



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## NEW YORK GIANTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the 26-14 win over the New York Giants, the New Orleans Saints move to 1-4 on the season and 1-2 at home. Next up, the Black and Gold stay at home when they face the New England Patriots next Sunday, October 12, in the Caesars Superdome. Kickoff is set for Noon CT and will be broadcast regionally on CBS (WWL 4 locally).
- The 26 points scored were a season-high by the Saints and the 14 points allowed a season-low, as New Orleans ran off 23 consecutive points in the final three quarters.
- The Saints victory improved New Orleans' record to 17-17 against the Giants, giving them their third consecutive victory against the team. The Saints now have at least a .500 record against 12 teams.
- The win over the Giants now gives them an 11-4 record in the series in games played in New Orleans (Tulane Stadium and Caesars Superdome).
- Head Coach **Kellen Moore** received his first victory against the Giants.
- QB **Spencer Rattler** went 21-for-31 for 225 yards with one touchdown, zero interceptions and a 99.5 passer rating. Rattler also rushed five times for 22 yards. He had 187 yards passing in the first half, the most in a half in his career. It also marks Rattler's first win as a starting quarterback in the NFL, and the first time that a QB drafted by the Saints started and recorded a win since Danny Wuerffel (9/13/98 19-14 win vs. Carolina at Caesars Superdome).
- QB **Taysom Hill** also threw a pass that connected for 19 yards in his first game back this season.
- The receiving effort was led by WR **Rashid Shaheed**, who recorded four receptions for 114 yards (28.5 avg.) and a touchdown. WR **Chris Olave** also put up seven receptions for 59 yards.
- The 87-yard bomb from Rattler to Shaheed was the longest play from scrimmage since an 87-yard touchdown connection from Drew Brees to WR **Brandin Cooks** vs. Carolina, 10/16/16. It is tied for the fifth-longest play in franchise history.
- The only other Saints signal-callers to throw an 87-yard (or more) completion (all touchdown passes) are Drew Brees, Billy Joe Hobert, Kerry Collins and Heath Shuler.

98 yards	Cooks from Brees vs Oakland, 9/11/16
90 yards	Eddie Kennison from Herbert vs Atlanta, 10/10/99
89 yards	Andre Hastings from Collins vs Dallas, 12/6/98
89 yards	Randal Hill from Shuler at Chicago, 10/5/97
<b>87 yards</b>	<b>Shaheed from Rattler vs N.Y. Giants, 10/5/25</b>
87 yards	Cooks from Brees vs Carolina, 10/16/16

- Shaheed reached 21.72 MPH on that touchdown, which is the highest by any player in the NFL this season.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** rushed eight times for 27 yards and also caught four receptions for 28 yards. RB **Kendre Miller** also carried ten times for 41 yards and recorded one reception for eight yards.
- Kamara surpassed Tiki Barber and Marcus Allen to move into fifth place all-time in NFL record books for receptions by a running back. He also played in his 120th game to move into a tie for 33rd on the club's games played list with LB Vaughan Johnson.

- Kamara recorded 56 yards from scrimmage, which passes RB **Ezekiel Elliot** for 75<sup>th</sup> all-time.
- Defensively, New Orleans held the Giants to converting only three-of ten (30.0 pct.) third down attempts.
- The tackling effort was led by LBs **Pete Werner** and **Demario Davis**, as they accumulated 11 and ten total stops, respectively. CB **Alontae Taylor** contributed eight tackles, and S **Jonas Sanker** also recorded seven stops on the day with a fumble recovery.
- Davis played in his 119<sup>th</sup> game as a Saint on Sunday, which put him in sole possession of 35<sup>th</sup> in club record books ahead of DE Charles Grant and CB Brett Maxie. He also played in his 215<sup>th</sup> career game in his 14-year career, the most games played by an active NFL linebacker. With his 215<sup>th</sup> appearance, he moved into a tie for 14<sup>th</sup> all-time for appearances by linebackers with Monte Coleman and Pro Football Hall of Famer Ted Hendricks.
- Sanker's back-to-back games with takeaways is the first time by a Saints rookie since Marshon Lattimore had an interception a piece in three consecutive contests from 12/7/17–12/24/17. His two takeaways on the season are the most by a Saints rookie since Paulson Adebo recorded three in 2021.
- Early in the third quarter, Jaxson Dart fumbled which was picked up by DE **Cameron Jordan**. This was the first turnover of Dart's NFL career.
- DB **Jordan Howden** recovered a fumble by Giants RB **Cam Skattebo** (forced by DT **Bryan Bresee**) and returned it for 86 yards all the way to the end zone. It is tied for the second-longest fumble return in franchise history with an 86-yard return by Tyrone Hughes vs San Francisco on Nov. 28, 1994.
- This was the first time the Saints had three fumble recoveries in the same game since 11/22/18 vs Atlanta.
- CB **Kool-Aid McKinstry** recorded his first career interception midway through the fourth quarter, then recorded his second only a couple of minutes later. McKinstry has recorded Dart's first two interceptions in his NFL career.
- This was the first time with five takeaways since in a 24-17 win over Chicago on Nov. 5, 2023. The turnover ratio was 5-0 in the Saints' favor. This is the second game this season and first time since the season opener that the Saints did not commit a turnover.
- The Saints went seven-for-15 on third down, which is a 46.7% success rate, the highest percentage all season.
- K **Blake Grupe** went four-for-six on field goals, hitting from 28, 29 (2x) and 53 yards. He also made both PAT attempts.
- P **Kai Kroeger** punted twice for 83 yards (41.5 gross and net avg.).
- LS **Zach Wood** surpassed S Tommy Myers for 22<sup>nd</sup> place in games played in club record books with 137.
- On special teams coverage units, DE **Chris Rumph II** led the team with two stops, to go with three defensive tackles. Through the first five games, Rumph has already tied his career-high for special teams stops (five), which he previously set in 2021 and 2022.



