



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints advance to the NFC Championship Game for the third time in franchise history, joining the 2006 and 2009 teams. The Saints will host the Los Angeles Rams next Sunday, January 20th in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:05 pm CST.
- The Saints' win improves New Orleans' all-time playoff record to 9-10 and improves Head Coach **Sean Payton**'s postseason record to 8-5. Payton's home record in playoff games improves to 6-0.
- With the win, Payton has now defeated eight different head coaches in his eight playoff victories, now including Eagles Head Coach Doug Pederson.
- With the victory today, the Saints improve their playoff record against Philadelphia to 3-1. The four matchups against Philadelphia is tied with the Minnesota Vikings for the most against any opponent in franchise postseason history with the three playoff wins against Philadelphia the most against a postseason opponent.
- After trailing 14-0, the Saints scored the last 20 points of the game. The 14-point comeback is the largest in Saints postseason history, surpassing the 10-point comeback to defeat the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV.
- Offensively, New Orleans' finished the game with 420 total yards, including 137 rushing yards – the fifth highest rushing total in the team's postseason history.
- Defensively, the Saints' 14 points allowed ties a franchise postseason low set in the 2009 Divisional Playoffs when New Orleans beat Arizona 45-14. The Saints also held Philadelphia to a third down conversion rate of 29%, Philadelphia's fourth-lowest third down conversion rate of the season.
- After surrendering 151 yards and two touchdowns on the Eagles' first two drives, New Orleans' defense only allowed 99 yards on the Eagles final eight drives of the game, and held Philadelphia scoreless for the game's final 49:39.
- Playing in his franchise-record 13th playoff game as a Saint and 14th postseason contest overall, QB **Drew Brees** finished 28-of-38 for 301 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. With the two touchdown passes, Brees moves into a tie with Kurt Warner for seventh in the all-time NFL playoff record books with 31. Additionally, Brees' 28 completions moves his career postseason total to 382, surpassing John Elway and Aaron Rodgers to move into seventh all-time.
- In his fifth career postseason game, RB **Mark Ingram II** rushed for 53 yards on 9 carries, surpassing Reggie Bush and Pierre Thomas to move into first in New Orleans' playoff record books with 246 rushing yards. Ingram's fourth quarter 36-yard carry is the longest non-scoring rush in franchise postseason history.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished with a Saints' postseason record 171 yards on 12 receptions and added one touchdown. In franchise postseason history, Thomas now stands third in receiving yards with 387, fifth in receptions with 27, and tied for fourth with Jimmy Graham for touchdown receptions with two. In his career, Thomas has played in three postseason games and has recorded at least 85 receiving yards in each.
- CB **Marshon Lattimore** recorded two interceptions, including a fourth quarter interception to end Philadelphia's final drive. The picks tied a Saints single-game playoff career-high. The picks were the first postseason interceptions of Lattimore's career, and increased his season total (regular season and postseason combined) to four interceptions, and three against the Eagles. Lattimore also finished the day with four tackles and two pass defenses.

- Lattimore recorded the Saints first multi-interception postseason game since Jabari Greer had two interceptions in the 2011 NFC Wildcard Game against the Detroit Lions.
- In his playoff debut, LB **Demario Davis** led the Saints' defense with eight tackles.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** led the Saints in rushing, finishing with 16 carries for 71 yards, including a 12-yard rush for a first down with 1:03 remaining to seal the victory. Kamara also recorded four receptions for 35 yards.
- QB **Taysom Hill** recorded two rushes for eight yards, including a second quarter 4-yard rush on a fake punt. The rush extended a 12-play, 79-yard scoring drive, which resulted in a two-yard touchdown reception by WR **Keith Kirkwood**, the Saints' first touchdown of the game
- Playing in his first career playoff game, Kirkwood scored the Saints' lone first-half touchdown, on a two-yard reception from Brees.
- CB **P.J. Williams** finished the game with three tackles, two quarterback hits, and one pass defense.
- K **Wil Lutz** made two field goals, connecting on a 45-yarder with :11 to play in the first half and a 39-yarder with 10:28 to play in the fourth quarter. Lutz has now made at least one field goal in each of his three postseason appearances.
- The Saints' third quarter 18-play, 92-yard, 11:29 touchdown drive resulting in a Michael Thomas two-yard touchdown reception is the longest touchdown drive, in terms of time elapsed, in Saints' postseason history. The 18-play drive is also the longest in National Football League postseason play since the 2007 NFC Divisional Playoffs when the Dallas Cowboys had a 20-play touchdown drive against the New York Giants. It was the longest scoring drive by time in a playoff game since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SEAN PAYTON QUOTES

