



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT DALLAS COWBOYS SUNDAY, SEP. 15, 2024 • AT&T STADIUM SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the 44-19 victory over the Cowboys, the Saints move to 2-0 in consecutive seasons for only the second time in franchise history, joining the 2009 and 2010 teams. The Saints will return to action on next Sunday, when they host the Philadelphia Eagles on Sept. 22 at the Caesars Superdome. The game will be regionally televised on FOX (WVUE FOX 8 locally) with a noon kickoff.
- The win improves the Saints' all-time record against the Cowboys to 14-18 and their record at Dallas to 5-11. The victory breaks a 16-game regular season winning streak at AT&T Stadium by the Cowboys.
- The Saints outgained the Cowboys in total yardage 432 to 353, including a 190 to 68 advantage on the ground.
- The Saints have combined for 370 total rushing yards in their first two games, the third-most in a pair of games to open a season in franchise history.
- New Orleans scored touchdowns on their first six possessions for only the second time in franchise history, first doing so at Detroit on Dec. 21, 2008.
- New Orleans made the most of their opportunities on third down, finishing five-of-eight (62.5 pct.).
- The Saints scored 35 points in the first half, marking just the sixth time the club has scored five touchdowns in the first half of a contest in franchise history, last doing so at Carolina (12/29/19).
- The Saints also became just the third team in NFL history to score 30 plus points in the first half of each of their first two games to open a season, joining the 2001 Indianapolis Colts and the 1968 Oakland Raiders.
- With 44 points scored Sunday, it marked just the second time New Orleans has scored 40-plus points in back to back contests to open a season, joining the 2009 team. The 91 points scored in the first two games are the second-most points scored by an NFL team in the first two games of a season since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger behind the 2009 Saints (93).
- Head Coach **Dennis Allen** evened his overall record against Dallas to 1-1, improving to 1-0 against the Cowboys as Saints Head Coach.
- QB **Derek Carr** finished 11-of-16 (68.8 pct.) for 243 yards and two scores with a passer rating of 125.0. Carr also added a one yard rushing touchdown, his first as a Saint.

- Carr opened the scoring with a 70-yard touchdown pass to WR **Rashid Shaheed**, the longest completion by a Saint since QB Jameis Winston completed a 72-yard touchdown pass to WR/RS Deonte Harty on Oct. 10, 2021 at Washington.
- With two scores through the air Sunday, Carr now has 247 career touchdown passes, tied for 26<sup>th</sup> in NFL record books with Boomer Esiason.
- Carr improved his record as a starter against Dallas to 2-1.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** had a dominant afternoon for the Saints offense, rushing 20 times for 115 yards (5.8 avg) and three touchdowns to go along with two receptions for 65 yards and another score, including a career-long 57-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass from Carr. With his four touchdowns, Kamara became the only Saint to have multiple games with four or more touchdowns.
- Kamara now has 83 career touchdowns, tied for 62<sup>nd</sup> all-time with Joey Galloway, Anquan Boldin and Brandon Marshall and 58 career rushing touchdowns, tied for 57<sup>th</sup> in league history with Mike Alstott and Jamal Lewis.
- With two receptions on Sunday, Kamara now has 512 for his career and is tied for 14<sup>th</sup> among NFL running backs with Earnest Byner and Herschel Walker.
- Kamara now has 4,311 career receiving yards, tied for eighth all-time in club record books, surpassing WR Lance Moore.
- Kamara played in his 103<sup>rd</sup> career regular season game, moving into a tie 51<sup>st</sup> on the club's all-time list for games played with DT Elex Price and DB Malcolm Jenkins.
- Sunday marked the 12<sup>th</sup> time Kamara has had both a rushing and receiving score in a game, surpassing Hall of Famer Jim Brown and is now tied for third with Brian Westbrook and Lenny Moore for games with both a rushing and receiving score.
- With 115 yards on the ground against Dallas, Kamara now has nine 100-yard rushing games for the Black and Gold. He is just the third Saint to eclipse the 6,000 yard rushing mark, joining Deuce McAllister and Mark Ingram II.
- RB **Jamaal Williams** added eight carries for 39 yards. Sunday's performance put him over 4,000 rushing yards for his career (4,035).
- WR **Chris Olave** finished with four receptions for 81 yards (20.3 avg) including a 39-yard grab. He also added a seven-yard carry.
- WR **Rashid Shaheed** continued to be explosive, adding four grabs for 96 yards (24.0 avg) and a touchdown. His 70-yard touchdown in the first quarter was the longest of his career and was his eighth touchdown of 40-plus yards. Shaheed also added three carries for 13 yards for 109 total yards from scrimmage.
- CB **Alontae Taylor** led the Saints with a career-high and game-high nine tackles, including a career-best eight solo stops.