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### Opening comments

"Awesome win. Found a way to get it done. It was a really, really good job by our guys, just resiliency. Obviously, it hasn't been an easy month for our guys, missing on four opportunities, and for them to hang in there this whole entire game I thought it was an awesome effort. The turnovers were obviously a huge part of the game, 5-0. Lot of positives coming out of this thing."

### (On how the first win of the season feels)

"It's awesome. This is a special group. Their resiliency to hang in there through some challenging times the first month. By no means is it the perfect script to start a journey together as a group. I thought our guys just battled the entire game, and it was just really fun to see those guys."

### (On building momentum for the remainder of the season)

"You have to get in the win column first. Then, you can carry momentum moving forward. We can feel it. We know what it looks like. We know what it feels like. Now, we have to keep getting better. That is what the NFL season is about. You have to keep getting better, and more opportunities will come ahead of us."

### (On describing the locker room postgame)

"It's an awesome group. We have an awesome group. I love the energy. I love the joy that these guys bring each and every day for a lot of our guys. It's not just, obviously me. A lot of this group is coming together for the first time for Spence [Spencer Rattler], for him battling through a lot of things through the last year and a half for him. I was fired up for him as well."

### (On the defensive performance today)

"The turnovers. It's a resilient group. The playstyle, you never know which play is going to make a difference in the game through all four quarters. I thought our defense did an incredible job attacking the football. To create five turnovers in a game is really, really special."

### (On the takeaway by Bryan Bresee, which led to a Jordan Howden touchdown)

"Just excellent, excellent job attacking the football. I have not seen the perfect look (camera angle) yet, but I have seen one. He's attacking the football, and I think that's a special thing. We've seen it throughout the NFL these last couple of days. Certainly, Thursday night there was an example of that

by the Niners. These defensive linemen, they just keep attacking the football, and eventually, it's going to pop out."

**(On his thoughts as the play unfolded)**

"They were grinding it out. They were grinding out a long drive. For our guys to make that play, immediately (was smart). As soon as Jordan scoops up the ball, I immediately looked at what was ahead of him, and there was a whole lot of green grass. Our guys did an excellent job of getting out in front of him, creating a couple of blocks and just securing it, allowing him to go score. It was a game-changing play."

**(On the defensive strategy)**

"I thought we just continued to attack the football. I thought our defensive line continued to rush, continued to find plays. Jaxson (Dart) is going to be a really good quarterback in this league. He's a really good player. He's going to buy time. Plays are going to last longer. It's going to be challenging for our defensive line, and they just have to keep going for it."

**(On CB Kool-Aid McKinstry's performance)**

"Just so, so happy for him. He's a phenomenal player. We think the world of him. He's played some hard downs the first few weeks of the season. For him to come up with two big-time interceptions – he made a bunch of plays throughout the entire game. I am so fired up for him. He deserved everything that's coming his way this week. We are really excited for him."

**(On S Jonas Sanker)**

"Obviously, Justin (Reid) going out early is a challenging situation. Jonas hopped in there and continued to play, and then Jordan (Howden) hopped in there. Big time job by both of those guys."

**(On QB Taysom Hill's return)**

"It was awesome to see Taysom, (and) to see Foster (Moreau) out there competing and playing. They have been through a lot. Taysom had some hard downs in the run game, and the play-action pass, the opportunity to throw it in the short-yard situation was obviously awesome. I thought he made an excellent decision, really good throw because the corner was playing over the top. It was a big-time play. We needed that in that situation."

**(On if Hill was limited today)**

"His role, obviously, will evolve. He was just coming back. He did punt protection, and he did some snaps in some offensive situations. As he goes, he will keep growing that as we go."

**(On having Hill and Moreau lead the Who Dat chant)**

"We talked about it earlier in the week. Once we felt like those two were trending and they were going to be ready to play, it was kind of a no-brainer."

**(On when he knew Hill and Moreau would be ready to play this week)**

"We felt really good about it going into this week. We had to obviously see the evidence on the field. Both guys hopped into Wednesday's practice and did an excellent job and really reconfirmed what everyone believed. Again, credit to those guys, their work. Credit to our training staff, all the long journey that all of those guys have been on. Ben (Stollberg), Shone (Gipson), the rest of the crew in there, we have some of the best in the business in there and they work a lot. What these guys have gone through from the whole offseason to the summer being there at training camp and not being able to participate and all the things they have to wait through, for them to be ready when the opportunity presented itself, I give credit to all of those guys."

**(On Hill's pass to tight end Juwan Johnson)**

"It was in our pocket based off the look. We had a couple of plays in the short-yardage situation designed for Taysom. Obviously, based on their look, we felt like there was a chance to be aggressive there. We were probably going to go for it on fourth down anyway. We can be aggressive and see if it happens."

**(On the offensive development with Hill returning)**

"It is going to be a lot of fun as we build this. Taysom hopped in there and had a handful of roles in this game. Obviously, some of them, weren't really utilized yet. There will be more coming, more expanding. His ability to play all these different positions will be a huge advantage for us."

**(On the explosive touchdown by wide receiver Rashid Shaheed)**

"As soon as I saw the leverage by the safety, and the corner took Juwan, we knew we had an excellent opportunity. Beautiful route, beautiful throw by [Spencer Rattler]. It was a really cool play. We needed that, an explosive play. We have been trying to chase these explosives. They haven't happened. It has been frustrating for the whole group, but they're hanging in there. When the opportunity presented itself, these guys executed at a really high level."

