

# **GAME RELEASE**

## **CAROLINA PANTHERS (5-10)**

## VS.

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (7-8)

## **REGULAR SEASON GAME #16**

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022 - 3:25 P.M. (CST)

#### CAESARS SUPERDOME - NEW ORLEANS, LA.

**TV:** FOX (WVUE FOX 8 locally) – Brandon Gaudin (play-by-play), Matt Millen (color analyst) and Sarah Kustok (sideline)

**LOCAL RADIO:** WWL (870 AM and 105.3 FM) – Mike Hoss (play-by-play), Deuce McAllister (color analyst) and Steve Geller (sideline)

**NATIONAL RADIO:** Sports USA Radio – Josh Appel (play-by-play) and Brandon Noble (color analyst)

**SPANISH LANGUAGE RADIO:** KGLA (830 AM and 105.7 FM) – Mario Jerez (play-by-play), Juan Carlos Ramos (color analyst) and Victor Quinonez (sideline)



# THE MATCHUP

The New Orleans Saints (7-8) will need to manage a quick turnaround to take on the Carolina Panthers (5-10) in their final home regular season contest of the 2021 season after dropping a 20-3 decision to the Miami Dolphins on Monday night in a valiant effort where 17 players were not available to play due to COVID-19 protocols.

A victory will be crucial for New Orleans who remains one game behind the 8-7 San Francisco 49ers and Philadelphia Eagles and at the same spot as the 7-8 Atlanta Falcons and Minnesota Vikings in a competitive NFC playoff race for the final two spots if New Orleans wants to reach the postseason for the fifth consecutive season.

The Saints will host the Panthers looking to avenge a 26-7 loss at Bank of America Stadium on September 19, leading the all-time series 27-26 and looking to avoid their first season sweep by Carolina since 2015. Prior to the September loss, New Orleans had won four consecutive contests over the Panthers.

The Saints enter the contest still making a strong push for an NFC Wild Card Playoff spot led by Head Coach **Sean Payton** despite having to play an NFL-record 57 different starters in 2021 due to various circumstances, including an offensive line that has been forced to play nine different starting combinations due to injuries and COVID-19 protocols.

Despite the personnel losses in Monday's game, New Orleans kept the deficit against the Dolphins within seven points for the bulk of the contest until with 5:10 remaining in the third quarter. The Saints defense surrendered only 259 total net yards, including giving up only 86 rushing yards on 30 attempts (2.9 avg.) and holding the Dolphins to field goals on two of three red zone attempts.

New Orleans' two Pro Bowl defenders fought valiantly in minimizing the impact of the Dolphins offense. DE **Cameron Jordan** recorded two sacks as he moved into a tie for 31st in NFL record books (102.5). Jordan moved into the team lead for sacks with four in his past two contests for eight total and with the 24th multi-sack game of his career ranked second in team record books. CB **Marshon Lattimore** stopped a Miami scoring drive early in the third quarter by picking off Dolphins QB **Tua Tagovailoa** for his third pick of the season to tie for the team lead and his club-best fourth takeaway of the campaign, his second in the last two week.



#### SAINTS-PANTHERS CONNECTIONS

New Orleans safety Malcolm Jenkins and Carolina guarterback Matt Barkley were teammates in Philadelphia in 2014...New Orleans guard/tackle James Hurst played at the University of North Carolina...Carolina defensive back Myles Hartsfield played at the University of Mississippi...New Orleans punter Blake Gillikin, tight end Juwan Johnson and Carolina defensive end Yetur Gross Matos were college teammates at Penn State...Saints Assistant Special Teams Coach Phil Galiano and Panthers Tight Ends Coach Brian Angelichio served on the same Rutgers staff in 2011 and the same Tampa Bay Buccaneers staff from 2012-13...New Orleans Special Teams Coordinator Darren Rizzi and Carolina Senior Offensive Assistant/Running Backs Jeff Nixon served on the same coaching staff in Miami from 2011-15...Panthers cornerback Jaycee Horn is the son of former New Orleans wide receiver Joe Horn. Prentice, Horn and Panthers wide receiver Shi Smith were college teammates at South Carolina in 2020...New Orleans defensive tackle Shy Tuttle prepped at North Davidson (Welcome, N.C.) HS...New Orleans Defensive Line Coach Ryan Nielsen served as defensive line coach/recruiting/run game coordinator at North Carolina State from 2013-16, serving on the same Wolfpack coaching staff with Panthers offensive pass game coordinator/wide receivers Frisman Jackson the first two seasons. Nielsen and Jackson served on the same coaching staff at Northern Illinois in 2012...Saints Quarterbacks Coach Ronald Curry was a four-year starter at quarterback at the University of North Carolina and also was the starting point guard on the school's 1998-99 and 2000-01 basketball teams...Carolina Offensive Lineman Trent Scott played at Grambling State in 2013, when he blocked for Saints Offensive Assistant D.J. Williams and from 2015-17. Rizzi and Carolina Assistant Offensive Line Coach Tony Sparano Jr. served on the same Miami staff in 2011...Saints Senior Def. Asst. Peter Giunta , Panthers Head Coach Matt Rhule, Quarterbacks Coach Sean Ryan and Defensive Run Game Coordinator Al Holcomb served on the same New York Giants coaching staff ... Carolina wide receiver **Terrece Marshall Jr.** prepped at Parkway (Bossier City, La.) HS and played at LSU, helping the Tigers win the 2019 National Championship and recording 106 career receptions for 1,594 and 23 touchdowns...Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore and Panthers guard Michael Jordan were college teammates at Ohio State...Saints linebacker **Demario Davis** and Panthers linebacker Julian Stanford were teammates with the New York Jets in 2015 and 2017 and Davis played with Carolina wide receiver Robby Anderson and safety Juston Burris wiith the Jets in 2017...New Orleans quarterback lan Book and Panthers tight end Tommy Tremble were college teammates at Notre Dame...New Orleans running back Dwayne Washington and Panthers linebacker Shaq

Thompson were college teammates at the University of Washington...Panthers cornerback Donte Jackson prepped at Riverdale High School and played at Louisiana State University as a college teammate of New Orleans center/ guard Will Clapp...New Orleans Quarterback Jameis Winston, cornerback P.J. Williams and Carolina tackle Cameron Erving were teammates at Florida State. Saints defensive end Tanoh Kpassagnon and Erving were teammates in Kansas City from 2017-19...New Orleans defensive tackle Albert Huggins prepped at Orangeburg-Wilkinson (Orangeburg, S.C.) HS and played at Clemson from 2015-18...New Orleans Area Scout C.J. Leak played his first two years of college football at Wake Forest.

## <u>NEW ORLEANS SAINTS-CAROLINA</u> <u>PANTHERS SERIES HISTORY</u>

The Panthers initially entered the NFL as an expansion franchise in 1995 and since then, with New Orleans leading the regular season series 27-26, with the Saints picking up the 2017 NFC Wild Card showdown at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. The clubs were in the NFC West from 1995-2001 and the rivalry's continued in the NFC South since 2002. The Saints have a 13-12 record in games played in the Caesars Superdome against the Panthers. Of the 52 regular season games in the series, 25 have been decided by eight points or less, with New Orleans winning 13. The Saints' longest winning streak was a five-game stretch from 2000-02.

In the 53 regular season games of the series there has been:

• 1,182 points scored by New Orleans, 1,154 allowed.

• A five-game New Orleans winning streak from 2000-02.

• A four-game New Orleans winning streak in games played at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome from 1998-2001 and a four-game winning streak at contests played at Bank of America Stadium from 2017-20.

- 27 games decided by double-digits.
- Seven games decided by 21 or more points.
- 24 games decided by eight points or less.

• One 32-point win by New Orleans in the 2020 regular season finale.

A 32-point loss by New Orleans.

## <u>SAINTS-PANTHERS SERIES FAST</u> FACTS

Saints' Largest Margin of Victory: 32 points, Saints won 42-10, 12/28/19 at Bank of America Stadium

**Panthers' Largest Margin of Victory:** 32 points, Panthers won 45-13, 1/2/00 at Ericsson Stadium

**Current Series Streak:** One-game winning streak for Carolina, 9/19/21-present

Saints' Longest Win Streak: Five games, 10/15/00-11/10/02

**Panthers' Longest Win Streak:** Four games (twice), 12/18/05-10/7/07 (most recent) and 12/29/02-12/5/04

**Most Points by Saints in a Game:** 45 points, Saints won 45-17, 1/1/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome

**Most Points by Panthers in a Game:** 45 points, Panthers won 45-13, 1/2/00 at Ericsson Stadium

Most Combined Points (Both Teams): 82 points, Panthers won 44-38, 12/30/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome

**Fewest Points by Saints in a Game:** Zero points, Panthers won 13-0, 10/19/97 at Superdome

**Fewest Points by Panthers in a Game:** Three points, Saints won 34-3, 11/7/10 at Bank of America Stadium

**Fewest Combined Points (Both Teams):** 13 points, Panthers won 13-0, 10/19/97 at Superdome

#### INDIVIDUAL

**Most Rushing Yards (Saints):** RB **Ricky Williams**, 147 yards on 31 carries (4.7 avg.) with one TD on 10/14/01 at Ericsson Stadium.

**Most Rushing Yards (Panthers):** RB **DeAngelo Williams**, 210 yards on 21 carries (10.0 avg.) with two TDs on 12/30/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Passing Yards (Saints):** QB **Drew Brees**, 465 yards on 34-of-49 passing (69.4%) with four TDs (118.2 rating) on 10/16/16 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Passing Yards (Panthers):** QB **Kerry Collins**, 335 yards on 17-of-46 passing (37.0 %) with three TDs (48.7 passer rating) on 11/26/95 at Superdome.

**Most Receptions (Saints):** (Tie) RB **Darren Sproles**, 13 receptions for 128 yards (9.8 avg.), 9/16/12 at Bank of America Stadium (Most Recent). WR **Joe Horn**, 13 receptions for 150 yards (11.5 avg.) and one touchdown, 12/2/01 at Louisiana Superdome (First).

Most Receptions (Panthers): (Tie) TE Greg Olsen, 10

receptions for 72 yards (7.2 avg.) and one TD on 12/7/14 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome (Most Recent). WR **Steve Smith**, 10 receptions for 87 yards (8.7 avg.) and one TD on 10/1/06 at Bank of America Stadium. WR **Muhsin Muhammad**, 10 receptions for 179 yards (17.9 avg.) and one TD on 12/5/04 at Louisiana Superdome (First).

**Most Receiving Yards (Saints):** WR **Brandin Cooks**, 173 yards on seven receptions (24.7 avg.) with one TD on 10/16/16 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Receiving Yards (Panthers):** WR **Muhsin Muhammad**, 192 yards on nine receptions (21.3 avg.) with one TD on 9/13/98 at Louisiana Superdome.

## THE HEAD COACHES

Sean Payton has posted a 159-97 overall record (.621), including a 9-8 postseason mark after the franchise had won only one playoff game prior to his arrival in 2006. Payton holds the club's top victory total and winning percentage. Payton is ranked 22nd all-time in National Football League records in victories, fifth among active coaches. He continues to represent the Saints as the model of stability not only within the NFC South, as he is the longest tenured head coach within the conference, but also among the most accomplished within the NFL. Only Bill Belichick (2000) has been with his team longer than Payton's 15 seasons. Payton is also one of just eight active NFL head coaches to lead a team to a Super Bowl victory. The others are the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Bruce Arians, Belichick, the Seattle Seahawks' Pete Carroll, the Baltimore Ravens' John Harbaugh, the Dallas Cowboys' Mike McCarthy (Green Bay in 2010), Kansas City's Andy Reid and Tomlin. The 2020 Saints were only the sixth team in National Football League history to have six-game winning streaks in four consecutive seasons and with a nine-game winning streak had won at least nine straight games in two of the past three seasons and had double-digit victory figures and consecutive playoff berths in four straight years for the first time in team history, also being only the third NFC team since divisional alignment to capture four straight division championships. The Black and Gold qualified for the NFL playoffs for the ninth season (2006, 2009-11, 2013, 2017-20) in Payton's head coaching tenure). Payton earned a degree in communications at Eastern Illinois, where as a quarterback he had 10,665 passing yards, at the time the third-highest total in NCAA Division I-AA history. Payton was inducted into the Eastern Illinois Hall of Fame in 2000 and had his jersey retired in a ceremony in 2010. He received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater in 2013. Payton was born December 29, 1963 in San Mateo, Calif., and raised in Naperville, III., Payton has a daughter, Meghan and a son, Connor.

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

Matt Rhule was named the fifth head coach in Panthers history on Jan. 8, 2020 and guided them to a 5-11 record in his first campaign, following up by 5-10 mark in 2021. Rhule joined Carolina after three seasons (2017-19) as the head coach at Baylor. Rhule helped rebuild the Baylor program, guiding the team from a 1-11 finish in his first season to a 7-6 record and a bowl berth in 2018 to an 11-3 record and appearance in the Big 12 Championship and Sugar Bowl in 2019. He was voted the Big 12 Conference's Coach of the Year by his peers. Baylor's appearance in the Sugar Bowl was just the second-ever in school history, and under Rhule's leadership, the Bears became the first Power 5 program to go from 11 losses (2017) to 11 wins (2019) within two seasons. Prior to his stint at Baylor, Rhule was the head coach at Temple (2013-16), where he took the Owls from a 2-10 mark in his first season to 6-6 in 2014 and two consecutive 10-in seasons in 2015 and 2016. He guided the Owls to the school's first back-to-back 10-win seasons, a two bowl berths (2015-16) and the 2016 AAC Championship. He helped the Owls improve from a two-win season in his first year in 2013. Rhule has spent 23 years as a coach in the college and NFL ranks. Rhule was an assistant offensive line coach with the New York Giants (2012) and a college assistant at Temple (2006-11), serving as offensive coordinator (2008-11), quarterbacks coach and recruiting coordinator (2007) and defensive line coach (2006). He also was part of the coaching staffs at Western Carolina (2002-05), UCLA (2001), Buffalo (1999-2000) and Albright College (1998). Rhule played linebacker at Penn State from 1994-97.

## <u>SAINTS – PANTHERS</u> 2021 STATISTICAL COMPARISON

#### League Rankings

	<u>Saints</u>	Panthers
2021 Record	7-8	5-10
Scoring Avg. (NFL Rank)	21.1 (17t)	18.5 (26)
Opp. Scoring Avg. (NFL Rank)	20.3 (4)	23.0 (19)
Total Off. (NFL Rank)	301.9 (31)	305.7 (28)
Rushing Off. (NFL Rank)	114.9 (15)	109.6 (19)
Passing Off. (NFL Rank)	187.0 (31)	196.1 (29)
Total Def. (NFL Rank)	331.7 (12)	300.8 (2)
Rushing Def. (NFL Rank)	95.9 (5)	118.5 (21)
Passing Def. (NFL Rank)	235.7 (17)	182.3 (2)
Kickoff Return Avg. (NFL Rank)	22.9 (13)	21.1 (20)
Punt Return Avg. (NFL Rank)	11.0 (6)	8.9 (14)
Turnover Margin (NFL Rank)	+2 (10t)	-9 (27t)
Penalties	89	105
Penalty Yards	738	849
Opp. Penalties	83	101
Opp. Penalty Yards	710	853

## TRANSACTIONS

#### JULY

26 - Signed WR Chris Hogan.

- 27 Signed LB Kendall Donnerson and CB Brian Poole.
- 30 Signed WR Tommylee Lewis.

#### AUGUST

1 – Signed RB Devonta Freeman.

**2** – Signed CB **Prince Amukamara** and DB **KeiVarae Russell**, placed TE **Dylan Soehner** on Injured Reserve and waived DL **Lorenzo Neal** and DB **Lawrence Woods**.

**4** – Re-signed LB **Kwon Alexander**, signed DB **Adonis Alexander**. Placed DB **Keith Washington** on Injured Reserve and Waived LB **Kendall Donnerson**.

4 – Signed TE Josh Pederson. Placed DT Ryan Glasgow on Reserve/Retired.

**10** – Signed K **Brett Maher**. CB **Patrick Robinson** announced his retirement.

**12** – Awarded DL **R.J. McIntosh** off waivers from the New York Giants and placed WR **Jalen McCleskey** on Injured Reserve.

**13** – Re-signed DB **Lawrence Woods**. Waived/injured LB **Quentin Poling** and reached an injury settlement with DB **Keith Washington**.

**16** – Placed DB **KeiVarae Russell** on Reserve/COVID-19 and OL **Kyle Murphy** and LB **Quentin Poling** on Injured Reserve. Waived/injured K **Brett Maher**, waived RB **Stevie Scott** and terminated contracts DB **Prince Amukamara** and LB **Noah Spence**.

17 – Placed K Brett Maher on Injured Reserve.

**18** – Waived/Injured DB Adonis Alexander and OL Mike Brown. Signed G Caleb Benenoch, DBs Natrell Jamerson and Bryan Mills, T Jordan Mills and WR Kevin White and waived WR Jake Lampman and DB Lawrence Woods.

**19** – Placed DB **Adonis Alexander** and OL **Mike Brown** on Injured Reserve.

) 20 – Signed K Aldrick Rosas. Placed WR Tommylee Lewis on Injured Reserve and waived TE Josh Pederson.

**21** – Signed S **Jeff Heath**. Waived from Injured Reserve LB **Quentin Poling** and reached injury settlements with DB **Adonis Alexander**, K **Brett Maher** and WR **Jalen McCleskey**.

## TRANSACTIONS

#### **CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-AUGUST**

**23** – Reached an injury settlement with WR **Tommylee Lewis**, waived TE **Josh Pederson** and reached an injury settlement with OL **Mike Brown**.

**24** – Waived P **Nolan Cooney**, waived/injured DE **Marcus Willoughby** and placed DT **Jalen Dalton**, OL **Ethan Greenidge** and CB **Brian Poole** on Injured Reserve.

25 - Placed DE Marcus Willoughby on Injured Reserve.

**26** – Activated DB **KeiVarae Russell** from reserve/COVID-19 and waived/injured DB **Bryce Thompson**.

**27** – Waived FB **Sutton** Smith, signed NT **Damion Square** and placed DB **Bryce Thompson** on Injured Reserve.

**30** – Terminated the contracts of FB Alex Armah, T Caleb Benenoch, RB Devonta Freeman, WR Chris Hogan, T Jordan Mills, DB KeiVarae Russell, QB Trevor Siemian, G J.R. Sweezy and WR Kevin White. Waived WR Kawaan Baker, DT Josiah Bronson, DBs Eric Burrell and Grant Haley, DT Albert Huggins, DB Natrell Jamerson, G Derrick Kelly, DL R.J. McIntosh, LB Wynton McManis, CB Bryan Mills, C Christian Montano, DT Damion Square, LB Shaq Smith, DB Deuce Wallace, WR Easop Winston and TE Ethan Wolf. Placed WR Michael Thomas on Reserve/PUP. Placed DT David Onyemata on Reserve/ Suspended by Commissioner.

#### SEPTEMBER

1 – Signed FB Alex Armah, T Caleb Benenoch, WRs Kevin White and WR Kawaan Baker, DT Josiah Bronson, DT Albert Huggins, LB Wynton McManis, CB Bryan Mills, DB KeiVarae Russell, WR Easop Winston Jr. and TE Ethan Wolf to the practice squad. Awarded FB Adam Prentice off waivers from Denver Broncos. Terminated the contract of K Aldrick Rosas. Reached injury settlements with DB Bryce Thompson and DE Marcus Willoughby.

**4** – Terminated the practice squad contract of CB **Bryan Mills**.

6 – Re-signed QB Trevor Siemian and WR Chris Hogan, signed DT Montravius Adams, signed OL Derrick Kelly, DB Ka'Dar Hollman, DE Jaylyn Holmes, DT Jaleel Johnson, DBs Dylan Mabin and Jordan Miller and K Aldrick Rosas to practice squad, terminated practice squad contract of LB Wynton McManis and placed C/G Will Clapp, K Wil Lutz and TE Nick Vannett on Injured Reserve.

**7** – Signed CB **Desmond Trufant** and terminated contract of RB **Latavius Murray**.

**9** – Acquired CB **Bradley Roby**, from Texans for a 2022 third round draft pick and 2023 future considerations.

**10** – Placed CB **Ken Crawley** and WR **Tre'Quan Smith** on Injured Reserve and terminated contract of S **Jeff Heath**.

**11** – Signed S **Jeff Heath** to practice squad. Elevated Heath and K **Aldrick Rosas** (standard). Signed practice squad DT **Albert Huggins** and DB **Jordan Miller** to active roster. Terminated practice squad contract of OL **Caleb Benenoch**. Terminated contract of DT **Montravius Adams**.

13 - Waived DB Jordan Miller.

**15** - Re-signed DL **Montravius Adams**, signed S **Jeff Heath** off practice squad, signed OL **Caleb Benenoch** and WR **Kenny Stills** to practice squad. Waived FB **Adam Prentice**. DL **Jaleel Johnson** terminated practice squad contract.

**15** - Signed practice squad K **Aldrick Rosas** to active roster, signed DB **Jordan Miller**, C **Austin Reiter** and FB **Adam Prentice** to practice squad and waived FB **Adam Prentice**.

**17** – Placed LB **Kwon Alexander** and DE **Marcus Davenport** on Injured Reserve. Signed LB **Wynton McManis** to the practice squad.

**18** – Elevated DE **Jaylyn Holmes** and C **Austin Reiter** to the active roster (standard). Signed LB **Wynton McManis** and DB **Jordan Miller** to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed LB **Chase Hansen** on Injured Reserve.

20 - Waived DB Jordan Miller and LB Wynton McManis.

**22** – Signed LB **Wynton McManis** and DB **Jordan Miller** to the practice squad.

**25** – Elevated WR Kenny Stills and C Austin Reiter (standard).

**29** – Signed T **Jordan Mills** to the practice squad and terminated practice squad contract of DB **Ka'Darr Hollman**.

#### OCTOBER

2 – Elevated WR Kenny Stills and T Jordan Mills (standard). Activated C/G Will Clapp from Injured Reserve.

**5** – Terminated contract of K Aldrick Rosas, signed DE Jaylyn Holmes to active roster. C Austin Reiter terminated practice squad contract (signed to Miami active roster). Signed DB Bryce Thompson to practice squad.

6 – Signed K Cody Parkey, signed RB Devine Ozigbo to active roster off Jacksonville practice squad, placed RB Tony Jones Jr. on Injured Reserve and signed RB Ryquell Armstead to practice squad.

## TRANSACTIONS

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-OCTOBER

**9** – Elevated T **Jordan Mills** to active roster (standard). Signed WR **Kenny Stills** to active roster from practice squad. Terminated contract of DT **Christian Ringo**.

**12** – Reached injury settlements with K **Cody Parkey** and CB **Brian Poole**, signed K **Brian Johnson** to active roster off Chicago practice squad and terminated contract of CB **Desmond Trufant**. Terminated practice squad contracts of OL **Derrick Kelly II** and LB **Wynton McManis**.

**20 –** Signed LB **Lakiem Williams**, RB **Lamar Miller** and OL **Forrest Lamp** to practice squad.

23 – Placed WR Chris Hogan on Reserve/Retired.

**24** – Elevated WR Kevin White and DL Josiah Bronson (standard). Activated LB Kwon Alexander, DE Marcus Davenport and WR Tre'Quan Smith from Injured Reserve. Waived DL Albert Huggins and C/G Will Clapp.

**27 –** Signed G/C **Will Clapp** and DT **Albert Huggins** to practice squad. Terminated practice squad contracts of LB **Ryquell Armstead** and LB **Akiem Williams**. Placed CB **Ken Crawley** and WR **Lil'Jordan Humphrey** on Reserve/ COVID-19.

**29** – Acquired RB **Mark Ingram II** from the Houston Texans in exchange for future considerations.

**30** – Elevated WR **Kevin White** (standard). Activated DT **David Onyemata** from Reserve/Suspended. Waived RB **Devine Ozigbo**. Signed T **Jordan Mills** from practice squad.

#### NOVEMBER

6 – Elevated WR Kevin White to active roster (COVID-19).
Elevated DL Josiah Bronson to active roster (standard).
Placed QB Jameis Winston on Injured Reserve.

9 - Waived LB Chase Hansen.

**10** – Signed RB **Josh Adams** to practice squad. Activated CB **Ken Crawley** and WR **Lil'Jordan Humphrey** from Reserve/COVID-19.

**11 –** Placed DE **Payton Turner** on Injured Reserve. Activated TE **Nick Vannett** off Injured Reserve.

13 – Elevated G/C Will Clapp (standard). Signed WR Kevin
White to active roster. Waived DT Christian Ringo.
Signed LB Chase Hansen to practice squad. Placed DB
C.J. Gardner-Johnson on Injured Reserve.

**16** – Signed K **Brett Maher** to the practice squad. Terminated practice squad contract of RB **Lamar Miller** and waived

#### DT Montravius Adams.

17 - Re-signed DT Christian Ringo.

**16 –** Signed K **Brett Maher** to active roster, waived K **Brian Johnson** and signed DT **Montravius Adams** to practice squad.

**20** – Activated RB **Tony Jones** from Injured Reserve, elevated OL **Will Clapp** and OL **Caleb Benenoch** to active roster (standard elevation), signed DL **Josiah Bronson** and DB **KeiVarae Russell** to active roster from practice squad and waived WR **Kevin White** and CB **Ken Crawley**.

**23 –** Waived DB **KeiVarae Russell**, re-signed WR **Kevin White** and CB **Ken Crawley** and placed T **Landon Young** and TE **Adam Trautman** on Injured Reserve.

**25** – Signed OL **Will Clapp** from practice squad to active roster, elevated RB **Adam Prentice** and OL **Caleb Benenoch** to active roster (standard elevation) and signed DB **KeiVarae Russell** to practice squad.

29 – Signed LB Alex Finch to practice squad.

30 – Waived WR Kevin White and FB Alex Armah.

#### DECEMBER

2 – Elevated LB Chase Hansen and G Forrest Lamp to active roster (standard). Signed T Caleb Benenoch, DT
 Albert Huggins and RB Adam Prentice to active roster.
 Placed DL Tanoh Kpassagnon on Injured Reserve.

**6** – Placed WR/RS **Deonte Harris** on Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner and DE **Cameron Jordan** on Reserve/ COVID-19.

**7** – Signed WR Kevin White to the practice squad and waived DL Malcolm Roach and WR Kenny Stills.

**8** – Signed OLs **James Carpenter** and **Jerald Hawkins** to the practice squad and placed RB **Mark Ingram II** on Reserve/COVID-19.

**9** – Re-signed DL **Malcolm Roach** to the practice squad and placed WR **Ty Montgomery** on Reserve/COVID-19.

10 – Re-signed WR Kenny Stills.

**11** – Elevated OL James Carpender (COVID-19), WR Kevin White (COVID-19), WR Easop Winston Jr. (COVID-19), LB Chase Hansen (standard) and TE Ethan Wolf (standard). Activated DB C.J. Gardner-Johnson from Injured Reserve.

## TRANSACTIONS

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-DECEMBER

13 – Waived G/C Will Clapp.

**14 –** Waived DL **Josiah Bronson**. Terminated practice squad contract of CB **Dylan Mabin**.

**15** – Activated WR **Ty Montgomery** off Reserve/COVID-19. Re-signed C/G **Will Clapp** to the practice squad.

16 – Activated DE Cameron Jordan off Reserve/COVID-19.

17 – Activated RB Mark Ingram II off Reserve/COVID-19.

**18** – Activated TE Adam Trautman from Injured Reserve, elevated OL Forrest Lamp and WR Easop Winston Jr. to active roster (standard elevation), signed OL James Carpenter to active roster from practice squad and placed TE Garrett Griffin on Injured Reserve.

**21 –** Placed TE **Juwan Johnson** on Reserve/COVID-19. Re -signed CB **Dylan Mabin** to practice squad.

**22** – Placed TE Adam Trautman on Reserve/COVID-19. Signed DT Braxton Hoyett to practice squad. Terminated practice squad contract of LB Chase Hansen.

23 – Placed G James Carpenter, LB Kaden Elliss, DB Jeff Heath, QB Taysom Hill, DE Jaylyn Holmes, S Malcolm Jenkins, T Jordan Mills, DT Christian Ringo and QB Trevor Siemian on Reserve/COVID-19.

**24** – Signed QB **Blake Bortles** to practice squad and terminated practice squad contract of RB **Josh Adams**. Placed LB **Demario Davis**, DB **J.T. Gray**, T **Ryan Ramczyk** and RB **Dwayne Washington** on Reserve/COVID-19.

25 - Placed DE Carl Granderson on Reserve/COVID-19. .

**26 –** Placed WR/RS **Deonte Harris** and practice squad DB **KeiVarae Russell** and DT **Malcolm Roach** on Reserve/ COVID-19.

27 – Signed LB Chase Hansen, LB Justin March, T Kyle Murphy and DT Ethan Westbrooks to practice squad. Elevated Hansen, March, Murphy and Westbrooks and QB Blake Bortles, WR Easop Winston Jr., DB Bryce Thompson, DB Jordan Miller, DT Braxton Hoyett, LB Sharif Finch, C/G Will Clapp, OL Forrest Lamp, WR Kawaan Baker And TE Ethan Wolf to active roster (COVID -19 elevations).

## GAME SUMMARIES

Week 1: Saints 38, Packers 3; September 12, 2021 @ TIAA Bank Field (Jacksonville, Fla.) – Jameis Winston and the hurricane-displaced Saints looked right at home in northeast Florida — no doubt to the delight of fans rebuilding homes and lives back in New Orleans.

Winston passed for five touchdowns, New Orleans intercepted reigning NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers twice, and the Saints kicked off the post-Drew Brees era with a strikingly dominant 38-3 victory over Green Bay.

"We knew that even though some people don't have power, they're going to find a way to watch the Saints," LB Demario Davis said. "That's just what this team means to the city — and the city means the same to us."

The game, originally scheduled for the Superdome, was moved while the New Orleans area continues to clean up wreckage left by Hurricane Ida, which struck as a Category 4 storm on Aug. 29.

After canceling their last preseason game and practicing two weeks in Dallas, the Saints looked as sharp and inspired as any club with such distractions could have hoped. "That was for the city," Winston said. "We did that for them. We knew how much it would mean to get a great victory for that region. They've been through so much. ... Hats off to them for their resilience, because they motivated us. They inspired us to come out there and ball."

Winston was an efficient 14 of 20 for 148 yards. New Orleans rushed for 171 yards.

"Drew always preached, it's about the decision, not the result," Winston said, alluding to last season, when he served as a reserve and understudy to Brees in an effort to improve the long-term trajectory of his career. "Sometimes the decision is throwing the ball away, sometimes the decision is running, tucking. Sometimes the decision may be taking a sack."

Winston didn't take a sack, but did take off and run for a few key third-down conversions in the first half. The only risky throw that backfired on him, a deflected pass caught by Packers defensive back Darnell Savage in the end zone — was negated by a contested roughing-the-passer penalty called against edge rusher Z'Darius Smith.

The penalty set up the second touchdown catch of the game by Juwan Johnson, who came in with four career catches and was converted from receiver to a tight end this offseason.

On the day before his 25th birthday, Johnson also converted a screen pass into a 12-yard, first-down gain on fourthand-7 in the second quarter, when the game was still in doubt. He capped that drive with a leaping catch in the end zone on fourth-and-two. The two fourth down conversions highlighted a pivotal 14-play drive that consumed 10 minutes.

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK ONE VS. GREEN BAY

"You've got to pick your spots where you want to be aggressive and it's a little bit easier on that end of the field," Payton said. "I felt pretty good about the calls."