- LB **Demario Davis** totaled eight tackles (three solo) and a pass breakup. Sunday was Davis's 100<sup>th</sup> career game for New Orleans and his 100<sup>th</sup> consecutive start, moving into a tie with CB Johnnie Poe and C Jerry Fontenot for 62<sup>nd</sup> on the club's all-time games played list.
- LB **Pete Werner** also added eight stops (five solo) for the New Orleans defense.
- DE **Carl Granderson** was disruptive again for New Orleans, adding five stops, 1.5 sacks and a stop for loss.
- CB **Paulson Adebo** was huge for the Black and Gold defense, adding four tackles, two pass breakups and a second quarter interception returned for 47 yards to set up a Saints touchdown.
- Rookie CB **Kool Aid McKinstry** made his first NFL start in place of the injured CB **Marshon Lattimore** and finished with five stops (three solo) and a pass breakup.
- S **Tyrann Mathieu** added three tackles, two pass breakups and his 34<sup>th</sup> career interception. The 34 interceptions are the most in the NFL since 2013. Mathieu's two pass breakups also bring his career total to 101.
- DE **Chase Young** finished with four tackles, one quarterback hit, and a half sack, his first sack with the Black and Gold.
- DT **Bryan Bresee** finished with two tackles, one sack and one forced fumble.
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 117<sup>th</sup> career game on Sunday, moving into a tie for 35<sup>th</sup> place on the club's all-time list for games played with former Saints TE and current Pro Scout Josh Hill.



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Obviously, a good win for us. Excited about that. I thought our guys came out. They were ready to play. They played the type of football that we want to play as a football team. That's a good team that we beat today and our guys made some plays. I thought our guys did a pretty good job up front. We kept the quarterback clean. We were able to run the football effectively. Defensively, we knew this was going to be one of these games. They were going to get some yards at times. But the plan was to have to kick field goals when they got down there in the red area. I thought we did a good job of doing that. Played good red zone defense. And so the difference I think really was we were able to kind of score touchdowns on our drives and we forced them to have to kick some field goals. I think it was a big part of the game. But obviously, excited about getting the win against a good football team. And yet it's week two of the season. So we still have a lot of things we have to improve on. We'll get back to work tomorrow and start planning on Philadelphia.

**On keys to keeping Dallas' pass rushers in check.**

Well, look, I think part of it was we were able to run football. And when you're able to run the ball and you're able to put yourself in manageable situations, you're not having to get into a drop back passing mode where they can just unleash their pass rush. I think Clint and the guys had a good plan for how they wanted to protect in the passing game, and I think our offense line did a good job executing.

**On if there is something he can identify about what it is about this offense that he seems so comfortable and relaxed.**

Yeah, I think he's been freed up a little bit in terms of not having to control every single thing on the line of scrimmage. He's able to really go out there and play. And I think, you know, all the backs tend to play better when you're able to run the football effectively. And our offense line has done a good job of protecting him. And I think that's always been the case. I feel like when Derek is able to be protected, then he's pretty good at throwing the football.

**On what he thought of Alvin Kamara.**

I thought he was awesome again. I thought really good. I thought he ran the ball well. I thought he ran the ball physical. He caught the ball on the screenplay. There was a lot of good things that I saw. I think he's playing really good football for us.

**Alvin was pretty adamant in camp that he wasn't an aging running back – he felt fresh. Is that something you can just see from him going into the season?**

I never felt like he was an aging running back. I felt like he was still an explosive player. And I think we're utilizing him in a way that allows him to be effective. I think he's still one of those guys that if you create some space, and he's able to operate in space, I think he's pretty good. I thought he ran the ball well, and I thought he caught the ball well out of the backfield.

**On Tailese Fuego playing today.**

I think once we kind of got to the stadium, we felt like he was going to be good to go. You never really know with the back. Sometimes that thing can flare up and cause some problems. Any of you guys that have ever had back issues or whatever, it's something that's hard to kind of play through. But I thought he did a great job of playing through it, and for a rookie to really not practice during the week...I can't tell you exactly how he played, but I'd say the fact that we were able to run football and protect the quarterback, I'd say he probably did okay.

**On the Rashid Shaheed post touchdown.**

Yeah, I thought protected it up. Shaheed ran by him. Derek put it in a perfect spot. [It's] kind of the way you draw it up.

**On what they're doing as coaches to have the team so dialed in based on how it's executing.**

I think it's two-fold. I think it's being detailed with the plan, and exactly what we're trying to get accomplished, why we're trying to do things a certain way. And holding guys accountable to do it that way. And I think when our guys see that they have success with that, then they begin to believe in the message and believe in the system and believe in the things that we're teaching. And then you get that cohesion that you really need to be effective as a team. And so, yeah, I think our guys know that if we play the way we're capable of playing and do the things that we know that we have to do for us to be successful, I think they believe that that gives him a great chance to win.



