



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, New Orleans improves to 11-3 on the season and finishes their regular season home slate with a 6-2 record. The Saints clinch at least 11 wins for the third consecutive season, 10th time in franchise history, and seventh time since Sean Payton became Head Coach in 2006. The Saints have also won at least six home games in three consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, December 22 when they take on the Tennessee Titans at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, TN. Kickoff is set for 12:00 noon CT.
- With the win, New Orleans improves its all-time regular season record against the Colts to 8-5 and improves their home record against the Colts to 5-2 all time.
- Playing on Monday Night Football for the 44th time in franchise history, the Saints even their record at 22-22 in games played on Monday nights. New Orleans has now won four consecutive games on Monday Night Football, including two in 2018 and a 30-28 victory over the Houston Texans in Week 1 of 2019. The win also improves the Saints' all-time record in games played in prime time to 50-44.
- For HC **Sean Payton**, Colts HC Frank Reich is the 64th coach Payton has defeated in his career and 47th coach he has a winning mark against. Payton's regular season and postseason combined record against the Colts improves to 3-1 and 2-0 in games played at home. The victory gives Payton 137 for his career, including both regular and postseason games, which breaks a tie with Hank Stram for sole possession of 26th all-time in NFL record books.
- Offensively, New Orleans scored 34 points and accumulated 424 total yards, including 117 rushing yards and 307 passing yards. The Saints have scored at least 30 points in nine of their 14 games this season and four of their last five games. The Saints passed for at least 300 yards and rushed for at least 100 yards in the same game for the sixth time this season.
- Defensively, the Saints held Indianapolis to seven points and 205 total yards, both season lows for the Colts. The Saints held their opponent to less than 10 points for the third time this season. The Colts rushed for 46 yards and passed for 159 yards, marking the fifth time that the Saints have surrendered less than 50 rushing yards in 2019 and the third time New Orleans has surrendered less than 160 passing yards this season. 205 total yards allowed is a new season-low for New Orleans. New Orleans also extends their streak to 40 consecutive games, including both regular and postseason, without allowing a 100-yard rusher.
- QB **Drew Brees** finished the game with 307 yards and four touchdowns on 29-of-30 passing. With his third touchdown pass of the game, a 5-yard pass to TE Josh Hill, Brees set a new NFL all-time record for career touchdown passes with 540, passing the record of 539 held by Peyton Manning. Brees threw for at least four touchdowns for the 36th game in his career, also an NFL record, surpassing Peyton Manning's 35 four-touchdown games. Brees now has passed for 21 touchdowns this season, his 16th season with at least 20 touchdown passes.
- By completing 96.7% of his passes, Brees set a new NFL record for completion percentage in a game (with a minimum of 20 attempts). Brees also finished the game with a career-high and franchise-best 22 consecutive completions. Going into next Sunday's game, the NFL record for consecutive completions
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished the game with 12 receptions for 128 yards and one touchdown. Thomas now has a career-high 133 receptions this season, which breaks his own franchise record set last season for receptions in a season (125). With two games left, Thomas' 133 receptions are the fourth most in a season all-time. With four more receptions, Thomas will have the second most receptions in any season all-time. He needs 11 more catches to break Marvin Harrison's record of 143 in 2002.
- Thomas recorded at least 10 receptions for the 8th time this season, which breaks a tie with Andre Johnson and Wes Welker for most such games in a single season in the Super Bowl era.

