



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT NEW YORK JETS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021 • METLIFE STADIUM
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints' victory on Sunday improves New Orleans' record to 6-7.
- The Saints' win improves their all-time record against the Jets to 8-6 and gives them a two-game winning streak against New York. Sunday's victory also gives the Saints a 5-3 record against the Jets on the road and their first win against the Jets in their second try at MetLife Stadium.
- The Saints win improves New Orleans' road record in 2021 to 4-3, giving them at least four road victories in five consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history.
- Sunday's victory gives New Orleans a 2-1 record against AFC East opponents in 2021. The Saints' final meeting against the division's teams will be on December 27, when New Orleans hosts the Miami Dolphins on Monday Night Football.
- Saints Head Coach **Sean Payton** improved his record against the Jets to 3-1 and evened up his home mark against New York at 1-1.
- Sunday's win over the Jets gives Payton a 1-0 record against New York Jets Coach Robert Saleh. Payton now has a winning record against 63 of the 87 head coaches he's faced in his head coaching career. Saleh is the 73rd different head coach that Payton has defeated.
- The Saints extended their streak to 317 consecutive regular season games without having been shut out. The streak dates back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002, at Raymond James Stadium. This is the longest running streak in the NFL.
- LB **Demario Davis** had a team-high eight tackles in Sunday's contest with one tackle for loss and one pass defense. With DE **Cameron Jordan** unavailable for Sunday's game, his 172 consecutive games played streak comes to an end, which was the longest current in NFL record books for a position player, Davis' 157 straight games is now the longest consecutive games played streak in the NFL for a position player.
- S **Malcolm Jenkins** played in his 100th career game as a Saint, recording 3 tackles. Jenkins becomes the 58th player to play 100 career games as a Saint and moves into a tie with C Jerry Fontenot and CB Johnnie Poe for 56th on the club's all-time games played list.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** in his first game returning from a knee injury rushed 27 times for 120 yards with a score and caught 4 passes for 25 yards. Sunday was the fifth game of Kamara's career having over 100 rushing yards, with 2 of the 5 being at MetLife Stadium. Kamara's previous game at MetLife Stadium with over 100 rushing yards was against the New York Giants, where he finished with 134 yards rushing on September 30, 2018. Kamara's touchdown run in the second quarter was the 67th of his career and tied him for the 2nd-most touchdowns in a player's first 70 games since the league merger behind LaDainian Tomlinson's 68 touchdowns in 67 career games.
- With **Kamara's** four receptions Sunday, he moves into first all-time in NFL history for the most receptions by a running back in his first 5 seasons with 362, passing former 49ers running back Roger Craig's 358 career receptions.
- QB **Taysom Hill** made his second start of the season at quarterback Sunday. Hill went 15-of-21 passing for 175 yards and rushed 11 times for 73 yards with two touchdowns. Hill's two rushing touchdowns on Sunday tied a career-high. Sunday marked the fourth time Hill has rushed for two touchdowns in his career, the last being against the New York Giants earlier this season on October 3, 2021.
- Hill's matchup against Jets QB Zach Wilson was the first meeting of two former BYU quarterbacks since 1997, when Steve Young's San Francisco 49ers faced off against Ty Detmer's Philadelphia Eagles, for whom Payton was quarterbacks coach.
- CB **Marshon Lattimore** finished with 5 tackles and defended 2 passes. Coming into Sunday, Lattimore had 69 passes defended since coming into the league as a first round draft pick in 2017, tied for first in the NFL over the period with Philadelphia's Darius Slay. With his two passes defended on Sunday and the Eagles idle, Lattimore is now the only NFL player with 70 passes defended since 2017 with 71 in his career.
- TE **Nick Vannett** led the team in receiving yardage with 3 receptions for 44 yards.
- S **Marcus Williams** recorded 5 tackles in the contest. With his five tackles Sunday, Williams now has 302 career tackles, surpassing the 300 career tackle mark.
- DB **P.J. Williams** finished with 3 solo tackles on the contest. With his three tackles Sunday, Williams now has 200 career tackles.

Saints Head Coach Sean Payton

Opening statement...

Just a couple things, obviously, it was a good team win. We did a lot of things well situationally, thought we played really good team defense, ran the ball effectively, made enough plays on offense and in the kicking game. Thought we did a good job protecting the field position, especially earlier in the game with a little bit of that wind going in the one direction.

On if they knew it would be the type of game where they could preserve points and grind it out...

I think you go into the start of this game and you feel like these guys have been scoring – I think last week they put up in their first half. No, this was a little bit of us feeling offensively that we're going to have a handful of things with Alvin (Kamara) back, and Terron (Armstead) back, that was important, so we wanted that balance. Then watching how the defense was playing in the red zone particularly, so it just kind of moved in a direction in the second half. We shot ourselves in the foot a few times, obviously the ball slips out of Taysom's (Hill) hand on the one down and it really like flipped field position almost – I don't know how many yards we lost on that play, and we got a screen set up where it was the perfect look, but overall it was a good team win.

