



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS TAMPA BAY BUCCANNERS
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 2019 • RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints move to 8-2 and have road winning streaks of at least four games in three consecutive seasons for the first time.
- The win improves New Orleans' all-time record against the Buccaneers to 35-21. It also improves their road record against Tampa Bay to 16-9.
- The win gives the franchise their first series sweep against Tampa Bay since 2014 and sixth overall.
- The Saints also extended their streak to 17 wins when leading in the fourth quarter.
- Head Coach **Sean Payton** improved his record against Tampa Bay to 16-10 and improved his road mark against the Buccaneers to 9-5. Payton also improved his record against Buccaneers Head Coach **Bruce Arians** to 4-1.
- Offensively, New Orleans racked up 328 yards with 228 passing yards and 109 rushing yards on the way to scoring 27 offensive points.
- QB **Drew Brees** started and completed 28-of-35 passes for 228 yards, three touchdowns, and a 122.4 quarterback rating. Brees led the Saints on five scoring drives resulting in three touchdowns and two field goals.
- Brees now has 160 career games with multiple touchdown passes, surpassing Brett Favre for third place all-time.
- Brees appeared in his 269th career-game, putting him in sole possession of 25th place on the NFL's all-time list past his former Chargers teammate **Junior Seau**.
- WR **Michael Thomas** led the team in receiving with eight receptions for 144 yards and one touchdown, his 6th 100 yard game this season and 15th of his career. Thomas' four straight games with over 100 yards receiving ties the club record set by TE **Jimmy Graham** in 2011 and 2013.
- Thomas now has 4,928 career receiving yards, surpassing WR **Danny Abramowicz** for fourth place in club history.
- With his eight receptions today, Thomas surpassed Pro Football Hall of Famer **Marvin Harrison** (89 receptions in 2002) and **Julio Jones** (89 in 2015) for the most receptions by a player through his team's first 10 games of a season in NFL history.
- Thomas and Brees have connected 25 times for touchdowns, making the duo Brees' fourth-most prolific touchdown combination surpassing with **Robert Meachem**.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** led the team in rushing with 75 yards on 13 carries. Kamara also caught 10 passes for 47 yards. Kamara also added three punt returns for 32 yards including a career long 27-yard punt return. Kamara finished the day with 154 yards from scrimmage.
- WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** caught two passes for 14 yards including a six-yard touchdown from Brees. With his two receptions today, Ginn has eclipsed 400 receptions mark for his career.
- TE **Jared Cook** caught two passes for 33 yards and a three-yard touchdown pass from Brees.
- The Saint's defense held Tampa Bay to 17 points and forced four Buccaneer turnovers.
- New Orleans' four interceptions of QB Jameis Winston are their most in a single game since December 16, 2012 vs. Tampa Bay. The Saints defense also recorded a season high 12 pass defenses as a team.
- New Orleans has not given up 100 rushing yards to an individual player in 36 regular season and postseason contests.
- Linebackers **Demario Davis** and **Kiki Alonso** each led the team in tackles with six. Davis also recorded his first regular season interception as a member of the Saints and set a career high with four passes defended.
- FS **Marcus Williams** recorded his fourth interception of the season and his first career interception return for a touchdown. Williams added three tackles and a pass defense.
- SS **Vonn Bell** totaled three tackles, 0.5 sacks, one pass defense and added his first career interception on the final play of the first half.

- DE **Cameron Jordan** played in his 138th career game today, moving into a tie with C **John Hill** for 20th on the club's all-time games played list. Jordan finished the day with three tackles and 1.5 sacks, moving his career total to 81 sacks.
- With his next 1.5 sacks, Jordan will move past DL **Wayne Martin** for second on the club's all-time sack list.
- CB **P.J. Williams** tallied three tackles and intercepted his first pass of the season, the fourth of his career.
- Playing in his 170th career game, P **Thomas Morstead** punted three times for 126 yards (42.0 avg.) and two inside the 20-yard line.
- K **Wil Lutz** made two-of-two field goals from 44 and 26 yards respectively. Lutz was also four-of-four on extra points.
- The Saints extended their streak to 282 regular season games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002 at Raymond James Stadium, the longest running streak in the National Football League and fourth overall.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS POSTGAME QUOTES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(Opening Statement)

“It wasn’t our best game but I felt like there were a lot of good things to win. Too many penalties, we had a touchdown brought back, third down conversion brought back, and we gave up a couple plays big on defense. We still think that we have better football ahead of us, but I was proud of how we responded from last week. The guys had a good week of practice and I think it carried over into this game.”

(On having confidence in the secondary)

“Yeah, I thought we played well. I thought we played well back there.”

(On the team overcoming last weekend’s loss)

“Look, you lose a game and you move forward. We talked about this on Friday, the next game can’t come quick enough, but you can just play that one game. I thought we did a good job on third down. I thought defensively we affected the passer early, especially in the first half – the turnovers were significant. There were some plays that we left on the field thought offensively that we have to get cleaned up.”