**(On the offensive sequencing)**

"Our numbers have been heavy run with those bigger packages. Certainly, we had some pass game opportunities in the play, and that one was able to be successful. We were able to utilize it."

**(On going through adversity before getting the first win of the season)**

"I think our guys have grown a lot through this journey. We know we have played some good football. We haven't earned the wins. That is certainly the ultimate goal, but I think our guys battled each and every week. Seattle got away from us. That was the one that was frustrating. The other ones, we were right in it. We were close. We have to make a couple more plays, got to find some margins to close a little bit more. I felt like our guys went out there and played really well this week."

**(On the matchup with Giants tight end Theo Johnson)**

"There's some circumstance there based off the call. Sometimes you're matched up against one, whoever the one receiver is based off the presentation look. Kool-Aid responded really well in a bunch of those situations."

**(On McKinstry's balance guarding Johnson)**

“He responded really well. I thought Kool-Aid made a bunch of plays as the game progressed. I thought our guys responded really well. There are times you’re going to have advantageous situations, and there are times you’re going to have hard downs and hard situations. Our guys understand that, and our guys’ ability to respond to that is critical.”

**(On the flea flicker)**

“As soon as you see it, oh man, here we go. Awesome, awesome play. [Terrell] Burgess, the ability to recognize it, the ability not to panic in that situation. So many times there are clips all over where guys just go and run into the guy. Ok, we stopped the play, but that’s a 15-yard gain in that situation. For him to just still compete, have some patience to himself as far as some calmness, I thought it was a big time play. It was a critical play for us.”

**(On quarterback Spencer Rattler’s first career win)**

“I thought he did a lot of good. I am really happy for Spence. He has battled through a lot certainly through a year and a half of football here. I thought he’s played a lot of good football this year, here for us. He has competed each and every week. We have been really close, but we have not gotten there collectively. For him to get this one, he’s earned it. He’s earned it, and I thought he had a huge impact on this game in a positive way.”

**(On the roughing the passer call late in the game on defensive end Carl Granderson)**

“I saw a sack. I was disappointed because you try to educate your players. When you don’t feel like, as a coach, you have an answer to help educate your players on how to play the game, that’s frustrating. You coach to give those guys the best chance to be successful. It’s going to be a great opportunity for us to learn whatever ultimately is the opinion of that play is. It is a frustrating play when you do so much good. That’s a frustrating one as a coach. You feel like you’re helpless in that situation.”

**(On if the league will explain why the penalty was called)**

“Potentially. We’ll see if there is. Sometimes you can get an educational point out of it. Sometimes you do not. We will see if our league provides something for our whole league to figure out.”

**(On scoring 23 unanswered points to end the game)**

“I thought the turnovers were huge, and I think our ability to respond to get some points out of the turnovers provided some value. The way we ended the second quarter, I thought was nice. We missed our opportunity, but the defense makes a play. We receive another opportunity to get some points there and take the lead before half. I thought that was a critical moment for us. We have not led a game this year. To go into halftime, finally with a lead, feeling the confidence and then for our guys to come out and play really good football in the second half, really spoke to our guys’ resiliency.”

**(On defensive coordinator Brandon Staley’s adjustments)**

“Just the communication and just the subtle adjustments throughout the game are really, really critical. That is what makes Brandon special. His ability to make those adjustments in the time, in the moment, make a different call, make an adjustment. I thought our guys communicated at a really high level on defense. They are going to present a lot of different looks on the backend. Our secondary did an

excellent job of communicating, being on the same page, being all tied together. Our rush was resilient. Jaxson (Dart) is going to get out and make some plays out in space. You have to be able to respond after that. He's going to make a play. You have to respond. Credit to all those guys."

**(On the special teams performance)**

"Obviously, some positives. Certainly, we did some good things. Ultimately, not quite good enough. We have the right guys. We have a bunch of guys who have had a lot of success in this league. When you go through bumps, you bring it a little closer, bring it a little bit tighter, and find the solutions together. We keep moving."

**(On cornerback Kool-Aid McKinstry providing a spark)**

"Certainly with Kool-Aid, he's been close to some opportunities. He hasn't quite gotten the ball production yet in his career. For him to make two plays, I thought awesome, awesome job by him, great plays right when we needed them."

**(On if game balls were issued)**

"Yes, absolutely. We gave Spence and Kool-Aid a couple in there. We, obviously, will give plenty of more guys on Monday as we evaluate the film and have the opportunity to recognize all the good that came through this game. It's an awesome opportunity for our entire team to recognize the good stuff that came out of this."

**(On if he is going to celebrate the win)**

"I don't know. I'm tired. These weeks are long, so I'm ready to hang out and get a little sleep."

**(On the challenge in the first half)**

"It was a tricky look. I knew it was a 50-50. We just didn't get a ton of looks and felt like there was a chance for a replay there. I knew I was taking a little bit of a chance and may not have converted there. They got down to the line of scrimmage. They were able to run the play. It felt like there was a chance the ball was bobbled at that point. We didn't get it done."

**(On if he received a game ball)**

"Yes, AK [Alvin Kamara] gave me a game ball. AK's the best."

**(On getting his first career win as a head coach)**

"I think for all of our guys, for all of our coaches, this entire group that's come together, there's a lot of resiliency that's had to come through for four games. We missed four opportunities. To be close and to feel like you're playing good football, it was good. It was a big-time momentum opportunity for our team, establish some winning success, and hopefully it carries on in the future."



