



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
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NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT CAROLINA PANTHERS
MONDAY, SEPT. 18, 2023 • BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints defeated the Carolina Panthers 20-17 to move to 2-0 on the season.
- With the win, New Orleans starts the season 2-0 for the first time since 2013 and the ninth time in franchise history.
- The Saints are now 25-25 all time on Monday Night Football and 30-28 all time against the Panthers (regular season and postseason combined).
- New Orleans outgained Carolina 343-239, including 135 yards on the ground and 207 yards through the air.
- The Saints defense allowed just four first downs in the first half and 88 total net yards. New Orleans did not allow a touchdown until 1:16 remaining in Week 2 of the 2023 campaign, the longest such streak to begin a season in team history.
- New Orleans has now gone 10 straight games allowing less than 20 points to its opponent, the longest such streak in team history.
- The Saints allowed just four third-down conversions on 14 attempts (28.6%).
- QB **Derek Carr** moved into 30th on the all-time passing yards list, surpassing Alex Smith.
- Carr finished the evening completing 21/36 passes for 228 yards, zero touchdowns and one interception.
- Carr is now 3-0 in his career against the Panthers, including two victories over Carolina with the Las Vegas Raiders. He also improves to 7-4 all-time on Monday Night Football.
- RB **Jamaal Williams** carried the ball nine times for 29 yards before exiting the game in the second quarter with a hamstring injury.
- RB **Tony Jones Jr.** took over the backfield after Williams exited. Jones finished the night with 12 carries for 34 yards and two touchdowns, including his first NFL touchdown, a two-yard rush in the third quarter.
- WR **Michael Thomas** moved into second on the Saints' all-time receptions list with his second reception in the first quarter on New Orleans's second drive of the night. Thomas surpassed WR Eric Martin, who stands at 532

career receptions. Thomas finished the night with seven catches for 55 yards and now has 538 career receptions.

- Thomas's seven first-half receptions were the most he had in the first half of any game since December 16, 2019, against the Indianapolis Colts, where he had nine receptions and finished with 12 catches for 128 yards and a touchdown.
- WR **Chris Olave** led New Orleans with 86 yards receiving on six receptions, including a highlight-reel, one-handed catch that went for 42 yards in the third quarter.
- WR **Rashid Shaheed** caught a game-long 45-yard pass from Carr in the fourth quarter. Shaheed finished with four receptions for 63 yards.
- TE **Foster Moreau** recorded his first reception as a Saint on New Orleans's second drive of the contest, a 14-yard catch. Moreau finished with the evening with two catches for 20 yards.
- TE **Taysom Hill** led the Saints with a team-high 75 yards rushing on nine carries and completed one pass for eight yards.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** played in his 205th career game (regular + postseason), tying P Thomas Morstead for second on the franchise's all-time games played list.
- The Saints defense forced their fourth turnover in six quarters when DE **Carl Granderson** forced a Bryce Young fumble that CB **Paulson Adebbo** recovered in the second quarter.
- LBs **Demario Davis** and **Pete Werner** and S **Marcus Maye** all tied for the team-lead with seven combined tackles. Maye and Davis both added one sack apiece.
- K **Blake Grupe** nailed both his field goal attempts. Grupe has not missed an attempt in his NFL career yet, making his first five attempts through two games.



Postgame Quotes

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SAINTS HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN

RE: Opening statement

It was a good win for us. Obviously, starting the season off 2-0 and getting a divisional win I think is huge. Certainly, it wasn't as clean as we would like it to be but at the same time, I saw some improvement in a few areas. Look, we're just going to have to be able to keep working and keep grinding and keep continuing to get better but as we do that to be able to get wins along the way is a good problem to have. I thought we ran the ball better in this game. Overall, I thought we ran the ball effectively. We were able to get some explosive plays down the field particularly in the second half. Defensively, with the exception of the last drive, I thought we played pretty well.

RE: The impact of Tony Jones, Jr. on the game

It was awesome. It was great. He ran the ball effectively. I thought we blocked it up front and he made the right cuts. With the two touchdowns for the game, I thought it was big for him and big for us.

RE: The use of the running backs during the game

We figured we had a couple of options there that could get us out of the game. I don't think that we were anticipating Jamaal (Williams) going down early in the game like he did but I thought Tony Jones stepped up and did a really good job.

RE: The impact of Chris Olave's 42-yard catch in the third quarter on the offense

Yeah, we had a couple of explosive looks down the field, one to him and one from (Rashid) Shaheed. I think that's something both of those two players provide to our football team. That play is always sitting in your back pocket which is a good feeling to have when things aren't quite going exactly how you want it to. You're really just one explosive play from making something happen.