- RB **Alvin Kamara** finished the night with 66 rushing yards on 14 carries and added 23 receiving yards on five receptions. Kamara now has 2,289 rushing yards on 2,020 receiving yards in his career, joining Christian McCaffery, Roger Craig, and Herschel Walker as only the fourth running back to have at least 2,000 yards rushing and receiving in first three NFL seasons.
- Kamara needs 15 receiving yards over the final two games of the season to become the third player with at least 500 receiving yards and 500 rushing yards in each of his first three seasons, joining Abner Haynes (1960-62) and Herschel Walker (1986-88).
- TE **Jared Cook** recorded four receptions for 54 yards, and now has 38 receptions on the season. With two more catches, Cook will record 40 receptions in a season for the seventh time in his career.
- QB **Taysom Hill** recorded his ninth career touchdown reception, and fifth this season, finishing the game with two receptions for 42 yards, 2 carries for one yard, and the one touchdown reception. Hill has recorded 16 receptions, 182 receiving yards, and five receiving touchdowns this season, all career highs.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** caught one pass, a 21-yard touchdown reception from Brees with 6:18 to play in the second quarter. This is the second game this season in which Smith has scored on his lone reception of the game, as he scored a 13-yard touchdown on his only reception against Carolina on November 24. Smith has now scored four touchdowns this season, and needs one more to match his five scores from his rookie year in 2018.
- RB **Dwayne Washington** finished with 20 yards on three carries, his second game recorded a rushing attempt this season (Washington also carried the ball three times for 38 yards against Arizona on October 27. Washington also made an impact on special teams, deflecting Rigoberto Sanchez's first punt of the game, which gave New Orleans the ball on Indianapolis' 33-yard line for the first possession of the game. New Orleans would go on to kick a 33-yard field goal on the drive.
- FB **Zach Line** carried the ball twice for four yards, both of which went for first downs to extend the Saints third scoring drive of the game, a 10-play, 85-yard drive that resulted in Tre'Quan Smith's 21-yard touchdown reception.
- RB **Latavius Murray** rushed for 29 yards on nine attempts and added two receptions for 20 yards. Murray now has 122 carries this season, and records his fifth consecutive season with at least 120 rushing attempts.
- LB **Demario Davis** finished with three tackles, moving his season total to 98. With two more stops, Davis will have 100 for the third consecutive season and sixth time overall in his eight-year NFL career. Davis also added two pass defenses, and now has a new career-high 11 pass breakups this season.
- CB **CJ Gardner-Johnson** finished the game with a team-leading and season-high eight tackles, adding two tackles for loss, and one pass defense.
- After missing last week's game vs. San Francisco, LB **AJ Klein** finished the game with a season-high six tackles, two quarterback hits, and split a sack with DE **Trey Hendrickson**.
- K **Wil Lutz** has now converted 16 consecutive field goals, connecting on a 33-yarder with 7:28 to play in the first quarter and a 26-yarder as time expired in the first half. Lutz is tied with Harrison Butker of Kansas City for the NFL lead with 31 made field goals this season.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 43.5 yards on two punts, including one that was downed inside the 20-yard line. Morstead has now played in 172 games in his career, breaking a tie with DL **Wayne Martin** for sole possession of eighth place on the club's all-time games played list.
- RB **Dwayne Washington** deflected a punt after Indianapolis' first offensive drive.
- The victory is the 203rd home regular season win in Saints franchise history, including games played at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Tulane Stadium, San Antonio's Alamodome, and London's Wembley Stadium. New Orleans improves its all-time home record to 210-209-1, including regular and postseason play.
- The Saints' extended their streak to 286 consecutive games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at Tampa Bay on Sept. 6, 2002. The streak is the longest running streak in the National Football League and fourth-longest in league history.



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening Statement:

"We did a lot of things well at tonight on both sides of the ball. Some of the kicking game (as well). We thought a fast start would be important against this team and we did that. We had balance. I know the first half, time of possession, third down, those things that are important (we had impressive numbers in). We got off the field defensively and I was pleased with how we responded in the second half. We came out and still kind of carried that momentum through the third quarter."

(on how locked in Drew Brees was before tonight's game) "Every game is that way. Honestly. Sure, there's a record out there and it's a little bit of a fluid record, right? There's just so much preparation that goes in now. For him to finish the way he did on the evening, we thought we would have some vertical throws with some of the scenes and we did. He was outstanding tonight...He was efficient and it was impressive and then obviously as a play-caller you begin to gain confidence and your sheet looks a lot bigger when he's playing like that. There were a lot of things that went into it."

