



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the 35-27 loss to the Las Vegas Raiders, the Saints drop the home opener and fall to 1-2 on the season.
- The Saints return to action at the Caesars Superdome on Monday Night Football against the Atlanta Falcons with a 7:15 CT kickoff. The game will be nationally televised on ESPN (WDSU 6 locally).
- New Orleans outgained the Raiders in yardage 381-340, but had four giveaways to only one by Las Vegas.
- New Orleans converted nine-of-15 (60.0 %) third down attempts.
- QB **Tyler Shough** completed 29-of-42 passes for 250 passing yards with a career-high four touchdown passes, one interception and a 99.5 passer rating.
- In the first quarter, Shough recorded a 36-yard rush, the longest of his career and the longest rush by a Saints QB since Taysom Hill (75 yards) on 11-17-24.
- The last Saints QB to register four touchdown passes in a game was Derek Carr on Jan. 7, 2024 vs. Atlanta.
- RB **Travis Etienne Jr.** had 13 carries for 57 yards and also added two receptions for 13 yards.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** recorded 9 carries for 36 yards and one reception for five yards.
- WR **Chris Olave** became the 10th Saint to reach 4,000 career receiving yards, while also going over 100 yards today (107) on nine catches. With 318 career catches now, he surpassed Danny Abramowicz to move into sole possession of ninth place in club record books. With his 14th career 100-yard receiving game, he surpassed Jimmy Graham to move into sole possession of fifth in club history.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** recorded eight receptions for 53 yards. Johnson is now tied for 20th in the club record books with 232 receptions with Darren Sproles.
- Today was the fourth time **Johnson** has had two TD receptions (first since 12-18-22 vs. Atlanta), and also the fourth multi touchdown game of his career.
- TE **Noah Fant** finished with four receptions for 33 yards, including a career-high 33 grabs.

- Saints recorded four touchdowns receptions by tight ends all last year. The Black and Gold recorded four vs the Raiders and have six this season.
- WR **Devaughn Vele** added three receptions for 39 yards.
- DT **Khristian Boyd** recorded his first career sack, as part of a three-tackle, two stop for loss day.
- EDGE **Chase Young** recorded two sacks. His third time doing so, and second for the Saints.
- The Raiders are the 22nd team that Young has recorded a sack against.
- **Nathan Shepherd** registered took down Raiders QB Kirk Cousins on a failed two-point conversion attempt.
- LB **Kaden Elliss** led the defense in tackles with nine (four solo).
- LB **Danny Stutsman** added seven tackles (four solo).
- S **Justin Reid** finished with four tackles (three solo) and also kicked off to open the second half of the contest.
- DB **Jordan Howden** recovered a fumble on special teams that was forced by EDGE **Anfernee Jennings**.
- LB **Isaiah Stalbird** returned to action after missing one game with a shoulder injury and led the team with two special teams tackles (one solo).
- P **Ryan Wright** punted eight times for 355 yards, averaging 44.4 yards per punt, with a long of 57 yards and three punts placed inside the 20-yard line.



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS HEAD COACH KELLEN MOORE

(Opening Statement) “Tough battle. Really good game. Ultimately, turnovers in the fourth quarter got us, and we weren’t able to overcome them. These guys finished better than us. There’s a lot of good stuff on this film, but ultimately, we weren’t able to get it done collectively.”

(On answers from the officials regarding the sack-fumble) “It was hard to get much communication during the game, so I don’t know.”

(On the four Saints turnovers) “They made plays. Obviously, a lot of them came at critical downs and critical situations that we weren’t able to get those downs done. Credit to those guys. Those guys made plays, and we weren’t able to.”

(On learning from this loss) “I think in many ways, there is a lot of good stuff on this film. As painful as this loss is, as frustrating as this loss is, we can’t let this thing linger too long. We were in a position to finish that game, and we didn’t finish it. We had our opportunities and were not able to get it done. We have to recognize the entire film, not just the ending.”

(On his frustration with the lack of flow) “It’s just a back and forth. We were trying to create some flow. At the end of the day, we had our opportunities. We didn’t get it done.”

(On frustrations and composure from the players and staff) “There was frustration on the sideline. I have to keep my composure. I have to stay there. I think our guys still stuck with it and battled all the way to the end. I thought our defense had great opportunities down there in the red zone. Khristian Boyd was close to making a play on the QB and didn’t get anything out of that one. It was a tough one.”

(On consecutive turnovers and calming down with a chance to win) “I felt like we moved it well. There were these critical downs, and they made plays. We moved it the last couple of drives. We just weren’t able to sustain it and get the points needed to finish the game off.”