On if was planned for Kamara to have as many touches as he had today...

No, I couldn't say that. But look, that sounds about right. I think it ended up going that direction, obviously we had a lot of snaps then, he gave us some real good juice and energy, and he always does. It's not just on the field, but also on the sideline and we blocked them, I thought, pretty well up front.

On if it's important to him that they get back to the complimentary football they were playing earlier in the season...

Yeah, look, I think it's important for us as a team and I think it's important for a lot of teams. At the half, our third-down numbers weren't great, we didn't have a lot of third downs, but some of them were third-and-real long and then I thought we were better in the second half. We had a good mix though of run and play action or drop back. Listen, it was a good win and an important win.

On what screen he was alluding to earlier...

No, the screen was the one where the ball slips out of his (Hill) hands, and we lose 28 yards. The screen you're talking about was another one. (laughter) It's like our player running it, our two players blocking it and there's you know, those are some things that happened when I think Throck (Calvin Throckmorton) is initially going to block the corner, who's actually going to be covering our X receiver and just a couple little things like that where you just know it's going to be a big play, when you have something that's set up for the right look and we'll learn from it.

On the consistency of the kicking game...

Yes, that was important. I thought we kicked well and there was a win. It was going to be a challenging win. Early in the game relative to direction, you're kind of looking at two things, the sun if you turn around is going to be directly in your eyes – that was only for about eight minutes. We deferred but I thought the kicking game was important and I thought we did a good job and then Easop (Winston Jr.) did a good job (in his) first time out. We had a couple players playing for their first time and it was good.

On Hill's 44-yard touchdown run...

Obviously, we're sliding, the game is over there. But it was kind of a zero-funnel look. We switched Alvin from a king to a queen set, the safety kind of matched over like we were hopefully anticipating. Then, they're an aggressive defense at that time because they need the ball back and I haven't seen the tape, it happened opposite our sideline but I'm quite sure Juwan (Johnson) probably had a really good block and Terron got out, so it was the right look.

On the defense's performance...

Yeah, we're getting some guys back. It was good to have Marcus (Davenport) back, and then hopefully we can get our COVID crew back soon and get ready for another important game.

On if there's some games where the play sheet isn't as extensive...

It's a good question. These guys are different, when you're in base personnel, 21, there's some consistent looks so a part of the game you're trying to establish run or passes out of a base look. Sometimes it's hard to predict what you're going to get personnel wise. You don't always know if Juwan's always going to be treated like a tight end or a receiver. That happened years ago with us when we had Jimmy (Graham), you weren't sure. So, I don't know that the play sheet, I know the play sheet looks big, but I've said this before, it's partially because I don't see well, read well. But there was a section of QB runs, there was a section of some heavy-base personnel and then all the sub stuff that we wanted to do. Fortunately, we got to enough of the right stuff.

On if he believes in the phrase, "Think of players, not plays," and if that was the case today...

Well, we always try to think of our players relative to the design and the matchup. We'll always – and not just the ball carrier – and it's a great point, but we're also thinking about, 'Hey, is this better suited for the left guard Throck, or is this better suited for Cesar (Ruiz),' and had we been on the right hash that screen would have been over to the right side. That is the time on task, relative to the game planning each night of the week, it's spent with every play in the details of who we're asking to do it. Some plays on the sheet get underlined which means we're only going to run them one way because the hashmarks in the NFL are pretty centered. We don't have to be able to run each play both ways, sometimes quite a bit of the plays are underlined, we're just going to run it one way. So, a lot of that goes on. Obviously, when we

get a guy like Alvin back then you try to divide up the snaps, I don't know how many total snaps Tony (Jones Jr.) had, but I knew Alvin would be in good shape because he's been training, he was close last week like I said. It was more of the hamstring, not the knee and it was good to have him back.

On if it's a tough decision deciding whether to make a player active when coming off an injury when they're close...

It is, it is. It's tough when it's a soft-tissue injury because you know that if you're just too early, there's been too many times where all of a sudden, it's another setback of three, four, whatever, so once you get to that spot, we try to really go by what all the medical staff are saying and if he can go, we play them and if not then we don't. I think that's a good way to approach it, sometime like Taysom's injury it's kind of it is what it is. It's just a matter of can you function but it's not something that can be reinjured like a hamstring.

On if Hill's finger held up like they wanted...

All except for two plays. I mean I don't know what happened on that snap late in the game, and he recovered and then the screen play. But I think so. I thought he threw pretty well and secured the ball. I mean, there's always a little bit of an adventure with him that we keep working on, but I think he just lost the grip on that screen, and it just came out the back of his hands. And that very well may have been finger driven or it might have been just, know it's dry up here in the winter and he needs some lotion.