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**On if there was anything he saw in terms of Derek Carr's approach. He said he worked tirelessly to ensure he didn't start slowly in a new system.**

Look, he's always worked hard, so that's not anything new. I think as much as anything, Derek's been so much more visible around the building. You know, a lot of times guys, especially as you get older and have kids and families and all these kinds of things, and other things that kind of pull at you, with the iPads and all this stuff, you can kind of do your preparation at home. And yet you can get yourself ready, but there's something about everybody kind of seeing everything the same way. And there's something about everybody seeing our best players in the building watching tape and studying and getting themselves prepared. It's hard if you're a young guy or somebody like that, when you see a Derek Carr, an Alvin Kamara, one of these guys in the building preparing, it's hard for them to think that it'd be anything less than acceptable for them to be doing that.

**On how he said this would be a big test for the team, coming in here and beating a team that had won 16 straight regular season games. On how his team was ready to play.**

Look, this, this was a good football team that we played, and we were certainly ready to go play the game. And yet I don't think we looked at this as anything other than this is the next corner on our schedule, and really it's about us. It's about us going out and doing the things that we know that we can do for us to be successful. And that's really what we focused on. And yeah, that's a really good football team that we just played. And so hopefully our team will gain some confidence with that.

**On what the plan with CeeDee Lamb today, especially with Marshon Lattimore being out.**

Yeah, well, we knew that we had to try to take him away. I mean, obviously he had the one big play in the game, but other than that, I thought we did a pretty good job on him of trying to take him out of the game. This is really explosive offense and trying to eliminate the explosive plays, knowing that there's a chance that they can move the ball, and then how do we do a good job down there in the red zone and make them have to kick field goals. I thought we were able to do that today.

**On how close Marshon Lattimore was to being able to play today.**

Look, he wanted to play. That was really my decision, and it really boiled down to – I didn't want to risk what we think might be potentially a one week deal, and him going out there and all of a sudden we turn one week into four weeks. So that was a decision that I made, and he wanted to play. I think he was a little pissed at me that I didn't let him play.

**On if he ran out of game balls.**

We haven't gone through that yet, but it was certainly a good win for our team.

**On if there are any updates on Taysom Hill.**

Taysom had a chest injury. I think they took him for some extra evaluations, so he went to the hospital and will be evaluated further. I think it's more precautionary but we'll see.

**A chest injury in what sense?**

I don't really know exactly, to be honest with you. I just know "chest injury," and they wanted to make sure they went in and evaluated it further. Maybe some more imaging.



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**Derek Carr, QB**

**On how much time was spent on his Michael Jackson celebrations...**

Not much time. I was a dancer in my day. Don't let the four kids fool you. I had to lure their mom in somehow.

**On if he had to explain what the dance was...**

That's a really good point but to their credit, they knew who he was. That was a good question.

**On the ease of the Saints scoring...**

I don't have the answers for everything. I don't know why the scoring is one way or this or that. All I know is that we believe in one another and we had a really hard offseason. We had a really hard training camp. You ask anybody in there, the workouts, the practices, it was tough. It was really hard. But it was meant for moments like this. There were probably days that we were pissed at DA or something like that you know for "man, gosh, pads again?!" I think all football players gripe about it, but I guarantee you now every single man in that locker room is thankful for those hard days. For the way we've started this year. Again, we're thankful for the start, get off to a fast start. But as we all know, next week is a whole different test.

**On how helpful it is to go against the Saints defense in practice...**

One hundred percent. Y'all saw it best. The back and forth during camp. Wow that's pretty cool right? The defense looks good now right? The offense makes a play, you know, usually when it's back and forth like that, especially when it's a good defense, it's a good sign for your offense. For us, what a challenge every single day that you wake up, you have to set your mind to come compete against them. It one hundred percent helped us as a football team. The way that they attacked the football, the way that they make the windows tight. We had some tight window throws today and I just remember just throwing that rep in practice and I see them in game today and I was like man I'm thankful for Adebo and 'Tae and Marshon being that close on the coverage. I'm thankful for that because we get in the game, and we're used to that. There are so many examples but going up against the starting defense all year definitely made us a better football team on offense.

