win. You can make those kind of plays earlier in the game and it doesn’t necessarily help the team win. I’d probably say it feels better to win games. I just saw the ball in the air. I think the d-line was hunting all day. Any time you see a ball in the air and no one around it, you just try to get under it and really just secure the catch.”

(On taking away the run game)

“We’ve got a really good defense. I think when we are playing well at all three levels I think it only compliments all of us. When we can stop the run, guys in the secondary show their ability. Guys like Cam [Jordan], Grando [Carl Granderson] and [Bryan] Bresee show they can get the quarterback. Vice versa. If we are covering well, those guys can pin their ears back and hunt the quarterback. We just try to play complementary level ball all three levels that way and all of us can get a taste of that success.”

(On the game)

“You never want to lose two games in a row. I think as players you got to take that accountability and responsibility. I think throughout the week guys showed up doing a little bit extra, watching a little bit more film. Because you don’t ever want to lose three games in a row. Not in this league. We all understand it is still kind of early in the season and we have a lot of ball left to play. You just kind of want to put your best stuff on tape. I thought coming into this game with this coaching staff, a team that it doesn’t matter what’s going on, they have always been a well-coached football team and this is a great environment to play in. We knew coming to this week was going to be another challenge for us. I thought we did what we were supposed to do as far as start fast and finishing strong.”

Cameron Jordan, DE

(On the dominant performance)

“I always expect this type of performance, we’re always striving for a perfect played game in all three phases each and every week. At some point I’m sure reporters and fans are like, ‘when are those going to be played?’ It seems like this week we played a close to perfect game and there were still plays we could have made. We’re just going to continue working on our craft and try to get better each and every week.”

(On Bill Belichick calling him one of the hardest workers in the league)

"I appreciate that. Before the game you try to tune out everything. We just lost the previous week. I'm just trying to get us a W in the win column, whatever gets us there. It has been a great part of my career to turn the page after 24 hours and look towards the next week. So the moment we got to the Monday after the loss, I'm gung-ho on zoning in on Mac Jones and his offense, and Bill Belichick, who you know is one of the most phenomenal coaches you're ever going to see, a legendary Hall of Fame coach. So if he said anything positive about me, great, I have to go earn it."

Tanoh Kpassagnon, DE

(On the play of the defense, and if this was the best defensive performance he has been a part of)

"Dominant. Yeah, man. If I'm out there, I'm going to be dominant. That's it. Yeah, definitely one of them. I think a year or two ago we had another almost donut, or donut. It started from the first snap. I felt like we came out there ready to play."

(On moving forward)

"We came and got a major step forward and it's good to enjoy this win. But we have to keep taking steps forward and not look back. It's a party every win. You have to enjoy every win. It's hard to come by. Just to go out there and do what we did, it's exciting."

Ugo Amadi, S

(On the defense)

"We came with a chip on our shoulder to bounce back from last week. Not just the defense, all phases. We showed in this game what we are capable of doing each and every Sunday. That's what happens when all phases come together, especially on defense. You got the pass rush and the coverage on the back end playing together tight as one unit."

(On moving forward)

"We will stay even keeled. We will go back to work next week and get ready for another good opponent that you can't sleep on. We need to keep doing what we're doing. We don't have to be perfect, we just have to do our job."

(On the shut-out)

"This is my first time even being a part of something like that, leaving a goose egg on the scoreboard. It goes to show that not just the starters but the guys behind them are ready to go to. There was no drop off."

Malcolm Roach, DL

(On the game)

“We were just prepared, because we were locked into the little details, We knew we had to come to work and we knew that the offense was going to come out and we needed to give our best shot. We prepared and executed the game plan. We got after the quarterback and got some turnovers early and were able to put together a full game.”

(On the frustration of losing last week)

“We’ve got to always focus on doing the little things. Not doing the little things will create big problems for you. Locking in on the little things and just being together and making sure this locker room is not going one way or the other way, and just staying together. At the end of the day, we all have one common goal, and today we accomplished it.”

(On Tyrann Mathieu’s interception)

“Ah, there was a lot of juice right there, when T – T [Tyrann Mathieu] you know is just a ball hawk, and he has been doing it forever. When he’s able to get his hands on the ball, we know it’s a possibility he’s going to the crib with it, like he did today.”