(on what Drew Brees' records mean to him as a coach) "Honestly, the win means a lot. There's going to be a day where we all ride off into the sunset, but it's not now. Like I said, there's a lot at stake right now relative to these games. When you look at the top of the NFC and we're very competitive, we're going to play another team in the hunt next week that has played real well. It's something we've seen happen and I think he'll tell you the same thing. It's about winning. It's about winning and winning and winning and trying to give yourself the best chance in the postseason. And that's really the truth."

(on scoring 35+ points in every game since the loss to Atlanta) "The most important thing for us is situationally and how we've got to become better in the red zone. That's been a point of emphasis pm both sides of the ball. I think the third down numbers have gotten better and improved. It is really some of the little things that go into that become the big things. It is the attention to detail. We as coaches are going to continue to do a better job and (work with the team on) all those things that go into being an effective offense and an efficient defense and special teams that require a lot of small attention to detail. I feel like tonight we made strides in that direction."

(on CJ Gardner-Johnson's performance tonight) "He is playing well, I like his competitive spirit, he is tough and he's someone that certainly's up for the challenge. I thought he had some key plays tonight. Some minus plays. We pressured him (Jacoby Brissett). He hit the runner in the backfield two or three times. He's very instinctive and there are a lot of things to like about a rookie. I think he's someone that is only going to get better."

(on the entire defense performance) "We did a lot of things well. We'll have a brief minute to look at this film. Obviously, it's late tonight and we'll get started on Tennessee (in the morning)."

(on the significance of Drew Brees setting the touchdown record on the 10th anniversary of the 2009 Super Bowl Champion team) "I think it's great that his peers were here. I mean, he has a lot of peers though, right? When you play this long, we call him Benjamin Button. That happened in New Orleans, I believe. At least the movie was filmed here. There's been a number of other milestones and I think it's still about winning. It's a fluid record though. There's still another quarterback in New England (Tom Brady). That'll go back and forth as long as those two are playing. Without speaking for him and you guys will have a chance to ask him those questions, I think still we operate where we need to be when these games continue to get more and more important. As that pressure falls on that position, what does the picture look like? Is it consistent? Are guys doing the small things? Obviously, tonight he made a lot of plays. There were times when the pocket was not clean and he still found targets. He had the one touchdown in the red zone that was brought back for the obvious offensive pass interference call. I was proud of how he played and how we played as a team."

(on the entire weekend celebrating the 2009 Super Bowl team) "It's always good to see guys that came through and they kind of set standard. We talked about that a little this weekend. I like that they're around this team. They won a lot of games. It's healthy. I think when you create a culture that we feel like we currently have, it's good to have guys that were part of creating that."

(on Drew Brees' completion percentage tonight) "I wasn't aware of it until the end. It's hard to do. You go back and evaluate each play and it's just unusual. He had a hot hand. Guys were making plays, but that's awfully difficult to do. I'm trying to think of the incompleteness...He'll get a minus on that play."

(on Drew Brees' work ethic) "There has been a ton of great players that have played in this league and there's certain ways that they prepare and that's his formula. There has got to be great ability that goes with work ethic and there are all these different things. People ask about his success and he's a fantastic foot athlete, number one. When you have all those traits that's what we're constantly looking for in the evaluation process. It's hard to find. He's someone that is a tireless worker and the attention to detail and the little things all are, I mean every, everything, you know, the night before the game, when we go through every play in the plan and we talk about where it sits in the call sheet, when we want to call it. He gets out of whack when the routine's off a little bit. It's credit to how he trains, not just in season but in the offseason. There are a lot of sacrifices that go into the preparation to play this level the way he is at his age."

(on what made Demario Davis so effective) "We were playing a good tight end. I liked how he leveraged the receiver. I liked how he defended with the correct hand. I thought he put himself in great position and he did so with his feet. That was impressive. There were a number of those man coverage snaps that he drew that matchup."

