



NEW ORLEANS
SAINTS

POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
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NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT GREEN BAY PACKERS
FRIDAY, AUG. 19, 2022 • LAMBEAU FIELD
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss, New Orleans moves to 0-2 on the preseason. The Saints return to action on Friday, Aug. 26 when they play the Los Angeles Chargers in New Orleans. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m. CST. The game will be aired regionally on the Gray Television network of stations in the Gulf Coast (WVUE FOX 8 in the New Orleans area).
- QB **Ian Book**, TE **Taysom Hill**, LB **Zack Baun** and TE **Adam Trautman** served as the team captains
- The Saints had 246 yards of total offense and 16 first downs.
- The Saints converted 4-of-11 third down attempts (36%).
- New Orleans allowed 289 total yards and 18 first downs.
- Book got the start and played the entire contest. He completed 16-of-28 passes for 113 yards, a touchdown and an interception. He rushed for 49 yards on seven carries.
- RB **Tony Jones Jr.** took the initial snaps at running back, tallying four carries for 19 yards.
- RB **Abram Smith** led the backfield in carries with nine for 25 yards, while RB **Devine Ozigbo** had 40 yards on seven carries.
- As a unit, the Saints carried the ball 27 times for 133 total yards.
- Jones Jr. also led the Saints in receptions with three.
- RB **Devine Ozigbo** led New Orleans in rushing in the first half with 26 yards on the ground.
- TE **Taysom Hill** made his first catch of the preseason on a 10-yard reception in the first quarter.
- WR **Kirk Merritt** broke a 59-yard kick return to set up the Saints to set up their first scoring drive of the night in the first quarter. Merritt had two returns for 84 yards in the contest.
- K **Wil Lutz** made a 59-yard field goal to put the Saints on the board at the end of the first quarter. The kick was the longest field goal in Saints preseason history dating back to 1995.
- LB **Eric Wilson** forced a fumble late in the second quarter which was recovered by LB Jon Bostic. Wilson finished with four total tackles, while Bostic led the team with six.
- WR **Chris Olave** scored his first NFL touchdown on a 20-yard pass from Book. Olave led the Saints with 28 receiving yards.
- P **Blake Gillikin** nailed an 81-yard punt followed by a 67-yard punt in the third quarter. Gillikin averaged 59.4 yards per punt for the contest.



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HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN

Opening Statement

(opening comments) “So, disappointed in the loss. Too many penalties, turned the ball over and we let them run the ball on us. And you can’t do that and expect to win. Doesn’t matter if it’s a preseason game, we’ve got to be better in those areas. That was disappointing to see all the penalties. It was disappointing to see we turned the ball over again, for the second straight week, so that’s got to get cleaned up. There were some positives in the game. Obviously, defensively we take the ball away there at the end of the first half; forced fumble and we end up getting the touchdown to end the first half. I thought that was good. It was good to see Will Lutz kick a 59-yarder. So, that was a positive in the game. Look, we’ve got to go back to work and keep getting better.”

(on how big it was for Lutz to kick the 59-yarder given his injuries last year) “Yeah, I think it’s big. I think it’s big. He had a good warmup session prior to the game. We knew going that direction we had a little bit of help with the wind. That’s why we called the timeout right before the quarter so we had the wind behind us so we could get a little help on the 59-yarder. And it was great to see him kick it through. Another positive step for him.”

(on if the plan was to play Ian Book the whole game) “Yeah, we felt like we got a good look at Andy (Dalton) last week. Andy got a ton of the reps this week in the practices. So, there was a lot of guys that got a bunch of reps in the practices that we wanted to hold in tonight’s game. And so, we got a good look at Ian, played the whole game. There were some positives and then obviously the negative really becomes the two turnovers.”

(on what the positives were for Book’s performance) “Look, I thought there were a couple good throws. It was a great throw at the end of the half to Olave. Hell of a route by Olave and a good throw for a touchdown. I thought he, for the most part, did a pretty good job of operating in the huddle, getting us in and out. I thought he did some nice things creating some plays with his feet. So those were the positives.”

