



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, New Orleans improves their record to 4-1 and extends their winning streak to 4 games. It is the eighth four-game winning streak since **Sean Payton** was hired as head coach in 2006. The Saints remain a half-game ahead of the 3-1 Carolina Panthers in first place in the NFC South. Following a Week Six bye, the Saints return to action on Sunday, October 21 when they face the Baltimore Ravens at M&T Bank Stadium with a scheduled 3:05 p.m. CT kickoff.
- Offensively New Orleans ran up 447 total net yards, while surrendering only 283 total net yards defensively. The Saints have scored at least 31 points in three consecutive weeks for the first time since the last three games of 2016. The defense surrendered under 20 points for the second consecutive week and for the third time in four weeks.
- New Orleans surrendered only 39 rushing yards on 18 attempts, giving up only 2.2 yards per carry.
- QB **Drew Brees** played in his 195th career game as a Saint, tied for second in franchise history with LB **Rickey Jackson** and finished the game with 363 yards, becoming the NFL's all-time leading passer with 72,103 yards. He surpassed former Indianapolis Colts and Denver Broncos QB Peyton Manning and moved into first all-time with his 62-yard touchdown pass to WR **Tre'Quan Smith** in the second quarter. Brees started the game a perfect 8 of 8 passing and finished the contest 26-of-29 for 363 yards, three touchdowns and a 153.2 passer rating. Brees finished the game with a career-high 89.7 completion percentage. It was the highest completion percentage ever on Monday Night Football, surpassing Oakland QB Rich Gannon's 89.5 completion percentage on November 11, 2002. It was the ninth-best completion percentage all-time (minimum 20 attempts) in a regular season contest.
- Brees has not thrown an interception in a career-high six consecutive regular season contests dating back to the 2017 finale and has not been picked off in 232 consecutive pass attempts.
- The Saints' win improves their all-time record against Washington to 10-17 and gives them back-to-back wins over Washington for the first time since back-to-back victories in 2002-03. Tonight's win also improves New Orleans' home record against Washington to 5-9.
- Tonight's win improves the Saints home record to 2-1, giving New Orleans a winning mark both at home and on the road (2-0) this season.
- Tonight's win broke a three-game skid for the Saints on Monday Night Football and improves the franchise's record on Mondays to 19-22 overall, 13-7 since 2006.
- The 24-point differential is the Saints largest point-differential of 2018 and most lopsided win since defeating Buffalo 47-10 on November 12, 2017.
- The Saints scored 43 points and have now scored 180 points in their first five games. The only other time New Orleans has scored that many points in the first five games of a season was 2009, when they scored 192.
- With the win, **Sean Payton** now has a winning record against Washington Head Coach **Jay Gruden**, the 41st head coach he has a winning record against.
- Smith scored his first career touchdown on the 62-yard pass from Brees and finished the game with 3 receptions for 111 yards and 2 scores, all career-highs.
- In his first game this season, RB **Mark Ingram** finished with 16 rushes for 53 yards and two touchdowns. His two scores move him into a tie with Joe Horn for fifth most touchdowns in Saints history with 50.
- LB **Demario Davis** recorded his 700th career tackle with his third quarter tackle of Washington RB Chris Thompson. He finished the game with six tackles.

- QB **Taysom Hill** rushed 5 times for 23 yards and scored his first career touchdown on a 1-yard run in the third quarter.
- In his 117th consecutive game played, DE **Cameron Jordan** finished with one sack and has now taken down 27 different quarterbacks in his career after dropping Washington signal-caller Alex Smith.
- DE **Sheldon Rankins** recorded his second sack of the season with his first quarter sack of Smith on third down. Rankins finished with two tackles.
- TE **Josh Hill** scored his first touchdown of the season and finished with two receptions for 24 yards and one touchdown.
- WR **Cameron Meredith** finished with five receptions for 71 yards, both season-highs.
- S **Vonn Bell** had a pass defense for the second week in a row and finished with a team-high eight tackles including one tackle for loss.
- DB **Justin Hardee** recorded his first career interception and returned it 77 yards to the Washington four-yard line. The third quarter interception was New Orleans' second interception and fourth takeaway of the season.
- DE **Marcus Davenport** recorded his second sack of the season and first career forced fumble on his strip-sack of Smith in the third quarter. The fumble was recovered by LB **A.J. Klein** and was New Orleans' fifth takeaway of the season.
- New Orleans' defense recorded three sacks for the fourth consecutive week, increasing their total to 12 sacks in 2018.
- K **Wil Lutz** made a 44-yard FG in the fourth quarter and has made at least one FG in each of his last 26 games.
- P **Thomas Morstead** went the whole game without a punt for the first time since New Orleans beat the Bills 47-10 on November 12, 2017 at Buffalo.
- New Orleans' 43 points tonight ties a season-high set at Atlanta on September 23 and it marks the third consecutive season that the Saints have scored at least 40 points twice in a season.