**On if he did anything different preparing for this season...**

Yeah, I kind of hit on it in camp like before OTA practice or before training camp practice. Me and JT would go out, I'd just ask somebody, hey meet me out there early and Jordan Traylor would come out there and he would go through the whole practice for me. I've been through learning offenses a lot and I'm like how do I start faster this time? How can I be better this time than I've ever been starting a new offense. I always learn it; I always know it but it's the reps. So we were doing double practices. I would run through the practice, all my reps, then we'd take about 10 minutes and take a break and start the real practice. It was really just getting those extra reps in. A lot of extra meetings, a lot of extra time. I'm sure Klint was really tired of me coming back up there every day but I just promised our team and I promised our city I would do everything in my power, it's not going to be perfect, but everything in my power and exhaust everything that I can begin to imagine to be better this year. So far, we've started off good.

**On if he has accepted the fact that he needs to take some things off his plate or if he has been forced to do that...**

Definitely. I've had to bite my tongue a lot because I'm so used to playing a certain way. But change isn't always a bad thing. There are things that Klint lets me communicate with him. There is some say so, it's not like I'm just standing back there with my hands behind my back. But it is a lot different than what I'm used to but I'm thankful for it because there's this happy view of doing what we're doing and doing the things that I want to do and the way that my mind works. But also me taking a step back and saying, okay what's best for our team and what's best for me. What's best for everybody around me? Yeah, maybe Derek can do that but can the other 10 handle that, that and that. It's different for everybody. It's not just how my brain works, it's how everybody's brain works. There's a lot of things that sometimes you have to take a step back and say what's the best thing for all of us. They've done a great job of just letting me be free and letting me be me. Just be an athlete, just go play quarterback. So far, it's been awesome. It's been a lot of fun.



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**On if there is something about this offense that fits what he does well:** “I don't know. This is a tough one to answer for yourself. I've been comfortable in everything I've really done. There's some things I prefer to do than others. And in this offense, it allows me to do a lot of the things that I like to do, I'll say it that way. Without getting too into what I like and what I don't like. There is a lot of things in this offense the way Klint [Kubiak, Offensive Coordinator] does things, the way he sets me up for success, puts me in position for success, it allows me to do a lot of things I enjoy doing as a quarterback. Today, it was a protection thing. I was able to do a protection thing. So I'm still able to be myself, but within this system. It's been a really cool marriage of that. And me and Klint are just getting to know each other. We're only two games in, and so we are still learning each other. There's questions like, do you want this one on this hash, or what are you thinking. If you call this, do you want, there's still those questions. We're still learning each other and getting better. He's still putting me and our guys in position to be comfortable and be successful.”

**On the touchdown to Rashid Shaheed and was it the same look as last week or was it different:** “There was a cloud to his side, quarter zone left -- my left. And, God blessed him to be able to run really fast and I just prayed that that ball got there. I came out of that fake with the coverage and I'm thinking Chris [Olave] all the way. I'm going to have to throw this up to Chris unless the corner is there, I'll trade it down. As soon as I turned around, I saw Rashid [Shaheed] that far down the field. And I was like holy crap, he was out running them. The way he ran and the angle he took was so elite. I was just like, thank you so much for seeing that the way that you saw it. I saw it, and I was like please hit it. He hit it, and I was like, oh my gosh, 'this guy.' He's different. He's a game changer for sure.”

**On Rashid's ability to track a ball, because they are not easy to catch:** “No doubt. Some of those, I throw them really high, too, so it is hard to gauge them when they are really high, too. Especially with that stadium. The lights are so bright for those guys. All that stuff matters. For him to be able to track them every time and be able to make a play on that football is really impressive. I think a lot of guys can run fast, but a lot of us can't track balls. So it's a really good catch because he is really good at that.”

**On the offensive line getting a lot of criticism in the offseason and how they have played so far:** “I am just really proud of them. They see the outcome but they don't see the work that they put in. The cohesiveness and the bond that they have, the time they spend together, the unity. I'm just really proud of them. They just have to keep that same mindset. Keep that same mindset, keep that same chip on our shoulder, and just keep going. But I am really proud of those guys.”

**On how he has sought advice:** “I take advice from a lot of people. The people I care about, and Drew is one of them. I talk to him a lot. Peyton is another one. I am thankful for those guys to give me hours of their time during the offseason. One thing I hear them saying, its the reps. Reps, reps, reps. Okay, that's awesome, how does that translate for me? The reps thing, I always felt more comfortable towards the middle and end of seasons. I was like, what if I get more reps beforehand. I don't know, try everything. And it ended up helping. I just feel more comfortable at the beginning of a year, starting in a new offense. Definitely credit to those guys, asking them questions, not just asking questions to ask them. These are hall of famers. Asking those guys questions, picking their brain, I'm so thankful for their time that they gave me. Because they poured into my life and its benefited our team, and I appreciate that.”

