



**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS CAROLINA PANTHERS**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME**  
**SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES**

- With the win, the Saints improve to 9-2 and clinch a winning record for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in franchise history and the eighth time since **Sean Payton** became head coach in 2006. The Saints have now had a winning record in each of the last three seasons, the third such stretch in franchise history (joining 1987-89 and 2009-11). The Saints return to action on Thursday, November 28 when they take on the Atlanta Falcons at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA. Kickoff is set for 7:20 PM on Thanksgiving night.
- With the win, New Orleans' improves its all-time regular season record against Carolina to 24-25 and 12-12 in games played in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Including a 2017 Wild Card Playoff victory over Carolina, the Saints even up their all-time record against the Panthers at 25-25 and improve their record against Carolina to 13-12 in games played in their home stadium.
- With the win, Payton improves his regular record against Carolina to 13-12 and now has a winning record against all three NFC South opponents. Payton's record against Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera improves to 9-6 (regular season only).
- The victory is the 135<sup>th</sup> of Payton's career, including postseason play, which moves him into a tie with Mike McCarthy for 27<sup>th</sup> all-time in NFL record books.
- Offensively, New Orleans amassed 418 total yards, including 300 passing yards and 118 rushing yards. With 34 points, New Orleans has scored at least 30 points in seven of their 11 games this season.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Carolina RB Christian McCaffery to 64 yards on 22 carries (2.9 avg.). The Saints have not allowed a 100-yard rusher in 37 consecutive games, including postseason play.
- **K Wil Lutz** converted a game-winning 33-yard field goal as time expired, capping off a Saints' 11-play, 65-yard drive, that used the games' final 1:56. The game winner was Lutz's second such field goal this season (Lutz converted a 58-yarder as time expired to defeat the Houston Texans on opening night). Lutz finished the game 2-for-2 on field goal attempts and became only the fourth Saint in franchise history to amass 500 career points by converting a 41-yard field goal with 13:39 to play in the second quarter.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished the game with 10 receptions for 101 yards and one touchdown, moving his season totals to 104 receptions and 1,242 yards. Thomas becomes only the fifth player in NFL history to have at least 100 receptions and 1,200 receiving yards in three consecutive seasons, joining Antonio Brown, Marvin Harrison, Herman Moore, and Jerry Rice.
- With 101 yards today, Thomas' has now caught for 5,029 yards in his career, joining Marques Colston, Eric Martin, and Joe Horn as only the fourth player with 5,000 receiving yards as a member of the New Orleans Saints.
- Thomas has now recorded at least 100 receiving yards in five consecutive games, becoming the first player in franchise history to accomplish the feat, surpassing TE Jimmy Graham, who did it in four consecutive contests two times (2011 and 2013). Thomas' seven 100-yard receiving games this season sets a new franchise record for 100-yard games in a season.
- Thomas' 104 receptions through the first 11 games of this season surpasses Marvin Harrison's 100 receptions in 2002 for the most receptions through a team's first 11 games of a season.
- Thomas has now recorded at least eight receptions and 100 receiving yards in five consecutive games, becoming only the fourth player in NFL history to do so in a single season (Isaac Bruce, 6 in 1995; Anquan Boldin, 5 in 2005; Calvin Johnson, 5 in 2012).
- Thomas recorded six receptions for 49 yards in the first quarter, the most first quarter receptions by a Saint since Eric Martin in 1991.
- Appearing in his 270<sup>th</sup> career game, QB **Drew Brees** passed for 311 yards on 30-of-39 passing, adding three touchdowns and one interception. Brees' 270 career games played moves him into a tie with TE Tony Gonzalez for 24<sup>th</sup> on the NFL all-time games played list.

