



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints improve to 7-2 on the season and have won six consecutive games, dating back to a 35-29 Week 4 victory at Detroit. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, November 22 when they take on the Atlanta Falcons at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Kickoff is set for 12:00pm CT on Fox.
- The Saints have now recorded a winning streak of at least six games in four consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history. Previously, New Orleans had runs of at least six wins during each season from 2009-11.
- With the win, New Orleans improves its overall home regular season record to 207-206-1, 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 78-39 in regular season home games since 2006.
- For HC **Sean Payton**, the victory improves his record against San Francisco to 7-2, his home mark to 4-2, and evens his record against 49ers HC Kyle Shanahan to 1-1. Shanahan becomes the 69th opposing coach Payton has defeated in his career.
- Offensively, New Orleans amassed 237 total yards, including 114 rushing yards and 123 passing yards. New Orleans has rushed for at least 100 yards in seven of their nine games this season, including each of their last four. The win is New Orleans' first victory with less than 125 passing yards since December 24, 2006, when New Orleans defeated the New York Giants 30-7 with 123 passing yards.
- Defensively, New Orleans held San Francisco to 281 total yards, including 232 passing yards, San Francisco's lowest passing output in their last five games, and 49 rushing yards, San Francisco's lowest rushing output of the season.
- New Orleans held San Francisco's leading rusher, RB Jerick McKinnon, to 33 yards on 18 carries. New Orleans now hasn't allowed 100 rushing yards to a single player for 52 consecutive regular season and postseason games, which surpasses the 1972-76 Dallas Cowboys for the longest such streak in NFL record books. The last time the Saints allowed a 100-yard rusher came in Week 11 of the 2017 season.
- QB **Drew Brees** passed for 76 yards on 8-of-13 passing and one touchdown, before leaving the game at halftime due to injury. This was the 284th regular season appearance for Brees, moving into a tie with K Sebastian Janikowski and P Sean Landeta for 17th in games played in NFL record books. Including 16 postseason games, Brees has now appeared in 300 NFL games.
- QB **Jameis Winston** played the entire second half in relief of Brees and finished 6-of-10 passing for 63 yards, his highest passing output as a member of the Saints.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** rushed for 15 yards and two touchdowns on eight carries and added a team-leading seven receptions for 83 yards and one touchdown reception. Kamara recorded both a rushing and receiving touchdown for the ninth time in his career, surpassing Chuck Foreman and Christian McCaffrey (eight) for the most such games in a player's first four season in NFL history.
- With three touchdowns today, Kamara surpasses WR Eric Martin for 7th in club record books with 48 scores in his career. Kamara now has 310 career receptions, surpassing WR David Abramowicz for 8th in franchise history.
- RB **Latavius Murray** recorded his second longest rush of the season on an 18-yard carry with 8:59 to play in the fourth quarter, setting up an Alvin Kamara two-yard rushing touchdown two plays later. Murray led New Orleans in rushing, with nine carries for 57 yards (6.3 avg.).