(on the advantage that Michael Thomas gives the offense) "He is a big part of what we do. He has real good size. He's very physical and someone who I think is exceptional after the catch. He is someone with the ball in his hands who is tough to get down. Each week where are we putting him within the framework of what we do? We maybe change some things up because teams obviously will want to lean or try to double him and kind of is the challenge each week."

(on if the offense was clicking on all cylinders) "I thought we did a lot of things well. We were able to run the ball effectively. There were not a lot of third and longs. There were a few. We did a lot of things well. We'll watch the tape. As a coach, there's always certain things you want to get corrected, but tonight it was good enough and we'll get back to work on a short week for next week."



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SAINTS QB DREW BREES

(On his only incompleteness tonight) "I felt like we had a little bit of heat, that maybe somebody was on my back. I wanted to avoid a sack and just probably rushed the throw and didn't really get that much balance or momentum towards the receiver with the throw. My bad. I should've completed that one."

(On the significance of having his teammates from the Super Bowl championship team here) "It was special, everything about the night. I don't know how they (the NFL) pick them. It's Monday night Football, playing the Colts, the team that we won the Super Bowl against 10 years ago, the whole Super Bowl team is back for the tenth anniversary, and, obviously, it's national television, a big game, and now that record (passing touchdowns) is in the balance as well. It just, kind of, makes you shake your head and say, 'Are you kidding me?' I'm not sure how we got here. It just, kind of, makes your whole life and career flash before your eyes. I never thought that I would have had a chance to be a part of something like this; and, just looking at the entire journey, 19 years, 5 years in San Diego and 14 years here, all of the incredible teammates and coaches that I have had the chance to play with and for, (and) this team right here is very special. Of course, our fan base, the Who Dat Nation, everybody in the dome tonight, everybody watching tonight, loved ones, my family, my kids here, both of my college roommates, who are my best friends in the world, they were here with their kids. It was just an incredible night, incredible experience, (and an) incredible moment to be able to share that with so many people, because all of them are a big part of it."

(On if he thinks it was his best career game) "I don't know. It was efficient, with the exception of the one (missed) pass. It was good tempo, it was good rhythm. Listen, I go out there with the expectation that the ball shouldn't touch the ground unless I am throwing it away or occasionally they are going to make a play (defensively). I don't know. You have that expectation. You work for that. You expect that. You're just playing ball. My goal is to be the best decision maker that I can be on every play and to get us into the best play, throw the ball where it needs to go, getting it into the hands of our playmakers, getting us in the endzone, converting third downs, keeping drives alive, playing complementary football with our defense. Again, all of that just goes into being a great decision maker and being very, very efficient in the passing game, always thinking positive plays, avoiding negative plays, avoiding bad plays. That's the job of a quarterback. I take that very seriously. That is what I work for."

(On if it was the team's most complete game) "I think that it was probably our most complete game of the year. I think offensively very efficient running and pass. Defensively, obviously, holding them to basically pitching a shutout to the very end of the fourth quarter. All in all, yes, it was our most complete game. You're always striving because you know that the challenges continue to get greater and games become even more important. We are hitting the home stretch here where we want to be playing our best football. The teams that typically succeed in the playoffs and the ones that have that momentum, they are ascending into the playoffs. We want to be ascending."

(On the disappointment that he set the passing touchdowns record, but needing to do it over again due to a penalty) "That is alright, we will call another play. On to the next play."

(On the record-setting touchdown pass that was thrown to Josh Hill) "First of all, I love the fact it was Josh Hill. Oddly enough, he was the honorary captain this week for the team, which means we basically roasted him in our Saturday meeting, so it was pretty fitting that it was him, especially for the fact that, here's an undrafted free agent who joined our team in 2013 as an undrafted rookie free agent. (He is) the epitome of a great teammate. (He is) kind of an unsung hero, a guy that throughout the majority of his career has just been required to do the dirty work, been a four quarter special teams guy and whenever he has had to step in and increase that role, as many times as he has done before, he's done an unbelievable job. I have so much trust and confidence in him. The funny thing

was that as we walk up to the ball, the play call comes in and I am thinking touchdown. I see the look, and I say, 'It's definitely a touchdown, right?' It played out just the way we thought as far as the play call and him being wide open on the run action. I am really glad that it was him."