RE: If he sees the theme of the offense starting slow before improving in the second half

Probably the biggest common theme is that we haven't done as good a job of protecting the quarterback early on in the game. As the game goes on, I think our guys have gotten better and improved on that. Look, we got a lot of new pieces on the offensive side of the ball. We have a new runner back there, Mike Thomas coming back, a new quarterback, a new left tackle, there's some growth that's going to come with our football team. Here's the deal. These games are won as a team and lost as a team and I thought that these last two weeks we've been able to put together two good team wins.

RE: Biggest issue with passing game

I didn't think our execution early on in the game was good in terms of guys being in the right spot and doing the right thing every single play. Obviously, that got addressed at halftime and I thought that we were much better in the second half and being able to do that. I thought we ran the ball better in the second half which I think opened things up too.

RE: The defensive front being able to open things up as a play caller

It makes a big difference. Overall, I was pleased with the way we played the run today. The longest run was the quarterback scramble early on in the game which we just missed it. Other than that, I thought we did an effective job in the run game. And in the passing game, I thought rush and coverage worked together. There weren't a lot of big windows that I could see to throw the ball to and therefore it gave our rush an opportunity to get around the quarterback and I thought we affected him.

RE: How impressive to not allow a touchdown defensively for nearly two games

I think it should have been two games so I'm not satisfied. But defensively, I think that we're doing some good things and I still think there's a lot of things that we can do better. We're not going to sit around and pat ourselves on the back. We're going to go back to work to try and correct some of the things that we didn't do as well and try to keep doing some of the things that we did well. I thought the front and coverage worked well together today and I thought we did a good job particularly up front.

RE: The physicality of the catches from Chris Olave and Michael Thomas during the game

You're going to have to do that in our league. There may be a few times where you may get some wide-open targets but for the most part, you're going to have to be able to make catches in contested environments. I think that's been something that we've probably been a little bit better at this year. Certainly, we hope we can continue that.

RE: Chris Olave's development in making contested catches.

Yeah, look I mean the play he made today was a hell of a play. One I thought he might have kind of been interfered with a little bit in terms of holding that arm down and not allowing him to really get that second arm up, but I thought his concentration there, focus all the way through the catch point, all the way through the ground, maintain possession. I thought was really big. I think that is a step forward for him.

RE: Derek Carr working on timing when in the red zone

Yeah it comes with work. It comes with repetitions. We are not there in the passing game where we need to be quite yet, but I feel confident that we are going to end up getting there. It is more of a consistency issue in our passing game right now than it is ability wise. Because there are some really good things that we are doing. And yet there are a lot of things that we can do better.

RE: Importance of preventing Bryce Young from getting comfortable on offense

Yeah it was part of what we planned on doing. That was part of the game plan was obviously be able to stop the run and make it where he was going to have to be able to beat us throwing the ball. And felt like maybe we might be able to get some pressure and kind of make him uncomfortable a little bit. That was part of the game plan.

RE: Defensive game plan

Obviously, we've got a significant number of pressures that we have in our back pocket to run, but we felt like we were doing a pretty good job of being able to get a little bit of pressure on him with our front four or our odd package on third down. Things of that nature. So, didn't feel like there was a need to blitz a lot.

RE: Impact on defense

I think any team that can rush the passer with four and commit seven to coverage and be effective getting pressure on the quarterback that is a recipe for success in our league. It always has been.

RE: Defensive performance two weeks in a row

I think it is a unit that expects to go out there and perform at a high level and they have proven it time and time again that they are capable of going out there and doing that. So that is kind of the expectation. Those guys want to be great and they hold each other accountable. We have got a lot of great leadership in that defensive room.

RE: Instinct of offense to close out games and finish

Yeah it is awesome isn't it? You know what I mean? It is just awesome how we were able to do that two weeks in a row. Obviously, I don't feel like we should have let it get to that point, but I thought our offense, they kicked the field goal there in the third or fourth quarter and the offense responds right back and goes down with a score of their own. That is kind of the way this team is built. There is some ebb and flow to the game. The defense needs to be picked up and the offense has been there to take over and certainly the defense has done its part to help the offense.



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SAINTS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR

RE: Timing with teammates in the red zone.

Well there is a lot of work that needs to be done. We had a few opportunities for sure. Not to get into all of them but you saw them. We had a few opportunities. Missed throw. We had one in the back of the end zone we almost had. That is a tough play. We had another one where I was expecting him to look and just timing of things and there is so much that we have to clean up, but it feels so good to clean it up when you win. We are 2-0 and I don't think that we played at the level that we are all expecting to play at yet, but we are going to keep striving, keep working and make those corrections. But it feels good to do it with a win for sure.

RE: What he attributes passing inconsistencies to.