- A week after recording ten receptions on ten targets, RB **Alvin Kamara** recorded nine receptions on nine targets for 48 receiving yards. Kamara added 54 rushing yards on 11 carries, marking his sixth game this season with at least 20 touches.
- RB **Latavius Murray** rushed for a touchdown on the Saints' opening drive of the game, marking the first time in 2019 New Orleans scored a touchdown on its opening drive. Murray finished the afternoon with 64 yards on seven carries, good for a season-high 9.1 yards per carry.
- TE **Jared Cook** finished the afternoon with six receptions for a season-high 99 yards, including a 20-yard touchdown reception with 11:24 to play in the third quarter. Cook has now scored touchdowns in back-to-back games for the first time since scoring touchdowns in Weeks 11, 12, and 13 of 2018 as a member of the Oakland Raiders.
- DE **Demario Davis** recorded his second sack of the year and has now recorded at least two takedowns in each of the past six seasons. Davis finished the afternoon with a team-leading 11 tackles, one quarterback hit, one pass defense, and the sack.
- DE **Marcus Davenport** recorded his fourth sack of 2019 and first since Week 5 vs. Tampa Bay, taking down Panthers QB Kyle Allen with 2:10 to play in the fourth quarter. Davenport finished the day with three tackles, one quarterback hit, and the sack.
- Playing in his 182<sup>nd</sup> career game, WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** caught two passes for 38 yards, including the Saints' longest pass play of the game, a 30-yard catch with 11:37 to play in the first quarter.
- In the secondary, S **Vonn Bell** and CB **CJ Gardner-Johnson** recorded nine and six tackles, respectively. Bell added a stop for loss and one pass defense on the afternoon.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** scored his second touchdown of the season, and first since Week 1, on a 13-yard reception from Brees with 5:12 to play in the first quarter.
- DT **Mario Edwards Jr.** recorded his first sack since Week 12 of 2018 (as a member of the New York Giants), forcing a fumble by Allen with 4:36 to play in the second quarter.
- Appearing in his 139<sup>th</sup> career game, DE **Cameron Jordan** finished with five tackles and one tackle for loss. Jordan moves into a tie with DE Will Smith for 19<sup>th</sup> on the club's all-time games played list.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 49.3 yards on three punts, including a long of 54 yards. Morstead has now played in 169 games in his career, moving him into a tie with Jahri Evans for tenth place on the club's all-time list.
- S **J.T. Gray** had a first quarter fumble recovery off of a muffed punt that following a replay challenge reversal, gave New Orleans possession at the Carolina 27-yard line to eventually lead to a Saints touchdown.
- The victory is the 202<sup>nd</sup> home 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 209-208-1, including regular and postseason play.
- The Saints' extended their streak to 283 consecutive games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 victory at Tampa Bay on September 6, 2002. The streak is the longest running streak in the NFL and fourth longest in league history.



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(opening statement) "Obviously we had a hard-fought game. There are lot of things that we have to clean up. I was proud of how we fought back and hung in there. We made enough plays in the two-minute drill. That was significant. Getting the stop defensively to force a field goal was big. There's a tone that we have to build and clean up from this game. The challenge is doing it over (a) short week, getting ready to play Thursday."

(on overcoming penalties) "It wasn't our best game and by far it wasn't their best game. It is what it is. I'm not going to get into the replays relative to the fouls. The change that took place in the offseason. I don't know that it's exactly what we discussed where we are today with it. In fact, I'm pretty sure it's not, but we've got to be able to adjust."

(on focusing on and improving small details) "There were some pre-snap penalties. Too many hands to the face defensively, too many penalties in the back end. There's a handful of times we had third and long. We got the late personal foul on Cam (Jordan). We are going to need to be smarter in bigger games."

(on running the two-minute drill) "I think at the end of the half or the end of the game, they are going to end that way. Usually the question is do they end defensively or offensive way for the most part. That's something that Drew (Brees) had been doing this a long time and he's awfully good at it"

(on the second game winner for Wil Lutz) "He's been real impressive in clutch situations and that's what you're looking for. So much is not only the leg talent but it's the talent between your ears and I think it's a strength of his."

(on the injuries from both teams) "It's part of the game. It's a physical game. I know both teams played hard. It wasn't always the cleanest game. There's a lot of respect between the two clubs and we've been in some tough battles with those guys."