(On the pace in the beginning of the second half) “I felt good about it. Obviously, there was a component of their defense to stay on the ball to keep them in a specific package. I felt like our guys executed well in that instance.”

(On the positives from the game) “They busted a big run, but I thought our run defense – there was some good stuff in there to force some field goals in the red zone. I felt like we ran the ball a little bit better this week. I think we just have to look at it and get better.”

(On the four injuries in the game) “We’ll see. We’ll see what happens. Obviously, we will get information tomorrow and have more clarity.”

(On if RB Travis Etienne Jr.’s hamstring injury the same issue) “A little bit. It’s the same leg.”

(On the game plan for Etienne) “I think just with the sequencing of things, I felt like he was able to get a rhythm, which was good. I thought he had some good runs in there.”

(On his vantage point from Tyler Shough’s interception) “I did not see the pocket, obviously. They were able to make a play there, kind of late in the progression. I’m going to have to look at it more specifically.”

(On the atmosphere today) “I thought the atmosphere was awesome. I thought it was a great atmosphere. I thought our guys really rallied off of it. Obviously, we’re all bummed Our whole

community, our whole team's bummed that we weren't able to get this one done. We will work on it more, moving forward, and I'm excited to find that solution to get it done together."

(On difficulty defending tight end Brock Bowers) "Brock, at the end of the day, had a phenomenal game. He made plays in critical downs that were going to him, and was getting plays done."

(On S Justin Reid kicking off in the second half) "Planned thing. It was just an option to kind of change things up in the kicker position. It was just a different look."

(On if Reid's assignment was to get an additional tackler on the kickoff unit) "Yes."



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME RAIDERS HEAD COACH KLINT KUBIAK

(Opening comments regarding injuries) “Jack Bech fractured his forearm, so we will evaluate him tomorrow. JPJ (J. Powers-Johnson) has a groin.”

(On the defense) “I just want to give a big shout out to our defense (with) four takeaways in the second half was the catalyst to the game. I am so proud of them and all of the guys fighting to the end.”

(On the team’s resilience to win) “That’s a great job by our players. That’s what they have been doing since April. They believe in each other. They are a tight group. It wasn’t pretty, but they found a way to win. That’s what it takes every week in this league.”

(On what flipped defensively for the team down the stretch) “It’s a four quarter game. (You) just keep playing. Our guys kept playing.”

(On Nakobe Dean causing another fumble today) “I think that it just starts with the leadership of that position. You’ve got to get everybody on the same page. Then, he is producing on top of it. He’s the heartbeat of our defense. We are counting on him every week. The other guys thrive off of his maturity, number one, and his play style, number two.”

(On the success of the tight ends today) “Yeah, whatever it takes to win. Those guys did a great job.”

(On Tight End Brock Bowers) “Brock has always been a guy that we count on, but to come off of an injury and play the way that he did; it’s very, very impressive. We needed it. We are not surprised by that with Brock. Again, it’s a whole team effort. There’s a lot of guys that did a lot of good things. I am very proud of Brock. I am proud of the offensive line, the running backs, the receivers, the quarterback. It was a team effort.”

(On the play of Kirk Cousins) “He’s been leading this way since April. I’m not surprised by what he’s doing. He’s leaning on his teammates. He is a leader on our team. Again, it’s three games into the year, (so) we aren’t taking anyone’s flowers. It’s a one game season from here on out every week.”

(On what Cousins brings to the role) “He has the experience. He has the maturity. He is making plays.”

(On if he thought that the sack and fumble recovery would stand) “We thought that it was a fumble.”

(On how Brock Bowers' presence helps everyone else) "It's a team game. Brock played his tail off. Our guys won those first two games when he wasn't there. In the NFL every week someone is going to be out. There will be more guys out this (upcoming) week. Jack Bech is probably going to be out. As the team finds a way to win, that's what good teams do."

(On Cody White scoring after coming off the practice squad) "All he does is produce and work hard. I am very happy for #82, too"

(On why the team has made a turnaround this quickly) "It's a 17 game season, so we can't be happy or satisfied with this win. We put ourselves in good position. We know what's coming to our place next week in the Chiefs, so let's take it one game at a time. That is how you win games. You don't look too far ahead; you don't look behind. You keep your eyes on the prize and get better every day."