(On the offense staying locked in the entire game)

“I don’t know what all they did. From what I can speak of, I know our scout team for the defensive line did a great job of preparing them this week. They did a great job of giving them the right looks, guys like Jack Heflin, Kyle Phillips and those guys, Niko Lalos, they do a great job on the defensive line getting those boys ready for what’s coming this week.”

**PATRIOTS HEAD COACH BILL BELICHICK
POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE
October 8, 2023**

Q: Coach, with so many things going wrong, where do you start? Where do you prioritize facing the problems?

BB: Obviously it was a poor performance today here. So just plain and simply, we've got to find a way to play and coach better than that. So that's what we are going to do, start all over and get back on a better track than we're on right now. Slow start. And then just couldn't ever really get the game under control.

Q: What went into the decision to sit down Mac there in the later stage of the game?

BB: We were down 31-nothing at the end of third quarter.

Q: Is he still your quarterback going forward?

BB: Yeah, there was a lot of problems. It certainly wasn't all him.

Q: When so many things go wrong, where do you start? Where do you prioritize fixing the problems?

BB: It's what I just said. Start over again.

Q: There was a fourth-and-3 situation where you punted. I think you were on the Saints 40-yard line. Was there any thought of going for it in that situation?

BB: Until we're better on third and fourth down, I don't think so.

Q: You mentioned the slow start. What has been contributing to those for you guys over the course of the season here?

BB: Turnovers. Turnovers and touchdowns.

Q: How can you remedy it?

BB: Can't keep doing it.

Q: How concerned are you that your message isn't getting through to the players?

BB: We'll keep working on it.

Q: How strongly do you have to consider changes personnel-wise?

BB: We'll do what we think is best.

Q: How concerned are you about players losing confidence after the last two weeks? And what as a coach can you do to help them in that situation or that area?

BB: Play the best players we can. Coach the best we can. We need to do better than that.

Q: Is there any new message to the team after these two losses?

BB: We'll deal with that this week.

Q: We've seen Chad Ryland hit only 50 percent of the kicks. Is there any pattern with some of the misses that he's had?

BB: We all need to do a better job. It's everybody, offense, defense, special teams, players, coaches. We've just got to do a better job than we're doing, includes everybody.

Q: The team has obviously had good practices. You've talked about messaging, working with the guys. What's the disconnect between the messaging and preparation and execution at this point?

BB: Got to play and coach better on Sunday. It's obvious.

Q: You said you guys need to start over. Have you ever had to do that before five games into the season, just for reference? Is it something new?

BB: Yeah, I've done it before.

Q: What does that entail, starting over?

BB: Starting over.

Q: How would you describe your satisfaction level with the team's effort?

BB: I said we've got to do a better job all across the board. It's not good enough.

**PATRIOTS QUARTERBACK MAC JONES
POSTGAME PRESS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 8, 2023**

Q: When you have a bad day, bad day last week, where do you start to refocus yourself to just leave that behind you and get back on the horse?

MJ: Yeah, just got to look at the film and get better and got to do a lot of things better to win in this league.

Q: Hey, Mac, it's been a few games since you guys have found the end zone. Does it feel like it's getting worse or where do you think it's going and heading?

MJ: For us, just, like I said, we've got to do better in all three phases. Definitely the offense not putting up any points. Got to improve in all areas. And, you know, it's hard, right, we don't want to score zero points. It's not the goal.

Q: Mac, on the interception, I know you've been talking about trying to avoid the turnovers. What did you see on the play that led to that?

MJ: It was just early. I've got to watch the film. But definitely don't want to start like that and we got to start faster in these games. It's been a trend here. So we want to improve and try and learn from it and do everything I can to get better.

Q: Hey, Mac, I was just wondering if you had any words for Bailey Zappe before he went in today.

MJ: Yeah, definitely not an ideal situation for anybody. And as an offense, the goal is to play better and put up points. So we all have to do that and got to practice that way and do things differently and figure out how to put up points.

Q: Mac, how do you stay confident after a couple weeks in a row like this?