(on giving up a two-score lead in the game) "Everything concerns me. The fouls concern me, the change of possession snaps, the fourth down and a yard (rushing failure), a lot of those things. Absolutely. We're concerned. We have to get it corrected and cleaned up and that's why we're coaching."

(on if there was an emphasis to get Alvin Kamara the ball in the second half) "There's going to be certain things that we want to try to do. He made a number of big plays for us, so whether they come in the running game or the passing game. The same way with Latavius Murray. He had a big touchdown early. Some of it is the byproduct of what we're doing and some of that, there are intentions behind it."

(on Jared Cook's performance) "He received some good matchups. The throw Drew (Brees) made on one of his touchdowns, it was a big play. He played exceptionally well. He's moving around, while he's been doing that in practice (the whole season) and I'm proud of him. He made a heck of a catch above his head. He just seemed like if you threw it his way, he was coming down with it. Against a team that plays a lot of the trap zone, your tight end is going to have some of those opportunities."

(on the development of Latavius Murray) "We've seen it more than just today. We saw it when Alvin (Kamara) was hurt. I knew coming in he was a real good teammate. I knew that the film we had seen was really productive. You don't realize how big he is until you see him in person. He's been a really good addition to this team filling in for a really good player that left."

(on his impression of Christian McCaffrey) “He’s a real good football player. The more space or more air you give him, the more challenging it is. You have to find a way to take some of the air out of those tackles (and) take some of the air out of the coverage. There are a few plays where we could have defended better. I’m sure we will the next time.”

(on if he was surprised about the overturned pass interference call) “You can’t control it and you just have to evaluate your own gut. Even the muffed punt was tough with the angles. We finally received one angle where you could see it kind of hit the floor early, the back of the calf. I was concerned that there wasn’t a clear visual angle until I saw that one. You have to trust your gut. That was our second challenge, so we were out a challenges, but that was significant because obviously it is a turnover. We score a touchdown or, if you say a challenge is worth a touchdown, which I think it would be, but the earlier one I just disagree with. I thought it was a real good route.”



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS CAROLINA PANTHERS SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 2019 • MERCEDES BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS QUARTERBACK DREW BREES**

(On the final drive) “Just playing the situation. Knowing how much time you have, knowing we have one timeout, knowing that all we have to do is get in field goal range and we feel good about our chances. Just want a chance to win in the end. At the end of the day, the whole game was really back and forth. Got to give them a ton of credit. They came in and really battled both sides of the ball and it was back and forth. I would say it was a hard-fought football game. I would say for us, as I think about just that fourth quarter, we basically gave them the ball, interception and fourth down stop at mid-field or better for them, and obviously as I look back on that as an offense and say, that can’t happen. We can allow that to happen. It felt like there were some other opportunities during the course of the game that we missed or just didn’t capitalize on, some unforced errors. Listen, it’s not always going to be perfect and in fact I’d say to gut out a win like this with a team is pretty significant. I think it just continues to strengthen the team and gives you a ton of confidence. Also (it) let’s us know that our best is still out there. We are still searching for that best game.”

(On not having as much rhythm in the second half as in the first half) “We started off with I think two touchdowns, right? Fast start, we were talking about that and we need to improve on that. I think we made strides toward that today and guys coming up with some big plays. It was a combination of big plays and was just good complementary football, a good balance. There was a sequence there at the end of the first half where we stopped them on defense and then we get the penalty, and I’m thinking there was maybe seven minutes left in the half, something like that at that point. They get it and go all the way down and score. Otherwise, they’re punting to us and maybe we’re going on a drive and getting points and not letting them back on the field. When you look at the entirety of the game, you have to look at all these little things where that was tough for us because we allowed them to stay on the field; not only that, but they went down and got a touchdown. And they didn’t allow us to get the ball back and they get the ball to start the second half. So as an offense you feel like, it’s about an hour before we got to snap, between snaps. Lot of little things that take place during the course of the game that make the games unique.”