(On if he simulates record-breaking moments when games get stopped) "Yes, because I don't want to just be so overcome with emotion that (I can perform). There's still a lot of football left to be played throughout the course of the game. It's so unpredictable. You hope that it is going to happen. You always need to prepare if it does, because, I think, part of that is that I want to make sure everyone around me knows just how thankful I am for them and how grateful I am for my team, to everyone in the stadium, to our entire fan base, and our family and friends, and everyone that was here, all of those who have been such an integral part of this. You want to give that value. You want to be able to do that; and, yet it's in the framework of a game. It tight be a tight game. You've got to get your mind and focus right back on the next play. They're still in it. I would say that the way that it happened tonight, obviously allowed us to enjoy it."

(On where the record-breaking ball will go) "The ball is going to go to the (Pro Football) Hall of Fame."

(On if his boys can comprehend the significance of the moment) "That is one of the greatest parts of it is the fact that they have a chance to share in this. These are moments that we can reflect on and we can talk about. They ask questions about it. Even as they get older, I think that they will appreciate it even more. I am grateful that I have been able to play this long to get them to an age where they can get it and they can get excited about it. It's one of the very special parts of all of this."

(On still playing while most of his former teammates from the Super Bowl Championship team have retired from the game by this time) "At the time, if you told me that, I don't know if I would have believed you. There were a lot of events over the weekend with all of the guys from that Super Bowl XLIV team. I had a chance to see just about all of them on Saturday night for an event, which was great, obviously, to reminisce on that season and to just see those guys and to see what everybody is up to. A lot of them, I keep in touch with, but even a lot of guys that I haven't seen in a long time come back and it's as if no time has passed, as far as memories and moments. We always said that if you win a championship, you walk together forever. That is absolutely true and the way that you feel about these guys when you are able to gather together again. I look forward to being able to come back in the future as a civilian."

(On how Michael Thomas continues to get open) "Mike Thomas gets open. That is first and foremost. I've got so much trust and confidence in him. We've got a lot of time on task together. So much of our offense has nuances to it, as far as the route being run, the direction that you can go or the angle that you can take based upon how the defender is playing you, the defense, the safety, or whatever it might be. We've had a lot of time together. It's that trust and anticipation. He knows when the ball is coming out. He knows where it is going to be. He knows where he needs to be. When things are clicking, that is the result."



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INDIANAPOLIS COLTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

TE #89 JOSH HILL

(on the record breaking touchdown reception) "It was a special moment. It was a special moment for Drew (Brees) I was just happy that I was able to make the play. It was a play action. The safety bit on it and I was wide open."

(on giving the ball immediately to Drew after the touchdown) "Absolutely. I knew what it meant. It was a special moment for him."

(on him setting the bar high) "It is and he just keeps on setting it over and over. It's his preparation. It's the way that he plays the game. He cares for his teammates. He's a very special guy."

(On the team win) "I feel like we put it together in all three phases. It was a good team win. We just need to keep it going."

WR #13 MICHAEL THOMAS

(on the win) "Our number one goal was to get back on the right track. We wanted to play complimentary football and playing like we know that we can. We took a step in the right direction, but we still have two games and have to finish strong."

(on the chemistry between he and Drew Brees) "It's just accountability. Our preparation throughout the week is laser like focus. We are trying to get better and enhance our abilities. We are trying to help this team when they need us and trying to make big plays."

(on the emotion of the team when Drew broke the passing touchdown record) "That's a blessing for him, but he's not done. There is so much more that he can do. He's an incredible leader. We just follow his lead and we follow everything that he has."

(on his touchdown reception and getting hit on the play) "Sometimes if you want to score points when they double the X receiver in the end zone, then you have to earn it. You just shake that off and go on to the next one. You earn it. You hold on to it and put points on the board."