MJ: Yeah, it's definitely hard, right, but confidence comes from years of experience and practice and things that you accomplish, but also trying to get better and learn from everything. So definitely need to be better as an offense and I really feel like we need to take on the challenge and do what we can to be better.

Q: Mac, with the results being what they are and you finishing two straight weeks ending the game on the bench, do you start to feel like you're playing to keep your job?

MJ: Like I said earlier, just trying to do better as an offense. You know, we didn't score any points. So that's the important part, is scoring points and executing your job. And I try to just execute my job.

Q: Mac, do you feel sped up or focused on the rush a little bit more than usual than the last couple games?

MJ: I don't know, I'll have to watch the film. But, I mean, it's the NFL. They got good defensive linemen that are coming every play and they're trying to hit the quarterback. So I've got to do a better job. But as an offense, just got to, you know, rethink things and really just focus on what we control and that's scoring more points.

Q: Mac, you guys have had slow starts really all year. What can you put your finger on offensively that has help lead to some of those slow starts?

MJ: Really, just not being ready to go, I guess. I mean, as an offense, you want to go out there, you've practiced all week and you feel confident so definitely want to get improvement on that. And not any of these games are not starting off very hot, so we've just got to improve.

Q: Mac, obviously, the crowd got on you guys today. Is it difficult to stay focused and execute when that's going on?

MJ: Not really. I think, obviously, it wasn't very good and everyone's frustrated and we have to do things differently and better to put out a better product, really. So everyone's frustrated. Of course, we're frustrated. And at the end of the day, you just have to turn that into action. So got to work hard and try and fix this.

Hunter Henry, TE

(On how he would describe the game)

“Just not good enough. I can talk about our side of the ball – we had three turnovers again, one of them to score, two of them were basically scores, putting them in the red zone. Can't play like that. It's just not good enough, not good enough at all.”

(On where the team goes from here)

“Just go back to work, man. That's really what it's all about. It's just not good enough at any level. It's not how we want to play football, it's not how we want to do things. So we've just got to be better. I don't know if I have all the answers for you right now, to be honest with you, but we have to find those answers very, very fast.”

(On if the team needs to do something different in the way they're working or what they're working on to have the result be different)

“I don't know the perfect answer for that. Personally, for me, I'm just going to strive to be the best leader, best player – I need to be better for the team and I'm kind of looking at

myself in the mirror and I think every guy in that locker room will continue to do that. I don't know if different work or whatever it is, but I mean, obviously something needs to be different. We've got to do things a little differently and that starts on our side of the ball. We've got to do a lot more and be more successful."

David Andrews, C

(On what unfolded)

"Yeah, I don't know. I mean, it wasn't good enough. Turnovers and kind of the same old story."

(On moving forward to turn things around)

"I think you've got to go back to – starting over, right? Go back to the fundamentals and keep it in the simplest form. It's tough. We put a lot into it each week, and to go out there and not put your best foot forward on Sunday is tough. We've got to come in and get back to work. That's really all I know to do. We can't lay down, can't quit. It's a long year. We're going to come back in and go back to work. That's all I know to do."

(On Riley Reiff coming back)

"I appreciate Riley's effort getting back out there. We've just got to find some continuity. Moving people around, we've really just got to get a set group, work together and play. But I appreciate his effort and his toughness coming back from his injury."

(On if there was a message in the locker room)

"Look, I think the biggest thing is, let's just start over. Come back to work. Like I said, I don't know anything else to do but come back to work, work hard, push, pry and do everything I can to try to put our best performance out there Sunday. That's what I'm going to try to do this week, and I think we've got a lot of people in the locker room that are going to try to do that."

(On his level of concern with repeated mistakes)

"Look, like I said, there's nothing I can do standing up here to change what happened out there today. I had my chance; we had our chance. The only opportunity we've got now is tomorrow, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday to try to correct it, go out there Sunday and like I said, put our best foot forward, put our best game out there this Sunday."

(On belief in Mac Jones)

"I've got belief in everybody. I've got belief that if they're on this football team, they're here for a reason, right? Including myself, including everybody in that locker room,

right? We're all here for a reason; we're all here for a purpose. We've just got to go out there and do a better job as a football team overall. We've got to do a better job helping him. Everybody has got to do a better job.”