**On when he started seeking advice, as early as OTAs:** “I think it was. I can't remember what practice exactly.”

**On his golf outing with Drew, who is known for taking lots of mental reps:** “I think we were on the phone before that. We had talked really close to after the season. And then during the golf outing, a little more hanging out, having fun, and still talking about things. I just am grateful for the advice he gives. Anything you can get from those guys is like gold for a quarterback. They definitely helped me for sure.”

**On scoring TDs in his first six possessions and if this felt like a replay of last week with that kind of success:** “We were able to run the football. And anytime you can run the football and run the line of scrimmage, every coach is going to talk about it, every coach is going to preach it until they are blue in the face. But our guys, they have just been executing really well, up front. In football, you go as the trenches go. Our guys have bought into the system, they have bought into



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the culture, the coaching. And you see the work paying off. You see what our guys have done. What our offensive line and our tight ends and our backs and receivers – what all those guys have done in the first two weeks, is really incredible. And really selfless. You see Rahid in there, throwing his hat in there getting a block. We'll all talk about the touchdown. His Madden rating will go up, great, yeah, awesome. His willingness to throw his hat in there on a weakside run and take three guys out last week. Everyone is like, the man made the play today, making the block on that run. This game is a team game. It is a selfless game. When you're a team, and when you're selfless, these kinds of days can happen. Our guys were fully bought into that. For me, as one of the leaders on this team, that makes me so happy to see. You never know whose day its going to be, who is going to have a big day. To see our guys buy into that the first couple weeks has been really cool."

**On being able to get Kamara in space:** "It's a lot in the system. Just the plays, the design and things like that. Again, you talk about a hard worker. That guy is unbelievable...I really believe that Klint and those guys do a really good job of getting the playmakers in space, (utilizing) the speed and covering the whole field sideline-to-sideline and goalline-to-goalline. Put the speed everywhere and getting guys in space. Out guys do a really good job of that."

**On being able to run on third down:** "You get different looks on third down and DA has a lot of trust in us to go for it on fourth down. There's times where he's like we're going to kick a field goal here and i know that on third down so I know that based on my decision. Or we've got four downs. Ok, well if the run is there, great! We can still run the football here. A lot of teams have crazy blitz pressures. But we've got to do a good job of getting on their side of the field or in what we consider our four down territory to be able to run the ball like that. When our guys execute, it helps the offensive line. Being able to do that on third down helps the o-line, it helps the receivers. When teams don't know what we're going to do...that right there is gold to us. Again, we've been in a lot of situations where hey we've got four downs here, shoot run it if we get the look...That's a good time to run it. Or maybe there will be a time where we don't run it one time. Every game will be different."

**On Taliese Fuaga's performance:** "I hugged him, said I loved him and said thanks for battling through it...I was taught if it works at all, you'll be out there. To see that in a young guy is really impressive because you never know. I've seen some crazy things in my 11 years. When he stepped out there, I asked if he was good and without hesitation, he said he would be good and he would be there. He went out, he competed and he played really well. To see that from a rookie in his second game against a really good defense, against a really good football team, it says a lot about him. Our teammates should be really thankful that he's on our football team."

**On his dance:** "I'm a dancer. People don't know a lot about me...I'm always dancing. One time I hit the Michael Jackson and they were like you've got to do that when you score."

**On Rashid Shaheed's route running:** "It goes back to what we talked about in training camp. We've got a lot of things that look the same but are different even with route steps...We talked about the touchdown, but he ran a five yard route over the ball in the briar patch. We gave it to him. He gets veritcal and gets some yards for us. If he can do all that stuff for us, that is huge. But then you see him do run a post. We're not going to go into a game without him having one...He's doing everything we've asked him – him and 12. They're both doing everything we've asked them...When you're that selfless, things just work out for you especially in football."

**On if he foresaw this offensive outburst:** "The people in that locker room, we all believe in one another. We expected it. Our expectations are high for ourselves. We always talk about we don't play for the scoreboard, we play to the standard. So, we wanted to set our standard as leaders this offseason is to just be different. So far, it's paying off. At the end of the day, I just want to win. Forty points is awesome. It's cool. Second time in franchise history, that is cool. That should make a lot of people feel good but at the end of the day, we won the football game. As long as we can keep doing that, I'll be happy. Our expectation is like whatever it takes to win...Hopefully we can keep doing it. That makes it a lot of fun but we've still got a lot of work to do."





