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TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints win on Sunday improves New Orleans' record to 5-2, putting them only a
 half game behind the Buccaneers in the NFC South divisional race. New Orleans will
 have an opportunity to move into a first place tie next Sunday vs. Atlanta, where the
 Buccaneers have a bye.
- It marks the first time that the Saints have defeated the defending Super Bowl champions since the 2018 season when they defeated the Philadelphia Eagles both in the regular season and the postseason.
- The win improves their all-time regular season record against the Buccaneers to 38-21 and gives them their sixth consecutive regular season win against them dating back to a 28-14 win at Raymond James Stadium on December 9, 2018, which would tie them for the longest current regular season winning streak against an opponent to the current streak against Chicago (September 18, 2011-present).
- The win improves head coach Sean Payton's regular season record against Tampa Bay to 19-10.
- The win gives Payton a 7-1 regular season record against Buccaneers Head Coach Bruce Arians.
- With the win Sunday, Coach Payton has 157 career victories (regular season and postseason combined), tied for 21st with Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin. Seattle's Pete Carroll is the coach ahead of Payton and Tomlin in 20th place with 159 career victories.
- With their score today, the Saints currently have a streak of 311 regular season games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002 at Raymond James Stadium, the longest running streak in the National Football League.
- QB Jameis Winston, who was the first overall pick by the Buccaneers in 2015 and played for them from 2015-19, made his first career start against his former team on Sunday before exiting the game due to a knee injury. Winston completed six-of-ten passes for 56 yards with on touchdown, a 108.8 passer rating and carried four times for 40 yards. Trevor Siemian replaced Winston in the second quarter and completed 16-of-29 passes for 159 yards and a touchdown. Siemian's last regular season game action came as a member of the New York Jets on Sept. 16, 2019.
- WR **Kevin White**, who was activated off of the practice squad for this game, led the team in receiving yards with a 38-yard catch, his first reception since the 2018 season as a member of the Chicago Bears.
- WR Tre'Quan Smith notched his first receiving touchdown of the season on a 16-yard connection from Winston in the first quarter.

- Linebacker Demario Davis has reached over 1,050 stops for his career after notching five (three solo) tackles Sunday.
- Safety **P.J. Williams** sealed the victory with a 40-yard interception returned for a touchdown, extending New Orleans' lead to 36-27. It was Williams' second career touchdown return for an interception, the first coming three years and two days to the date on October 28, 2018 on Sunday Night Football at Minnesota.
- Following an afternoon with two tackles, one sack for a six-yard loss and one forced fumble which was recovered by DT **David Onyemata**, DE **Cameron Jordan** has 96.5 career sacks, tied for 43th in NFL record books with Warren Sapp. With his sack today, Jordan becomes the 15th player in NFL history to record 15 sacks against two different teams (15 vs. Buccaneers, 21 vs. Falcons).
- RB **Alvin Kamara** rushed 19 times for 61 yards and one score. He caught four passes for 15 yards.
- With 1.0 sacks today, DE **Tanoh Kpassagnon** tied his career-high totaling four on the season. (2019 with Kansas City).
- DB **C.J. Gardner-Johnson** had a 26-yard interception return.
- WR/RS **Deonte Harris** ran a reverse for a 22-yard gain, tied for the team lead in receiving with three grabs for 35 yards, returned one punt for 12 yards and brought back two kickoffs for 69 yards (34.5 avg.) for 138 all-purpose yards.
- P **Blake Gillikin** punted three times for 158 yards with a 52.7 gross punting average, a 48.0 net and a career-long 63-yard punt.



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY OCTOBER 31, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(Opening comments on the game): "Obviously, it was a good win. There are a number of things we did well. Certainly, the turnover differential was important. Yeah, a good hard fought division win."

(On Trevor Siemian's performance): "[Trevor] did a good job. He came in. He's one of those guys who is pretty calm. I coached a player like him once, Ty Detmer. He's never (flustered), he's just (signs to show even-keeled). It's a good trait for him. It was not perfect. There were a number of things that we are going to be able to coach off of the tape on. I thought we played with energy, and that was a big concern of mine coming off of the Monday night west coast trip. I thought we played with a lot of energy."