(Opening Statement)

“It was a hard fought game and (the) first thing to say is tip your hat to Philadelphia. Those guys came in and brought the fight to us early and really put us in a hole. Our guys fought back defensively. In the second half we were outstanding. Obviously it didn’t seem like there was many drives because the timing (long third quarter drive) was there. It felt like more of the quarter (was) was just that early drive. But we made enough plays. (It) Wasn’t a perfect game. Certainly there are a lot of things we’ll have to clean up, but most importantly we got the win. Listen, (we beat the) defending champions and that means something. When you’re able to beat a team like that.”

(On how much Marshon Lattimore’s first pick played a role on shifting the momentum of the game)

“I thought there were a handful of swings in momentum. For us that was a big one. Then making a first down on the fake punt. Turning that into points. We had some tough calls go against us tonight. It’s hard to look at each or any one of the calls, but we fought through that. So I think probably when we watch this tape, there’s going to be, probably four or five of those key swings early on that went against us. That’s not unusual in the postseason. We played from behind quite a bit this season and we were able to come back. This was obviously an important one.”

(On the defensive performance to shut the Eagles down after a 14-point deficit)

“Like I said, I thought we did a great job getting (the Eagles) off the field on third down. I thought they ran the ball fairly efficiently early. There was that one long drive where we ate a lot of clock up. So it felt like we were in to the fourth quarter fairly quick, but they were fantastic.”

(On how that long drive the Saints had affected the game)

“It’s part of one of things you’re wanting to do and you get scores still. It was close the whole game. We were trying to get in position there late to get a field goal. We’re able to come up with it. (We) Put them on the field again for another drive. Fortunately we came up with the interception. It was a good team win.”

(On the reason for poor play in the first quarter)

“As a coach, you always look at it like, you want to start fast. We’ve started fast here before. Now at some point you move on from it, but fortunately we were able to settle in.”

(On his thought process on the fake punt)

“Each one of those is kind of calculated. Mike (Westhoff) felt good about the look we were receiving. I trust Taysom a lot. He’s a powerful runner and generally the looks that are somewhat favorable also come with some risk. Especially where we were in the game. I know it was early in the game and still, similar to New York (Giants) if you will, when we needed to shift momentum. And we were able to fortunately in taking advantage of it. It was really based on the looks we saw during the game.”

(On if the fake punt was in the gameplan prior to the game)

“Oh yeah. Yes. Yes it wasn’t let’s just try this in the first quarter. No, we spent a lot of time on it.”

(On his thought process during the long Saints drive and the team’s resiliency)

“Well in order to have 22 plays, the third down that Drew converts to Mike was huge. There are too many plays. Specifically, I think there were four penalties if I’m not mistaken, but at least three. We hung in there and fought through it, so that was encouraging.”

(On whether the team being able to fight through adversity helps moving forward in to next week)

“Yes and I mentioned earlier. In our league, there’s going to be games where you fall behind. We’ve played a handful of those already. I just have great faith in both sides of the ball. The kicking game too. We were able to today.”

(On the team's ability to not panic on second and third downs no matter what the specific yardage situation)

"Well look, we needed that last one. We elected to run it. Ultimately we felt like this game was going to be about situational football. We felt the red zone offense and defense was going to be important. We felt the third down offense and defense (was going to be important). I thought the second half, we got off the field defensively on third down. On offense, I thought we were able to convert some big plays especially late in the game when Mike (Thomas made plays)...Because those, relative to time of possession which you're trying to achieve, those are significant."

(On Michael Thomas' play throughout the game)

"He has real strong hands in traffic. He's tough and competitive. He's one of those players that believes that he can make those types of plays. Drew did a great job of finding him. Those were significant plays that really changed the direction of the game."