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DALLAS COWBOYS HEAD COACH MIKE MCCARTHY



**On the difference between how they played in the opener versus today**

“Going back to my comments during the week, I felt like we were playing a playoff caliber team. I think you look at the preparation coming into it, look at their games last year, which obviously you do in week two, and they played well last week. I’m disappointed, very disappointed in the way we played, you know, from the top down, you know, starting with myself. The finish, as far as the different battles as you go through the game. You know, the run game battle, you know, we didn’t win that on either side. You know, obviously the turnover battle, they won that. I thought they did a better job finishing plays and they hit their big plays, I think we were minus three at halftime, I don’t know what it ended up. We needed to keep pace. You know, complimentary football, defense was struggling, obviously, you know, throughout the first three quarters. We need to score touchdowns in the red zone. And you know, we had some execution challenges that, you know, they were better than we were. If we could have kept pace with them, and, you know, kept that to a one score, possible two score game, and you come down a stretch and you’re competing to win. So, you need adversity, games like this. You definitely don’t want to ever perform like this. They played well, give them credit. But yeah, I think, like all of us, we’re disappointed with our performance today. But you know the true reality is, we’ll take the film tomorrow, that’ll tell the complete story. There’s no burn the tape outset here, that’s not the way I’ve ever operated. We will take a hard, hard look at it, because we all need to learn from it. You know, we got a new defensive staff, and this is the first time, we were on cloud nine last week, and now we got punched. It’ll be no different offensively, we did not handle the adversity part of it. To keep pace with the way the game was going. More importantly our young players, they need to learn from this experience. So, that’s where we are. We’re 1-1.”

**On if this game has any callbacks to the playoff game against Green Bay from last season**

“I don’t think the last time we played here has anything to do with it. I understand the convenience of the criticism, and obviously I’m on the other side of it. We’ve had changes on defense. You know, some of the changes we’ve made, was to put the emphasis on the run defense. It was not evident today. I mean, no doubt about it, they got the ball on our perimeter, you know, time and time again, in the second level. Once again, it’s saying we need to play much better. I need to coach better, and you never want to play that way, especially at home.”

**On him not appearing shocked by this and if he was concerned going into this matchup against the Saints or if the rest of the team took them seriously enough**

“I don’t know you know, shocked? You compete in the NFL. We’ve been very good at home. The numbers speak for themselves. You don’t ever want to lose a game, let alone lose like that. But it can happen to anybody in this league. Frankly, you rather it happen early. So, yeah, I’m just honest. When you guys asked me what I think of the other team, maybe I should just bullshit you like most other people do, just throw candy out there. But I thought they were a good team coming in here, and I thought they played well. If you watch the last eight games of their season, and the way they played last week. I mean, this was a challenge. We got to worry about ourselves, and we can’t worry about what other people think or say or what comes out of this. We need to stay true to the football part of it, stay present and work on it. We got a lot of work to do. I stood here seven days ago, and talked about all the work, all the work that we needed to do when we won by three scores. This is part of this September football challenge, and in seven days we got another playoff team coming in here. So we’ll take the time tomorrow to learn from it, and we’ll get ready for Baltimore.”

**On New Orleans scoring touchdowns on their first six possessions**

“It’s happened. It’s happened before. I don’t think anybody punted until the fourth quarter. We just didn’t score touchdowns.”

**On them doing something you didn’t plan for....**

Well, I just think, I mean the commonality you know, just the way we were stressed... I think us starting, you know, with us on offense, we went to more of a sub package game. So, when you do that, it’s a little more stress on your edges. Once again, going through the specifics of the video will give you a clearer picture of that. I think their offense versus our defense, you know, the shifts and motions in the run game, particularly the edge stuff; the ball on the perimeter time and time again. So obviously, we didn’t have a good answer for that moving forward. Because it’s just like anything in this league, when you put it on tape, you’re going to see it again and again. So, we put a lot on tape today.



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**What did you learn about your team today?**

What did I learn about them? I think it's just this kind of tells you where you are. We've played two games, and you know, the consistency of winning in week one and building off that did not occur today. So, we took a step backwards. So, we've got to get back to work.

**On where do you think you guys are?**

I didn't think we were so good last week. I think we played really well on defense, for three-four quarters, and you know, I thought we played well on offense for the first half. So, we got up on them. You flip this as a different game, different challenge; we knew they were going to commit to the run and they did and they had success doing it and we really didn't make the quarterback play, we didn't get him off the spot very often. He was able to stay in a positive stick, sticks situation, so that's the way you want to play. Offensively, I think we were fourteen, thirteen; we had double digit play drives over and over again, we didn't put the ball in the endzone. We've got to put the ball in the endzone especially for what was going on the other side of the ball. Special teams really didn't factor much today. So, we've got to score touchdowns and we've got to do a better job stopping them.