(On time of possession)

“Well it is a real good run defense, so I thought we were able to run the ball pretty effectively, so I was pleased with that. I thought Nick Easton did a good job filling in and getting his first start. It is a tough front to run the ball against and I thought we were patient and both runners did a good job.”

(On using Alvin Kamara to get the ball down the field)

“When you go into a game like this you are fairly certain of what you are going to get front wise, we got more zone coverage today, maybe a little more zone pressure then we had seen. We had the big play to Michael [Thomas] early on against man to man. I think their plan was to come in and give us a lot of pressure, so sometimes that can affect you in the run game, as well, but I thought we blocked them pretty well and I thought we ran it pretty well.”

(On if the mindset was different after last week’s loss)

“No, we have had a good mindset all year. Last week obviously wasn’t good enough, but I think that the focus was there. We have real good leadership and these guys understand how difficult it is to win week in and week out. We are playing tough teams and the focus really starts internally. It’s about our team really and making sure we are doing all the things ready to win a game.”

(On running the ball today)

“I thought we ran it last time that we played them fairly well. I think that they have only given up 100 yards rushing in two or three games this year, so we had that balance. We still hit some big plays in the passing game. We had Alvin’s [Kamara] touchdown called back. We had a handful of penalties that we’ve got to clean up because I feel like we could have scored a lot more points.”

(On CB P.J. Williams’ performance against Buccaneers WR Mike Evans)

“He was good, he was ready. I thought he had a good week of practice. Mike [Evans] is a tremendous player, and I thought our secondary was ready. We got our hands on some balls. When you have four takeaways you are going to win a lot of games.”

(On working with the offense on the sideline while defense was on the field)

“We lost Josh Hill, and Josh is one of those guys that may be somewhat under the radar, but losing him was like losing your front door. All of a sudden there are 58 plays on the call sheet and he was involved in a lot of them, so we spent a lot of time trying to re-personnel group some of our plays – which ones we still want to run and which ones can we not run. So, there was the better part of a quarter going back through all of our offense that was maybe plays that were Josh Hill friendly. Now, can we still run those plays with someone else or not? That is something that took a bit of time.”

(On new players coming in and finding their fit, like LB Kiko Alonso)

“He has been playing a lot for us. Certainly, he was around the ball today, but he has gotten a lot of snap. That was a good acquisition for us back when we made it. Alex [Anzalone] got injured the week after we made it; we are fortunate to have him. Our league is about depth as well. We saw today there were a number of players stepping in and playing in roles maybe they haven’t normally played. I was proud of the way those guys responded.”

(On WR Michael Thomas)

“He is real competitive. He is one of those guys that is an extremely powerful player. He is real strong. He came up big in a lot of snaps for us – the touchdown early was a big play.”

(On TE Jared Cook’s catch)

“It was a heck of a catch, a heck of a throw, it looked like a rebound. It was kind of hard hit to the ground that he took after he caught it, but a great play. He had a good game.”

(On Thomas’ numbers)

“If you guys would have asked what his numbers were today, I don’t know that I would have been able to give you exact. It is a progression that takes place. Sometimes the ball comes within what we are doing, and sometimes there are plays that are designed for him. He has been very consistent, he prepares extremely hard and he is very hard on himself during the week of practice. He is playing as good as any of them. I am proud of how he is playing.”

(On his confidence in QB Drew Brees getting one yard in short-yardage situations)

“Yeah, it speaks to his athleticism too. That is something he has done over his career, I don’t think I have ever told him no when he has brought it up. I get worried a little bit sometimes; we talk to the side judge right away so they get the spot, but he is extremely athletic, and he can jump. It is about the timing of the snap, he has done that so many times. I can’t think of one time he has done it and it wasn’t successful, but you have to be inside of a yard.”

(On how they decided on giving Brees the ball in that short-yardage situation)

“We were discussing a couple plays and then once we get the measurement, we had an idea of what it was. He felt strongly he could get it.”

(On Brees’ athleticism)

“I think sometimes maybe there is that perception because of his height, but he is an amazing foot athlete. Someone that can just vertically go up and dunk a basketball and do some of the things he does. You just have to see him at practice to appreciate it.”

(On knowing when to challenge pass interference)

“I think that all of us have noticed the trend, and the trend is pretty conservative. You factor that in and it is just up to you based on what you think.”

(On the Saints overall defensive performance)

“You are not going to lose many games when you get four takeaways like that. I thought we affected the quarterback, moving him off his spot. I thought that was important, and guys competed. It is a real good group of receivers and I thought we really competed. I felt like it became one dimensional and it is a little more difficult to play offensive football when you are just doing one thing.”

(On Nick Easton starting at left guard)

“I think we knew that early in the week. In fact, we knew it on Monday, that that was the direction we were going to go.”