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### **(Opening statement)**

"Credit to the Saints. It's hard to win when you turn the ball over five times on five consecutive drives. We missed a couple of opportunities offensively, the flea flicker and some others. On defense, we did a good job in the run game. Gave up some huge plays for us. We can't have those things, too many DPI penalties. You get five turnovers to zero, you're not going to win in this league."

### **(On what went wrong in the flea flicker play)**

"I'm going to have to go back and look at it. I thought we got by him there, I'll have to see how it looks, I thought we had a chance."

### **(On being aggressive on fourth down during the following play)**

"That was the decision that we made not to go for it there. We went on a number of fourth downs, and we were going to try to pin them down there on that one."

### **(On his thought process when deciding to go for it on fourth down)**

"Again, I have guys that I lean on fourth down wise that we communicate with and talk about the decisions that I make. Every decision that I make, I think that's the best decision after talking to the guys that I lean on, and then ultimately, it's my decision."

### **(On what he thought of Jaxson Dart)**

"I thought he battled. The game got away from us, from him a little bit, with those turnovers. Some easy ones too, that were dropped. Those kill you because they give 13 points off, then they take away points when we're driving and they're all on the +50 or down there inside the scoring zone to at least get a field goal out of it. We moved the ball well sometimes, it's just hard when you're giving the ball away."

### **(On the difference between Dart's first and second halves)**

"Not much. I thought we moved the ball and then we turned it over. The drives that we stalled in we turned the ball over. Five in a row, which is hard to do."



**(On all the turnovers, but specifically Cam Skattebo's fumble returned for a TD)**

"Yeah, I'll have to go back and look at all of them. It got knocked out of his hands, (Darius) Slayton had knocked hands, Jaxson dropped the one — I mean those were three big drives to generate some points or not give them up at the end of the half. Turn a ball over like that, give them opportunities for points, take away opportunities for you to score points, when you're moving the ball."

**(On improving the pass rush with his team)**

"I'd say a number of things. I think they got the ball out quick, and they did a good job with it. I thought we missed a couple that we had in our grasp. That big play on defense got us. Some third downs, they were third and short, one third and long on the crosser to (Chris) Olave. We didn't create any turnovers, and again it's a broken record but 5 and 0...I don't know how many teams have ever won when it's 5-0 on turnovers."

**(On what he sees in Deonte Banks versus Cor'Dale Flott)**

"Deonte had that penalty. He's done some good things, and I trust both of those guys. Obviously, that one hurt us. We had some missed opportunities, that one and a couple that we had downfield that I thought we had the chance to make, and the turnovers. So, not good enough."

**(On why he thinks these penalties keep happening with Banks)**

"We have to keep working on our technique. I know Marquand (Manuel) is out there with those guys every day working on technique and getting their head around what they need to get their head around and not being as handsy. We'll continue to do that."

**(On his thought process when choosing the number of multiple-tight end sets)**

"I thought it was an advantage for us relative to how they played it in their base defense. They ended up going nickel defense. Belli (Daniel Bellinger) and Theo (Johnson), I had confidence in those two guys. It simplified them as well. I thought we operated it well early on, but it's hard to operate when you start turning the ball over."

**(On what he said to Dart after his first loss as starting QB)**

"Kid, that's the NFL. Every play matters, and he knows that. He's as hard on himself as anybody. There's a lot to learn from this, and that's what we will do. There will be ups, there will be downs, and I thought he started out really well. Collectively, we have to do a better job. We have to make the play down the field when we have the opportunity to make the play. We have to hold on to the ball when we are scrambling. Those are things that we will build off of with him, make sure he's prepared and ready to go. Again, it's a broken record but it's hard to win with five turnovers."

**(On roster management and not bringing up an additional receiver)**

"We felt good about where we were at relative to our plan going into the game and what we were going to try to do with multiple tight ends. So, we'll see what happens next week. There's a possibility you could lose two running backs and have no running backs. It's the NFL, injuries are going to happen. We had five wide receivers, four tight ends in case something happened to one of them, to continue with our plan throughout the game."

**(On building off of Dart's strengths despite the turnovers)**

"Absolutely. It's his first loss as a starting quarterback. I know there are plays that he wishes he had back, but we have to do a good job around him. I have a lot of confidence in the young man."

**(On the wide receivers having to step up without the injured Malik Nabers)**

"Again, none of us did a good enough job."



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### QB SPENCER RATTLER

#### (Opening Statement)

"It feels good to get that first win. It was a team win. The defense played great. The offensive line played elite today. We had zero sacks. That's a great building point. We need to catch that momentum, go on a run and keep working. We need to keep doing what we are doing."

#### (On the touchdown pass to Rashid Shaheed)

"We had the play dialed up. We knew we were going to call it going into that series. I told Rashid to make that safety turn. He had him spin. He bit. I had great protection. I put the ball up and he took it to the house. It was a good feeling."

#### (On if the biggest thing is to not overthrow the football on that play)

"You just put it to a spot. It is hard to overthrow him. I put it toward that sideline so he could run under it. I connected really well. We have been working on it at practice since training camp. It was good for it to come to life. It was a play that we needed in the game to bring some momentum. That definitely turned some things around"

#### (On hitting an explosive play)

"Our defense presented an opportunity for those shots. We had it dialed up today. We could have connected on a few more, but it was good to get that one. You can see what one big play can do for a game. There were a few others, but we still have to finish in the red zone a little better. It was the perfect look. It was a great route. It was great protection. It was a great call. It was dialed up. It was ran well and executed well."

#### (On if play action creates that look)

"I think so especially if you are running the ball on first down. They expect run and boom. Especially when you are backed up and take a shot. One play drive is always a great feeling."