(on the one-handed reception) "I just went out to make a play. I feel like I am blessed to be able to catch it with both hands but any I'm going to try to make a play on any opportunity that Drew (Brees) gives me like I have been doing since I came into the league."

DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN

(on Drew Brees' performance tonight) "I feel like I keep taking him for granted. How many records has he broken? He broke two today. He's unbelievable."

(on playing a complete game) "I hate how we gave up that last touchdown. We gave up some leaky yardage on the last drive or two. We messed up the perfect shutout game. That's something that we have to turn on the film and really watch. I was overly excited to watch the defense going into that fourth quarter. We got reps and experience given to some of the guys. We gained some experience and hopefully that will bode well for the next game."

(on the defensive performance tonight) "I feel like I am overly excited. Of what we are able to do for three quarters and 12 minutes. We were close to a shutout and that is something that is rare. I feel like I've only been a part of one, maybe. It's special."



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Opening Statement: "Injuries from the game. Milligan (Rolan Milligan) had a foot, Wilson (Quincy Wilson) had a shoulder, and Walker (Anthony Walker) had a hamstring. Alright, obviously a very disappointing performance to say the least. We have had some disappointing losses this year. Obviously, we haven't had one like this. Every loss has been a one-score game, and in this one we got our butts beat bad in all three phases. So, that is hard to swallow. We knew we were entering a hostile environment against a good team, and we didn't get that done today, and that starts with me as the head coach. I have to get the guys prepared better. We have to coach better. So, make no mistake about it, first and foremost that is on me. I do know this, I don't mean perspective helps, and it really doesn't, because nothing is acceptable after a loss like this, but I have around long enough to know this happens. When you come in and play good teams, and we have had a lot of close games. We have won some and lost some. Every now and then something like this happens. It doesn't make it any easier to swallow. It is not acceptable. We learn from it and move on. So, we will get ready to play next week. Our last home game of the year. We want to give our fans something to get excited about, and play good football next week."

(On Jacoby Brissett's lack of accuracy) "You know I would have to see the film to see exactly what the numbers are. There were one or two misses he had tonight, but he made some plays. We just were not in synch on offense anywhere tonight. You know Jacoby is the quarterback so he will always be the center of attention, but trust me there was enough to go around for everybody."

(On Brissett's knee is still bothering him) "No, I think his knee is fine."

(On if they had trouble with communication) "I didn't feel like there was. There were one or two plays where we had miscommunication, but overall I didn't feel like the noise was a factor. There was a call where we had to call a timeout. I don't know what quarter it was, but it was my fault. I gave Jacoby something wrong. I don't know if it was the second or third quarter, but we ended up calling a time out on that one."

(On message in locker room) "There's a time to breathe fire, and there have been times where I do that after a loss, especially after a loss like this. I was not breathing fire in there today. For whatever reason, this time of the year, that is just me. I don't think that was the answer in there. I believe our guys fight hard. You lose like this it feels like you let down, but in my mind, it was just a matter of execution more than anything else."

(On not being able to make a play on defense) "He has (Drew Brees) done that to a lot of defenses. I didn't realize it, but I looked up there at one time and he was 27-28 or something. When he gets like that, I don't know anybody that can stop him. I know it sounds crazy, but I thought we came out in the first quarter and offensively we moved the ball. We made a few plays. Those first two drives, I felt like we had a good mix and made a couple of plays. Then just couldn't quite get into scoring territory. Defensively, early in the game we were playing pretty well. Especially first and second down, and then they make a few key third downs, but that is what he does. I just give him credit. They are well coached. They have a good team and played well tonight."

(On struggles of second half of the season) "It is hard. These losses are tough. The way they have mounted up, there are no excuses for it. Like I said, it starts with me. Especially, having six or seven, whatever the number is. We have fought through adversity. We have hung in there. Like you said, all these close games shoulda, coulda, woulda. So, I believe there are a lot of positives. There are a lot of guys doing a lot of good things, but just are not playing well enough enough to win games. Then tonight, we just got it handed to us."