(On whether the second quarter timeout near the end of the second quarter by the eagles changed the play call of going for it on third down or taking the field goal)

"We're right at that... We got a quick peek in to what we might get defensively. So you think about a jump ball maybe. Then when you kind of weigh everything and where we were at. We were good just taking the field goal."

(On his thought process during those first few drives during the game)

"There's a lot that you get from this team (Philadelphia Eagles) offensively. A lot of motions, some RPO's. They do a good job of spreading the ball around. The quarterback's been outstanding. It's hard to get to him. He made a few throws that just, unbelievable. But I did think we were able to push the pocket a little later as the game went on. I did think that helped. You try to find a way to disrupt the passing game. You can do that with your rush or outside. We were able to get some hands on some receivers. But that's a talented group."

(On whether he thought that getting a touchdown on that fourth down was necessary over getting a field goal)

"I didn't feel like it was a must. We felt pretty good about two or three of the calls we had. And fortunately it worked out. But we felt pretty confident. You know, it was calculated and yet it was on that drive when I think the momentum... It was significant to get that seven."

(On if he thinks his players play off of that aggressive mentality)

"No sometimes it's maybe meant for that. Other times, there's a lot that goes in to...You're playing this team and you have to go win with the mindset that scoring is going to be at a premium. So your respect might go up a little bit. Then there's some weeks that you might be a little less tolerant for that. I think a lot of it's been depending on who you're playing and trying to be smart also."

(On Sheldon Rankins' injury early in the game)

"The season he has been having. It's gut wrenching. He's played so well for us and we'll see where he's at."

(On seeing the other defensive linemen step up in Sheldon Rankins' absence)

"It's unfortunately one of the challenges this late in the season. I'm proud of those guys. I'm proud of that locker room. They fought through a lot. We managed to get the win. Again, these are tough games."

(On what the differences are in moving to the next game during the postseason compared to moving to the next game during the regular season)

"I would say the challenge is just within the schedule. Protecting the routine. Eight teams going to four, but the amount of people that cover those teams didn't change any. So just do the division. Protecting the schedule, staying on the routine, and then quickly diving in to a grueling Rams team that we played, it seems like a long time ago. Getting ready to play that game."

(On his first thoughts on playing the Rams next week)

"I haven't even gotten to that yet. I mean, obviously when you play the last game, you kind of know who the opponent's going to be, but there's so much focus on the game you're playing. You're getting ahead a little bit."

(On the excitement of playing again in New Orleans next week)

"We think it's a tremendous advantage to play here. Our fans were fantastic tonight. Communication becomes difficult. We've been on both sides of it. We've played in some tough road venues where it's real loud. Minnesota, Seattle, and we play at home here. That's one of the reasons why you fight so hard for the best seed you can. So that you have the chance to play with the noise in your favor. We

have a lot of work to do. You get a really good team we beat today. A great championship team. You can't say enough about them."

(On if the fans forced the Eagles to call timeouts during the game)

"Anytime you get a delay of game and then a timeout there, there's an attrition to that noise. I'd like to think that was the case. Look I saw 12 men in a huddle before on an important down. It's all of the communication that strains you, not just on one play, but through the course of the game."

(On if playing the Rams earlier in the season helps gameplan for them this week)

"They're all big now right. You know how it works. It's a game to advance. It's a playoff game. It's not a best of seven. It's three hours. They're all important. I would bet more often than not, playoff games a lot of the times, involve teams that are playing each other again. Whether they were division teams or whether you just look at the numbers. But that does seem like it was quite a ways back."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
GREG BENSEL + SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
QB DREW BREES

(On being focused on the next opportunity)

"Listen, we found a bunch of ways to win during the season. Every game kind of stood alone, but many of them came down to third quarter, fourth quarter, second half type comebacks where it took everybody. It took a big play on defense, a big play on offense, a big play on special teams to turn the tide. They were all great team victories. Looks like that carried over into the playoffs. Obviously we didn't start this game the way we wanted to. They jumped out to a 14-point lead. Listen, we were calm, we were poised. We knew we were going to get things going, but obviously we had to do that quickly. We were able to narrow the gap 14-10 at halftime and I think the turning point was really that 23-play drive in the third quarter that lasted about 11 and half minutes, and really started at our eight-yard line to get a touchdown. I was just told that we actually gained 117 yards on that drive. I don't know if that's a record. The penalties are what set us back. We ran a 117-yard drive in the third quarter to take the lead and then really didn't look back. That was the turning point in the game. I think the crowd was with us all day. They were awesome. Dome field advantage but defense played phenomenal as well. We made enough plays down the stretch to get the win."

