



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. ATLANTA FALCONS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, the Saints improve to 8-2 on the season and have won seven consecutive games, dating back to a 35-29 Week 4 victory at Detroit. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, November 29 when they take on the Denver Broncos at Empower Field at Mile High. Kickoff is set for 3:05 pm CT on FOX.
- The Saints have now recorded eight winning streaks of at least seven games, their fifth under Head Coach **Sean Payton** and their third in four seasons.
- With the win, New Orleans improves its overall home regular season record to 208-206-1, including games played at Tulane Stadium, the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Giants Stadium (2005), San Antonio's Alamodome (2005), Tiger Stadium (2005), and Wembley Stadium (2008). New Orleans' record improves to 79-39 in regular season home games since 2006.
- For HC **Sean Payton**, the victory improves his record against Atlanta to 19-8, his home mark to 10-4, and improves his record against Falcons Interim Head Coach Raheem Morris to 4-3, making him the 50th head coach he has a winning record against.
- Today's win gave Payton his 139th career regular season win, putting him in a tie with Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy for 24th all-time in NFL records.
- Offensively, New Orleans amassed 378 total yards, including a season-high 168 rushing yards on 36 carries (4.7 avg.) and 210 passing yards. New Orleans has rushed for at least 100 yards in eight of their ten games this season, including each of their last five contests.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Atlanta to 248 total net yards, including 59 rushing yards and 196 net passing yards, while posting a season-high eight sacks.
- New Orleans held Atlanta's leading rusher, running back Todd Gurley, to 26 yards on eight carries. New Orleans now hasn't allowed 100 rushing yards to a single player for an NFL-record 53 consecutive regular season and postseason games.
- QB **Taysom Hill**'s first career start, in place of an injured Drew Brees, was a success as he completed 18—of-23 passes for 233 yards, while also carrying ten times for a game-high 51 yards with a career-high two rushing touchdowns and a 108.9 passer rating, joining Daunte Culpepper only the second player in the Super Bowl era with 40+ rush yards & 2+ rush TD in his first QB start.
- WR **Michael Thomas** enjoyed his most successful performance of the season with nine receptions for 104 yards, with his second catch which was his 482nd, giving him the most catches by an NFL player in his first five NFL seasons, surpassing Jarvis Landry's 481 grabs.
- RB **Alvin Kamara** rushed 13 times for 45 yards with one touchdown, as he scored his 50th career touchdown and became the first NFL player to have 500 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving in each of his first four seasons
- With his 50th career touchdown, Kamara moves into a tie with WR Joe Horn for sixth place in club record books. With the score, Kamara now has 308 career points, surpassing both Horn and TE Jimmy Graham (306) to move into tenth-place on the club's all-time list.
- Running back **Latavius Murray** carried 12 times for 49 yards and also recorded two grabs for 36 yards, including a 25-yard grab, as Murray surpassed 6,000 career total yards from scrimmage..
- Appearing in his 138th consecutive game, LB **Demario Davis** led the Saints with seven tackles (four solo) and added one sack and one pass defensed.

- S **Marcus Williams** recorded an interception at the end of the first half. He now has a team-high three picks in 2020 and with 13 career interceptions is now tied for tenth in club record books with CBs Mike McKenzie and Fred Thomas in picks.
- CB **C.J. Gardner-Johnson** recorded four tackles and two passes defended.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** had four solo tackles, three sacks for a 14-yard loss, three tackles for loss and three quarterback hits. With 21 sacks against Atlanta, Jordan became the 12th player in NFL history to have 20 sacks against an opponent. With 92.5 sacks, Jordan now moved into the top 50 all-time in 48th place. It was also Jordan's fourth career game with at least three takedowns, three occurring against the Falcons
- DE **Trey Hendrickson** posted two solo tackles, two sacks for six-yard loss, one quarterback hit and three quarterback hits. With 9.5 takedowns, he is tied for the league lead with Cleveland DE Myles Garrett.
- CB **Janoris Jenkins** recorded his second interception of the season and the 25th of his career, becoming only the seventh player since he was drafted by the St. Louis Rams in 2012 to have 25 picks in that period. Jenkins added five tackles and a career-high five passes defended.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 39.8 net yards on four punts, placing two inside the 20-yard line, while playing in his 184th career game, moving into sixth place in club record books past DE/DT Jim Wilks.
- DT **David Onyemata** finished the game with three tackles, two sacks for a nine-yard loss, two tackles for loss and two quarterback hits, setting a new season career-high with five takedowns.
- S **J.T. Gray** and LB **Alex Anzalone** each recorded a special teams tackle as the Saints allowed 0 yards on one punt return and 18 yards on one kickoff return.
- The Saints extend their streak to 298 regular season games without being shut out, the longest such running streak in the NFL and fourth longest all-time. The streak dates back to September 6, 2002 when New Orleans defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 26-20 at Raymond James Stadium.



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints Head Coach Sean Payton

(On Taysom Hill's performance and a good team win): "I thought that he played well. He had the one turnover late in the game in the four minute. We had a big touchdown pass called back. It's a good team win. I thought that we were fantastic defensively. I don't know what our rushing numbers were (on rush defense), but I think that it's a really good run defense. We managed to take advantage of enough opportunities to win that game."