(On his faith in the run game): "I like our ground game. It was a little different defense in this game. Usually, when you put in a sub, [Tampa Bay] would match it, but this game in the first half, there were a ton of heavy fronts, base personnel. It's always been a hard defense to run against. I don't know what our rushing numbers ended up being. They're first in the league. I knew we were going to have to throw to win."

(On Jameis Winston's prognosis): "Yeah, I'm going to get an update here. I think it's significant. [Winston] felt something. He's on crutches right now, but I don't want to say until I have a chance to talk to the doctors. When he got back up and had to go back down, you were a little concerned."

(On how Winston's injury affected the game plan): "I was asked that at halftime. I would say, truthfully, that we spent more time at halftime on what Tampa was doing differently then what we have seen them do in however many years or games- a lot more heavy, a lot more pressure. At halftime, we spent a lot of time on protections, personnel groupings ... Obviously in the back of my mind I knew, or at least I felt like I knew the things that [Trevor Siemian] does well. The pressing matter was protection, what runs do we feel good about and our second down plan that changed a little bit. Those moving parts, I think, kind of took us away from Trevor's playing. We knew Trevor was playing. That hasn't happened a lot since I've been here. We've had backups play, but we knew they were playing. This was the second time since I've been here, really. Drew (Brees) got hurt in the San Francisco game, I believe, and at halftime he didn't feel like he could play. This is the second time that I can remember in 16 years. Man, he handled the situation well. It's always difficult when you don't receive a lot of the reps, but he's an experienced player. He's been a starter in our league."

(On Trevor Siemian's comfortability with various receivers): "I don't know that anyone goes into the game saying that we are comfortable throwing to Alex Armah. I like Alex. He's a fullback, and we found him. It was a pressure look, and he scored. It was awesome. I know where you're going. There's no like, 'Oh, I have chemistry with the dude'. I think he has to go out and execute the offense. I think the read took him to Alex on that play. We were counting on a goal line defense. We got on the field late. They matched. They weren't in a goal line defense. Fortunately, we had a play that was going to protect, regardless of whatever defense they were in. I prefer to throw that play to the quarterback's right, but there was a reason for that relative to the game plan. I think that was one of his better throws. That's pretty hard flipping around going that way."

(On the play calling decisions with less than two minutes): "I know what you're thinking, but here is the thing. They have time; they have an eternity. I'm thinking score. I still haven't met the person that's got the formula. I hear all the time, you can't leave Tom Brady with time on the clock. There are two methods. We could eat up time and kick a field goal, and he has plenty of time to get his team back in field goal range. The perfect scenario is you eat up the clock, and you score. Well, that is easier said than done. In other words, run, run, score on third down. I am thinking of scoring on any down because when you look at the time and you do the studies, him having to come back to kick a field goal is much easier than him having to come back and score. Obviously, I do not want to throw

an incomplete pass. I do not, and yet, everything about today's approach was going to be super, super aggressive. I heard the fans. It is what it is, but there's more to it. I'm always curious as a play caller when the announcers say, 'Hey, you want to eat up as much time as possible and then score'. Well then, I want to know those three plays."

(On the significance of the victory with a backup quarterback): "I didn't understand. I am on my third? I thought I was on my second. That would be my second thought in a game. Had Taysom (Hill) been playing today, it would have been Trevor [Siemian]. It would have been Taysom next week, but look, I understand. One of the traits that I think he has, and I'm talking about Trevor is -- and this is difficult-some guys have trouble if they don't get the work, the reps with the system. I think he can function and understand. The hardest thing is to pay attention every week like you're going to be in that game when you're the No. 2. You might do that for four years before you win a game. That's pretty hard, but then, you have to pay attention next week. He has some of those traits that you would say, that's not for everyone. Some guys if they're going in without any work, it's going to be difficult. He was cool at halftime, and like I said, there was more thought being given to adjusting to what we were seeing from Tampa than Trevor's in the game. They were pressuring Jameis [Winston]. They were pressuring all of us. That didn't change because Trevor was in the game. It's a pressure defense. They're first in the NFL, meaning in calling pressures, linebacker or safety pressure. Sure enough that was the case today, and we knew we were going to have to be a little aggressive. We weren't going to be able to just try and run it into some tough looks. Kevin [White] catches a deep ball to get us started. I think we scored on that first time. That was tremendously important for the confidence. I think that's one of the challenges in being the No. 2. It's not just week-to-week, it might be two-tothree years. Then, are you ready in Week 5 of your third? That's pretty challenging."