(On having the week to build chemistry on the offensive line)

“He has been getting a lot of practice reps, but there wasn’t a lot of discussion. We felt like he was going to be the starting left guard. That gave us the ability to keep Will Clapp in his roll. Nick [Easton] has played a lot of football in our league – he has started a lot of games. I am anxious to see the film because I think he played pretty well.”

(On LB Demario Davis’ impact on the field and in the locker room)

“I would say he is one of our leaders – him and Craig Robertson both. Demario has been a real strong personality for this team, and I think he has a ton of respect from his peers. He prepares hard – that’s his personality.”

QUARTERBACK DREW BREES

(On the play of his team versus the Buccaneers)

“I thought the tempo was better, I thought we started faster. Obviously, getting 20 points in the first half, scoring on a bunch of drives. We would have liked to have gotten something on the two-minute drive at the end and not put our defense back on the field. So that was the takeaway from the first half. Also, a couple of those field goal drives this week, we shot ourselves in the foot with some penalties. We’re going to be first-and-goal inside the five and all of a sudden, we’re backed up and its 2nd-and-20 or whatever. A couple of those instances where I felt like we just – self-inflicted wounds, unforced errors. We got to clean that up. If we want to be as good as I think we can be, you have to be better in that area. Just some little things, just some assignments where all the little details; where to line up, what your job is, everybody just doing their job and eliminating unforced errors and scoring points.”

(On if he was anxious to get back on the field after last week’s loss)

“Absolutely, you always are after a game like that. It was good to get the win. There was enough good things in this game to get us the win. But I think we’re better in a lot of areas.”

(On if the touchdown catch by Jared Cook was the type of play why they acquired him)

“Yeah absolutely, listen that’s just – Jared Cook standing in the end zone with anyone else standing next to him, he’s going to be able to out jump the guy. You still have to put the ball in a place where he can get it, nobody else can. That’s the objective there, give the guy a high ball and let him make a play.”

(On if he is impressed with the in-game adjustment after TE Josh Hill’s injury)

“Especially with our offense with as many personnel groups as we have and different calls and tags, if you have a situation where a guy goes down and all of a sudden somebody has to step in and maybe they weren’t the one getting the rep that week, right, you just got to coach up a lot of guys and make sure that we’re still able to operate efficiently.”

(On if the touchdown to WR Jared Cook was a variation of a play earlier in the game)

“I don’t think so.”

(On his confidence in his thumb during his fourth-down conversion)

“Thumb or no thumb I just needed to hold onto the ball and get it across the line. Keep the drive going, wish we could have gone down and gotten points as a result of that.”

(On if his athleticism is overlooked)

“I don’t know.”

(On the defense getting takeaways)

“Listen that’s great, anytime you get takeaways, those are momentum changers. Especially when you can get one returned for a touchdown there at the end, that was great by the whole defense by Marcus [Williams]. Those are momentum changing plays all of a sudden, I think the interception we got maybe right there in the first quarter, we turned right into a touchdown one play later.”

(On their ability to rush against the Buccaneers defense)

“They have good rush defense, I felt like we had some good schemes. And our runners were downhill and that’s what you have to do against these guys.”

(On how hard it is to put up numbers consistently like Michael Thomas does)

“Here’s the thing, if you saw the guy work, if you saw the guy prepare, it’s just what we see everyday in practice, honestly. Maybe its one of those things that when it’s all said and done, you look back and you really, really appreciate. I just love his mindset. He is a ‘I want the ball’, ‘I will get open’, ‘I will make the play for you’ kind of guy and that’s the kind of guy you want.”

(On if he has played with anyone like Michael Thomas)

“I’ve played with a lot of good ones, a lot of great ones. I’d say the thing that is common with all those guys is just the trust factor. In order to be really efficient, you’ve got to have great trust in order to anticipate certain things, which will allow you to play with confidence, allow you to be accurate, allow you to make a lot of those throws that others may not try to make. So when you have guys like that, guys like Mike Thomas, that you do have that type of trust and just the timing of the pass. We talk through these things, we work on these things. It makes it for a fun – any situation you get in, you know here’s a guy who can run every route and can make every play.”

(On if he and Michael Thomas were on the sideline talking about the next play, which was a touchdown)

“Yeah, because it was kind of a quick change of possession, turnover. Just talking through a few details.”

(On Nick Easton’s)

“He did a good job, I was happy for him. Credit to him, also that whole front just the way they worked together.”

(On Demario Davis’ impact on the team)

“He’s a great leader. He’s a highly productive player, very smart. He studies and prepares and just a great teammate, great human being. We know what he stands for on and off the field. Having a guy like that who backs it all up with the way he plays, the way he speaks and the way he prepares, its great.”

(On if Demario Davis stacks up with any linebacker he’s played with in the past)

“Yeah, absolutely, especially just his presence, he’s got a presence and a way about him that guys got to really respect.”