On Hill's foot...

You can ask him, but I haven't thought about his foot this week, like at all, and I don't think it's on the injury report. I thought about it a few weeks ago though, but I didn't think about it much this week in fairness to your question. He was moving around well.

On what this win does for the team after a tough month...

What I told them. It's a funny league, just keeps giving you chance, and you just keep focusing. I know it sounds cliché with the one week at a time, but you really just turn your focus to the next game and its a bunch of teams that are clumped together and are fighting to make the postseason. Our focus will be really on ourselves improving and getting healthier and getting ready for what's going to be a real good Tampa Bay team that we play Sunday night.

On reasoning behind not wearing a hat today...

I don't know. I didn't like the one that was in my locker. Thought it was too cold for the visor and I'm a little superstitious, so I just went with the no hat look.

On if it was a first not wearing a hat...

I don't know, probably not, I don't know. The sidelines got mixed up a little bit, for me, because when you play the Giants, you're on the other sideline so coming out pregame, you would begin walking over to your bench area and about 20 strides in I still hadn't recognized anyone and then saw Robert Saleh and I realized it. So, I guess the Jets are on one side and the Giants are on another. But it was kind of sunny, thought we had good weather considering we're playing here in the middle of December. Sometimes when you look at the schedule, it could be a lot colder. It's a good day, some wind and overall good.

On rotating hat and visor this year...

Yeah, it's been back and forth. You cut your hair real short like this, you just, either one.

On how his players stay well-rested...

No. I say this, the hours and the grind are the same every week. Some weeks are longer maybe because the team you're playing, relative to their scheme, some weeks. We built a sleep room years ago though and I mean like a real nice sleep room. So, you're getting a decent night's rest. Your guy lives on the north shore, you finish at 2:00 in the morning and you figure it's 45 minutes home, 45 minutes in the morning, it's an hour and a half you could be sleeping if you stayed Wednesday night. I know it's used during the week and I would say I don't think it changes. Yeah, you're working hard on your plans, but I don't think those hours change relative to when you're winning or losing. I think it's result oriented and it's work-driven like, 'Are we finished.' Some weeks it could be more complex and really that's a third-down thing. Some weeks it can be less complex based on the blitz packages and it's kind of, I think how it is.

On how it felt to him to be on a losing streak...

I think it's honestly. It's like awful. When you're working those type of hours and everything you have and there's a lot that goes into and the sacrifice. So, winning, there's nothing like it and then on the other side of it, it's so, it tests your grit, it tests your fortitude. All those things. You got to get back on the next week and that's the importance when you're bringing in the right type of players in free agency, in the draft. They're all going to react well when you're winning, but how do they handle it when you hit some adversity and the same way with coaches and everyone else.

On the adjustment of when Juwan (Johnson) gets treated like a tight end compared to a receiver...

We usually early in the game have a couple personnels, just to get the base read on do they see him as a receiver. Today, they treated him more like a receiver than a tight end. We went through that with Taysom a few years ago. We even tried to introduce him as a receiver to hopefully get him treated and then pretty soon he got treated as a tight end, because it has a lot to do with what you're game planning. It's nice to know if you put a play in, you kind of know, 'Here are the looks you can get,' but if you put that same play in and let's say you're expecting base and you get nickel, none of what you were planning on applies to that. Some plays are user-friendly regardless. But anyway, we try to get a feel early in the game and a lot of times we can predict it, but sometimes it's different.

Saints QB Taysom Hill

On Alvin Kamara saying he should have slid on the last touchdown...

I mean, I obviously should have slid.

On if it's hard to slide when you see so much open space...

I knew we needed one more first down and you get up in the open field – it was third-and-long – I should have slid. I don't got anything else for you.

On how his finger held up...

It was okay. There were a couple plays that I felt like it affected me, but overall I thought that we were able to manage it well.

On if the two fumbles were caused by his finger injury...

No, the fumble late we just didn't get a clean exchange. We were trying to set up a screen in the first half and the ball slipped out of my hand. That was one play in particular.

On if the screen play where the ball slipped out was a grip issue...

Yeah, I mean the ball slid out of my hands.

On how instrumental it was having Kamara back today...

I think statistically, obviously, the numbers speak for themselves, but man just having his presence on the field and having the ability to hand him the ball and all of that stuff, like man he just does so much for this team, just being there. He's a great leader, he's an emotional guy, plays with a lot of emotion. So, there's so many things intangibly that he brings as well that the stats don't quantify, but statistically, they obviously speak for themselves as well.

On how good it feels to get the win...