- Appearing in his 137th consecutive game, LB **Demario Davis** recorded his third sack of the season, taking down 49ers QB Nick Mullens on the final play of the first quarter. Davis finished with 12 total tackles, his highest total as a member of the Saints. He also matched a career-high with three tackles for loss, added two quarterback hits, and one pass defense.
- S **Malcolm Jenkins** recorded an interception for the second consecutive game, picking off San Francisco QB Nick Mullens with 6:59 to play in the third quarter. Jenkins has recorded interceptions in consecutive games one other time in his career, recording interceptions in Weeks 2, 3, and 4 of the 2014 season, as a member of the Eagles. Jenkins added five tackles and two pass defenses in the game, marking the 23rd game of his career with multiple pass defenses and second such game this season.
- CB **C.J. Gardner-Johnson** recorded the first sack of his career, dropping Mullens with 4:49 to play in the third quarter. Gardner-Johnson also recorded a career-high three quarterback hits and finished third on the team with eight tackles.
- K **Wil Lutz** was perfect on his field goal and extra point tries, connecting on field goals of 49 and 23 yards and going 3-for-3 on extra point attempts. Lutz has made multiple field goals in six of New Orleans' nine games this season
- WR **Deonte Harris** recorded a 75-yard kickoff return with 14:56 to play in the second quarter, the longest kickoff return of his career. The return set up the Saints' first score of the game, as Lutz converted a 49-yard field goal four plays later. Harris also matched a career-high four receptions for 24 receiving yards.
- WR **Marquez Callaway** made an impact on special teams, recovering two fumbles by San Francisco punt returners. His second fumble recovery came with 9:09 to play in the game, and set up a Saints' 3-play, 22-yard touchdown drive.
- CB **Patrick Robinson** recorded his second interception of the season and added two pass defenses, marking the tenth game of his career with an interception and multiple passes defended.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 41.0 yards on five punts while playing in his 183rd career game, moving into a tie for sixth place in club record books with Defensive end, defensive tackle Jim Wilks.
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished with two receptions for 27 yards. With his next two receptions, Thomas will surpass Jarvis Landry for the most catches by any player in the first five seasons of their career.
- QB **Taysom Hill** recorded 45 rushing yards on a career-high eight carries. Hill's 45 rushing yards is the second highest total of his career, behind only last week's 54-yard performance at Tampa Bay.
- DT **David Onyemata** finished the game with four tackles, two quarterback hits, one pass defense, and two tackles for loss, marking the first game in his career in which he recorded a statistic in each of those categories.
- S **Marcus Williams** matched a career high nine tackles and added a pass defense.
- The Saints extend their streak to 297 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.



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SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

On not playing Drew Brees in the second half: "He took a heavy shot in the first half. As he came out in the second half, he felt it was really impacting him. He will receive an MRI and an x-ray. His back felt sore. As he tried to throw, he just came up to me and said, 'Hey, I do not think that I am capable of playing.' So, quickly, we made the switch and that happens sometimes."

On if Brees could have re-entered the game in an emergency situation: "He stayed on the sideline. I'm not going to get into the hypotheticals as to what percent and all of those things. Obviously, he stayed on the sideline. He felt strong enough about it to let me know. And, I know when he does that; and, it's probably going to be the first time in 15 years that it was significant enough like he felt like he couldn't function in the second half."

"When he got hit on that one play, I could tell that it affected him. He hung in there and battled. I think that that break that we had at halftime, obviously, it didn't get any looser or better."

On how prepared Jameis Winston was for this moment: "I think well. I think, on a bigger note, it's probably less visible to you guys, Josh Hill and Tre'Quan Smith (were out). Those are significant guys involved in the run game. That, I would say, created also a slew of just things that we've got to be better at relative to replacements."

On the biggest challenge of putting a new quarterback in the game when the offense was in a rhythm: "I am proud of him (Jameis Winston). He led us to an important scoring drive. He led us to another field goal drive. The one thing that I would say with Jameis, too, is that he is extremely bright. Functioning and understanding what we are doing, he is someone that picks it up quickly."

On if he has been impressed with the defense in the last two games: "Listen, I was impressed tonight. I didn't like how we started. Then, I thought we settled in and played well."

On Alvin Kamara's performance this season while other key players have been out: "He's a big part of what we're doing. I thought that Latavius (Murray) had some good runs today as well."

On his observations of turnovers by both teams on punting plays: "They were (a factor). The first thing I would tell you is that both teams' gunners had an impact on the returners. In other words, I don't know that either team when we look at this film will be happy with the jammers and the holdup."

On how changing quarterbacks impacted the play calling: "I think what impacted our play calling more than anything was when Tre'Quan (Smith) and Josh (Hill) went down. That, all of a sudden now, there are some different things that you are doing with procedures relative to your blocking schemes. Jameis (Winston) was up to speed on everything that we were doing. Just as importantly at halftime, we were trying to arrange the personnel groupings to handle a lot of the stuff that we were doing in the running game."

On if some of the timeouts were due to changes in personnel: "I'm late. I will do a better job of that. We will clean that up. It ended up being pretty significant."