**When the game kind of started slipping away from you on one side, like they did defensively today, how does that impact the other side of the ball? As far as when you see it in the way do you see, is it common for a team to kind of start with more mistakes?**

We went to a two-minute operation there at the end of the third, fourth quarter. So, I thought Dak did a good job being patient, taking the check downs and that's what you have to do. Donovan gets the big stop there, with the turnover and, we didn't capitalize on it. So, that's when I thought the game kind of swung, and that was our chance to swing it back and try to get it to a two score game.

**On getting Deuce Vaughn and KaVontae Turpin involved**

"There was some run-pass options there. So, you know, I think it's just more how the ball was distributed. We're trying to make sure all those guys are involved. You have a gameplan, you have personnel groups and matchups you like to attack. It's a long year too, we try to play these guys and be as versatile as possible. You know, we got the quarterback that can handle it and manage it. So that's really what that's all about."

**On the lack of big plays by the Dallas offense**

"Look at the depth of their safety, you know, it's different than last week. That was one of the things disappointing from last week was the opportunity for potential big plays. But you know they're going to be deeper in the deepest in match unit. So sometimes you got to be a little more patient, which we've shown we've been able to do, but yeah, when you get down in there you got, you got to hit your shots."

**On any injury updates**

"No, I'm sorry I didn't stop there."

**On the commonality of New Orleans' offensive system being what Green Bay and San Francisco run on offense that have given the Dallas defense issues causes any concern**

"Well, I mean, you have to recognize it. The elite outside zone is a starting point of it. And we were not very good at all against it today, so and, and it's happened in the past. So, I mean, yeah, we're definitely going to spend more time on it. That's all we know how to do. And it was part of, some of the changes that we made to the run defense, and it didn't exhibit itself today."



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**On if he felt the offense was pressing during today's game...**

It was hard to say that we were pressing. You're trying to play complimentary football and if your defense is struggling to stop a group, you want to do your part and score us downs and come back. We weren't able to score touchdowns but were able to move the ball up and down the field. I can't say that we were pressing necessarily. Going from last week to this week, there were some things that we wanted to get better at. We got better at third downs this week, but now it's the red zone that I think we scored some touchdowns. It makes the defense feel a bit better, and it's a while different feel within the game for both sides of the ball.

**On the week-to-week nature of the league, in comparison from last week's performance to this week...**

It's the NFL. I talk about it each and every week. No games are played on paper. As far as riding a high, I know that I wasn't personally and I don't think the guys in the locker room necessarily were. I talked about how much meat we left on the bone offensively. That's simply why you can't listen to other people's opinions and then read what you guys write, respectively. You all may have put this team more on a high than what we should've been. Now, we just simply have to reset. We've got to respond. We're not going undefeated, it hasn't been done in 50 years. It's about getting back to it and finding a way to respond, to put the best team on the field next week.

**On his assessment on today's run game...**

I have to watch the tapes. The game kind of got out of hand a little bit there where we're forced to just throw the ball. A lot of times when I hand off the ball, I carry my fakes, so I can't tell you if it was the back, the line, or what it may be. After I watch the tape, I could give you a better assessment. When the score is that way, you can't continue to run the ball. We had a drive there in the second half and that one drive came out. I know it ate up a lot of the clock. They get the ball back and the third quarter is ending. At that point, you realize we have to score fast if we want to come back into this thing.

**On where they missed Jake Ferguson the most today...**

Everywhere. I guess you can say that those young tight ends did a good job. Simply, they did a good job. As I've said throughout the week, Jake's more than just a tight end on Sunday. He's an aggressor. He brings a physical nature to this group. He's got a mentality that other guys feed off of, that's very contagious, but those other guys did play well. They did their job and stepped up. They made some plays, but (the game) just got away from us.

**On his emotions when Zack Martin went out injured and came back into the game...**

I'm not trying to think about all of that. When he goes down, wishing the best for him. But then when he gets right back in the huddle, you forget that he's injured. With a guy like that, he's a competitor and he's going to do whatever he can do to get back on the field. Thankful that he was okay.

**On his what happened during the play of his interception...**

Great play by him (Saints' Tyrann Mathieu). We've got another crossing route right there. He did a good job of covering that and playing through that at the same time running and making that play. So, credit to him. That's on me. I can look CeeDee off more or get back to that first drive in the second window, that's one of those.

**On if he was surprised about the team's defense after talking about how great the battles are during practices...**

It's surprising, but it's the NFL. I'm thinking it'd be nice to be doing that on our side of the ball more than I'm worried or critiquing our defense. Obviously, that's (the Saints) are a good team. Alvin Kamara has looked damn good. Derek Carr put the ball where he needed to. That offense is rolling right now. We're two games in, but I'm not naïve of their stats of their nine straight. They walked into this game and continued on that. Credit to the play caller over there and to that team of coming out and being ready on a noon start. It made it tough on our defense, which made it tough on the whole team. I'm trying to get there with our offense.

