



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS CAROLINA PANTHERS
SUNDAY, DEC. 29, 2019 • BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints finish their regular season 13-3 for the fourth time in franchise history, all since 2009, giving them back-to-back 13-win seasons for the first time in franchise history. The last team with back-to-back seasons of at least 13 wins were the 2016 and 2017 New England Patriots.
- The win improves New Orleans' all-time regular record against the Panthers in the regular season to 25-25, giving them an overall 26-25 mark including the 2017 NFC Wild Card Playoff win. The Panthers are now the tenth NFL team the Saints have an all-time winning record against.
- The Saints wrap up their regular season road record at 7-1, giving them a 7-1 road mark for the fourth time in franchise history and for the first time in back-to-back seasons.
- The win gives the Saints a season sweep against the Panthers, their second against Carolina in three seasons. Having already swept Tampa Bay, the win gives them their first season sweep against two NFC South opponents in the same season since 2013, when they swept Atlanta and Tampa Bay.
- New Orleans set an NFL record for the fewest turnovers in a single season with eight, surpassing the previous marks set by the 2010 Patriots with 10 and the 2011 49ers with 11.
- With only two lost fumbles in 2019, New Orleans finishes tied with the 2002 Kansas City Chiefs and 2014 Minnesota Vikings for the fewest lost fumbles in a season.
- HC **Sean Payton** now has a 14-12 regular season record against the Panthers, 15-12 including the playoff win. The win gives him a 7-6 road mark at Carolina and at least a .500 regular season mark against 27 of 31 NFL opponents.
- Facing Panthers Interim Head Coach **Perry Fewell** for the first time as a head coach, the win makes him the 67th coach Payton has a victory against and the 49th coach he has a winning mark against.
- Offensively, New Orleans racked up 379 yards with 264 passing yards and 115 rushing yards.
- QB **Drew Brees** started and completed 19-of-30 passes for 253 yards, three touchdowns, and a 123.3 quarterback rating. Brees led the Saints on six scoring drives resulting in six touchdowns.
- Brees finished the regular season with 27 touchdown passes in 2019, the 14th season Brees has thrown for 25 or more touchdowns, moving into a tie with **Tom Brady** for second place in NFL record books behind **Peyton Manning**.
- Today marked the 200th regular season start of Drew Brees with Sean Payton as his head coach. The only QB combination to exceed is **Tom Brady** and **Bill Belichick** who started 281 on Sunday.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** led the team in receiving with five catches for 56 yards and a touchdown. Smith recorded his longest catch of the season on a 32-yard reception from Brees.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished the game with four catches for 37 yards.
- Thomas finished with 149 receptions on the season and currently has sizable leads for both the league lead in receptions and receiving yards. If he continues to be the league leader in both categories, it would be the first time that the same player was the leader in both categories since Antonio Brown's 129 grabs for 1,698 yards in 2014.
- TE **Jared Cook** caught two passes for 44 yards and a touchdown. Cook finished the 2019 season with a career -high nine touchdown receptions.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** finished with 39 yards on eight carries with two rushing touchdowns.
- With 57 yards from scrimmage, he joins RB Deuce McAllister (2002-04) as only the second Saint with 1,300 total yards from scrimmage in three consecutive seasons.
- QB **Taysom Hill** started the game as a tight end, catching both a career-long reception and scoring play on a 45-yard touchdown from Brees. Hill also carried twice for four yards.

- New Orleans finished the regular season with 51 sacks in 2019, surpassing the 50-sack mark for the ninth time in franchise history and for the first time since 2001.
- The Saints also extended their streak of not giving up 100 rushing yards to an individual player to 42 regular season and postseason contests.
- LB **A.J. Klein** tied for a team-best six tackles and recorded his first career interception return for a touchdown.
- CB **Janoris Jenkins** intercepted his first pass as a Saint, picking off Panther's QB Kyle Allen in the end zone on Carolina's final offensive possession of the game. Jenkins also added five tackles and two passes defended.
- DB **Justin Hardee** set a new career-high in tackles, tying Klein with six.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** finished with one sack, setting a career-high 15.5 sacks in 2019 and tying DL **Wayne Martin** (15.5-1992) for the fourth-highest single-season total in club history. With his 144th career appearance on Sunday, he moves into a tie with LS **Kevin Houser** for 16th on the club's all-time list.
- LB **Craig Robertson** finished with four tackles today and has now reached 600 defensive and special teams tackles for his career.
- Playing in his 174th career game, P **Thomas Morstead punted** six times for 283 yards (47.2 avg.) with two inside the 20-yard line.
- K **Wil Lutz** converted six extra points, setting a new career high with 144 points.
- The Saints extended their streak to 288 regular season games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002 at Raymond James Stadium, the longest running streak in the National Football League and fourth overall.