Deatrich Wise Jr., DL

(On what the message is to the locker room)

“As hard as it may be, we have to keep moving forward. We have to put this behind us, learn from it, correct the mistakes that we made out there. Keep moving forward, keep everybody’s heads in it and remind everybody that we’re still a family and we have a long season to go.”

(On what gives him confidence the team will turn it around)

“We’re still a great team. We just have got to keep working on a few small things. I know I keep saying that, but I believe in our team. I believe in our offense. I believe in our defense and our special teams. We have a lot of great guys who are mentally strong and motivated to keep improving.”

(On getting behind early)

“That’s something I have to look on film to see where it’s at, honestly. Our mindset on starting games is starting fast. I speak for myself and the people on the defense, and our job is to create three-and-outs, start fast and finish strong. That’s what we aim for every game.”

J.C. Jackson, CB

(On being back in New England)

“It feels like home. Feels like home. Familiar faces. Just feels like home. Good to be home, I feel appreciated here. I’m excited to be back.”

(On playing this week after coming in so abruptly)

“It was an easy stretch. Like I’ve said, I’ve played here before and kind of know what’s going on. I played a little bit today and I feel good.”

(On how much of a whirlwind this week was for him)

“It happened so fast, the trade and everything. I didn’t know it until the day before. I landed in Foxborough and got here ready to work.”

(On his reaction to the trade)

“I couldn’t believe it. I couldn’t believe it. But I was happy and that’s the key. You want to be happy. You want to be happy with what you’re doing, and this place has my heart.”

(On the process of reacclimating to New England)

“It’s nothing, it’s easy. It’s like a second nature. Get out there and do what I love to do and this is my defense. This is the defense that I started with and made me who I am. So coming back here is just going back and I’m back. I’m back.”

(On how the game today went)

“We lost. Just got to step back and get ready for next week. I mean that was a tough loss, I’ve never lost like that here but we want to get back to work.”

Bailey Zappe, QB

(On coming into the game in the second half)

“Yeah, just trying to do my job. Complete footballs, seeing coverages, making my reads. I missed a few throws, so going into this week – I missed Hunter [Henry] and KB [Kendrick Bourne], so that’s something I’ll do extra this week, trying to get with those guys and try to get on the same page with them. It all comes down to trying to execute.”

(On being ready to play)

“In the name of my position, number two, you always have to be ready, no matter what. It could be the first play of the game, it could be the last play of the game. I’m always ready, I’m the two, so that’s my mindset.”

(On the offensive struggles)

“We’ll get back and look at the film from this week, but ball security is something that we preach here 24/7. That’s the number one thing, so I think that is the biggest thing that once we look back at the last five weeks, look back at this game, and getting back here tomorrow the coaches will talk about ball security.”

Ezekiel Elliot, RB

(On where things went wrong this afternoon)

“I think number one, just not taking care of the football. It’s tough to win a football game with three turnovers.”

(On having the confidence that they can turn things around)

“Just the men in this locker room, we have a bunch of good dudes who are coming to work and doing everything they can to help fix this thing so just getting back to work, coming together and not dividing. That will be the biggest thing, just coming together to support each other and continue to get to work.”

(On what the offense needs to change)

“I think we need to take care of the football, that’s what we need to change. It’s hard to go out there and win with three turnovers, so let’s take care of the football and see where it takes us.”

Kendrick Bourne, WR

(On how the team can respond)

“Just keep working hard. Go back to our working habits. Work, it’s all about hard work. We have got to work harder in practice, we have to try harder and just do better individually, personally, and as a group.”

(On what issues he sees with the offense)

“Just not executing, like I’m saying. We are not making plays, we are not making the plays that need to be made. We have got to get first downs, move the ball downfield, and just finish drives.”

(On if he has faith in the plays they missed)

“Yeah I do, I feel like the plays were there, we have just got to make them. Sometimes we have got to make harder catches or whatever it may be but I feel like the plays were there. A lot of them showed their self and we have just got to finish and as athletes we have to make the play better.”

(On what the offense can do to help Mac Jones)

“Just making the hard catches, making the tight window catches and stuff like that. And just supporting him, working hard at practice. Just putting in work every day.”