On special teams struggles) “I can’t. We have had a couple of issues over these last few weeks. Obviously, tonight getting pinned down at the one-yard line, and then get a punt partially blocked (was tough). So, that is a 65-yard difference in field position. When you look at it besides the field goal unit, and look at the overall numbers, rankings, and statistics our special teams unit, when you look at the whole body of work is fairly highly ranked. The last couple weeks have not been up to our standards and we just have to get that corrected and do better.”

“On what makes Drew Brees special“ There is a lot of things, but to me it is his accuracy. I mean 29-30, he has proven it year in and year out for a very long time. Even when you have a guy covered, he really isn’t covered. He always finds a hole. He can do that as well as anybody who has ever played the game. He has the numbers to back that up. He has the numbers to back that up with what he has done with his accuracy. So, you have to give him a lot of credit for that.”



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QB #7 JACOBY BRISSETT

"Hats off to them. They played a great game. There was a lot of self-inflicted things. I missed a couple of throws. I couldn't get into a rhythm. It starts with me and playing better. It's a trickle-down. Today was just rough."

(On the first quarter drive where he missed Zach Pascal): "I just missed him. I saw him open and just made a bad throw."

(On what's left to play for this season): "For each other. To play in the NFL, to be a part of a team, to be a part of a great organization, and go out there and prove yourself. A lot of people wish they were in our shoes, to be honest with you. We just have to go back to work."

"It was a trickle-down thing. Obviously, we didn't start the way we wanted. Getting those first downs and staying ahead of the chains was the thing for us. Like I said, I missed a couple of throws that I usually don't. It starts with me."

(On the ineffective run game tonight): "That's just part of it. You have to do better on those runs so that you don't get stuck in those down-and-distance. We had opportunities there and we just missed some of them."

(On the environment): "It was a great atmosphere with Monday Night Football. In the mix of the game you don't really pay attention to the outside noise."

(On losing six of the last seven): "It's tough, honestly. We've got two weeks left. You have to find a way to push through and find things to get better at. You'll see on tape a lot of things that I can get better at, and I'm sure a lot of other guys will say the same thing. We've got to find those things and be willing to correct them."

(On T.Y. Hilton returning tonight to action): "He sets a great example for us. He is a great leader. He leads by example. Seeing his injury and seeing him battle back is a great example, not only for me, but for a lot of other guys on this team. You have one of the best receivers in the NFL battling to come out there and play with us."

(On appreciating Drew Brees' performance): "I will later."

WLB #53 DARIUS LEONARD

"We just didn't show up at all. It's very embarrassing. We just didn't show up on all three phases."

(On missing the playoffs): "I'm very disappointed. That's what you play for; you play for, championships. Coming in knowing you're not going to be able to play for a championship, it definitely sucks because that's the only thing on your mind when you come to the NFL. How many championships can you win? Knowing I don't have an opportunity in my second year definitely sucks."

"Everything went wrong. Poor play, it was just terrible. Embarrassing and terrible."

"Nothing was clicking for us. We just played bad."

"Drew Brees is a great quarterback. Don't take anything away from him. He's been doing it for a very long time. It sucks to see it happen against us, but he's definitely someone I grew up watching. I knew the type of quarterback he was, but to see it in person, it was something different."

CB #35 PIERRE DESIR

(On the Saints offense and the challenge they posed): "They do a lot of different shifts. They will bring in seven to try and confuse the personnel. They try and get guys to mismatch. That is one thing that you have to be alert for. You see it in previous games. Teams are not ready to be lined up. That's what we were trying to do, make sure that we had the right personnel out there and try to minimize the confusion on the defense."

“You have to give credit where credit is due. It was a historic moment. Credit to (Drew) Brees for what he accomplished. He is a great quarterback and he is a great person in the community. He worked hard for it. Give credit to him.”