(On whether or not leadership within the team is the reason they haven’t lost back-to-back games since 2017)

“It has a lot to do with it, yeah absolutely, just your ability to respond and step up when you need to.”

SAFETY MARCUS WILLIAMS

(On the play that resulted in his interception)

“Just good coverage by all of us. Our front did a good job pressuring. Everybody did a good job covering and he (Tampa Bay quarterback Jameis Winston) just threw it up.”

(On New Orleans’ defense having four interceptions in the game)

“We just go after the ball. That’s what we do in practice every week – we go attack the ball. We do a take-away circuit, it shows up in the game.”

(On the team’s mentality coming into this game)

“Our mentality has to be the same every week. We come into the game thinking we’re going to get takeaways; we’re going to stop them every down and that’s just what we do on defense. That’s our job and we try and do that every single week.”

(On his interception)

“Just an overthrow. I’ll take it though. If he wants to throw it to me, I’ll get it. It took off from there, got in the endzone. Good blocking by all my guys up front and everybody so I got in (the endzone)”

CORNERBACK P.J. WILLIAMS

(On shutting down Tampa Bay’s receivers in the first half)

“Just locking-in and playing every single play like it’s your last. That’s what we preach. Just making sure you lock in. I feel like we gave up a few in the second half that we didn’t want to give up, but at the end of the day we came out with a W.”

(On playing on the outside today as opposed to usually playing the nickelback position)

“I feel like I got a few reps last week in the game and just all week at practice. I started to get back comfortable, but it’s not exactly natural when you just been playing straight inside. I did it all in training camp last year. We matchup sometimes. Sometimes I might have a guy that’s outside, but it definitely felt good.”

(On bouncing back from a tough loss last week against Atlanta)

“We know what type of team we are. We know last week wasn’t us, so we knew we were going to bounce back this week in a big way. Wish we could have done it better, but we definitely knew what was going to happen. We knew we were going to come and bounce back strong.”

(On executing the next-man-up mentality)

“It’s huge. We talk about it every week. If a guy goes down, we have to be ready. I was out the last couple games before the Atlanta game and 22 (C.J. Gardner-Johnson) stepped up and played great. We feel like we have guys that can play all through the secondary and also on the team, so we feel like we’re good enough to do that.”

LINEBACKER DEMARIO DAVIS

(On what defense they were in when he made his interception)

“We were in a zone. They ran a little crosser, so when he was running to the flat, I knew I had a safety over to help. The safety came up ready to make the hit and I think Marcus [Williams] came down low and because of the pressure he was putting on the tight end, [the tight end] couldn’t really focus on the ball and the ball bobbled off his back and when I saw it I had an opportunity to grab it. When I grabbed it, I wish I could’ve stayed up, but it’s all good. We got the ball. Offense scored on the next play.”

(On his improvement in pass defense)

"I think that was an important part. Coming from New York to here, they asked me to Will linebacker, so I had to train a little bit different to be ready to play out in space. The Will gets isolated on running backs and tight ends. That's something I take a lot of pride in because I know those match-ups are going to come, one-on-one in the slot every game and on the outside. Just being in position to make plays on the ball, make those tackles if they do check it down to a running back. A lot of times you are dropping underneath the one receiver coming up making tackles, not letting him get extra yards. Just something I take a lot of pride in. I know it's important to our defense for me to make those plays."

(On the defense's four interceptions and their play today)

"Just tremendous effort all around. First you have to get the coaches credit for giving us a good game plan. The front did a good job of getting after Jameis [Winston] and forcing him to release the ball at times when he didn't want to. The DBs (defensive backs) did a good job of taking off the top – making sure they weren't able to get the spot that they like to get. They're one of the most explosive offenses in the league as far as deep balls. We did a good job of taking that away and making them do something else. When the ball came out we were able to make plays on the ball and it was just a fun day."

(On how much better he has become because of practicing against players like Alvin Kamara and Jared Cook)

"That's what probably has helped me the most in emerging as being an elite coverage linebacker, going against Kamara and Jared Cook. When you're going against looks like that, you're getting an All-Pro look every rep. From one-on-ones, to OTAs, to minicamp – even in practice this week I the one-on-ones, Alvin caught me in spacing and gave me one that went almost to the house. It's like when I'm going against Kamara and Cook all week – when I get in a game against these tight ends and running backs, it's like ankle-weights still. I've been wearing ankle weights, now I'm just able to fly around and play. I think that's what helps a lot."

DEFENSIVE END CAMERON JORDAN

(On how bouncing back from last week's loss felt)

"It was awesome. You know, we put in the hard work and effort and the focus. This week I think we had a lot of things going for us and it really did not matter who we were playing, we corrected a lot of things internally. That's what you have to do, you have to focus on what we have in our building."