On if having Kwon Alexander on the team allowed Demario Davis to rush more: "We've rushed Demario a lot. We consider him a pressure player. The other things is that Kwon is one of those players that rushes well."

On navigating changes this season and now possibly dealing with more injuries: "Our season is going to be full with change. That's part of adapting, whether it's injury-related, Covid-related, timing sequences. I think that we are battle tested that way; we will continue to work on it and see where these (injured) guys are, coming out of this week's game and get ready for a rested Atlanta team that is playing well."



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LINEBACKER DEMARIO DAVIS

Was this a game that you felt that the defense needed to take ownership of the game, and how important was it for you to be able to do that?

"It is a complementary game. When you get to November and December, you got to play the game that is in front of you, but you have to play good football in all phases. (The) Offense did a good job of capitalizing on (field) position, special teams made a ton of plays, proven that they are one of, if not the best special teams unit in the game and defense, we knew we had to play with phenomenal effort and energy and urgency to go against a good offense that was that was able to come in here and pretty much exploit a spot a lot a lot of holes last year or force holes and opportunities and to create last year. We knew what type of offense was coming in. And we knew what type of football we need to play and just proud of the guys in the way that they stepped up and played at a high level."

How good do you feel about where you guys are as a defense last two weeks have been pretty good wouldn't you say?

"Yes, you want to be ascending, you got to be ascending. There is no time to peak in his game, we got to get better and better. You can congratulate yourselves when you get a win. That's what about in this game. Appreciate the win. But to find the areas that you didn't do things so well to correct those and keep ascending. And that's a good thing is that we're playing at a high level, but there's still levels that we can grow. Being in the right spot, seeing things and kind of anticipating before they happen. That's encouraging that we're planning at a high level and still got room to grow. That's what you need to be doing this time of year."

How would you assess Kwon Alexander's play from what you did see?

"Oh, phenomenal. It jumps out of the first thing. I kept telling him to come to the sidelines. Oh my goodness, you are so fast. He just flies around; you can see it even in practice how fast he gets to the ball. He's always going to have a lot of shots on the balls and be a high impact player. And that's great, because that's the type of defense we want to have is eleven guys swarming to the ball and make sure you are taking your shots when you get there and trying to get the ball out. He was yelling at the defense all night to find ways to get the ball, get the ball, get the ball so he's going to be a guy that just makes a difference better. Definitely excited to play on (the) side of him."



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RUNNING BACK ALVIN KAMARA

Can you describe what it was like, for your team on the sidelines for yourself, when you found out Drew (Brees) wasn't you go back into the game, and you were going with Jameis Winston?

"The game's not going to stop for injury. Drew went down, Jameis Winston has been practicing all week, just like everybody else. He stepped up, he executed. He did what he had to do. We came out with a win. That is what we want to do. Week in and week out and we were able to do that and we're moving forward."

How much does it help that you guys went through this in a game last year, and having Teddy (Bridgewater) come in and working with someone else that maybe you're not as familiar with on a day in and day out basis?

I practice with Jameis every day. I am familiar with Jameis. He is familiar with the offense because he practices in the same facility that Drew practices in every day. When Drew went down, Jameis just came in and did what he does all week. And he studies the same game plan, and he knows what we want to do and that's win. It is what it is. We still had to play a game. The game does not stop for one person. We were able to get a victory. Have to clean some things up. It was not a clean win. But, we'll take a win a win is a win."

What was the huddle like making that switch midway through the game?

"Sean (Payton) called a play and Jameis heard it and he got in the huddle and he called the play and we ran it and executed it. That's what happen every play Jameis was in. Sean gave him the play, he called it and we executed it."



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SAFETY MALCOLM JENKINS

On his interception: "I was just in zone coverage, a normal zone drop. The quarterback tried to squeeze it into a second window and I was able to get up under it. Obviously, takeaways is a big deal in this game, especially as we got ready to close it out."

On if the quarterback didn't see him: "Don't know and don't really care. He threw it; and, we look for those opportunities. We had a few this game that we didn't come up with (today). That has been an area of emphasis for us."