(on if Olave used some creativity of his own on the route or if it was designed) “Yeah, it was part of the concept in terms of how we run the route. I thought he did a good job of selling it and getting out of the double move.”

(on how special teams played tonight) “Yeah, I thought we did some good things with the special teams units. The penalties were disappointing. We come right out after the third quarter, and we had talked about it in the locker room, the penalties. And we had a holding on the first punt return. I think we would have had the ball at about the 34-yard line; instead we started the drive at the 8. And so, those are really big plays in the game that you don’t really think about. It’s a huge difference starting on the 8-yard line and starting on the 34.”

(on what he thought about Olave’s week in Green Bay) “I thought he took a real step forward this week and I thought he capped it off with a nice game today. And certainly the touchdown was a big play for us.”

(on his evaluation of Malcolm Roach, including the roughing the passer penalty) “Well, the roughing the passer can’t happen. Third-and-19, we’re going to be off the field and they end up extending the drive and it ended up being a touchdown drive. No different than when you turn the ball over; you can do a lot of really, really good things in the game, but those are critical plays in the game that end up costing you. So, we’ve got to be better in that area.”

(on where he is in the 53-man evaluation process) “Look, I think we moved a little closer through the week of practice. I’m going to reserve judgment on the game until we get back and watch the tape. But we still have a long way to go. Still have a lot of things we need to get better at. And so that’s really where our focus is.”

QB IAN BOOK

(on how he played) “I thought I did better. There were a few mistakes from last week that I really wanted to focus on. I just really wanted to go out there and have fun. Be more vocal than last week, and just lead these guys to a victory. We came up short, but I thought we did some good things, but we also hurt ourselves. That is what DA (head coach Dennis Allen) will make a huge point on; we can’t shoot ourselves in the foot with penalties. I’m a part of that. Penalties and turnovers. We have to fix them.”

(on his touchdown pass to WR Chris Olave) “The way they were playing it, he had to inside release and he was still able to expand, which is huge. I’m pretty sure on that, but I would need to watch the film. When I rolled out to the right, he did a great job of getting back on his landmark where he needs to be. He did a good job and we were on the same page so it worked out. It shows that his feel as a rookie is pretty special.”

(on his fumble) “There is no excuse for it. I have been playing football too long. Have to get that figured out; been working with a few centers, but that is part of it. That is preseason, and I just have to keep working on that.”

(on if he felt comfortable playing the whole game) “I did. It felt good. I was in there having fun, running around, trying to make plays with my feet when the clock was winding down. The main thing for me was I just wanted to go out there and just compete. I wanted to leave it all out there. I wanted to show DA and this team that I could be a leader. So that is what I was focusing on.”

(on WR Olave) "We see it day in and day out; his ability to get in and out of cuts and his routes. It is pretty special. It is hard to teach. He's got it and he will build on it. Honestly, he is just fun to be out there with. He is a guy that is quiet, but he is having fun. He doesn't think anyone can guard him, which is probably true. It is cool to see that confidence from a rookie."

(on what he will work on for next week) "I know there will be some things once I watch the film. Turnovers is one of them; can't have that happen. Penalties, that starts with me with communication, with being loud enough. Whatever it may be, that starts with the quarterback. Same with the fumbles. That starts with me."

(on if he knew he would play the whole game) "I figured I would. I got the call on Wednesday night and knew it was going to happen. It has been huge, just being able to basically play two full games. It has been huge for me. I appreciate them giving me a chance. It has been good. I'm having fun out there. I had some things last week that I really wanted to work on. One of those was just to go out there, have fun, lead, enjoy and compete. That is what I did tonight."

PACKERS HEAD COACH MATT LAFLEUR

(on Jordan Love's performance) "I thought there was a lot of good. I know the numbers don't necessarily reflect how I feel, but I saw a guy that not only was making some off-schedule plays running around, but there were a couple times we weren't great in protection. He stood in the pocket and was throwing on rhythm. I thought the ball that he threw to (Romeo) Doubs that was like a 20-something yard completion on our side(line), I thought that was a tough read because we ran like a sail-type concept, and the out-most receiver wasn't quite out of the area yet, so it was a cloudy read. But his ability to let it go... He hit (Juwann) Winfree on a high-cross. He hit a couple high-crosses for big, explosive gains. Then, I thought on the keeper that he threw to Samori (Toure) down the sidelines, I mean that ball has to be caught, and unfortunately again we had too many drops. I want to say we had at least five drops on offense."