Green Bay fans seemed to outnumber Saints fans in a crowd announced at 35,242 for what was officially a Saints home game. But they left disappointed in a day that could not have gone much worse for Rodgers, who was pulled with nearly 11 minutes left.

As the time expired, the remaining Saints fans joined in triumphant chants of "Who Dat!" that echoed throughout the stadium.

"This is a good kick in the you-know-where," said Rodgers, who finished 15 of 28 for 133 yards and no TDs. "We felt like we were going to go up and down the field on whoever they have and that obviously wasn't the case."

Opening the third quarter down 17-3, the Packers squandered a chance to trim their deficit when Rodgers' wobbly pass under pressure was intercepted by rookie defensive back Paulson Adebo at the New Orleans 7 early in the third quarter.

On Green Bay's next drive, Marcus Williams intercepted Rodgers' deep overthrow and returned it to the Packers 12, setting up Winston's 10-yard TD to Chris Hogan.

"Every team has a game like this," said Packers running back Aaron Jones, who was limited to 9 yards on five carries. "It's better to get it out now."

#### **FAST START**

The Saints did not punt in the first half.

New Orleans took the opening kickoff for a field goal and led 10-0 after Alvin Kamara took a short forward pitch from Winston as he crossed behind the offensive line, then slipped multiple tackle attempts to squirm into the end zone from 3 yards. That officially went down as Winston's first regular-season TD pass as a Saint, and he helped set it up with a 10-yard scramble on third-and-8.

Week 2: Carolina Panthers 26, Saints 7; September 19, 2021 @ Bank of America Stadium – The Carolina Panthers, a week after their season-opening win over the New York Jets, continued to take advantage of home cooking and handed the Saints a 26-7 defeat on a warm afternoon at Bank of America Stadium.

Carolina quarterback **Sam Darnold** was impressive and efficient throughout the majority of the game, completing 26-of-38 passes for 305 yards with two touchdown passes, one interception and a 99.1 rating. But Darnold wasn't the lone story of the day, as a healthy **Christian McCaffrey** gained 137 total yards from scrimmage and one rushing touchdown.

The Panthers defense seemingly took away most of the Saints' big play abilities, with New Orleans' longest play a 27-yard connection between quarterback **Jameis Winston** and wide receiver **Lil'Jordan Humphrey**. New Orleans struggled running the ball (17 carries for 48 yards) and on early downs, resulting in unfavorable situations on third down (2-for-11) and losing the time of possession battle 38:32-21:28.

Defensively, LB Demario Davis led the club with 12 tackles,

The New Orleans special teams units also worked to keep the Saints in the hunt on a day of tough sledding. Punter **Blake Gillikin** pinned the Panthers back several times, recording a 45.0 net punting average on six punts with a 60 -yard punt. Wide receiver **Ty Montgomery** had a careerhigh three coverage stops. Midway through the third quarter, defensive end **Carl Granderson**, who had made his first career start on defense, blocked a 55-yard field goal attempt by Panther kicker **Zane Gonzale**z and it was recovered and returned by linebacker **Zack Baun**. WR/RS **Deonte Harri**s returned five kickoffs for a career-high 156 yards, running back a kick late in the second quarter 39 yards.

Week 3: New Orleans Saints 28, New England Patriots 13; September 26, 2021 @ Gillette Stadium – Only one brand of football comes to mind when Jameis Winston thinks about the best New Orleans Saints teams of the past.

"Saints football has always been efficiency and physicality up front," he said. "That's all I know. They win up front and they play tough. That's what we did here."

Winston threw two touchdown passes, Malcolm Jenkins returned an interception for a score, and the Saints beat the Patriots 28-13 on Sunday.

A week after a career-low passer rating Winston showed better command of the offense, completing 13 of 21 passes for 128 yards. Taysom Hill ran for a touchdown and Alvin Kamara rushed 24 times for 89 yards and had a receiving TD. He got support from a defense that made Patriots rookie quarterback's life miserable.

Mac Jones entered the day hoping to stretch the field after two games in which the passing attack was mostly underneath. Instead, he found himself under pressure for most of the day and threw three interceptions, two leading to Saints touchdowns. New Orleans sacked Jones three times and hit him 11 times. He finished 30 of 51 for 270 yards and a touchdown.

"I think it just goes back to execution," Jones said. "I can do a better job just sticking to my reads and being patient and letting things develop. I didn't do a good job of that today." Cornerback P.J. Williams returned Jones' first pick of the day 46 yards to set up a second quarter 7-yard TD pass by Winston.

Jenkins was the beneficiary of the second interception, snaring a pass bobbled by tight end Jonnu Smith. He returned it 34 yards and put the Saints in front 21-3.

The Patriots cut it to 21-13 following Jones' 22-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Kendrick Bourne with 9:22 left in the fourth period. The Saints responded with a 13-play, 75-yard drive that ate up 6:45 and ended with at 4-yard run by Hill.

Saints head coach Sean Payton harped all week on the Patriots' impressive 108-7 record at home (including playoffs) since 2000 when they win the turnover battle. He said having a plus-three differential Sunday was huge for New Orleans' hopes.

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK 3 AT NEW ENGLAND

"We're mindful of it every week, but it had to be something that was put in our heads every day," he said. "I thought we took care of the football. I thought that was important." New Orleans overcame an early injury to take a 14-3 lead into halftime. The Saints' offensive line was already down one starter with center Erik McCoy (calf) ruled out. They lost another early in the first quarter after T Terron Armstead exited (elbow).

But after going three-and-out on their opening drive, the Saints got efficient, sweeping down the field mixing runs and passes, and a long third-down conversion to get inside the red zone. Winston then put a bow on the 11-play, 69yard drive with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Kamara. The Saints turned defense into offense for their second score. The Patriots had third down near midfield when linebacker Kaden Ellis pressured Jones, forcing a pass tipped and intercepted by Williams. He returned it 46 yards to the Patriots nine-yard line. Three plays later Winston connected with Marquez Callaway for a seven-yard touchdown. "There's no magic sauce here," Belichick said. "Just have to go back to work and do better."

#### Week 4: New York Giants 27, New Orleans Saints 21; October 3, 2021 @ Caesars Superdome – The New York Giants spoiled the New Orleans Saints' Dome-coming party as they won a 27-21 overtime game in the Caesars Superdome.

Down 21-10 with 12 minutes to play quarterback Daniel Jones started the comeback by hitting Barkley on a 54-yard scoring play with 6:52 to play. Jones ran it in for the twopoint conversion to make it 21-18. Jones then led the Giants on a late drive to tie the score at 21 when kicker Graham Gano made a 48-yard field goal with 31 seconds to play. The Giants (1-3) won the coin toss and took the ball to start the 10-minute overtime period and marched down the field, ending it with a powerful run by Barkley. Jones finished 28 of 40 for 402 yards with two touchdown passes and one interception. Barkley had 13 carries for 52 yards and the game-winning touchdown.

The loss dropped the Saints to 2-2 and ruined the team's first game in front of a full home crowd in 637 days. The scheduled home opener was moved to Jacksonville because of damage to the area from Hurricane Ida and the team had been training in Dallas until Sept. 24. The Saints had seemed to be in command of the game thanks to their quarterbacks, Jameis Winston and Taysom Hill. Winston handled the passing-17 of 23 for 226 yards and a touchdown-while Hill took care of the rushing, powering in for two 8-yard touchdown runs.

The loss ruined one of the best games of running back Alvin Kamara's five-year career running the ball. He recorded his fourth 100-yard rushing game, carrying a then-career-

high 26 times for 120 yards. Hill finished with 28 yards rushing on six carries and also caught two passes for 26 yards.

#### Week 5: New Orleans Saints 33, Washington Football Team 22; October 10, 2021 @ FedEx Field After quarterback Jameis Winston connected with wide receiver Marquez Callaway on a Hail Mary touchdown on the final play of the first half, New Orleans Head Coach Sean Payton recalled a similar play in his first season in charge of the team .

15 years ago, his team's Hail Mary in Atlanta overshadowed a halftime performance by country music duo Sugarland. Payton thought to himself: "If there was any halftime entertainment, that's a tough spot to be in."

This one was even sweeter. The Hail Mary connection was one of Winston's four touchdown passes to help the Saints beat Washington 33-22 for a bounce-back victory after a frustrating Week Four overtime loss to the New York Giants.

"Turnovers are going to happen — you just don't want the trickle-down effect to happen," said Winston, who completed 15 of 30 passes for 279 yards and made up for an inexplicable interception on the first possession and a fumble on defensive end Chase Young's first sack of the season. "We played efficient football. We made plays when we needed it."

The win came at a cost with two more injuries. Winston took every snap at quarterback for the first time, a necessity after Taysom Hill suffered a concussion.

Winston completed a 72-yard touchdown pass to Deonte Harris, who departed (hamstring). He also connected with Callaway on the 49-yard Hail Mary touchdown, found him wide open from 12 yards out early in the fourth quarter and sent Washington fans to the exits with a pass to Alvin Kamara that turned into a 19-yard score. Kamara also had a 23-yard TD run, returned punts in Harris' absence and racked up 151 total yards.

"Any time I'm catching the ball, I love it," said Kamara, who didn't have a reception last week in the overtime loss to the New York Giants. "I think it adds an aspect to our offense. We had an opportunity to do that."

The Saints picked off Taylor Heinicke twice and put some pressure on him a week after not sacking the Giants. Running Back Antonio Gibson ran for two touchdowns, but Washington could not outscore another rough performance by its defense.

## Week 7: Saints 13, Seahawks 10; October 25, 2021 @

**Lumen Field** Alvin Kamara and Jameis Winston were the happy beneficiaries of the Seahawks' many mistakes.

Then it was rookie Brian Johnson's turn to make sure the Saints got the win they needed to keep pace in the NFC South.

"In a game like this where things are close, things get a little a little ugly towards the end, it builds confidence to be able to come into a game like this and close it out the way we did," Saints DE Cameron Jordan said.

Johnson kicked a 33-yard field goal with 1:56 left, and New Orleans outlasted Seattle 13-10.

Kamara carried the load for New Orleans and Winston made a handful of plays when needed, but the Saints escaped Seattle thanks largely to a series of Seahawks blunders.

Two of the Seahawks' biggest mistakes came on New Orleans' deciding drive when Seattle was flagged for roughing the passer and jumping offside on a long field-goal attempt. Both penalties gave New Orleans first downs, and Johnson's field goal coming out of the 2-minute warning put the Saints ahead.

Johnson, a rookie, made a PAT and both field-goal tries, connecting from 21 yards in the first half.

"It was tough trying to see what the wind was doing because it was changing constantly throughout pregame and the game itself," Johnson said. "So just stick with my plan I had coming into it and really focusing on just hitting my ball and hitting good contact that will cut through the wind." Geno Smith made his second start at QB for Seattle (2-5) since Wilson suffered a serious finger injury in a loss to the Rams. The backup hit DK Metcalf for an 84-yard touchdown in the first quarter but went nowhere when the Seahawks had a final chance to tie or win.

Smith was sacked on consecutive plays by Malcolm Jenkins and Demario Davis. On fourth-and-28, Smith was pressured again and his throw to Metcalf fell incomplete. Smith went 12 of 22 for 167 yards — half coming on the TD toss to Metcalf — and was sacked five times as Davis, Cameron Jordan and others made his night uncomfortable. Seattle's lost three straight for the first time since 2011 and fell to 0-3 at home for the first time since 1992. Although both defeats with Smith under center have been by three points, the Seahawks aren't the same without Wilson. "I've been here a long time and if we didn't have Russell, I probably wouldn't have been here a long time because of all the magic he has created over the years," coach Pete Carroll said.

Kamara finished with 10 catches for 128 yards and a 13yard TD reception late in the first half. It was his fifth career regular-season game with double-digit receptions. He rushed for 51 yards.

Winston was 19 of 35 for 222 yards and added 43 yards rushing. He also made enough plays—thanks to Seattle penalties—to get the Saints in range for the field goal. Seattle appeared to get a stop, but Marquise Blair was called for roughing the passer on a third-down sack after hitting Winston with the crown of his helmet. Kamara then sprinted past a blitz for 12 yards on third-and-10 and the Saints were in field-goal range. Al Woods jumped offside as Johnson lined up for a 43-yard attempt, allowing New Orleans to burn another 90 seconds

off the clock before Johnson made the shorter try.

"We got to get right," Seattle LB Bobby Wagner said. "We've got to really fix our mistakes, play smarter, make less penalties."

Seattle's Jason Myers missed two field goal attempts the second into the open end of the stadium after Smith took another costly sack. Myers made a 50-yarder. Kamara had 21 touches on New Orleans' 39 offensive plays in the first half. He was mostly ineffective on the ground, but Seattle couldn't slow him down in the pass game. He already had 108 yards receiving by halftime. Four of his receptions came on the final drive of the half when his 31-yard catch-and-run out of the backfield set up his 13-yard TD catch and a 10-7 halftime lead.

"Every game has a life of its own, so that was just the flavor of this week, ended up getting a lot of touches," Kamara said.

Week 8: Saints 36, Buccaneers 27; October 31, 2021 @ Caesars Superdome - When Saints QB Jameis Winston could no longer walk on his own, his New Orleans teammates rose up in dramatic fashion to knock off Tom Brady and the defending champs.

P.J. Williams intercepted Brady and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown with 1:24 left, helping New Orleans seal an eventful but potentially costly 36-27 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

Winston injured his left knee during a scramble early in the second quarter when pulled down from behind by Devin White, who was flagged for a horse collar tackle.

"I think it's significant," said coach Sean Payton, adding he cried when he saw Winston in the locker room. "He felt something and is on crutches right now...When he got up and had to go back down, you were a little concerned." Backup Trevor Siemian took over for Winston and completed 16 of 29 passes for 159 yards and a touchdown without a turnover, leading the Saints on five scoring drives that produced two touchdowns and three field goals.

Payton said he had confidence in Siemian, who'd started for Denver from 2016-2017. Payton added his play calling for the game's duration had more to do with how Tampa was defending than the fact that backup was under center. "He's an experienced player," Payton said.

Siemian, who last took a meaningful snap in Week 2 of 2019 with the Jets, said he'd "kind of lost a little bit a sense of how fun it is."

"There's a joy to this game," Siemian said. "There's nothing better than to see your teammates make plays and you're moving the ball and it's the best."

Winston's first start against the team that drafted him first overall in 2015, and then let him go in 2020 to sign Brady, was a subplot of this NFC South clash.

And Winston looked determined to do whatever it took to win, passing for 56 yards and a 14-yard touchdown to Tre'Quan Smith, and scrambling for 40 yards before his injury. Payton gave Winston a game ball, and teammates lamented his injury. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE** 

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK EIGHT AT TAMPA BAY

"It was hard, man, because he worked so hard this offseason," said Williams, Winston's friend since they were teammates at Florida State. "It's tough for me, it's tough for the team and and I know it's tough for him. I told him at halftime we were going to go out there and win for him." Brady passed for four TDs, but also turned the ball over three times on a pair of interceptions and a fumble, which the Saints converted into 16 points.

The Bucs nearly overcame their mistakes. They wiped out a 16-point second-half deficit and took a lead with 5:44 to go when receiver and former LSU trickster Cyril Grayson was left uncovered and Brady found him for a 50-yard TD. New Orleans responded by driving for a field goal and a 29 -27 lead with 1:41 left, leaving Brady, no stranger to lategame heroics, that much time plus a timeout to get in field goal range. Instead, the Saints' defense came up big. "I just threw it to the wrong guy," Brady said of his late interception. "I had Mike (Evans) open. It cost us the game."

#### **MOMENTUM SWINGS**

New Orleans' defense came up with two second quarter turnover and the offense converted those into nine points. Brady fumbled on a double-pump caused by pressure from DE Cameron Jordan. DT David Onyemata, newly activated after a six-game suspension, recovered near midfield. The Saints got a field goal, but only after a roughing-thepasser call against William Gholston wiped out what would have been an interception by Antoine Winfield Jr. in the end zone.

Later, Brady was intercepted by C.J. Gardner Johnson, who had left his man to undercut a pass intended for Chris Godwin.

New Orleans capitalized by driving for Siemian's 1-yard pass to fullback Alex Armah shortly before halftime.

The Saints widened their lead to 23-7 on the opening possession of the second half, which began with Siemian hitting Kevin White for a 38-yard gain. Alvin Kamara finished it on a pitch play on fourth-and-goal from the 1.

But Brady responded by leading the Bucs to touchdowns on two straight possessions. He hit RB Giovani Bernard for a 7-yard TD and launched a 41-yard scoring strike to Evans, who beat Marshon Lattimore in single coverage.

#### **STAT LINES**

For the Bucs, the loss squandered a prolific day for Godwin, who had eight catches for 144 yards, including a 12yard touchdown in the first quarter.

The Saints rushed for 152 yards — led by Kamara's 61 — against Tampa Bay's top-ranked run defense, which came in allowing 67.4 yards rushing per game.

The Saints sacked Brady three times: one each by Jordan, Kwon Alexander and Tanoh Kpassagnon.

### Week 9: Atlanta Falcons 26, Saints 5; November 7,

**2021 @ Caesars Superdome -** Matt Ryan's last and longest of several deep completions spared the Atlanta Falcons from another infamous collapse. Ryan hit Cordarrelle Patterson for a 64-yard gain with a minute left to set up Younghoe Koo's 29-yard field goal as time expired, and Atlanta defeated mistake-prone New Orleans on Sunday after allowing the Saints to wipe out an 18 -point, fourth-quarter deficit.

"We just like to give our fans a heart attack, just keep them on their toes to make sure they're paying attention," Patterson joked. "We wanted to put them away early, but it's the Saints; they've got a great team over there. They fought till the end. We did a better job. We got the win, that's all that matters."

Ryan passed for 343 yards, connected twice with Olamide Zaccheaus for touchdowns, and the veteran quarterback also ran for a score on a bootleg as the Falcons (4-4) snapped the Saints' three-game winning streak and prevented New Orleans (5-3) from moving into a tie with Tampa Bay (6-2) atop the NFC South.

"I felt good after that one," Ryan said. "I was excited. We needed to make a play. We needed to win that game. I'm proud of the guys for getting the job done."

Ryan's second scoring pass gave the Falcons a 24-6 lead with 10:39 left in the fourth quarter. But the Saints rallied to briefly take the lead on Trevor Siemian's 8-yard pass to Kenny Stills with 1:01 left.

New Orleans then missed a 2-point conversion try for the second time in the game, leaving the door open for the Falcons to win with a field goal.

"We got it going but it was too little, too late," Siemian said. "You can't spot a team that many scores. I knew there was a lot of time left and the game wasn't over when we scored at the end. You were still holding your breath a little bit."

#### LOST LEADS

The Falcons have seen their share of blown double-digit leads in recent years — none worse than a Super Bowl loss five seasons ago to the Patriots in overtime after leading 28-3.

The Falcons lost four fourth-quarter leads last season, when they also became the first team in NFL history to lose back-to-back games after leading by 15 or more in the fourth quarter.

And just last December, the Falcons fell to Tampa Bay after leading 24-7.

But against their historical rivals in New Orleans, the Falcons didn't fold. Rather, Ryan pulled off his 41st career comeback. Ryan needed just one play to burn the Saints' defense for his fourth completion of more than 30 yards in the game — and his second long connection with Patterson. The versatile running back beat rookie Paulson Adebo down the right sideline to give him six catches for 126 yards on the day.

"That's 'Matty Ice," Patterson said. "He's not nervous, he's been doing this his whole career."

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK NINE VS. ATLANTA

#### STATS AND SUCH

Even with top Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley unavailable while addressing mental health issues, Ryan completed 23 of 30 passes without a turnover. Russell Gage caught seven passes for 64 yards, rookie tight end Kyle Pitts caught three for 62 yards and Zaccheaus caught three for 58 yards.

Saints head coach Sean Payton started Siemian on the heels of Jameis Winston's season-ending knee injury a week ago, and intermittently mixed in Taysom Hill behind center.

Siemian passed for 249 yards and two touchdowns without an interception, and Hill completed both of his passes for 33 yards. But both quarterbacks were hindered by a combination of penalties, dropped passes and protection breakdowns.

"They played better than us today," Payton said of the Falcons. "We did not do the things that winning teams do consistently in our league, and we have got to get that corrected."

Falcons Outside Linebacker James Vaughters' blind-side sack and strip of Siemian set up Atlanta's final touchdown after linebacker Steven Means recovered and returned the fumble 32 yards to the New Orleans six.

But New Orleans rallied for three straight touchdowns in the final eight minutes, starting with Siemian's five-yard pass to wide receiver Marquez Callaway and running back Alvin Kamara's two-yard scoring run with 4:35 to go in the contest.

The Saints failed on a 2-point try after Kamara's touchdown, but New Orleans sacked Ryan for the first two times all game to force a punt and set up its late, go-ahead possession.

"You'd love to have a comfortable lead. Everybody wants to be comfortable," Falcons first-year coach Arthur Smith said. "That's not the NFL, not when you're on the road playing a good team.

"Our mindset has been we are going to finish games," Smith added. "This shows more about their mental toughness."

Week 10: Tennessee Titans 23, New Orleans Saints 21; November 14, 2021 @ Nissan Stadium - An untimely turnover, a questionable call that took away an end zone interception, two missed extra points and a false start proved too much for the New Orleans Saints to overcome in a 23-21 loss to the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, Nov. 14 at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn.

It was the Saints' second consecutive loss and dropped them to 5-4. Tennessee improved to 8-2.

The Saints had a chance to send the game to overtime after quarterback Trevor Siemian's 15-yard touchdown

pass to wide receiver Marquez Callaway made it 23-21 Tennessee with 1:16 to play. With Taysom Hill in at quarterback for the two-point play, the Saints were penalized for a false start by tight end Adam Trautman. Siemian came back in and his pass to running back Mark Ingram II from the seven-yard line was incomplete.

The comeback was necessary after New Orleans returner Deonte Harris fumbled the kickoff to start the second half, giving Tennessee the ball at the 19-yard line. The Titans quickly scored on a 2-yard pass from quarterback Ryan Tannehill to MyCole Pruitt, which increased Tennessee's lead to 20-6.

Another key play in the game came when the Saints appeared to have stopped a Tennessee scoring drive in the first half when Marcus Williams intercepted Tannehill in the end zone but the Saints were penalized for roughing the passer by linebacker Kaden Elliss. Later in the drive Demario Davis was called for pass interference, giving Tennessee the ball first and goal at the 1. Tennessee scored on the next play on a dive by Tannehill for a 13-6 halftime lead.

The Saints scored their first touchdown of the contest on an 11-yard pass from Siemain to Tre'Quan Smith in the second quarter. The score was set up by a 46-yard completion to Deonte Harris. Kicker Brian Johnson missed the extra-point attempt, the first of two missed extra points, which would lead to a kicking change in Week 11. New Orleans entered the game without offensive stars running back Alvin Kamara, left tackle Terron Armstead and wide receiver Michael Thomas and playing its second game without starting quarterback Jameis Winston. Siemian got the start again at quarterback and was 19 of 34 for 298 yards and two touchdown passes. He was sacked four times, all in the first half.

Ingram took over the load from Kamara and was effective, rushing the ball 14 times for 47 yards and scoring the team's second touchdown on a 13-yard scamper through the right side. The team's 2011 first-round draft pick also set up a 20-yard Johnson field goal with a 34-yard reception from Siemian in the fourth quarter. Ingram had four receptions for 61 yards.

Defensive end Marcus Davenport had a strong game for New Orleans with two sacks.

**INGRAM SETS RECORD:** Ingram has added another line to an already impressive resume': all-time leading rusher for the Saints.

The former Heisman Trophy winner and 2011 first-round draft pick out of Alabama entered Sunday's game against Tennessee with 6,077 career rushing yards with the Saints, 19 yards behind Saints Hall of Famer Deuce McAllister. Ingram accomplished the mark in the third quarter with a 6-yard run.

## Week 11: Philadelphia Eagles 40, New Orleans Saints 29; November 21, 2021 @ Lincoln Financial Field—A

lengthy injury report and the rushing attack of the Philadelphia Eagles was too much for the New Orleans Saints to overcome as they dropped their third consecutive game, this time a 40-29 defeat to the Eagles on Sunday, Nov. 21 at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.

The loss dropped the Saints to 5-5 with a Thanksgiving night game coming up against the Buffalo Bills at Caesars Superdome.

"We didn't do the things necessary to win in this league," Saints Coach Sean Payton said. "All of us have to do a better job. It's going to be a short week."

The Eagles (5-6) ran the ball at will against the Saints, carrying the ball 50 times for 242 yards. Philadelphia also forced Saints quarterback Trevor Siemian into two interceptions, the second one returned 51 yards for a touch-down by cornerback Darius Slay toward the end of the second quarter.

Mark Ingram II, starting at running back in place of an injured Alvin Kamara, carried the ball 16 times for 88 yards and caught six passes for 25 yards. He lost a fumble early in the third quarter, the team's third turnover.

Siemian, who replaced Jameis Winston at quarterback after Winston was lost for the season to an injury sustained against Tampa Bay on Oct. 31, had an uneven performance, completing 22 of 40 passes for 214 yards with three touchdown passes (18 yards to tight end Adam Trautman, 26 yards to wide receiver Marquez Callaway, four yards to wide receiver Lil'Jordan Humphrey), a 17-yard touchdown run and the two interceptions. Trautman, who had five receptions for 58 yards and a touchdown, left the game in the fourth quarter with an injury.

In addition to the absences of Kamara and Winston, the Saints were missing three-fifths of their starting offensive line (left tackle Terron Armstead, left guard Andrus Peat and right tackle Ryan Ramczyk) and star wide receiver Michael Thomas.

The New Orleans defense was relatively healthy but struggled to contain Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts and running backs Miles Sanders and Jordan Howard. Hurts had two short touchdown runs in the first quarter and put the game away with a 24-yard touchdown run with 3:59 to play. Philadelphia kicker Jake Elliott converted on all four of his fieldgoal attempts (50, 37, 33 and 47 yards).

Defensive end Cameron Jordan recorded a sack, giving him 98.5 for his career.

The Saints scored 15 consecutive points in the fourth quarter - 22 total for the period - to get back into the game. It was the third consecutive fourth quarter rally for the Saints (22 points in fourth quarter of loss to Atlanta, nine points in loss to Tennessee) but they came up short each time. It is the team's first three-game losing streak since the 2016 season.

Week 12: Buffalo Bills 31, New Orleans Saints 6; November 25, 2021 @ Caesars Superdome — On the night that legendary New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees said goodbye to Saints fans, the New Orleans offense had one of its least effective games as the Buffalo Bills cruised to a 31-6 victory on Thanksgiving night at the Caesars Superdome.

Quarterback Trevor Siemian, making his fourth start in place of an injured Jameis Winston, couldn't get anything working early as the Saints lost their fourth consecutive contest to drop to 5-6. New Orleans had 64 yards of offense at halftime and just 190 for the game. The Saints didn't get on the scoreboard until 14:54 remained when Siemian hit tight end Nick Vannett with an 11-yard touchdown pass.

The New Orleans offense was decimated by injuries. The Saints played without their two top running backs (Alvin Kamara, Mark Ingram), their starting quarterback (Winston), their star receiver (Michael Thomas), their All-Pro right tackle (Ryan Ramczyk), their Pro Bowl left guard (Andrus Peat) and their top tight end (Adam Trautman). Taysom Hill was the team's backup quarterback and took no snaps.

Siemian was 17 of 29 for 163 yards with one touchdown pass and one interception and running back Tony Jones Jr. was the top rusher with 27 yards on 16 carries. Ty Mont-gomery was the top receiver with five catches for 31 yards. The Saints were 5 of 13 on third down and had just 12 first downs.

The defense was missing three of its top four defensive ends but held tough through a 10-0 first half, coming up with two interceptions (cornerback Bradley Roby and linebacker Kwon Alexander) and two sacks (defensive end Carl Granderson, linebacker Kaden Elliss). But Bills quarterback Josh Allen and his offense eventually broke the game open in the second half, scoring on a 5-yard pass to wide receiver Stefon Diggs, a 24-yard pass to Dawson Knox, his second touchdown of the game, and a 23-yard pass to running back Matt Breida.

The Saints will play host to the Dallas Cowboys (7-4) next Thursday at the Caesars Superdome. While Winston and Thomas are out for the season, the Saints could get several of their injured star players back for the game. The fourgame losing streak is the Saints' longest since the 2015 season.

#### Week 13: Dallas Cowboys 27, New Orleans Saints 17; December 2, 2021 @ Caesars Superdome—The New Orleans Saints lost their fifth consecutive game Thursday, Dec. 2, dropping a 27-17 decision to the Dallas Cowboys at the Caesars Superdome.

The loss dropped the Saints to 5-7. This is the Saints' first five-game losing streak since the 2005 season when the team was displaced from New Orleans because of damages to the Superdome and the city from Hurricane Katrina. The team had separate six- and five-game losing streaks that season.

The win improved the Cowboys' record to 8-4. Dallas played the game without its head coach, Mike McCarthy, who missed the game because of the league's Covid-19 protocols. Former Falcons coach Dan Quinn served as the interim coach.

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK 13 VS. DALLAS

"A disappointing loss. We did well in the first half. I thought we played well defensively," Head Coach Sean Payton said after the game. "The second half, obviously, was different."

Taysom Hill got the start at quarterback for the Saints, his first start at that position since filling in for Drew Brees for four games during the 2020 season. The fifth-year veteran out of BYU did everything he could to keep the Saints in the game with his legs. He ran the ball 11 times for 101 yards, crossing the 1,000-yard mark for his career and becoming the second Saints quarterback to ever rush for 100 yards in a game (Aaron Brooks, 2000 vs. San Francisco). He was less effective passing, possibly because of an injury to one of the fingers on his throwing hand in the first quarter, completing 19 for 40 yards for 264 yards with two touchdowns and four interceptions, three in the fourth quarter.

"I thought he played with a lot of heart, a lot of guts," Payton said of Hill. "We didn't help him in the first half." Cornerback Marshon Lattimore put the Saints in scoring position with an interception of Dak Prescott in the fourth quarter but Hill was hit while throwing and had his pass intercepted by Damontae Kazee with 6:24 to play, Hill's second of the game. Hill was picked off by cornerback Trevon Diggs on the very next possession, and again on the next possession. The final one was returned 29 yards for a touchdown by defensive tackle Carlos Watkins.

New Orleans had a 70-yard touchdown reception by Deonte Harris with 2:32 to play in the game for the final score.

Running back Mark Ingram II returned from a one-game absence due to a kneed injury and had 10 carries for 28 yards, but New Orleans still had to play without star tailback Alvin Kamara, its two starting offensive tackles - left tackle Terron Armstead and right tackle Ryan Ramczyk starting tight end Adam Trautman, starting left guard Andrus Peat and three of its top four defensive ends.

Week 14: New Orleans Saints 30, New York Jets 9; December 12, 2021 @ MetLife Stadium – The New Orleans Saints welcomed running back Alvin Kamara back to the lineup and said good riddance to the team's five-game losing streak with a 30-9 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday, Dec. 12 at MetLife Stadium.

Kamara, who had missed the past four games with knee and hamstring injuries, had an outstanding game, scoring on a 16-yard run in the second quarter and running for more than 100 yards for the fifth time in his career. He ran for 120 yards on a career-high 27 carries and caught four passes for 25 yards. His first reception of the game set a National Football League record for the most catches by a running back in his first five seasons in the NFL (359 catches).

"I'm back healthy. I think that was the most important thing," Kamara said. "O-line played well. I think we played well overall as a team. ... It looked good, it felt good." Taysom Hill started at quarterback for the second consecutive game and was 15 for 21 for 175 yards and scored on 2

-yard and 40-yard touchdown runs. Kicker Brett Maher was a perfect three-for-three on field-goal attempts, converting from 23, 31 and 37 yards. The Saints had a massive advantage in time of possession, holding onto the ball for nearly 39 minutes.

