



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS CAROLINA PANTHERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints improve to 4-2 on the season and have won three consecutive games. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, November 1 when they take on the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field. Kickoff is set for 3:25 p.m. CT on Fox.
- With the victory, New Orleans' all-time record against the Panthers improves to 26-25 in the regular season and 13-13 in regular season home games. New Orleans has now won three consecutive games against Carolina.
- With the win, New Orleans improves its overall home regular season record to 206-206-1, including games played at Tulane Stadium, the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Giants Stadium (2005), San Antonio's Alamodome (2005), Tiger Stadium (2005), and Wembley Stadium (2008). New Orleans' record improves to 77-39 in regular season home games since 2006.
- New Orleans has now won 15 consecutive games in the month of October, dating back to a 25-20 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on October 30, 2016. New Orleans has also won 17 consecutive home games in the month of October, a streak dating back to a 20-10 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on October 31, 2010.
- With the victory, HC **Sean Payton** improves his regular season record against Carolina to 15-12. In their first meeting, Panthers HC Matt Rhule becomes the 68th (of 82) coach Payton has defeated in his career and 58th that Payton holds a winning record against.
- The victory is Payton's 50th regular season NFC South win of his career and improves his record in division games to 50-30. During Payton's tenure, former Panthers (2011-19) and current Washington HC Ron Rivera is next with 26 NFC South victories.
- Offensively, New Orleans amassed over 400 total yards for the third time this season, finishing with 415 total yards on 277 yards passing and 138 yards rushing. New Orleans possessed the ball for 34:31 and have had at least 34 minutes time of possession in each of their last three games.
- New Orleans began the game with their longest opening drive of the season. The 14-play, 75-yard drive used the first 8:26 of the game and resulted in a four-yard touchdown pass from Drew Brees to Jared Cook.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Carolina to a season-low 283 yards, including 246 passing yards and 37 rushing yards. 37 is the fewest rushing yards New Orleans has allowed since holding Tampa Bay to 36 yards on eight rushing attempts on November 17, 2019. New Orleans also extended its league-leading streak to 48 games without surrendering 100 rushing yards to a single player.
- QB **Drew Brees** became the first player in NFL history to reach 7,000 career completions, finishing the game 29-of-36 passing for 287 yards and two touchdowns. Brees also became the first player in NFL history to eclipse 79,000 yards passing in his career.
- Brees has now played in 281 games in his career, which moves him into a tie with LS Trey Junkin for 20th in NFL record books. In his 281st game, Brees rushed for the 25th touchdown of his career, 16 of which have been one-yard rushing scores.
- Finishing with 65 receiving yards on eight receptions, RB **Alvin Kamara** became the third player in NFL history with at least 2,500 rushing and 2,500 receiving yards in their first four NFL seasons, joining Roger Craig and Christian McCaffrey. With 289 career receptions, Kamara moves into the top-10 in club record books, surpassing RB Tony Galbreath (284) for tenth in all-time receptions for New Orleans. With five more receptions, Kamara will surpass RB Reggie Bush for ninth in club record-books.
- Kamara also tied his season-best with 83 rushing yards on 14 carries. Kamara has surpassed 100 total yards in each of the New Orleans' last five games.