Yeah, I mean look, this has been a tough stretch for this team, and it's been a foreign thing losing so many games. I think we've had great leadership that have really just kept our heads down and we've got to stay the course. We're going to start winning football games and that's what we did, so it's nice to get this win.

On if the game felt like some of the earlier games this season when the team was playing good in all phases...

Yeah, obviously our defense played very well tonight. I thought that Coach (Sean Payton), the way that he called the game was reflective of how well our defense was playing as well. Man, it's good complementary football when you've got a good defense and you're making their offense go the length of the field to score, that's tough to do. So, I thought all three phases just play very well today.

On how important it was to not turn the ball over today after last week...

Look I'm not going to overcomplicate what happened last week. Every time you step on the field and get ready for a game, that's the expectation, is a zero-turnover game. So that was the expectation today, it was the expectation last week too. We made a lot of plays today and we handled the ball well.

On if he feels like he's been using his scrambling ability like a sort of check down in the last few games...

Yeah, I think that's one of those things that becomes a little challenging, is a quarterback that can run. I haven't watched the film yet to know if there were other opportunities, if there were some opportunities that maybe I could have gotten the ball out, but I think overall I can think of a couple situations last week, this week, where we were able to keep the chains moving because of that. And that's obviously a big part of what I can do and something that makes us hard to defend.

On if there is a danger to overthinking when it comes to throwing or scrambling...

I'm not overthinking it, I'm just playing ball. Again, I break the film down, I watch it and I look at things that I could do better and things that I did well and try to build upon. But look, I'm not overthinking those things.

On if he took another shot to his hand today...

Yeah, I did. I think was the second quarter, I could be wrong, but yeah, I did. It was on a sack and it just kind of jarred my wrist a little bit, and it took me a couple minutes, but it came back and it was okay.

On if he has to be cognizant of his injuries while he is playing...

I think that there's a balance of obviously being available for your team to play, and then being capable of doing everything you need to do. So, you're aware of those things all the time, and if I felt like it was taking away or I wasn't able to do everything I needed to, then I would have said something. But once you get in the course of the game you can't allow your mind to get distracted by other things. So, as I take the field, I'm not consciously thinking about my finger or my wrist or whatever it is. Man, it's go time.

On how he compartmentalizes feeling pain, but not thinking about his injuries during the game...

Look, this is football, I've been doing this for a long time. If you can't do that, it's hard to play in this league, that's just the reality. Everyone's dealing with something.

On if he got tackled by his injured foot during the game...

I honestly don't remember the play. It's my right foot, so if it was my right foot then yes. There's not a play that sticks out in my head that bothered my foot.

On if his foot injury has become a relative non-issue...

This is something that I think I'll probably be dealing with for the rest of the season. It doesn't feel normal, but it's good enough.

On if Sheldon Rankins said anything to him after the sack...

No, he didn't. He said something to me before. What did he say? He asked if I was going to give him one or something, and I said, 'I hope not,' and then we did.

Saints LB Kwon Alexander

On whether the Saints played complementary football...

Yeah, we just came together as a team. We started with practice at the beginning of the week. We had a legendary week. All the hard stuff is during the week. We came out on Sunday, got a dub, and we're getting ready for next week. And we're ready.

On how it was without (Cameron) Jordan on the field...

It was kind of weird, but like he said, next man up. Most of our guys, they're capable of being starters. They came in there, played with energy, played with heart, played with passion, and we got a dub.

On DE Marcus Davenport...

He's just so disruptive. Play fast, play until the end of the whistle. We're glad to have him back out there, too, because we just got him back this week. He's just been a beast since he's been back, you know what I'm saying? We're just going to keep working with him, keep getting better and better every week.

Saints LB Demario Davis

On ending the losing streak...

It's always about the process for us. That's what we're always focused on, week in and week out, is getting better. We've had some challenging weeks, not being able to get the result that we wanted on the field. We've just stayed true to the process. And that's what you do. You lock in on your details. How can you get better as an individual? How can you bring your best come Sunday? And eventually it'll pay off for you, and it did today. We'll take that one. Enjoy it, then flush it, then get on to the next.

On getting C.J. Gardner-Johnson back...

That was huge. We want all of our guys out there. We can't wait to get Cam (Jordan) back, as well, get some of our d-line guys back. We want all of our guys out there. We want everybody healthy. And that's when we're at our best. It's a next man up business, but getting him back, getting any of our guys back, is always going to take us to the next level.

On whether it was hard to stay in a rhythm while getting so many three and outs...

No. That's what you want. That's when we're doing our job the best. That's when we're most in sync, when you're able to get out there and get off the field. So, definitely, if they're able to make plays and extend drives, you've still got to be locked in, but that's what you want. If you can get off in one play and get a (turnover), that's even better. I think you stay in the flow of the game when plays are happening on your side and in your favor, because they're kind of offbeat and you know you've got them. And to stay up with that momentum is the goal.