(on the first play of the game when Love broke it down and ran) "I think he's done a great job with that. That's something that's a fine line with how you coach it. Do you hang in there? Because they brought pressure on that play, and I couldn't tell (but) I thought live we might have had that inside slant but I couldn't tell how hard the safety came down over the top of our slot receiver. He was decisive, and I think that's the big thing from him. I see a much more decisive player out there, and I think that's going to lead to a much more effective player."

(on Romeo Doubs' performance and if he's done enough to be included when the regular season starts) "Yeah, we'll see when we get there. I think Romeo has a lot of confidence and certainly he's made some big plays. You mentioned the sail route he caught, and then the fade ball, I thought Jordan threw a nice ball and he went up and got it. Yeah, it's not going to be perfect, there's going to be some lessons along the way, but he's a guy that has proved that he doesn't get fazed by a negative play (and) he just keeps on playing and so that's what excites you about him. You do see a guy that has really good feet. He's really good in his transition. He's got a burst. He's been able to separate, which is something that is tough to coach. Guys can either do it or they can't. There's stuff

to clean up, for certain, but he's a guy that we're excited about and we'll see where we are come week one."

(on the impression Tyler Goodson has made during camp) "He's done a nice job. A guy that puts his foot in the ground and he's got a burst and I think that was evident tonight. He made some nice runs. And then also, one thing that you see from him quite frequently in practice is he's got good hands. I think a lot of it for a third running back is how they do on special teams, and that is an area where the third back has to be able to contribute, and that's really where the battle lies with all those guys right now."

(on Christian Watson taking part in warm ups tonight and if he'll suit up next week) "We'll see. We're going to take it one day at a time. I feel like a broken record saying that up here, but I'm not a doctor and I'm not a trainer so when they give us the green light on him, we'll let him go."

(on having 12-men and 10-men on the field on different special teams plays) "It is what it is and that's something that we're well aware of and we'll clean up."

(on the Doubs play in the corner on third-and-three when he got turned around) "We ran a stop route and it was one-on-one and he gave him an opportunity, and I don't know what exactly happened, I didn't have a conversation with him, but I definitely was not anticipating how he got turned around on that. That's a ball that you are usually looking over your inside shoulder for, and as a quarterback you are trying to throw it over his outside shoulder... I don't know if he lost it or what happened, but obviously we don't want a guy doing twirly-birds out there when they are running routes. That makes it a very difficult catch. But, I'd have to look at the tape."

(on if he's made a decision whether Aaron Rodgers will play this week or if it will be Love again) "We'll discuss that. I wanted to get through this game and see where we're at. Just from a health perspective mainly, and I definitely want to talk to our vets and see where they think we're at. Then we'll collectively make a decision."

(on his analysis of QB Danny Etling's performance so far this preseason and his rushing touchdown tonight) "It's so funny because he had one of those when he was a rookie I want to say – it was an 87-yarder or whatever. I think Danny, first of all, he is just so much fun to be around. He has a great personality. He fits in well with those guys, with all the guys. And he's a talented guy. He's a very good athlete, although, he did have a little stumble at the end. I didn't know if was going to fall or not. But that was something that was not called. He saw the safety barreling down and closing hard on the runner. And there was nobody else out there. He just pulled it and went. It was a hell of a decision by him. I think Danny's done a lot of good things."

(on if he feels more confident in Jordan Love's performance this preseason than he did last year) "I think the game is slowing down for him. I think Tom [Clements] has done an unbelievable job with him. Connor Lewis is in our room, and he does a great job with him. And then I think Aaron [Rodgers] does a hell of a job with him as well – always coaching him on every play when we are in that meeting room, giving him little nuggets. And I think Jordan, you have to give him a lot of credit too – just being receptive to all the coaching but also learning from the other guys. I think, I don't know how you guys see it, but the way I see it and have seen it on a daily basis, I think he's light years ahead of

where he was a year ago. And so if you ask those guys in that locker room, every one of them would tell you they have a lot of confidence in him. I think we would all agree in that locker room, he's one of the most improved guys over the last year."