- Rookie WR **Marquez Callaway** recorded his best game as a pro, finishing with eight receptions for a team-leading 75 yards. Callaway also caught Brees' 7,000th career completion on an eight-yard reception with 1:08 to play in the first quarter.
- WR **Deonte Harris** recorded his first career touchdown reception and became the 71st player and 55th New Orleans Saint to catch a touchdown pass from Drew Brees on a four-yard reception with five seconds remaining the first half. Harris finished the game with four reception for 46 yards and the one score.
- Entering the game with 598 career points, K **Wil Lutz** scored his 600th career point on his second extra point conversion of the game. Lutz also scored the game's only points in the fourth quarter, converting what would end up being the game-winning field goal with 7:53 to play. Lutz finished two-for-two on field goal attempts and three-for-three on extra point attempts and remains perfect on the season, moving his season totals to 11-for-11 on field goal tries and 21-for-21 on extra point conversions.
- DE **Marcus Davenport** recorded his first sack of the season on the Panthers' final offensive play of the game, taking down Carolina QB Teddy Bridgewater for an eight-yard loss. Carolina attempted a game-tying 65-yard field goal on the next play, which K Joey Slye missed short. In his second game of the season, Davenport finished with two tackles and added one quarterback hit.
- DE **Cam Jordan** made his 150th consecutive appearance for New Orleans, a club record and longest current streak among offensive and defensive players, excluding quarterbacks. With 150 appearances, Jordan surpasses Dave Waymer for 14th on the club's all-time games played list. Jordan finished the game with two tackles.
- TE **Jared Cook** scored his third touchdown of the season and finished the game with three receptions for 32 yards and the first quarter score. Cook has scored touchdowns in back-to-back games for the fourth time in his two seasons with New Orleans.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** recorded four receptions for 54 yards. Smith has recorded at least 50 receiving yards three times through the Saints' first six games this season, a mark he reached only once in 2019 and twice in 2018.
- RB **Latavius Murray** finished with 11 carries for 47 rushing yards and added one reception for nine yards. Murray has recorded double digit rushing attempts in four of the Saints' first six games this season, after recording double digit rushes in just four games in the entire 2019 season.
- CB **Marshon Lattimore** finished tied for the team lead with six tackles and has recorded at least six stops in each of his last four appearances. LB **Alex Anzalone** recorded four tackles and added his second tackle for loss of the season.
- FS **Marcus Williams** entered the game with 197 career tackles and recorded the 200th stop of his career on a takedown of Carolina RB Mike Davis with 3:36 to play in the second quarter. Williams finished tied for the team lead with six tackles.
- CB **CJ Gardner-Johnson** finished with five tackles and added one pass defensive. Through six games, Gardner-Johnson has recorded 30 tackles on the season, a mark that took him 14 games to reach in his rookie season in 2019.
- The Saints extend their streak to 294 regular season games without being shut out, the longest such running streak in the NFL and fourth longest all-time. The streak dates back to September 6, 2002 when New Orleans defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 26-20 at Raymond James Stadium.



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

On how close the last Carolina field goal attempt came to being good: “He (Joey Slye) hit a great kick. I was looking to see the trajectory, because a lot of times you might be able to get your hands on a kick of that length. He has a strong leg. He hit it; and, fortunately for us, it was a couple of yards short. I thought the sack on third down was critical, and it put them in a much different position. It was a good win.”

On Marquez Callaway finding open areas to make plays: “He played well today. If he’s finding open areas, it’s probably because it’s zone. If it’s man (coverage), we are moving. We saw him have a good training camp and we have seen him progress. A handful of guys really stepped up today and played, maybe, a different role than they are used to. That is just part of the deal right now.”

On getting a touchdown before halftime: “Obviously, we would have been happy if it was just a field goal. We were right at the cusp there with five seconds with a possible end zone play. We had leverage outside. Inside, we had leverage. Drew (Brees) did a great job of finding Deonte (Harris). That was probably a game-winning drive and we just didn’t know it at the time.”

On having fans in attendance: “It was good. (It was) a little bit...3,000 (fans). We will keep adding as we go. You certainly felt a little bit more juice in the stadium than normal.”

On the importance of a successful first drive of the game: “I thought we ran the ball well. We kicked a couple too many field goals. I don’t know that we punted. I can’t recall a game where we did not punt. I felt like it went fast, obviously. I don’t know what time that it was on the clock when we hit halftime, but that first half felt like the first quarter. Part of that was both teams were really moving the ball. The opening drive was really important.”

On if time of possession was part of the strategy: “We felt like first and second down was going to be important against this defense and that if we could stay on schedule, our success rate on third down would be that much better. We got into a couple of third and longs, particularly in the second half. Yet, we won a handful of statistics. We didn’t win the turnover statistic, but a lot of the others, we did.”

On what it was like to see Teddy Bridgewater on the other sideline: “I don’t remember him moving that good. He got out of some tough looks. He, obviously, played well. He made a lot of big plays in the passing game. He extended some plays. We had opportunities to (have a) free rusher. We’ve just got to be better in those situations. It’s a much different offense. You can see, obviously, that they are playing with confidence. I think that he had maybe three incompletions the whole day.”

On having a conversation with Teddy Bridgewater on the sideline during the game: “I think that he felt like we had a penalty; and, he was right. And, then, I felt like they (the Panthers) had a penalty; and, I was right. He saw one flag and I saw the other. It was offsetting (penalties) and we had to play the down again. That was all.”

On if he saw improvement of the defense: “We’ve got some work to still do. I think that we played the run extremely well, not so much in the passing game.”