The New Orleans defense dominated the Jets (3-10), forcing four three-and-outs in the first half. Linebacker Kwon Alexander (two) and defensive end Carl Granderson had sacks for New Orleans as the Saints kept the Jets out of the end zone, allowing just three field goals. New York was three of 14 on third down attempts and one of three on fourth down.

The Saints (6-7) will play at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on "Sunday Night Football" on Dec. 19 before returning home to host the Miami Dolphins on "Monday Night Football" on Dec. 27.

The Saints played without three players who were put on the Covid-19 list last week - defensive end Cameron Jordan, running back Mark Ingram II and running back Ty Montgomery. It was the first game Jordan has missed in his career, ending a streak of 172 consecutive games played.

Week 15: Saints 9, Buccaneers 0; December 19, 2021 @ Raymond James Stadium - Eyes did not deceive. In a 9-0 victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday night, the New Orleans Saints' defense likely slotted in the best submission on a resume that has had several of them in the last few seasons, including three others against Tampa Bay in the previous three games against the Buccaneers. New Orleans shut out what had been the league's leading scoring offense (31.5 points per game) and gave fits to quarterback Tom Brady, who holds - or will hold - just about every meaningful record for an NFL quarterback if and when he ever retires. Brady completed 26 of 48 passes for 214 yards, but committed two turnovers (and interception and lost fumble) and was sacked four times. The Saints (7-7) will seek their third consecutive victory against Miami (7-7) on Monday night in the Caesars Superdome, with Miami looking to extend its six-game winning streak.

On Sunday night at Raymond James Stadium, the Buccaneers were unsuccessful on 13 of 19 third-down attempts, were stopped on their only fourth-down attempt and never reached the red zone against the Saints.

The Saints, with defensive coordinator Dennis Allen serving as acting head coach due to the absence of Coach Sean Payton (Covid-19 protocols after testing positive last Friday), had seven quarterback hits and six passes defensed, and committed just one penalty on defense. "I think just in general, defensively, I think that's probably as well as we've played," Allen said Monday. "I think our ability to get up on their receivers and disrupt on the line of scrimmage and not allow free access into the defense, I think that in conjunction with our pass rush, which I think affected the quarterback (was exemplary).

"And I think maybe even more than anything else, I thought our tackling was outstanding in the game. There was very little run-after-catch on these completions. There was a lot of catch-tackles when they were able to complete the passes. In that aspect, I thought that was outstanding." **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE** 

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WEEK 15 AT TAMPA BAY

New Orleans effectively smothered Tampa Bay, causing and recovering a fumble on the Bucs deepest drive. But the shutout, and the ability to keep Tampa Bay out of the red zone, wasn't defense-exclusive, Allen said.

"It was a great team win," he said. "And I felt like we played really good on defense. But to be able to do those things, you can't turn the ball over, you have to be able to play the field-position game, you have to be able to pin them down there when you have opportunities to pin them down there and make them go the long, hard way.

"They took over the ball one time on the 43-yard line, and that was the best field position that they had all night, and that was the one opportunity that they had that they missed the field goal (45-yard attempt in the second quarter, which would of halved New Orleans' six-point lead).

"A lot of the things that we felt like we needed to do to win the game, we were able to accomplish."

Allen said the Saints played with emotion and energy, and that until Payton is able to return the team will resume the formula that it utilized for Sunday.

"I think we've got to approach it, really, basically the same way we approached last week," he said. "We all know that we've got a job to do and certainly we're hoping that Coach is back sooner rather than later. But he's prepared all of us for the job at hand.

"Most of us have been with him long enough that we know exactly what's expected of us. The players know exactly what's expected of them. And we kind of operate business as usual, and hopefully we'll have him back in the building sooner rather than later and we'll be following his lead." But on Sunday, Allen was the leader. It was his first game as head coach since 2014, his final season as coach of the Raiders.

"Certainly I received a lot of texts (after the game), and it's greatly appreciated," he said. "But, again, we're sitting here in the middle of a playoff chase and we really got to just focus in on doing our job and winning the next one. "I just told the players when you start paying too much attention to everybody that's patting you on the back, the payt thing you way here to turn excurd and there"

next thing you know you're going to turn around and there'll be somebody that's going to be kicking you in the butt. That's the way our league works, so we've just got to stick to the process, understand the plan and focus in now on making the corrections and moving on to Miami."

Week 16: Dolphins 20, Saints 3; December 27, 2021 @ Caesars Superdome – Saints coach Sean Payton said QB Ian Book's NFL debut was "hard to evaluate." The very reason the rookie out of Notre Dame was pressed into service in the first place was a COVID-19 outbreak on the club that also robbed New Orleans of 16 players. Add in a knee injury that made T Terron Armstead a scratch and it was bound to be a tough day for even an experienced QB — never mind Book, a fourth-round draft choice.

Book was intercepted twice — once for a touchdown — and sacked eight times in a 20-3 loss to the Miami Dolphins on Monday night.

"He's competitive and tough. He's going to be fine," Payton said of Book. "He'll be frustrated, like all of us, with some

plays, but certainly it's not going to define his growth or his career or what he does.

"It was kind of one of those perfect storms," Payton added. "We're all anxious to see him and yet it was just a tough spot for him to be in."

Book didn't have the benefit of having either of the Saints' starting tackles. Ryan Ramczyk was among the players placed on the club's COVID-19 reserve list. Reserve T Jordan Mills, who started due to injuries in a win at Tampa Bay a week earlier, also was placed on COVID reserve this week.

WR Tre'Quan Smith, the most accomplished Saints receiver available, left (chest) and did not have a catch. The Saints' top two receiving tight ends — Adam Trautman and Juwan Johnson — also were on COVID reserve. Unable to get comfortable with his pass protection, Book was quick to flee the pocket. He was a good scrambler in college, but found out how much quicker defenders' closing speed can be in the NFL. He was dragged down repeatedly on scrambles behind the line of scrimmage.

"I can't take that many sacks," Book said. "I've just got to throw it away and be smart. Trying to do a little too much." Book's ability seemed to be less of a problem than his decision-making. When Book was comfortable, he threw decisively and accurately, completing 12 of 20 passes for 135 yards. But he said Miami surprised him with some unexpected defensive looks.

The Saints expected Miami to play man-to-man coverage. Instead, they played a lot of zone.

"They'd never seen me play and they want to test my arm and make me throw into certain zones, which is a smart tactic," Book said. "They were taking away some shorter routes that we were trying to hit and I just got to move to the next level (downfield). There's was definitely some of those I could have got."

The Saints also were unable to move the ball on the ground consistently, rushing for 83 yards. New Orleans did not convert any of its 12 third downs.

New Orleans' defense, coming off a shutout of Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, limited the Dolphins to just one offensive TD and two field goals. That was despite playing without starting LBs Demario Davis and Kwon Alexander, or S Malcolm Jenkins — all swept up in the outbreak.

Marshon Lattimore had an interception. Cam Jordan had two sacks and Marcus Davenport had one. Miami's only offensive TD came on a shovel pass to receiver Jaylen Waddle on a misdirection play that made it 17-3 with 5:10 left in the third quarter.

"Certainly, they played well enough for us to be in this game, which we were for a good majority of it," Payton said of New Orleans' defense.

Many of the missing players, having tested positive before Friday, are expected to be available vs. Carolina Sunday. That means Book's maiden start could be his only one this season. And as rough as it went, he saw it as something upon which to build.

"I was having fun. I wanted to go out there and bring energy," Book said. "I could have played a little bit faster, you know, obviously doing some thinking the first time out there.

"I learned a lot already. So, that's a pretty cool feeling. I'm excited about that," Book added. "It's about moving on. Don't hang your head. It didn't go our way tonight."

## HONORS

#### NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK WEEK 5: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE Saints 33, Washington Football Team 22 @ FedEx Field, Oct. 10, 2021

Lattimore posted one solo tackle and a career-high six passes defensed, the highest total in the NFL since the 2017 season.

#### NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK WEEK 7: RB ALVIN KAMARA Saints 13, Seahawks 10 @ Lumen Field, Oct. 25, 2021

Kamara totaled 179 scrimmage yards (128 receiving, 51 rushing) and 10 receptions including a touchdown catch. It marked the most receiving yards by a running back in a game this season.

#### NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK WEEK 15: DE CAMERON JORDAN Saints 9, Buccaneers 0 @ Raymond James Stadium, Dec. 19, 2021

Recorded five solo tackles with two tackles for loss, three quarterback hits, and one forced fumble. Also recorded two sacks to become the second Saint to reach 100 for his career.

#### NFC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE MONTH **OCTOBER: P BLAKE GILLIKIN**

In October when New Orleans won their last three games of the month, Gillikin punted 17 times for 843 yards with a 45.5 net punting average, second in the NFL over that time. Gillikin's ten punts inside the 20-yard line were tied for third in the league over the month. Oct. 10 at Washington, Gillikin had three punts downed inside the three-yard line, as he became the first punter since at least 2000 to have three punts of 53-plus yards downed inside the threeyard line.

#### NFL SALUTE TO SERVICE AWARD/SAINTS TEAM NOMINEE: LB DEMARIO DAVIS

Davis was selected as the team's nominee for the NFL's Salute to Service Award, recognizing NFL figures with demonstrable commitment to honoring and supporting military and veteran communities.

#### NATIONAL STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING ASSOCIA-TION PROFESSIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR: HEAD STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH DAN DALRYM-PLE

2021 team award winner and team nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for dedication to the community and charitable endeavors and play on the field.

#### PRO BOWL: DB J.T. GRAY (special teams starter), DE CAMERON JORDAN, RB ALVIN KAMARA AND CB MARSHON LATTIMORE.

# **UP NEXT**

New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, January 2, 2022 as they close out the 2021 regular season with their first of two NFC tilts, when they host the Carolina Panthers at the Caesars Superdome with a noon CT kickoff. New Orleans leads the regular season series 27-26, but will need to avenge a 26-7 loss at Bank of America Stadium in order to continue their hopes for qualifying for the postseason for the fifth consecutive season. New Orleans currently has a 2-2 record in a rugged NFC South race.

## HOW DO YOU SAY IT

#### **NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

#### **PLAYERS**

- LB **Kwon** Alexander (kwahn)
- Т Terron Armstead (ter-RON))
- LB Zack Baun (BONN)
- G Caleb Benenoch (ben-en-knock)
- WR Marguez Callaway (mar-QWEZ)
- LB Demario Davis (duh-MAR-ee-oh)

WR/RS Deonte Harris (deo-on-tay)

- RB Alvin Kamara (kuh-Mare-Uh)
- DT David Onyemata (own-yay-MAH-ta)
- Т Ryan Ramczyk (RAM-check)
- Κ Brett Maher (Ma-HER)
- C/G Cesar Ruiz (roo-EEZ)
- QB Trevor Siemian (SIM-ee-en)

#### COACHES

Senior Defensive Asst. Peter Giunta (GEN-ta).

Secondary Coach Kris Richard (Ri-SHARD).

Tight Ends/Run Game Coordinator Dan Roushar (ROWshar).

## 2021 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

#### PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time/Network/Result
Aug. 14	@Baltimore Ravens	L, 14-17
Aug. 23	JACKSONVILLE JAGUA	RS W, 23-21

#### **REGULAR SEASON**

Date	Opponent	Time/Network/Resul
Sept. 12	<b>GREEN BAY PACKERS*</b>	W, 38-3
Sept. 19	@Carolina Panthers	L, 7-26
Sept. 26	@New England Patriots	W, 28-13
Oct. 3	NEW YORK GIANTS	L, 21-27 OT
Oct. 10	@Washington Football Te	am W, 33-22
	BYE	<b>_</b>
Oct. 25	@Seattle Seahawks	W, 13-10
Oct. 31	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEER	RS W, 36-27
Nov. 7	ATLANTA FALCONS	L, 25-27
Nov. 14	@Tennessee Titans	L, 21-23
Nov. 21	@Philadelphia Eagles	L, 29-40
Nov. 25	<b>BUFFALO BILLS</b>	L, 6-31
Dec. 2	DALLAS COWBOYS	L, 17-27
Dec. 12	@New York Jets	W, 30-10
Dec. 19	@Tampa Bay Buccaneers	W, 9-0
Dec. 27	MIAMI DOLPHINS	L, 3-20
Jan. 2	CAROLINA PANTHERS	12:00/FOX
Jan. 9	@Atlanta Falcons	12:00/FOX

\*Played In Jacksonville, Florida due to Hurricane Ida

## TEAM NOTES

#### FAMILY TIES

Numerous Saints players, coaches and administrators are not the only members of their families to make a name for themselves in pro football. No fewer than 17 Saints active roster players, coaches or front office staff have relatives who have played, coached or served in the front office in the NFL.

**Defensive Coordinator Dennis Allen** - Late father, Grady Allen, played linebacker for the Falcons from 1968-72.

**Offensive Coordinator Pete Carmichael** - Late father, Pete, served as an assistant coach from 1994-2003 with the Jacksonville Jaguars (1994-99), Cleveland Browns (2000) and Chicago Bears (2002-03).

**Offensive Assistant D.J. Williams** - Father, Doug Williams, is a veteran of the Washington Football Team's front office, who won Super Bowl XXII as their starting quarterback, the pinnacle of a storied 12-year pro football career, which includes him being in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Ring of Honor, also working in the Buccaneers front office.

VP/Asst. General Manager-College Personnel Jeff Ireland – Stepson of Chiefs Hall of Fame linebacker/center E.J. Holub. Grandson of Philadelphia Eagles running back and Chicago Bears personnel exec. Jim Parmer.

**National Scout Terry Wooden** - Brother, JoJo, is Director of Player Personnel for the Los Angeles Chargers.

**Linebacker Demario Davis** - Late cousin Steve McNair was a former standout quarterback for the Houston Oilers/ Tennessee Titans (1995-2005) and Ravens (2006-07).

**QB Taysom Hill** - Brother-in-law, David Nixon played linebacker and on special teams for the Raiders (2009), Houston Texans (2010) and St. Louis Rams (2010-11).

**LB Kaden Elliss** - Father, Luther was a former first round draft pick of the Lions in 1995 and played ten years in the NFL and was selected to two Pro Bowls. Younger brother Christian, signed with the Minnesota Vikings after the 2021 NFL Draft and went to training camp with the team.

**DE Cameron Jordan -** Father, Steve, had a prolific 13year career at tight end for the Vikings, with six Pro Bowl selections, being inducted into their Ring of Honor.

**TE Juwan Johnson -** Brother George, played defensive end for eight years in the National Football League with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Vikings, Lions and Saints.

**Tackle Jordan Mills -** Has two cousins with extensive National Football League experience. Brandon Jacobs was a 4th-round pick (110th overall) by the New York Giants in the 2005 NFL draft and played nine NFL seasons with the Giants (2005-11;2013) and San Francisco 49ers (2012) as a running back. Tramon Williams, also a former Louisiana Tech standout, was signed as an undrafted free agent by the Houston Texans in 2006 and played 14 NFL seasons with the Green Bay Packers (2007-14; 2018-19), Cleveland Browns (2015-16), Arizona Cardinals (2017) and Baltimore Ravens (2020) as a cornerback before finally announcing his retirement this past offseason.

#### **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE-FAMILY TIES**

WR Kenny Stills - Father, Ken Stills was an eighth round draft pick of the Green Bay Packers in 1985 and played for the Packers (1985-89) and Minnesota Vikings (1990).

DT Shy Tuttle - Uncle, Perry Tuttle played wide receiver on Clemson's national championship team in 1981, who was a first round pick of the Bills in 1982 and then played three NFL seasons with the Buffalo Bills, Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

LB Pete Werner - Father, Greg, played nine games at right New Orleans Saints players come from 20 states, Washend and on special teams for this week's opponent, the New York Jets in 1989 and went to training camp with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1990.

Senior Scouting Consultant Scott Campbell - Late father, Marion, played for the 49ers (1954-55) and Philadelphia Eagles (1956-61) as one of the league's last two-way players along the line as a two-time Pro Bowl selection and first-team All-Pro (1960), was a defensive assistant with the WINNING STREAKS Patriots (1962-63), Vikings (1964-66), Rams (1967-68), Eagles (1977-82) and Falcons (1969-74) and former head coach of the Eagles (1983-85) and Falcons (1987-89).

Area Scout Joey Vitt - Father, Joe Vitt, is a longtime NFL assistant coach, who served as assistant head coach/ linebackers of the Saints from 2006-16 and also had coaching stints with the Seattle Seahawks, Colts, Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, Kansas City Chiefs and Jets.

Combine Scout Matt Phillips - Father, Ted is the president/CEO of the Chicago Bears.

#### COACHES IN THE NFL

Five members of the 2021 Saints coaching staff have prior playing experience in the NFL.

Head Coach Sean Payton - Played for the Bears in 1987.

Quarterbacks Coach Ronald Curry - A seventh round draft pick (235th overall) of the Raiders in 2002 out of the North Carolina and played for the Oakland Raiders from 2002-08, appearing in 76 games with 32 starts, registering 193 receptions for 2,347 yards with 13 touchdowns.

Secondary Coach Kris Richard - A third-round draft pick (85th overall) of Seattle in 2002, Richard played in 38 games at cornerback and on special teams with the Seahawks from 2002-04 before finishing his playing career with the San Francisco 49ers in 2005.

Assistant Offensive Line Coach Zach Strief - Entered the

NFL as a seventh round draft pick of the Saints in 2006 and played for the team for 12 seasons, playing in 158 regular season games with 93 starts, opening 87 contests at right tackle and serving as a five-time offensive captain.

Pass Rush Specialist Brian Young - Played in the NFL from 2000-08 with the St. Louis Rams his first four seasons, who originally selected him in the fifth round of the 2000 NFL Draft (139th overall) from Texas-El Paso and final five campaigns with the Saints, playing in 124 games, recording 22.5 career sacks and eight fumble recoveries.

#### **MY HOMETOWN**

ington D.C. and Nigeria. Of the players currently on the team's 53-man roster, Texas claims the most members with seven (cornerback Paulson Adebo, guard Caleb Benenoch, defensive end Marcus Davenport, wide receiver Lil'Jordan Humphrey, center/guard Erik McCoy, wide receiver Ty Montgomery and long snapper Zach Wood).

Under Payton, the Saints have put together seven winning streaks of at least six games, headlined in 2020 by a ninegame win streak. The 2020 Saints were the sixth team in NFL history to have a six-game win streak in four straight seasons joining the 1929-32 Green Bay Packers, 1970-73 Miami Dolphins, 1989-95 49ers, 2004-09 Indianapolis Colts and 2014-19 New England Patriots. Below is a list of the franchise's win streaks of at least six games since Payton was hired as head coach in 2006:

## Sept. 13-Dec. 13, 2009-13 games Oct. 31-Dec. 12, 2010-6 games Nov. 6, 2011-Jan 1, 2012-8 games Sept. 24-Nov. 19, 2017-8 games Sept. 16-Nov. 22, 2018-10 games Sept. 22, 2019-Oct. 27, 2019-6 games Oct. 4-Dec. 13, 2020 -9 games

#### LONGEST WINNING STREAKS IN SAINTS HISTORY

- 13 9/13-12/13/09
- 10 9/16-12/23/18
- 9 11/1-12/27/87 12/23/90-10/20/91 10/4/-12/13/20

#### **DOUBLE DIGIT WINS**

Finishing the 2020 regular season at 12-4, New Orleans has won at least ten games nine times under Payton after posting double-digit win totals only five times from 1967-2005. In 2020, the Saints had the franchise's seventh season of at least 12 wins, five under Payton.

#### IN THE NFC SOUTH

The Saints have the best record among NFC South teams since 2006, a time where they've won seven division titles including four straight from 2017-20, the most in division history and are only the third NFC team since 2002 to win a division four straight times. They've posted a 58-35 division mark since 2006 and in 2020 became the first team since the NFC South debuted in 2002 to finish the season 6-0 in the division. New Orleans has joined the 2004-07 Seattle Seahawks and 2011-14 Green Bay Packers to become only the third NFC team since divisional realignment in 2002 to win four consecutive division titles.

#### REGULAR SEASON RECORDS OF NFC SOUTH TEAMS SINCE 2006

Team	W	L	т	Pct.
New Orleans Saints	157	98	0	.616
Atlanta Falcons	130	125	0	.510
Carolina Panthers	124	130	1	.488
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	106	149	0	.416

#### **ROSTER FACTS AND FIGURES**

- Oldest Saints player: S Malcolm Jenkins, 34, 12/20/87
- Youngest Saint: CB Paulson Adebo, 22, 7/3/99
- Most Seasons as a Saint: DE Cameron Jordan 11
- Most NFL seasons: S Malcolm Jenkins 13
- Most consecutive starts: C/G Cesar Ruiz, 30
- Consecutive games played: LS Zach Wood, 7
- Most playoff experience: S Malcolm Jenkins, 14 games
- Heaviest Saint: OL James Carpenter, 321
- Tallest Saint: TE Nick Vannett, 6-6
- Shortest Saint: RB Mark Ingram II, 5-9.

**Former first round draft picks:** 9 – OL James Carpenter-Jenkins, Jordan, RB Mark Ingram II, DE Marcus Davenport, CB Marshon Lattimore, T Ryan Ramczyk, CB Bradley

Roby and C/G Cesar Ruiz.

**Pro Bowlers:** 6 – DB J.T. Gray, Ingram, Jenkins, Jordan, RB Alvin Kamara and Lattimore.

**Coaches who played in the NFL:** 5 - Head Coach Sean Payton, Quarterbacks Coach Ronald Curry, Secondary Coach Kris Richard, Assistant Offensive Line Coach Zach Strief, Pass Rush Specialist Brian Young

**College with the most Saints:** Ohio State—6 (Jenkins, Lattimore, DE Jaylyn Holmes, CB Bradley Roby, TE Nick Vannett and LB Pete Werner).

#### SAINTS TEAM CAPTAINS

In a player vote, DE J.T. Gray was added as special teams captain and QB Jameis Winston offensively, with the other four returning captains re-elected. DE Cameron Jordan's the team's longest tenured captain (2015). T Terron Armstead, LB Demario Davis and S Malcolm Jenkins round out the group.

#### 2021 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TEAM CAPTAINS

Offense	Defense	Special Teams	
QB Jameis Winst	on LB Demario D	avis DB J.T. Gray	
T Terron Armstea	T Terron Armstead S Malcolm Jenkins		
DE Cameron Jordan			
ROAD WARRIORS			
Since 2006, the Saints have the best road record in the NFC, second-best in the NFL at 75-53 (.586).			

#### NFL REGULAR SEASON ROAD RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	Record
1. New England	86-41
2. New Orleans	75-53
3. Dallas	71-57
4. Pittsburgh	68-58-1

Since 2009, with a 63-41 (.606) road mark, the Saints have the best record in the NFC and second-best in the NFL.

#### NFL REGULAR SEASON ROAD RECORDS SINCE 2009

Team	Record
1. New England	66-37
2. New Orleans	63-41
3. Dallas	57-47
4. Pittsburgh	55-47-1

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-ROAD WARRI-ORS

Since 2018, with a 25-7 (.781) road mark, the Saints have the second-best best road record away in the NFL away from the Caesars Superdome.

#### NFL REGULAR SEASON ROAD RECORDS SINCE 2018

Team	Record
1. Kansas City	24-6
2. New Orleans`	24-7
3. L.A. Rams	21-12
4. Baltimore	20-12
5. Seattle	19-13

#### DOMEFIELD ADVANTAGE

Since 2008, the Saints have posted a 77-32 home record, ranked fifth in the NFL. They've had four consecutive winning seasons for the second time joining 2008-11.

#### NFL REGULAR SEASON HOME RECORDS SINCE 2008

Team	Record
1. New England	89-20
2. Green Bay	84-23-2
3. Baltimore	80-29
4. Pittsburgh	81-30-1
5. New Orleans	77-33

#### **OPPONENT POINTS PER GAME**

A productive defense and crushing and opportunistic special teams coverage units have contributed to New Orleans ranking first in the NFC and fourth in the NFL in opponent points per game in 2021.

#### 2021 NFL OPPONENT POINTS PER GAME LEADERS

PAYTON'S PLACE AMONG HEAD COACHES
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Sean Payton's had an impressive run as head coach since being hired, After the team had captured only two division titles prior to 2006, the club has seven under Payton, including four straight from 2017-20, the first time the club won their division in consecutive seasons and only the third time an NFC team's won their division four straight seasons since 2002 realignment. The franchise has had 15 winning seasons in its 55-season history, nine under Payton's watch. Payton has the highest winning percentage (.621) and most wins (159) among the 16 Saints coaches, ranked 22nd all-time, fifth among active coaches.

#### PAYTON YEAR-BY-YEAR HEAD COACH BREAKDOWN

Year	Reg. Season	Postseason
2006	10-6	NFC Champ Game (1-1)
2007	7-9	-
2008	8-8	-
2009	13-3	SB XLIV Championship (3-0)
2010	11-5	Wild Card Round (0-1)
2011	13-3	Divisional Round (1-1)
2013	11-5	Divisional Round (1-1)
2014	7-9	-
2015	7-9	-
2016	7-9	-
2017	11-5	Divisional Round (1-1)
2018	13-3	NFC Champ Game (1-1)
2019	13-3	Wild Card Round (0-1)
2020	12-4	Divisional Round (1-1)
2021	7-8	
TOTAL	150-89	9-8

#### WINNINGEST ALL-TIME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HEAD COACHES

#### (REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON)

Теа	am	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1t.	New England	260	17.3
1t.	Denver	260	17.3
3.	Buffalo	264	17.6
4.	New Orleans	305	20.3
5t.	Kansas City	306	20.4
5t.	Arizona	306	20.4

Coach	W	L	Pct.
Sean Payton	159	97	.621
Jim Mora	93	78	.544
Jim Haslett	46	52	.469

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

## TEAM NOTES

Payton's .629 regular season winning percentage is ranked fifth all-time in league record books among coaches with at least 200 games to their record.

#### REGULAR SEASON WINNING PERCENTAGES AMONG COACHES (Min. 200 games)

Coach	w	L	т	Pct.
Bill Belichick	289	142	0	.671
Don Shula	328	156	0	.670
Tony Dungy	139	69	0	.668
Mike Tomlin	152	85	2	.640
Sean Payton	150	89	0	.628

In 238 regular season games (150 wins), Sean Payton has become the fifth-quickest head coach in NFL record books to reach 150 victories.

#### FEWEST GAMES TO REACH 150 REGULAR SEASON WINS

Coach	Games
Don Shula	204
George Halas	223
Curly Lambeau	228
Mike Tomlin	232
Sean Payton	238

#### Payton's 159 career wins (regular season/postseason combined) since 2006 are ranked fourth among active coaches and his winning percentage since 2006 is ranked seventh among active coaches.

#### WINNING PERCENTAGES AMONG ACTIVE HEAD COACHES SINCE 2006 (Min. 50 games)

Coach	W	L	т	Pct.
Matt LaFleur	40	11	0	.784
Bill Belichick	209	74	0	.739
Sean McVay	57	28	0	.671
Mike Tomlin	160	93	2	.631
Andy Reid	169	99	1	.630
Bruce Arians	83	50	1	.624
Sean Payton	159	97	0	.621

#### WINNINGEST ACTIVE NFL HEAD COACHES SINCE 2006 (REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON)

Coach	W	L	т	Pct.
Bill Belichick	209	74	0	.739
Andy Reid	169	99	1	.630
Mike Tomlin	160	93	2	.631
Sean Payton	159	97	0	.621

Payton has a winning record against all three NFC South clubs, including the most victories by a head coach against all three. On Sunday, he will be looking to improve his record against the Carolina Panthers to 17-13.

#### NFC SOUTH COACHES RECORDS IN DIVISION PLAY

Saints Head Coach Sean Payton has the most regular season division wins and the top winning percentage by active NFC South coaches after going 6-0 in the division in 2020 and being at 2-2 in 2021 after sweeping Tampa Bay. Division play for the Saints will resume on January 2, when the Saints close out the regular season hosting Carolina and at Atlanta.

Coach	W	L	Pct.
Sean Payton	56	32	.636
Bruce Arians	9	8	.529
Arthur Smith	2	3	.400
Matt Rhule	3	7	.300

# PAYTON'S REGULAR SEASON RECORD VS. NFC SOUTH TEAMS

Team	w	L	Pct.
Atlanta	20	9	.690
Tampa Bay	20	10	.667
Carolina	16	13	.552

#### PRO BOWL PLAYERS COACHED BY SEAN PAYTON

Payton's coached 29 players who've earned 70 Pro Bowl selections as head coach, coordinator and position coach, nine who are currently with the club.

# PRO BOWL PLAYERS COACHED BY PAYTON AS A HEAD COACH, COORDINATOR OR POSITION COACH

Pos.	Player	Pro Bowls	Years
G	Larry Allen	1	2005
Т	Terron Armstead	3	2018-20
QB	Drew Brees	12	2006, 08-14, 16-19
Т	Jammal Brown	2	2006, 08
Т	Jermon Bushrod	1	2011
TE	Jared Cook	1	2019
G	Jahri Evans	5	2009-11, 13-14
С	Jonathan Goodwin	1	2009
TE	Jimmy Graham	3	2011, 13-14
DB	J.T. Gray	1	2021
G	Ben Grubbs	1	2013
S	Roman Harper	2	2009-10
RS	Deonte Harris	1	2019
RB	Mark Ingram II	2	2014, 2017
DE	Cameron Jordan	7	2013, 2015, 2017-21
RB	Alvin Kamara	5	2017-21
СВ	Marshon Lattimore	e 4	2017, 2019-21
Κ	Wil Lutz	1	2019
G	Carl Nicks	2	2010-11
G	Andrus Peat	3	2018-20
S	Darren Sharper	1	2009
TE	Jeremy Shockey	1	2002
DE	Will Smith	1	2006
Т	Jon Stinchcomb	1	2009
G	Ron Stone	2	2000-01
WR	Michael Thomas	3	2017-19
LB	Jonathan Vilma	2	2009-10
С	Max Unger	1	2018
G	Larry Warford	3	2017-19
TE	Jason Witten	1	2005

#### THE SAINTS WHEN

Below is the regular season record in various situations the Saints have compiled under Payton.

#### SEAN PAYTON'S REGULAR SEASON RECORD WHEN

#### (2006-11, 2013-present)

Leading After First Quarter	82-19
Leading at Halftime	123-14
Leading After Third Quarter	120-12
Saints Score First	
Saints 200+ Yards Passing	124-76

Opponent Under 200 Yards Passing	58-24
Saints Have 100+ Yards Rushing	106-31
Forcing 3+ Turnovers	43-6
Defense Has 3+ Sacks	77-26
Indoors	92-56
Outdoors	57-34
At Home	78-41
On The Road	72-48
On Artificial Turf	104-58
Scoring 20 Or More Points	139-51
Allowing 20 Or Fewer Points	91-9
Committing Zero Turnovers	54-6

#### SAINTS IN 2021 WHEN?

-	
1	Leading After First Quarter5-0
9	Trailing After First Quarter1-7
4	Tied After First Quarter1-1
)9	Leading at Halftime7-0
14	Tied at Halftime0-1
21	Trailing at Halftime0-7
3	Leading After Third Quarter6-1
10	Trailing After Third Quarter0-7
9	Tied After Third Quarter1-0
7	Saints Score First4-0
21	Opponent Scores First
1	Saints 200+ Yards Passing3-5
21	Saints Have 100+ Yards Rushing4-4
9	+ 3 Turnover Margin0-1
11	+ 2 Turnover Margin1-0
20	+ 1 Turnover Margin3-0
)9	Even Turnover Margin3-1
)2	-1 Turnover Margin1-4
)6	-2 Turnover Margin0-1
9	-3 Turnover Margin0-1
)1	Recording 0 Takeaways2-2
9	Recording 1 Takeaway0-5
10	Recording 2 Takeaways2-1
8	Recording 3 Takeaways3-0
19	Defense Has 3+ Sacks4-2
)5	Indoors1-5
	Outdoors
	At Home2-5
	On The Road5-3
ne	On Artificial Turf4-6
	On Natural Grass 3-2
.,	Scoring 20 Or More Points5-4
Ν	Allowing 20 Or Fewer Points5-1
	Committing Zero Turnovers5-0

#### IN THE NFL

The Saints have the second-best regular season record in the NFC and have the fourth-best in the NFL since 2006.