POSTGAME QUOTES

Carolina Panthers vs. New Orleans Saints

Sunday, December 29, 2019

New Orleans Saints

Head Coach Sean Payton
New Orleans Saints

RE: Game Summary

I thought there were a lot of good things I was pleased with. I thought early on we got out and took advantage of field position, created field position and did all the things you need to do to win a game like this.

RE: Fast start

We tried to focus really on playing our best game. Each of these last, call it the last quarter of the season, really preparing to play playoff football and I thought we started fast so that was encouraging.

RE: Team's play going into playoffs

I think good. I was pleased with the second half of last week. I was pleased with how we started this game.

RE: Did you watch the Green Bay game

Yeah, we watched the end of that game. It was on one of the tv's in there. Obviously, a close game. We'll see what happens tonight. Look, those are things you can't control, so we'll be ready with either scenario.

RE: Confidence in team

You just find yourself after you've done this long enough to focus on the things you can control and fortunately, we're in the position to be in the postseason. We know we're going to be playing a home game. Those are positives.

RE: Thoughts on secondary

We'll look at the tape, but I thought overall pretty well. We had some moving parts and we had a handful of guys not going. We had guys back from injury. That was encouraging. Overall, I was pleased.

RE: Week 17 game strategy

We're playing for a lot. I can't speak for the other games, but I felt like our players understood. We wanted to get our 13th win. That's hard to do. We felt like – we took the approach all week we're really working on our edge for in preparation when postseason starts.

RE: Is there an advantage with something on the line

It's hard to play this game if you're not emotionally and physically ready. In other words, there are times when seeding has been established that we've sat players and that's a different picture. I thought from the minute we got here I thought we handled it right. I thought pre-game was on point. I felt like we were ready to play.

RE: Team at 13-3 and possibly 3rd seed

In 2006 we won 10 games and we were the 2 seed, so it varies sometimes.

RE: Significance of winning 13 games

Hey, you just want to win more than we lose. You want to win each time you play. I don't know that that's a certain benchmark goal. The first goal is winning your division. The second goal may be getting the best possible seed you can get and it's just hard to do in this league.

RE: Consistent back to back winning seasons

I was pleased with these guys and their effort. I thought we had a good week. We weren't in pads during the week and yet our periods were crisp. We got outside some. That was important.

RE: Jared Cook

He made a heck of a catch today. He's got a big catch radius. I love to see how he's playing right now. Last week he had a significant game and a few weeks back prior to going out of the game he already had two touchdowns, so he's a big part of what we do.

RE: Defensive play since 49ers game

That's one game against a real good team, but I think that we've added a few pieces because of some injuries, but those guys have done well.

RE: Carley McCord death impact

We're devastated because there are so many ties. She was just so visible and around our program. I know our players have reacted and our organization. Thoughts and prayers go out to her family. It was tough news. All of us in Louisiana felt the same way. You can't explain it. Having young children myself you just... pray for her family. It was really difficult news to get and we got it yesterday. She was just someone that was always smiling, always upbeat and that's how I remember her in her job.

RE: Birthday plans

No. We'll fly back and hopefully watch a little of the evening game and kind of go from there.

RE: Andrus Peat and Larry Warford competing

I thought it was important to give both he and Larry - I didn't want to go into a playoff game with both of them fresh off an injury. I thought it was important for those guys to play today, and yeah, they're always competing. Nick's (Easton) done a good job. They couldn't play until they were healthy and they were cleared so... Our plan was to rotate through those three players and we were able to do that.

RE: Challenge went your way

That's like a hard 8 in Vegas, huh? Right? That was nice. I thought it was the right rule. I was appreciative of it. There's my birthday gift.

Quarterback Drew Brees
New Orleans Saints

RE: Can you speak to the significance of going 13-3 and how difficult that is in this league and going back-to-back years?