Saints RB Alvin Kamara

On whether he anticipated this workload in his first game back...

I mean, we're back. I'm healthy, so it is what it is. There wasn't an option to me, like getting less of a load. It was just whatever it was going to be, you know what I'm saying? I wasn't limited or anything, so that's just how the game unfolded. I got a good load.

On how he felt...

I feel good. I'm back healthy. I think that was most important thing, just being able to get healthy and get well so I can help the team the best I could. Like you said, I felt comfortable, I felt good. O-line played well. I think we played well all around as a team. I think there was a lot of energy out there and we came out with the win.

On whether the Saints played complementary football...

Yeah, and that's what I was kind of alluding to. Everybody played well. There was energy on all three phases—offense, defense and special teams. I think when we play like that, it's not a lot of teams that can really stick with us. It looked good, it felt good. I mean, everybody was pretty much in rhythm, besides a couple of drives we had on offense. We kind of stalled out a little bit, but, I mean, all around it was a good team win.

On whether the offense changed anything in the second half...

Nah, I think it was execution. When you look at those two drives that we had that we were super behind the chains, it kind of takes away from the good things you're doing. So, came out, locked in and just tried to hone in and stay ahead of the chains. And we did a pretty good job of that in the second half.

Jets Head Coach Robert Saleh

On the play of Jets QB Zach Wilson...

It wasn't his cleanest game. He was hindered with some drops early. I don't know if that threw him off or not. He's played better in the past and he'll get better from it.

On if Wilson's incompletions are concerning...

No. He had a couple that got away. He also had some that were on the spot. We didn't help him with making plays. It's something he has to improve on. I'm not going to hide from that. But, it's not something that we are concerned about. Just something that we have to keep working on.

On whether Wilson should be completing '90 percent' of his short passes...

Yeah. He had three of them underneath that were dropped on him today. He had the one in the dirt to Griff (Ryan Griffin) and he had the one on the bubble to (Braxton) Berrios. Their quarterback also had a slippery ball. When it's cold, it gets slick. Not to make an excuse for him. He has to be better. It's something that he will be better at. I'm really not concerned about the long-term view of whether or not he can complete a short ball.

On the Jets drive to end the first half...

The penalties were killer. We wanted to finish with the ball at half. Even with 30 seconds left, we still had two timeouts, so you have a chance to be aggressive in the middle of the field. You have plenty of time in those situations. It felt like the usage of timeouts was on point. The penalties throughout – anytime we got something going, it would be a dropped pass or a penalty that set us back. It's something that we have to get better at.

On Jets WR Denzel Mims play today...

I'll speak for him and I'm sure he will echo it: He has to be better. Just from a responsibility standpoint and with the penalties in the first half. It wasn't his cleanest and something I'm sure he will get better at.

On Mims being benched after receiving playing time due to injuries...

It wasn't disciplinary. He'll get another opportunity next week. It's not like anyone is coming back. He's very capable. Obviously, he missed a couple of weeks and has to hit the ground running. He has to get himself going again with regards to the game plan and the urgency and the discipline he had caught himself up to before he had the COVID stuff. He'll come back. I have a lot of faith in him. He's a great young man. He has the right attitude. He'll be fine.

On if absence of Jets WR Corey Davis and Elijah Moore hurt the Jets offense...

I don't know if it hurt. I'd love to give you a better answer if I felt like we were playing clean ball with regards to just making the routine plays you guys have mentioned. If we're making routine plays and you see them doing something schematically that's hurting you, then absolutely. I could give you a better comment on it. I feel like we could have been a lot better today with or without them.

On why the Jets struggled against the Saints rushing offense...

Aside from that last run, I think they were averaging 3.7 or 3.8 yards a carry. It was under four a carry. I felt like the run game was fine. They just kept going to it. They were at 43 carries for 160 yards. If you need 43 carries, I feel like you're doing something right defensively. Credit to them for being patient. The last run of 44 yards makes the stat look a lot worse. Up that point, I felt like the efficiency of our run defense was pretty good.

On if the Jets appeared not interested in tackling Saints QB Tayson Hill on his 44-yard touchdown run...

No. Well-designed play on their part using 41 (Alvin Kamara) as a decoy. We got cut out at one spot and ran underneath another block. Guys want to get the ball carrier down.

On the Jets receivers struggling to get open...

Credit their defense. They are one of the better defenses in football. Their secondary is really good. (Marshon) Lattimore is one of the best in football. They got (Chauncey) Gardner-Johnson back, he's pretty freakin' good. We knew it was a great challenge going in. They are a well-respected, veteran groups.

On Austin Walter and Ronald Blair being active and not being able to play....