#### (On the defense coming up with five consecutive turnovers)

"It was huge. They played their tails off. Credit to them, they kept us in that game. We could do a better job offensively of taking advantage of those turnovers especially in plus territory. We are getting down there in the red zone. Credit to the Giants as they did a great job with their coverage down there. We have to find a way to score those points. ."

**(On getting his first NFL win)**

"It's big. We have to weather the storm. We just have to keep going. Keep following the process and the outcome will take care of itself. The past is the past and now we are looking forward to the future. Let's keep stacking wins and get some momentum going."

**WR RASHID SHAHEED**

**(On if a weight is lifted after securing the first win)**

"You could say so. It feels good to come to the locker room and hear music and everyone is smiling and dancing. We worked hard for it and it all paid off this week."

**(On being able to enjoy it)**

"We will enjoy it until tomorrow. We will break down the film tomorrow morning and then we will be on to the next. We want to carry this over. This is good energy and positive outlook from this game, so we have to keep it going."

**(On his touchdown reception)**

"My job was to get to the hash and break toward the sideline as soon as the ball is snapped. I was trying to sell that I was going to go across the field as much as possible. Once I saw his hips turn, I broke toward the corner, and the rest is history. Spencer (Rattler) laid out a great ball. The offensive line did great. That's how plays like that work."

**(On if that play was set up from last week)**

"100%. We noticed that when we get in that 13 personnel that the safeties eyes might not be that good. I was able to get up to the second level and run my route. It all worked out. It was a well-executed play."

**(On if he thought he would be caught on the touchdown reception)**

"I was kind of nervous at first because when I turned around, I saw that he was close and thought that he might trip me up. I didn't want to lose my respect in the locker room for my speed."

## **CB KOOL-AID McKINSTRY**

### **(On the feeling of two interceptions in the fourth quarter)**

“Man I just want to thank my teammates and coaches first off for trusting me and believing in me. That’s number one, man, but it definitely felt good to be able to help those guys because that’s my job, that’s my role. So I want to thank them, man.”

### **(On how he prepped going into this week)**

“I feel like I was a little more locked in this week. I did a little extra of everything. I put in more work this week. I trained harder. I ran on my own a little bit after practice. And I’m sticking to that definitely. Definitely found a new routine. I’m going to stick to it.”

### **(On if his prep and film prep were a big part of his interception)**

“A film study thing, but more in the game. They kept running that same little play. So I just finally decided to go and press it and jump it.”

### **(On the first interception)**

“I kind of felt them running one out of two. So I kind of knew the quarterback was going to kind of, well I didn’t know this, but I knew everybody was kind of running back this way. So I kind of just played over the top of everything and caught going.”

### **(On taking advantage of Jaxson Dart’s second game as a starter)**

“Well, we knew when we watched him on film all week that he’s an energetic guy, that he liked to make the big plays, that he can use his legs, that he can make the throws. And he came out, and he definitely played like we expected. So, just watching him, we know that it is a possibility that he can have a good game, and you’ve got to contain him.”

### **(On if Brandon Staley changed a lot)**

“Well, we kind of knew just watching them in the first half. We knew kind of what they were going to do and what they wanted to do. We got familiar with the plays that they were running. So, yeah, it was easier for Coach, man. Coach will do a good job of adjusting that halftime. He does a good job of talking to us and letting us know what’s going on and how we’re going to defend exactly what’s going on. So, yeah, Coach Staley is definitely good, man.”

**(On what the sideline was like when the Giants were up 14-3 and what caused them to then have 23 unanswered points)**

“We know if we play together, believe in each other, and play for one another, that we can be as special as we want to be. So, I feel like coming out of halftime, that was something that we harped on. That was something that we were talking about. That was something that we wanted to depend on. And that's what we did.”

**(On blocking for Jordan Howden on his TD)**

“I was going to (Darius) Slayton. He's kind of a fast guy. He tried to come down the crack block with a ball that already fumbled by the end, so that's how Howden was able to get it. And I knew that Slayton was kind of a fast guy, so I knew I had to go and get on my horses so we could make sure that we get the touchdown because I knew how important it was. And that just goes with being good teammates, man. He would have done the same for me, so why not do the same for him? I feel like this defense is very special. I love those guys. I love this team. So when plays like that come up and my fellow teammate is making the play, they feel like I'm making the play. So why not block for them?”

**(On if he's ever been a part of a team with five straight forced turnovers and what it was like)**

“No, no, no. not five. we harp on getting turnovers. That is all we talk about, the ball, the ball, the ball. Our coaches do a good job of splitting us through turnover circuits. We do a good job of getting to the ball in practice. So it finally came to the game.”

**(On receiving a game ball today)**

“I am just glad my coaches and teammates trust and believe in me. So for me to get the game ball from those guys is very special to me. Something for me to build on and something for me to continue to grow. I feel like it is areas where I can continue to grow, and that is what I got those guys for. So I love those guys.”

**(On the pass breakup to the tight end in the end zone)**

“I kind of knew when they got in that set that they kind of wanted to run the big post and kind of boxed me out. So I kind of saw the quarterback check. So I knew when he checked, there was nothing else to check too. The guy is not going to run around. I knew he was going to run a phase. So I kind of just played it.”

**(On what he saw from Bryan Bresee forcing the fumble)**

“It looked like he was getting blocked a little bit, but he had one hand free in his gap. And he just reached out and got it out, punched out. Like I said, that's something we practice every day at practice, and it came to the game.”

**(On if this is a turning point looking ahead for the season)**

“Yeah, man. We got a 24-hour rule on this. We're going to get in the lab and learn from our mistakes. We're going to build on this. I feel like we're going to get in and we're going to build on this.”