**On his interest in seeing how the team reacts to this loss...**

I'm confident. I know I can go in there and set the example of how we're going to move forward, how we're going to respond and how we're going to approach this week. Understanding it's a process. I already echo it in the locker room how we're not going undefeated. Coach McCarthy said that at the end of the day, wipe that all behind. We're going to learn from it. Can't wipe it until we've learned from it. We build off it. That was a good team. They started fast, two weeks in a row. You have to give credit to them. Understand that this is the NFL once again. For these young guys, it's a



message to not necessarily listen to the outside noise or how good people are going to make you after one win. That's one thing that I've grown to realize, especially in this organization when you're playing on national TV every week. You are the Cowboys and the attention that we get is, if you lose, you're down here. If we win, you're way up there. None of that really matters. It's about for us to trust the process, trusting one another, responding each and every day to get better. I know that we have the guys in there that can do that. The coaches and the staff put a lot into the emotional intelligence, I guess you can say. I'm excited to get back to work tomorrow and turn this page.

#### **On assessing his play during the past two weeks...**

My expectations are crazy high. So, I'm not going to give you a great, maybe a realistic answer. I'm seeing it well, putting the ball where I want to. That one interception is going to get at me, just because Tyrann made a hell of a play. Did a good job of playing through one route and getting to the other. Outside of that, there may be a few throws that I want to get back. But as far as seeing the defense getting to the beginning of the offense and what I want in the position and in the plays that we want to, I feel good about it and confident that we're going to continue to get better as a team.

#### **On if he saw improvement in the offense this week...**

For sure. Talking about last week, just being able to convert more third downs and I know that we did that. We're able to keep the ball. We had a lot more plays than we did last week and that's a testament to that. But, we want to score touchdowns. Outside of the big one to CeeDee, we got in the red zone three times, I guess. Going 0-3 in the red zone, you're not going to win games that way. Not against an offense that's rolling like that. We have to find ways to get in the end zone.

#### **On drawing comparison to Green Bay playoff loss last season...**

I'm not comparing last year to this year. We're talking two completely different teams, honestly. Talking whole different defensive coordinator. You're talking new players in different positions, particularly on offense. You've got two young rookies playing. We missed Jake (Ferguson) today, who had three touchdowns in that game. So there's no way to even go back and compare that. Maybe because we got beat, got away from us fast and we were here at home. But completely different and separate and I wouldn't waste my time if I was y'all trying to compare those two.

#### **On New Orleans' defense...**

I just didn't convert in the red zone. I think is the biggest one. They didn't throw anything else we weren't ready for. They gave us some looks that we were prepared for. Maybe not quite brought the Blitz, bluffed out of a couple. We were still able to get some first downs. But then we got in the red zone. Short arm to throw to Zeke and hand gets free in my face. Misconnection with CeeDee (Lamb). Pulled the fourth down, probably could scramble trying to trust in the young tight end, wanted to use his body and put it away from him. That's somebody I don't have a lot of reps on. I put that one on me. As I said, probably could have gone into scramble mode. But just a few plays out there and as I said if we get in the end zone, I think we're talking a different game and damn sure different feel to this game.

#### **On lack of big plays...**

That's a good question. I don't want to say you have to be perfect. Everybody's got to do their job and trust their job and understand that's where the big plays come from. Part of it for me, I think maybe it's felt like I was at this point last year. It was a lot later in the year when I did it, but going back to using my feet more, whether it's scrambling, extending the plays to look to throw the ball down the field or maybe just going and getting a couple yards and getting down. I wouldn't say it's about being perfect, but understanding that I do have that ability and that is a huge part of our offense. Got to bring it to life, I think.

#### **On the mentality as the team returns to the Star and prep for Week 3...**

I enjoy the process. I love the process. That's why I love this game. I'll hang with the family today, enjoy them, not take that for granted by any means. Fortunate. Get to be a long day of that. Got a little daughter and a family who doesn't know I just lost. That helps. Then just being able to enjoy evening and then turn the page and early morning tomorrow, back in there getting a workout in. Getting the guys. Make sure everybody approaches the building with the right mindset. It's fun. I truly enjoy that and look forward to it and making sure that I lead the right way and set the right example.

#### **On conversations with CeeDee Lamb after missed connections...**



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Simply just trying to communicate. Maybe those misses, maybe what he saw, what he thought versus what I did and then, honestly, just finding a solution. Great communicator CeeDee (Lamb)is. As I've mentioned before his expectations and standard for our connection and this offense are just as high as mine. No matter what the route is, neither of us are happy unless it's a perfect play. It's just about being more clean. As I said we missed some time. Everybody knows that but we have to have those communications to substitute for the time missed.