(on the discrepancy in official’s penalty calling) “Well, penalties are judgement calls and then I think we, as a league, competition committee, everyone tried to build in certain mechanisms to be able to make sure we get it right. I think the thing that’ll be discussed probably for the rest of the season and onwards is, pass interference. What is and what is not. It was kind of my impression, based on what I’ve seen this year, is they’re not going to overturn anything unless it’s like what happened in the NFC Championship, where it’s a total timing thing and prevents the tragedy. Now one got overturned today. That’s one out of I don’t know how many that haven’t. That was interesting. Why that one versus some others. Again, at some point, there is someone that’s making a judgement call, a human decision that’s being made. It’s impossible for that to always be consistent.”

(On knowing when Michael Thomas has broken down a defender) “You’re referencing everything throughout the course of the game. That formation, that alignment, that release pattern, what did they see, how did they react to it, what can you kind of keep in your back pocket for later on. That’s the game within the game.”

(On two-minute drills) "It is exciting and butterflies, but it is also confidence and unity. We feel like everybody knows we have a challenge ahead. Everybody knows what we need to do in order to accomplish whatever we need to accomplish to go win the game. Everybody kind of just locks in and goes. It's where a lot of the things that happen and transpire over the course of the game kind of give you that information, that confidence, that assurance on how you're going to handle that drive and how you're going to accomplish the task."

(On how the offense will prepare for Thursday night's game in Atlanta) "As I recall, it wasn't too long ago obviously, they got after us a little bit on the pass rush. We weren't very balanced offensively. We didn't run the ball that many times and we didn't run as effectively as I know we can. I think anytime we take the field, regardless of who the opponent is, we want to be balanced. We want to be efficient. We want to convert third downs, make big plays when we have the opportunity. Score points and win games."

(On Wil Lutz) "Tons of confidence (in him) and just that whole unit. That whole unit in the time that we've all been here together, and he's been our kicker, we've had plenty of those moments. I think it's one of those things where Carolina has the ball at the end of the game and they're driving and (the) defense believes that they're going to stop them, and they do. Field goal block unit says, we're going to somehow effect this and they miss it. Offense says, we're going to go down and give our kicker and our kicking unit a chance to win this game, we do, and they step up and make it. It's a team effort."





## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

#### **K #3 WIL LUTZ**

(on the game winning kick) "Like I said last time (in the Week One walk-off field goal) with our offense, quarterback and play-calling, they advance the ball. I told Drew (Brees) thanks for making it a little shorter this time. We continue to find a way to win when we are not really playing our best. It is a big team win and now we are off to a short week in Atlanta. I actually didn't hit the ball too well. My heart kind of sank a little bit to be honest. At the end of the day it was good (win) and a nice win."

(on a kicker recovering from three missed kicks such as Panthers K Joey Slye did today for Carolina) "You hate it. Obviously, it is part of the game. Specialists are such a tight knit community. You don't want to win because a specialist screws up. It's hard to swallow as a specialist to see him go through that. I think he is a tremendous kicker. I told him that before the game. He has a bright future. He will bounce back and be good."

(on the defensive stand at the end to force the missed field goal) "It was big. It was the reason that we won the game. We play complementary football. When one side of the football isn't doing well, then the other side picks them up. We found a way to win when we all were not super confident at the end. It was a big play by the defense and I am glad that they got it."

#### **DE #92 MARCUS DAVENPORT**

(on his move on the missed field goal by Carolina) "It's just a move. I'm just practicing it and trying to make it consistent."

(on how long he has practiced the move) "I cannot tell you. It was not the first time that I used it today. It just worked."

(on the third down sack) "It was good to be able to make it. Of course, I think about all of the other ones that I missed. Anytime that I can help the team win is great."

#### **DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN**

(on his personal foul penalty) "I finally came around the corner of the tackle. I saw Demario Davis had the quarterback wrapped up. Immediately, I knew he (Kyle Allen) was going to swing around. I was trying to punch the ball out. The whistle blew and I came off it. The personal foul happens. That is a bonehead move. I heard that whistle and tried to stop, but it ended up hurting the team. As fast as we go, we try to give 100 percent on every play. You can't end up hurting your team like that, so that's on me. It was a straight punch to the ball, but that is something that I have to be aware of. I'm trying to make a big play and ended up hurting the team. That is something that I have to deal with myself."