(On trust with Michael Thomas)

I've been very fortunate to play with some great ones (receivers.) You spend a lot of time together to develop that trust, that confidence, that chemistry. We've had a couple great ones here in New Orleans, but obviously, the last few years with Mike I've just got so much trust and confidence in him. What you see on gameday is what I see during practice every day. It's not like the guy just turns it on for gameday. He practices that way, every day in practice. That same intensity, attention to detail, and that fire, passion, and competitive drive. We try to put ourselves in those moments during practice and when gameday shows up and you're making those same plays, it's no surprise to us. It certainly doesn't surprise anyone on this team what he's been able to accomplish this year and what he's been able to do today. He's a big time player who wants to be the guy to make plays when you need it most. And he did that today."

(On Michael Thomas being the best in the league)

"I think there is certainly an argument. There are a lot of great wide receivers in this league and certainly he should be in the conversation."

(On doubling Michael Thomas less than in the first game against Philadelphia)

"I think they were. You go back to the first time we played them here and I think it was a much different gameplan in how they were playing him. We just had to be patient and other guys made plays. His opportunity came towards the end of that game. It was a bit of a different approach today for one reason or another. There were times when he was getting more attention than others, but I would say for the most part (the defense doubled.) You just have to pick and choose your moments and I felt like there were more opportunities today."

(On fake punt and momentum)

"We converted two fourth downs on that drive to go down and get our first touchdown of the game. That was huge. Again, special teams played (big) and continued the drive which allows us to go down and get points."

(On fourth down call to Kirkwood)

"(I) Just felt like we had a good play. Sure enough, we got the look that we wanted and got the touchdown."

(On playing for a risk taker in Sean Payton)

"They're calculated risks. It's not like we're flying by the seat of our pants out there. These are things that we've talked about. These are conversations that we have in critical situations, how is the team playing us now, how is the tempo of the game going. I think we all felt like we needed to step it up. Again, if you don't have a play you like, you don't go for it. But you have a play you like. You got for it and make it happen."

(On third and 16 in the third quarter to Michael Thomas)

“It was a huge play. Unfortunately, we had a bunch of penalties that set us back and some other stuff that really put us behind the chains, but it was a big play by him to keep the drive going. Again, (the) turning point in the game, that drive. Just 23 plays and to possess it for 11 and half minutes is pretty much the entire third quarter. It got us the lead which I think, to be down 14 and then all of sudden take the lead in the third quarter, it was just a huge momentum shift and tipping point.”

(On contributions to penalties on a 117-yard drive including penalties)

“I think we had a couple of holding calls, on both a run plays and pass plays. It was just fundamentals and attention to detail. They’re a great pass rush too. They got some guys that can rush the passer.”

(On slow start)

“It was not the way to start. Call it what you want, I’m not going to say three weeks off. Listen, we had to get some guys healthy and that was the most important thing. That was not the way we wanted to start, but to overcome that I think is the story here.”



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
GREG BENSEL + SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

(On shutting out the Eagles after first quarter)

"We just had to settle down. It took us a minute to settle in and just play, execute everything that we were doing. But once that second half came I think they only had 50 passing yards in the second half. We really locked in and turned up. We played with some swag in the second half. And I love when we be like that. Our defense is better when we play like that."

(On being down 14 and making adjustments)

"We really didn't make too many adjustments. We just started playing better and we were executing everything that we called. So we didn't really make too many adjustments, we just knew we had to go in and play with some swag and be vicious with the receivers."

(On feeding off the crowd)

"Most definitely. It was probably the loudest I've heard the dome. When we played Carolina (Panthers) last year it was pretty loud, but this time it was loud. And we love that. We love the crowd being in the game with us. And that helps give that extra push to get the job done."



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

WR Michael Thomas

(On connecting with Drew Brees in long yardage situations) "We just keep going. When we come out there, we feel like no one can stop us. I just feel like we keep building every week. I have his back and he has my back. We have a thing and it's hard for the other team to stop."