#### NFL REGULAR SEASON RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	w	L	т	Pct.
New England Patriots	189	66	0	.741
Green Bay Packers	165	88	2	.651
Pittsburgh Steelers	160	93	2	.631
New Orleans Saints	157	98	0	.616
Baltimore Ravens	155	100	0	.608

Since 2009, New Orleans' 132-74 regular season record is second in the NFC and tied for third in the National Football League.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON RECORDS SINCE 2009

Team	w	L	т	Pct.
New England Patriots	150	57	0	.725
Green Bay Packers	137	68	2	.667
New Orleans Saints	132	75	0	.638
Pittsburgh Steelers	130	75	2	.633
Baltimore Ravens	126	81	0	.609

#### POINTS PER GAME

Since 2006, the Saints have averaged 27.7 points per game (7,057 points) in 257 regular season games, second in the NFL. Since 2006, they've scored 20 or more points in 200 contests (78.4%) and 30 or more in 117 (45.8%). The team's top four single game point totals have all occurred since Payton took over in 2006, including the 2020 Christmas Day 52-point outburst, tied for second in franchise record books. The Saints are tied with three teams for having three consecutive 45-point plus outputs all-time.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE POINTS PER GAME LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. New England	7,245	28.4
2. New Orleans	7,057	27.7
3. Green Bay	6,664	26.1

In 2021, New Orleans ranks second in the NFL in fourth quarter scoring.

#### 2021 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE POINTS PER GAME LEADERS

(FOURTH QUARTER)		
Sm.		

#### **NEARLY UNBEATABLE AT 30**

Since Payton arrived in 2006, the New Orleans Saints have posted a 108-16 record (87.1%) in both regular season and postseason games where they have scored at least 30 points.

## **30-POINT GAME OUTPUTS BY SEASON** (2006-21 REG. SEASON AND POSTSEASON) 2006: 6-1 2007: 5-0 2008: 6-2 2009: 12-0 (Including 3-0 in postseason) 2010: 6-1 (Including 0-1 in postseason) 2011: 10-2 (Including 1-1 in postseason) 2012: 6-2 2013: 6-0 2014: 4-1 2015: 3-1 2016: 6-3 **2017:** 7-0 (Including 1-0 in postseason) 2018: 9-1 2019: 10-1 2020: 7-1 2021: 4-0

#### **BUCKING THE ODDS**

The Saints have a long tradition of finding players as free agents signed after the draft that make an impact. Several have played key roles in 2021. Wide Receiver/Return Specialist Deonte Harris leads the team with 523 receiving yards on 31 catches (team-best 16.9 avg.), while leading the club in kickoff return average (23.6) and punt return average (11.2). Second-year wide receiver Marguez Callaway leads the team with six touchdown grabs and in receiving yardage (601) and is tied for first in receptions (40). Defensive end Carl Granderson has started three games and is tied for fourth on the club with three sacks. P Blake Gillikin enjoyed an October where he was selected as NFC Special Teams Player of the Month. Defensive tackle Shy Tuttle has moved into a starting role for one of the NFL's top-ranked run defenses. Defensive back J.T. Gray leads the NFL with 17 stops and this season was voted by his teammates as the club's special teams captain and was selected to the Pro Bowl as a starter. OL Calvin Throckmorton has moved into the starting lineup at left guard.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS WHO HAVE JOINED THE TEAM AS UNDRAFTED ROOKIE FREE AGENTS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	SEASON
DB J.T. Gray, Mississippi State	2018
WR/RS Deonte Harris, Assumption	2019
DT Shy Tuttle, Tennessee	2019
DE Carl Granderson, Wyoming	2019
P Blake Gillikin, Penn State	2020
TE Juwan Johnson, Oregon	2020
WR Marquez Callaway, Tennessee	2020
OL Calvin Throckmorton, Oregon	2020

#### SAINTS BY THE NUMBERS

**0** – Number of points surrendered by New Orleans in the December 19 9-0 win at Tampa Bay. The club's current NFL ranking in opponent yards per rush (3.7).

**3** – The number of times this season when New Orleans hasn't surrendered a touchdown. Also the number of points surrendered by New Orleans in the season-opening 38-3 win over Green Bay.

**4** – Consecutive NFC South championships since 2017 and consecutive playoff berths. The Saints are one of two teams, joining Kansas City to achieve both. Also New Orleans' current league ranking in opponent points per game

and the number of Saints Pro Bowl selections in 2021.

**5** – The number of special teams tackles by LB Andrew Dowell December 19 at Tampa Bay, the most in the NFL in 2021. Also the team's ranking in opponent rushing yards per game.

**6** – In Week Three, when Dowell blocked a punt at New England, it was the first time in six seasons that the Patriots had a punt blocked against them.

**7** – Ring of Honor members, including LB Sam Mills who was inducted posthumously on December 2 at halftime.

**7.5** – Career-high number of sacks by fourth-year DE Marcus Davenport.

9 – Division championships, including the 2020 season.

**10 –** Number of Pro Football Hall of Famers.

404 - Franchise wins (Regular season/postseason).

**14 –** Number of postseason berths, nine under Head Coach Sean Payton since 2006.

**19** – With rookie CB Paulson Adebo's second quarter interception in his NFL debut, Sept. 12, he became the first Saint in 19 years to record a pick in his NFL debut after LB James Allen, had a game-winning pick in overtime in the September 8, 2002 season-opening 26-20 victory at Tampa Bay.

**33** – Number of years the club was owned by Tom Benson, who passed away in 2018.

47 - In its 47th season at the Caesars Superdome.

55 – The club is in its 55th season of play.

**84,728 –** Largest home crowd (United States), a Nov. 3, 1968 contest vs. Dallas played at Tulane Stadium.

**73,373 –** Largest crowd at the Caesars Superdome, a November 24, 2014 contest vs. Baltimore.

**159** – Games won by Payton (regular season and postseason), first in club history and 22nd in NFL record books.

**238** – Number of regular season games it took Payton to have 150 career wins, the fifth-fastest pace in NFL record books.

**102.5** – Career sacks by defensive end Cameron Jordan, second in team records and tied for 31st in NFL record books.

**12** – With three sacks against Atlanta, Nov. 22, upping his all-time total against the club to 21, Jordan became only the 12th player in NFL history to have 20 sacks against an opponent.

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-SAINTS BY THE NUMBERS

**15 –** With one sack against Tampa Bay on October 31, Jordan became the 15th NFL player with at least 15 takedowns against two different teams.

**15.5** – 2019 Sack total by Jordan, ranked third in the NFL and the fifth double-digit takedown season in his career. It is tied for the fourth-highest total in franchise history.

**8** – Team-leading 2021 sack total by Jordan, fiving him at least eight takedowns in seven seasons, second in club record books behind Rickey Jackson.

**7.5** – 2020 sack total by Jordan after recording five sacks in the month of November, tied for first in the NFL, to capture NFC Defensive Player of the Month honors.

**24** – After Monday night's two-sack performance against Miami, number of career multi-sack games, second in club record books behind Jackson.

**41** – Number of players sacked by Jordan in his career after he dropped Dolphins signal-callers Tua Taigovailoa and Jacoby Brissett on Monday night.

1,097 - Career tackles by linebacker Demario Davis.

**119 –** Team-leading 2020 tackle total by Davis, his seventh 100-stop campaign.

**95** – Team-leading 2021 tackle total by Davis, needing five on Sunday vs. Carolina for his eighth straight 100-stop campaign.

1,277 - Career tackle total by S Malcolm Jenkins.

#### PRIME TIME POWER

Since 2006, the Saints have the fourth-best record in prime time contests.

#### TOP FOUR NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PRIME TIME RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	w	L	т	Pct.
Seattle Seahawks	36	17	1	.679
New England Patriots	47	24	0	.662
New Orleans Saints	38	23	0	.623
Pittsburgh Steelers	46	27	0	.630

New Orleans has been even more dominating at home on prime time, posting a 24-10 mark since 2006, fifth in the NFL over that period.

#### TOP NFL HOME PRIME TIME RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	W	L	т	Pct.
Baltimore Ravens	18	3	0	.857
Seattle Seahawks	25	6	0	.807
Pittsburgh Steelers	26	8	0	.765
New England Patriots	24	8	0	.750
New Orleans Saints	24	10	0	.706

#### FIRST ROUND FOCUS

The Saints' current 53-man roster features nine players who entered the NFL as first round draft choices.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS FIRST ROUND PLAYERS

PLAYER, TEAM	SEASON, SELECTION
Malcolm Jenkins, New Orleans	2009, #14
Cameron Jordan, New Orleans	2011, #24
James Carpenter, Seattle	2011, #25
Mark Ingram II, New Orleans	2011, #28
Bradley Roby, Denver	2014, #31
Marshon Lattimore, New Orleans	2017, #11
Ryan Ramczyk, New Orleans	2017, #32
Marcus Davenport, New Orleans	2018, #14
Cesar Ruiz, New Orleans	2020, #24

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

41 schools are represented on the Saints' 2021 53-man roster. Of that total, 12 are represented by multiple Saints, led by six from Ohio State (DE Jaylyn Holmes, S Malcolm Jenkins, CBs Marshon Lattimore and Bradley Roby, TE Nick Vannett and LB Pete Werner).

#### **ROSTER ROLL CALL**

Of the players currently on the Saints' active roster, 42 were on the active roster, a reserve list or the practice squad at the end of 2020. 23 have less than four years of prior NFL experience. The following's a breakdown of New Orleans' roster by experience (year entering): 13 years-1, 11 years-3 10 years-1, 9 years-2, 8 years-2, 7 years-3, 6 years-3, 5 years-8, 4 years-6, 3 years-7, 2 years-7, 1 year-3 rookies-7.

#### PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

A spot on the practice squad is another avenue to eventually get onto the active roster and have the opportunity to contribute. The Saints have ten players on their current 2021 53-man roster who moved up to their 53-man roster after being on NFL practice squads, all who spent time on the Saints practice roster before being promoted. Below is an overview of players on the club's current 53-man roster with extensive practice squad experience.

After having practice squad stints with four different teams from 2019-20 after originally signing as a free agent with Houston in 2019 after the NFL Draft out of Clemson, DT **Albert Huggins**, who joined New Orleans at the team's rookie minicamp, began the season on the practice squad and has worked into the defensive line rotation, recording 14 tackles in eight games with one start.

RB **Dwayne Washington** participated on the Saints practice squad briefly in 2018 after spending most of the 2016 and 2017 seasons on Detroit's active roster. Through development, the tailback, in addition to his running skills, has developed into a core special teams player with 11 stops, including one at the New York Jets on December 12 to have a career-high seven for 2021.

TE **Juwan Johnson** was signed by New Orleans out of Oregon, where he spent his graduate transfer season following the 2020 NFL Draft as a wideout. Recording four receptions for 39 yards seven contests, Johnson spent the majority of the season on the practice squad. Converted to tight end in 2021, Johnson's taken advantage of his frame and participation in his first full offseason strength and conditioning program and in the season-opening win over Green Bay, he posted three receptions for 21 yards and two touchdowns. Overall, Johnson has 11 receptions for 150 yards with three touchdowns.

After spending the last six weeks of the 2019 season and the first 16 weeks of the 2020 campaign on the team's practice squad, linebacker **Andrew Dowell** was elevated to the club's active roster for the regular season finale at Carolina. In two preseason games in 2021, he posted five tackles, one forced fumbles and two coverage spots to secure a roster spot. In Week 3 at New England, Dowell recorded the first blocked punt that an opponent had against the Patriots since the 2015 season. Dowell's five special teams tackles on December 19 at Tampa Bay was the highest single-game total in the NFL in 2021 and he is currently tied for fourth in the league with 14 stops.

# **OFFENSIVE NOTES**

#### DOMINATING OFFENSE

Since 2006, the Saints have been the National Football League's top offense, averaging 392.9 total net yards per game.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. New Orleans	10,193	392.9
2. New England	96,498	378.4
3. Dallas	94,147	369.2

#### YARDAGE RAMPAGE

Since 2006, the Saints have racked up the team's top seven highest single-game net yardage totals. Prior to 2006, New Orleans had only reached 500 yards in seven games. Since then, they've met the mark in 29 contests.

#### TOP SEVEN NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TOTAL NET YARDAGE GAMES

Rk.	Opponent	Yds.	Rush	Pass	Date
1.	vs. Dallas	625	242	383	11/10/13
2.	vs. Carolina	617	208	409	1/1/12
3.	vs. NYG	608	103	505	11/1/15
4.	vs. Cin.	595	91	504	11/19/06
5.	vs. Min.	583	264	319	12/25/20
6.	vs. NYG	577	205	172	11/28/11
7.	At Min.	573	161	412	12/18/11

#### **KEEPING DRIVES GOING**

The Saints have converted a NFL-best 45.5 of their third down attempts in the regular season since 2006.

## NFL THIRD DOWN CONVERSION LEADERS SINCE

	2000	0	
Team	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. New Orleans	1,504	3,308	45.5
2. L.A. Chargers	1,431	3,285	43.6
3. Indianapolis	1,448	3,331	43.5

## **OFFENSIVE NOTES**

#### **FIRST DOWNS**

The Saints' 5,720 first downs since 2006 are ranked first in the NFC and second in the National Football League.

#### NFL FIRST DOWN LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Tot.	Rush	Pass	Pen
1. New England	5,800	1,886	3,387	527
2. New Orleans	5,720	1,664	3,669	387
3. Indianapolis	5,395	1,575	3,306	514

#### THROUGH THE AIR

New Orleans' 281.2 net passing yards per game lead the National Football League since 2006.

#### NFL NET PASSING YARDS PER GAME SINCE 2006

Rk. Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. New Orleans	71,698	281.2
2. New England	65,681	257.6
3. LA Chargers	65,401	256.5

#### FOUR DOWN TERRITORY

Since 2006, the Saints are third in the NFL in fourth down conversion rate, converting 147-of-258 attempts (57.0).

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOURTH DOWN PCT. LEADERS SINCE 2006

Rk	. Team	Conv./Att.	Pct.
1.	New England Patriots	153/253	60.5
2.	Cincinnati Bengals	145/249	58.2
3.	New Orleans Saints	147/258	57.0

#### IN THE RED ZONE

The Saints' 63.0 red zone touchdown percentage is currently ranked fourth in the league

# NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE OPPONENT RED ZONE TOUCHDOWN PERCENTAGE LEADERS IN 2021

Team	Drive	Pts.	TD	TD%
1. San Francisco	46	259	33	71.7
2. Baltimore	52	273	34	65.4
3. Tampa Bay	62	326	40	64.5
4. New Orleans	46	236	29	63.0

#### HOLDING THE LINE

Since 2006 the Saints have allowed the fewest sacks in the NFL, surrendering only 402 takedowns.

#### SACKS ALLOWED IN NFL FROM 2006-PRESENT

Rk. Team		Sacks
1.	New Orleans	402
2.	Indianapolis	451
3.	New England	475

Ahead is a synopsis of several returning players and newcomers through the draft and free agency to the 2021 Saints offensive line:

**LT Terron Armstead** - The club's first third round draft choice in 2013 out of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Armstead impressed scouts by running the fastest 40-yard dash time (4.71) by an offensive lineman in the history of the NFL Scouting Combine. He's opened 93 regular season games and nine postseason contests and has been selected to the Pro Bowl the past three seasons.

**RT Ryan Ramczyk** - The Black and Gold used their second first round selection in the 2017 NFL Draft to snag Ramczyk out of Wisconsin, one of the best linemen in the entire draft. After opening all 16 games and both postseason contests in 2017 and being selected as a PFWA All-Rookie, he has been selected as an *AP* All-Pro selection three times since

**C/G Erik McCoy** - New Orleans traded up in the second round of the 2019 NFL Draft to select this standout from Texas A&M, who was a three-year starter, anchoring the middle of the Aggies line. In 2018, he was a team captain who paved the way for the SEC's leading rusher and in 2019 was the first Saint in franchise history to start at center in Week One, opening all 16 regular season contests. McCoy opened all 16 contests and both postseason games in 2020 for the NFL's sixth-ranked rushing offense. McCoy has started 12 contests at center in 2021.

**G/C Cesar Ruiz** - The hard-working, talented and intelligent lineman is a perfect fit for New Orleans' culture with the 24th pick in the 2020 NFL Draft out of Michigan. The three-year letterman played in 36 games in college, starting his last 31 including the final 26 at center, earning All-Big Ten in 2019. Ruiz settled in at right guard in the last 15 games, with nine starts, as well as both postseason contests. When McCoy suffered a lower leg injury in the first quarter of the season-opening win over Green Bay, Ruiz transitioned over to his natural position, where the Saints did not give up a sack and started four contests in the middle. He returned to right guard on October 25 at Seattle.

## **OFFENSIVE NOTES**

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-HOLDING THE LINE

**Offensive Lineman Calvin Throckmorton** - This 6-5, 309 pound former four-year starter on the Oregon line was signed as an undrafted free agent in 2020, possessing the flexibility to play all five positions along the offensive line. After spending his rookie season on the practice squad, Throckmorton increased strength in the 2021 offseason and made strides in training camp, securing a roster spot. In his NFL debut in the season opening-win, Throckmorton was called to play right guard following a lower leg injury to McCoy in the first quarter, subsequently starting four contests. He then moved into left guard, Oct. 25 at Seattle following a shoulder injury to Andrus Peat and has opened the last eight.

**T/G James Hurst** - An eight-year NFL veteran who was signed as a free agent from Baltimore in 2020, Hurst has 114 career appearances with 60 starts at three different positions on the inside and outside. His versatility came in handy in 2020, as he started two contests at left tackle and one at left guard and the Saints gained over 200 yards rushing each time. Hurst moved into the lineup for six games at left tackle in place of an injured Armstead, two at left guard in place of an injured Peat and three at right tackle le for an injured Ramczyk, starting contests at three different positions.

**T Jordan Mills -** This former Louisiana Tech standout from Napoleonville has played in 94 career regular season games with 85 starts for Chicago, Buffalo and Arizona and now New Orleans. In 2021 he has served a valuable role on the line as a top backup for Armstead and Ramczyk. Dec. 2 vs. Dallas, Mills started his first contest of 2021, opening at right tackle, blocking for an offense that gained 153 yards rushing and he opened the December 19 contest at Tampa Bay.

**G/T Caleb Benenoch** - An interior lineman with a combination of Bulk and athleticism who was originally selected in the fifth round of the 2016 NFL Draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers out of UCLA, where he opened the last 35 games of his career. The Lagos, Nigeria native has played in 35 games with 22 starts on the interior of the Buccaneers and has alternated between the Saints practice squad and active rosters in 2021, providing depth on the inside with the ability to kick outside. Benenoch made his first start as a Saint at right tackle vs. Miami on Monday night.

**G James Carpenter -** This former University of Alabama standout was selected by the Seattle Seahawks in the first round (25th overall) of the 2011 NFL Draft. Initially

joining the New Orleans practice squad in Week 14 and quickly being added to the active roster where he has appeared in two contests, Carpenter is a 11-year NFL veteran who has appeared in 130 games with 121 starts for New Orleans, Seattle, the New York Jets, Atlanta and Baltimore, also opening five playoff contests for the Seahawks, where he was a part of a team that reached the Super Bowl trice, capturing one. Carpenter will provide solid depth on the interior as well as contributing on special teams field goal and extra point units during this stretch run for New Orleans.

## **DEFENSIVE NOTES**

#### **DEFENSIVE DRAFTS**

Over the last seven drafts from 2015-21, New Orleans has shown a commitment to defense, spending 18-of-32 picks on that side of the ball. With nine picks in 2015, the Saints picked six defensive players, the most taken since New Orleans chose nine in a 12-round selection meeting in 1990. Below is an overview of the defensive players selected by New Orleans from 2015-21 currently with the club:

**Cornerback Paulson Adebo, Stanford (D3-21)** - Selected in the third round (76th overall) of the 2021 NFL Draft out of Stanford, Adebo finished his college career playing in 22 games with 21 starts and recording 97 tackles, 34 passes defensed and eight interceptions, earning All-Pac-12 in 2018 and 2019. He started in the opener and became the first Saint to record an interception in his NFL debut since 2002. Adebo posted his second pick in Week 6 at Washington. Overall, he has posted 53 tackles (46 solo), two picks, eight passes defensed and one forced fumble.

Linebacker Zack Baun, Wisconsin (D3a-20) - Selected in the third round (74th overall) of the 2020 NFL Draft out of the Wisconsin, Baun finished his college career with 154 tackles, 15 sacks, two interceptions, one returned for a TD, six passes defensed, three forced fumbles and a recovery. The Saints were attracted to his playmaking ability Baun has posted four special teams tackles in 2020 and seven in 2021, adding 24 defensive stops (15 solo) and a return of a blocked field goal this season.

**Defensive End Marcus Davenport, Texas-San Antonio** (**D1-18**) - Davenport joined the Saints with the 14th overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft after showing potential and production as a pass rusher at Texas-San Antonio. In four seasons, Davenport posted 22 sacks, including 8.5 in 2017 when he captured Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year. Davenport's strength on the line is a valuable asset for the Saints front, posting six sacks in 13 games in 2019. Davenport is ranked second on the team with a career-high 7.5 sacks and has added two forced fumbles in nine games with seven starts, despite missing six games. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE** 

## **DEFENSIVE NOTES**

Defensive Back C.J. Gardner-Johnson, Florida (D4-19) Possessing a combination of instincts and speed, this Florida native was a solid value in the fourth round after playing in all 13 games with 12 starts for the Gators in 2018, when he posted 71 tackles, three sacks and four interceptions with two brought back for touchdowns. Gardner-Johnson appeared in all 16 contests with seven starts as a rookie in 2019, recording 46 tackles (35 solo), an interception, eight passes defensed, one forced fumble and a fumble recovery. He finished third on the team with 65 stops in 2020. Gardner-Johnson has 41 stops (22 solo), one sack, two interceptions and five passes defensed in his virtual role where he's opened eight of the nine contests he's played in this season. His fourth quarter pick of Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady on December 29 at Tampa Bay, helped seal the 9-0 victory.

Cornerback Marshon Lattimore, Ohio State (D1a-17) -The 11th overall selection in the 2017 NFL draft out of Ohio State and the first corner taken possesses all the traits of a lockdown defender. With his agile, fluid style, Lattimore has the ability to shut down the best wide receivers. In 2017, he finished with 53 stops, five picks, to lead NFL rookies and the Saints, tying a team rookie record, a club-best 18 passes defensed, a forced fumble and a recovery. Lattimore was the first Saints corner selected to the Pro Bowl since 1995 and selected as AP Defensive Rookie of the Year. His five takeaways in 2018 led the team, adding two more picks in the NFC Divisional Playoff win. In 2020, he led the cornerbacks with 63 tackles, two interceptions and ten passes defensed as he was selected to his third Pro Bowl. Prior to the start of the regular season, Lattimore was signed by the club to a five-term contract extension. He was named the Week Six NFC Defensive Player of the Week, recording a career-high six passes defenses at Washington, the league's highest total since 2017. Overall, he has 72 tackles (52 solo), three picks, a career-high and league-best 19 passes defensed and one fumble recovery to lead the team with four takeaways after recording one pick on Monday night vs. Miami.

**Defensive Tackle David Onyemata, Manitoba (D4-16)** -Possessing a unique combination of size and speed, this Nigeria native had an impressive rookie year after becoming the first player from the University of Manitoba to be drafted into the NFL. Despite being new to football, the 2016 fourth round draft pick became a critical member on the interior of the Saints defensive front in 2017, playing in all 16 games with six starts, making 40 tackles and two sacks. Overall in his career, he has played in 86 contests with 48 starts, posting 207 stops, 17.5 sacks, one interception, five passes defensed, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery.

Linebacker Pete Werner, Ohio State (D2-21) - New Orleans selected this three-year starter from Ohio State to compete at the linebacker position. The Indianapolis, Ind. native finished his college career playing in 47 career games with 35 starts, recording 185 tackles (111 solo), 16 stops for loss, four sacks, 11 passes defensed, four forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. Werner helped power the Buckeyes to the College Football Playoff championship game as a senior in 2020, when he was voted by Big Ten coaches as a first-team All-Conference selection and a Butkus Award semifinalist, posting 54 tackles, 2.5 stops for loss, one sack and two forced fumbles. Werner made his first career start in Week Three and on Oct. 3 vs. the New York Giants had ten tackles. Leading the team with 13 stops in Week 6 at the Washington Football Team, Werner became the first Saints rookie since 2015 to have back-toback performances of double-digit stops. He has 57 defensive tackles (35 solo) and three special teams stops on the season after posting ten stops on Monday night vs. Miami.

**Free Safety Marcus Williams, Utah (D2-17)** - A threeyear starter at the University of Utah, Williams this defender boasts a dangerous mix of speed, fluidity, and instinct that allows him to read offenses and make breaks on the football. His athleticism showed in his rookie season in as he made 70 tackles, four interceptions and six passes defensed, adding ten more stops (seven solo) and another pick in the postseason. In 2019, he played in all 15 games with 14 starts, posting 52 tackles (35 solo), a team-high four picks, tied for eighth in the NFL, 13 passes defensed, a forced fumble and two coverage stops. In 2020, he had a club-best-tying three interceptions and has two picks in 2021, while ranking third with 72 tackles (51 solo), eight passes defensed and one forced fumble.

Defensive Back P.J. Williams, Florida State (D3b-15) -Williams' career was initially limited by missing all but two games his first two seasons, but he's rebounded to miss only four contests with injury since. An experienced starter from Florida State, who developed into one of the nation's top cover corners, in 2019, he made 41 stops, a sack, an interception and three passes defensed, serving as the team's nickel corner. In the Dec. 22, 2019 win at Tennessee, Williams further showed his versatility by making the switch to safety after Marcus Williams was forced to depart with a groin injury and then starting in Williams' place in the regular season finale at Carolina. In 2020, Williams posted 37 tackles, a club-best two defensive fumble recoveries., one interception and two passes defensed in 15 games, as he played both cornerback and safety. Williams has is tied for the team lead with three picks in 2021 and has added 39 tackles (34 solo), one sack and four passes defensed, playing in all 15 games with 3 starts. On Oct. 31 vs. Tampa Bay, Williams picked off Tom Brady for a 40-yard touchdown return. On Monday night vs. Miami, he made his first career start at strong safety and posted three tackles as New Orleans gave up only one defensive touchdown.

## **DEFENSIVE NOTES**

#### **FIRST DOWNS**

The Saints' 320 first downs surrendered in 2020 were the sixth-lowest total in the NFL. Their 275 first downs surrendered in 2021 are tied for fourth-lowest in the league with this week's opponent, Carolina.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE OPPONENT FIRST DOWN LEADERS IN 2021

Team	Tot.	Rush	Pass	Pen
1t. Denver	263	86	160	17
1t. Buffalo	263	100	126	37
3. New England	274	97	161	16
4t. New Orleans	275	74	168	33
4t. Carolina	255	102	145	28

#### IN THE RED ZONE

The Saints' 42.9% opponent red zone touchdown percentage is ranked first in the league. On Monday night vs. Miami, the Dolphins were forced to kick field goals in two-ofthree red zone trips

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE OPPONENT RED ZONE TOUCHDOWN PERCENTAGE LEADERS IN 2021

Team	Driv.	Pts.	TD	TD%
1. New Orleans	42	177	18	42.9
2. New England	44	176	21	47.7

#### STOPPING THE RUN

In rush defense, the Saints gave up only 80.2 net yards per game in 2018, second in the NFL after giving up 129.4 per game in 2017. The 2019 Saints finished fourth in the NFL in opponent rushing yards per game (91.3). 2018-19 marked only the second time they did so in back-to back seasons in franchise history, joining the 1986-1987 teams. The 2020 Saints were fourth in the NFL in opponent rushing yards per game and opponent rushing yards per carry.

The Saints have continued to effectively stop the run in 2021. New Orleans ranks fifth in opponent rushing yards per game (95.9) and first in opponent yards per rush (3.7) after holding Monday night's opponent, the Miami Dolphins to only 86 yards on 30 carries, surrendering only 2.9 yards per carry.

#### 2021 NFL OPP. RUSHING YARDS PER GAME

	Team	Opp. Rush Yards/Game
1.	Bal.	85.6
2.	Ten.	86.7
3.	ТВ	87.5
4.	Cin.	92.1
6.	NO	95.9

#### 2021 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE OPP. RUSHING YARDS PER PLAY

	Team	Opp. Rush Yards/Play
1.	NO	3.71
2.	Sea.	3.75
3.	LAR	3.83

The Saints produced their most impressive run-stopping effort in several seasons in 2018 and carried it over in 2019 and 2020. In seven straight games in 2018, they didn't surrender 100 rushing yards to an opponent for the first time since 2007 had a seven-game run in 2020. The Saints have not given up 100 yards rushing in their last four regular season contests. Below are the longest streaks in team history the defense has gone without surrendering 100 yards. Between 2017-20 they didn't allow a 100-yard rusher in a 55 straight games (regular season and postseason), the longest streak in NFL history. In holding Buccaneers TB Ronald Jones to nine yards on Nov, 8, New Orleans' efforts produced dominant results as his rushing total was the lowest for a leading rusher in a contest for an opponent during this streak. In Keeping San Francisco RB Jerrick McKinnon to 18 carries for 33 yards (1.8 avg.), New Orleans set the NFL record for the longest streak of keeping individual rushers under 100. After the last streak ended, New Orleans currently again has the longest streak in the NFL of not surrendering a 100-yard rusher.

#### CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT SURRENDERING 100 YARDS RUSHING

# Time PeriodGames1.10/1/89-12/10/8911t2.10/25/20-12/13/207t2.9/17/18-11/4/187t2.9/16/07-10/28/077t2.9/1/91-10/20/917

## **DEFENSIVE NOTES**

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-STOPPING THE RUN

#### CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITHOUT ALLOWING A 100-YARD RUSHER (REG. SEASON/POSTSEASON)

- 1. New Orleans Saints (2017-2020): 55
- 2. Dallas Cowboys (1972-76): 51
- 3. Baltimore Ravens (1998-2001): 50

# CURRENT CONSEC. GAMES WITHOUT ALLOWING A 100-YARD RUSHER (REG. SEASON/POSTSEASON)

1. New Orleans Saints (2020-): 20

## SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

**Blake Gillikin** was signed by New Orleans following the 2020 NFL Draft after a college career at Penn State, where he finished tied for second on the Nittany Lions' career gross punting average charts (43.03). After spending his rookie season on Injured Reserve, Gillikin has a 42.1 net punting average and 23 inside-the-20 yard line after a breakout performance in Week 5, where he had three punts drop inside-the-three-yard line at the Washington Football Team, flipping the field position battle and becoming the first punter since at least 2000 to have three punts of 53-plus yards downed inside the three-yard line. In the Oct. 31 win over Tampa Bay, Gillikin punted at a 48.0 net clip and had a career-best 63-yard punt, helping him earn October's NFC Special Teams Player of the Month.