(His thoughts on how the defense performed without CB Marshon Lattimore)

"I know Marshon is probably sick at home, but when the defense eats you want to be a part of that. And the way that we took the field today, felt like we were unstoppable at times. Except they took away one of my sacks. Apparently you can throw a ball with the left hand at the ground and it's not intentional grounding. Even if it was intentional grounding, they still wouldn't have granted my sack. Could have had an amazing day today."

(On if players learn from a game like last week's loss to Atlanta or forget about it)

"Absolutely not, you do not forget about it, you take that as a lesson. Teams we play are talented. When we play division rivals they know you, they have a game plan for you since they have to face you twice a year. And to come into a hostile environment and get a win, that's what we are looking for."

RUNNING BACK ALVIN KAMARA

(On how important it was to establish the run today against Tampa Bay)

"On this team, we talked about it all week. It started with the o-line, they did a great job up front. The receivers did a good job blocking on the perimeter. Zach Line did his thing. I mean it all came together."

(On the team's mentality in practice after last week's loss)

"Every week is the same, we have to come out with a win every week. I think it is what it is. We weren't happy we lost. We wanted come back and get a win so that's what we did."

(On how defensive secondary performed without Marshon Lattimore)

"It's big. I mean we got other players in that secondary, but of course Marshon is a huge piece, we missed him, but those guys had to step up and play. You can't just sit down because one player is out. They came up big."

(On Sean Payton sitting on the bench next to him during a Saints defensive series)

"I mean I always go and find him [on the sideline] and try to look at his playcard and just see what he is thinking. Sometimes he won't say anything and he'll just show me the play card and point at something. Right there, he was just having a conversation on the headphones and Josh [Hill] went down so he was making a couple of adjustments. I know I probably don't have too much say, but I try to put my two cents in every now and then."

(On the counter pitch play)

"I like it, especially when the line and those guys are on the perimeter blocking. All I have to do is run, they have the hard part."

(On his health and back to returning punts)

"Deonte [Harris] went down and somebody had to step up. It was and Ted [Ginn]. Ted didn't go back this week, he didn't go back this game, so I was back there. It is what it is, next man up."

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS POSTGAME QUOTES SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

HEAD COACH BRUCE ARIANS

(Opening statement)

“Too many mistakes to beat a good team and obviously when we drop passes and the quarterback gets an interception because we dropped the ball. Then, the one before the half was huge because we had a chance for a double score if we come out and score. Big, big, big plays. [We] didn’t get off the field defensively. They were over 54 percent on third down, which was huge. Their time of possession, I think they had the ball the entire first quarter. But, we held them to six points. Then, the interception. Which wasn’t [quarterback] Jameis [Winston’s] fault. Other than that, it’s very disappointing because we had such a great week of practice. Knew we were ready to play, just still isn’t showing up quite enough on Sundays against good teams.”

(On if he thought about pulling Jameis Winston in the fourth quarter due to injury)

“Yeah, we actually had [quarterback Ryan] Griff[in] ready. [Winston] said, ‘I can defend myself, I’m going back,’ and he went back in.”

(On the officiating)

“I have no comments on the officiating. They already wrote up the letter for my fine. You guys saw it. You write what you saw. I’m not saying [anything] about the officials.”

(On cornerback Jamel Dean seeing less playing time today)

“Yeah, we went with a different nickel package with [safety] Mike Edwards inside. We played a lot more zone. [Dean] was more in the man-to-man group. We’ll fix that. He needs to be out there on the field more.”

(On New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara)

“You pick your poison with these guys. We had a lot of coverages where we were trying to double 13 (wide receiver Michael Thomas). Then 41 (Kamara), or 87 (tight end Jared Cook) gets involved. It’s a really good offensive football team, and Kamara is really tough to cover for a linebacker.”

(On difficulty of defeating Saints without getting pressure on quarterback Drew Brees)

“No doubt, no doubt. We were close on some, but not enough.”

(On if he feels the team lost the battle at the line of scrimmage)

“I wouldn’t say offensively. We got out of the running game because of the score, but I think [New Orleans] only had one sack. I don’t think our offensive line played poorly. Defensively, we were playing a lot of zone. A lot of two-deep zone. Thought we could stop the run, but Kamara is a heck of a back and we didn’t do a good enough job.”

(On challenging possible fumble recovery by defense in the first half)

“It was a challengeable play, but [linebacker] Lavonte [David’s] foot was on the line.”

(On what is causing the struggles of tight end O.J. Howard)

“It’s hard to say. He’s a talented, talented guy, but it’s not showing up on Sundays.”

(On New Orleans taking away threat of wide receiver Mike Evans)

“It’s never one-on-one, he’s never one-on-one against these guys. It’s a matter of finding ways to get him balls, creating ways to get him balls. We did a better job in the second half.”

(On Mike Evans leaving the field after a catch)

“Just got the wind knocked out of him.”