(On his performance today) "It's win or go home. I do whatever it takes. If you are double or triple team, it doesn't matter. You just have to do your job. You just need to concentrate on what you are doing and things will open up. We have a lot of preparation during the week. We responded. I don't know if it was a breakout game, but you just go out and make plays when your number is called."

(On if the Eagles played him differently this time around) "When they played us the first time, I had a decent game. I just watched the film. I had to beat whoever was in the way and go out and catch (the ball). When it's third down and the ball is coming to me, then I have to convert. I have to make a play. I don't really pay attention to how they are playing me. I just have to run my route and do what I have to do to get open."

RB Alvin Kamara

(On the crowd helping the team today on defense) "It was loud. Mark (Ingram II) turned to me and said that it was the loudest he ever heard it. You hear it and then you look up at the screen and the decibels are high."

(On what got them going after a slow start) "We are the New Orleans Saints. We prepared all week. We started slow and sometimes that happens, but we stayed on it. We stuck to our game plan and we were able to execute. We got our offense going and the defense played huge."

(On the defenses' play) "It was huge. They stood up when they needed to stand up."

(On the 11-minute plus touchdown drive) "We were just focusing on play after play after play. We are not really looking at the time. At the end of the drive, we realized we took up 18 plays and basically the whole quarter. That is a sign of a great offense. You hold the ball and control it and then score. That was a huge drive."

RB Mark Ingram II

(On the crowd helping the team today) "It was huge. I saw the meter get to 128, 130. I have never seen it get that high. They brought it and we are going to need it all of the way through the playoffs. We appreciate it Who Dat nation."

(On the defense's play) "It was huge. They had the pick early that stole the momentum. They had the pick late that helped us finish it. They played big boy ball today."

(On advancing to the NFC Championship game) "Both teams are great. We had a shootout last time. We are just going to focus on what we have to do to have a great game plan. We'll prepare and get ready for next week."

QB Taysom Hill

(On the fake punt) "They were kind of late getting lined up and we liked our matchup there. Coach Payton and Coach Westhoff have a lot of trust in our guys up front. We knew that we could do it. We

knew that we needed to create momentum for ourselves.”

(On if he had the final call) “Yes.”

(On the guts of the fake punt call) "It's a gutsy call. It's Coach Payton. That's become the norm. He has a good feel for the team and he has a lot of trust in us and our preparation. That's a look that we thought we were going to get and we did. I wasn't going to be denied"

LB Demario Davis

(On advancing to the NFC Championship) "It's unreal when you think about it. We had a goal at the beginning of the season. At first, we wanted to make it to the playoffs. Then, we wanted to get the one seed, but you have to win out. It's single elimination. We are one step closer to our goals, but there is still a long way to go. It feels good to get the win."

(On settling in after the first quarter) "They are a phenomenal offense. They have a lot of good weapons. They have a really good quarterback. They have a good offensive coordinator who knows how to move the ball around and keep you on your toes. They had us reeling early on. We stayed true to our goals. We were able to stop the run, get a little pressure on the quarterback and get some takeaways. Those two takeaways by Marshon (Lattimore) were huge. They were game changing. It was the trump card."



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
EAGLES HEAD COACH DOUG PEDERSON

(On if the Saints made adjustments after they were trailing 14-0) “No, not really. It’s a credit to them, obviously, but you see, sometimes, how you just look at the ebb and flow of the game. They got some breaks in there. We were moving the ball again. We had that turnover. The throw was accurate on the sideline. It got intercepted. They went down and scored on that. Nothing that they did (made the difference). We just didn’t make enough plays to either stay on the field or continue drives, execute, and score.”

(On the difficulty of greeting each player as they exited the field tonight) “It’s tough. It’s tough because it’s so final. It’s the end of the season, and there is no more football for 2018. I just told the guys to ‘just keep their heads up.’ We set out on a journey way back in OTAs. We keep talking about having no regrets and to leave everything out on the field. They did that tonight. They did that this afternoon. They battled right until the end. They had the opportunities. I am proud of them, proud of the season, proud of the adversity that we faced all season long. We found our way to get into the postseason. I just wish the Saints good luck moving forward.”