That is my fault. It is my fault. I will get it fixed. I will get it corrected. I have had moments where it is a little tougher of a road and I have had moments where we get it back together and we are clicking. This is our second game together. I am glad we won so I can say that. Because it is our second game together and we still won the game. We are going to continue to get better. We are going to continue to find that timing. I learned things about my receivers and everybody today that okay I got it. He sees it that way and now okay. I was pissed and I moved on and thankfully our defense kept us in it so when we came back in the second half and we started clicking and started hitting big plays we could pull away and try to win the thing.

RE: How nice it is to have the defense to lean on.

That is a very big part of the reason why I came here. Any team that I talked to was a team with a defense. I played these guys. I knew Dennis Allen. I know what it is like and how difficult it is. All I want to do is win. So, I was like, shoot, if I can go there and have a day like today. Didn't play my best in the first half, come back, play good in the second half and win a game? Like I didn't have to be perfect for four quarters and we won. That is awesome. I don't like that still. We won, but I am still sick because I should have played better. I can help the offense more. I sit back and I am already analyzing it right? But to have that defense to hold us, keep us in there until we got clicking in the second half I mean it helped us win the football game.

RE: What happened on the interception.

I saw him coming down and I saw Chris Olave going behind him and when I saw him step down, it was a terrible read. I knew he didn't have anything affecting him. I should have known he was going to get back there. I saw Chris, I threw it and as soon as I threw it I was like you idiot. Like it was terrible. It was my fault all the way.

RE: Any areas he wanted to improve on tonight.

Yeah, I think in the first half I was just too quick. I was playing way too quick. In the second half I was just like I have got to slow it down. I told Pete (Carmichael) and I told RC (Ronald Curry), I told the guys I got you, trust me. Like I am going to be much better in the second half. We are going to win this game. I want them to feel that confidence from me too. Like hey I know what I am doing. It was not my best half of football at all. But we still went into halftime with the lead which is great. That is a great feeling as a quarterback. That you know you can go out there and play better and hopefully go finish the thing and get a win.

RE: Adjustments on offense when you lose a running back.

Pete does a great job and our coaching staff does a great job of making sure we are prepared just in case stuff happens. They had a plan that Taysom Hill would be ready just in case something happened and Taysom went in there and did his thing. We put him at running back like you said a couple of times and it is unbelievable what he is able to do. He went one for one. He ran the ball. He ran a route. It is really unbelievable. He is an amazing football player and it is a luxury to have someone who can do all of those things for us.

RE: Trust he has built with receivers letting them make plays.

So much trust. In the first half, like I said I was so quick on some things and there were some things I could have done better to help them get the ball more in their hands and things like that. In the second half it was really nice, no one would know with the naked eye, but we corrected those things. I slowed down, got on the ball a little bit more. I have always had trust in them. Just because the first half didn't go, that was my fault. Those guys have been making plays, you guys have seen it, all camp. In the off season. I have my brothers and my friends sending me tweets because they don't live in New Orleans, like another deep ball to Chris Olave. Like you guys tweeting them out. They have been doing it and so my trust in them it at an all-time high. Especially when they are doing it against our defense. I think that is the most impressive part.

RE: On Chris Olave improving on his physicality

His mentality is unbelievable. I think I've said that to you guys before but I love the talent. You guys see the talent. He just wants to be better just like we all do. We have all the right mindsets and seeing that in him has been a really beautiful thing.

RE: His message to Bryce Young after the game

Just God bless and that I'm here for you and that I'm rooting for you. He's going to be a great player. I love watching him. My kids loved watching him last year when he was at Alabama. I heard them run around the house, 'Bryce Young throws the ball!' They just love football and they pretend to be everybody. I'm okay with that because Bryce is a good guy but now that we're rivals, I may have to tell them to chill out a little bit.

RE: Being 2-0 after getting a couple of tough wins.

Every win matters. We'll see where we are at the end of this thing but they all matter especially against a division opponent and an NFC opponent. Getting that win is huge for us and that's why we play the game is to win. How this thing looks at the end, hopefully it will be cleaner, hopefully it will be better on my part and our part and we're all in here just to win and hopefully we can continue to do that.

RE: On what he said to Rashid Shaheed before the start of the fourth quarter

I wasn't mic'd so unless he was or someone else was around us. They hide microphones everywhere. I said some things but I don't think there will be any videos.

RE: The long completion to Shaheed

It was a double move. They had been playing aggressive and Pete (Carmichael) took his time with that shot. We knew that we had a few other completions that he liked and we were able to hit those and that one just presented itself in that moment and again, he's so fast. I ripped that thing and he tracked it down like it was nothing. It's unbelievable. He's an unbelievable football player because y'all saw last week just the speed, the go route. Today, he runs the double move and I've been saying that he can run the routes and he's a good receiver. That threat to run by especially against one of the fastest corners in the league says a lot about Rashid and having that weapon is awesome for the offense and for me.