WASHINGTON REDSKINS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(Opening Statement) “Regarding the game, obviously, it is always a special night when you can win in this league. Especially against a good team. And then to accomplish a lot of the team goals going into this game that were necessary to win. And obviously with us being able to win in a night where a significant record was broken, that makes it that much more special.”

(On if Drew Brees can still leave him in awe) “Yes, absolutely. There were some throws we threw today that were script plays. Your progression might be a different set of receivers. He hit a few shots today in the seams that were significant. I can’t recall many balls touched on the ground. It has been a while since we haven’t punted in a game. (Thomas) Morstead had his old kicking coach come to his first game tonight to see him play and got to see him hold. It was one of those nights where guys played well up front. The protection was good and that was a team that played really good defense. We’ve seen their three prior games and (they are) a team that was playing with confidence. Obviously, we did some things that got on them early. I thought defensively we did a great job. I thought our effort to the ball was going to be important. To answer your question though, there is always those games where there is a throw made and there was great vision and anticipation and tonight it was evident.”

(On Tre’Quan Smith touchdown being the designed option) “To be honest with you, on a look throw it wouldn’t be first in the progression. (Drew Brees) felt the coverage come off and he made the right decision. It wasn’t where we saw the ball going in its design on a Tuesday night at midnight and that was a credit to him.”

(On the moment celebrating with Drew Brees) “It was fantastic and I’m sure it will become more special. It is always difficult when that moment happens in a game. You want to make sure it doesn’t impact your team’s emotions relative to winning the game. And the comment I made prior to the game when talking to the team was like, ‘Hey, our job is to win this game along with that milestone that will be accomplished and it makes it more special.’ I think that’s true and I think the players, the coaches, every one of us felt like we needed to be on point. We get a team that plays well together because they don’t want to disappoint each other is always a good trait to have. In the last two weeks, I’ve sensed that and certainly tonight relative to all that was at stake.”

(On Michael Thomas’ emotional energy for the team) “He is an emotional player. He’s tough and is extremely dedicated and works his tail off. There isn’t a more passionate player. It is all football, 24/7, and it rubs off. He is also an extremely powerful player relative to getting into the routes and getting yards after the catch. He made some big plays for us tonight.”

(On partnership and growth with Drew Brees) “I was asked that earlier in the week. I don’t think any one of us career-wise thought ten years forward. We set goals. Early on in 2006, we both got here at similar times and began trying to rebuild and put a team together; the short-term goals were winning and then winning in our division. There wasn’t any moment where it was like, ‘This is going to unfold.’ Certainly, the Super Bowl was a goal, but all of these other things are a byproduct of health, stability, and successful teams, a lot of different individual people. To answer your question, it is in steps and stages. I think the thing that is inspiring the most is knowing what is most important to him and that common goal that we have relative to winning another championship. All the actual hardware, the different bats, those all get dust but it’s about these memories right now with someone like that, as special as that is tonight, and all that he’s accomplished. That’s what you miss when it is done. But honestly, I think it was winning in the beginning and competing and being relevant. The other things take care of themselves.”



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
WASHINGTON REDSKINS HEAD COACH JAY GRUDEN

(On Josh Norman not playing in the first series of the third quarter tonight) "That was my call there for the first series. He finished the game and played a lot better in the (rest of the) second half."

(On explaining the loss today after the team had an extra week to prepare) "We got behind early. We have not been a very good team when we get behind, for whatever reason. We weren't able to make any plays to get ourselves back in the game. We had three penalties on defense on third down that kept drives alive. When we give Drew Brees extra snaps, he is going to make you pay. Offensively, we didn't protect very well. We didn't have open receivers. We didn't call very good plays. It was just a total team debauchery. I am the one in charge of it. I take responsibility for it."