(On what he told Alshon Jeffery after mishandling the ball on the fourth quarter interception by Marshon Lattimore) “It’s hard. It’s hard, because he is so down. For me, it’s about staying positive. Listen, he has made many, many big catches for us this season. He will continue to do that. I just told him that he’s got to keep his head up and don’t let one play define you. It’s not who he is; he is too good of a player. He will embrace it, obviously. He will be better for it. I just told him to just keep his head up and keep playing.”

(On the play of Nick Foles) “I will look at the tape and evaluate that. There is always throws that you would like to have back in every game. I like the way that he went in there and battled and gave our offense a chance to go down and possibly win this football game. I thought that overall he played pretty good.”

(On the change of momentum after the first interception by Marshon Lattimore) “Yeah, you felt it. You felt it a little bit. Listen, we had a lot of confidence even at that point. We were moving the ball. We stayed in rhythm. Even on that drive, we felt that we could (score) had we hit that play (that was intercepted). It kind of changed after that point. Credit the Saints for executing.”

(On losing multiple players for periods throughout the game) “It’s hard; it’s tough. The guys are solid players and starters. It’s unfortunate that we lose those guys for periods of time. (We lost) Brandon (Brooks) for the rest of the game. It’s disruptive a little bit. It’s kind of been our season, fighting through that adversity. We did get them back (except for Brooks), but credit to them for playing through (injuries).”

(On the fake punt by the Saints) “You kind of expect it in that situation, it’s fourth and one. You just have to be prepared for that. Again, it was just a great play by them.”

(On the third down and 16 play that the Saints converted for a 21-yard gain) “We were dropping in a zone. Again, Drew (Brees) did a good job of just hanging onto the football and letting his guys go down the field. It was just a good window right there in the middle of the field. They got it and got the first down.”

(On what made the Eagles relevant late this season) “The guys in that locker room. I have a lot of trust and a lot of faith in those guys, my coaches. (We) just believe that we can get ourselves in this position and be in the postseason. It is one of our goals, obviously, is to be playing in January. It’s a resilient group that doesn’t waver a whole lot through adversity. It makes it tougher. It makes you

battle that much harder. Those guys in the locker room really fought through that and gave us the opportunity to be in this position.”

(On if he thought the team would win late in the game) “I thought that we were on our way. We got back (in it). It just felt like the momentum at that point was in our favor. It was in our hands. It’s been that way all season. It felt like that magic was going to continue.”

(On if he had a special message for Nick Foles after the game) “I just told him that I appreciate everything that he’s done and everything that he’s done this season to come in and step in the way that he has. I just told him that I loved him. We will probably visit in the next couple of days.”

(On the difficulty of knowing that some players won’t be back next season) “It’s tough. You build relationships with these guys. You spend so much time together. You build your roster. Every year your roster is going to change; that is just the way that it is. There are people who are going to come. There are people who are going to go. Obviously, we will talk more about it in the next few days. When you build relationships like that, and you know these guys personally, it’s kind of hard. We won a Super Bowl with these guys. We will see where we go again.”

(On the defense containing the Saints offense) “I credit the defense. They got after Drew (Brees), which we had to do. One statistical thing was the third downs. I think that they were eight of 15 on third downs. That was kind of a big, glaring statistic that stood out. Conversely, I think that we were two of seven. That, to me, I think’s the tell-tale. We just couldn’t get off of the field enough defensively with 15 third downs. It is a credit to get the 15, but then we have to get off of the field.”



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
EAGLES PLAYER QUOTES

QB Nick Foles

(On his thoughts on today's game) "They really did a good job of showing us different looks, but at the end of the day we didn't execute. First few drives were great, but after that we have to keep it going. They are a tremendous team and hats off to them. Unfortunately, we had an opportunity at the end, it is tough. We love playing this game with your teammates and that is the toughest part about it, is that it stops and 31 teams feel this at the end of the season. The hardest part about it is you develop relationships with your teammates and for it to end this tough, just being with these guys and spending time with them in the locker room after, that is what this game is all about."

(On this possibly being his last game as an Eagle) "I am not really going to worry about it right now. I think I am just going to do whatever I can to enjoy this flight back with my teammates and we will see what happens. I do know that we went out there and give it everything we had tonight. Everyone is going to keep their heads up high, because that is what it is about. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but ultimately if you give it everything you have that is what it is about."