#### **COVERAGE UNITS**

New Orleans' coverage and block units have beenled in 2021 by linebackers **Zack Baun, Andrew Dowell** and **Kaden Elliss**, defensive back **J.T. Gray**, safety **Jeff Heath**, quarterback **Taysom Hill**, wide receiver **Ty Montgomery** and running back **Dwayne Washington**.

One of the club's two third round draft picks in 2020, Baun, a former University of Wisconsin standout, embraced work on the club's coverage units in 2020 with three stops. On Sept. 19 at Carolina, he made an adept play by returning a blocked field goal and is ranked fourth on the team with eight stops.

After spending the bulk of the 2019 and 2020 season on the Saints practice squad, Dowell recorded his first career blocked punt on September 26 at New England. He ranks second on the team with 13 stops and is tied for fourth in the NFL after having a career-high five tackles (four solo) on December 19 at Tampa Bay, the highest single-game total in the National Football League in 2021.

A seventh round draft pick of New Orleans in 2019, Elliss' blue collar mentality fit in with the coverage units with four stops in 2020 and has three in 2021.

Heath's a nine-year NFL veteran who signed with New Orleans during training camp after spending the first seven seasons of his career in Dallas and 2020 in Las Vegas, posting 68 career coverage stops, including seven in 2021.

Gray led the team in 2019 with 16 stops, blocked a punt and recovered a fumble on a muffed punt as he was selected an *AP* second-team All-Pro. Gray, voted by his teammates as the Saints special teams captain leads the NFL with a career-high 17 stops (career-best 14 solo) in 2021 after recording a career-high four stops on December 12 vs. the New York Jets, only the seventh player with four coverage tackles in 2021. Gray was selected as a starter on special teams for the Pro Bowl, the first special teams designation selection by the club since Fred McAfee in 2002.

#### 2021 NFL SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES LEADERS

Rk. Player/Team	Solo Tackles
1. J.T. Gray, NO	17
1. Ashton Dulin, Ind.	16
3. Nick Bellore, Sea.	15
4t. Andrew Dowell, NO	13
4t. Henry Black, GB	13
4T. Tyler Matakevich, Buf.	13

#### 2021 NFL SOLO SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES LEADERS

Rk. Player/Team	Solo Tackles	
1. J.T. Gray, NO	14	
2. Ashton Dulin, Ind.	11	
3t. Jon Rhattigan, Sea.	10	
3t. Henry Black, GB	10	

Montgomery, a seven-year National Football League veteran, was originally a third round pick of the Packers in 2015 out of Stanford. He can play tailback and wideout and also possesses the ability to return kicks. In the season opener against Green Bay, Montgomery downed a punt at the Packers five-yard line and had his first career special teams stop. On Sept. 19 at Carolina, he followed it up with three coverage stops and is ranked third on the team with nine tackles.

## SPECIAL TEAMS NOTES

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-COVERAGE UNITS

Washington is a sixth-year NFL veteran who was originally a seventh round draft pick of Detroit in 2016. In addition to his value in providing dependable depth at tailback, Washington's excelled on special teams for New Orleans. In his career, he has posted 17 coverage stops, including a career-high seven in 2021.

#### **RETURN UNITS**

Deonte Harris and Marquez Callaway combined in 2020 to have New Orleans in the top ten in kickoff and punt return categories

#### 2020 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PUNT RETURN AVERAGE LEADERS

Rk. Team		PR Avg.
1.	New England	15.5
2.	Denver	13.4
3.	Detroit	12.8
4.	Buffalo	11.9
5.	Las Vegas	11.5
6.	New York Giants	11.4
7.	Jacksonville	11.4
8.	Miami	11.1
9.	New Orleans Saints	10.2

#### 2020 NFL KICKOFF RETURN AVERAGE LEADERS

Rk	. Team	KR Avg.
1.	Buffalo	27.6
2.	Baltimore	26.7
3.	Dallas	26.1
4.	Kansas City	25.8
5.	Indianapolis	25.8
6.	New Orleans Saints	25.4

In 2021, New Orleans is ranked sixth in punt return average. In Harris' three-game absence, Easop Winston Jr. has returned ten punts for 119 yards (11.9 avg.)

#### 2021 NFL PUNT RETURN AVERAGE LEADERS

Rk. Team		PR Avg.
1.	Baltimore	14.4
2.	New York Jets	13.4
3.	Chicago	12.1
4.	Kansas City	11.9
5.	New England	11.4
6.	New Orleans Saints	11.0

## **QUARTERBACKS**

#### TAYSOM HILL

Hill's brought unheralded versatility to the Saints offense and special teams. A participant on special teams as well as quarterback, runner and receiver, in 2018, Hill averaged 24.9 yards per return on 14 kickoff returns, had six coverage stops, second on the team, completed a ten-yard pass on a fake punt and blocked a punt. Overall, He carried 37 times for 196 yards (5.3 avg.), third on the team, with two touchdowns and completed three of seven passes for 64 yards. The blocked punt that sparked a division-clinching win at Tampa Bay, earning him Week 14 NFC Special Teams Player of the Week. In the postseason, he caught a touchdown, made a special teams tackle and executed a successful fake punt, making significant contributions in all facets as the team advanced to the NFC Championship game for the third time in franchise history.

In 2019, Hill carried 27 times for 156 yards (5.8 avg.) with a touchdown, catching 19 passes for 234 yards with six TDs, deflecting a punt and posting two coverage stops. He ranked third on the club in touchdowns and third in receiving TDs. After a multi-threat performance Thanksgiving night at Atlanta, when he deflected a punt and caught and rushed for a touchdown. Hill became the first quarterback to rush for and catch a touchdown in the same contest since Jim McMahon (1983). In a valiant postseason effort vs. Minnesota, Hill led the team in rushing with four carries for 50 yards, caught two passes for 25 yards with a TD and completed a 50-yard pass.

In 2020, Hill contributed on multiple facets, completing 88of-121 passes (72.7%) for 928 yards with a 98.8 rating, rushing 87 times for 457 (5.3 avg.) yards with eight touchdowns, catching eight passes for 98 yards with a TD and playing on special teams units until Brees' rib injury. Following Brees' injury, November 15, Hill went 3-1 in four starts.

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

## HILL IN 2021

In 2021, Hill provided extensive value on offense and special teams until taking over the starting quarterback spot in Week 13. He's completed 54 of 97 passes for 649 yards, carried 53 times for 311 yards, second on the team (clubbest 5.9 avg.) with a team-leading five touchdowns, tied for first on the club, caught four passes for 52 yards and also added one special teams stop.

# A DAY FOR FIRSTS

In Brees' absence in 2020, Hill received his first career start on November 22, 2020 vs. Atlanta and completed 18of-23 passes for 233 yards, while carrying ten times for 51 yard with two touchdowns and a 108.9 passer rating in leading New Orleans to a 24-9 win over the Falcons.

Hill joined Daunte Culpepper as he second player in the Super Bowl era with 40+ rushing yards and 2+ rushing TDs in his first QB start. He became the first Saints signal-caller to rush for 50+ yards and 2+ TDs, since Archie Manning carried seven times for 52 yards and two scores in a 24-14 win over Dallas at Tulane stadium on Oct. 17, 1971.

## VERSATILE VICTOR

Hill followed Head Coach Sean Payton and his coaching staff's game plan in a 31-3 victory over Denver on Nov. 29, 2020 that called for more of a ground-based effort. Completing nine of 16 passes, he also was a key part of a ground game that gained a season-high 229 yards, carrying ten times for 44 yards with two touchdowns of his own on the ground for the second consecutive week himself.

In the December 6, 2020, 21-16 win at Atlanta to punch New Orleans' playoff ticket for the fourth straight season, Hill was a threat both with his arm and legs, completing 27of-37 passes for 232 yards, his first two career touchdown passes and a 107.0 passer rating. In the run game, Hill carried 15 times for a career-high 83 yards (5.9 avg.), including a career-long 43-yard rush. Hill became the first Saints signal-caller to win his first three career starts at the position, joining Brees as the second Saint to win his first three starts in Black and Gold.

## ON THE RUN

Hill enjoyed the most prolific rushing season for a Saints signal-caller in 2020, helping them maintain high seeding status in the NFC postseason race in Brees' absence with his arm, legs and leadership. Hill's 457 rushing yards ranked first all-time in club record books for Saints quarter-backs in a single season, while his rushing touchdown total

is first. Hill finished the fifth among NFL signal-callers in rushing yardage, tied for third in rushing touchdowns. His 311 yards rushing in 2021 is sixth among signal-callers and the rushing touchdown total tied for second

#### SAINTS SINGLE-SEASON RUSHING LEADERS AMONG QUARTERBACKS

	Player, Year	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1.	Taysom Hill, 2020	87	457	5.3	8
2.	Aaron Brooks, 2001	80	358	4.9	1
3.	Archie Manning, 1972	63	351	5.6	2
4.	Taysom Hill, 2021	53	311	5.9	5
5.	Archie Manning, 1973	63	293	4.7	2
6.	Aaron Brooks, 2005	45	281	6.2	2

Hill won his first start of 2021 on his second attempt in a 30 -9 win at the New York Jets, completing 15-of-21 passes for 175 yards, while carrying 11 times for 73 yards with two touchdowns, including a career-long 44-yard rushing touchdown, putting him tied for third in rushing touchdowns among signal-callers.

#### 2021 RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS BY NFL QBS

Rk.	QB, Team	No.
1.	Jalen Hurts, Phi.	10
2.	Ryan Tannehill, Ten.	7
3t.	Taysom Hill, NO	5
3t.	Kyler Murray, Ari.	5
3t.	Sam Darnold, Car.	5
3t.	Cam Newton, Car.	5

Hill's 13 rushing touchdowns since the start of the 2020 season is fourth among NFL signal-callers.

#### RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS BY NFL QBS SINCE 2020

- Rk. QB, Team No.
- 1. Cam Newton, NE-Car. 17
- 2. Kyler Murray, Ari. 16
- 3. Ryan Tannehill, Ten. 14
- 4. Taysom Hill, NO 13
- 4t. Jalen Hurts, Phi. 13
- 6. Josh Allen, Buf. 12

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

## WHAT A RUSH

Dec. 2, vs. Dallas, Hill received his first start of 2021 and in addition to passing for 264 yards and two touchdowns, carries 11 times for 101 yards, marking the second time a Saints signal-caller has reached the century mark in a contest

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SINGLE-GAME QB RUSHING TOTALS

- Rk. QB, Game No.
- 1. Aaron Brooks, 12/10/00 at SF 108
- 2. Taysom Hill, 12/2/21 vs. Dal. 101

#### **TREVOR SIEMIAN**

• Siemian brings addition starting experience to the New Orleans Saints quarterback room. Originally a seventh round draft pick in the 2015 NFL Draft by the Denver Broncos out of Northwestern, Siemian has played in 32 career games with 29 starts, completing 597-of-1,014 passes for 6,772 yards with 39 touchdown passes and 27 interceptions.

• On October 31 vs. Tampa Bay, Siemian entered the game in relief of an injured Jameis Winston and helped lead the Saints to victory, completing 16-of-29 passes 159 yards and a one-yard scoring throw to fullback Alex Armah to help New Orleans down the defending Super Bowl champions.

• November 7 vs. Atlanta, Siemian received his first start as a Saint and completed 25-of-41 passes for 249 yards with two touchdowns, zero interceptions and a 94.5 passer rating. In the fourth quarter, Siemian helped lead the offense to score 19 points and take a brief 25-24 lead, completing 12-of-17 passes (70.6 %) for 110 yards with two touchdown passes, zero interceptions and a 127.1 passer rating.

• On November 14 at Tennessee, Siemian completed 19of-34 passes for 298 yards, the highest individual passing total by a Saint this season, with two touchdowns, zero interceptions and a 104.8 passer rating. In the fourth quarter, he led the New Orleans offense to nine points on their final two drives, completing six-of-ten throws for 119 yards with one touchdown, zero interceptions and a 135.0 passer rating.

## FOURTH IN THE FOURTH

Siemian's 113.7 passer rating in the fourth quarter of the five contests he has seen action in ranks third among National Football League signal-callers. Overall, in five games with four starts, he's completed 99 of 173 passes for 1,083 yards, nine touchdowns, three interceptions and an 86.0 passer rating.

#### 2021 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOURTH DOWN PASSER RATING LEADERS

Rk.	Player	Rat.
1.	Matthew Stafford, LAR	123.5
2.	Patrick Mahomes, KC	117.0
3.	Josh Allen, Buf.	115.9
4.	Trevor Siemian, NO	113.7
5.	Aaron Rodgers, GB	110.0

#### IAN BOOK

• Book was the team's fourth round pick out of Notre Dame, where he was the Fighting Irish's winningest quarterback of all time (30 victories). In four seasons in South Bend, Book played in 45 games and completed 728-of-1,141 attempts for 8,949 yards, 72 touchdowns and 20 interceptions, carrying 360 times for 1,518 yards and 17 TDs.

• Book became the first Saints rookie to start at QB since 1997 with Hill and Siemian sidelined by COVID-19 protocols and he completed 12-of-20 passes for 135 yards on Monday Night Football vs. Miami.

## **RUNNING BACKS**

#### **ALVIN KAMARA**

• A talented runner and receiver with a 5-10, 215-pound frame who was selected by the Saints in the third round of the 2017 NFL Draft out of Tennessee, Kamara enjoyed an outstanding rookie campaign. He ranked first on the club and sixth in the NFL in yards from scrimmage (1,554), second on the team in rushing and receiving, carrying 120 times for 728 yards (6.1 avg.) with eight TDs and a twopoint conversion, catching 81 passes for 826 yards (10.2 avg.) with five TDs and a kickoff return for a TD for a club rookie record 14 total scores, tied for second in the NFL. Kamara finished first in the NFL in yards per carry.

• Kamara was the first Saints offensive rookie selected to the Pro Bowl since Rueben Mayes (1986), as an *AP* second team All-Pro (flex), the clubs' first rookie All-Pro since 1993. He was named *The Sporting News* NFL Rookie of the Year and *AP* NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

## SCRIMMAGE LEADER

• Since entering the NFL in 2017, Kamara ranks second in the NFL in total yards from scrimmage (7,239).

#### YARDS FROM SCRIMAMGE LEADERS SINCE 2017

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Ezekiel Elliott, Dal.	7,516
2.	Alvin Kamara, NO	7,239
3.	Derrick Henry, Ten.	7,016

• In 2020, Kamara even exceeded expectations as one of the NFL's most electric players in the NFL. He carried 187 times for a career-high 932 yards (5.0 avg.) with 16 touchdowns, tied for first in the NFL. He led running backs in receiving with a career-high and team best 83 receptions for 756 yards (9.1 avg.) with five TDs. Kamara, who was the second Saint to lead the team in rushing and receiving, led the NFL with a team-record 21 total touchdowns, was second with 93 first downs and third with a career-best 1,688 yards from scrimmage, the seventh-highest total in club history.

• Kamara enjoyed a productive start to the season in the season-opening win over Green Bay, when he started and finished with 83 rushing yards on 20 attempts. . Kamara added eight receiving yards on three receptions, with one receiving touchdown, surpassing Pierre Thomas for the seventh-most receptions in club record books and the most receptions all-time for a Saints running back.

• Despite missing four games with a knee injury, Kamara leads the Saints in rushing and is tied for the team lead in receiving, carrying 197 times for 720 yards and four TDs and catching 40 passes for 355 yards with four TDs for a club-best 1,075 yards from scrimmage, surpassing WR Marques Colston (2009-12), RB Mark Ingram II (2014-17) and WR Michael Thomas (2016-19) as the first Saint to have 1,000 total yards from scrimmage in his first five seasons and/or in five consecutive seasons.

## TOUCHDOWN LEADER

In the Saints' 2020 Christmas 52-33 win over the Vikings, Kamara tied the NFL record for total touchdowns and rushing touchdowns, as he carried 22 times for a careerhigh 155 yards (7.0 avg.), adding three receptions for 17 yards for 172 yards from scrimmage. The rushing touchdowns record tied the record held by Ernie Nevers of the Chicago Cardinals since Nov. 28, 1929, while for total touchdowns, Kamara joins Nevers, Cleveland's Dub Jones (Nov. 25, 1951) and Chicago's Gayle Sayers (Dec. 12, 1965). The performance catapulted Kamara to the NFL's touchdown lead, as he joined running back Dalton Hilliard as only the second Saint to lead the league in touchdowns.

#### 2020 NFL TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Alvin Kamara, NO	<b>21</b> .
2t.	Tyreek Hill, KC	17
2t.	Dalvin Cook, Min.	17
2t.	Davante Adams, GB	17

#### SAINTS SINGLE SEASON TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk. Saint	No.
1. Alvin Kamara, 2020	21
2t. Alvin Kamara, 2018	18
2t. Dalton Hilliard, 1989	18

Through just over four full seasons, Kamara is the club's all -time leader in multiple touchdown performances.

#### SAINTS CAREER MULTI-TOUCHDOWN GAMES

Rk. Saint	
1. Alvin Kamara, 2017-	19
2t. Marques Colston, 2006-15	15
2t. Deuce McAllister, 2001-09	15

After Kamara's two-touchdown performance in the Week Five win over Washington, Kamara's 19 career games with at least two touchdowns are tied with four players for the third-most such games by a player in his first five seasons in NFL history. Only Pro Football Hall of Famers Ladainian Tomlinson (21) and Emmitt Smith (20) have more.

With the one rushing TD, one receiving TD performance, Kamara now has nine career games with one of each, tied with Chuck Foreman and Christian McCaffrey for the most by such games by a player in his first five seasons all-time.

• Kamara in his first game returning from a knee injury in the December 12 30-9 win at the New York Jets rushed 27 times for 120 yards with a score and caught 4 passes for 25 yards. Kamara's touchdown run in the second quarter was the 67<sup>th</sup> score of his career and tied him for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-most touchdowns in a player's first 70 games since the league merger behind LaDainian Tomlinson's 68 touch-downs in 67 career games.

## **TOUCHDOWN LEADER**

Kamara finished 2018 ranked second in the NFL with a club-record 14 rushing touchdowns and tied for second with a franchise-best 16 scores on the ground in 2020.

#### 2018 NFL RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.

- 1. Todd Gurley, LAR 17
- 2. Alvin Kamara, NO 14

#### 2020 NFL RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.	
1.	Derrick Henry, Ten.	17	
2t.	Alvin Kamara, NO	16	
2t.	Dalvin Cook, Min.	16	

#### SAINTS SINGLE SEASON RUSHING TD LEADERS

Rk. Saint	No.
1. Alvin Kamara, 2020	16
2. Alvin Kamara, 2018	14
3t. Dalton Hilliard, 1989	13
3t. Deuce McAllister, 2002	13
3t. George Rogers, 1981	13

Kamara has taken over third place in club record books in rushing touchdowns.

#### SAINTS CAREER RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk. Saint	No.
1. Mark Ingram, 2011-18	51
2. Deuce McAllister, 2001-09	49
3. Alvin Kamara, 2017-	47

The 46 rushing touchdowns since coming into the league in 2017 are also ranked third in the NFL over that period.

Rk. Player	No.
1. Derrick Henry, Ten	60
2. Todd Gurley, LAR/Atl.	51
3. Alvin Kamara, NO	47

Kamara ranks second on the team's career touchdown list.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS CAREER TOTAL TD LEADERS

Rk	. Saint	No.
1.	Marques Colston, 2006-15	72
2.	Alvin Kamara, 2017-	67
3.	Mark Ingram, 2011-18	56

## **RECEIVING LEADER**

• With Kamara's four receptions in the Dec. 12 12 30-9 win at the Jets, he moves into first all-time in NFL history for the most receptions by a running back in his first five seasons with 362, passing Roger Craig's 358 receptions.

In 2017 Kamara totaled 81 receptions, second among running backs and the highest rookie reception total. His 826 receiving yards set a club record for running backs as well.

#### **RECEPTIONS BY NFL RUNNING BACKS IN 2017**

	Player	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1.	Le'Veon Bell, Pit.	85	655	7.7	2
2.	Alvin Kamara, NO	81	826	10.2	5

In 2018, Kamara's 81 receptions in 15 games played were ranked fourth in the NFL among runners.

#### **MOST RECEPTIONS BY RB-NFL (2018)**

	Player	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1.	Christian McCaffrey, Car.	107	867	8.1	6
2.	Saquon Barkley, NYG	91	721	7.9	4
3.	James White, NE	87	751	8.6	7
4.	Alvin Kamara, NO	81	709	8.8	4

In 14 games in 2019, Kamara finished third in the NFL in receptions by running backs (81). He led New Orleans in rushing, carrying 171 times for 797 yards (4.7 avg.) and five TDs. With 1,330 yards from scrimmage, Kamara joined Deuce McAllister (2002-04) as the second Saint to have 1,300 yards from scrimmage in three consecutive seasons.

#### MOST RECEPTIONS BY RB-NFL (2019)

Player	Rec.	Yds. Avg.	TDs
1. Christian McCaffrey, Car.	116	1,005 8.7	4
2. Austin Ekeler, LAC	92	993 10.8	8
3. Alvin Kamara, NO	81	533 6.6	1

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

## **RECEIVING LEADER**

In 2020, Kamara led running backs in receiving with a clubbest 83 receptions for 756 yards and five TDs, first in yards after the catch (742), third in total yards from scrimmage (1,516) and second in first downs (83).

#### **MOST RECEPTIONS BY RB-NFL (2020) Running Back** Rec. Yds. Avg. TDs 1. Alvin Kamara, NO 83 756 9.1 5 7.4 2 2. J.D. McKissic, Was. 80 589 2020 NFL YARDS AFTER THE CATCH LEADERS **Rk. Player** No. 1. Alvin Kamara, NO 742 2. Darren Waller, LV 576

## VERSATILE THREAT

In 2020, he carried 187 times for a club-best and careerhigh 932 yards (5.0 avg.) with a franchise-record 16 TDs, becoming the second Saint to reach double-digits in rushing scores in two seasons. He caught a team-high 83 passes for a club-best 756 yards and five scores, leading the team in rushing, receiving and receiving yardage.

#### 2020 NFL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE LEADERS

	Player	Team	Total Yds.	Rush	Rec.
1.	Derrick Henry	Ten.	2,141	2,027	114
2.	Dalvin Cook	Min.	1,918	1,557	361
3.	Alvin Kamara	NO	1,688	932	756

#### SAINTS SINGLE SEASON YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE LEADERS

;	Saint	Year	Total Yds.	Rush	Rec.
1.	Deuce McAllister	2003	2,157	1,641	516
2.	George Rogers	1981	1,800	1,674	126
3.	Dalton Hilliard	1989	1776	1,262	514
4.	Ricky Williams	2001	1,756	1,245	511
5.	Deuce McAllister	2002	1,740	1,388	352
6.	Michael Thomas	2019	1,716	1,725	-9
7.	Alvin Kamara	2020	1,688	932	<b>75</b> 6

#### 2020 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DOWNS LEADERS

I	Player	Team	First Dns.	Rush	Receive
1.	Dalvin Cook	Min.	108	91	17
2.	Derrick Henry	Ten.	102	98	4
3.	Alvin Kamara	NO	93	58	35

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2020 ALL-PURPOSE YARD LEADERS

Rk. Player		No.
1.	Derrick Henry, Ten	2,141
2.	Dalvin Cook	1,918
3.	Alvin Kamara, NO	1,732

#### MARK INGRAM II

• One of the club's two first round draft picks in 2011, the 2009 Heisman Trophy winner has an integral part of the rushing attack since his arrival in New Orleans as the 28th overall pick. In 11 NFL seasons, Ingram has played in 146 games with 97 starts, carrying 1,755 times for 7,878 yards (4.5 avg.) with 64 touchdowns, also catching 287 passes for 2,057 yards with ten touchdowns for 9,918 total yards from scrimmage. For his Saints career in which he has played in 112 games with 66 starts, he ranks first in club record books with 6,267 yards rushing, first with 51 rushing touchdowns and third with 56 total touchdowns. Acquired by New Orleans from the Houston Texans on Oct. 29 after spending the 2019 and 2020 seasons in Baltimore, Ingram has 160 carries for 555 yards with two touchdowns and 27 receptions for 162 yards in 13 games with ten starts split between the Saints and the Texans in 2021.

## **INGRAM'S BIG DAYS**

Saints running back Mark Ingram II has reached 100 rushing yards 15 times over his Saints career. New Orleans has posted a 13-2 record in those games.

• November 10, 2013 vs. Dallas - Carried 14 times for 145 yards (10.4 avg.) with one touchdown and two receptions for 15 yards for 160 yards of total offense, reaching the century mark for the first time while the club set a franchise record in total net yards and an NFL record for first downs.

• October 26, 2014 vs. Green Bay - Rushed for a career-high 172 yards on 24 carries (7.2 avg.) with one touch-down.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE** 

## INGRAM'S BIG DAYS

• October 30, 2014 at Carolina - Carried 30 times for 100 yards with two touchdowns and added a 10-yard grab as he reached the century mark on four days rest.

• November 9, 2014 vs. San Francisco - Became the first Saint to have 100 yards rushing in three consecutive games since 2003 with 27 carries for 120 yards.

• November 30, 2014 at Pittsburgh - Rushed 23 times for 122 yards (5.3 avg.) with a season-long 31-yard carry.

• October 25, 2015 at Indianapolis - Carried 14 times for 143 yards (10.2 avg.) with one touchdown.

• November 6, 2016 at San Francisco - Carried 15 times for 158 yards (10.5 avg.) with one touchdown.

• November 27, 2016 vs. Los Angeles Rams - Carried 14 times for 146 yards (10.4 avg.) with one touchdown as he was selected as NFC Offensive Player of the Week for the first time in his career.

• January 1, 2017 at Atlanta - Carried 20 times for 103 yards (5.2 avg.) with one touchdown.

• October 15, 2017 vs. Detroit - Carried 25 times for 114 yards (4.6 avg.) with two touchdowns.

• October 22, 2017 at Green Bay - Carried 22 times for 105 yards (4.8 avg.) with one touchdown.

• November 19, 2017 vs. Washington - Carried 11 times for 105 yards (12.2 avg.) with one touchdown.

• November 11, 2018 at Cincinnati - Carried 13 times for 104 yards.

• November 18, 2018 vs. Philadelphia - Carried 16 times for 103 yards (6.4 avg.) with one touchdown, including a season-long 38-yard rush on New Orleans' first play from scrimmage.

## RUSHING LEADER

Saints RB Mark Ingram II became the club's all-time rushing leader on November 14 at Tennessee

# ALL-TIME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS RUSHING YARDS LIST

Player	<u>Att.</u>	Yds.	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TDs</u>
1. Mark Ingram	1,389	6,267	4.5	51
2. Deuce McAllister	1,429	6,096	4.3	49
3. George Rogers	995	4,267	4.3	23

Ingram's 309 rushing first downs are ranked first in club records.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-TIME RUSHING FIRST DOWNS LEADERS

Rk. Player	No.
1. Mark Ingram II (2011-18, 21-)	309
2. Deuce McAllister (2001-09)	292
3. Alvin Kamara (2017-)	221

## YARDAGE LEADER

On Monday night against the Miami Dolphins, Ingram became only the second Saint with 8,000 yards from scrimmage.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS CAREER TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE LEADERS

Player	Total Yds	. Rush	Receive
1. Marques Colston	9,766	7	9,759
2. Mark Ingram	8.003	6,267	1,736
3. Eric Martin	7,865	11	7,854
4. Deuce McAllister	7,816	6,096	1,720
5. Joe Horn	7,653	31	7,622

## WIDE RECEIVERS

#### MARQUEZ CALLAWAY

•After a productive college career on offense and special teams at Tennessee, Callaway joined the Black and Gold as an undrafted free agent in 2020. Appearing in 11 games with three starts, Callaway posted 21 receptions for 213 yards and also made an impact as a gunner and punt returner. He returned 11 punts for 122 yards (11.1 avg.), four kickoff returns for 94 yards (23.5 avg.) and recovered two punts on special teams. In 2021, Callaway looks to build off an impressive all-around rookie campaign.

## **Q FACTOR**

In the September 26 win at New England, Callaway had four reception for 48 yards and scored his first career NFL touchdown from Jameis Winston.

The Tennessee product product then made a couple of big catches on October 3 vs. the New York Giants, catching two receptions for 74 yards, including a 58-yard grab in the second half.

## **Q FACTOR**

In the Week Five win at the Washington Football Team, Callaway posted four receptions for 85 yards with a careerhigh two touchdowns, including a perfectly anticipated 49yard "Hail Mary" scoring reception from Winston at the end of the first half.

Although Callaway had only three receptions for 32 yards in the October 25 win at Seattle, he saved his best for last with a fourth guarter 13-yard reception that advanced New Orleans to the Seahawks six-yard line and set up a 33-yard field goal.

Callaway's two receptions for 37 yards came at a crucial time in the November 14 contest at Tennessee, as he caught a grab for a 22-yard gain on the first play of New Orleans' final drive and then caught a 15-yard touchdown on third-and-13 on the drive to put the Saints within two.

Callaway caught a 26-yard pass from QB Trevor Siemian in the end zone of the November 21 contest at Philadelphia to give him a team-leading six scoring grabs.

On Sunday night at Tampa Bay, Callaway posted six receptions for a career-high 112 yards, including grabs of 33 and 40 yards to help pace the passing offense.

As the only Saints wideout to appear in all 15 games, Callaway has 40 receptions to tied for the team lead for a club-best 601 yards (15.0 avg.) and also leads the team with six touchdown receptions.

#### **TRE'QUAN SMITH**

 A talented fourth-year wideout, who was selected by New Orleans in the third round of the 2018 draft out of Central Florida, the 6-1, 210-pounder emerged as one of the Knights' top weapons from 2015-17 and was a key figure in their emergence. During that period, he caught 168 passes for 2,748 yards (16.4 avg.) with 22 touchdowns. In his final campaign for the 13-0 Knights in 2017, Smith appeared in and started all 13 games and hauled in 54 receptions for 1,082 yards (19.9 avg.) and 13 touchdowns.

 Smith recorded five touchdowns apiece in each of his first two seasons and achieved more consistency in 2020, when he posted a career-high 34 receptions for 448 yards (13.2. avg.) with four touchdowns to rank fourth on the Black and Gold in receiving. He was activated off Injured Reserve for the NFC Divisional Playoff vs. Tampa Bay, where he recorded three receptions for 85 yards (28.3 avg.) with scoring grabs from Drew Brees and Jameis Winston.

 Activated off Injured Reserve on October 25, Smith has 27 3. Carolina Panthers receptions for 301 yards with two touchdowns as he moves

up the team's receiving charts in 2021. With seven receptions in the final two games, Smith would set a new careerhigh in receiving, despite missing the first five contests.

## DEFENSIVE LINE

#### **CAMERON JORDAN**

•New Orleans' first choice in the 2011 NFL Draft (24th overall) out of the University of California, Jordan enjoyed another standout season in 2019, posting 53 tackles (37 solo) with a career-high 15.5 sacks, to rank third in the NFL in takedowns, three passes defensed and one fumble recovery.as he was selected to his fifth Pro Bowl and a second-team AP All-Pro selection. With 102.5 sacks in 11 seasons, Jordan's second on the Saints career sack list. He's also proven to be one of the NFL's best run defenders, playing an important role in top five rush defenses in each of the past three seasons.

Jordan is ranked second on the club's all-time sack list, ranked tied for 31st in NFL record books.