(on Marcus Davenport's huge game) "That was huge. The way he is playing. He is getting faster and faster every game. He ended up making a huge play. It doesn't matter where it comes from as long as it comes."

#### **WR #13 MICHAEL THOMAS**

(on the third down play at the end of the game on the game-winning drive) "That's what I am here for. I'm here to help my team win. I wanted to move the chains. I get so excited to make a play. I want to be the ultimate team player and make a play for my guys. The game was tied. We were going back and forth. We needed a play and I was able to make that."

(on if he was surprised on being wide open) "I got open. I was able to get open. I give credit to the coaches for the preparation during the week."

(on being comfortable in the two-minute drill such as in today's win) "I was very comfortable. We still have a lot of room for improvement. We practice it all (training) camp. We get tired. We go against the defense and compete. We prepare for that situation week in and week out. I'm just grateful for not cheating the preparation."

## **TE #87 JARED COOK**

(on the third quarter touchdown reception) “We got the matchup that we wanted. The defender feathered over the ball and stayed on top of me. It was kind of an out and up right on the inside edge of the numbers. He just got lost. The ball went right over the top of his head. He didn’t even see it and I snuck into the back of the end zone.”

(on the pass interference call) “First of all, I appreciate Coach (Sean) Payton challenging it (even though it was upheld). We lost a timeout which is huge in a game like this. It was man-to-man and the defender had outside leverage. He stayed on the numbers (and) created contact first. I’m trying to get him off of me to release back inside. When I released back inside, he just fell. It’s a matchup game and that’s what we are here to do. We are here to create matchups and take advantage of those matchups. What happens after that is not my fault. That’s all I can say about it.”





## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME PANTHERS HEAD COACH RON RIVERA

(On message to players in locker room) "I just told them to continue to learn to fight. That is what it came down to. It really was a good ole' fashioned fight. They fought, they responded, gave them(selves) a chance. Unfortunately, we didn't win it. That is all you can say to them. They gave everything they can. I really appreciate the effort we got."

(On if he has talked to Joey Slye) "No, I haven't had the chance to Joey yet. So much has happened since the time the game has been over. I will get an opportunity."

(On what he will say to Joey) "I don't know yet."

(On if this is just the life of an NFL kicker) "It is most certainty. He will get his opportunities though. He will make some that will help us win. That is the thing he has to understand. This is all part of it. Let's not forget that this is really his first year. That is one thing a lot of people don't understand. He is a young kicker. He is going to make his mistakes, but if you give him time and stick with him, eventually he will become a good kicker. Hopefully, he will become a good, old kicker."

(On fumble on muffed punt) "It was a terrible kick, okay. Normally, (Thomas) Morstead kills the ball, and for whatever reason he didn't get a very good punt off. So, what happened was our jammer was in position trying to jam and slow the guy down, and D.J. (Moore) was coming over. It was one of those things. It was not a typical kick. It was a little shorter than he normally kicks it, little less hangtime, and we had a guy trying to (inaudible)."

(On Kyle Allen's performance today against the Saints) "We gave Kyle time. Our offensive line did some good things. Again, credit to them, they (Saints) rushed the passer. When Kyle has time with a fairly good pocket, he can make good decisions. He threw the ball well. It was unfortunate to get a couple opportunities on defense, and we missed those as well. It's a team game in all three phases. When something happens, you usually end up on the wrong side."

(On DJ Moore's fighting through pain and his performance) "For a second-year player, he was great. He stepped up. We needed him out there and he went out there. Hats off to him. If young guys learn how to win, you are going to be a good team, and I believe DJ knows how to win. Again, hopefully we understand what it takes and continue to grow."