Non-COVID illness. Woke up this morning just not feeling good. We tried to get Austin going. Obviously, we had Timmy Ward that can step in. Ran out of backs. We were trying to get Austin up, but he could barely stand.

On keeping the team positive for the remainder of the season despite the losses...

We're going to have a good month-and-a-half. Like I said, this league is not going to feel sorry for you. You're putting tape on. All of these guys understand that aspect of it. As coaches and players, your product is on the field. You're still expected to go out and perform. People pay money to come watch you perform. Getting these guys up to play has never been an issue. The whole idea that players shut down or are not willing to tackle, I don't believe in any of that stuff. There is a lot of pride in an NFL locker room. They'll be ready to play.

On the appearance that there is a lack of progress with the Jets...

I'm not getting you on that one. You're looking at a bunch of guys who are getting first-time opportunities. There is a lot of...I'm good on that one.

On if the challenge has proven to be more than he anticipated...

No. We have a great group of young guys. I do look at all of the first and second-year players and all of these young kids – even in this second half of the year – that are getting all of these unexpected opportunities. They are getting (opportunities). They're getting better. Whether it is tangible or not, I can see it. I watch the tape. You would love for...just like from a defensive standpoint, we've been getting some continuity. I felt like, with the exception of that last run, we were playing some good ball today on defense. Offensively, we had a rash of injuries, so a lot of new opportunities. So yeah, you're not going to get the tangible 'get better' that you're looking for. Guys are getting their first opportunity to be on the football field. But, I promise you, they will be better next week. It's always a challenge whenever you're going into a building where you've had what you had over the last 10 years and you've got a lot of guys trying to figure out how not to lose football games and how to win games. We have been getting better. It's just a matter of sticking to our guns and philosophy and what we're trying to get done, and trust that we have these four games coming up. We have a lot of things to look forward to.

On the takeaway when experienced players don't capitalize on their opportunity...

They have four games. It's still not going to define their careers. Mims is a second-year player. Ty Johnson has done a lot of good things for us. He had a fantastic Cincinnati game. It's not like we're kicking these guys out of the building. They get the opportunity to dress up tomorrow, go back to work. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, go down to Miami and suit up and get ready to play a football game. They're going to get more opportunities here in the next four weeks. It's just a matter of keeping the main thing the main thing. Find ways to get better. Make plays when you get your opportunity.

On the message to 'frustrated' Jets fans...

The same thing that I have been saying. Does it suck right now? Sure. I feel you. Nobody in this locker room wants to lose football games. At the same time, I have said it before, the path is crystal clear on where this organization needs to go and the things that we need to address – as coaches, players, all the way top down. It's very, very clear. We have to utilize these four weeks to cement what we think that we need to do. From there, we have to attack everything. It's going to flip. It's going to flip. This crappy part is part of the process. At the same time, it's not discouraging in any sense of the imagination because there are a lot of young guys getting a lot of playing time. I promise you; they are learning from all of this.

Jets QB Zach Wilson

On his performance...

I thought as far as seeing the field, decision making, I thought I was seeing well. Of course, there are some I want back, but I've got to throw the ball better, give the guys better chance to run after the catch. Just right from the beginning, I've got to be more accurate.

On how disruptive early drops were to gaining momentum...

I mean, it's part of the game. It shouldn't affect it at all. That's when I just needed to move on, just try to do my job, understand it's a part of the game and just keep throwing it well.

On if he felt the loss of Corey Davis and Elijah Moore...

No, absolutely not. I mean, those guys are great players, don't get me wrong, and they're part of this team, and we want them back, but the guys we had step up were ready for this opportunity. I had full trust in those guys to do everything today and of course they're going to want some back, but I've got to throw the ball better for those guys. I've got to give them a better chance to run after the catch and that's something that I'm going to work on.

On his several missed short throws...

Yeah, the one to (Ryan Griffin) I think just caught me off guard a little bit just because if his guy, he can't hold him all day. We were looking to throw the ball back across the field, so once I felt his guy release I felt Griff right there so I just

tried to pop it to him, kind of similar to the one I hit him later in the game where he actually got a good chunk of yards just like that. So, just short-hopped it to him. I rushed it. The one to Braxton (Berrios) I just didn't set my hand on the laces very well and tried to get it out too quick, slipped out of my hand. Those are the ones we've got to clean up—I've got to clean up and improve on. Especially that first one to Griff. He's doing a great job of doing his job right there and giving me an outlet. I've just got to make it easy on him and just drop it to him.

On what he and the offense can do to improve his completion percentage...

Yeah, we've just got to execute. I've got to, obviously, just be more accurate, would definitely help that number. My ability to go through my progressions, and then give those guys a good chance to catch the ball and run with it. I think just with time and everyone just working on their responsibility and getting better, that number's going to go up.

On if he felt he made throws easier like he mentioned last week...