## JORDAN SACK NOTES

#### SAINTS ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

#### (Regular Season since 1982)

Rk. Player, Years No.		
1.	Rickey Jackson, 1982-93	115.0
2. Cameron Jordan, 2011- 102.5		
3.	Wayne Martin, 1989-99	82.5
4.	Pat Swilling, 1986-92	76.5
5.	Will Smith, 2004-12	67.5

#### SAINTS ALL-TIME POSTSEASON SACK LEADERS

Rk. Player,	
1. Cameron Jordan	5.5
2t. Rickey Jackson	3
2t. Frank Warren	3

#### JORDAN'S CAREER SACKS (Most vs. a Single Team)

Rk. Team	No.
1. Atlanta Falcons	22
2. Tampa Bay Bucs	17

9

### JORDAN SACK NOTES

Since Week Eight of the 2014 season, Jordan's played among the NFL's elite defenders. He's third in the NFL since October. 26, 2014 with 80 quarterback takedowns following two sacks apiece in each of the last two contests.

#### MOST SACKS IN THE NFL SINCE OCTOBER 26, 2014

Rk. Player, Team No.		No.
1.	Aaron Donald, LAR	95.5
2.	Chandler Jones, NE-Ari.	84.5
3.	Cameron Jordan, NO	80

Jordan's 56 takedowns since 2017 is fifth in the NFL.

#### MOST SACKS IN THE NFL SINCE 2017

Rk. Player, Team	No.
1. Aaron Donald, LAR	69.5
2. T.J. Watt, Pit.	67
3. Chandler Jones, Ari.	59.5
4. Myles Garrett, Cle.	57.5
5. Cameron Jordan, NO	56

Jordan's career-high 15.5 quarterback takedowns in 2019 were third in the NFL and tied for the fourth-highest singleseason total in Saints history and the highest total by a Black and Gold defender since 2001. In 2021 he leads the team with eight takedowns.

MOST	SACKS	IN	THE	NFI	IN 2019	)
	JAUNU					,

Rk. Player, Team No.				
1.	Shaquil Barrett, TB	19.5		
2.	Chandler Jones, Ari.	19		
3.	Cameron Jordan, NO	15.5		
	Cameron Jordan, NO Danielle Hunter, Min.	<b>15.5</b> 14.5		

#### ALL-TIME SINGLE SEASON SAINTS SACK LEADERS

Rk.	No.	
1t.	La'Roi Glover, 2000	17
1t.	Pat Swilling, 1991	17
3.	Pat Swilling, 1989	16.5
4t.	Cameron Jordan, 2019	15.5
4t.	Wayne Martin, 1992	15.5

### MULTI-SACK GAMES

Jordan has posted 102.5 career sacks and over the past 11 seasons is the only player to have 90 takedowns and 50 passes defensed, after reaching 51 deflections with two in the 2020 regular season finale at Carolina. During this time, the Saints own a 52-19 regular season record when he corrals a signal-caller, and they boast a 21-3 mark in a multi-sack performance in the regular season, including a three -sack performance against Atlanta on Nov. 22, 2020 that gave him 21 all-time against the Falcons, making him only the 12th player in league record books to have 20 takedowns against an opponent. Jordan's 24 multi-sack games rank second in franchise record books to Rickey Jackson's 27

#### CAMERON JORDAN'S MULTIPLE SACK GAMES

<u>Date</u>	<u> Opp.</u>	<u>Fackles</u>	<u>Solo</u>	<u>Asst.</u>	<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Yards</u>
11/5/12	vs. Phi.	3	3	3	3	21
9/22/13	vs. Arz.	7	3	4	2	14
11/21/1	3 @ Atl.	7	3	4	2.5	10.5
12/8/13	vs. Car	. 5	3	2	2	19
10/26/14	4 vs. GB	4	3	1	2	15
12/28/14	4 @ TB	6	4	2	1.5	9
10/15/1	5 vs. Atl.	7	6	1	3	12
10/25/1	5 @ Ind	. 3	2	1	2	12
10/15/17	7 vs. Det.	5	4	1	2	12
11/5/17	vs. TB	7	5	2	1.5	9
11/26/17	7 @ LAF	R 4	4	0	2	20
12/24/17	7 vs. Atl.	3	3	0	2	10
9/16/18	vs. Cle.	2	2	0	2	11
9/23/18	at Atl.	5	4	1	2	8
11/22/18	3 vs. Atl.	4	4	0	2	9
11/29/18	3 @ Dal.	7	3	4	2	10
12/9/18	@ TB.	4	4	0	2	21
10/13/19	9 @Jax.	4	3	1	2	12
10/20/19	9 @Chi.	2	2	0	2	16
11/17/19	9@TB	3	1	2	1.5	12
11/28/19	9@Atl.	5	1	6	4	19
11/22/20	) vs.Atl.	4	0	4	3	14
12/19/2 <sup>-</sup>	1 at TB	5	0	5	2	13
12/27/2 <sup>-</sup>	1 vs. Mia	. 4	2	6	2	9

### BACK TO BACK

Monday night's two-sack performance vs. Miami following up a two takedown performance of Tampa Bay guarterback Tom Brady the prior week to earn NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors marked the fourth time Jordan has had multiple sacks in back to back contests. On Sunday vs. Carolina, he will look to have multiple takedowns in three consecutive contests for only the second time in his career, looking to join a stretch from November 22-December 9, 2018.

### VERSATILE DEFENDER

Jordan's the only National Football League defender to record at least 200 tackles, 45 sacks, 60 stops for loss and 90 guarterback hits since 2017. Since 2017, each campaign which has ended with the Saints capturing the NFC South, Jordan has posted 263 stops, 56 sacks, 70 tackles for loss and 105 QB hits.

### TACKLES FOR LOSS

Jordan's 70 tackles for loss since 2017 rank third in the NFL over that period.

#### MOST TACKLES FOR LOSS IN THE NFL SINCE 2017

Rk.	Player, Team	No.
1.	Aaron Donald, LAR	91
2.	T.J. Watt, Pit.	76
3.	Cameron Jordan, NO	70
4t.	Matt Judon, BalNE	63

4t. Chandler Jones, NE-Arz. 63

### THREE IN A ROW

With his fourth guarter sack of Falcons signal-caller Matt Ryan on November 7 vs. Atlanta, Jordan has had three consecutive contests of at least one sack in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017-19 and in 2021. On Sunday vs. Carolina, Jordan will be looking to do so for the second time this season after posting two sacks apiece in the last two contests.

### **ONE OF 15**

With three sacks of Buccaneers QB Tom Brady in 2021, Jordan is now one of only 15 NFL players to have at least 15 sacks against two opponents, 17 against Tampa Bay and 22 against Atlanta, after dropping Falcons signal-caller Matt Ryan on November 7.

### DURABLE DEFENDER

Until missing the Dec. 12 contest at the New York Jets on the Reserve/COVID-19 list, Jordan had enjoyed the longest active games played streak among position players and the longest games started streak

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED **BY ACTIVE DEFENSIVE LINEMEN THROUGH DEC. 9**

Rk.	DL	Team	No.
1.	Cameron Jordan	NO	172
2t.	DaQuan Jones	Car.	60
2t.	B.J. Hill	Cin.	60

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED **BB ACTIVE POSITION PLAYERS THROUGH DEC. 9**

Rk	. Defensive Player	Team	No.
1.	Cameron Jordan	NO	172
2.	Demario Davis	NYJ-NO	156
3.	Duron Harmon	NE-DetAtl.	139

#### **CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES STARTED** AMONG ACTIVE NFL DEFENSIVE ENDS THROUGH DEC.9

Rk	. Defensive End	Team	No.
1.	Cameron Jordan	NO	157
2.	Maxx Crosby	LV.	36

In the 2020 regular season finale, Jordan's consecutive games started streak became the longest in Saints records.

#### MOST CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES STARTED BY NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

Rk. Saint		Dates	No.
1.	Cameron Jordan	(1/2/12-12/2/21)	157
2.	Wayne Martin	(9/19/91-1/2/99)	144
3.	Jahri Evans	(9/10/06-9/15/13)	114

#### MOST CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED BY NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

Rk. Saint		Dates	No.
1.	Cameron Jordan	(9/8/11-12/2/21)	172
2.	Jim Dombrowski	(10/25/87-11/3/96)	148

### DURABLE DEFENDER

Jordan is in sole possession of ninth place on the club's alltime games played list and will have the opportunity to move into eighth by the end of the regular season. On Sunday vs. Carolina, he will move into a tie for eighth with TE Hoby Brenner.

#### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-TIME GAMES PLAYED LIST

#### (REGULAR SEASON)

Rk.	Saint	Years	No.
1.	Drew Brees	2006-20	228
2.	Morten Andersen	1982-94	196
3.	Rickey Jackson	1982-93	195
4.	Thomas Morstead	2009-20	190
5.	Frank Warren	1981-94	189
6.	Stan Brock	1980-92	186
7.	Jim Wilks	1981-93	183
8.	Hoby Brenner	1981-93	175
9.	Cameron Jordan	2011-	174
10.	Wayne Martin	1989-99	171

#### CARL GRANDERSON

·Signed by New Orleans as an undrafted free agent out of Wyoming in 2019, Granderson posted 17.5 career sacks in college and possesses the perfect body type for a pass rusher. As a rookie, Granderson appeared in eight regular season contests, posting ten tackles and one sack. In 2020, Granderson added 11 tackles, five sacks, ranked fourth on the team, a club-best two forced fumbles and one pass defensed as he has seen more extensive time in the club's defensive line rotation as his game experience has continued to increase. On September 19 at Carolina, Granderson received his first start in place of an injured Marcus Davenport and blocked his first career field goal on special teams. In Week Five at the Washington Football Team, Granderson recorded his first takedown of 2021. He made his second on Thanksgiving night at Buffalo against his former Wyoming college teammate, Bills QB Josh Allen and had a key third quarter takedown on Sunday at the Jets against another high draft pick, New York signal-caller Zach Wilson.

#### MARCUS DAVENPORT

•The team's first round election in the 2018 NFL Draft out of Texas-San Antonio, In only eight games with six starts

in 2021, Davenport has made an impact with his athleticism, strength and speed and currently ranks second on the Saints with a career-high 7.5 sacks to go with a careerbest 35 tackles and two forced fumbles as he and Jordan compete for the team's sack title in the regular season's last two weeks.

### DYNAMIC DUO

Rk. Saints Defender	
1. Cameron Jordan	8
2. Marcus Davenport	7.5

#### DAVID ONYEMATA

· A fourth round selection out of Manitoba in 2016, Onyemata teams with Shy Tuttle to form a solid duo in the interior of the Saints defensive line. In 79 games with 41 starts in five seasons, he has posted 184 career tackles, 16 sacks, five passes defensed, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery. In 2019, he opened all 15 regular season games he played in, posting 32 stops, one pass defensed and three sacks for the NFL's fourth-ranked run defense. Onyemata was re-signed to a three-year contract by the Saints in the 2020 offseason and finished ranked third on the team with 6.5 guarterback takedowns, tied for sixth in the league among defensive tackles and one interception, starting every contest for a unit ranked fourth in the NFL in opponent net yards per game and fourth in run defense. In 2021, he anchors an interior that has helped the Saints defense currently ranked first in the league in opponent yards per rushing and fifth in opponent rushing yards per game.

### LINEBACKERS

#### DEMARIO DAVIS

• This dependable and sure-tackling defender joined the New Orleans Saints after a breakout 2017, where he started 16 games for the Jets. Davis posted a team-high and career-high 165 tackles (112 solo) and a career-best five sacks. For his career, the Brandon, Miss. native has appeared in 157 games with 142 starts for the Jets (2012-15, 2017), Cleveland (2016) and Saints, recording 1,095 tackles (726 solo), 29.5 sacks, two interceptions, 44 passes defensed, three forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and 24 special team stops.

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

• In 2018, Davis opened all 16 contests and led the team with 110 stops (74 solo), five sacks to lead the linebackers, four passes defensed, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. Davis' abilities to diagnose and tackle played a key role in New Orleans ranking second in the NFL in opponent rushing yards per game and opponent rushing yards per play. Participating in the postseason for the first time, Davis led the defense with 22 stops (15 solo), an interception in the NFC Championship and a pass defense. In 2019, he posted 111 stops, ranked first on the club, four sacks, one interception and 11 passes defensed to help spur the league's fourth-ranked run defense

• In 2020, Davis filled up the stat sheet with a team-leading 119 tackles (74 solo), four sacks and six passes defensed. Davis became the first Saint to lead the team in tackles in three consecutive seasons since Jonathan Vilma (2008-10).

#### 2020 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TACKLE LEADERS

Rk	a. Saint	No.
1.	Demario Davis	119
2.	Malcolm Jenkins	91
3.	C.J. Gardner-Johnson	65
4.	Marshon Lattimore	62
5.	Marcus Williams	59

• In 2021, through 14 contests until being sidelined in Week 15 due to COVID-19 protocols, Davis leads the team with 95 stops (63 solo), three sacks and six passes defensed, needing five tackles for his fifth consecutive season reaching the century mark overall. With 100 stops in 2021, Davis would become the first Saint to reach the century mark in four consecutive seasons since S Roman Harper (2008-12).

#### 2021 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TACKLE LEADERS

Rk. Saint		No.
1.	Demario Davis	95
2.	Marcus Williams	72
3.	Malcolm Jenkins	71

### DURABLE DEFENDER

Davis who had never missed a game in his career until Monday night vs. Miami due to COVID-19 protocols, ranks as one of the league's most durable defenders, playing one of the game's most physically demanding positions. His

158 consecutive games played streak the longest in the NFL by a position player and his 79 straight games started were the most at his position.

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED AMONG ACTIVE NFL LINEBACKERS THROUGH WEEK 15

Rk	. Defensive Player	Team	No.
1.	Demario Davis	NYJ-NO	158
2. De'Vondre Campbell GB		79	

# CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES STARTED AMONG ACTIVE NFL LINEBACKERS THROUGH WEEK

	15	
Rk. LinebackerTeam	1	No.
1. Demario Davis	NO	79
2. Leonard Floyd*	LAR	62

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED AMONG ACTIVE NFL POSITION PLAYERS THROUGH WEEK 15

Rk	. Defensive Player	Team	No.
1.	Demario Davis	NYJ-NO	158
2.	Duron Harmon	NE, Det., Atl.	141
3.	Malcolm Jenkins	NO, Phi.	133

#### **KWON ALEXANDER**

• Alexander was originally a fourth round pick of Tampa Bay in 2015. Acquired by New Orleans at midseason in 2020 from San Francisco, in seven seasons, the former LSU standout has played in 77 games with 73 starts and has posted 543 tackles (385 solo), 12.5 sacks, eight interceptions and two passes defensed. In 2021, Alexander has played in ten games with six starts, posting 40 tackles, three sacks, one interception and two passes defensed, possessing the versatility to be a force both against the run and the pass.

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

#### ZACK BAUN

· An athletic, sideline to sideline linebacker, possessing the rare combination of pass rush skills and the ability to drop in coverage. After a stellar career at Wisconsin, Baun played in 15 rgames in 2020, with three starts at strongside linebacker, posting eight tackles (three solo) and four special teams stops. Overall in his college career, he played in 39 games with 27 starts, all which took place in his final two seasons, recording 154 tackles, 30.5 stops for loss, 15 sacks, two interceptions and three forced fumbles.

 Baun's strength and knowledge of the defense, which was on display when he led the team with five solo tackles in the season opening win vs. Green Bay.

 With Alexander missing the Week 16 contest vs. Miami due to COVID-19 protocols, Baun stepped into his place at weakside and tied a career-high with seven tackles (careerhigh tying five solo) and added one solo stop, as New Orleans held Miami to only one defensive touchdown.

#### **KADEN ELLISS**

 Kaden Elliss was selected by the Saints with their second of two seventh round draft choices (244th overall) in 2019 out of Idaho. Elliss is a strong, athletic player with coverage, pass rush and run-stopping abilities who bounced back after missing the majority of 2019 (knee). In 2020, he NFL lead in defensive fumble recoveries, the highest total appeared in 15 regular season games and two postseason contests on special teams recording five stops. The son of former NFL standout Luther Elliss, he will look to play a bigger role in 2021 utilizing his strength, speed and size. In the opening win over Green Bay. Elliss's adept recovery in the fourth quarter at the New Orleans two-yard line would keep the Packers out of the end zone for the contest. Elliss recorded his first career sack on Thanksgiving night vs. Buffalo.

#### PETE WERNER

New Orleans selected this three-year starter from Ohio State to compete at the linebacker position in the second round of the 2021 NFL Draft. The Indianapolis, Ind. native finished his college career playing in 47 career games with 35 starts, recording 185 tackles (111 solo), 16 stops for loss, four sacks, 11 passes defensed, four forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. Werner helped power the Buckeyes to the College Football Playoff championship game as a senior in 2020, when he was voted by Big Ten coaches as a first-team All-Conference selection and a Butkus Award semifinalist, posting 54 tackles, 2.5 stops for loss, one sack and two forced fumbles. Werner made his second career start October 3 vs. the Giants and recorded a career -high ten tackles. With 13 stops in the Week Five win at Washington, the Indianapolis native became the first Saints rookie defender to reach double-digit totals in back-to-back games. He has 56 stops and also picked up his first career

coverage tackle on November 7 vs. Atlanta.

• With Davis missing the Week 16 contest vs. Miami due to COVID-19 protocols, Werner stepped into his spot in the middle and enjoyed a standout performance with a gamehigh ten tackles, his second double-digit total of the season.

### SECONDARY

#### MARSHON LATTIMORE

.•Selected by the New Orleans Saints in the first round (11<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 2017 NFL Draft, Lattimore started all 13 games he appeared in. He totaled 53 tackles (44 solo), a forced fumble, one fumble recovery, five interceptions for 85 yards and 18 passes defensed, as he became the voungest Saint (21 years old) ever selected to the Pro Bowl and was selected as the AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year.

.• In 2018, Lattimore opened all 16 contests and posted a career-high 59 tackles (49 solo), two interceptions, 12 passes defensed, a club-best four forced fumbles, tied for fourth in the NFL and three fumble recoveries, returned for 91 yards, leading the team in takeaways and tied for the among defensive backs. Lattimore also added two picks in the NFC Divisional Playoff win over Philadelphia.

• A standout 2019 campaign by Lattimore resulted in him being voted to the Pro Bowl, the only Saints cornerback to ever be selected multiple times. Lattimore started all 14 games he played in and posted 57 stops, one interception and ranked first on the team with 14 passes defensed.

 In 2020, he posted a career-high 62 tackles (52 solo), two interceptions and 11 passes defensed as he was voted to the Pro Bowl for the third time. High expectations follow in 2021 as he signed a long-term contract extension to lock up the lockdown corner in the New Orleans secondary.

. After signing a contract extension at the start of the season, Lattimore's posted 62 stops, three picks, a career-high and 19 passes defensed, ranked third in the NFL and one fumble recovery, being selected to his fourth Pro Bowl.

### OUT OF THE MARSH

Below are Lattimore's 2021 defensive highlights:

 In the September 26 28-13 win at New England, Lattimore picked off Patriots QB Mac Jones in the game's next to last play to seal the victory.

.•In the Week Five win over the Washington Football Team, Lattimore earned NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors, as he recorded a career-high six passes defensed, the first time that occurred in the NFL since 2017 and tied for the second-highest total in the league since the 1992 season.

.•In Week 13 vs. Dallas, Lattimore, posted eight tackles (five solo), a fourth quarter interceptions and a game-high three passes defensed.

 In the Week 14 win at the New York Jets, Lattimore, recorded a game-high two passes defensed and five tackles, as New York's longest reception in the contest went for only 27 yards.

•In the Week 15 9-0 win at Tampa Bay posted four solo tackles, two passes defensed and his first fumble recovery of the season.

• After being selected to the Pro Bowl five days earlier, Lattimore posted a team-lead tying third interception in the third quarter vs. Miami on Monday night.

### THE SAINTS AND THE NFL

Lattimore's 73 passes defensed since entering the NFL in 2017 are ranked first in the league.

#### PASSES DEFENSED BY SAINTS SINCE 2017

	(Press Box Stats)	
Rk. Saints Defender PD		
1. Marshon Lattim	ore 74	
2. Marcus Williams	38	
3. P.J. Williams	32	
4t. Cameron Jordan	27	
4t. Demario Davis	27	
6. C.J. Gardner-Joh	inson 26	

#### **PASSES DEFENSED IN THE NFL SINCE 2017**

(Press Box Stats)

Rk. Defender PD

1. Marshon Lattimore 74

2. Darius Slay 71

#### MARCUS WILLIAMS

• After being selected in the second round of the 2017 NFL Draft (42<sup>nd</sup> overall) out of the Utah, this ball-hawking safety has started all 74 games he has appeared in, recording 307 tackles (229 solo), one sack, 15 interceptions, one returned for a touchdown, 38 passes defensed, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. With a team-leading three interceptions in 2020, Williams' 15 picks since being drafted is tied for seventh in the NFL over that period, tied for third among safeties.

•Williams was a stalwart in the secondary for New Orleans in 2020, recording 59 tackles to ranked fourth on the team (40 solo), three interceptions and seven passes defensed, to tied for the team lead in picks, while also recording a career-high nine stops, November 15, vs. San Francisco, topping it with a pick vs. Atlanta, November 22.

• Williams continued his trend of fast starts, recording an interception in a season opener for the third consecutive season, picking off Aaron Rodgers in the third quarter and returning the pick 53 yards to set up a New Orleans touch-down in the 38-3 win. Through 15 games in 2021, Williams has posted 72 tackles, two picks, eight passes defensed and one forced fumble.

### **CLASS OF 2017**

Williams is ranked second in the 2017 draft class with 15 interceptions.

#### MOST INTERCEPTIONS 2017 NFL DRAFT CLASS

Rk. PlayerNo.1. Tre'Davious White162. Marcus Williams153. Marshon Lattimore134. Damontae Kazee12

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

#### MALCOLM JENKINS

• Returning to New Orleans in the 2020 offseason after six seasons in Philadelphia, Malcolm Jenkins is one of the National Football League's most intelligent and instinctive defensive backs. One of only two safeties in Saints history to be selected as an *Associated Press* All-Pro, Jenkins has played in 197 career games with 189 starts and has career totals of 1,276 tackles (906 solo), 13 sacks, 21 interceptions, with seven returned for touchdowns, 130 passes defensed, 16 forced fumbles, nine fumble recoveries, one special teams fumble recovery, one blocked field goal and 44 special teams stops.

•In his 2020 Saints return, Jenkins finished ranked second on the team with 91 tackles (69 solo), filling up the stat sheet with two sacks, three interceptions to tie a careerhigh , ten passes defensed, reaching double-digits in the category for the seventh consecutive season, one forced fumble and a fumble recovery, playing virtually every defensive snap, after being voted by his teammates as a team captain, Jenkins led the team with four takeaways on the season. Through the first 13 contests of 2021, Jenkins has posted 67 tackles (43 solo), a 34-yard interception return for a touchdown from his strong safety position, five passes defensed and a sack.

### PLAYMAKER

S Malcolm Jenkins has shown a nose for the end zone after interceptions throughout his 13-year career

#### MOST INTERCEPTION RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS SINCE 2009

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Aquib Talib	10
2.	Janoris Jenkins	8
3.	Malcolm Jenkins	7

#### MOST INTERCEPTION RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS SINCE 2014

Rk. Player No.		
1t.	Aquib Talib	6
1t.	Marcus Peters	6
3t.	Malcolm Jenkins	5
3t.	Janoris Jenkins	5
3t.	Deion Jones	5

### DURABLE DEFENDER

During his NFL career, S Malcolm Jenkins has established himself as one of the most durable players in the National Football League. Until missing Monday night's contest vs. Miami due to COVID-19 protocols, he had played virtually every defensive snap in 59 consecutive regular season and postseason contests, dating back to the start of the 2017 playoffs for the Philadelphia Eagles. Jenkins has also appeared in and started 133 consecutive regular season contests the longest consecutive games started streak among NFL players and the second-longest consecutive games played streak among NFL secondary players.

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES PLAYED AMONG ACTIVE NFL DEFENSIVE BACKS THROUGH WEEK 15

Rk	. DB	Team	No.
1.	Duron Harmon	NE, Det., Atl.	140
2.	Malcolm Jenkins	<b>NO</b> , Phi.	132
3.	Kevin Byard	Ten.	93
4.	Kyle Fuller	Den.	77

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES STARTED AMONG ACTIVE NFL DEFENSIVE BACKS THROUGH WEEK 15

Rk	. Defensive Back	Team	No.
1.	Malcolm Jenkins	<b>NO</b> , Phi.	133
2.	Kevin Byard	Ten.	86

#### CONSECUTIVE REGULAR SEASON GAMES STARTED AMONG ACTIVE NFL PLAYERS THROUGH WEEK 15

Rk	. Player	Team	No.
1.	Malcolm Jenkins	<b>NO</b> , Phi.	133
2.	Jake Matthews	Atl.	124
3.	Jason Kelce	Phi.	119

#### Panthers vs. Saints: Week 17

#### PAULSON ADEBO

• New Orleans' third round selection (76th overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft out of Stanford, Adebo is seeking to overcome not playing college football in 2020 to make significant contributions to the Saints secondary in his first season with the club. The Texas native finished his college career playing in 22 games with 21 starts for Stanford and recording 97 tackles, 34 passes defensed and eight interceptions, earning All-Pac 12 honors in both 2018 and 2019.

• Adebo started the first two preseason contests opposite Crawley at corner and recorded seven solo tackles and one special teams stop and then further showed his development by opening opposite Lattimore in the regular season opening win vs. Green Bay and returning a pick 33 yards in the third quarter to become the first Saints defender to have an interception in his NFL debut since LB James Allen vs. Tampa Bay on September 8, 2002. He then added a second pick in the Week Five win at Washington

#### P.J. WILLIAMS

•A third round pick of the Saints in 2021 out of Florida State, Williams has appeared in 152 regular season games with 26 starts for New Orleans, posting 205 tackles, three sacks, eight interception returns for 168 yards with two touchdowns, 49 passes defensed, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. In 2021, playing a hybrid role of both cornerback and safety, Williams leads the team with three picks for 86 yards returned including a gameclinching 40-yard interception return for a touchdown on October 31 vs. Tampa Bay.

# HOW THE SAINTS WERE BUILT

<u>2013</u> (1)	<u>2019 (</u> 7)
DRAFT:	DRAFT:
T Terron Armstead (3a)	C/G Erik McCoy (2)
	DB C.J. Gardner-Johnson (4)
<u>2015</u> (1)	LB Kaden Elliss (7)
DRAFT:	
CB P.J. Williams (3b)	FREE AGENTS:
	LB Andrew Dowell (FA)
<u>2016</u> (1)	DE Carl Granderson (Rookie FA)
DRAFT:	WR Lil'Jordan Humphrey (Rookie FA)
DT David Onyemata (4)	DL Shy Tuttle (Rookie FA)
<u>2017</u> (6)	<u>2020 (</u> 11)
DRAFT:	DRAFT:
CB Marshon Lattimore (1a)	C/G Cesar Ruiz (1)
T <b>Ryan Ramczyk</b> (1b)	LB <b>Zack Baun</b> (3a)
S Marcus Williams (2)	
RB <b>Alvin Kamara</b> (3a)	FREE AGENTS:
	WR Marquez Callaway (Rookie FA)
FREE AGENTS:	CB Ken Crawley (FA)
LS Zach Wood (FA)	P Blake Gillikin (Rookie FA)
	OL James Hurst (UFA-Bal.)
WAIVERS:	S Malcolm Jenkins UFA-Phi.)
QB Taysom Hill (GB)	WR Juwan Johnson (Rookie FA)
	DL Christian Ringo (FA)
<u>2018</u> (5)	OL Calvin Throckmorton (Rookie FA)
DRAFT:	
DE Marcus Davenport (1)	TRADES:
WR Tre'Quan Smith (3)	LB Kwon Alexander (SF)
FREE AGENTS:	<u><b>2021</b></u> (14)
LB Demario Davis (UFA-NYJ)	DRAFT:
DB <b>J.T. Gray</b> (Rookie FA)	LB Pete Werner (2)
RB Dwayne Washington (FA)	CB Paulson Adebo (3)
	QB lan Book (4)

# HOW THE SAINTS WERE BUILT (CONT.)

#### FREE AGENTS:

- $G \text{ Caleb Benenoch } (\mathsf{FA})$
- G James Carpenter (FA)
- S Jeff Heath (FA)
- DE Jaylyn Holmes (FA)
- DT Albert Huggins (FA)
- K Brett Maher (FA)
- T Jordan Mills (FA)
- FB Adam Prentice (FA)
- WR Kenny Stills (FA)

#### TRADES:

RB Mark Ingram Jr. (Hou.) CB Bradley Roby (Hou.)

**5 KWON ALEXANDER LB** 

WEIGHT: 242 HEIGHT: 6-1

**COLLEGE: LOUISIANA STATE** 

JOINED SAINTS: FA-21

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 7** 

BORN: 8/3/1994

middle of the 2020 season, Alexander made an immediate impact by adding veteran experience and leadership to the linebacker corps. In eight starts, he posted 29 tackles (18 solo), four passes defensed, one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries. Originally selected in the fourth round (124<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 2015 NFL Draft by Tampa Bay, he became an immediate starter and was selected to his first Pro Bowl in 2017. In 2019, the and helped the 49ers reach Super Bowl LIV in his first postseason appearance. Entering 2021, Alexander has started all 67 games he's appeared in, posting 503 tackles (355 solo), seven interceptions with one returned for a touchdown, 9.5 sacks, 30 passes defensed, ten forced fumbles and four fumble recoveries.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Re-signed by Saints to a one-year contract, 8/4/21; Contract terminated by Saints, 3/10/21; Placed on Injured Reserve by New Orleans Saints, 12/28/20; Acquired by Saints from 49ers, 11/2/20; Activated from Injured Reserve by 49ers, 1/10/20; Placed on Injured Reserve by 49ers, 11/5/19; Signed to a four-year contract with 49ers (UFA-TB), 3/13/19; Placed on Injured Reserve (knee) by Buccaneers, 10/22/18; Signed by Tampa Bay to a four-year contract, 5/12/15; Selected in fourth round (124<sup>th</sup> overall) of the 2015 NFL Draft by Buccaneers.

HONORS -2017: Pro Bowl; 2015: PFWA All-Rookie, NFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week 8).

2020 - In 13 games for both New Orleans and San Francisco started all 13 contests he appeared in and posted 59 tackles (40 solo), one sack, four passes defensed, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries. In eight starts for the Black and Gold finished with 29 stops (18 solo), four passes defensed, one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries before suffering a ruptured Achilles tendon injury vs. Minnesota, Dec. 25. Posted three solo tackles and two passes defensed at Atlanta, Dec. 6 in helping secure season sweep. Rec-

orded three solo tackles and a pass defense vs. Atlanta, Nov. 22. 2019 - Started all eight games in which he appeared for San Francisco and registered 34 tackles, a split sack, an interception and tied career-high with two forced fumbles, before being placed on Injured Reserve, Nov. 5 (pectoral)...Activated from Injured Reserve, 1/10/20...Appeared in all three postseason games with two starts and registered three tackles and a pass defensed...Intercepted Andy Dalton at Cincinnati, Sept. 15. marking his first pick as a 49er and seventh of his career.