**(On Quincy Riley's play today)**

“Oh, man. I feel like Quincy is a good player. I feel like he handled it very well. He made a play on the deep ball, great play. And that's just him, man. He's a great guy, great teammate, comes to work every day, has a great mindset for him to be a rookie.”

**(On thinking too much about catching the ball)**

“Oh, no, it's routine, man. Catching the ball is routine. It's something you do since, at least me, it's something I've been doing since I was four years old...Catching the ball. So when I see it, I just know to go get it. I don't think about anything else.”

**(On momentum for turnovers)**

“It's very special. Like I said, we like to lean on each other. We like to be there for each other. We are a special group. So once you see one guy making a play, it's like you made a play. Now you want to make a play. And that's just how it goes. You just have to keep happening and happening and happening like today.”

**(On keeping the interception ball and its meaning)**

“It means a lot, man. I just know I work so hard. I grind. Grind this off-season. Grind with my guys. So, when opportunities like that come, it just feels good. It feels like the work is paying off. But I also understand that I have to keep my head down and keep trying.”

**(On if he has a special place at home for the game ball)**

“Oh, yeah, definitely. I got a spot at home. I got a spot at home and put it there. Definitely. Right

now, I have a football in there that I just keep at the house. I put it right there just to keep at the house and throw it around. But now I'm going to replace that with both of those balls. So, yeah, it's very special."

**(On if he's seen the video of his second interception)**

"No, I didn't even see it. I saw the video just come to my phone, but I didn't even watch it."

**(On the significance of this victory in light of this season and last season)**

"Oh, man, last year is last year. This year is this year. I feel like it's very special, and it's, like I said, something for us to build on this year with this team and this staff. So, man, it's very special for us. I feel like we just got to build on it. We have to keep our heads down and keep chopping."

**(On what it's like to win this for Kellen Moore and Spencer Rattler)**

"Yeah, I'm very happy for Coach Moore, man. He gives us his all. He cares. He cares about his players. He's a very special coach. I'm very blessed to have Coach Moore. So, I'm very excited for his first win, man. He got a big smile. So, I was glad to see it today."

"Oh, Spence. Oh, my God, man. We came in together. We always kind of got that connection because we know we came in together. We know we are on two different ends of the team, but we have to make sure that we're doing our parts, and we know that we play two important roles. So, we look at each other all game. We kind of wink at each other. We know, there's nothing else to say, but for him to get that win, man, I'm very happy for Spence. I feel like he's a great guy, for one. He's a great quarterback. He knows how to throw 12 yards. He knows how to throw it 40 yards. He's a very special guy. So, I am glad to have him as my quarterback."

**(On if they were able to get Moore to celebrate in the locker room)**

"No, no, no. Like I said, he just had a great big smile. He just smiled. You know Coach, he smiles."

**DB JORDAN HOWDEN**

**(On his touchdown and what he saw)**

"We're playing the call, first of all, and then I think it was Bryan that forced the fumble. And then I see it bobble like behind a lineman, and I just seen it like open grass. So I just picked it up and just run. Run for my life."



**(On being on kickoff coverage on the next play)**

“No, I had to take that one out. They know, they play football, they know how tiring it is. I'm just glad they gave me the play off so I can catch my breath a little bit. And I'm able to be back on the field a couple of plays after that.”

**(On the fumble recovery and the depth in the room)**

“It says a lot, during the week we always preach, the ball, the ball, the ball is the most important thing in football. And like you said, we practice turnovers in practice and drills and team periods, and stuff like that. And you go out there, you talk it, you preach it, and you go out there, you fly around. Good things happen when you're around the ball.”

**(On Terrell Burgess's critical pass breakup on the flea flicker)**

“That was actually the play of the game. If you guys really watch football, that saved the whole touchdown, and that is a big play by him. And it might not be in the papers, but that's probably the biggest play in the game.”

**(On the closeness of the secondary group and how it fuels playmaking)**

“Yes. You hang around with your teammates off the field. That builds chemistry, but then like the room and you laugh and you communicate, when we watch film and stuff like that. And like you said, everybody, you never know when your time is up. So, we always make sure you're not starting a game and then something happens. I mean, football's weird. So you don't know when it's your opportunity to go in and then make sure what you're doing out there. So that says a lot just in the room. We're all paying attention and being ready.”

**(On the conversation before the turnover)**

“The first few drives like going against the offense is the hardest drives because you don't know what you are going to get. And then once you start getting used to the play calling they got going on and, you get on the sideline, communicate, just talk like, just calm down, communicate, and let's go get the ball. And like I said, good things happen here on the ball and everybody is wanting to the ball.”

**(On who is the calming presence in tight situations)**

“For sure, Demario Davis. It might seem calm to him, but he's definitely yelling. So, yeah.”

**(On Justin Reid's pride for him after the game and if there was a “proud dad” energy)**

**going on)**

“Oh, no, for sure. He was definitely more excited than I was for sure when I saw him. And even when Julian (Blackmon) was out there too, he had a video and everything. We just talked about it. It's just cool to see the vets, just happy for the young guys and go out there just having fun.”

**(On if Brandon Staley made any adjustments that contributed to the success of the defense in the second half)**

“A little bit. There is always going to be something to adjust off of. But like I said, you make a call, you execute the call, and you fly out to the ball. That is really all it is. And you can see that's all we were doing from the D-line, from linebackers, from the DBs. And that's how you get five to zero. You get five turnovers, and that just sets you up for a big W at the end of the day.”

**(On if it was as simple as just getting used to what they were doing)**

“Yeah, a little bit. But, they can always switch it up. But, you always have that. That's okay. Like if you're getting this, they might do this. So you always have to keep that in your head. Like, okay, just make sure you just actually just execute the call, and you just go out there and just fly around.”