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

S JUSTIN REID

(On his thoughts on the fourth-quarter mistakes) “I think we fell short in all three phases, there was a couple of plays I fell short, and we all just got to look at what, you know, we can do better at the film and make sure we get that cleaned up. I thought that we played a lot of good football, and I thought that there were some plays we just left short out there on all three phases, so we just can't do that. We have a lot of good things going; we are going to learn from this, and we are not going to get too down on ourselves. But a lot of guys are upset, a lot of guys are pissed off, I'm pissed off right now, but that's okay because we have high standards for ourselves. We have high standards for what we can do, and we are going to step up to the occasion next time.”

(On if losing control of the game after three quarters was the most unsettling part) “Yeah, that's what the NFL is, and playing this league long enough, you kind of always end up on every side of it. We had a chance, we're up two scores, we got to run away with that. We just fell short, we need to have a little more production on offense; we need to get some stops on defense, didn't do either one of them, and that's what happens.

(On what makes Brock Bowers difficult to limit) “Yeah, the kid is special. He had a hell of a game today. First game back, he was excited to be back, and he just got open. They featured him; I'm sure he had probably at least a third, maybe half of their touches, and he's a talented kid, so credit to him. They did a good job featuring him and getting him the ball and allowing him to make some plays, and kudos to them winning the game.”

QB TYLER SHOUGH

(On the fourth quarter and his message to the team trying to get back in the game) “I mean, one, we've just got to be better. Towards the end there, we had opportunities all the way towards the end, and we feel very comfortable in those moments, and we're just a couple plays away. Whether it's a miscommunication or a good job by them, but we can clean that up for sure. More than anything, it's just keep going. It's a long season. There's a lot of great stuff to watch on film, a lot of stuff that we can learn from. Finishing strong in that game is really one of those things, and that starts with myself protecting the ball. It starts with all of us.”

(On what the big takeaway is from today and moving forward) “Yeah, 100%. There are ebbs and flows to the game. We obviously had some momentum there, and we got to finish it off in the end zone on some of those and protect those opportunities for field goals. Obviously, those fourth downs you've got to get the ball out of your hands in some of those moments. Turnovers are not necessarily the worst thing, but you've got to get out and get it out of your hands. More than anything is how do we learn from it and how do we keep that same intensity throughout the game. I thought the playstyle, our communication, were good. We just got to figure out a way to get over that hump.”

(On emotions in the locker room) “Oh, man, it hurts for sure, because you understand the work that was put in and you understand the fight. That's the best thing for our team is—it hurts whenever you love each other that way. We all let each other down. As a team, we are going to figure out how we keep going. More than anything, it's stuff to learn from on film. It's not anything to freak out about. It's more of, there's some really good stuff, but how do we shore this up to where we want to be in the position where we want to be at the end of the year? How do we do that? That's a really good football

team, and they're playing well, and I think we're a really good football team and playing well. So it comes down to a couple plays, and we'll fix those up."

(On the first fumble in the fourth quarter and what he thought compared to the Goff play) "Yeah, I mean, I thought I threw it. Personally, I thought my arm was going forward. I'm not exactly sure on the rule, but it doesn't really matter to me. I've got to get it out sooner regardless. I thought I was going to get it off in time. Sometimes it happens like that. So keep learning from it, and we'll get it done."

(On emotions regarding the calls and how that affects the next play) "It's part of the job where you have to continue to do that, good or bad. But you're humans too, and you want all of your guys to make the play or make the big play on defense, and we want to go out and score every single time. We're fighting together, and that's the best part—is when we can rally off each other. But at the same time, we have to respond regardless. So it's a unique battle, but for us as an offense, I feel we do a good job of resetting. At the end there, they made a couple more plays, and we had to do a better job of ball security because that was kind of the story of it. So we'll clean that up and put a huge emphasis on it as far as doing our job that way."

(On what he saw on the interception) "Yeah, I knew they getting to a 'junkie 2'. So I was trying to find that alley right there. I just got hit. I've got to eat that one, either take the sack or run. They did a good job in that coverage, and it wasn't necessarily a surprise, but I need to find a way to get out of their hands to the checkdown there or run. That kind of sucks. It happens that way when the ball gets floated in the air like that. So I've got to be better there as far as protecting it in those situations, especially on that side of the field."

(On keeping composure after consistent turnovers) "It goes back to going to the next play and how do you go back to the next play. They made a couple of good plays. At the end of the day, it's football. Stuff like that's going to happen, and I think we understand how we fix that more than anything, and it's staying neutral throughout it. We're not going to fall victim to riding that emotional wave. At the end of the day, we lost, and we have some plays that we can fix in order to win."

(On changing the play at fourth-down and what he saw and switched to) "Yeah, I knew they were getting into Cover 0, so we got into one of our answers for it. They did a good job popping out and bracketing (Chris) Olave there. So I tried to run it. They did a good job covering it. So we got to maybe switch things up, get into a different answer. At the end of the day, execute better on that play. Felt the operation was good. Communication was good. We got to find a way to get it there on third-and-one and fourth-and-one."