On finding out late in the week that the team would be without both starting receivers: “One thing that we know is that the games are going to be played. There are a couple of other teams dealing with some pretty extreme adversity. Honestly, no one else outside of your building really cares. I am proud of how our guys focused and found a way to get the win.”

On the importance of sacking Teddy Bridgewater on the final Panthers drive: “Based on the field goal attempt that I saw, that even if we sacked him with two yards less, there was a good chance that (Carolina’s kick) was going to go in. Obviously, it was a big play defensively. They got in field goal range and all of a sudden that (sack) put them right on the edge. That (sack) was significant (for us).”



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LB DEMARIO DAVIS

(On making a stop by Marcus Davenport to close out the game): "In this league, you have to find a way to win. We want to be a team that plays complimentary football. When you get to the end of games, you have to find a way. Whether if the offense or the defense is on the field last, you have to rise up and be ready for the challenge. You have to figure out how to do that. That's going to help us a lot in regards to confidence, motivating and building as we go down the stretch."

(On what he saw on the Davenport sack): "I was in coverage, so I was looking at my man. I didn't see what happened."

(Reaction to the Davenport sack): "That was a big play getting a sack in the sack zone, which is right outside of the red zone. Getting a sack there to knock them out of field goal range was huge. It was a game changer. Carolina chose to kick it from where they were. It was a good kick, but just a little bit short and put us in a position to win the game."

(On Davenport's difference as a pass rusher): "He's a great player, big and strong. Our defensive line has been playing lights out this year. We need to be able to stop the run and put pressure on the quarterback and that's what our defensive line does."

(On it being a big play for Marcus Davenport): "In this business, guys have been playing at a high level for a long time. Anytime they are not out there with their brothers and performing at a high level like they are used to is tough. It shows his dedication and his work ethic to be back out there and pick up where he left off."

(On taking pride in the run defense) "The goal is always chasing excellence. We've been able to do that in the run game. We will continue to grow in the pass game. I think the game has evolved to make it a lot easier to pass the ball. Our defensive guys can't touch players. It's a lot easier to get holding calls and pass interference calls. There are a lot more concepts to defend. It's not as easy to be as stingy in the pass game as it once was. Plays are going to happen. I think the best defenses in this league are the ones who get the stop when it matters most."

QB DREW BREES

(On scoring a touchdown before halftime): "In the grand scheme of things, that was a huge drive. This was a game where both offenses were doing a great job of staying on the field, converting third downs and eating up the clock. Each one of our drives were 8, 10, 12 or 14 plays. I think when you look back on it we only had six meaningful drives in that game with the exception of the last one when we were trying to run the clock out. Those are very few scoring opportunities. Every chance we got to score we needed to put point up on the board. To be able to get seven points there instead of three in rather dramatic fashion with those last few plays end up being a huge turning point in the game."

(On where he thinks the offense is now) "Obviously, the first six weeks have been challenging in various ways. We've had injuries at times and I can't say enough about the young guys have had to step up. We've been without Michael Thomas for five games. Emmanuel (Sanders) was out for this game. Young guys have had to step up and take a role where they are expected to step in to really be able to contribute. I can't say enough about guys like Marquez Callaway and the job that he did today. Obviously, Tre'Quan Smith who is a mainstay, but we have asked him to do so much stuff. The guys up front with having some injuries at times. Each week it is finding a different way to win. I can't say enough about the guys' resolve and resiliency to be able to do that. These last two games especially have come down to the wire and the last drive to find ways to win the game."

(On working with different guys who were maybe not as big a part of the game plan on Wednesday prior to Sanders being placed on COVID-19/Reserve) "I'll be honest. It's difficult. You sit there and look at the call sheet and look at the personnel groups and how you are going to piece it all together and at the end of the day putting them in the right positions to succeed. It all goes through my thought process too. I need to know where guys are. There are little things that I can do throughout the game to help them and instill confidence in them. I just can't say enough about those guys coming in and stepping up and having the games that they did."

(On a clean offensive performance) "We strive for proficiency, want to have great balance (and) want to play complimentary football. I felt like we possessed the ball really well. Obviously, the third downs are crucial because it allows you to stay on the field. There were a lot of third and short situations. You get into third and manageable and that means that you were good on first and second down. You can take advantage of little short completions or a run play that's going to get you three or four yards. Those are good positive plays and that sets you up for success on third down. We got into a couple of third and long situations based on penalties or what have you and we were able to overcome a few of those. Those were huge too because those were drives that resulted in points. Anytime you don't punt and you are scoring touchdowns and field goals, then that's a good thing."