**(On how special it is for the vets and younger guys to make plays)**

“It always starts especially like up front. The front seven is what drives us to go out there and just play fast because they dominate the whole line, and they're getting sacks and strip sacks, them getting tackles and stuff, that hypes us up and that creates opportunities for the secondary to go out there and get picks and fumble recoveries.”

**(On if Staley's scheme opens him up to “fly around”)**

“For sure. Your eyes are more on the quarterback in the backfield and you get to see more and you get to play a little patient. You don't just got to go, ‘oh, this is my man,’ and stuff like that. So it definitely gives you a leeway of, okay, I can break on the ball faster than the previous scheme.”

**(On Kool-Aid McKinstry's first two picks today)**

“I'm very proud of him. It's a big thing, to get your first INT, especially in the NFL. But then to get two in one game, definitely, like I heard you guys talking about where is he going to put it. Definitely got to have a special place to put at least fit two of them or a stab or whatever. But like

I said, just proud of him. During the week he's always preparing and communicating. He's doing way better than he was last year. So I'm proud of him."

**(On if he's keeping the ball from his fumble recovery)**

"Oh, for sure. That's going home with me."

**(On if he's ever had a scoop and score)**

"No. In college? No, I didn't have one in college, but this would definitely be my first one since probably like, high school. So that's definitely a big deal for me. So like I said, I'm just proud of myself to go out here and be having the opportunity to go get it."

**(On how it feels since it's been 300 days since a Saints )**

"You try not to think about it like that. You have a new coach, new team, new spirit, new players. You always come in like just trying to get that nasty taste out your mouth. You (aren't) used to losing none of that. So it's just the next right step. It gives us confidence from coaching staff and also as players. Like I said, it's the next right step and (we) just (have to keep it going.)"

**(On the post-game locker room)**

"Oh, definitely. It's been a while since we had the fog and music playing and stuff like that. Almost forgot how that was. So to actually feel that and to have seen Kellen, he's a humble guy. So to see him smiling and just getting with the guys. So that was pretty cool, for him to actually experience that, like we used to do in the past."

**DE CAMERON JORDAN**

**(On the defense causing five turnovers today)**

"(It's) huge. We have been talking about how we need more turnovers. We've been stuck at that one number. (Being) up plus five in turnovers is how you get a win."

**(On the play of Kool-Aid McKinstry)**

"That's what you need. (You've got to) have confidence. We already knew that he got better. Kool-Aid, I'm sure, had the biggest smile."

**(On getting the first win for Head Coach Kellen Moore and Quarterback Spencer Rattler)**

“It’s all about trying to build that confidence...He (Rattler) aired one out to Rashid Shaheed. When you air things out, it helps a defense out and you are able to take advantage, and I think we did just that. I wish that we could’ve put up more points.”

**TE FOSTER MOREAU**

**(On the feeling of winning the game today)**

“It feels great. The whole team came together, the O (offense), D (defense), and (special) teams. It got a little dirty there in some moments, but credit guys for picking each other up. Credit the defense. 5-0 on the turnover differential. It is unbelievable. I don’t know if I have ever been a part of something like that. That was really spectacular. It was an awesome, awesome opportunity for us to capitalize on a little bit of momentum.”

**(On the feeling of being able to play again following an injury)**

“It was a deep feeling deep inside. It’s great. I talked to Taysom (Hill) this morning (and) we were pretty pumped up. It’s so hard to put into words how much coming back from these injuries takes. Credit to everyone to rest on their shoulders...We’ve got a great medical staff. We’ve got a great nutrition staff. We’ve got a great strength staff. Our coaches were patient. They understood our schedules and what we had to do. We just had to buy in and compete every single day. Thank God that I had someone to compete with (in rehab) as good as Taysom. They don’t make people as good as (him).”

**(On helping Head Coach Kellen Moore get his first win)**

“It is awesome. Kellen is an excellent coach. He’s a great play caller. People sit in meetings, and the stuff that comes out of this guy’s mouth...He is unbelievable. (He’s) just a brilliant guy. I mean, he is still able to relate to everyone and does a great job of communicating information. It’s awesome for him. Hopefully, it is the start of many.”

**T KELVIN BANKS JR.**

**(On playing complementary football and capitalizing off of some turnovers)**

“It’s definitely important, especially when the defense gets the ball for us. We have to go down and score. Sometimes, we weren’t able to put it in. That’s something that you just have to learn and grow from and go finish the drive.



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## NEW YORK GIANTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME GIANTS PLAYER QUOTES

### QB JAXSON DART

(On turnovers “snowballing”) “Yeah those suck. Obviously you don't win many games when you have five, and you don't get on the other side of the ball so it felt like we had a lot of opportunities where we were moving the ball down the field and we would hurt ourselves. In the NFL every team is a good team, every team has talent and I felt like we just gave the game away with all the turnovers.”

### (On when he dropped the ball)

“It fell out of my hand.”

### (On what was the teaching moment)

“To tuck the ball.”

### (Has it happened before)

“No.”

### (On the opinion on his progress)

“Any time you get more reps you're going to get better, obviously I'm young and that can't be an excuse so I have to continue to get better. Quarterbacks are measured by wins and losses so I take that to heart. I felt like I was the one who should've been putting our team in better situations to win this game.”

### (On how he processes five straight turnovers)

“It is not good, (I) have got to cut it out. It starts with me being a leader. Obviously some of those came from me, and I have to be a better example and (better) leader. In those situations can talk to the guys in the huddle and remind them about ball security. As a quarterback I put those on myself. ”

### (On the takeaway from the first two offensive drives that were successful)

“(I’m) Definitely not into moral victories, it is a loss. I don’t really care what happened during the game. The whole game we moved the ball, we had turnovers. There weren't many times where we got stopped, we were really good in the open field, we just turned the ball over.”