RE: Thoughts on Bryce Young's performance

Any quarterback that stepped out there this week I say that it's the hardest thing to do in sports. Except Deion (Sanders) said hit a baseball which I might agree with. Playing quarterback is difficult especially at a young age. I'm sure he learned a lot of things today and I hope he learned a lot from me. Don't throw that ball when the safety is there. I just think the world of him. I think he's got a good head on his shoulders and he's going to work hard and he's got good people around him in this organization from the owner, to the general manager, to the coaching staff that's in the room with him on both sides of the ball. He's going to get loved up, he's going to get positivity and he's going to get corrected in the right way and I think the sky's the limit for him. But hopefully, not yet.

RE: Working with Tony Jones and his performance

It was awesome. You got to love stuff like that. He had been here before so when he came in everybody was talking to him and I felt bad because I was like 'Was he here?' and I didn't know he was somewhere else. To see him come in and play and took the role of running back for us when Jamaal went down and to see him score. Again, whoever scores, we do not care. It's big team, little me. It's what D.A. (Dennis Allen) keeps preaching and that's what we keep believing in.

RE: How impressive to not allow a touchdown defensively for nearly two games

I think it should have been two games so I'm not satisfied. But defensively, I think that we're doing some good things and I still think there's a lot of things that we can do better. We're not going to sit around and pat ourselves on the back. We're going to go back to work to try and correct some of the things that we didn't do as well and try to keep doing some of the things that we did well. I thought the front and coverage worked well together today and I thought we did a good job particularly up front.

RE: The physicality of the catches from Chris Olave and Michael Thomas during the game

You're going to have to do that in our league. There may be a few times where you may get some wide-open targets but for the most part, you're going to have to be able to make catches in contested environments. I think that's been something that we've probably been a little bit better at this year. Certainly, we hope we can continue that.

RE: On the trust he has in the team

Hopefully, we can show as an offense that they can trust us at the end to put it away. We've been able to do that early on. We're building trust and a lot of things as a team. The trust has always been there with this defense. That's a given. They're unbelievable. The trust with myself and the receivers as we continue to grow. I've always had trust in them when that you have one-on-one and the games on the line that I'm coming to you, it's your moment to go be on SportsCenter. They continue to show up and they continue to make those plays and like I said, hopefully we can continue to prove to our defense that when the game is on the line, no matter what, we can help put it away and be able to do those things and so far we've been able to do that.

RE: Taking steps forward with the protection on the offensive line

I thought that we did some things really well and there's some things that we need to fix. It's not something that is easily fixed overnight but with repetition and with time on task and experience. We'll go back and look at it and be hard on ourselves. That's the best thing to do after a win is to be even harder on yourself to say 'How can I take what I did in that game and be better at practice?', 'How do I make Wednesday better?', 'How do I make it better from what I learned and as long as we continue to preach that and have that mindset, I think we'll continue to get better at it. There's some things that were better and some things that we need to clean up. When we needed them, they were there for us so they did a great job.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

Saints Running Back Tony Jones Jr.

RE: On getting the chance to play

Coach says, "it doesn't matter who is out there. When guys are out there, we're playing for the whole group. So with me playing it's just like Jamal playing, Kendre, all of us are out there. It doesn't matter .

RE: On the help of his offensive line

I mean the coach told us before the game we were going to have to run through the trenches. I think we did. And to be honest, our line ran it. Our line was pushing off the ball three yards or four yards, it doesn't matter.

RE: On how he feels about playing on Monday Night Football

It's big. I am a journeyman. I have been on three teams in the past 12 months, so I mean God is real and glory to him. That on the field wasn't me, it's all him.

RE: On being one of the few running backs with Jamaal Williams on the roster for today's game

I didn't even know it was going to be just me and him to be honest. Coach had us out there running drills, and I was like dang it's only two of us. So you got to thug and fight through it. That's all you got to do.



Postgame Quotes

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SAINTS WIDE RECEIVER CHRIS OLAVE

RE: On the offense starting slow.

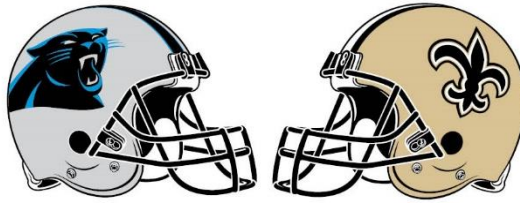
That is just how football is. It is not always going to go our way. We got off to a slow start but, we just fought through adversity and being able to get to 2-0 was the most important thing. We know we have a lot of things to fix up especially in the first half, but hopefully we can get back next week and clean those up.

RE: On staying patient on offense.