(On how that works defensively with backups, specifically P.J. Williams): "At least [P.J. Williams] has packages where he is playing. He is a starter in dime packages, third down, and he is a smart player. I would like to have seen him take a knee, and then the game would have been over. He's always had good instincts, and he's always had good ball skills. Those things have served him well. That was a big play. The turnovers were significant. It is hard to be in the media and say the turnovers are going to be a big difference in this game. Man, they have been so much in our series. The last game I watched last afternoon was our playoff loss. We had four turnovers, yet the third turnover, it is a field goal game. Meaning, we overcame the interception (and) the fumble. That was a hard-fought game. Those possessions are just worth too much, and the game's very fast. They are significant. That was important."

(On the confidence in Trevor Siemian late in the game): "We were throwing some stuff that we know by heart. When we had that time in there, I'm like, 'Boys, I've seen this. I've just seen it'. I'm thinking I want to score and let (Tom Brady) go ahead and do his thing. I have three timeouts, and we might score again. You follow me? There was too much time and too many timeouts in the coach's pocket. That's how I felt. I think our crowd needs to be a little louder, if you want to ask me, on third down. We've had two home games that have been unremarkable, if you want to know the truth."

(On players going into the injury tent to check on Jameis Winston): "Obviously, I didn't see that. Picture this, though, if someone got hurt 20 years ago, guys would go by the bench and check on them. Now, they just go in a tent. I get it. I didn't see it. I know they are trying to do an exam. I think right away they knew [Jameis Winston] wasn't going to be able to return, but they go through a series of things. There's a protocol. That's all. I'm sure they were following their protocol."

(On the nature of players like Terron Armstead to go into the tent and check in): "Absolutely. Listen, absolutely. Man, absolutely."

(On if this is the most improbable victory of his career with the Saints): "I don't know. Listen, it always feels good to win. Obviously, we were playing last year's Super Bowl champion. We have a ton of respect. I think there's mutual respect between the clubs. It's always a hard-fought game. Those guys have done a great job. I've been on the staff with Kacy [Rodgers], Todd Bowles, a bunch of those guys. I know them well, and man, they're tough. Today was the first day, the first when you see some of them to congratulate them for winning a Super Bowl. It was a great run. It's a division game. It means a lot. I'm not really good with that. I haven't put up any type of like -- all the stuff goes in the closets and some day maybe I will reflect on it, but this is a good win. I'm happy more for every player that battled through. I'm happy for Kwon (Alexander), who's fighting a season-ending injury and coming back and playing and being a factor. I'm happy for all those guys that had a good week of preparation. So much goes into the week. The biggest challenge is when you don't have success

after like a full week of everything you've got and then mustering up the energy to do it again. That in itself is motivation, if that makes any sense. That was a good win. I'm proud of Trevor [Siemian]. I'm proud of our players. Those guys fought hard, and Tampa fought hard as well."

(On Mark Ingram): "[Mark Ingram] got a game ball today, and it was the 'You can hear him before you see him' game ball. He brings a lot of energy. It's good to have him back."

(On his sadness for Winston): "I cried when I saw him coming in. You know, it's hard."

(On Winston's attitude in times of adversity): "Listen, that's a great question.[Jameis Winston] sees things and [Drew] Brees was that way. That trait of being able to tune into a game while it's on, you don't know what the score is when you watch the body language of a quarterback, I think that's an important trait. You could never tell if you were winning and losing when you tuned in and you saw Drew until the score was put up. Jameis is one of those guys that's that way, glass half-full. He sees the positives in the adversity. I think to some degree, I'm probably a little like that too. Man, I'm glad that we were able to win it. He got a game ball as well."