It is extremely difficult and obviously it was a strong year in the NFC. There are few other teams out there in that position and it's rare to be 13-3 and the potential be a three seed. That happened to us back in 2011. A lot of strong teams out there, I think it says a lot about our guys. Down the stretch here I think we've been an ascending team. We've been playing a little bit better each and every week, despite the fact that we have had some guys go down. We have had young guys step up or go sign veteran guys that have come in and played well for us. That happened today on the defensive side of the ball, a couple of guys in the secondary. You always want to be in a position where you can control your destiny, right? I think we did that. We have positioned ourselves to where, hopefully, there is a chance that we can get a first round bye; but if not then hey we are preparing for whoever we are going to play this week and here we go.

RE: What do you like best about the way you have been playing lately?

I think we have been balanced on offense. I think we have run the ball effectively. We have been efficient in the passing game. We have sort of made some bigger plays in the passing game, with different guys. I think overall, just efficiency, all the things you pay attention to, that equate to winning football - taking care of the football, third down percentage, redzone efficiency, all of those things are ticking up in the right direction, which is good. Defensively, those guys have been battling. Quite a few injuries I think over the last few weeks. The lineup has been getting shuffled around, but guys are stepping up and playing really well. They played fantastic today, especially early on. For us to come on the road and win the way we have, I think the last two weeks, I think that says a lot about the team understanding that good chance we have to go on the road in the playoffs and do the same thing. I think that's good from a confidence perspective there.

RE: Jared Cook

You said it, big catch radius, right? You know Eric Reid is a big safety, and that's the guy who's on him, and yet you still feel like there's places where you can throw the ball and where he can get it and nobody else can. I think he tracks the ball well and does some really good things down the field too. Big play last week, big play this week on some of those down the field throws and obviously he is a big weapon for us.

RE: NFL Record for fewest turnovers in a season

I would say that's probably the thing we are most proud of. When you talk about this offense, I think you talk about it being explosive and you talk about these weapons and the pace at which we play and for us to be able to say in addition to that, we also take very, very good care of the football. It is something we preach. It's something we work on. It's something always talked about and always stressed with what we do. That number alone equates to a lot of winning football, right? And you combine that with some of the other things that we talked about, balance and efficiency and situational football and scoring points when you get the opportunity, those are good things.

RE: What were some of things you wanted to see happen with the offense today in preparation for the playoffs?

We wanted to move the ball, we wanted to score points, we wanted to be efficient, we wanted to spread it around, we were able to do all those things, take care of the football obviously and then get the win. And get the win in a way that we felt like we got better today and I think we did.

Defensive End Cameron Jordan
New Orleans Saints

RE: On today's game

This is a statement game. I feel like we're just about to peak. I feel like we still have room to improve in some of our game. The fact that they were able to put three points on the board that first half, and another seven points in the second half. There's room for improvement.

RE: On today's outlook heading into the game

Control what you can control. All of the seeding pictures, everybody has their educations of "what happens if." At the end of the day, if we win this game we have a chance. If we win this game, we make a statement. The way we won this game, we made a statement.

RE: On today's performance

They're missing Shaq Thompson. They're missing Cam Newton. Their leadership in terms of Ron Rivera is gone. This puts it on what we can take advantage of, and I feel like we went out there and did exactly what we're supposed to do. That's how you execute a game plan.

Wide Receiver Michael Thomas
New Orleans Saints

RE: On the team's goals moving forward

Definitely the goal right now is to be the ascendant team. Coach [Sean Payton] talks about it all the time week in and week out. Scoring a lot of points, putting points on the board, and having complete wins from all units from special teams, offense, and defense. We just have to watch the film and continue to build.

RE: On today's mindset

Just focus on controlling what we can control. Focus on the task ahead of us, and just make the plays when they present themselves. We knew there was going to be some weather difficulties and stuff. Just perform and play for one another.

RE: On today's performance

We saw a lot of big plays from a lot of guys. We spread the ball around. Offense played good, but we can still go in the right direction. The defense, it was nice to see a couple guys back out there. Kiko [Alonso] and some of the other guys we've picked up that have joined us. Just seeing them out there contributing and starting to buy into the culture. The most important thing is just playing the perfect game, and on to the next one.



POSTGAME QUOTES

Carolina Panthers vs. New Orleans Saints

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Carolina Panthers

Head Coach Perry Fewell
Carolina Panthers

RE: Summary of the season

You know there are four quarters in a season, we didn't finish the second half of the season, the last eight games, very strong; which is disappointing for the players, for the coaches, for the fans, for the organization. It's just disappointing because you put in a lot of hard work, there is a lot of guys that care, there are a lot of fans that care, the organization cares, and we just weren't successful as we wanted to be.