Recorded of split sack of Baker Mayfield vs. Cleveland, Oct 7... NFL CAREER - Acquired by the Saints via trade in the Forced an Adrian Peterson fumble at Washington, Oct. 20, his first of the season...In the NFC Divisional Playoff, helped 49ers defense hold Vikings to 147 total net yds. (21 rushing, 126 passing) vs. Minnesota, 1/11/20. 2018 - Started all six games he appeared in for Tampa Bay Buccaneers before suffering a season-ending knee injury and registered 45 tackles, two forced fumbles, two passes defensed and one sack ... Forced a fumble at New Orleans, Sept. 9...Sacked and forced a Nick Foles fumble, tying his single season career high for forced fumbles vs. LSU product signed with San Francisco in free agency Philadelphia, Sept. 16. 2017 - Started all 12 games which he appeared in for Tampa Bay and recorded 97 tackles, four passes defensed, three interceptions and one forced fumble...One of just five players to record 95-or-more tackles and three-ormore interceptions on season...Intercepted Mike Glennon and returned it 22 yards vs. Chicago, Sept. 17...Registered four tackles, one pass defensed and one forced fumble vs. N.Y. Jets, Nov. 12...Recorded eight tackles, one pass defense and one interception at Miami. Nov. 19...Tallied eight tackles, one pass defensed and one interception at Carolina, Dec. 24. 2016 - Started all 16 games for Tampa Bay and registered 145 tackles, seven passes defensed, three sacks, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, and an interception return for a TD...145 tackles tied for third-most in the NFL...Led the team with 17 tackles and one sack at Atlanta, Sept. 11...Recorded seven tackles, and an interception returned for a TD vs. L.A. Rams, Sept. 25...Registered seven tackles and a sack vs. Denver, Oct. 2...Tallied five tackles and one fumble recovery vs. Chicago, Nov. 13...Registered six tackles and one sack vs. Seattle, Nov. 27...Recorded a career-high 21 tackles and one forced fumble at Dallas, Dec. 18. 2015 - Started all 12 games in which he appeared in for Tampa Bay and recorded 93 tackles, nine passes defensed, 3.0 sacks, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and one fumble recoveries...Despite missing four games, his 93 tackles ranked third in NFL among rookies...Registered 10 tackles, two passes defensed and his first career pick at Houston, Sept. 27...Recorded five tackles, two passes defensed and a sack vs. Jacksonville, Oct. 11...Led team with 11 tackles, an interception, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and a pass defense at Atlanta, Nov. 11...Registered four tackles and a sack vs. Dallas, Nov. 15...Recorded 10 tackles, a sack and a forced fumble at Atlanta, Dec. 6. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-LB KWON ALEXANDER

games he played as a junior in 2014, tallying 90 tackles, two forced fumbles, 1.5 sacks and one pass defensed...Earned first-team All-Southeastern Conference honors from ESPN.com and second-team All-SEC recognition from the Associated Press...Part of a defense ranked third in the NCAA in passing defense (164.2 yards per game) and ninth in total defense (316.8 yards per game), both which led the SEC. Defense also tied for the fourth-fewest points allowed per game (17.5 ppg.), a figure that stood as second-best mark in the SEC...Notched first career sack against Alabama (11/8/14)...As a sophomore in 2013, started 9-of-13 games, totaling 65 tackles and four passes defensed ... Played in seven games, with two starts as a freshman in 2012, finishing with 11 tackles, two fumble recoveries, one pass defensed and one forced fumble...Made his first career start at Florida (10/6/12) ... Made his LSU debut in the 2012 season opener against North Texas (9/1/12), registering a pair of tackles and a fumble recovery...Majored in sport administration.

**PERSONAL** – Attended Oxford (Ala.) High School... senior...Chosen as a finalist for the High School Butkus Award, given annually to the nation's top linemention...A top recruit, ranking 19th on Scout.com's Nov. 13. Final Southeast Top 150, 29th in the ESPNU 150, 45th in the Mobile Press-Register Super Southeast 120 and was listed in MaxPreps' Top 100...Earned four-star recruit honors from ESPN.com. Rivals.com and Scout.com...Born on August 3, 1994 in Oxford, Alabama.

#### **65 CALEB BENENOCH G**

HEIGHT: 6-5 WEIGHT: 310

COLLEGE: UCLA

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-21** 

NFL EXPERIENCE: 4

BORN: 8/8/1994

the middle of the preseason, this interior lineman will look to use his combination of bulk and athleticism to compete for a roster COLLEGE - Started 23-of-32 career games played at spot on the offensive line. After entering the National Football Louisiana State University (2012-14)...Started all 12 League as a fifth round draft pick in 2016 by Tampa Bay out of UCLA, the Nigerian native has played in 35 games with 22 starts on the interior for the Buccaneers.

> CAREER TRANSACTIONS - Signed by the New Orleans Saints, 8/18/21; Waived by the Buffalo Bills, 8/15/21; Signed by the Bills, 8/4/21; Practice squad contract terminated by the New England Patriots, 11/13/20; Signed to practice squad by the Patriots, 10/19/20; Standard activation from the New England practice squad, 10/17/20; Signed to the Patriots practice squad, 9/12/20; Waived by the Detroit Lions, 8/23/20; Acquired off of waivers by Detroit, 12/16/19 Waived by Dallas, 12/14/19; Signed by Dallas, 12/2/19; Waived by Carolina, 10/22/19; Acquired off waivers by Carolina, 10/2/19; Waived by Patriots, 10/1/19; Signed by Patriots, 9/17/19; Waived by Tampa Bay, 9/10/19; Signed by Tampa Bay to four-year contract, 5/5/16; Selected in fifth round (148th overall) of the 2016 NFL Draft by Tampa Bay.

2020 - Had a brief stint on New England Patriots active roster, spending two months on their practice squad. 2019 - Appeared in one game for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, followed by stints on Carolina, Dallas and Detroit active rosters. 2018 - As a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, started all 16 games at right guard and blocked for Buccaneers QBs as they passed for Played in the Under Armour All-American Game as 5,125 yards on the season, which was the fourth-most in National Football League history. 2017 - As a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, played in 13 games with five starts. 2016 backer...Named to the 2011 ESPN All-Alabama Foot- As a member of the Buccaneers, played in five games with one ball Team and earned Class 6A All-State honorable start, starting at left guard in his NFL debut against Chicago,

> COLLEGE - Played at UCLA from 2013-15., where he finished his college career with 35 consecutive starts...In 2015, started all three games along the offensive line (nine at tackle and four at guard) as team surrendered just 14 quarterback sacks, the second-lowest total in school history.

> PERSONAL - Prepped at Katy (Texas) Seven Lakes High School after his family migrated from Nigeria at age nine...Played soccer as a youth and became involved in football by mistake as his mother signed him up for American football...As a child, he traveled to Denmark, France, Germany and Switzerland before his family settled in Katy...Full name is Caleb Orobosa Benenoch...Originally born in Lagos, Nigeria.

#### 38 JEFF HEATH S

HEIGHT: 6-1 WEIGHT: 212

COLLEGE: SAGINAW VALLEY STATE

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 9** 

JOINED SAINTS: FA-21

#### BORN: 5/14/91

**NFL CAREER** – Veteran safety enters his ninth NFL season and his first campaign with the Black and Gold providing depth at safety while making significant contribution on special teams. He's played in 119 career regular season games with the Cowboys (2013-19) and Raiders (2020), recording career totals of 384 tackles (276 solo), 11 interceptions, 34 passes defensed, three forced fumbles, a fumble recovery and 61 special teams stops. In Las Vegas in 2020, Heath appeared in 13 games with five starts and posted 34 stops (27 solo), three interception returns for 89 yards, four passes defensed and three special teams stops.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS –** Signed by tSaints, 8/20/21; Released by Las Vegas, 5/4/21; Signed by Raiders to two-year contract (UFA-Dal.), 3/18/20; Resigned by the Cowboys, 4/13/16; Signed by Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent, 5/10/13.

**HONORS** – **2020**: NFC Defensive Player of the Week (10).

**2020 –** Appeared in 13 games with five starts for the Raiders and finished season with 34 tackles (27 solo), three interceptions returned for 89 yards, four passes defensed and three special teams stops...Recorded two picks against Broncos to pick up NFC Defensive Player of the Week. 2019 - Started all 13 games he played in, during final season with the Cowboys, recording 63 tackles (42 solo) and nine passes defensed...In opener Sept. 8 vs. N.Y. Giants, recorded season-high nine tackles (six solo) with two passes defensed ... Sept. 15 at Washington, totaled five tackles (four solo) with a pass defensed...Sept. 29, at New Orleans, finished evening with six tackles (four solo) and one pass defensed...Oct. 13 at N.Y. Jets, recorded seven tackles (three solo)...Oct. 20, vs. Philadelphia, finished with six stops...Dec. 22, at Philadelphia, finished with six tackles (three solo), Dec. 29 vs. Washington, totaled seven tackles (six solo) with two passes defensed in finale. 2018 - Started all 16 games for the first time and recorded a career-high 84 tackles (63 solo), six passes defensed and an interception. Finished fourth on team in tackles and third in special teams stops (nine)...In opener at Carolina, Sept. 9,

recorded six tackles (five solo)...Sept. 23 at Seattle, finished the game with six stops...Oct. 14 at Jacksonville, totaled three solo tackles, while adding one Interception returned 49 yards...Nov. 11 at Philadelphia, registered nine tackles (eight solo)...Nov. 22, vs. Washington, totaled six tackles (five solo), a pass defensed and a forced fumble...Dec. 30, at N.Y. Giants, registered eight stops on defense...In NFC Wild Card Playoff vs. Seattle, 1/5/19, recorded four tackles (three solo) in the contest...1/12/19, at L.A. Rams. Led the team with nine tackles (six solo) and added one pass defensed in the Divisional Championship. 2017 -Started all 15 games he played for with the Dallas Cowboys and finished ranked fourth on the team with 81 tackles (62 solo) and leading the team with three Interceptions. Added eight special teams tackles, finishing ranked fifth on the team...Oct. 22, at San Francisco, finished with nine tackles (six solo). Also filled in for kicker Dan Bailey and PATs and kickoffs, finishing two-ofthree on PATs with two touchbacks on five kickoffs...Nov. 30 vs. Washington, totaled five tackles (two solo), adding one interception returned for 14 yards. 2016 - Played in all 16 games for second straight season, third overall, and tallied 20 tackles (14 solo), two passes defensed and one interception. Added eight special teams stops, finishing fifth on team...Oct. 16 at Green Bay, recorded two solo tackles...Dec. 18 vs. Tampa Bay, recorded third career interception and returned it 19 yards...1/15/17 vs. Green Bay, recorded his first career sack in NFC Divisional Playoff loss, adding two tackles and a 27-yard interception. 2015 - Played in all 16 games for the second time in his career and tied for the team lead with nine special teams tackles, while posting 26 defensive stops (16 solo) and a team-best two interceptions as a reserve DB...Nov. 8 vs. Philadelphia, registered six tackles (five solo)...Nov. 15 at Tampa Bay, recorded two tackles and two INTs, marking the first career multi-interception game...Nov. 26, vs. Carolina, totaled seven tackles (four solo) to surpass 100 career stops...Dec. 7 at Washington, forced a fumble on a punt return that led to Dallas' only touchdown. 2014 -In 14 regular season games, tallied 16 tackles (ten solo) and eight special teams stops...Nov. 9, at Jacksonville, led team with three special teams stops...1/11/15, at Green Bay, totaled seven tackles (six solo) and a pass defense in Divisional Championship. 2013 - Earned a roster spot out of the preseason as an undrafted free agent with the Dallas Cowboys and played in all 16 games. Became a starting safety for final nine games and finished with 60 tackles (42 solo), ranking sixth on team. Led team with 13 special teams stops...Sept. 8, vs. N.Y. Giants, made National Football League debut, appearing on special teams and recording one stop...Oct. 27, at Detroit, led team with 12 tackles (nine solo) in first career start...Nov. 10 at New Orleans, recorded career-high 13 tackles (eight solo) with two passes defensed...Nov. 24, at N.Y. Giants, totaled eight tackles (five solo), one fumble recovery returned 50 yards for a TD...Dec. 22, at Washington, recorded his first career interception, while added three tackles on defense.. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE – S JEFF HEATH

COLLEGE - Played four years (2019-12) at Saginaw Valley State, starting 30-of-35 games...Recorded 219 tackles, 16.5 tackles for loss, seven interceptions and forcing and recovering four fumbles...As a senior in 2012 earned All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference first-team defense with 77 tackles, three tackles for losses, a forced fumble, two fumble recoveries, five interceptions and seven passes defensed, starting all 11 games...Started all 11 games as junior, earning second-team All-GLIAC after totaling 81 tackles, nine stops for loss, a sack, three pass breakups and an interception return of 46 yards...Appeared in eight games, starting seven, as a sophomore and ended season with 49 tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, one interception and recovered two fumbles...As a freshman, appeared in five games and started one, recorded 13 tackles, one tackles for loss, one interception, one deflected pass and forced and recovered one fumble...Majored in criminal justice.

**PERSONAL** – Prepped at Lake Orion (Mich.) High School where he was voted all-league, All-North Conference, all-state finalist, Big Play Player of the Year, recipient of the Big Stick Award for hardest hitter and team captain.

**WEIGHT: 283** 

57 JAYLYN HOLMES DE

HEIGHT: 6-5

COLLEGE: OHIO STATE

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 4** 

JOINED SAINTS: FA-21

#### BORN: 1/25/96

**NFL CAREER** – Veteran defensive end enters his fourth National Football League season and his first campaign with the Black and Gold. In three seasons for Minnesota (2018-20), the Norfolk, Va. Native has played in 25 regular season games with nine starts, posting 47 tackles, one sack and two passes defensed. In two postseason games for Minnesota, he added one fumble recovery.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Signed by the New Orleans Saints to the active roster from the practice squad, 10/6/21; Standard elevation from Saints practice squad, 9/18/21; Signed to the Saints practice squad, 9/6/21; Waived by the Vikings, 9/1/21; Signed by the Vikings to a four-year contract, 5/5/18; Selected

by the Vikings in the fourth round (102nd overall) of the 2018 NFL Draft.

2020 – Appeared in 14 games and made a career-high nine starts in 2020, his final season in Minnesota, finishing the season with a career-high 36 tackles, two tackles for loss, five quarterback hits and two passes defensed....Made first career start in season opener vs. Green Bay, recording two solo tackles and a tackle for loss of one yard, Sept. 13...Had five tackles, one stop for loss and first career pass defense at Indianapolis, Sept. 20...Made two tackles and had a quarterback hurry vs. Tennessee, Sept. 27...Tallied four tackles (two solo) vs. Atlanta, Oct. 18...Recorded four tackles in second career start as Minnesota defeated Green Bay, Nov. 1 at Lambeau Field .... Recorded a career-high six tackles vs. Dallas, Nov. 22...Had a career-high two quarterback hurries, two tackles and a pass defense vs. Carolina, Nov. 29 in comeback win. 2019 - Made season debut at Chicago, Sept. 29, appearing on defense and special teams...Recorded four tackles (three solo) and a stop for loss vs. Chicago, Dec. 29 in regular-season finale ... Played in six regular season games, finishing with six tackles and a stop for loss...Made National Football League postseason debut in Wild Card win at New Orleans, 1/5/20, recovering a fourth-quarter Drew Brees fumble to mark the first fumble recovery of his National Football League career...Appeared in Divisional Playoff game at San Francisco, 1/11/20. 2018 - Played in five games at defensive tackle and defensive end...Made National Football League debut at Philadelphia, Oct. 7, registering his first career tackle...Logged three tackles (two solo) and one quarterback hit vs. Arizona, Oct. 14...At New York Jets, Oct. 21, recorded first career sack bringing down quarterback Sam Darnold in the fourth quarter.

**COLLEGE** – Played in 49 games with nine starts and totaled 84 tackles, 14 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks...Named two-time All-Conference honorable mention and a member of two Big Ten title-winning teams in 2014 and 2017...Was a team captain for the Buckeyes as a senior and registered all nine of his career starts in 2017...Was a member of the Buckeyes 2014 national championship season and was a part of bowl victories over Alabama (Sugar Bowl), Oregon (CFP national championship), Notre Dame (Fiesta Bowl) and University of Southern California (Cotton Bowl).

**PERSONAL** – Attended Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, VA and helped school win its 1st Virginia 4A state championship in 2012, capping off 15-0 season...Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl...Ranked among the Top-100 players in the nation according to 247Sports and Rivals...Played basketball for three years.

14 MARK INGRAM II RB

HEIGHT: 5-9 WEIGHT: 215

**COLLEGE: ALABAMA** 

NFL EXPERIENCE: 11

JOINED SAINTS: TR-21 (Hou.)

BORN: 12/21/89

**NFL CAREER** – Veteran tailback returns to New Orleans, where he originally was the 28th overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft. Ingram has played in 140 career games with 94 starts, carrying 1,693 times for 7,645 yards (4.5 avg.) with 63 touchdowns, while catching 269 passes for 1,944 yards with ten touchdowns,

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS –** Acquired by Saints from Texans in exchange for future considerations 10/29/21; Signed by Texans, 3/24/21; Released by Ravens, 1/19/21; Signed by Ravens to three-year contract (UFA-NO), 3/13/19; Placed on Injured Reserve, 12/10/15; Agreed to terms on four-year contract, 3/8/15; Placed on Injured Reserve, 1/3/12; Signed to four-year contract, 7/30/11; Selected by Saints in the first round (28<sup>th</sup> overall) of 2011 NFL Draft.

HONORS – 2019: Pro Bowl; 2018: Saints Man of the Year (club nominee for NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year); 2017: Pro Bowl; Castrol Clutch Performer of the Week (Week Six); FedEx Ground Player of the Week and Castrol Edge Clutch Performer of the Week (Week Ten); NFC Offensive Player of the Week and FedEx Ground Player of the Week (Week 11); 2016: FedEx Ground Player of the Week and NFC Offensive Player of the Week (Week 12); 2014: Pro Bowl; FedEx Ground Player of the Week (Week Eight); 2013: Fed-Ex Ground Player of the Week (Week Ten); 2012: Ed Block Courage Award (Saints recipient).

2021 – Started the first seven games for Houston and had 92 carries for team-high 294 yards and a TD and caught seven passes for 24 yards. 2020 - Tallied 299 rushing and two TDs on 72 carries (4.2 avg.). On fourth-and-one late in fourth quarter, took a direct snap and rushed 30 yards for a TD to help seal win at Houston, Sept. 20. Totaled eight carries for 34 yards (4.3) avg.) and a TD at Washington, Oct. 4...Spearheaded Ravens' 161-yard rushing performance with team-high 57 yards on 11 carries (5.2 avg) in win vs. Cincinnati, Oct. 11. 2019 - Earned Pro Bowl honors after he led Ravens in rattempts (202) and rushing TDs (10) and ranked second in rushing yards (1,018). Helped Baltimore produce the best scoring offense (33.2 points per game) in the NFL and set a new NFL single-season record for rushing yards (3,296) In Ravens debut, posted 107 rushing yards and two TDs in Week 1 at Mi-

ami, Sept. 8, helping Baltimore set single-game team records in yards (643) and points (59) Produced three rushing TDs for the second time n his career and totaled 103 yards on 16 carries (6.4 avg.) at Kansas City, Sept. 22. His performance marked the fifth time a Raven rushed for three touchdowns...Totaled 44 rushing yards and one touchdown on 19 attempts at Pittsburgh, Oct. 6, marking sixth-consecutive season with at least six rushing TDs. Posted game-high 115 yards on 15 carries (7.7 avg.) vs. New England, Nov. 3, recording his third 100- yard rushing output of season and18th of career. Logged 48 rushing yards, three receptions for 37 yards (12.3 avg.) and a career-high two receiving TDs vs. Houston, Nov. 7. Rushed for 111 yards and a TD on 15 carries (7.4 avg.), marking fourth 100-yard rushing performance of season at L.A. Rams, Nov. 25, also notching a seven-yard TD reception...Recorded 76 rushing yards on 13 attempts (5.8 avg.), a rushing TD and a 10-yard TD reception vs. N.Y. Jets, Dec. 12... Amassed 55 rushing yards on eight carries (6.9 avg.) and 36 yards on two catches (18.0 avg), including a 12-yard TD catch at Cleveland (12/22). 15 total touchdowns on the season tied team single-season record. 2018 -Played in 12 games with six starts and ranked second on the Saints in rushing with 138 carries for 645 yards (4.6 avg.) with six TDs, adding 21 receptions for 170 yards with one TD...In two postseason contests with one start, carried 18 times for 84 yards (4.7 avg.) and caught four passes for 15 yards...Made 2018 debut when he started vs. Washington, Oct. 8, when he finished with 16 carries for 53 yards and two touchdowns, adding two receptions for ten yards...At Minnesota, Oct. 28, carried 13 times for 63 yards and caught three passes for 28 yards...At Cincinnati, Nov. 11, finished with 13 carries for a team-high 104 vards and tallied three receptions for 58 yards and one touchdown...In 100<sup>th</sup> career game vs. Philadelphia, Nov. 18, finished with 103 yards on 16 carries with two TDs...Vs. Atlanta, Nov. 22, carried 11 times for 52 yards and caught two passes for 14 yards...At Tampa Bay, Dec. 9, carried 13 times for 52 yards with one TD...At Carolina, Dec. 17, carried 12 times for 63 yards (5.3 avg.), becoming only the fifth Saint with 7,500 total yards from scrimmage...Started vs. Pittsburgh, Dec. 23, carrying 11 times for 35 yards with one TD, as he surpassed McAllister and became the club's all-time rushing touchdown leader (50). Also moved into a tie for second place in club record books with McAllister for overall touchdowns (55)...In regular season finale vs. Carolina, Dec. 30, finished with 28 yards rushing on five carries and caught two passes for 15 yards in limited action...In NFC Divisional Playoff vs. Philadelphia, 1/13/19, carried nine times for 53 yards. Ingram's fourth quarter 36-yard carry is the longest non-scoring rush in franchise postseason history. 2017- Played in all 16 games with 12 starts rushing for a career-high 1,124 yards on career-high 230 attempts, (4.9 avg.), with a career-high 12 TDs, adding a career-high 416 yards receiving on a career-high 58 catches. CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE-MARK INGRAM II

**2017**—1,540 yards from scrimmage marked new career-high ranking seventh in NFL and seventh on club single-season list. Rushing yard total second in the NFC and fifth in NFL. Fourth in league in average per attempt (4.89 avg.). Second in NFL in rushing TDs (12). Named to Pro Bowl for second time. Vs. New England, Sept. 17, started and carried eight times for 52 yards and caught four passes for 24 yards. Passed George Rogers to move into second on club career times for team-high 56 yards and caught two passes for 30 yards, including a 25-yard grab at Carolina, Sept. 24...At Miami (London), Oct. 1, started and carried 14 times for 45 yards and caught four passes for 17 yards...Carried 25 times for 114 yards with two TDs, tying career-high for rushing TDs, including season-long 51-yard rush and caught team-high five passes for 36 yards, for game-high 150 yards from scrimmage vs. Detroit, Oct. 15...At Green Bay, Oct. 22, started and carried 22 times for 105 yards (4.8 avg.) with a TD...Opened 50<sup>th</sup> career game and carried 18 times for 75 yards with one-yard TD vs. Chicago, Oct. 29. Added six receptions for 24 yards...Vs. Tampa Bay, Nov. 5, started and carried 16 times for 77 yards and had a two-yard catch...Started and carried 21 times for 131 yards with a career-high three TDs at part of an effort that resulted in 298 total rushing yards, third-highest total in team history, and a team-record 20 rushing first downs and six rushing TDs. Joined with Alvin Kamara to form the first Saints duo with 100yard rushing games since Reggie Bush and Deuce McAllister at N.Y. Giants on Dec. 24, 2006 and collaborated with Michael Thomas (117 receiving yards) for the first trio in team history with two 100-yard rushing games and one 100-yard receiving game...Vs Washington, Nov. 19, started and led Saints in rushing with 11 carries for season-high 134-yards with a TD. Recorded the longest rush of day with a 36-yard TD run, moving him into second on club's all-time rushing list passing Dalton Hilliard. Surpassed 5,000 career rushing yards becoming second Saint, joining McAllister. Was Ingram's 13<sup>th</sup> career 100-yard rushing game, as he moved into sole possession of third place in club records for 100-yard rushing games. With four 100yard rushing games in 2017, tied with 2014 for the most by him in club records. Added three catches for 21-yards for game-high 155 yards from scrimmage. Named NFC Offensive Player of the Week...Carried 14 times for 86 yards (6.1 avg.) with a TD and caught six passes for 37 yards vs. Carolina, Dec. 3...Tied ca-

reer-high for rushing TDs of nine, first set in 2014 and moved into fifth in club record books in yards from scrimmage...At Atlanta, Dec. 7, started and carried 12 times for 49 yards and caught four passes for 43 yards...Started and carried 12 times for 74 yards (6.2 avg.) with two TDs, including a fourth quarter 50-yard TD to set career-highs in rushing TDs (11) and total TDs (11) vs. N.Y. Jets, Dec. 17. Added five receptions for 77 yards (15.4 avg.), including a first quarter 54-yard grab to finish with game-high 151 yards from scrimmage. Became third Saint with back-to-back 1,0000 yard rushing seasons...Vs. Atlanta, rushing yardage list...Started and carried team-high 14 Dec. 24, started and carried 13 times for 44 yards with a 26yard TD and caught three passes for 22 yards...In NFC Wild Card Playoff vs. Carolina, 1/7/18, carried nine times for 22 yards with a 13-yard reception...Carried ten times for 25 yards with a three-yard reception in Divisional Playoff at Minnesota, 1/14/18. 2016- Played in 16 games with 14 starts. Rushed 205 times for club-best 1,043 yards (career-high 5.1 avg.), with six TDs, as he was club's first 1,000-yard rusher since. Added 46 receptions for 319 yards with four TDs, for 10 total TDs. Career-high and team-high 1,362 yards from scrimmage total ranks tenth all-time on club's single-season list ... Ranked fifth in NFL in yards per carry (5.1), 11th in rushing, tied for 12<sup>th</sup> in first downs (67), ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in yards from scrimmage and 15<sup>th</sup> in scoring among non-kickers (64)...Carried 15 times for 77 yards (5.1 avg.), had four grabs for 30 yards, including a five-yard TD, his first career scoring reception and rushed for two-point conversion vs. Atlanta, Sept. 26... At Chargers, Oct. 2, carried 18 times for 56 Buffalo, Nov. 12, game-highs in all three categories, as yards with a TD and recorded team-leading six receptions for club-best 49 yards...At San Francisco, Nov. 16, carried 15 times for 158 yards (10.5 avg.) with career-long 75-yard TD and added two receptions for 13 yards with a TD. 75-yard TD was fourth longest in team records...At Carolina, Nov. 17, carried seven times for 28 yards and caught three passes for 47 yards before leaving (tested for concussion)...Vs. L.A. Rams, Nov. 26, carried 14 times for 146 yards (10.4 avg.) with a one-yard TD and also recorded a 21-yard TD reception...Selected as NFC Offensive Player of the Week for first time. Vs. Detroit, Dec. 4, carried seven times for 37 yards (5.3 avg.) and recorded five receptions for 16 yards. Became first Saint to have 1,000 yards from scrimmage in three-consecutive seasons since Marques Colston from 2009-12. At Arizona, Dec. 18, carried 17 times for 78 yards and caught two passes for 14 yards...Vs. Tampa Bay, Dec. 24, carried 18 times for 90 yards (5.0 avg.) with two TDs and also successfully ran for a two-point conversion for a career -high 14 points...Moved into sole possession of 10<sup>th</sup> place on club's all-time touchdown list...At Atlanta, 1/1/17, carried 20 times for 103 yards with a TD and caught six passes for 29 yards. Became the first 1,000-yard rusher in club history since McAllister (2006). With his 34<sup>th</sup> career touchdown, moved into sole possession of 10<sup>th</sup> place on club's all-time list. With nine career 100-yard rushing games, now ranks fifth in club record books. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE-RB MARK INGRAM II

**2015**– Played in 12 games with 10 starts and carried 166 times for club-best 769 yards (4.6 avg.), with six TDs, adding 50 receptions for 405 yards...Started at Arizona, Sept. 13, rushing nine times for 24 yards and catching a career-high eight receptions for career-high 98 yards (12.3 avg.), including career-long 59-yard grab...Rushed for 50 yards and a TD on 14 carries, and caught five passes for 49 yards at Carolina, Sept. 27... Started vs. Dallas, Oct. 4, and rushed for 77 yards on 17 attempts, adding 51 yards on six receptions and finishing with game-high 128 yards from scrimmage...Started and rushed for 46 yards with two TDs, vs. Atlanta, Oct. 15...Started at Indianapolis, Oct. 25, rushing for 143 yards and a touchdown on 14 attempts (10.2 avg.), including a 44-yard run...Started vs. N.Y. Giants, Nov. 1 and carried 16 times for 80 yards (5.0 avg.) and caught four passes for 39 yards, successfully converted a first down on a key fourth-and-one play from the New Orleans 29-yard line late in fourth quarter on game-tying drive...Started and gained 77 yards on five carries (15.4 avg.), including a 70-yard run, and added three receptions for 21 yards at Washington, Nov. 15...Started and carried nine times for 52 yards (5.8 avg.) and added six receptions for 45 yards at Houston, Nov. 29, reaching 1,000 yards from scrimmage for second consecutive season...Started vs. Carolina, Dec. 6 and gained 56 yards on 12 carries, with a TD. 2014 - Played in 13 games, starting nine. Notched 964 yards on 226 carries and nine TDs. Added 29 catches for 145 yards. Tallied four 100-yard games. Tied for third in NFL in rushing TDs, ranked seventh in rushing yards per game (74.2) and 14<sup>th</sup> in rushing yards. Named to Pro Bowl for first time, the first Saints RB since 2003...At Atlanta, Sept. 7, carried team-leading 13 times for game-high 60 yards (4.6 avg.) and two TDs...At Cleveland, Sept. 14, carried team-leading 11 times for game-high 83 yards (7.5 avg.) with a TD and caught three passes for 21 yards. Suffered hand injury that sidelined him next three contests...Started and rushed for career-high 172 yards on 24 carries (7.2 avg.) with a TD vs. Green Bay, Oct. 26... Started and rushed 30 times for 100 yards with two TDs and added a 10-yard reception at Carolina, Oct. 30... Rushed 27 times for 120 yards (4.4 avg.) vs. San Francisco, Nov. 9, as he became the first Saint to have 100 yards rushing in three consecutive games since in 2003...Rushed 23 times for 122 yards (5.3 avg.) at Pittsburgh, Nov. 30...Started at Chicago, Dec. 15 and rushed 17 times for 59 yards and a TD...At Tampa Bay, Dec. 28, rushed 14 times for 57 yards with a one-yard TD. **2013 –** Played in 11 games with three starts and carried 78 times for 386 yards (4.9 avg.) with a TD. In two postseason contests with a start, was club's leading rusher with 28 carries for 146 yards (5.2 avg.) with a TD...Enjoyed breakout performance vs. Dallas, Nov. 10, carrying 14 times for 145 yards (10.4 avg.) with a TD and two receptions for 15 yards for 160 yards of total offense, reaching century mark for first time...Had two receptions for a 39 yards, including a career-long 23yard grab at Rams, Dec. 15...Carried 13 times for 83 yards (6.4 avg.), Dec. 22...In postseason debut, re-

ceived start and carried 18 times for 97 yards with a TD and three receptions for 17 yards in Wild Card Playoff win at Philadelphia, 1/4/14, the franchise's first road postseason victory... In Divisional Playoff at Seattle, 1/11/14, carried 10 times for 49 yards, rushing for two-point conversion. 2012 - Appeared in all 16 games with five starts...First on team in rushing, carrying 156 times for 602 yards with team-best five TDs...Carried team-high 16 times for 53 yards and a TD at Carolina, Sept. 16...Received his first start of the season and rushed seven times for 44 yards (6.3 avg.) and hauled in two passes for 23 yards vs. Philadelphia, Nov. 5...Ran 12 times for 67 yards (5.6 avg.), scoring on a 27-yard carry at Oakland, Nov. 18...Led team in rushing with a season-high 90 yards on 14 carries (6.4 avg.) with a touchdown, including a 31-yard rush vs. Tampa Bay, Dec. 16...Voted by teammates as club 2012 recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award. 2011 - Appeared in 10 games with four starts as rookie, carrying 122 times for 474 yards with five TDs, tying for team lead...Scored first career NFL TD on a fourth quarter 13-yard game-winning rush, as he totaled nine rushes for 38 yards, splitting carries vs. Houston, Sept. 25... Powered rushing attack that racked up 236 yards vs. Indianapolis, Oct. 23, carrying 14 times for game-high 91 yards (6.5 avg.) before leaving in fourth quarter (heel)...Splitting carries with Darren Sproles and Pierre Thomas to spearhead a threeheaded running attack that gained 205 rushing yards, was New Orleans' leading rusher vs. N.Y. Giants, Nov. 28, when he carried 13 times for 80 yards (6.2 avg.) with a fourth guarter 35-yard TD...Was New Orleans' leading rusher vs. Detroit, Dec. 4, when he carried 16 times for 54 yards with a second quarter 14-yard TD run that put the Saints up 10-0.