(On pass interference challenge at the end of the game) "The biggest you have is if the ball is in the air, and they said yes. Jerry (Jarius Wright) said to me "Coach, if they don't grab me, I will run through it and catch that ball." So, that is why I challenged it. With Sam telling me upstairs, as well, "Hey, I saw it. It looked like the ball was gone Coach." So, we challenged it."

(On flag getting picked up on last missed field goal) "Yeah, I couldn't see it. That is one those things you can't jump with leverage. You can block a guy down, but you can't grab him and pull him down. JJ (Hansen) said he got grabbed by the back of the helmet, and created that leverage and all that type of stuff. I don't know, I didn't see it. So, we will have to see. We will take a look at the tape and go from there. Again, credit to both teams. Both teams played and unfortunately we didn't come out on top."

(On not scoring touchdown on last drive) "Well, we had some things that we thought would be really good, but again they made a play and we didn't. So, you have to give them credit for that."

(On adjustments made to come back from early deficit) "The biggest thing was when we were gap sound, we were able to stop their running game. That's something I've been talking about. As long as we're the team we're supposed to be and do our responsibilities, we can shut the run down. We had a couple of really good plays as far as the run defense was concerned. Unfortunately, every now and then we get anxious and we don't stay as disciplined as we need to be. We did do some of those

things, and made some adjustments. We were trying to pay attention to 13 and then they went to 87. Kudos to Drew (Brees) for reading what we were doing. Then they tried to stretch us with Ted Ginn (Jr.), but Donte (Jackson) came up and made a good play for us. Eric Reid made a couple of nice plays as well. Then the interception. Tre (Boston) had a good beat on the ball. It is one of those things if he didn't run into the guy, maybe he catches it and returns it for a touchdown. Well, we gave ourselves a chance, and that is the best thing you ask for."

(On irony of winning pass interference challenge in the place where it was the inspiration for the pass interference challenge rule) "Yeah, it is the whole point of it. That is why the rule was put into place. When you get into an egregious situation like that, that they can correct it and rectify it. I'm glad it worked that way."



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### CAROLINA PANTHERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME CAROLINA PANTHERS PLAYERS

#### QB #7 KYLE ALLEN

(On Saints Defense): "We were just taking what they gave us. They played a lot of two-high. They were trying to keep everything in front of them, so we were just taking what they give us."

(On his play): "I felt like I did. I felt like I put it together a little more today. It's like I said earlier, taking what they give you. That's not something I was doing good the past couple weeks. We took what they gave us. We had a lot of long sustained drives and really big plays. We gave ourselves a chance to win at the end."

"It is incredibly frustrating. It does not matter how you play. At the end of the day when they look back on the season it's going to be a loss. There's going to be no asterisk saying they almost won. It's a loss. Its frustrating. We've just got to put it all together and come together as a team. Some weeks it's been offense, some weeks it's been defense. We've just got to put it together and play a complete game."

(On post-game talk to Joey Slye): "I told him I was in the exact same spot he was last week. I told him 'We're going to need you down the line.' For throwing four picks last week, I didn't give us a chance to win the game at all. I told him, 'Look man, it's going to happen, especially in kickers' careers. You see it from every kicker. People go through slumps sometimes. People miss kicks. It's not a big deal. We've got to pick it up.' It's like I said, we've got to pick up slack. If people are slacking other people have to pick it up. It's a team game. I told him there were numerous other things in the game that could have went other ways. If we would have made plays on offense, if (the) defense would have made a couple more plays, he wouldn't have been put in that position. It's not on him."

(On DJ Moore): "I don't know what happened to his arm or his elbow, but I saw the replay as we were going in and it looked gross. For him to come out there and make that big play in the second half, and continue to make big plays the whole game, it speaks volumes."

"Execution, it all comes down to execution. The talent and the stuff that we do during the week into Sunday, its executing. We've got to find a way to put it all together and not make little mistakes. You see teams like the Saints and teams like the Packers, the really good teams that we've played, they don't make those mistakes. We've just got to keep trying to play mistake free football and give us a chance to win. When we don't hurt ourselves were a really good team."