(On the early penalties changing the game in favor of the Saints) "They're huge. You can't put a finger on how important they are. Imagine if we had three third downs and they (the Saints) had the penalties. I guess they never had penalties. It's critical in the game of football. I mentioned many times how important third down is when you have a chance to get off the field, you've got to take advantage of it. We didn't do that."

(On the poor performance of the entire team and staff) "I'm not up here to point at anybody and say that they played poorly. Overall, I think that our whole team played poorly. I think that's a reflection of myself. I think that everybody in that locker room, hopefully, will say that they have to play better. I absolutely understand that coaches on this staff have to coach better. That is one way that we can look at it. Looking forward, we have Carolina coming in. We are 2-2. There is a bright outlook. We are still right there. And we will continue to be. We have to get some things fixed."

(On if the Saints did anything defensively that surprised the team) "I have to check the tape. I don't know if they were blitzing a lot. It didn't look like they were blitzing. I think that we just couldn't handle the four-man rush. They blitzed back a couple of times. I don't think that they did anything that we weren't prepared for."

(On needing to get the ball to Jordan Reed more) "Coverages dictate where the ball went. We tried to get Jordan free a few times. Sometimes we had pressure. We couldn't get him the ball. It was a number of things. We lined him up outside; the coverage dictated that we go somewhere else. We've got to do a better job of getting him involved to get him out on the field. He is one of our biggest playmakers, so we've got to make sure that we get him more involved."

(On giving credit to the Saints) "Got to give credit to the Saints, Sean Payton, Drew Brees, Michael Thomas, (Mark) Ingram coming back (and) played well. The offensive line protected Drew very well. First of all, they (Saints) deserve a lot of credit. Also, we had a little hand in it. We gave them too many freebies, in my opinion. The third down calls (hurt). A couple of the blown coverages, those you just can't have."



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

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
QUARTERBACK DREW BREES

(On what it was like after breaking the passing yardage record) “First of all, coming into the game and knowing that it is there and it is possible and just trying to stay very focused on the game and executing each play one at a time and knowing that you’re slowly creeping closer and closer. Just not knowing when or how it was going to happen and what is going to be transpiring in the game. Just the momentum and different things, so when we trot out there for the two-minute drive, I think we were within striking distance, we felt like if we threw a bunch of balls all the way down the field and all of those were passing yards then we would probably be close to the record. I didn’t know it was going to happen on the first play to Tre’Quan (Smith). I don’t think it could have happened in any better fashion than it did. To have been in that moment with my teammates on the field, the offensive line; It just played out better than I even could have imagined. I tried to rehearse the scenario in my mind this week, just so I could really focus on the game, but to have a moment with Sean (Payton) and Mr. Baker, from the (Pro Football) Hall of Fame, and then my boys and my wife Brittany, and daughter, that was just incredible.”

(On Tre’Quan Smith) “In Ted Ginn Jr.’s absence, Tre’Quan stepped in and did a magnificent job. Obviously, he had two really big catches tonight for touchdowns. So, credit to him and the way he has come along here in his rookie season, really made a ton of progress and each and every week, especially in the last couple of weeks. This kid can really help, can be a big part of our offense, (he) just needs to continue to evolve. We also got some other pieces as well, we got Mark Ingram II back, Cameron Meredith is coming along, and so we feel like we have a lot of weapons and feel we have a lot of ways to spread the ball around and be really productive.”

(On Peyton Manning’s message to him) “In true Peyton fashion, he always is creative, I appreciate it. I spoke with (Brett) Favre two weeks ago after the completion record, after we did that in Atlanta. I had gotten a text from Peyton, Archie and Cooper, I spoke to Eli (Manning) last week and really got the best wishes from the whole family. So that was really classy.

(On being around the head of the Pro Football Hall of Fame) “It usually is good news, right. It is hard for me to reflect too much right now because my career is not done, there are still goals to be accomplished and there are still challenges to be met. So, I am still very focused on that and yet when something like this happens and there are so many people that are responsible for that, that can be a part of that, it makes me happy, it makes me proud and it makes me extremely grateful for the opportunity to play this game this long. I wound up here in New Orleans, you all know that story, so it has just been an unbelievable journey and I am just so grateful.”