RE: Does anything in particular standout with this team's struggle to stop the run?

To stop the run, you know I have said it before, it's about shedding blocks, it's getting off blocks, it's whipping the guy in front of you and it's tackling and we didn't do that very well.

RE: Do you have any update on Will Grier and what happened with his foot?

I do not have any medical update.

RE: What went into the decision to keep Luke Kuechly and Greg Olsen off the field for the second half?

It was just a coaching decision. We just made the decision and went with it.

RE: If Greg Olsen does call it a career, what does he mean to you, what has he meant to this organization?

To me, because I have coached against him, he has been a pain the ass because he is really good. Excuse my French, but I have tried defend him a number of different ways but it seems like when he and Cam (Newton) were really in synch you couldn't defend that guy. For the organization I think he has been one of the premier tight ends in this organization. I know they have had Wesley (Walls), they've had some good tight ends in this organization, and he should be one of the top-tier tight ends within this organization.

RE: How much of it was a focal point to go get that record for Christian McCaffrey and what did it mean for him to reach that?

Well it's no surprise that he is our offense. We just ran our offense, we definitely wanted him to obtain that record. So yeah, that was a big focal point for us. That was a goal that not only Christian (McCaffrey) had, but the organization as well as the team had for Christian.

RE: How would you assess Brian Burns' first season in the league?

He had good moments and he had some not so good moments. He had a rookie season. We wish those moments could have been high moments throughout the season. He suffered an injury during the course of this season. He will grow and he will learn from that because you have to play with some of those injuries sometimes.

RE: What would you say are the positives that can be taken, if any, from this season to next year and for the next chapter.

Well I think the positives are that you have Marty Hurney here, that is a really good general manager. I think Mr. Tepper wants to do whatever it takes to win. You have Christian McCaffrey and you have Luke Kuechly and that's two good foundation pieces to build upon.

RE: Can you put into perspective what Christian did and what that means to him and the guys around him.

I just think that Christian (McCaffrey) is such a special player. He does so many things well that I thought Norv (Tuner), Scott (Turner) and the entire offensive staff did a great job of highlighting him and getting him the touches that he really needs. If you don't have a coaching staff that can do that, provide him with the touches that he needs, then he wouldn't accomplish what he accomplished. So I thought that was a good player and coach working hand-in-hand. I thought the guys around him, his teammates, they definitely supported that also; and they were unselfish throughout that whole process.

RE: How would you describe this experience for you?

Growing up in this area, you never think you would get a chance to represent your pro team, and it was pretty special. I would say that I am disappointed because we couldn't produce W's but that's pretty special.

***Running Back Christian McCaffrey
Carolina Panthers***

RE: On his successes this season

I am very appreciative that I got to play with a lot of cool players who have helped me. This season I have a lot of people to thank. But, at the end of the day I think we've learned as a Panthers organization, as a team, I speak for both states, that the most important stat is winning and we didn't get that done this year. The individual statistics, obviously they're great and cool and stuff you can look back on be proud of yourself, but we would love to get this thing fixed and fixed quick.

RE: On the first time he was made aware of a 1,000/1,000 season

I'm not sure I remember the exact moment when I was aware of it. Every year I write down little goals and that was one of them. It's cool when you accomplish one of the goal you write down, but obviously I reiterate this enough, but the most important statistic is winning. And it's a shame. I look at guys like Greg Olsen and Luke Kuechly and I look at them and they deserve better. And, once again, there is a lot to learn from this season and the most important thing is taking the goods and bads and somehow, if you can, enjoy the ride and learn from everything. We'll decompress and get back after it next year.

RE: On Greg Olsen's impact

You can't replace a guy like Greg Olsen. That someone who, I just read a text from Ryan Kalil when I had gotten drafted. Kalil and Olsen sent me a selfie, and I didn't know them back, but they sent me a selfie. Just a big text saying how happy they were. I look at things like that and from day one, there's a lot of jokes about Greg being my Dad ... If this is his last one, obviously there has been a lot of people that have impacted me and he's right up there with the best. I can't speak enough good words about him to do the justice of the impact he's had on this team. The impact he's had on the community. The impact he's had on the Carolinas and the entire football league. He's one of the most respected guys. That's going to be a very sad day for all of us. But, the career he's had, obviously he's done a lot on the field, the impact he's had on me off the field means a lot more than that.