(On what the team said to Alshon Jeffery) "We just tell him we love him. That is what it is all about. This game is tough, not everybody can do it. In those moments, we just tell him 'we love you and keep going', among other things that I will keep to myself, but that is the general message. That is what this team is about, playing this game is about developing those relationships. The tough part is, when it is over it is over, but I do not regret anything. I will always play this game and develop those relationships, that is what makes this a strong team."

WR Alshon Jeffery

(On missing the late game catch) "It happens to the best of us. You move on, it hurts right now, but I guarantee we will be back next year."

(On the Saints defensive changes after the Eagles hot start to the game) "It was on us. I take that loss on me, but it is on us. They didn't do anything that was special, we beat ourselves and that is on me."

(On how long this game will stay with him) "I mean, it will be with me through the whole offseason while I am trying. Every guy in this locker room wants the same thing and we hate this feeling right now."

(On the outcome of today's game) "I just felt like we beat ourselves. There is nothing they did, but hats off to those guys, congrats on going to the NFC Championship. They have a hell of a team over there."

(On the team's message after getting the ball back after a missed field goal) "Let's go down and win it. That is all we said, just go down and win it. No matter what happens we are trying to win."

C Jason Kelce

(On how tough today's game was) "Obviously, we got off to a really good start. Those first two drives, we put 14 points up quickly, which makes this even more frustrating. We were going to get the ball back in the second half and we could have put two more scores together there in the first half it would

have been very difficult for them. Great job by our defense. We just didn't sustain it offensively, we stalled out after the opening quarter of the game.”

(On if there was confusion with communication within the offense during the game) “You have to ask the coaches that. I think that anytime you are in an environment like this, communication is a point of emphasis. There were a couple times where we got up to the ball and tried to make a change late, and getting that communicated is tough, especially when you are trying to get the best play possible. That is where home field advantage makes a big difference obviously, but no excuses, I think we handled that decently. We could have done better, but I don't think that is why we lost.”

(On his message to QB Nick Foles) “Same thing, I love and respect that guy so much. It is not just him, it is all the guys that have been on the team this year. We had a great group of guys just like we did last year, great coaches too. Nick (Foles) is a guy that I have been fortunate enough to play a number of years with in the NFL and with the Philadelphia Eagles. We have been in some really big games and that is one of the guys you will always remember.”

S Malcolm Jenkins

(On his thoughts on the season) “I think we are well aware that all we do is focus on the process. We lean heavily on the guys we have in the locker room that have been through adversity and we just continue to fight and continue to trust in each other. This is no different tonight, we just didn't get the result that we wanted to. We put up a fight against a really good team on the road and gave ourselves a chance. That is all we ask for.”

(On the feeling in the locker room after today's loss) “At the end of the day, there is a ton of work that goes into this game that we play. We start with the offseason. OTA's, training camp. All the thing you go through during the season, the injuries, the time and effort you put into it, the guys you care about next to you, then it just comes to an abrupt end for everybody, unless you win the Super Bowl. Just dealing with that is always tough, but 31 teams have to deal with that and it just comes suddenly to an end. Now we have to look on to next year.”

(On the saints regaining the momentum) “They definitely earned that one, they got the fake punt and then scored on fourth down. I think the drive after that they went three and out. It was a back and forth game. I thought we played well, they did a good job on third down, especially some of those third and longs and converting them against some of our zone coverages. I think we will want some of those back, but for the most part I felt like we competed and gave ourselves a chance.”

DE Brandon Graham

(On the season as a whole and today) “We lost the game, but he had a hell of a season. A lot of people didn't give us a shot, but we go out there and play hard and we just came up short.”

(On his impact on this team over the years) “I think about, it has been a long road, it has been nine years. I do not have any regrets, I have enjoyed this time if it is the end. At the end of the day, I am hoping I passed down some good stuff for them to keep in this organization; like a young DB, the next man up who now has to be the leader, to keep it going, keep it positive in here and keep everybody believing even when things get bad. Hopefully that rubbed off on these boys and let the young guys see how we get through it, especially through adversity. You have to look at the positives, we have a bunch of good guys here that are going to feel this and be ready for next year.”