(On what he liked about being able to move the ball the first 3 quarters) "We feel very strongly about our ability to, in any circumstance, gain positive yards and keep going. I think we were moving the ball well a lot of the time. At the end there, we shot ourselves in the foot when it came down to those turnovers. Stuff like that's going to happen, but how do we try to limit those and make sure that we're on the other side of the coin from the turnover margin. So, that was the story at the end there, and it sucks, but there's a lot of stuff to build off of."

(On what was working at the beginning of the second half and if it was something they liked about their sequencing, or the look that the Raiders were stuck in) "A little bit of both. We did a good job of staying on the ball, being able to kind of get in a different place, and we were executing really well, communicating well, and we were able to finish off in the red zone a couple of really good times. So tempo is going to be a big factor and also executing in some of those looks. That's stuff to continue to build off of, and we're going to keep going that way."

(On if they liked the matchup specifically with Juwan (Johnson) and Noah (Fant) at TE in the red zone or if they were the open guys) "Both, for sure. We feel like those guys are mismatches all over the field. All of our guys—and (Devaughn) Vele, Olave—you got all those weapons down there—(Travis) Etienne (Jr.), AK (Alvin Kamara). So it's how do we dissect that look and get it to the best guy. They did a phenomenal job getting on those routes, and we've got to come up big and continue to make plays."

(On receiving a lot of different looks today offensively—all active players got on the field—and if that is how they want to operate) "Yes, we want to be balanced, but change things up personnel-wise. We want to get the ball to all of our guys. So that's the best thing is being multiple that way and still running what you're good at. That's the challenge every single week, and we still got to focus on us. It's still

September football. It's still early. There's a lot of stuff to clean up expectedly, but at the same time, we don't want to live like that. We want to continue to get better, and we're going to do that. We're going to really evaluate what was good and what we can clean up going forward."

(On the energy in the Caesars Superdome today) "I thought it was awesome. The energy in the Dome and the fans were active the whole game. We appreciate their support. It's going to be another big game coming up next, for obvious reasons. We're going to need everybody showing out, and we're going to put it together this week. Have a great week of practice and get after them."

(On if he found a lot of significant growth in the run scheme as well to build off of for future weeks) "Yeah, the O-line and the RBs did a great job today in the run game. There was some really good stuff to build on. Very physical. We've got to clean up some plays, but it definitely helped out a lot, and a lot of those things came down to the wire on a couple of those fourth downs. I was really proud of our effort in that way and stuff to build off of."

(On the last first-down drive, and if giving them 1:54 with multiple timeouts was intended towards the end of the first half) "No, that wasn't the exact intent. Obviously, you want to score, but ideally you would like to maybe run it, run out the clock a little bit more. But at the same time, if you have the opportunity, you are going to score. So they did a good job on driving down. We've got to figure out a way to slow it down a little bit at the end, but that's part of it."

(On Olave's biggest step from last year to this year) "His consistency—every single day, I feel he's the same dude. I've felt like that since I've gotten here. But more than anything—our dialogue, our chemistry has grown. Whether that's, 'Hey, find me on this look,' or 'we get this, you know, I'm coming to you' or maybe a play breaks down, stuff like that, and we're continuing to talk to each other that way. That's part of it. Sometimes they're going to get some points, we're going to have some negative plays, and we're going to have some great plays. And that's the fun part of playing with a guy like him."

WR CHRIS OLAVE

(On the difference between last week's win over the Ravens and this week's game) "Of course, I feel like we got one win, two losses, so we definitely missed two opportunities, but it's only week Three, so all we can do is learn from this. Of course, it's a tough loss; it was a great position to win, but we just got to learn from it and not let it happen again."

(On playing in close games in the fourth quarter) "We just got to control what we can control, man. There's going to be plays like that where it's out of our hands; it's a tough part at the end of the day, but that's what they went with. We had another opportunity to go down and score and take the lead."

(On if he felt the offense had a good start to the game) "Not at all; first drive, three-and-out- that's not what we want at all. We want to go down and get some points, especially when we get the ball first. So, it was a little dirt; we had thirteen points at halftime, but we know we can be a lot better."



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME LAS VEGAS RAIDERS PLAYERS

QB KIRK COUSINS

(On coming back today) "It's very much like each game is its own stage. As we are watching games as we are getting ready in the locker room, you can see that each game is its own entity. I was proud of the way that we kept playing. Obviously momentum. I am proud of the way that the defense kept fighting and getting us the ball back with the turnovers. Guys made plays. We stayed resilient. It's a long season."