RE: What has Olsen taught you

He's taught me a lot. He's taught me a lot about football. But if you look at what he's gone through with his son, TJ, who had heart issues when he was young. He easily could have just fought through it and passed it, but instead he built a wing on a hospital and now he helps kids every single day. He raises thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars, so that kids who go through that same thing don't have to struggle. I think that's a testament that goes beyond the game of football to who Greg Olsen is.

RE: How will you look back at the season

It was a whirlwind. It's not what we wanted. It's not what a lot of people wanted. You win or you learn. And, obviously, we lost a lot, but there's two ways you can go about it – you mope about it and cry about it and whine, but that does no good. Like I say every week, win or lose, you've got to treat the next Monday and Tuesday as reflections and get back to the drawing board. Correct your mistakes and capitalize on what you did well and go from there. Control what you can control.

RE: How did you keep your head late in the season

It's tough. This league is not a friendly league. When it's good it's really good, when it's bad it's really bad. Things can go really good for quick. And things can go really bad for quick. The biggest thing I've learned this year is to control your emotions and not get too high, not get too low. Stay poised. When adversity strikes it's how you handle it because it's going to happen, that's inevitable. If you look at the 2015 season these guys had, undefeated season, essentially, lost one game and a Super Bowl run. Two or three years later and it does this. Guys who ride the wave of emotion are in a bad, bad area. So, you've got to stay poised and you've got to learn from everything and do whatever you can to let it not happen again.

RE: What did you do to help Will Grier and Kyle Allen

Those guys did a great job. They were thrown into the fire quick under really bad circumstances. I don't necessarily think I told myself to do anything more. The biggest thing was just communication. Making sure we're on the same page. Doing my job to the best of my ability and that's what I think everybody should do. We have a lot of guys who do, do that.

RE: On growing up with football

This game is the greatest game in the world. And the higher level you get, the more stuff comes with it. But I think the biggest thing that I've realized is to always have that kid in you. To always have that love for the game that you had when you were seven, eight years old when you were playing in the park with your brothers or the backyard or the basement. Whatever it was, it's important to have that same love for the game otherwise you start to play for the wrong reasons. One of the biggest reasons I play is

because I do love this game. I think it's been pretty much all I've known my whole life. I watch guys like Luke Kuechly and what an example he is. What an example he's set for everybody on how to play and enjoy playing.

RE: Where do you think the organization is

We'll see. I don't want to sit here and make predictions. A lot goes into winning football games. You've got to realize how hard it is to win a football game in this league. We're just going to focus day-by-day on controlling us. I think the more you look into the future, the more you get thrown off the course of what's going on now. Right now, decompression time. Get off my feet and sulk, if you want to call it that. Get some family time. And when it's time to get back after it were' going to do so, pretty heavy.

RE: How have you held up physically

Body feels good. You've always got to count your blessing when you get through a season healthy. I feel good. Body's fine. No issues.

RE: Are you ready to take on a bigger leadership role

Definitely. I think the biggest thing with our team, too, we have a lot of young guys, especially on the offensive side of the ball. The quicker we get those guys to realize they are also leaders, the faster we can start moving forward with this thing. We have a lot of guys who have earned their stripes. It takes everybody. The biggest for us is to set a high standard this offseason and go from there. It takes a village and football is not easy. It's not a one man show and it never has been. You look at some of the best teams in the world and they play great team football.

Tight End Greg Olsen
Carolina Panthers

RE: His thoughts as he was walking off the field

Got a lot of great memories playing here. If that is my last one, I'm not going to let these past weeks kind of ruin what's been just an amazing nine year experience. The guys I've gotten to play with, the people I've gotten to work with, the people in this organization, the fan base, the community – from day one, embraced me, embraced my family. I couldn't be more thankful for these past nine years here. Just a great place to play. I'm proud of a lot of the things we've accomplished. I'm proud of how far we were able to take this team. The things we were able to accomplish, the games we were able to play in – those are memories that I'll always remember. When you think back, those are the ones that stand out, obviously. It's kind of a bitter pill to swallow here the way this last four weeks has gone down, but it doesn't take away from what we've accomplished here as a group. The guys that have poured a lot of time, and effort, and sweat into this organization, into this community. Those are things that I'll always remember.