TAMPA BAY BUCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021 ● CAESARS SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

QB TREVOR SIEMIAN

On if the defense did anything different from what you had seen on film: "No. I think as the game went on, they just weren't going to let us run it 50 times and finish the game. They've got a good front and a lot of good players."

On how tough it is to stay ready all the time "Not really. You get reps on scout team and you're always kind of wired in preparing like you're a starter, because if you don't, you're screwed if you do have to play. As being a backup in this league that's your job. Fortunate to have a really good staff that keeps us ready and keeps us in it."

On has the ups and downs experienced in this league helped him for situations he had today: "I think every player in this league has some ups and downs. Your career is never linear, mine sure hasn't been. I think just bouncing around like I have you really appreciate the locker room, the guys, and it doesn't get any better than that. There's great leadership, great guys, and it's just fun to be around."

On if he can tell how different this organization is from others: "Yeah absolutely. I think from top down, you can see as soon as you hit the door. Lucky to be here, and happy we got the win. I could not be more thrilled."

On what was his reaction seeing Tom Brady intercepted in the 2-minute drill by PJ Williams and him running to score in the last minute of the game: "Yes, I was thinking he was going to get down and we could take a few knees (laughter). I remember playing a game in Denver against Kansas City. We scored and went up eight, then they scored, went for two and ended up winning the game. So, I thought about that initially, but I'm happy for PJ and our defense played so well.

On if it's hard not to get caught up in emotions: "I think you got so much going on, you're so focused that I think it's pretty easy to focus on the task at hand."

On what goes through his mind when he sees Jameis Winston go down with an injury in the game early: "First, I want to say how gutted I am for Jameis. This win is for him. I just feel for the guy and love him so much. Just being around him, you can't help but see his infectious personality. You're just freaking gutted whenever you see anybody hurt but watching him get hurt was tough. As a backup you are always watching the quarterback. You are monitoring the quarterback when he scrambles more than anyone in the building. Jameis is so tough that you don't think about it as much and then seeing him be a little wonky in his first couple steps you notice something isn't right."

On what it feels like to be back on the field playing: "It was fun. You play in the preseason, but your reps are so limited. I think I kind of lost a little sense of how fun it is when you're out there in a huddle and in the middle of a drive and you score. There's a joy to this game that you can't get chasing anything else."

On if defense playing well is a confidence booster: "At a certain point too you're thinking our defense is going to keep us in the game regardless of what we do on offense as long as we don't turn it over. You can't play quarterback being super cautious, but at the same time you want to make sure you're making good aggressive decisions. They're going to keep us in every game. "

On what sparked them in the 3rd quarter for that go ahead drive "One three and out is going to happen, but you would like to minimize them. Then you start thinking whatever we got to do to get a first down to get rolling. After that second three and out we were feeling that urgency. There is always urgency, but especially then."

On if he spoke to Jameis Winston in the locker room after the injury: "Yeah, I followed up with him at halftime and spoke for a little bit. You look at his face he's dancing and yelling, you would have never known he was hurt. That's just who he is. Hope he gets back sooner than later."



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CB P.J. Williams #26

(On what he saw on his game sealing pick six): "Yeah, it was a play I for sure was looking for coming into this game, like, 'Oh, I'm going to pick this off.' I was a free player, just like a robber. Just reading the quarterback. We have been looking for those in cuts all day and I feel like they kind of switched up the game plan because they did not run it as much on third down. So it was a play I was looking for. I was reading the quarterback and he took me to the ball and I just couldn't believe he threw it. So I broke on it, got the ball, I saw the sideline and took it to the end zone. Coach was a little mad that I didn't get down in, but hey, we won the game and it was great."

(On if there was any possibility he would get down instead of returning the interception): "No, I do not think so. In my mind, seeing what I saw, I was going to the end zone. If I felt like they had me for sure then I probably would have went down or went out of bounds, but I saw the end zone and I was going."