Yeah, I worked on it a lot and that's why I was frustrated, I think, missing some easy ones. That's never been an issue for me, obviously, and I think part of it's going to be just getting used to this NFL game. Probably some of the routes that we're doing I didn't do a lot in college. That's not making an excuse at all, but I've got to get better at being able to get those guys a nice, accurate ball over the line, and that's something I've been working on. It's frustrating when I didn't hit on some of those. I'd also say that going into this next week, that's got to be a big focus for me as well. I felt like the end of that game was a big positive, when they're playing prevent defense and the game's over, I was able to work a lot of that stuff, getting the ball to Ty (Johnson) and trying to let him run with it. I thought we were able to do some cool things just in the last couple of drives, just trying to improve and get better.

On what is leading to his accuracy issues...

I don't think it's obvious or easy or everyone would play quarterback if it was easy. I think part of it is really just trusting what I see. Throwing's always been, I feel like, my strong suite my entire life. Throwing the ball has always been easy so I just need to make it easy. I've got to trust what I'm seeing. Sometimes out there, like the one to Griff, pops open and flashes, I've just got to get it to him easy, not overthink the throw or try to make it too difficult or whatever, just throw the ball.

On the weather conditions...

They were fine. A little windy early on, but nothing I felt like that altered our ability to play football today.

On the mood in the locker room...

Yeah, obviously disappointed in not getting the win, but I think guys are extremely excited to take on the challenge of just trying to be better, just trying to work to improve. We understand that this is all part of the process. This is not the end goal. This one season is not the end goal, so we're just trying to use every single rep, every single game, to the best of our ability to just try to keep getting better and improving. So, guys spirits are up and they understand that we have a good challenge ahead of us for these next four games.

On what caused issues going against man coverage...

Of course there's always going to be more disruption, you're putting more stress on the o-line on having to navigate the pocket, but sometimes when I can get out, there are some good running lanes, but you rely a lot on guys being able to just get off that. I thought they did a good job for the most part. I've got to get them some accurate balls when guys get disrupted, but the offense just comes down to winning that one on one.

On how he keeps his spirits up...

I'm a rookie. I just got here. I never once told myself that this was going to be easy when I got here. I never look at it as being down on myself, like, 'This is how my career is going.' Everything I went through today was a learning process for the future and I'm banking every single rep I go through. I'm comparing maybe one that I miss and one that I hit, it's correcting those mistakes. I'm just getting more and more looks and I just feel like I need to understand that, yeah, it hurts sometimes, but it's all part of the process to improve.

On how he grades his performance today...

Yeah, choppy at first. We go three-and-out, I think three times, whatever it was. I've just got to hit that reset button, almost treat it like the next series is the next play, like the first play of the game, and come out there and just go through my reads and play football. No matter what happened before that or after that doesn't matter.

On if he talked to Taysom Hill...

Yeah, I did. Obviously, I wasn't 100 percent watching everything they were doing, but he's a great player. You can obviously see what he can do with the ball in his hands whether it's throwing it or stepping up and running it. He's a true

dual-threat guy. He gives a lot of defenses issues. We got to talk a little bit afterwards. He’s an awesome guy. I just wished the best for him.

Jets WR Braxton Berrios

On what the biggest challenge of the offense was today...

Lack of execution. I think when we needed to make the plays, I don’t think we did as consistently as we’d like to. And I think it was a decent amount of self-inflicted errors, as well.

On how much tougher it is when many errors are self-inflicted...

A lot tougher and give credit to the Saints, obviously. They’re a really good defense and very veteran group. But at the end of the day, it comes back to us and what we’re supposed to do. Especially in those moments where the critical moments, we need to, the small margin of error in the NFL, and we have to keep from losing before we win.

On the receiver group performance without having Corey Davis and Elijah Moore...

Obviously, it’s a next man up mentality. We’re going to miss those guys for as long as they’re out. Obviously, CD (Corey Davis) is a season ending injury, but it’s a next man up, everybody knew what they were supposed to do. And you know, obviously there was plays left to be made.

Jets RB Ty Johnson

On the dropped passes...

They hit my hands, I dropped it. What else is there to say? I can make those catches, and I believe in myself to make those catches, but I just didn’t give eyes to the ball and look it all the way in. I told Zach (Wilson), “That was completely on me. If it touches my hands, I need to bring them in, simple as that.” That’s what I told him on the sideline, that’s what I told him in the locker room just now. I’ve been catching all year out of the backfield, just couldn’t look them in those first three ones, and then I caught them in the second half, bounced back from it. I feel I ended on a better note. But yeah, simple as that, I dropped them.

On the offensive struggles...