(On Alvin Kamara's body control) "It's always pretty amazing. Throughout the course of the game, you probably don't appreciate it because you are on to the next play. There are not many guys who can do some of the things that he does."

(On the last field goal attempt) "When you say it's a game of inches or feet, it truly is. That was obviously a huge play by (Marcus Davenport) to set them back and give them that long field goal. When it came off his foot, it was tracking. It fell short. I'm glad that we were able to get the first down and win the game."

(On Teddy Bridgewater taking a seat between he and Taysom Hill) "That was just so fitting of Teddy's personality (laughter). He had to run a long way to take that seat. He knew exactly where we were sitting. He plopped in between us. I kind of handed him the Surface and asked him what he saw. I have nothing but love for Teddy. He's a great quarterback. He is an efficient quarterback. He is highly efficient. He had a ton of completions. He takes care of the football and takes advantage of the opportunities that present themselves down the field. I can't say enough about him."

(On having 3,000 fans) "We got some Who Dat chants going. It was good. It's obviously great to have fans in the building. I would love it if we could have some more. It would be great. It would be great for the team. Certainly, the defense would appreciate getting some crowd noise in there to get the place rocking like it should."

(On setting the tone with the opening drive) "It was good and efficient. There were three or four first downs in that drive. Everybody did their job executing. It was a great way to start the game. The drive took quite a bit of time and we came out of it with seven points."

RG Cesar Ruiz

When Terron (Armstead) goes out in the second quarter, does that change things for you +as to how you're blocking and how you're communicating with each other?

"Not really. It's definitely different when Terron goes out but we all take a lot of us repetitions together and the communication is always there."

How big was that opening drive just getting the ball and going fourteen team plays right off the bat and scoring a touchdown there?

"It was big. A long drive to. I didn't realize that drive was about 10 minutes so it was great to get the ball down there and score on the first job so that's great."

What's the first seven weeks of the season been like for you? I know the injury you had and you missed 21 days and just kind of tried to settle in and get up to speed just what's the process been like for you?

"Just grinding every day really. Taking care of my body and stay on top of the little things and try and learn as much I can every single day. Really just being a sponge really just learning and trying to perfect myself every day."

Do you feel like you're still picking a lot of stuff up? I know at this points the offseason was weird and everything.

"Yes. I'm still going be picking stuff up until I retire. You're going learn a lot of different things. I am learning a lot different things from different guys. Every time there is something I don't recognize in practice or little things like that. I'm learning from those little things right there."

What did you make a team's composure and execution on third down today?

"We took it head on really, on third downs our goal is go get the first down. We didn't back down from anything, and we went out there and did everything we could to get the first down."

Saints Defensive End Marcus Davenport

On what it was like to sack Teddy Bridgewater: "Getting a sack, especially your first of the season, is always one of those things that you feel like you've got to get out of the way. It was really great to be

able to help out the team, especially in that time (of the game)."

On the importance of the sack: "It's one of those things. It's just how it, kind of, played out. Like you said, it was a good point in the game and we won."

On what he saw to break through for the sack: "It was just one of those things. We drew it up; and, from there, you just have to execute. That was mainly it."

RB Alvin Kamara

On Carolina's field goal attempt late in the game: "I had a good vantage point. It was a long field goal. Kudos to him (Joey Slye), even though he missed it. He's got a helluva leg. We were, obviously, hoping for a miss. We got the miss. We were able to close out the game."

On keeping his foot in bounds on third down: "Yes, I saw the sideline and I just, kind of, took a picture of it and tried to reach the ball. I knew that the defender was coming in. He had a good angle on me to tackle me. I knew that as long as I got the ball across the stick, we'd be good. They reviewed it and didn't have enough evidence (to overturn); and, we got a first down."

On the opening drive of the game: "We had a great week of practice. Everybody has a job to do, no matter who is in or who is out. Guys have to step up and execute. That is what happened. We did that and put a good drive together. We did what we had to do. I feel like we did a good job. The guys that stepped up did a good job."