**COLLEGE** – Played in 39 games at Alabama with 24 starts, rushing for 3,261 yards and 42 TDs, scoring 46 times overall... As a junior, after missing the first two games (knee surgery), started the remaining 11 and carried 158 times for 875 yards (5.5 avg.) with 13 TDs...All-SEC second-team by league coaches, co-recipient of Alabama's Offensive Player of the Year award and one of six recipients of Alabama's Commitment to Academic Excellence award...Produced 54 first downs on 158 rushes (34.2%), converting on 9-of-16 third down attempts (56.3%)...Had 21 receptions for 282 yards (13.4 avg.) with a TD...Heisman Trophy recipient as sophomore, the first in the Crimson Tide's history and a consensus All-American first-team selection and finished as finalist for the Maxwell, Doak Walker and Walter Camp Player of the Year awards...Also named The Sporting News National Player of the Year, AP SEC Offensive Player of the Year and unanimous first-team All-SEC (AP and league coaches)...Started all 14 games as sophomore, led conference and ranked fourth nationally with a school-record 1,658 yards and 17 TDs on 271 carries (6.1 avg.), also adding 32 receptions for 334 yards (10.4 avg.) and three TDs...Rushing total ranked sixth in SEC history upon departure...1,992 all-purpose yards were ranked second in school history and eighth on the SEC single-season list...Rushed for 246 yards vs. South Carolina, ranked as the school's third-highest total...Earned National Championship Offensive MVP award vs. Texas after rushing for 116 yards and two TDs...SEC Coaches Freshman All-Conference selection as he played in all 14 games and gained 728 yards rushing with a team-high 12 TDs on 143 carries (5.1 avg.) and added 54 yards receiving on seven catches...Telecommunications and film major. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE-RB MARK INGRAM II

**PERSONAL** – Attended Grand Blanc (Flint, Mich.) HS from 2003-06, where he ran for 846 yards and 14 touchdowns on 121 carries (7.0 avg.) as a junior, adding 260 yards and two scores on 22 receptions (11.8 avg.), posting 33 tackles with two interceptions at CB...Prepped at Flint Southwestern Academy as a senior in 2007 and earned All-State and Detroit Free Press Offensive Dream Team honors after rushing for 1,699 yards and 24 touchdowns, adding 84 tackles with eight interceptions...Father, Mark Ingram Sr., played WR for Michigan State before being drafted by the New York Giants 28th overall in 1987 and played ten seasons in the NFL with the Giants, Dolphins, Packers and Eagles, including a Super Bowl XXV win... His Mark Ingram Foundation provides support to the children of incarcerated parents, hosting annual Christmas shopping sprees...Part of a group of NFL players that donated supplies to residents of Ingram's hometown of Flint during the city's 2016 water crisis...From 2015-17, participated in the Zurich Classic Celebrity Shootout, to raise money and awareness for his foundation...In 2018 offseason, participated in a USO Tour to visit with and support troops stationed abroad in Europe...Received Volunteers of America's 2018 Ballington and Maud Booth Award for community service...Visited NOCCA with Kamara and Cameron Jordan to encourage students who created the feature 'Shut 'Em Down' for the 2018 Saints-Falcons Thanksgiving game...Born Dec. 21, 1989 in Hackensack, N.J.

#### 19 BRETT MAHER K

HEIGHT: 6-0 WEIGHT: 190

#### COLLEGE: NEBRASKA

JOINED SAINTS: FA-21

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 3** 

#### BORN: 11/21/89

**NFL CAREER** – Maher joins the Saints in Week 11 to assume kicking duties. Maher was originally signed by the New York Jets after the 2013 NFL Draft out of Nebraska. After playing in the Canadian Football League from 2014-16, Maher kicked for the Dallas Cowboys in 29 regular season games from 2018-19 and drilled 49-of -66 field goals attempts (74 percent), while hitting 68-of-69 PAT attempts for 215 points. 88 of his 142 kickoffs sailed into the end zone for touchbacks.

**HONORS** – **2018:** NFC Special Teams Player of the Week and (Sept 130 and 12/23).

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Signed to Saints active roster, 11/19/21; Signed to Saints practice squad, 11/16/21; Reached an injury settlement with Saints, 8/21/21; Placed on Injured Reserve by Saints, 8/17/21;

Signed by Saints, 8/10/21; Waived by Cardinals, 3/20/21; Signed by Cardinals to reserve/future contract, 1/5/21; Signed to Cardinals practice squad, 12/25/20; Released by Texans from practice squad, 12/14/20; Signed to Texans practice squad, 10/12/20; Released from Washington practice squad, 9/30/20; Signed to Washington practice squad, 9/10/20; Waived by Jets, 8/31/20; Signed by Jets to reserve/future contract, 12/31/19; Waived by Cowboys, 12/9/19; Signed by Cowboys, 4/4/18; Released by Browns, 5/2/17; Signed by Browns to a one-year contract, 3/20/17, Released by Cowboys, 8/27/13; Signed by Cowboys, 8/11/13; Released by Jets, 7/23/03; Signed by the Chicago Bears as an undrafted free agent, 5/12/13.

2021 - Had a training camp stint with the Saints. 2020 - After going to training camp with the Jets, had practice squad stints with the Washington Football Team, Houston and Arizona. 2019 - In 13 games for Dallas, hit 20-of-30 field goal attempts and all 36 PAT attempts. 36 of his 65 kickoffs sailed through the end zone for touchbacks. 2018 - Played in all 16 games and was true on 29-of-36 field goals (80.6), including a clubrecord 62-yarder, 32-of-33 PAT attempts and had touchbacks on 67.5% of his kickoffs while allowing an average of 26.5 vards-per-return...Made NFL debut in the opener at Carolina, Sept. 9 and missed his first career field goal attempt (47 yards) ...Converted his first career field goals (37 and 29) and his first career PATs (two) in the home opener against the N.Y. Giants, Sept. 16...Had first make from 50 yards (50), along with a 35varder and lone PAT at Seattle, Sept. 23...Earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week against Detroit, Sept. 30 after hitting all four field goal (32,43,22,38) with the 38-yarder coming as time expired to give Dallas the comeback win....Had his second game-winner of the season, hitting a 42-yarder with 0:00 on the clock at Atlanta, Nov. 18...Hit a club-record 62vard field goal (tied for third-longest in NFL history) in the game against Philadelphia, Dec. 9. Also had a his first career special teams tackle (an assist)...Named NFC Special Teams Player of the Week for his performance against Tampa Bay (12/23), drilling a 59-yarder (second in his career and team history), along with a 20-yarder and two PATs. 2017 - Briefly with Cleveland but was released following NFL Draft and spent the year out of football. 2016 - Made 41-of-50 field goal attempts and averaged 45.9 yards per punt for the Hamilton Tiger Cats. 2015 - Suffered a hip injury and missed all but four games for Ottawa in 2015. 2014 - Played in the preseason for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, but released prior to the start of the season. Signed with Ottawa and was named the CFL's Special Teams Player of the Week after going six-of-six on field goals. 2013 - Signed with the N.Y. Jets as an undrafted free agent but was released prior to the start of camp. Went to training camp with the Cowboys, was released and spent 2013 out of football. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-K BRETT MAHER

**COLLEGE** – Finished University of Nebraska career connecting on 39-of-50 field goals (78.0%) with 219 points, booting 120 punts for a 43.2-yard average and dropping 43 inside the 20-yard line...As a senior in 2012 went 20-of-27 on field goals and punted 61 times for a 41.8-yard average with 18 inside the 20-yard line and a long of 69 yards...In 2011 became the first Big Ten specialist to be named the All-Conference kicker and punter in the same year since 2001, connecting on 19-of-23 field goals and averaging 44.5 yards-perpunt, sixth-highest single-season average in school history...Majored in secondary education-mathematics.

**PERSONAL** – Earned first-team all-state honors at Kearney, Neb., High School, making eight-of-14 field goals and averaging 41.2 yards-per-punt as a senior, while also playing wide receiver and recording 775 receiving yards with 10 touchdowns.

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#### 79 JORDAN MILLS

HEIGHT: 6-5 WEIGHT: 316

COLLEGE: LOUISIANA TECH

JOINED SAINTS: FA-21

#### NFL EXPERIENCE: 8

#### BORN: 12/24/90

**NFL CAREER** – This former Louisiana Tech standout from Napoleonville has played in 90 career regular season games with 84 starts for Chicago, Buffalo and Arizona. Mills joins his hometown team to compete for a roster spot along the offensive line in the preseason after spending the bulk of the 2020 season with the Dallas Cowboys

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS –** Signed to New Orleans Saints active roster, 10/30/21; Standard practice squad elevation to Saints active roster, 10/9/21; Standard practice squad elevation to Saints active roster, 10/2/21; Signed to Saints practice squad, 9/28/21; Contract terminated by Saints, 8/31/21; Signed by Saints, 8/18/21; Signed to Ravens practice squad, 1/12/21; Re-signed to Cowboys practice squad, 1/12/21; Re-signed to Cowboys practice squad, 1/2/31/20; Released by Cowboys, 12/20/20; Signed to Cowboys active roster, 12/19/20; Standard elevation to Cowboys active roster, 10/24/20; Signed to Cowboys practice squad, 9/29/20; Placed on Injured Reserve by Cardinals, 10/5/19; Signed by Cardinals, 9/10/19; Re-

leased by Dolphins, 8/27/19; Signed by Dolphins to a one-year contract (UFA-Buf.), 5/9/19; Re-signed by Bills to a two-year contract, 3/11/17; Re-signed by Bills (RFA) to a one-year contract, 3/30/16; Signed by Bills to active roster from Lions practice squad, 10/20/15; Signed to Lions practice squad, 9/17/15; Waived by Cowboys, 9/14/15; Acquired by the Dallas Cowboys off of waivers from the Bears, 9/7/15; Waived by Chicago, 9/6/15; Signed by the Chicago Bears to a four-year contract, 5/1/13; Selected by Bears in the fifth round (163rd overall) of the 2013 NFL Draft.

2020 - Spent five games on the Dallas Cowboys 53-man roster, but did not play in any games. **2019 –** Played in two games with three starts for Arizona Cardinals being placed on Injured Reserve (knee injury). 2018 - Started all 16 games at right tackle for Buffalo Bills ... At N.Y. Jets, Nov. 11, protected QB Matt Barkley, who completed 15-of-23 passes (60.0 pct.) for 232 yards and two TDs, while blocking for a running game that had 46 carries for 212 yards (4.6 avg.) and two TDs...Vs. Jacksonville, Nov. 25, blocked for a running game that had 35 carries for 167 yards (4.0 avg.) and two TDs. 2017 - Started all 16 regular season games and one playoff contest for Buffalo Bills at right tackle...Vs. N.Y. Jets, protected QB Tyrod Taylor, who completed 16-of-28 passes for 224 yards and two TDs. Blocked for a running game that had 42 carries for 190 yards (4.5 avg.) and one TD...Vs. Tampa Bay, Oct. 22, protected Taylor, who completed 20-of-33 passes for 268 yards and one TD. Blocked for RB LeSean McCoy, who had 23 carries for 91 yards and two TDs. 2016 - Started all 16 games at right tackle for Buffalo Bills...Vs. Miami, Dec. 24, protected Taylor, who completed 26of-39 passes for 329 yards and three touchdowns. Blocked for a running game that had 49 carries for 272 yards (5.6 avg.) and one touchdown. 2015 - After stints with Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions (practice squad), played in ten games with five starts at RT for Buffalo B9Is...Vs. Washington, Dec. 20, protected Taylor, who completed 16-of-27 passes for 235 yards and two TDs. Blocked for a running game that had 31 carries for 240 yards (7.7 avg.) and one TD. 2014 - Started all 13 games he played in for Chicago Bears at right tackle...Vs. Green Bay, Sept. 28, protected QB Jay Cutler, who completed 22-of-34 passes (64.7%) for 256 yards and two TDs. Blocked for a running game that had 41 carries for 235 yards (5.7 avg.)...At Atlanta, Oct. 12, protected Cutler, who completed 26-of-38 passes (68.4 pct.) for 381 yards and a touchdown in a 27-13 Bears win...Vs. Dallas, Dec. 4, protected Cutler, who completed 32-of-41 passes (69.9 pct.) for 341 yards and two touchdowns. 2013 - Opened all 16 games for Chicago Bears at right tackle as a rookie.

#### **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-T JORDAN MILLS

**COLLEGE** – Four-year letterman at Louisiana Tech (2009-12) and three-year starter, playing in 36 games with 34 starts at both tackle and guard...First-team All-WAC as a senior in 2012.

**PERSONAL** – Prepped at Assumption (Napoleonville, La.) HS, where he also lettered in basketball and track...Honorable mention all-state as senior...Has 2 cousins with NFL experience. Brandon Jacobs was a 4th-round pick (110th overall) by the Giants in the 2005 NFL draft and played 9 NFL seasons with the Giants (2005-11;2013) and San Francisco (2012) at RB. Tramon Williams, also a former Louisiana Tech standout, was signed as an undrafted free agent by Houston in 2006 and played 14 NFL seasons with Green Bay (2007-14; 2018-19), Cleveland (2015-16), Arizona (2017) and Baltimore (2020) as a cornerback before finally announcing his retirement this past offseason...Born on December 24, 1990 in Thibodaux, La.

#### 46 ADAM PRENTICE FB SOUTH CAROLINA (6-0, 245) NFL Experience: R

Signed to Saints practice squad, 9/16/21; Waived by Saints, 9/14/21; Awarded off of waivers to New Orleans Saints, 9/1/21...Waived by Denver, 8/31/21... Signed by Denver, 5/14/21...Appeared in all three of the Denver's preseason contests, as a free agent... Prior to his lone season in Columbia, played three seasons at Colorado State...Appeared in 47 career games, where he rushed 18 times for 65 yards, adding 20 receptions for 128 yards with one TD...In 2020, as graduate transfer from Colorado State appeared in all 10 games, making five starts totaling two receptions for 13 yards...In 2019, played in all 12 games including two starts at FB for Rams as redshirt junior...Caught seven passes for 44 yards, including two catches for 20 yards in opener against Colorado...Earned Fall Academic All-Mountain West honors...In 2018, selected by teammates as one of four captains. Played in all 12 games and started six at FB. Rushed 16 times for 62 yards and caught four passes for 26 yards. Set career highs with eight rushes for 29 yards vs. Utah State...Led Rams with nine special teams stops...Earned Academic All-Mountain West and honorable mention Academic All-Colorado by the Colorado Chapter of the National Football Foundation...Nominated for Allstate/AFCA Good Works carrying once for two yards and making five catches

for 33 yards with a TD...Served as the lead-blocking FB for an offense ranked 11th in the country and a rushing attack ranked 31<sup>st</sup> in nation...Earned Academic All-Mountain West...Was Colorado State's Burlsworth Trophy nominee, awarded annually to the most outstanding player who began career as a walk-on...In 2016, missed the season (knee)...Awarded a scholarship during preseason camp before season-ending knee injury...Given a medical redshirt...In 2015, redshirted....Earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering...Graduated from Clovis (Calif.) HS in 2015...Won the co-league championship as a sophomore...Earned three football and wrestling letters and two letters in track...A national champion wrestler, in addition to earning two Californiam state titles...Three-time Wrestling league, conference and city champion ... Earned track all-league honors...Graduated No. 16 in his class, earning Advanced Studies Scholar of Distinction recognition...Adam M. Prentice was born Jan. 16, 1997...Father, Gary, played football at UC Davis.

### 21 BRADLEY ROBY CB HEIGHT: 5-11 WEIGHT: 194 COLLEGE: OHIO STATE NFL EXPERIENCE: 8 JOINED SAINTS: TR-21 (HOU) BORN: 5/1/92

**NFL CAREER –** Acquired by Saints via trade after spending first five years of his career with the Broncos (2014-18) and two with Texans (2019-2020); Has recorded 310 tackles (278 solo), 75 passes defensed, 10 interceptions, 4.0 sacks, 12 tackles for loss, eight forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and three interceptions returned for TDs in 99 games played with 49 starts; Tallied 18 solo tackles, six passes defensed, an interception and a forced fumble in six postseason games; Only third cornerback in NFL history to total at least 300 tackles in their first 45 games started; In 2016, joined Marcus Peters, Stephon Gilmore and Erik Harris as only players to record multiple interceptions returned for TDs of more than 50 yards in a season since 2015.

HONORS -2016: Week 7 AFC Defensive Player of the Week.

yards and caught four passes for 26 yards. Set career highs with eight rushes for 29 yards vs. Utah State...Led Rams with nine special teams stops...Earned Academic All-Mountain West and honorable mention Academic All-Colorado by the Colorado Chapter of the National Football Foundation...Nominated for Allstate/AFCA Good Works Team...In 2017, played in all 13 games and started six,

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-CB BRAD-LEY ROBY

2020 - Started ten games in with the Houston Texans and notched 37 tackles (33 solo), two stops for loss, an interception, seven passes defensed and one fumble recovery; Recorded two solo tackles and one pass defensed at Pittsburgh, Sept. 27 to become the sixth defensive back in the National Football League with a pass defensed and stop for loss in each of the past four seasons; Logged seven tackles (six solo) and two passes defensed vs. Minnesota, Oct. 4; Recorded seven tackles (six solo), two passes defensed and an interception, becoming the fourth player in the National Football League with an interception in each of the last seven seasons at Tennessee, Oct. 18; Notched five tackles (four solo), a pass defense and a stop for loss vs. New England, Nov. 22, marking his seventh career game with at least one stop for loss and a pass defensed; Registered a pass defense and his first fumble recovery since 2017 at Detroit, Nov. 26. 2019 - Started all ten games he played in his first season with the Houston Texans and amassed 38 tackles (35 solo), two tackles for loss, one sack, a quarterback hit, two interceptions (one returned for a touchdown), eight passes defensed and one forced fumble. Started both postseason contests and posted 11 solo tackles and two passes defensed; Tied for the team lead with nine tackles (eight solo), tying single-game career high in the season opener at New Orleans, Sept. 9. Nine tackles were the most he had posted since Week Nine of 2016; Tallied seven total tackles (six solo), one pass defense and one forced fumble vs. Atlanta, Oct. 6...Vs. New England, Dec. 1, finished with four tackles (three solo), one sack, an interception, one tackle for loss, one quarterback hit and one pass defensed; Posted one sack and one pick in same game for the first time in his National Football League career, becoming the seventh defensive back to do so on the season and the ninth Texans player in team history to accomplish the feat; Finished with one tackle (one solo) and two passes defensed, marking his first game with multiple passes defensed on the season; Finished with four solo tackles, an interception returned for a touchdown and two passes defensed at Tampa Bay, Dec. 21; Registered second game with multiple passes defensed (Week Six at Kansas City) and the 18th of career, 11th in the National Football League since 2014. Notched his first pick-six since Week 13 of 2016 at Jacksonville, the third of career...Set a new postseason single-game career high in total tackles and solo tackles, posting seven tackles (seven solo) and two

passes defensed in AFC Wild Card Playoff Round win over Buffalo, 1/4/20...Registered second career postseason game with multiple passes defensed (Super Bowl 50). Tied for third on team with four tackles (four solo) in AFC Divisional Playoff Round loss at Kansas City, 1/12/20. 2018 - Wrapped up his final season with the Denver Broncos with 50 tackles (45 solo), 12 passes defensed, two forced fumbles, one interception and one stop for a loss in 15 games played and started...Recorded two solo tackles, an interception and a career high four passes defensed at Arizona, Oct. 18...Matched a season-high with six tackles (five solo) at Kansas City, Oct. 28..Set a season-high with six solo tackles, one pass defensed and one forced fumble vs. Pittsburgh, Nov. 25...Registered five tackles (four solo) and one pass defense vs. Cleveland, Dec. 15. 2017 - Registered 42 tackles (35 solo), a career-high 17 passes defensed, an interception, one stop for loss, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery in 16 games with four starts...Finished with five tackles (three solo), one pick and two passes defensed vs. San Diego, Sept. 11...Notched five solo tackles and one pass defense at Philadelphia, Nov. 5...Tallied four tackles (three solo), one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and season-high three passes defensed at Miami, Dec. 3. 2016 - Recorded 39 tackles (34 solo), eight passes defensed, one sack, a forced fumble and two picks returned for touchdowns; Joined Peters as the only players to record multiple picks returned for touchdowns of more than 50 yards in same season since joining the National Football League in 2014...Earned AFC Defensive Player of the Week after recording seven tackles (four solo), two passes defensed and a pick returned for a touchdown vs. San Diego, Oct. 30...Set a career-high with nine tackles (eight solo) and a sack at Oakland, Nov. 6...Tallied two solo tackles, a forced fumble and two passes defensed at Saints, Nov. 13...Amassed three solo tackles, two passes defensed and a pick returned for a touchdown at Jacksonville, Dec. 4. 5 - Finished with 40 tackles, ten passes defensed, an interception, a stop for loss, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Made five solo tackles, three passes defensed and a forced fumble in three playoff games helping Broncos capture Super Bowl 50...Tallied two solo tackles, a pick and a pass defense at Detroit, Sept. 27...Matched season-high with five solo tackles, a forced fumble and a pass defense vs. Minnesota, Oct. 4...Notched four solo tackles, a stop for loss and a pass defense in overtime win vs. Cincinnati, Dec. 28...Recorded three solo tackles and one forced fumble in AFC Wild Card Playoff vs. Pittsburgh, 1/17/16...Finished with two solo tackles and three passes defensed vs. Carolina in Super Bowl win.

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#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-BRADLEY ROBY

2012014 – Played in 16 games (two starts) and played in AFC Divisional playoff and registered career-high 64 tackles (62 solo), 13 passes defensed, five stops for loss, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and a sack; Tied for second-most tackles (64) and passes defensed (13) among rookie CBs...Made seven solo tackles, season-high three passes defensed and a fumble recovery vs. Indianapolis, Sept. 7...Notched six solo tackles and two stops for loss vs. Kansas Citv. Sept. 16...Finished with three solo tackles, a sack, a QB hit, a stop for loss and two passes defensed at Jets, Oct. 12...Tallied two solo tackles, a forced fumble, two passes defensed and first-career pick on Tom Brady at Patriots, Nov. 2...Registered four solo tackles, two passes defensed, a stop for loss and a pick at Raiders, Nov. 9...Finished with season-high nine solo tackles, a stop for loss and a forced fumble vs. Buffalo, Dec. 7...Recorded two solo tackles and first postseason pick in Divisional Playoff vs. Colts, 1/11/15.

**COLLEGE –** Played three seasons (2011-13) at Ohio State after redshirting; Started all 37 games; Tallied 44 passes defensed and eight interceptions, including two interceptions returned for TDs; Returned two blocked punts for TDs and a recovered fumble for a TD; 2013 first-team All-Big Ten, when he finished with 69 tackles (54 solo), three picks and 16 passes defensed; Named second-team All-America and first team all-Big Ten in 2012; Led nation and tied school record with 19 passes defensed as redshirt sophomore; Finished as only player in the country to score TDs three different ways (interception, fumble recovery, blocked punt); Earned Buckeyes' First Year Defensive Player Award after tying for team lead with three interceptions as redshirt freshman...Communications major.

**PERSONAL –** Attended Peachtree Ridge (Suwanee, Ga.) HS...Received All-Gwinnett County accolades following his senior year in 2009.

#### 12 KENNY STILLS WR

HEIGHT: 6-1 WEIGHT: 202 COLLEGE: OKLAHOMA NFL EXPERIENCE: 9 JOINED SAINTS: FA-21 BORN: 4/22/92 **NFL CAREER –** Originally selected by New Orleans in the fifth round of the 2013 NFL Draft, to return to the Saints in 2021, Stills has played in 119 games with 77 starts for New Orleans (2013-14, 2021), Miami (2015-18), Houston (2019-20) and Buffalo (2020), making 311 grabs for 4,860 yards (15.6 avg.) and 37 touchdowns.

**TRANSACTIONS –** Signed by New Orleans Saints to active roster from practice squad, 10/9/21; Standard practice squad activation by Saints, 10/2/21; Standard practice squad activation by Saints, 9/25/21; Signed by Saints to practice squad, 9/14/21; Signed by Bills to practice squad, 1/25/21; Standard practice squad activation by Bills, 1/23/21; Signed to Bills practice squad, 1/4/21; Released by the Texans, 11/27/20; Acquired by Texans from Dolphins in exchange for CBs Johnson Bademosi and T.J. Davenport, 8/31/19; Re-signed by Dolphins to four-year contract, 3/9/17; Acquired by Dolphins from Saints in exchange for LB Dannell Ellerbe and a third round draft pick, 3/13/15; Signed by the Saints to a four-year contract; 5/9/13; Selected by Saints in the fifth round (144th overall) of the 2013 NFL Draft.

2020 - In ten games for Texans, posted 11 receptions for 144 yards and one TD. 2019 - Played in 13 games (five starts) in his first season with Texans and racked up 561 yards and four touchdowns on 40 receptions (14.0 avg.). Started in both postseason contests and tallied seven catches for 126 yards (18.0 avg.) and his first career postseason TD...Hauled in three receptions for 37 yards (12.3 avg.) and a TD in Texans debut at Saints, Sept. 9...Led team in receiving with 89 yards on four receptions (22.3 avg.) in win over Chargers, Sept. 22, including a 38-yard reception on a second guarter flea flicker from Deshaun Watson, setting up the Texans' first touchdown...Finished second on team with 52 yards on four receptions (13.0 avg.) in win over Jacksonville (London), Nov. 3. Eclipsed 4,500 career receiving yards and became first player since Willie Davis in 1998 to record over 4,500 yards on less than 300 career receptions...Finished with 105 yards on four receptions (26.3 avg.) at Indianapolis, Nov. 21, including a season-long 45-yard grab...Finished with 61 yards and one touchdown on three receptions (20.3 avg.) vs. New England, Dec. 1...Finished with 35 yards and two TDs on three receptions (11.7 avg.) at Tennessee (12/15), marking his fourth career game with multiple receiving TDs and first since Week 1 of 2018 vs. Titans...Led the team with 57 yards on five catches (11.4 avg.) at Tampa Bay, Dec. 21, extending his streak to 55 consecutive games with a reception...Finished second on team with 46 yards on four receptions in Wild Card Round vs. Buffalo, 1/4/20, which was the second-most receptions and second-most receiving yards in a playoff game in his career...Posted 80 receiving yards and one touchdown on three receptions (26.7 avg.) in the Divisional Round at Kansas City, 1/12/20, including a 54-yard touchdown that marked the longest play from scrimmage in Texans postseason history. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WR KENNY STILLS

for the entire season. Racked up 553 yards and six touchdowns on 37 receptions (14.9 average)...Tallied four receptions for 106 yards (26.5 avg.) and two touchdowns vs. Tennessee (9/9), including a 75-yard touchdown reception, the second-longest of his career Only the third multi-touchdown game of his career...Posted a season-high 135 yards and one touchdown on eight receptions (16.9 avg.) vs. New England, Dec. 9...Surpassed 4,000 career receiving yards after a 43-yard reception in the second quarter. Notched his first-career pass attempt, which resulted in a threeyard touchdown at Buffalo, Dec. 30. 2017 - Started all 16 games for the Dolphins and pulled in 58 catches for 847 yards and six touchdowns (14.6 avg.)...Eclipsed 3,000 career receiving yards with a 65-yard performance at Baltimore, Oct. 26...Notched a career-high 180 yards on seven receptions (25.7 avg.) and recorded a touchdown vs. Tampa Bay, Nov. 19. His 180 yards were the seventh-most in a single game in Dolphins history and his 25.7 average was the fourth-best mark in Dolphins history...Caught five passes for 98 yards and a touchdown (19.6 avg.) vs. Denver, Dec. 3. **2016 –** Started in all 16 games. Finished the season with 42 receptions for 726 yards (17.3 avg.) and a career-high nine touchdowns. His nine touchdowns also led the team and ranked sixth in the NFL. Averaged 17.3 yards per reception, the third-best mark in the league and averaged 13.0 yards at catch, the secondbest mark in the NFL...Recorded a season-high 100 yards on five catches (20.0 avg.) and added a touchdown vs. Buffalo (10/23)...Caught six-of-seven targets for 97 yards (16.2 avg.) and a touchdown vs. Arizona (12/11) Started in the Wild Card Round at Pittsburgh (1/1/17) and pulled in five receptions for 82 yards (16.4) avg.). 2015 - Played in all 16 games (eight starts) in his first season with the Dolphins. Pulled in 27 receptions for 440 yards (16.3 avg.) and three touchdowns...Notched five catches for a season-high 81 vards (16.2 avg.) and a touchdown vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4)...Posted 74 yards on three catches (24.7 avg.) at Buffalo (11/8). 2014 - Appeared in 15 games (six starts) and established career highs in receptions (63) and receiving yards (931) and added three touchdowns on the season. Tallied 103 yards on five receptions (20.6 avg.) at Detroit (10/19) and added a TD in his second-career 100-yard performance...Pulled in five catches for a season-high 162 yards (32.4 avg.) and a touchdown at Pittsburgh (11/30). 2014 - Played

in all 16 games (10 starts) as a rookie in New Orleans and finished with 641 yards and five TDs on 32 receptions (20.0 avg.). 2018 - Started in 15 games, serving as a team captain His 20.0 yards-per-catch average led the NFL and was the highest mark by a rookie in Saints history...Recorded two catches for 86 yards (43.0 avg.) in NFL debut vs. Atlanta (9/8)...Notched the first 100-yards and first multi-touchdown performance of his career with 129 yards and two touchdowns on three catches (43.0 avg.) vs. Buffalo (10/27).

> COLLEGE - Played three seasons (2010-12) at Oklahoma and started in all 38 games of his career. Left his mark on school history, finishing his collegiate career ranked fourth in career receptions (204), third in receiving yards (2,594) and fifth in TD receptions (24).

> **PERSONAL –** Played Attended La Costa Canyon High School in Encinitas, Calif., where he broke the San Diego area career record with 3,041 receiving yards...Three-time Nat Moore Community Service Award winner (2016-18)...Rode a bike 14 miles to help raise money at the 2019 Dolphins Cancer Challenge...Nominated for the Walter Payton Man of the Year twice (2017 & 2018)...Helped donate football equipment to Miami's local NFL Youth Education Town center in 2018...Worked with the Dolphins and the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) to host a town hall meeting in 2016 that brought influential local leaders together with law enforcement to discuss actionable steps that could be taken to address issues of racial inequality and unite the community...Helped organize a police ride-along program and has inspired other NFL players to host similar programs in their local communities...Helps fund CommUNITY tailgates, which bring local student-athletes, coaches, parents, community leaders, law enforcement and military personnel together at every Dolphins home game.