(On rehearsing the scenario and the emotions involved) “I have broken down and cried a bunch of times this week. Thinking about so many things, I feel like when you have kids too you get a little more emotional, just because I get emotional whenever I think about them. Being a father is obviously the greatest responsibility in the world. I want to be the best father I can be for them, I want to set the best example I can for them at all times. I think about all of the people that have influenced my life in such a powerful way, there were so many of those people that were here tonight that witnessed this, so many people that I spoke to this week that are a part of this and so many others still that I haven’t had a chance to reach out to and that time will come. Two of the people that have had the biggest influence on my football career certainly and made me who I am growing up are my mom and my grandfather, they are in heaven, they are no longer here, but I know they would be proud and they are watching down on me, looking down on me and watching over me at all times and my kids as well. You start thinking about a lot of things.”

(On how long he still has left in his career) “My kids are what make me be better because I throw the ball to my Callen on the couch, he always tells me I am not throwing it in the right place. He always goes ‘Come on dad, not here, I want it here’ he wants like the outstretch catch on the corner of the couch. They are my toughest critics, they keep me honest.”

(On what he thought when looking at the crowd) “I mean, 13 years brings back a lot of memories and a rush of emotions. I love this city, I love this fan base, I love the (Mercedes-Benz) Superdome and the environment that our fans create on a weekly basis when we play here. There is really no fan base like it. Obviously, the bond that we share as a team with our fan base is unlike any other in all of professional sports. They are just so passionate and I wanted this as much for them as anybody.”

(On Tre’Quan Smith’s catch to break the record) “It was really a new play, a new thought, just this idea that you kind of flood the zone and maybe someone pops open and that is basically what happened on that play. There was a lot of guys out there, we threw Alvin (Kamara) out there, threw Mike (Thomas) out there, we were just running guys all over the place and I think it might have gotten them a little confused and Tre’Quan popped right open.”

(On what he has gotten for breaking the record that is to the side) “That is a gift from the QB’s, that is a bottle of tequila and we will enjoy that when the time comes. Last time I checked, it was 178 text messages, so that will probably take us a week to get through all of those.”



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

WR Tre'Quan Smith

(On being part of the passing yardage record) "I thank God it was me. Now I get to go down in history with somebody famous in Hall of Famer Drew Brees. I'm glad it happened to me."

(On what he did with the ball) "I didn't realize it. I believe I dropped it. Some people thought I was going to throw it in the stands. I dropped it in the end zone and then jumped into the stands."

(On if he expected to get the ball on that play) "I did not expect to get the ball on that particular play. It was the second time we ran that play. Cam Meredith got it the first time. When I saw it come to me, I did everything I could to catch it."

RB Alvin Kamara

(On he thought was going to catch the record-breaking pass) "I said if I got it, then I'm going to have to go hide the ball and give Drew a dummy ball. We were thinking about it, but we never really talked about it. We knew that he was going to break it tonight. We knew that he wanted to get it tonight."

(On having Mark Ingram II back tonight) "It felt good. It was great having him here. His energy was definitely missed. It was good to see him back out there getting going and having success early."

RB Mark Ingram II

(On Drew Brees' passing yardage record) "It was history. I get to tell my kids that I played with the guy who threw for the most yards in the NFL ever. Congratulations to Drew Brees and his family. They deserve it."

(On getting involved in the offense tonight) "Our coaches found a great gameplan in order to keep us both (he and Alvin Kamara) involved. We do whatever we have to do to help the team win and our coaches put us in the position for success. I just try to do the best I can when my number 's called. I know what my assignment is so I can go out there and be the best me. I want to help us win games and play to the best of my ability. I appreciate the coaches for putting the gameplan together and my teammates for all of their hard work and who have supported me. It's a blessing to be out there with them and get a big win tonight."

(On knowing his role coming into the game tonight) "I practiced all week and was working hard. The coaches had faith in me that I was ready and staying in shape. I'm thankful they gave me the opportunity. My goal was to be able to help the team win the game tonight."

DE Cameron Jordan

(On stepping up after the Marshon Lattimore's exit) "It's the next man up mentality. You hate to lose a corner like Marshon for the game. I know that (Justin) Hardee came up and made a big play."

(On Drew Bree's moment) "It was phenomenal. It almost seems like I am shorthanding the man for the greatness that he is just because I see him every day in practice. I see the work he puts in. I see how meticulous he is at practice. You see his perseverance through any adversity. He has always stayed constant in the ups and downs of a football season. He is clearly the greatest of all time."