(On the momentum swings) "All I know is to keep playing. Stuff like that hardens you. I threw a pick at Notre Dame in a game that we had wrapped up. It was terrible interception. I threw a terrible pick to end the season (as a pro), if we would have won then we would have made the playoffs. If you play long enough, then you get some scars. It hurts. You just keep playing. I go back to what Mike Shannahan told me when I was a rookie. Tough times don't last, but tough people do. I have to remind that to myself a lot. Just stay the course and the tough person is going to be there. We just have to live that every day a little bit."

(On the Raiders fans today) "It's a privilege to play for an organization with the kind of history that we have. I wasn't say I was on the fence about signing with the Raiders, but I was excited. When I saw that Autumn Wind video with the history and the music on, it kind of pushed me over the edge. There aren't many organizations in this league with that history and tradition and iconic names. To play for one is a privilege. It's good to be a part of that history. It was fun to see the Raider Nation. My son goes to school and he hears Raiders. They love it and are all in. It's been fun."

TE BROCK BOWERS

(On the last few weeks) "It was tough dealing with it during camp. I thought it was nothing. I thought it would go away by the start of the season. I had to get it done before the long season ahead. I'm glad to be back."

(On Kirk Cousin's veteran leadership) "It helps a lot having a very experienced guy back there. He keeps everyone calm. He's calm, cool and collected. He's seen a lot and is very smart out there."

(On his message in the huddle down two scores) "Keep having faith in what we are doing. Part of the game is up and downs, but we have to focus in on what we have been doing all week."

(On how he thought he'd play today) "I had no idea. T first it was fun with all the guys flying around out there. It was fun being out there with all of the guys. Our offensive line played hard."

DL MAXX CROSBY

(On the mentality of the defense) "It's a credit to everybody. It starts with Robbie (Leonard). He trusts us as a group. We emphasize everyday in the building about taking the ball away. We continue to do that. I think we had four in the second half. You continue to do that and you have a lot better chance of winning."

(On how big his eyes got on the fumble recovery) "I couldn't pick the ball up, but at least I got the ball. It was a great play. Malcolm (Koonce) got the strip sack and a big turnover. It was a big play in the game. It slipped out of my hands twice and I just have to fall on the ball. We'll have more opportunities. We just need to keep hunting, be around the ball and we'll have more opportunities."

(On the success of 3-0) "We have a lot of work to do. It's early. It's September. Everyone in the locker room is playing for each other. It is as simple as that. I think guys enjoy being around each other. I think guys enjoy putting in the work together and finding solutions instead of complaining and looking

for an out. Everyone is trying to get on the same page toward one common goal and I think that has been a big part of why.

LB NAKOBE DEAN

(On the turnovers) “We knew we had to rally back and start playing our type of football. Our style of play is taking the ball away. We have to go every week and see how many takeaways that we can get. We didn’t have any in the first half. So, we had to come back in the second half strong and we did.”

(On how easy is it to flip that switch) “It’s not a switch. You are supposed to always keep it on. It was in our minds the entire game. It’s a 60-minute ballgame.”

(On the mentality being down two scores) “Make one play at a time. That’s it. We preach to be 1-0 at the end of the day. It’s like 1-0 each play. Just win the play. Don’t look too far ahead.



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, SEPT. 27, 2026 • CAESARS SUPERDOME
NFL OFFICIALS POOL REPORT WITH NFL VICE PRESIDENT
OF INSTANT REPLAY MARK BUTTERWORTH (POOL
REPORT CONDUCTED BY LUKE JOHNSON OF NEW
ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE/ADVOCATE)**

Question: Can you explain the ruling as you saw it on the play where referees on the field ruled that Tyler Shough was sacked and fumbled (4th quarter, 13:04, 3rd-and-4, Las Vegas' 29-yard line)?

Butterworth: "With the ruling on the field of a fumble recovered by the defense, that is an automatic booth review which any automatic booth review is either confirmed with New York to confirm the ruling on the field, or we stop the game if we need to. On that play, we were able to confirm that the defenders' right hand hit the ball and the hand. The quarterback clearly lost control of the ball before his hand was coming forward. We were able to confirm the ruling on the field.

Question: There was a very similar play in the New Orleans Saints vs. Detroit Lions Week 1 game, where it ended up being ruled as an incomplete pass – is there any difference between these two plays from your vantage point?

Butterworth: "All we are looking for is the hand coming forward with control to make it an incomplete pass. In the play that happened today, the hand was not coming forward with control of the ball."