Just with that slow start it was still a close game. We were still leading most of the game. We know our defense is going to hold it down. They have been holding it down all year. We just have to stay patient and wait for the ball to come and when your number is called you have to make that play. So, somebody has to make a play and I am glad they threw it to me.

RE: On Derek Carr.

He just has a calm composure. Through all of that we know he is not going to panic. He is not going to do anything bad or turn against us. He has been in the league. He is a veteran. He is a great leader even when things are bad. When things get down or when things get hectic we can't turn against each other. We have to leave on each other more and that is what we did today and we came out with the win.



Postgame Quotes
New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

SAINTS DEFENSIVE END CAMERON JORDAN

RE: On first impression of Bryce Young

He is a good kid. I think that he has a lot of room to grow. Our ability to keep him in the pocket, crush the pocket, make him feel uncomfortable, that clearly was the plan and I think we succeed in that. I do think he escaped more than we thought he would. We went in thinking that he was a pocket passer, and he has some speed to him. He was able to slip out those A and B gaps. We will know that for the next time we play him. We have to play him a second time. As he grows, as he matures, this time around some will say he is a little young if you shall.

RE: On Young's ability to escape the pocket

No, not at all. I think the one time I really had him, one of the offensive linemen peeled back and got a good shot at me. Kudos to them. I think, again, we collapsed the pocket. I hit him with the offensive linemen a few times this game. The one time, between me and (Bryan) Bresee had a sack, I think a penalty happened. I had the ball in my hands, I mean that's a fumble. Where does a penalty come from? It's cool, it's just stats off the board for me. Don't worry about it, it's just my legacy.

RE: On limiting teams to no touchdowns

At the crap time. Like fourth quarter when we need it the most. I hate that. I think that we have done a great job the first game, not letting any touchdowns happen. I think we are on track. You have to finish all four quarters. Two minutes left, whatever it is, you can't let them score like that. That's just things we have to tighten up on.

RE: On stopping the running game

Yeah, I mean absolutely. I think we have guys like Khalen Saunders and Malcolm Roach really focusing on stopping the run. They are doing a phenomenal job this year. I think with Bryan Bresee rotating in with Nathan Shepherd, again I think we have a great possibility to have a great interior line. We have to keep on growing. I think that Carl Granderson, again, if you try and chip me, Carl is turning up and he is turning up the heat suddenly, rapidly. I love the way our defensive line is playing right now.

RE: On Carl Granderson

Nothing, what've you seen differently. I have been talking highly from two, three years now. You guys are finally listening. Once we got beyond the reverse worm that he tried on his first sack, after that we are doing great.



Postgame Quotes

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PANTHERS HEAD COACH FRANK REICH

RE: Opening Statement

Start out with an injury report. Shaq [Thompson] did have a significant ankle injury. Probably is going to miss some extended time but we need further evaluation with the doctors tomorrow. We will give you the information when we have a full evaluation. Tough loss. We just have to own every bit of it. We have to learn and got to get better. Obviously, I thought the defense really played well. Kept us in the game for a really long time. I was encouraged. 6-3 at halftime. It felt like we were struggling, I know. Like we were behind the sticks all the time. Just couldn't get into rhythm. Couldn't get momentum on offense. Some penalties and miscues had us behind the sticks. Defense kept us in. Made plays, got some turnovers. That was good. I thought special teams played well. I was talking in there for a little bit, not with the team, just talking with a couple guys. I've seen this before. It's not that far away. It looks bad but, really, I don't believe that it's that far away. We make a couple plays here or there and next thing you know you have 28, 30 points. I know that's true. I know we have the players and the coaches to do it. I have zero doubt about that. It's just we have to execute better on offense. I'll open it up from there.

RE: Whether there are a couple plays that back up what you just said about being close on offense...

Fair question Joe [Pearson]. Let me look at the film. Again, I don't like to single plays or players out. But I just know in the course of the game there were a couple opportunities here and there that we just have to be better on and have a chance.

RE: Bryce Young handling pressure

I think Bryce is handling the pressure well. Listen, he is a quarterback. Head coach, quarterback, we are going to take the heat. That just comes with the territory. You own that. You understand that when you are in that position. Bryce understands that for the position he is in. I can tell you this. It is certainly - our struggle on offense, it's not one person. Again, we will look at the film but I thought Bryce did some really positive things, made some plays with his feet, made some good decisions, made good throws, showed plenty of things that we want to see. So, I was encouraged by that. I know how hard it is to play that position. I've been around it a long time. I know how dependent it is on everything. We all have to get better. Everybody has to get better - coaches and players. That's the way we work through it.

RE: Receivers

I thought the receivers ran good routes. I thought there were some things that looked good out there at times. So again, I have to take a closer look at the film, but, I am confident in our group of receivers. Yeah, I'm confident in our group of receivers.