DE Marcus Davenport

(On the defensive line's play) "It's real fun. We were talking about what we did not do. We were kind of upset. We want to stop more plays. Now, we are going to go back to the drawing board and enjoy this one for 24 hours."

(On getting better) "I always look to improve. I know that's the same way with my teammates. That's our mindset. We know that we need to get better."



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
WASHINGTON REDSKINS PLAYERS

QB Alex Smith

(On his analysis of the game?) “Hats off to them, obviously they came out and were rolling from the get go and continued with that all night. And certainly, offensively, couldn’t get started early and found ourselves in a hole and were one-dimensional and still couldn’t get much done.”

(On Jay Gruden saying he has to call better plays) “I appreciate him saying that. Certainly there were a bunch of plays out there that we should have made some plays. Myself included. We’ve just got to just learn from this game and get better and move forward. It’s a short week. We have to take this for what it is, get better, yet at the same time move forward. Each week is a completely different challenge based on the personnel and matchups and structure you’re going to see. Sometimes there’s arrows and sometimes there’s not. Like I said, we’ve got to continue to improve from this. We’ve got the tape. As bad as it is, as much as it hurts, you have to try and improve off of it and try to move forward.”

(On the pressure New Orleans brought) “I think that’s one of those things that the way the gameplan lends itself to that. We didn’t have much success early. All of a sudden, it becomes a pass only situation. So it becomes worse, and it’s one of those things where if you have success early, you keep the game balanced. You can handle it better. I think certainly we didn’t help that offensively.”

CB Josh Norman

(On if he wants to elaborate why he didn’t start the second half) “Not really, It’s pretty much whatever coach said. I don’t think I have anything else on that, you know. If that’s what coach said, I just want to go with that.”

(On if he feels like he was made a scapegoat for the team’s play in the first half) “Nah, I mean it was just a play that happened, and you know, it was just one of those plays. The defense as a group, we have to look at that and see what we did wrong. Everything we keep in house. I don’t think anything I’ve got to say that’s going to be a type of derogatory comment or anything that I think that’s wrong. I don’t have anything else to say on it. That’s something that he chose to do. He felt, that in his heart, that’s his decision and that kind of how we’ve got to roll with it. “

(On his thoughts on Drew Brees and what he said to him after the game) “Yes, I did spend some time with him, because he’s been doing this for years. And that guy is a tough, tough competitor. He really is. It’s great that he has come back in and out each week, to see what he is able to do. Like I said earlier, in a week man, he’d throw it 5,000 yards just like he’s sleeping. And it’s crazy to see that and actually be able to play a legend like that. I played so many great quarterbacks and he is at the top of them all right now. Leading in passing and completions and that’s something to be said. As soon as he came in to the league with the Chargers and now with the Saints, he has (had) a historical career. I just want to congratulate him. That’s their moment right there, and you want to cherish those moments. I told him to pretty much keep going strong and he’s not done yet.”

DT Daron Payne

(On What wasn’t working) “I really can’t say, I’ve got to watch film and see. I know we could’ve played harder as a whole and we’ve got some stuff to improve on going in to next week.”

(On being more consistent as a team) “Just go out there and work hard. Have everybody focus on what they need to focus on. Execute their job and not worry about everything else.”

(On what it's like to lose a game like this after having not lost one at Alabama like this) "It isn't a good feeling at all. So hopefully next week we get better."

(On how the third down penalties killed momentum) "We definitely need to get that out of our game. We can't do anything with plays like that. We have to get off the field."

(On some of the penalties and the rush-related ones and how they can stop them) "Yes, but we've got some stuff to improve on. So we will look at the film next week and get better."

DB Quinton Dunbar

(On the emotional reaction of today) "Obviously nobody showed up today, nobody. Cornerbacks, safeties for sure we didn't show up. We've got to get better."

(On if he took it personally that Drew Brees set the passing yardage record against your group) "Not really. Coming in to this game, I wasn't really focused on what Drew Brees had, or the yards he needed to get for the record. I was just focused on the defense getting prepared to stop him."

(On the season for the team being a rollercoaster) "It's definitely been up and down. We've just got to find some consistency. We, in all groups. Offense, defense, special teams, (we) can't keep going up and down."

(On the third down penalties) "I'm out there playing. I'm not a ref. I definitely felt like some of those calls were bad calls."