(on when the moment was that he realized Jordan Love's improvement) "I think a couple weeks ago, we started seeing him string a couple practices and that consistency started to show up more and more. But I think it was a couple weeks ago."

(on if anyone jumped out at him on defense) "Yeah, a lot of guys did, but [Micah] Abernathy made a heck of a play. I thought Isaiah McDuffie seemed like he was flying around. But I need to go back and really dissect the tape and look at it, and I can give you a better answer later on. KT (Kiondre Thomas) – I thought he was competitive. I thought Sherm [Shemar Jean Charles] was super competitive. I know he got called for the PI, but I love that aggressive play by him. I thought that was great. I couldn't tell, you guys might have a better opinion of it than I do. That's how I felt live, but a lot of those calls are tough. I don't envy being in the officials' position for a lot of it."

(on the biggest difference between Isaiah McDuffie between this year and last year) "He's done a hell of a job. I think knowledge of the game, I think he's really grown. I think Kirk Olivadotti does a great job with him. And he's got a guy like De'Vondre Campbell. I think KB (Krys Barnes) is a big reason why he's been able to grow so much in a short period of time. I think you definitely feel his presence on (Special) Teams. That's what we need from him."

(on if he has gotten what he was hoping for out of the preseason) "I think it's always tough to say if you're really getting exactly everything you need, especially when your guys aren't out there. It's a 'is the risk worth the rewards' type deal. I don't think there's a right answer – everyone has their own philosophy. I think with whatever you choose, you just stick by that and you're confident in that and hopefully you get the reps in practice. That's why I thought this week was so beneficial going against the Saints. Against a team I know we all have a lot of respect for. Obviously, they whooped us pretty good last year. They've got great players. They're a great coaching staff. A great scheme. I thought it was a really good test for us. To see our guys respond, not only just by going out there and executing, but being physical. I think that's one thing we are always looking for is how physical we are going to be. And they have some dogs on that team in every phase."

(on when he knew Danny Etling could run like that) "He is a guy that I know in New England, he actually played on special teams. We were making fun of him. He played, I think, in a preseason game in Detroit. We pulled out the tape actually in the quarterback room just to see how he did. For a guy who didn't have much experience at all, he's definitely an athletic guy. For a quarterback to even be placed in that position, I think that says a lot about just, not only his athleticism, but his toughness as well. Like I said, he's a great person, first and foremost. He's a hell of a worker. I don't know if you guys see him every day after practice, he's out there throwing to some of our equipment managers and getting guys in the right spot. You don't get the reps that you need. He loves this. He is fully invested, fully committed to being the best player he can be. That's always a tough position when you're the third guy because you just don't get the reps you really need in practice to develop. You have to do a lot of things on your own. He takes the initiative. He has a great mind. He always asks great questions. He's just really fun to be around."

(on how he's divided the play-calling duties so far) "The last two games I called the first half and then "Steno" (Adam Stenavich) called the second half. I think Adam's done a great job... he is a guy that obviously we know his value as an offensive line coach. I think that's pretty clear and pretty evident. He's well-respected around this league. But I think what you don't see, and naturally, I think the pass game for guys in that room is a little foreign for them. But, the amount of work he's put in and how much he's learned, I've been really impressed and he's added a ton of value to us in terms of suggestions and questions and I think he's doing a helluva job."

PACKERS QB JORDAN LOVE

(on if he feels that he's far ahead of last season) "I feel definitely a lot better than I have in the last two years. I just feel a little more confident, more comfortable back there. It's my third year in the offense, second year getting game reps, so I definitely just feel a lot more comfortable and I think it just comes with getting those reps and getting those plays, and just getting more confidence in myself and everybody around me and in the offense."