(On if Taysom Hill settled down as the game went on today): "Yeah, listen, it's your first start ever in the NFL. I think that he called one formation (and) flipped around the wrong way. There was one motion. All of that kind of calmed down and he got very comfortable with the flow of the game. We did a good job up front, I thought, blocking him."

(On How Taysom Hill handled the week of preparation): "It's the process that we go through every week. Obviously, it's a different type of plan. Our players were good all week, rock solid. Jameis (Winston, all of us (were prepared)). Look, this happens a lot to other positions; and, I understand when it happens to the quarterback, there is more attention drawn to it. These guys handled it well. We have been playing well. It's good to get another win."

(On if the team got different looks from the Falcons because Taysom Hill was playing): "I don't think so. I think that we've seen a number of the stuff that we saw today, we've seen on film probably more recently. Certainly, in the second half with our lead, we got a little bit of a heavier run-front look, but we got those in our home and away games last year."

(On how much the offense changed with Taysom Hill at quarterback): "The offense changed some. We carried a lot of the same protections. Certainly, we featured some heavy play-actions. We felt like it was going to be a lot of down-safety defense. I thought that we threw the ball downfield well. I was proud of the execution. Again, I thought that we blocked them up front real well."

(On the defense): "I just finished telling them that that is a really good offense that we are seeing. When you look at position by position, I thought that that was a key. Without one of our starting corners, that was impressive."

(On the pass coverage): "We got into some zone traps and we did a good job of keeping it in front of us. I thought that we were a half a step on each break getting the ball knocked down. We contested a lot of passes. I thought that we were very good on the back end."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints RB Alvin Kamara

Alvin, what are your overall thoughts on Taysom's Hill first start in the NFL? "He got a win obviously. That's not too bad. He did well, being his first start. He was calm. He settled into the game pretty quickly. I know he wishes he had that big shot (play) to Emmanuel (Sanders). He probably would have wished that went through. Overall, he played clean."

Can you discuss how confident the team is playing no matter who is injured? "Yes. I think I answered this earlier in the week, but this team is resilient. We have that mentality throughout the locker room that next man up type of thing. Whoever goes down (gets injured) it is what it is. This game does not stop for one player. Everybody knows that. It is nothing personal. It's the nature of the game. Next person has to step up, get ready and be prepared. In that case, Taysom has to prepare and do all the things he has to do come out her and execute and to get a win and he got a win so we are feeling good."

How important is it for you all to see Michael Thomas have a huge day? "It is good to see him get out there and have the type of production he is used to having. Obviously being injured is tough for anyone especially somebody that is explosive as him. Being injured and having to battle back and battle back. But you just have to keep your mind right and try to bounce back and do anything you can to get healthy. He is getting closer to 100% healthy and we are proud of him."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints LB Demario Davis

Talk about the defensive performance today?

"It's all about our preparation. Our coaches came in and gave us a great gameplan, understanding our team, what we needed to do, our opponent and then just going out and executing. It's so much about the process. That's what we're locked in to. We just know the results will take care of themselves."

With the way the defensive line played today, how easy does that make it for the linebacker corps and how did the secondary perform without Marshon Lattimore in this game?

"Marshon is a big guy, a force. I always tell him when he's playing better, the defense is playing better, so he's that key guy for us. I issued that challenge to Marcus (Williams) today. I said Marc, you got next guy. When you play well, we all play well. That interception at the end of the first half was huge for us. Our back end guys played fast and when they play well it actually helps the d-line and they just need a few seconds to get back their. Our defensive line played lights out. That was big of Cam Jordan to put the defense on his back. He sacks Matt Ryan so much it's like they go to Thanksgiving together. I don't know. So it was just a phenomenal effort by the entire unit. I'm very proud of how they played."

A lot of people around the country will be surprised about how Taysom Hill played this football game, not just because of how he ran the ball, even though he did that well. Did he surprised you in how he played?

"No, we trust our system and the guys in our locker room. We don't care who's in at any time. At the end of the day for us to be successful, it's about us playing good, complementary football, so we know who's in there, they're going to play at a high level, they know they have their brothers to pick them up, whether things are going well or not so well. That's the thing for us down the stretch to play complementary football. Taysom (Hill) played lights out, protecting the football, moving us downfield, making the right throws and we have to keep doing it to get where we want to be."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints DE Cameron Jordan

You had three sacks on Sunday, what is it about Atlanta that brings out the best in you?

"It's what it means to the city, it's Atlanta hate week, but I love them. I think that they have a phenomenal team. When you talk about Calvin Ridley, you talk about (Russell) Gage playing well. You can't even talk about those two without talking about Julio (Jones) and you have a former NFL MVP in Matt Ryan, so you have to take them that much more serious this week, especially with Drew Brees down. We just figured we give it our all each and every game and this gameplan game together perfectly."

Is this defensive line coming together at just the right time?

"Most definitely, David (Onyemata) ended up with 1.5. Demario (Davis) had another 1.5, Trey (Hendrickson) two and I'm playing catch up at this point. You need to win your one on ones at this point and it seems that they decided they weren't going to honor all the chips thrown against me this year. I love a good one on one show."