(On the defense's mindset when facing Tom Brady in the two minute drill): "Just win the game. We had a chance to win it. It was in our hands. We had the lead, it was under two minutes so we were going to do whatever we had to do to go out there and win. We executed a couple plays and then you see it in the air and you go get the ball. No matter who it is, we know we have a great defense. As long as we execute, we can beat anybody."

DE Cameron Jordan #94

(On the importance of turnovers in this particular matchup): "Of course, I have been trying to get some more forced fumbles out of these quarterbacks for a while now. It's great to see one finally come home. That gives us that much more energy for the defense to support the offense so these guys can put points on the board. I think we had ourselves in great position going into that second half and we come out with whatever it takes, however long it takes, we're going to go ahead and put it on us."

(On the defense's mindset coming into this game): "The same thing it was last week. We have to go out here and take over. For us to go out there and get an interception in what should have been a quick down and we would have been out the game, P.J. (Williams) goes ahead and scores, we go back out, gives us another chance. You have to relish these moments, you've got to love our confidence that we're building on defense each and every game. To go against one of the greatest to ever be at the quarterback position and finish the game like that, you've got to love it. We talk about Tanoh Kpassagnon, Kwon Alexander coming up big. If they didn't get those sacks, they would have been mine (laughter). The fact that defense is riding like that, I love it, I love being a part of it. I know everyone is on four cylinders and it's going to be a bloody battle like it was today. Whether we beat somebody by 30 points it doesn't matter, our defensive mentality is the same, go out there and get the dub."

(On if the defense will take it upon themselves to be even better if Jameis Winston misses significant time with the injury he suffered): "For the last now three seasons we've been in this situation. It's not new to our defense, to our team. I think that if anything it shows you how resilient our team's been. The core leaders that have been a part of this team for a numerous amount of years, the juice that we bring each and every practice has helped us overcome these adverse situations. It sucks not to have Jameis out there because we know the fierce, competitive spirit that he has. We know the game plan was set for him and now we have to adjust it a little bit for Trevor (Siemian) or whoever the coaches deem next up. But I do know we're capable of winning as you see tonight, as you saw last year, as you saw the year before that. It does have to be on the defense. We can be better and want to step up to that plate. I think as much as they ran tonight, they still ended up with four or five yards a carry. No matter the spot that's on us, we have to eliminate some of these mistake and get to the quarterback the way we did at the end of the game."



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Opening comments: "I thought that it was an embarrassing display of football. Of all the things that we talked about coming down here about what it takes to win, and to play like that, it starts with me. Obviously, we weren't ready to play, penalties, turnovers, you're not beating anybody that way. Sean (Payton) did a helluva job bringing in (Trevor) Siemian; and, did a helluva job winning the game. And, we didn't make the plays."

On what was disappointing about the last Saints offensive drive: "Penalties. We give it to them. They (the Saints) did a nice reverse. You give them easy first downs all day."

On Tom Brady's final interception: "Good play by the DB (PJ Williams). He telegraphed it a little bit, and the DB made a helluva play."

On how much this loss changes the urgency of the second half of the season: "I hope it changes it a bunch. You drop down and start going on the road in the playoffs, it's different. Every game is critical, especially in your division. Road games, when you have it in your hand and you give it away, it makes everything a little bit more difficult."

On what the difference was for Tampa Bay once the Saints lose Jameis Winston: "About 14 penalties. It was all 15 yard penalties for roughing the quarterback. It was stupid."

On the cause of Tom Brady's multiple turnovers today: "I'll have to go back and look at the film. (He was) forcing one at the end. That (performance) was not characteristic of him."

On Cyril Grayson's touchdown catch: "He was the unknown factor. It looked like they doubled Mike (Evans) and doubled Chris (Godwin), and (we) turned him loose. He ran a helluva route. It was a good throw (and a) good catch. It's a shame that it wasn't a game winner."

On if Richard Sherman was only available for emergency situations: "Yeah. And, (Rob) Gronk(owski) probably shouldn't have played either. He kept begging to get in there and reinjured himself."

On how much the team needs to refocus on its off week: "Just go back and look at the tape, look at where we're at right now, just like we did last year and every year. We are 6-2. Last year, we were 7-5, so it's a little bit better. (We) will see who we can get back and correct the selfish penalties."