(On accountability for avoiding penalties as a defense) "Players play, the refs ref. We only control what we can control. It gets frustrating when we continuously get calls (against us). You can control only what you control. That wasn't the reason why we lost. We obviously didn't show up."



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

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. WASHINGTON REDSKINS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME PRESIDENT DAVID BAKER

(Opening Statement) "It was a privilege to be here tonight, because this was history. The mission of the Pro Football Hall of Fame is to honor the great heroes of the game and I think you just saw one. To preserve its history and history was made tonight. It's to promote the values of the game. We kind of call it the church of football and I think this is a great reflection of this because you saw a quarterback there that is not the biggest in the league, probably doesn't have the biggest arm. There is a lot of times people kept him out. When he was injured, they didn't think he would come back. So, what makes him the greatest of all-time in terms on completion yardage and in terms of completions? It is that heart, it is that mind, it is the perseverance and the values of the game and he's a great representative of that. All of you people write about that all the time. It is not just about the athleticism. It is about what makes you great and that is the last thing we do at the Pro football HOF. We celebrate excellence and this is the highest level of excellence. Like I said, there are bigger quarterbacks, bigger arms. There are guys that have played longer, but there is nobody with more yards. There is nobody with more completions. Very few have put a city on their back, like this one or has done as much to turn a team around. That is what we want to capture. I also want to reflect that tonight, he surpassed two other quarterbacks. Who in it of themselves is a Hall of Famer (Brett Favre) and one is about to be a Hall of Famer (Peyton Manning). One day, he (Brees) will be a Hall of Famer. They had those same qualities too. Those are the qualities that made them great. It was not just that they fell out of bed great, they worked to be great. They worked with others to be great. They made others greater, just be playing together. For us, we are excited about this and again we are thankful to Drew, we are thankful to the Saints, we are thankful to the league for stopping play tonight to take notice of this very special moment. Perhaps the best text of the night for me was from Hall of Famer, Jim Kelly, who said that he loved the white gloves and asked if I had borrowed them from Santa Claus. The reason we wear those white gloves is because no human hand will ever touch that ball again. It will be preserved for history. We also have his uniform that he wore tonight, but we also have a whole lot of other collections from Drew. We have his 2001 Draft card, number one in the second round. What we do, not just for Drew and the guys that break records, but for any guy whoever played in this league, there is an archive for that one and for every guy. So, it will be from when they first started in this league to hopefully when they retire and certainly if they make it into the Hall of Fame. We have his jersey from Super Bowl XLIV when he was MVP. We have a football from his 48th consecutive game with a touchdown (pass) which was a record that broke Johnny Unitas which most thought that was the one record that would never be broken. We have the ball from when he set the completions record. We have a great collection of Drew Brees and the stuff we have now, we will take home and it will be on presentation at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, immediately tomorrow afternoon. We are thankful to him, the Saints, and the League, because it would be great for him to take this and put it in home or in his man-cave or trophy case where nobody would see it but his family and instead, he's giving it to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, where it will belong to all fans for all-time.

(On the white piece of paper given to Drew Brees on the field) "That was actually something that he had had. It was wonderful to have his family there. It was wonderful to have Gayle Benson there. But for me, when I had my private moment with him and all the people and the hall of famers. What I told him was, thank you for all that he has done for the game. He has done a lot for the game and he is not even close to ending. Someday, someone will knock on his door, probably won't be me, but will probably be my successor because of the five-year wait and how much longer I think he will play. It was my privilege to thank him for all that he has done for the game and to promise him that we will guard his legacy forever."

(On the significance of the football) "It is like a lot of other footballs, frankly. But what it represents is the heart of this guy. It represents his character, his values and his perseverance. It represents all those times that people told him that he was too small or when he was hurt that he couldn't go on or when he was traded (signed with New Orleans as a free agent). What I love about this and what we love at the Pro Football Hall of Fame is we have so many stories in this league of guys like him. This ball represents a great story to all of us. It was all those millions of people that were watching TV tonight, they need some hope, just like at one point in time this city needed hope. Steve Gleason blocked the punt and Drew Brees drove them all the way to the Super Bowl and all of a sudden, the music was back in New Orleans. When you want to ask, how valuable is that ball? It is a valuable enough to save a city. It is valuable enough to give hope to people who lost it. It is valuable enough to teach a lesson to all of us that we can do the same."