### (On moving forward from the first loss)

“I am going to work harder. It is a long season and it is different from college. For me I just have to keep leading. I told as many guys as I can in the locker room that this one is on me, and I am going to get better. I expect myself to play better in the games and to win them. I’m going to go back and watch the tape, see the things that I can clean up on and be better for this team to win the games we play. ”

### (On why does he put the loss on himself as there were other people who contributed)

“I’m the leader of the offense, so i think that any time those things happen it falls back on the leaders. I take that responsibility and I’m going to continue to have conversations with the guys, and we’re going to clean that stuff up.”

### (On being a rookie/young player)

“I never cared about my age. Coming into the NFL, I'm the youngest quarterback in the league, but I could care less about that; it's about winning. I don't take any excuse for my age or being a rookie. There's a responsibility when you're a quarterback to go win games and that's the standard I hold myself to.”

### **(On the Egg Bowl compared to NFL)**

“Every game in the SEC is intense, but I would say the Egg Bowl was one of the bigger rivalries in college football. I think the physicality of it is something you can take from college to the NFL.”

### **(On How he feels physically)**

“Good, I’m okay.”

### **(On any trouble with the play on the first interception)**

“There was some extra communication that we were trying to get cleared up, and obviously it's fourth down so I'm not going to take a sack or try to make a play. Fourth down you have to try to give somebody a chance and it gets out of the pocket, and in those situations I try to put the ball down the field and in my mind that's just as good as a punt. I try to give my guy a chance on fourth down.”

### **(On preparations for short weeks)**

“I’ve played in a short week in college before; the Egg Bowl. That is a quick turnaround so I understand the timing a little. The good thing for me is that I have guys in the room who have done it for a really long time. I try to make a schedule, and it's going to be a lighter week on our bodies, but the communication has to be at an all-time high to make sure that everybody is on the same page. In these short weeks we can play as clean as we can. ”

## **RB CAM SKATTEBO**

### **(On the fumble in the red zone)**

“I fumbled, he got a good punch on it, I handed them a touchdown. So, just got to be better, hold onto the ball. We preach to take care of the ball and that is all I got to do, that my job.”...”He got it out perfectly, he punched the ball on the backside, and I did not hold on tight enough.”

### **(On the offense having three straight turnovers)**

“We stayed on the course, we just kept fighting, fighting, and fighting. One of his picks was fourth and eight and we had to make something happen. Might as well punt the ball, you know what I mean, he (Jaxson Dart) knew that. It was fourth and eight and (we) had to make something happen, and threw an interception, oh well, you know what I mean. As an offense we kept fighting, we had a lot of turnovers obviously, got to take care of the ball, I’m a main culprit of that. Mine resulted in a touchdown, so I take big responsibility in that.”

### **(On beating an undefeated team last week, then losing to a team that hasn’t won)**

“We lost a game, it’s as simple as that. We turned the ball over and we didn’t play the football we should be playing, as simple as that. It’s not on the coaches. We got to take care of the ball better.”

### **(On Jaxson Dart’s confidence)**

“He will be fine; he’s a football player he will be fine. I mean I don’t have to say anything to him, he knows who he is, he stays true to himself, he’s not going to bite, we are going to keep fighting to win football games.”

## **TE THEO JOHNSON**

### **(On running more two-tight end formations)**

“I think it has a good change up, gives the defense something different to look at. I think we can do a lot out of it, we have all capable guys, that can do everything you ask. We can run out of it, catch out of it. Me and (Daniel) Bellinger get more action in the passing game. It is tough to defend when you have got guys that can do everything at the tight end position.”

### **(On the connection with Jaxson Dart)**

“That’s my guy, we are going to keep building that connection. Keep working together.”

**(On keeping spirits high despite the 1-4 start)**

“It’s next play mentality, everyone is going to make mistakes and have plays they wish they could have back. Its next play mentality, if you keep thinking about the last play you aren’t going to do the right thing on the next play.”

**(On the crowd noise being disruptive)**

“It got loud in there; I think we did a good job of handling it. We got to hold our water, we had some offsides (penalties), but overall I think we handled it well.”

**S TYLER NUBIN**

**(On the penalties)**

“Yeah, I mean it tough, on the back end I feel like we play some of the hardest positions on the field. When you make a mistake it’s a touchdown or they are moving the ball quite a good amount. We got to be better, we got to better, like I said we can be better on first and second down so we can put them in disadvantageous positions so that we can go eat.”

**(On two late Saints scores before half, hurting flow)**

“It definitely put a wrench in it. But I wouldn’t say it hurt the flow because we came in here really encouraged for the second half, to come out and start doing well and start playing our brand of football. You know that was huge, I think that was really huge momentum swing from what we were doing earlier in the game to obviously going into halftime, so (we) got to clean that up.”

**WR DARIUS SLAYTON**

**(On his fumble)**

“Just trying to make a play, I don’t know if he punched it out, I don’t know how I lost the ball. Obviously, right there I have to be better, I have to do a better job at securing the ball.”

**(On two missed targets)**

“Not so much that [first] one, that one I kind of got hit on that try, I still didn’t make the play, but that it’s kind of like football, make some miss some. More so the second one [flea flicker], I wish I would’ve tried to go back and get the ball a different way, maybe try to jump and get the ball.”

**(On expanding on the flea flicker play)**

“I just wish I would’ve tried to get back to it in some type, shape or form. End of the day, the quarterback can’t be perfect, put it near us, it’s our job to go up and fight for the ball, I wish would’ve went about it differently.”