RE: If he felt a sense of goodbye when gathering with his teammates in the locker room

I just think sometimes the writing's on the wall. That hasn't been anything officially, but I wanted to make sure that if that was my last that I made sure I told the people that I needed to how much they meant on my career, how much I enjoy playing with these guys and playing with these coaches, the trainers, the staff. We've got unbelievable groups of people here that allow us every day to do this, and I just wanted to make sure that I didn't have any regrets about how this year ended in the event that that

was the last time I'd play or see a lot of these people. I wanted to make sure they understood how much they've meant to me and my career.

RE: Will it be easier to look back on the good times he mentioned and not

There's nothing we can really do about it. So, you just kind of sit back and just see how it unfolds. I'm sure they'll make good decision upstairs and figure it out. For us, we just kind of sit back and wait and see what happens. I know guys will be ready to go.

Quarterback Kyle Allen
Carolina Panthers

RE: RB Christian McCaffrey's ability to get open once the play breaks down

Yeah, he's just really spatially aware. He understands the game. He understands just defenses in general. He's lethal like that. You see a lot on scramble plays where he's the one that gets the ball. It's Christian McCaffrey, it's incredible.

RE: McCaffrey's pass catching ability as a running back

It's just how we run our offense. You see the volume of receptions he has and how big of a part of our passing game he is. He's going to get those catches. A lot of them are short, some of them are down the field, but it's all about him breaking tackles and him making plays after the catch, which helps him get those yards. We're going to try to get the ball to him as much as we can in any way that we can. So, he's going to be a part of all the parts of our offense.

RE: How he describes this season

It's a good learning season. It was a lot of fun while we were winning. There's a lot of hope, there's a lot of promise. This team is young, and I think there's a lot of learning moments in this season. I think that we played in a lot of close games. Some weren't close, but a lot of them were close that we lost – and it just comes with the experience, I guess. You got to learn from the mistakes, learn from what happened, gel together as a team. I'm blessed to say that I got to play in 13 games, including today. If you told me that in preseason – they made a show about a couple guys on this team if they were going to make the team or not, and one of them was me. So, it's a good learning experience for me and a lot of guys on this team. To play in 13 games this year is a blessing, and hopefully I can go back and look at the tape and get better.

Linebacker Luke Kuechly
Carolina Panthers

RE: RB Christian McCaffrey achieving 1,000 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards this season

This year was special. Obviously, it doesn't happen every year, and you always have to look for something to look on and build as positive, and that's certainly one of them. Not a lot of people are able to do what he does. Not a lot of people are able to play the amount of snaps he does at that position. He's a special player. I know the season didn't go obviously the way we wanted it to. You can still take away from the fact that Christian had a special year, and special years like that always deserve to be recognized, and certainly that's the case.

RE: If it's indeed his last game, his thoughts on TE Greg Olsen

You don't obviously know what's going to happen with that yet, but what Greg has meant to this team, this organization, this city, it can never be truly appreciated. What he's meant to this city and what he's done with the hospital, and what him and (his wife) Kara have done with their foundation and how much they support the community, and what they do with this organization is fantastic. It's amazing what they're able to do – his events, they go out, they spend time. He's a busy guy, and for him to have the time and the willingness to do that is special. Obviously, when you look at a guy within the team, he's been a rock. He's one of the best tight ends to ever play. He's a constant in this locker room. He does everything the right way, and that's all you can ask for. A guy that goes out there and competes, he works his butt off, he never complains. He's consistent, and to be consistent for 13 years is very difficult, and he's an example of that. When you have a guy that comes in when he did and set an example for as long as he did – when you walk in this locker room, you try to look for guys to look up to, and when I first got here Greg was definitely one of those guys. I'm not always the best at vocalizing what people mean and how people impact you, but he's a special person, and there's not a lot of guys like Greg around in this league, in this world. What he's been able to accomplish, both on the field and off the field, with care is fantastic. It's special, deserves to be recognized. Whatever happens, happens – but he's a guy that's been so special for our organization on multiple fronts. We'll just have to see what happens.

RE: From a players' perspective, how he deals with the uncertainty of the offseason

There's nothing we can really do about it. So, you just kind of sit back and just see how it unfolds. I'm sure they'll make good decision upstairs and figure it out. For us, we just kind of sit back and wait and see what happens. I know guys will be ready to go.