RE: Whether there are any plans to have Thomas Brown call plays during regular season and whether that would that be a decision made in-game

That is not a change I would make in game. Listen, I mentioned this before, the way that we call plays, I'm calling the plays but it is very collaborative. I'm talking to those guys on the sidelines but I'm the one that calls them. I'm always going to do what I think is best for the team. Right now, I think it's best for the team that I'm calling the plays. I'm confident in the play calling. We all have to get better but I'm not ready to do anything there. Thomas is a great coach. One day I want him to call it. When that will be, I don't know. Right now, I know it's a lot of things. It's not the play calling. I can be better. All the coaches can be better. All the players can be better. I'm not saying it's perfect but I'm confident we have the coaches and the players and the play caller to be better on offense.

RE: Whether you want to enhance the physicality of the running game

I thought last week we ran the ball well. We didn't get to the run game early. We were behind the sticks. I just felt like we were behind and in long yardage situations. I have to go back and look at it. It just felt to me like I wanted to call more runs. We had that one nice run on the second play of the game. I said, 'Ohh, that's a good sign.' Downhill run. We busted up there for plus 10. But just had a hard time getting back to some of the runs when we were behind the sticks.

RE: Whether decision to insert Calvin Throckmorton at right guard was injury related...

We had talked about giving him a few plays in the game so that was kind of planned out.

RE: How big a blow was the fumble after defense forced the turnover

You know, every turnover hurts, every turnover hurts. That's one of those unfortunate ones. He made several plays with his feet today, just when a guy comes behind him, you know gets the ball out. It was a tough break, but we have to try to minimize turnovers.

RE: Whether he has a sounding board on the sideline that he relies on for play-calling

Oh yeah, believe me, I'm talking to everybody, I'm talking to everybody all the time. I'm primarily talking to Thomas (Brown), I'm talking to Parks Frazier who is our pass game coordinator and I'm talking to (James) Campen our o-line coach. Those are the main guys. We are all collaborating, so everybody else feeds their information through those three guys and then I'm talking to those two games about finding out, hey what's our next move. We collaborate on that together in between series, sometimes in between plays, sometimes thinking out two plays in advance. I'll be calling a play on first down and I'll say hey Thomas and Parks let's just look at the third down options, so we can talk about it when we get there. So, kind of in that mode.

RE: Scattered boos when the offense was on the field

Yeah, I don't think that's Bryce. That's on me, that's on our team. That's part of it. I don't like it. Believe me, we want to give the fans wins and an exciting brand of football. That's what we are going to do. That's what we are planning on doing. It's a process. We are two games into a 17-game season. Things haven't gone the way we want it. But nobody is throwing in the towel, I mean it's a long year. We have another game coming up here Sunday. It will be up on us real quick. So, we have to learn from this one and get better for next week.

RE: On limited carries for Chubba Hubbard

I just think it was more like we couldn't get the run game going. Just not as many plays. We had 79 plays last week. We had 79 offensive plays. That was I think might have been the most in the NFL last week or right up there. So naturally everybody was going to get more plays on offense. Tonight, I don't know what we had, but I know it wasn't anywhere close. Like you said, I just felt like we were struggling a lit bit behind the sticks. I felt like we were going to snap out of it. I felt like we hit a couple of plays, there were a couple things that look good, and I thought we were going to snap out of it and we just couldn't seem to do that. So, we'll keep working.

RE: On message to the team after a slow start...

This is a week-to-week league. All that matters is the next week. We started 1-5 and made the playoffs one year. I'm not saying that is easy to do, we don't want to do that, we don't want to start off poorly, but every year it happens. We can't play all the hypothetical scenarios in this league as coaches. I understand that everybody else has to do that. If I was a fan or if I was a journalist, I would be thinking all those things. For coaches and players, we are thinking about Seattle. We're thinking about, hey let's watch this tape. Let's see how each one of us can get better. And stay in the present. Forget everything else. All that matters is Seattle. This one there is nothing we can do about it except learn from our mistakes. So, we will learn from our mistakes and get ready for Seattle.

RE: Whether there is fear that Shaq's ankle is broken

I don't know yet. I don't want to say. So, I don't have that information yet.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

PANTHERS QB BRYCE YOUNG

RE: On the team attempting more passes than running the ball as the game progressed

We come in with a plan and you go throughout and you feel the game out. There wasn't, I don't feel like, a direction that we should have gone in or there is something wrong with this play. It was just us not executing. I think we were put in great positions to execute. First and foremost, I have to do a lot better job of executing. I think, again, just our DNA of all of us, we look in the mirror and we all want to be better as a unit. We were put in the right places. It's just on us to execute, especially on myself to do a better job today.