On the last drive of the first half: "Two-minute (drives), I'd put us against any defense. We're locked-in on two-minute. We've got calls that we want to get to. I think that we practice it more than anything. Going in there, we are confident, we know the looks that we want to get to. We just had to execute. We went ahead and drove it down and got a score. That was big before the half."

On if the offense is starting to find an identity: "It's just about efficiency. We are being able to run the ball efficiently. We used up the clock. We're getting the looks in the passing game we want. We're getting the ball down the field. Everybody's stepping up; everybody is doing their job. There are still some things that we have to clean up. It's not the best game that we played, but it's a win. Nobody asked how we won or how we lost. They just want to know if it was a win or a loss. We won. There are some things that we have to clean up on the film tomorrow. We will get that cleaned up and move on to the next (game)."

On playing in front of fans: "I don't care how many fans (were there). If it was 10, if it was 1,000, if it was 3,000. It's just good to have some people back in there. Everybody is itching to get back into the stadium. Hopefully, the next game we can have 10,000, 20,000. It was just good to see the fans back out there. We enjoy having them as much as they enjoy being here, so it's a huge advantage."

WR Marquez Callaway

How do you feel that you played today especially just knowing you got thrown into the game plan again even bigger than you did last two weeks ago?

"Like Alvin (Kamara) said, next man up mentality. You know, we go into each week practicing, preparing for anything. And that's what happened this week. You know, with Emmanuel (Sanders) going down and Mike (Thomas) not being able to play this week. So, just like Alvin (Kamara) said, next man up. You know, I think Juwan (Johnson) did a great job when he got in there, it's his first play and his first start. And I was happy for him and we just went out there and had fun."

Are you doing okay after limping to the locker room towards the end of the game?

"Yeah, I'm good. I just got a little dinged up. But, it's all good. Thank you."

A lot of people are pointing out on Twitter today that your number 12 is the same number that Marques Colston famously wore for the Saints. I was curious if somebody mentioned that to you early in training camp, since he's like the most famous dark horse to emerge here or if that 12 had any significance to you, knowing you were wearing such a famous Saints players jersey number? When you'd realize that the first time?

“Well obviously everybody knows who he is. And coaches and players, even players told me as soon as I got here when they found out I was wearing number 12. I think the coaches RC (Ronald Curry) and CJ (Curtis Johnson), the receiver coaches, told me it was some big shoes to fill. But, ain't no backing down, I'm ready to step up to the challenge. And have fun doing it, so.”

It seemed like you did a really good job getting open against their zone coverage and just finding those soft spots? Is that something that's always been the strength of your game? And you know, or is that just more of a function of how the offense was designed?

“We practice for everything, It's a lot of game planning. Coach (Payton) does a lot of, they (he and the assistants) stay up late. Like you said earlier, they stay up late game planning against whoever we have got next. And we go at it each week knowing what we are getting. So we knew this was a big zone team. And we knew it was a lot of zone coverage. So we just went out there with the mindset of them playing zone. So we know how to get open during zone (coverage). And that's just how the game went.”

Do you feel like you're comfortable with Drew (Brees) and how long did it kind of take you to get there if you are?

“I think we click together pretty well. We go with a lot of, all of the quarterbacks, really. With Jameis (Winston) and Taysom (Hill) and Drew (Brees), we work simultaneously with everybody. So it's not just, you know, we go with Drew (Brees). Because like y'all seen, Taysom (Hill) get's in there and be at quarterback too. So we got to be well with everybody.”

What's it like to have a future Hall of Famer like Drew Brees, having the confidence to call your number in these key moments in these last few weeks?

“It's great knowing that, what Drew has done and what he is doing, and what his future would be like, it's great learning from him. He obviously, he takes the time and after practice goes over things with Juwan (Johnson) and I, just because we're younger and we know but we don't really know. So just him, Jameis (Winston) and Taysom (Hill) they take the time after practice to stay after with us to make sure we're caught up to speed with everything. So they will be confident when the time comes, like they have in these past few weeks.”

I noticed after your second touchdown drive, he (Drew Brees) came over to the receivers huddle on the bench and was going over some things with you, the receiver group. What is going on there? You are just trying to get on the same page?

“Yeah. Like I said, he (Drew Brees) teaches us pretty much all the time. So, what we see when we're out there, he sees something probably different, he comes in, and that lets us know that we have to do that. Let us know that, 'hey, maybe we can slide over a little bit more or maybe you can run out the break', just things like that. So he tells what he sees, so next time we go out there, it will be even more efficient.”