(On offensive balance)

“We ended up in a situation where we’re behind and we’re throwing the ball and we’re throwing it successfully. So, it’s like, ‘abort the running game.’ [Running back] Dare [Ogunbowale], I still can’t believe that wasn’t a touchdown there at the end for him. So, we had our best blitz pick-up guy in there. They had a bunch of exotic blitzes, and he does the best job.”

(On Jameis Winston having 18 interceptions on the season)

“I would say he has 10. Guys dropping balls and getting them to the other team, how many have we seen? I don’t count those. He got hit low in the ankle [and] that last one flies out of his hand high. He probably should have come out of the game. He was probably too tough for his own good there.”

(On the injury to Winston’s ankle)

“It’s a medial [ankle ligament], we’ll see how bad it is tomorrow and we’ll go from there.”

(On the difficulty of playing New Orleans)

“A very good football team. We knew it coming in that we didn’t have to play perfect, but we couldn’t make mistakes like third-and-16 and jumping offside twice. We still held them, but still, those are the kind of mistakes we just have to eliminate. Missed tackles. We did not tackle very well today and we had been tackling well.”

(On playing against New Orleans’ rushing attack)

“We were playing a lot of two-deep stuff to try and double their guys to see if we could stop the run with six in the box.”

(On the balance of the play calling)

“We get two long drives, but we hold them to six [points]. Then, we drop a ball and give it to them and now we’re down 13. I thought we stayed within the plan. The touchdown was big. Then, right before the half, that crazy interception that bounces their way. I mean, we got a field goal. That’s a double score [if] we come out and we get another field goal. Now, the game’s a whole lot different. That play and the fourth-and-one, to me, were the two deciding plays for us.”

(On if he were surprised if New Orleans makes it to the Super Bowl)
“No, that’s a very well coached, very talented team. If they stay healthy.”

QUARTERBACK JAMEIS WINSTON

(On what part of his body was bothering him toward the end of the game)
“My ankle – I’m going to be fine.”

(On if he got hit low on the play that caused the pain in his ankle)
“I believe so.”

(On how much his ankle impacted his ability to step into his throws)
“I don’t really know. I’ve just got to make them, no matter what.”

(On if his ankle injury is causing him any pain)
“I’m going to be fine.”

(On his first interception of the game)
“Yeah, those are unfortunate plays, but all we can do is learn from it and get better – that’s it. I made my mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes. We have to stay together as a team and get better.”

(On the throw to WR Mike Evans in the end zone that was intercepted, and if he thought the play was blown dead)
“It probably should’ve been dead – just unfortunate. [It] has to be our ball or nobody’s ball in that situation.”

(On if he noticed if the Saints were doing anything different today compared to previous matchups)
“Surprisingly, they did nothing new. We scouted for it. We prepared for it. They just did it better than us at times.”

(On if it is frustrating to have a good game plan and then to get out-executed)
“Again, we just have to look at the film. But, deep down you just look at how you played individually and everybody’s going to look at themselves and they’re going to feel like they could’ve played better. I know I could’ve played better at times. So, that’s it.”

(On Saints Defensive Coordinator Dennis Allen’s blitz schemes)
“We had plans for it. We just have to be more sound. It’s a cumulative thing – I have to get the ball on time, we have to protect [and] the running back has to be at the right place at the right time. For the most part we did that. But, he dialed them up at some good times. So, I just have to find a way to get the ball out of my hand.”

(On if he thinks the team should’ve been more balanced between run and pass)
“Whatever we need to do to give ourselves a chance to win is what we will do. But obviously we never want to be behind like that, so we can’t put ourselves in that hole.”

(On the 48-yard pass to WR Scotty Miller)
“I was excited for him. [I] wish we could’ve got in the end zone right there with him, but eventually Peyton Barber made a great pitch to get in the end zone.”

(On the offensive pass interference call on fourth-and-1)
“It’s next play football. Obviously, we want that one back. I can’t criticize anybody. I only can look at myself, but I don’t believe it was pass interference within one yard. This is the league that we play in. They jam us up, we should be able to at least give them a move at the line of scrimmage. So, we just have to look at it. They made their decision and we just have to live with it.”

(On the positives the team can take from this game and apply moving forward)
“You can always take positives from any game and I believe we did some good things. We just didn’t do enough good things to beat this good team and that’s what we have to do. We have to – I say it all the time – eliminate the negatives and build on the positives. When you’re playing against a good team, you can’t make any mistakes. That’s just how it is.”

(On Head Coach Bruce Arians saying he would have taken him out of the game if he had known how much pain Winston was in, and if he would’ve came out of the game)
“No, I wouldn’t have. I’m fine. I just have to give our team a better chance to win the game. I’m going to continue to work my tail off. We’re not going to be discouraged. We’re going to come in next week and work harder than ever. So, that’s really it.”