On his comfort level with this defense in recent weeks: "We talk about it and it kind of comes off as a cliché, but it's real, especially when we are trying to get better, and that includes me. I think that the coaches have done a great job of putting me in positions that I am comfortable with, that I do well (in). Also, I have had to adapt my game and do some things that are outside of my comfort level to play the role in the defense. I think that both of those areas, I have been improving every week that we go out here. Being that we've got so many playmakers in our secondary and on defense, I understand there are times when I will play a role; and, there are times when I am going to be called upon to make plays."



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QUARTERBACK JAMEIS WINSTON

On the last time he had come into a game on the fly: “Probably three years ago, against the Chicago Bears.”

On what the conversation was like between Coach Payton and Drew Brees about coming into the game: “Just get your helmet and go. It was just like that. So I got my helmet, got prepared, started throwing, because we had the first possession in the second half. And that was that.”

On if Drew Brees gave any indication of leaving the game: “Before we left out, like he was ready to go. That was an on the field decision. And he just gave me the go ahead. And he was helping me the entire way.”

On staying mentally sharp and being prepared to play at any time: “I just prepare the same way that everyone else prepares on this team. I try to give everybody my all. I try to be right there with Drew (Brees) along the way, watching film with him and preparing with him. So, I felt like I went out there and I was prepared to lead this team. And I'm happy that my teammates had my back. And they went out there and executed well, and things went our way.”

On getting an opportunity two weeks in a row to test the offense: “Well, every day, I am just trying to get better and better. My main job's to serve my teammates, and help put us in a position to win a football game. And we all fight in this thing together. So I am happy that we had a great team win today.”

On the importance of sticking to the game plan, regardless of any injuries: “We do a great job in all of our rooms of being prepared. And the guys that came in, including myself, we were excited, we were confident. And our main goal was to go out there and get a team victory. And we did that.”

On Alvin Kamara's contribution this season to the team: “He is who he is. And I am truly blessed to have a teammate like him. He's an incredible talent, person and teammate. So when you have guys like that in your locker room that literally approach the day the same way that you do, you just really cherish them. And just love playing with him.”

On Drew Brees giving him advice throughout the game: “He was going through the course of the game, like I would do on anytime, typically, when the offense finishes the drives we go over there and we look over the board. This time since, you know, he wasn't playing, I was, I had the opportunity just to ask him some questions. See what he was seeing and just gather information from him and try to apply it out there on the field”

On if taking some snaps last game helped this week : “Yeah, absolutely. Just getting a game experience is always good. But I've been there before. So, I'm just happy that I got a chance to go out there and just help my team get a win today.”

On fans enjoying the eating the W: “I appreciate it more when my teammates rallied around me, and I really embraced it. I think it's so great to be in an environment with such great men and women. Coming to work every single day, they knew that was a big deal. We were happy that we were able to sweep a division opponent. And we just had to move on to this next game.”



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QUARTERBACK DREW BREES

On why he did not return into the game: “I was not going to be able to be effective. It had nothing to do with pain. It was definitely just what my body was going to be able to do or not be able to do.”

On when he realized he would not return “You always worry about halftime because you sit for so long. And so, when I came out the second half and started throwing the ball, it became really apparent that I wasn't going to be effective.”

On what it was like playing before the half with injury: “I mean, listen, that's part of the game. But, just trying to take advantage of the opportunities that we had. Just doing whatever we could to try to get the lead before halftime. Obviously, we didn't play very well offensively in that first half. The first quarter, I think we had three plays. We had a three and out, and then we had another three and out early in the second quarter. And so it didn't start well for us, but our defense stepped up and played fantastic from the second quarter on. We got some big plays, special teams, got a big kick return, got a couple of plays on punt team that were huge in this game as well. And so, you know, all around, we just found another way to win as a team. It was not pretty, but we found a way.”

On how long he thinks the injury will affect him: “I'm just taking it one day at a time. I have done that this entire season. And I will continue to do that. I am not sure what tomorrow holds. But you can know I'm going to do everything I can to be as effective as I possibly can for next week.”