We just can’t shoot ourselves in the foot, we got to complete passes, you know what I’m saying, sustain drives. Like I said, three of those were on me, I take 100% accountability for them. You can’t just have three and out, three and out, three and out. Regardless if it’s me, someone else, or anything like that, we’ve got to protect the quarterback when he gets the ball out, we’ve got to catch it when he gets the ball out and just keep the sticks moving.

On where he feels the team is right now...

I think anyone would be disappointed with any loss, regardless if you’re in playoff contention or not. Simple as that. It sucks to lose, no one wants to lose, we don’t go out there and practice every day to lose. It’s disappointing, but I’d be disappointed about any game. I don’t care if we’re in playoffs or anything like that, a loss is a loss. I hate losing, love winning, but that’s what it was. Yeah, it’s disappointing, but no matter what it’s going to be disappointing, no matter what.

Jets LB C.J. Mosley

On defending against the run...

I felt like for the most part, we had a pretty solid game. Like we said, we knew what they were running based on their personnel. They showed us a few different runs. I think, on the sideline, we made good adjustments. Obviously, in the second half, and on the last play at the end, they did a good job of scheming us on our defense. We didn’t have our extra guy in the box and they were able to get that big explosive run. So, obviously at the end of the game, you don’t want that. Just like every week, the things that we were good at, we try to get better. And the new things that we see and the things that we didn’t do well, we got to look at it and try to correct it for next week.

On making the Saints one dimensional...

I would say that, and also the Saints, they tried to run the ball, at the end of the day. It was every man for themselves, who can win their one-on-one’s. Some plays we got them, some plays they got us. But like I said, for the most part, I

think we had a decent job in the run game. There’s always going to be things we need to get better as far as scheme, gaps, things like that. So, we just got to watch the film tomorrow and get ready for next week.

On if this game was a setback...

Whether it’s a win or a loss, you have to find a way to get better. Obviously, when you lose, the things that you need to get better on are heightened, and when you win, it’s not as much. You got to look at it as an opportunity each time you get out on the field, you have to find a way to make your game better which is going to make the team better. When every guy is looking at one thing they can improve on, ultimately that’s going to build up and the team will get better. Easier said than done, obviously, but we just got to find a way. That starts tomorrow. Honestly, I’m excited to get back to work tomorrow. I felt like I let the team down last time we played Miami giving up that touchdown, that last touchdown play. So, I got a chip on my shoulder going into this game, and when you have records like this, when you have seasons like this, you have to find a way that you can talk to yourself like, ‘What can I do this week to improve my game? What can I look at this week? What little thing can I find this week? How much more film can I watch because I know my opponent might be watching more than me when I’m hanging out?’ It’s just little mind games like that that you just got to try to just make yourself try to improve and it turns when you’re doing those things, when your players, when your teammates looking at you that they want to get better, they want to talk to you and ask, ‘Alright, what are you looking at? How do you see this?’ Just those little things start to add up.

Jets DT Sheldon Rankins

On the trouble they had against the Saints’ run game...

I think for the most part we did a solid job. Obviously, Alvin (Kamara) is one of the better backs not only in the league but when it’s all said and done, probably one of the better backs to ever play the game. He’s able to break a few but with that type of guy, he’s going to make some plays. But overall, we crowd him pretty well. Obviously can’t have that last run, but overall listen, we knew coming into the game there’s a quarterback with a messed-up finger. His best attribute is also being able to run the ball. They were going to lean on the run, short passes which are extended runs. We’ve just got to be able to remain consistent in our detail and level of play throughout four quarters. There were times where we were able to stop it, get some good stops, run stops behind the line of scrimmage, get them in negative yard situations. Overall, when we needed some stops, we just weren’t able to get them.

On the difficulty for the defense when the offense is struggling...

At the end of the day, we just got to be able to get stops. I think there’s going to be times where our offense is rolling and we’re getting breaks and we’ve experienced that. There’s been times when the offense is rolling, and we’ve been getting breaks on the sideline but there’s going to be times when they struggle. Zach (Wilson) is still growing in this league. He’s going to have times where he struggles a bit, but at the end of the day we got to be pick him up. We got to be able to get those stops and get him the ball again so he can continue to create his rhythm, continue to get more comfortable with everything out there. So, it’s just on us. We got to be able to get those stops when we need them.

On what this team has to do to become a playoff team again in future seasons...

Got to continue to get better. I think I spoke on that, we got to continue to play consistent football through four quarters. We can’t play good for a quarter and a half and then give up things going into half time, and then come out slow or anything like that. We got to be able to continue to play consistent four quarters of football, because that’s what the good teams do. At the end of the day, the good teams are able to sustain the level of consistency, the level of high play for four quarters, no matter the situation. So, we’ve just got to be able to continue to do that, and we will. We’ve just got to continue to get better. Guys got to get reps, guys got to continue to push and learn and continue to want to get better. And we’ll get there.