TIGHT END CAMERON BRATE

(On what was working well that allowed the offense to get back in the game)
“Kind of the short passes. Their game plan was really to take Mike [Evans] and Chris [Godwin] out of the game, so the ball had to go somewhere else and I thought we did a good job kind of taking those gains throughout. Some crucial errors kind of killed us.”

(On what was being emphasized when the offense was trying to make a comeback)
“Just take what they’re giving you, essentially. They were pretty soft in their coverage the whole game and that was their game plan. Whether it was someone on the offensive line, running back, tight end, receiver – it was just someone different making a mistake here and there and that kind of just added up and we just couldn’t put it all together.”

(On why he was able to be so involved in the passing game)
“Because they tried to take Mike [Evans] and Chris [Godwin] out of the game, so the ball had to go somewhere else. We found ourselves down two scores pretty early so we kind of had to switch up the script and rely on the passing game to get us back in the game and there were spots in their zones and Jameis [Winston] just kind of checking it down to me throughout.”

(On what the players are telling themselves with the team's record at 3-7)

"Just don't worry about everyone else – just focus on what we're doing. We had a really good week of practice leading up to the game today and for whatever reason, it just didn't kind of culminate the way we wanted it to. [We've] just kind of got to regroup, refocus, see what we did wrong during the game and just get after it next week."

TIGHT END O.J. HOWARD

(On how tough it is to see the offense struggle through the first quarter)

"It's hard. My play put us in a bad situation [and] they got points off of that one, so whenever you get turnovers, you put your defense in bad situations. It's hard to come back down from 20-0 against anybody in the NFL."

(On what it says about the team to get back into the game after being down 20-0)

"We've got a team full of guys that are warriors, that are going to compete to the whistle [and] to the end of the game, so that's not surprising at all. Everyone in here is just going to do that always."

(On QB Jameis Winston's toughness)

"He's a competitor – that's type of guy he is. If he can walk and function, he's going to go out there and play. We all knew that about him from day one, so that's just the type of player he is."

(On if the team still has confidence)

"Yeah, like I said – our team has a whole bunch of competitors and warriors on it. We know that we have the talent and we have a great team, we've just got to put it all together and we've got to stop beating ourselves. Like you said, we get so far behind in games that it's hard to come back, and we still weren't out of the game after all that happened to us. We're going to keep fighting. The season's not over – we've just got to finish strong."

WIDE RECEIVER MIKE EVANS

(On what he was told after his pass interference penalty wasn't overturned)

"They didn't tell me anything. It was one yard – one-yard rule. Just a simple release. I was trying to make up for my third down drop in the previous quarter. I wanted the ball on the fourth down, and I got it. Jameis [Winston] threw a good ball – a good physical release, and then the back judge just said I pushed off, but the ball wasn't even in the air yet. It's just a B-release. What every receiver in the NFL does, but it cost us pretty big."

(On his thoughts on the call)

"It was one yard. So, I was told since I stepped into the league that at one yard you can pretty much get away with anything on both sides. The DB gets five yards to do whatever they want to us, and we get one yard – and I use that one yard. I'm a big physical receiver and I thought I made a good play."

(On how frustrating it is to lose)

"It's very frustrating. We've got the players, and it's never been about the players since I've been here. We've been very very inconsistent since I've been here. I don't know what we've got to do to overturn it, but we've got to do something because this feeling is awful."

(On how the Saints played against him today)

"They did the exact same coverages they did last time they played us – a lot of two-man and cover-two, almost every single snap."

(On it is frustrating that the Saints were able to limit him for the second time this season)

"Yeah, it is. They did the exact same thing they did last time, even with one of their best defenders out. The exact same thing. If I'm out outside, it's pretty much a double team on me."

(On if other teams usually use the same coverage on him)

"At times, but it isn't as big a dose. If you look up the stats, it's probably they're in two-high at least ninety percent."

(On how good the Saints are)

"They're a really good team. Sean Peyton is an awesome coach and a great play caller. And they always give us a tough time whenever we game plan."

(On how he feels about the season so far)

"I mean, obviously I don't like losing. Nobody likes losing, but I'll never stop fighting, ever. This is obviously my job, and I love doing what I do. My teammates do as well. The season's not over quite yet. We're going to fight until the end and live with the results."

(On Jameis Winston going back in the game after he appeared to be hobbled)

"Nobody has ever questioned Jameis' toughness. He's one of the toughest guys in the league – battles through injuries year in and year out. And he's just trying to be the teammate he can be and the best player he can be. We've just got to help him out a little bit more. I've got to help him."

CORNERBACK CARLTON DAVIS

(On how it felt to be on the field for most of the first half)

"It's a part of football. Whenever our name is called, we just go out there and make plays. That's it."

(On how it felt to get back on the field after missing two games)

“It felt great. I’m a passionate guy about the game, so just missing two games for me is just huge. I want to go out there and make an impact for my team and do whatever I can to get the win. So, just going back out there today in front of our crowd was amazing for me.”