On Jameis Winston's preparation and contribution: “I thought he played great. Listen, that's a tough, it's a tough job, you know, especially when as elaborate as our game planning is on offense especially. To come in and, and be able to execute that offense is very, very difficult, especially if you're just kind of coming in midstream. And haven't had a big chance to really get, you know, get all the reps and that kind of thing. And listen, I thought he did great. I thought he did great. I thought he had great command of the huddle and everything, kind of went off without a hitch, Obviously, nothing's perfect. But, I thought he made some great throws. I thought he made some really good decisions and obviously took advantage of the opportunities that were given out there.”

On if the injury was a cramping/stiffening injury: “That's a good way to put it. Yeah. Listen, I can't really describe it other than it was preventing me from doing my job.”

On if he is currently in serious pain: “I wouldn't call it that. But it's just something, definitely something that needs to be dealt with.”

On if the injury was rib related: “Yeah. And yeah, I mean, it's a cumulative thing. Probably not just one.”

On how he felt during the two-minute before the half: “I actually felt terrible before the two-minute drive, but I had to find a way.”

On if the injury is a long-term issue and his impression of the penalty on the play: “Nothing's a long term thing. It's just a matter of how long it's going to be. And honestly, I really, I really don't know. It's not something quite to this extent that I've experienced. Like I said, I'm

just going to take it one day at a time. The hit itself, I heard the officials saying that it was by rule and he drove me into the ground. And that'll bring a flag."

On the importance of finding a way to win with multiple injuries: "Listen, I think it says a lot about our team, a lot about our coaches, says a lot about our grit and determination. And listen, time and time again throughout the season we've had moments where guys have been down in key positions and other guys have stepped up and done a great job or those around them have just elevated to a new level. And once again, that's what happened again today."



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HEAD COACH KYLE SHANAHAN

(On the lack of offense after the opening drive today) “It was disheartening. I thought we had an opportunity today. I thought we should have had the lead going into half. We couldn’t get anything going in the second half. We did not get much out of our run game today. Those turnovers are what killed us. I know we had two interceptions in the red zone. Our special teams has to be better from a turnover standpoint. Three times we gave up the ball to our defense inside the 20. We had the two fumbled kick return and the long kickoff. It’s not even close to good enough.”

(On the Saints run defense) “We knew they would be a challenge going into the game. I think they are one of the top teams against running the ball. Our backs were banged up in the game and going into the game. We knew it would be a challenge running the ball today. I tried to stay balanced as much as I could, so we didn’t become one dimensional. We didn’t want to make it tough for our quarterback and our offensive line. We stuck with it as long as we could. We knew it would be a challenge going in. I wish we would have gotten a few bigger runs out of the 25 carries that we had.”

(On if the turnovers were the undoing) “Definitely. I think we all knew that we had to play some really good football coming into today. I was really impressed with the guys and how hard they were going for it. If we do not get the turnovers fixed, then it doesn’t matter what our situation is. I believe in our four wins we are +5 or +8 and in our six losses we are -10 or something. It is a huge difference there. I know that we are missing some people, but we would have had a very good chance of being in that game had we taken care of the ball today. We didn’t and blew an opportunity there.”

(On the explanation on the roughing the passer call on Kentavious Street today): “That’s just how he saw it. He thought he saw it and got some agreement from the refs around him and that’s what they went with. They said that they drove him into the ground and landed on him.”

(On if the dome affected the three muffed punts) “I don’t think so, but you can ask those guys. He fair caught it and then let it go. He didn’t tell me that he didn’t see it. He should have caught it. You can ask them, but not that I know of.”

(On why Brandon Aiyuk hasn’t been used as a punt returner): “He has been out (injured and trying to get back healthy. We are trying to get him at receiver first. It something we definitely have to look to after what happened today.”

(On why he sat Nick Mullens for a play) “He was hurting on that play, so we got him out. We checked him out and he was better after”

(On the Saints nickel blitz) “They brought the nickel a bunch. We had a bunch of good plays on it, but when we didn’t you saw what happened. A couple I thought we could have made, but didn’t. It’s something they did a ton throughout the game. They did a real good job of blitzing and got us a couple of times.”