(on what the biggest thing he's learned from Tom Clements) "I think just sticking to the rules of the quarterback room of how we play plays, just sticking to our keys, our reads, our footwork, and trying to just stay locked into the details of every play and trying to treat every play as its own play. Since Tom's been here that's been the focus, just sticking to those details, and it's been helping a lot."

(on how Clements is so effective in teaching QB skills) "I mean I just think he's really honest with us and when we do get out of focusing on those details – maybe the footwork's off, maybe the read was off – he's just, 'Hey, this is what you've got to do, let's get back to that,' and he's just honest with us and he holds us accountable for what we need to do as a quarterback."

(on the progression of his ability to pull the ball down and run) "I think that's a huge part of my game that I've just got to keep getting more comfortable doing, being able to find those running lanes, and like you said, when the play breaks down, maybe my first or second read's not there, just being able to get up and make a play with my legs. That first play they brought pressure and they ended up peeling with the back, and my first two reads weren't there and I felt a hole kind of open up in the middle and I just took off and it worked out for 11 yards. But, yeah, I think just continue to get more comfortable doing that, find those rushing lanes and that'll help me out."

(on the importance of being decisive) "It's very important and I think for me I've gotten more comfortable being decisive and being able to let it rip and not kind of waiting and being hesitant for a play to open up. I think it just comes around being comfortable with the offense, understanding where the receiver's going to be, what plays are good for certain coverages and just continuing to be decisive. But I think I've definitely been taking some steps in that direction."

(on Danny Etling's TD run and the dynamic of the QB room) "I think that was a great read by him, just zone read, they collapsed and I think he finished it off really well. We needed a boost right there and I think that's what he brought. That was a great play for him. But yeah, I think it's been great having Danny in the room with us. All of us I think have a good bond so far, and we're just trying to keep building that, but Danny had a good run on that one."

(on if he's going to rip off a 61-yard run next week) "We all hope we could. That's what I'm trying to do, but sometimes it doesn't work out like that."

(on what he thought his best throw of the night was) "I think for me the one to Romeo (Doubs) on the sideline in the first quarter. It was one of those ones I had pressure in my face and I kind of just trusted where he was going to be. The last second, I saw the DB kind of falling off and got kind of nervous about that. I just let the ball go and I couldn't see what happened. I just heard the crowd going crazy and I knew he made a good play over there."

(on if he was throwing into a strong wind going into the north end zone) "I didn't really feel it as much, the wind coming in the end zone. I think the only time I kind of got affected throwing was when it started raining and the ball started getting wet. The wind started picking up there, but other than that I didn't really notice it."

(on if the wind affected the deep pass to Romeo Doubs that just missed) "I don't know if the wind affected that one. I kind of just threw it up. He was trying to adjust to the ball in the air and I'm not sure if the wind got it or not. I might have just thrown it a little bit too much outside, but it was one of those 50-50 balls that I try and give him a chance on it, and he didn't make a play on it."

(on if the ball was supposed to be inside on the Doubs play) "He turned outside over his shoulder to adjust to it, but it was just an inside fade ... so he's just trying to win and just trying to be over the top like that, but I think the way he thought ball was coming, he thought it would be better to adjust turning out."

(on his connection with Doubs and what's the next step with him) "I think we've had a really good connection. I think since he got here in OTAs he's been a guy that's been making plays out there. It's easy to throw him the ball and get it up to him, and even when it's kind of a 50-50 ball you know he's going to go up there and make a play on it like he did on the fade in the end zone right there. I think obviously we have a new connection. It's only been the first year throwing with him, and with Aaron (Rodgers) as well throwing to him, but I think he's been making a lot of really good plays and I'm excited to see what he does this season."

(on how he thinks Doubs has handled Aaron Rodgers' expectations) "I think it's come with it, especially being a rookie. It's not going to be perfect. You're going to have ups and downs, but I think Romeo, I think he's really hard on himself. When he doesn't make a play, he knows what he needs to do and he takes it out on himself, so I think it's easier for him to be there with Aaron and understand what Aaron's trying to get out of him. But, yeah, I think, like you said, it's ups and downs. It's not a perfect game ever, but I think he's been doing a really good job so far."