#### PK #4 JOEY SLYE

"Coming into this week, I had a great week of preparation. The pre-game was probably one of the best pre-games I had kicking in the dome. I was on-line. I was hitting well. I just ended up losing it at some point. I'll just have to look back on the tape and see what I did wrong. I just have to keep working to see how I can improve those mistakes."

"If I'm pushing right, that means I'm having an issue planting my feet. I need to make sure that my timing is right. Again, I will have to look at the film to see what I did wrong. I have got to be better than that. I felt like my timing was fine. I have been working on it really hard again this week. Coming into the game I felt very confident. Going into the kicks I felt very confident. Then, obviously, it was missed. I felt confident. Every one of those kicks I went into with the same mindset. The results were obviously different. I have to look back on my technique and work on it from there."

#### RB #22 CHRISTIAN McCAFFREY

"It's another tough one. It hurts. It sucks, but we've still got games left. Once again our approach has to be the same."

"We fought hard. The only thing you can do is move forward. The great teams, the teams that go far, are the ones that win those. We have a great team and have to find a way quick to start doing that."

(On DJ Moore): "The guy takes a hard shot in the arm on the sideline. We all knew he was hurting but he keeps fighting back and breaks a. long. One and continues to fight. It's never an effort issue for us. It's an execution issue."

(On Saints defense): "It's a team game and I thought we moved the ball well. We put up 31 and could have had a few more. At the end of the day, we have to score more than them."

(On Kyle Allen): "He's a fighter. The guy comes out there and doesn't blink. We love playing with him. He's a heck of a quarterback. He put the ball where it was supposed to go, and guys came up and made some catches and made some plays."

"Me and Kyle have a good feel. We talk during the week about certain coverages and what we want to do against it, and he did a great job distributing the ball."

## **DT #93 GERALD McCOY**

"As a leader, all I can do is try to lead the guys and lead by example. Talking is over with. It's time to start doing. Were too good for this. Its frustrating. I don't care how good the Saints are. Let me take that back, the Saints are a great team. That's why they win so much. They're not a good team, they're a great team. Were a good team too. We have to just be better. Especially me."

"I'm always going to treat every opportunity as such. I always look at it as an opportunity and privilege, never a right, to be on an NFL team or play on Sundays. To be in a division as strong as this one, or to play against a team that's great, it's always great. I'm always going to be happy regardless. I know that were better than what were showing. That's the frustrating part."

"We were way better than what were showing. It's as simple as that. I know people say you are what your record shows but were better than what we're showing. I know that for sure. I'm not going to say it's on injuries, forget that. Its next man up. We've just got to be better."

(On playing defense after the missed field goal): "You are not going to take the field thinking you are not going to stop them. I don't care who is back there. I don't care if Tom Brady or Drew Brees is throwing the football to Jerry Rice all day. I do not care who it is. When you take the field, you expect to win that situation. That's why I said we have to be better. We know who we're facing. That's a first ballot Hall of Fame quarterback we're facing. So what? We're in the NFL too. You always take the field expecting to win. Always."



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### Pool Reporter Larry Holder Interview with Senior Vice President of Officiating Al Riveron

(On the play with 2:26 left in the fourth quarter where an on-field ruling of no defensive pass interference was overturned upon review)

Holder: Can you take me through your thought process on overturning the ruling of no defensive pass interference late in the fourth quarter?

Riveron: "The ruling on the field initially was an incomplete pass. Carolina challenges the ruling on the field. They were looking for defensive pass interference. After reviewing it, it was clear and obvious through visual evidence that the defender significantly hinders the receiver while the ball is in the air, therefore, it's defensive pass interference."

Holder: What would be the difference between defensive pass interference and holding on that play?

Riveron: "Well, remember holding is not reviewable. In this situation, obviously they're challenging DPI. If we can see the ball in the air when the contact takes place, then we know that we're looking at DPI. Had the contact taken place prior to the ball going in the air – when the quarterback still had the ball – then the on-field ruling would not have been changed because it's not DPI."