(On the bye week) “I just want to give more time for guys to get back. Hopefully, we can get a couple of guys back on offense with that extra week off. I know we are going to get one back on defense. Maybe more. We have had a lot of guys that have to be out there a lot. We have some rotational players who have been carrying the load for way too long. I have a lot of respect for these guys who have just been hanging on. They need some rest. They need to get away. We’ll have a couple of days just to keep guys loose and moving around a little bit so we don’t get too far away from football. This is a much needed rest for any team that I have ever been on.”

(On the fourth and one run play decision today that was stopped) “I debate every call and play. I knew when it was third and one we were going to have two downs to get it there. I was going to throw on one and run on the other. I debated as long as I could which one I wanted to do each one on. Obviously, neither of them worked, so I wish I could have had that back.

(On if the defensive line was one of the bright spots) “From what I noticed, they had a real good game. It seemed like they were getting pressure on the quarterback. They were put in a number of tough spots. They played well. I thought as a whole they were fighting their ass off. There are no moral victories here I knew there was a challenge going in. They fought hard and we had a chance to win that game and I think it came down to turnovers. That was the most disheartening. I think that if we take care of that ball and with the effort that the guys gave that it would have been a much different result.”



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QUARTERBACK NICK MULLENS

(On the New Orleans Saints defense): "It was just going against a good defense. You are not going to be perfect every time. You aren't going to be as perfect as you can. I thought that we had some good drives. I felt like we were moving the ball, but you have to be clutch every moment of the game going against a good defense. They did a good job of shutting us down. We kept fighting. I was very proud of the fact that we kept fighting. We stayed at it. They did a good job. We just have to overcome that and make more plays."

(On how he is feeling after coming out the game): "I'm good. I couldn't breathe. I got the air knocked out of me. I was shaken up on that play and had to come out. It is what it is. I was glad that I was able to go back into the game."

(On Brandon Aiyuk earning his trust): "Brandon's dynamic. I feel like he can win on any route that you put him on. That is why I love throwing to him and playing with him. He's a really good receiver. I think dynamic is a good word to use. His ability to separate on the long routes and the short routes. He's a really special player."

(On the two interceptions): "It was frustrating. You really want points especially in a key moment of the game. It was really frustrating. I felt I did a good job of protecting the ball throughout the game. They blitzed. I felt like there was space in the middle. I really wanted to put it past that guy, but he got under it and made a good play on it. The last interception was an opportunity ball. It was a one on one with a double move. I put it up there for him. I'm really frustrated with myself. I can easily make that throw. I just needed to put it out there for him."

(On if they needed to play perfect today to win against the Saints) "I agree with that. We needed a really good game. We did some really good things, but the mistakes are going to be more crucial when you are playing a really good team like that. It proved that today. We needed a disciplined, sound football game. We didn't get that."

(On C.J. Gardner Johnson giving them trouble today on defense) "He is a good player. He does a good job. He is aggressive. He's obviously a good blitzer. That's something that we had to adjust to during the game. It was on me to get rid of the ball before he got to me. Those are tough situations, but I have to find ways to make those plays. They did a good job. You have to give them credit."

(On mood of the locker room today going into the bye): "I'm just frustrated by the loss. I feel like we really could have done special things out there. We have a resilient group. We have a bye week, then six games left. I feel like we can win a lot of games. That is going to be the mindset moving forward. We need to play disciplined football. We are going to put our head's down and go to work. It's the last stretch and it's time to kick it in there."

(On him building trust with Jordan Reed) "Jordan is a beast. He is a playmaker. That is what it all comes down to. He's good against zone coverage. He's good against man coverage. He has really good hands. He's just a great football player. He has a great mindset. He's a great target."

(On the left handed catch) "It was good coverage. We had him on a choice route. It was a coverage that we liked. They kind of hit my hands. I didn't like the throw obviously. It wasn't a great throw. I am surprised that he caught it. I guess you expect nothing less from Jordan. It was a great catch."