(On what the team has to do moving forward after the game)
“Just keep moving forward and just control what you can control as a player – like just do your job.”

(On his thoughts about the defense being on the field most of the first half)
“Everybody has a job, and you can’t do your job worrying about somebody else’s job. As long as we do our job and focus on what we have to do, regardless of what comes at us, we’ll be okay.”

INSIDE LINEBACKER DEVIN WHITE

(On what led to the early scoring drives for the Saints)
“Lack of communication – that’s what I think – just everybody not being on the same page. We held them to three the first two drives, which was really great. We just have to keep doing that or give them nothing and get the scoring down.”

(On whether a lack of communication has been a theme this year)
“No, it’s just everybody has got to overemphasize it. We’re talking, but we have to overtalk, that’s all it is. We got a lot of young guys and everybody’s antsy, so we’ve just got to keep communicating.”

(On giving up a touchdown on a one-play drive for the Saints due to a short field)
“I mean we had the perfect call for it, but one guy was not on the same page, so we give something up. Any day we should be able to lock it down, so that was probably the worst part. You can’t do [anything] about it though, you just have to go play the next play.”

(On how White sees his game progressing and if it’s slowing down for him)
“I mean the game’s been slowing down for me it’s just all about being healthy. It’s not a visual thing for me. I just try to go out there and help my team get a win, that’s all. I’ve got great coaches, that’s all I can say. All the credit goes to those guys, the training staff and the weight room. AP [Anthony Piroli] just does a great job, so it allows me to be at my best out there.”

(On going up against Drew Brees and seeing what he was able to do)
“It was a great feeling playing against the hometown hero, growing up and watching him play. At the end of the day, he’s the enemy on the field against us. I like the rivalry, but I feel like we could’ve played better as a collective group on defense. We got after him and we did some great things and we had some great spurts. But, we have to eliminate the minor things that we didn’t do well. We just can’t shoot ourselves in the foot and that just comes with more experience and more communication and just fighting all the way until the end. That’s one thing about this defense we’ve got to keep fighting.”

CENTER RYAN JENSEN

(On handling the Saints’ pass rush)
“They did exactly what we were expecting them to do and we just have to play better.”

(On finding a specific area to improve on from the loss)
“I think we prepared all week and we had a great three days of practice. Like I said, we were ready for what they were going to bring. We just have to play better.”

(On how being down 20-0 early affects the game plan for the remainder of the game)
“Yeah, definitely when you five plays in the first quarter, that throws off the whole game. We have to be better and get a drive going in that first quarter.”

(On the changes at the start of the second half that led to success)
“We came out and we just kept our head down and kept ballin’. Obviously, the outcome was short of where we wanted to be, but we came out in the second half and started fast.”

(On if there’s an emphasis on trying to keep things together in the locker room)
“Yea, I think as a team we’re very close. I think we’re going to stay together. Like I said, we’re going to go back to work tomorrow and get focused on the next game.”

(On his respect level for the Saints)
“Yeah, they’re a good football team. It shows on the field and it shows in how they play the game.”

INSIDE LINEBACKER LAVONTE DAVID

(On the Saints offense being able to move the ball consistently)
“They just beat us fair and square. I felt like we had a great game plan ahead, but they just capitalized off of different things and they made their plays when they were supposed to make plays, and we didn’t. They made more plays than we did at the end of the day.”

(On why the defense struggled to limit the Saints’ offense)
“Nothing I can really point my finger on. They just countered what we were doing. We were trying to do different looks, but they were able to counter back and do something different on us, so you’ve got to give your hat off to them. When we were out there defensively, we were just trying to – we know the type of offense we were going against, so we were just trying to be the best we can when we’re out there, but today wasn’t our day.”

(On why the defense isn’t further along at this point in the season)

“Just a lot of different moving parts here and there, so it’s just something that we’ve got to hone in on. I can’t really pinpoint what the issue is, but it’s frustrating at the end of the day. When we’re out there, we’ve got to be able to find a way to play together.”

(On if S Mike Edwards was playing at nickelback because he plays better in zone coverage)
“Yeah, most likely. Like I said, we had a great game plan drawn up, but they just countered and capitalized off of it. It’s just something that we’ve got to just try to get better at.”

(On how difficult it is to accept losing)
“I try to not let it drive me insane because I love the game of football and there’s always another opportunity out there. This upcoming week, we’ve got an opportunity to play our division opponent and just continue to take it one game at a time and go out there and try to get the win.”

(On what it says about QB Jameis Winston when he finished the game with an injury)
“That’s just Jameis. Jameis goes through a lot that nobody knows of. [He] goes through a lot as far as injuries and things like that, but that’s just him. He wants to be out there with his teammates and I know for a fact he’s going to fight to the end. That’s just what he does and we don’t expect anything less from him.”

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