RE: On if the touchdown drive in the fourth quarter can build momentum into next week's game

You try to build on positive things, but it's not going to carry over for any points on Sunday. Just like any week, there is good and bad. You want to, obviously, correct the bad, get that cleaned up and then there is positive stuff that we can look at and try to continue to build off of. I think it's more just trying to - the things that went well, positive plays, how can we more consistent on those?

RE: On the Saints defense

A really good group. Guys who you can tell very much so understand the defense. They play together, play hard, very physical. Again, just know exactly where they are supposed to be. They play together. Obviously, we didn't do enough offensively. They did a good job. They did a great job. Obviously, it's a really good defense. For us, that's not an excuse. They have been really good and we knew that coming in. That wasn't a surprise or anything. We knew they were a really good defense, but still, we have to do a better job of executing. Obviously, defensively, they definitely got the best of us. All of credit goes to them for that.

RE: On trying to create plays down field

That's just on me, making sure that when it's there, I take advantage of it. Hitting throws. And then a miss, obviously, I have to do a better job of that. There is down the field stuff that gets called that maybe I don't get all the way through it or as far as just - whatever it may be, but it's on me. Again, we're put in good places to execute. As a unit, we need to do a better job and that starts with me. That is on me.

RE: On responding to defensive pressure in the first two games

Honestly, I think our offensive line has done a great job. We have gone against some really good rushers. There is a lot of good defensive schemes when you get in known passing. It's tough, but still, I think they have done a great job. They have done a great job on base downs. Third downs, I think they have done a really good job. Again, it gets a lot harder when you are in known passing situations. You are not going to go a full game with 100 percent clean pocket. Those guys get paid well, too, on that end, but I have a tremendous amount of faith in the offensive line. I think they have done a great job. Just the way they go out and they fight and they battle and they battle to the end. It really means a lot to me. I think they are doing a great job and I have all of the confidence in the world with them.

RE: On Shaq Thompson's injury and if he said anything to the team

Even there, still with us, still leading. Shaq is a leader for us. Obviously, he is a great player. Obviously, does a lot on the field, but he does a lot more, too, for us, just being a leader in the locker room. When you see that, especially with a guy like Shaq, that really hurts. We all hate to see it. Again, that's our brother. Someone that means a lot to us as a team. We're all praying for him.

RE: On how he thinks his size has translated to the NFL

I don't know what it's like to be tall, to be honest with you. It has been the same. I think there are a lot of things I can improve on. There are a lot of things I can get better at. Obviously, we have to do a better job. We're 0-2, so we have to do a better job. There are a lot of things that I am going to look back on and try to be better at. We all want to look in the mirror and grow. But, again, I don't really know what it's like to be tall, so I can't compare it to something else.

RE: On the difficulties of an offense to operate when there are so many penalties

Obviously not ideal when you're behind the sticks. But first and foremost I have to do a better job of orchestrating all that. Being in command, making sure we're at the line of scrimmage with enough time to go, making sure that we're all on the same page. If there is something that isn't communicating well, making sure that I go over there and make sure we're on the same page and make things correct. At the end of the day, that's on me making sure that the operation is smoother.

RE: On what changed on the drive that they were able to make it to the end zone compared to the rest of the game

Just execution. We were able to execute that drive, but obviously that was too little too late. I think just being able to put one together and execute. A lot of times when we're one thing away I miss throws that should've kept the sticks moving, but it was just execution. I think we're in good spots to be successful and we just didn't make enough plays to win and that starts with me.

RE: On if he wished they used the tight ends more

That's not a "me" call. Again, there's stuff that we have designed and we have stuff going in. Coach Reich and all offensive coaches, again, they've done a great job consistently of putting us in good situations, situations to succeed. We have to do a better job of executing. I have to do a better job of leading the execution. So, I definitely trust them with all of our plans moving forward.

RE: On the fumble in the red zone

I have to do a better job of making sure that I'm secure with the ball. No, I didn't see him, but when you're outside of the pocket, most of the time, it's the guy you don't see and I have to do a better job of being aware of that and putting the ball away. Obviously a really costly turnover, especially when you end up losing by three and we're in the right area so obviously stuff like that can't happen.

RE: On doing a lot of things right and how far away he feels from it all coming together

I think there's stuff that has gone well that we can build off of. Obviously, we're not where we need to be right now, but there's no loss of confidence, no loss of faith in the locker room. I'm grateful to be a part of this team. I believe in the team. Believe in the coaching staff. I feel like we have what it takes and we just have to execute and do a better job of putting it together, but ultimately we have to go out and prove that. I'm confident. I have faith and tremendous belief in the team and this whole building. We still have to earn the right to go and prove that to the world. I'm excited for that challenge.