On if Devin White was hyped up to play here or did he make bad decisions: "It speaks for itself."



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On what he thought about final two drives of the game: "It was a tough game. They're a good team, but we obviously didn't play the way we're capable of playing."

On what the Saints do to give him a difficult time over his career: "Bad throws."

On the PJ Williams interception in the final minutes of the fourth quarter: "I think I just threw it to the wrong guy. I had Mike (Evans) open. It cost us the game."

On how frustrating the turnovers were today: "I mean, it's tough to win when you turn the ball over like we did. So, I have to not throw interceptions. That's the key."

On the importance of the upcoming bye week: "Yeah, we have a lot of fighters. We'll prepare and be better next week."

On Cyril Grayson's touchdown catch: "He did a great job. He got in there, got behind the defense and made a great catch. That was a great play."

On his chemistry today with Chris Godwin: "He's phenomenal. Chris is an incredible player. I have to keep getting him the ball. He played a great game. All of the receivers did."

On his halftime adjustments: "We just played a little better. We just have to play better for four quarters."



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On the 3 personal foul penalties he committed: "I was just playing hard. Speaking on my part, I was just playing hard. You know, the call on Jameis (Winston), with his momentum going forward, I'll go back and look at it, but I thought I had him in his pads. They said my hands were too high on his nameplate, so I'll take that one. On the one with the sack, I was just trying to finish the play. On the sideline, that was all me. I take full responsibility. Me and Mark Ingram were jawing all night, just going back and forth at each other, but it's always one-sided when you're in someone else's house. It was nothing personal going on with us. We talked at the end of the game, and he respected the way I play the game. I'm just going to keep being me. I'm a fiery guy and I like to talk, but now I'll look at the ground when I'm talking to someone so I can save the penalty for my team. At the end of the day, it's all about the team. But, I still have to play with passion and energy when I'm out here."

On Jameis Winston's injury: "I told him, 'Man, I hate that it happened to you, you're playing good ball right now and I'm praying for you.' Jameis is a good guy. He's a great guy, I'm want to put an emphasis on that. All of last year he was texting me asking how I was doing. I don't know if he texted everybody, but he and I were close. When I was drafted, he was the guy that showed me around and was telling me how proud he was of me. Even when we won a Super Bowl, he was one of the first to text me and say 'Congratulations, y'all deserve it. I know how hard you worked and always talked about how special y'all could be.' He's a great guy and you hate to see that happen. I hope it's not serious. I'm praying for him, and it's a long season, so I hope he can come back and fight with his team."

On the frustration of giving up a lead late in the game: "It's very frustrating, especially when Todd Bowles is doing a great job of calling great plays. We just have to go out there and execute better. We have new people out there, but new people means new opportunities for people. We all have to play with each other and just be in sync. So, I think that's the most frustrating thing. We had the chance to show up, but as a unit, we didn't. We let it slip away and let them drive down, whether it was a third-down play or having a penalty or something, whatever the case was. At the end of the day, we take it all together and we know it has to be fixed. We'll find a way to fix it. We understand there's not any finger-pointing and we take full responsibility for our actions, so that's the best thing about it."

On the benefits of the bye week: "I feel like the most important thing for us is to get healthy. We only lost two games this year. It's not like last year where we lost three in a row going into the bye week. We just need to get healthy and play complimentary football to be the best we can be. We just need to stick together and whoever's in the game, I'd like to have Sean (Murphy-Bunting) and Carlton (Davis) back. Those are guys we really sync with, and Coach Bowles knows what we can do with his gameplan when those guys are out on the field with us. When we get healthy after the bye, that'll be a good time for us to come back and unite. We all have to just make our plays when it's time."

On if Trevor Siemian's entrance impacted the game plan: "No. He wanted to get the ball out of his hands fast. We wanted to rattle him early, but something wasn't syncing. Then, we started to sit back in coverage and just rush the front four and do what they do. It worked, they kept going three and out. We knew they were going to want to run a lot of screens and get the ball in their playmaker's hands. We were all over it, but when it came down to the most important time of the game, we didn't shut them down, so none of that mattered."