RE: On taking accountability and what having to "be better" means

Just making sure that I'm intentional with how I learn from things throughout the week. Intentional in holding my process. Intentional in improving little things that I want to get done specifically. Intentional in learning and making sure that I'm able to not just see something, but make sure I can grow from it. I think it's just a lot about being intentional with that stuff. The great thing about the locker room is I'm not the only one who takes accountability. I'm not the only one who feels like this. We talk a lot and we all feel. We all want to look in the mirror. We all have belief. We believe in each other. There's no pointing fingers. We all want to look in the mirror. We all feel like we can be better and I know that for a fact. From me, there's stuff that I want back and have to grow from and continue to improve at but I'm grateful to be in a locker room where we all share that feeling and share that belief. I'm definitely grateful for that.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

PANTHERS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER BRIAN BURNS

RE: On seeing Shaq Thompson go down

Tough. Real tough. I pray it's not season-ending. I have yet to figure out what it is exactly, but yeah, tough to see one of the main leaders on the defense go down.

RE: On how his ankle feels

I'm alright. I'll be fine for next week. I just hurt it early in the first quarter but I'll be straight.

RE: On positives to build on after tonight's defensive performance

I wouldn't necessarily say that. There's still plays out there that can be made by the defense that can put the offense in position to capitalize, so I definitely wouldn't say that. I think we need to get in, hone in on what we need to do to help them out a little more.

RE: On Jaycee Horn and Shaq Thompson being injured in consecutive weeks

Both of those guys are star players. They make plays. Shaq really is the motor to the defense, in a way where he controls everything, so his presence is definitely going to be felt now that he's out. Like I said, it's a business and this is the game we play and stuff happens so we have to keep going.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

PANTHERS DEFENSIVE END DERRICK BROWN

RE: On what Shaq Thompson going down means to the defense and his reaction

Man, it sucks. He's our leader and for him to go down we're going to keep loving on him, figure out what's wrong with him and go back to work tomorrow to try to get a win for him.

RE: On what it means for the whole team to leave the bench to greet Thompson as he was carted off
There's no doubt about who the leader is on this team. I think you all saw that in full display tonight and for him to go down hurts everybody.

RE: On how the defense takes the loss

Not well when you give up points that allow the other team to win. If I'm being honest, we got to get better. We can't let them score. We have to go out there and do our best.

RE: On if it's hard to take positives away from the loss

You take away the positives. You can't focus on the negatives. We had a lot of negative plays and we'll get in there and watch the film tomorrow. (We will) go back to work, get ready to get on a plane Saturday and head to Seattle to try to win one.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

PANTHERS CORNERBACK DONTÉ JACKSON

RE: On His assessment of the defense tonight

(We need to) just keep improving on the details, on the small things and on finishing. I think we took a big step as a defense tonight. We just have to keep going, score points, get more turnovers and keep holding each other accountable to continue taking the next steps.

RE: On Shaq Thompson going down and the impact on the team

It has a huge impact because Shaq is one of those players that has been my teammate for six years. He's just one of those players that you would never think anything could happen to him. He's like Ironman out there. To see that was definitely heartbreaking. You see something happen to Shaq and you just automatically think that he's going to pop right back up there and be ready to go. When you see the cart (everyone) just comes to the realization that maybe it is bad. It sucks and it takes the air out of the place. The type of leader he is and the type of player he is he wouldn't want us to hang our heads or bat an eye. He would just want us to go full speed and go straight ahead so that's what we're going to do for him. We're going to work. We're going to be fresh in here in the morning working on anything we can do to be better.

RE: On being 0-2 and how they want to respond

We're a team and we answer every call whenever. We just have to be better on the details, execute and (continue) doing everything we need to do to keep advancing this defense and our style of play.



Postgame Quotes

New Orleans Saints at Carolina Panthers – September 18, 2023

PANTHERS WIDE RECEIVER DJ CHARK JR.

RE: On what he's seen from Bryce Young and how Bryce can be better

I think he's doing well. He's taking what he gets. He was big for us down the stretch, the run that he had. Just figuring out ways to help us out. We have to help him out. Progress needs to be made on our end to help him out. This is just his second game, so I take full responsibility to make sure that he has a good game.

RE: On morale after starting 0-2

Answering this question right after the L, it's tough. Nobody's happy, but we also know that we have a lot to play for. It's just Week Two going into Week Three. We understand that we have to get it together, definitely us on offense. We have to put that on our shoulders and make it happen. We have all the pieces. A lot of credit to our defense for keeping us in the game the whole time and just as teammates you have to help them out.

RE: On if they need to work on making big plays

It's obviously something that we have to work on. Be able to dial it up at the right time. Be able to execute when we get the chance. We feel like it's coming, but it's just unfortunate that we weren't able to display that today.