You've gotten double teams for years and this probably hasn't been quite your year statistically, but what can today do for you?

"I've always said from the beginning, if I'm getting double-teamed, someone else is getting one-on-ones and if they're winning their one-on-ones, everything is going to come full circle. I tell the whole d-line, everybody just take a deep breath, keep calm, it all comes full circle. As long as you guys are winning eventually they can't block all of us."

Last year when Drew Brees went down you guys went 5-0 with Teddy Bridgewater and the defense stepped up. Did you feel you guys had to do it again?

"I think these last couple games the defense has been striding in the right direction. The beautiful thing is there is room for us to grow. I think we could have ended up with four or five turnovers. There were some interceptions left out there, but we'll break down the film and better from that ASAP. We have Denver."

Any thoughts about Taysom Hill?

"When you talk about what he's been able to do, you have to be leery of his legs. He's able to sit back there, drop back and really release the big cannons. There were explosive plays this week when you talk about Emmanuel Sanders does, Mike T does, what Jared Cook was getting loose with. We have a strong wide receiver corps. That's a lot of weapons and then you add in the Alvin Kamara, lights camera action, Kamara."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints DE Trey Hendrickson

Eight sacks collectively today that gives you 17 in the last two games against Atlanta, is there something against when you're playing against Atlanta that just allows you to have that much success?

"Well, it's really it's game plan and execution. Sacks come when Defensive backs are covering; linebackers are covering or blitzing, and then D-lineman or finishing or rushing. It's a team game for a reason. Nothing can get done if we're not working on 11 guys together."

Cam Jordan had three sacks today. How big is that for y'all when he gets going like that?

"He's a force. He's been talking about it all week. This is what he what he visualized, what he planned on doing and he executed his plan. Obviously, a three-sack game is something special. I think that's seven sacks in the last two (games against Atlanta) for him. He is eating and whenever he's rolling, the energy's up, everybody hyped. and that's a good day."

How much have you seen the back-side of the defense grow and improve?

"They're doing a great job, whether it's getting into film, putting it in practice, and putting in extra stuff. They're all over these guys. You can't say enough. Like I said, a sack clean, that's tough to come by. These, like having that extra second goes a long way."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints WR Michael Thomas

On how the offense operated with Taysom Hill: “Man, he played tremendous. I can tell, all throughout the week, his preparation, I can see the look in his eyes. He was ready for the moment every day. He found a way to win today. And he just progressed today and everyone saw it. And I'm very proud of him. And man, I'm kind of at a loss for words because I know he's been waiting for that moment and he finally got it. And he showed what he could do and we still have a lot of room for improvement. That's the exciting thing.”

On how the offense changed and/or stayed the same: “Sean (Payton) gives us a game plan and we go out there and execute it to the best of our abilities. You know, we don't worry too much about, you know, anything else, just executing our play. And going out there playing fast, playing with tempo and making our plays when our number is called. And, you know, our defense played lights out today. So, it was just a fun game out there seeing a lot of guys step up and make plays.”

On his confidence coming back from injury: “Man, I'm just out here to compete with my teammates and secure the victories. My body will heal when it heals, it's a process. It's a long season, right now in the middle of the season, I mean, everyone's probably dealing with something. So, as long as I find ways to improve and throughout the week, keep working and enhancing my treatment. I'm out here to help my teammates, I'm going to do it.”

On the week of preparation with Taysom Hill at QB: “No, he was ready. All week, he was ready for his opportunity. He knew his number was being called. He went out there and he did his thing and I am just proud of him. And I can't wait to see what he does next week, because he is just going to keep improving. He's a football player with a lot of discipline. And he loves the game and I love playing with him.”

On connections with Taysom Hill: “Which one, the terrible drop I had? I do not think we ran that play exactly back, but I was really disappointed in myself on that drop. Taysom (Hill) has a fast ball. But that was a great ball. All of his passes today were great. On point. I could have caught them all. And that was 100% on me but we executed and moved on. I felt like I got better throughout the game, so that was good.”

On if adjustments needed to be made having Hill at QB: “No, the adjustment was my hands. Catch the ball.”

On his confidence about getting a game with opportunities to catch balls: “It's a long season. It's a long season. One thing I knew coming into this week, that our team needed to execute and play at a high level. And I knew the opportunity was here. And another thing was Taysom Hill. I just wanted to be out there, help him, support him and have his back. So, whenever he threw the ball to me, and I know that goes for all the other receivers too. They were just ready to make a play to help him, help this offense have success.”

On feeding off the defense: “Oh, we feed off them, 100%, man. 100 %. Even the special teams, they made some great plays today too. The defense, man, that pass rush. You know, Atlanta has some great receivers. So, shout out to secondary too. They played tremendous. So, you know, that defense right there is trending in the right direction. And I'm excited to see how far they can take it. Because there's so much more room for improvement on defense also. And everyone knows that in the building. So as long as we keep stacking these wins and getting better and doing our job, I think we'll be a very successful team.”

On Taysom Hill's passing game efforts: “I was proud of him to just lean on the guys around him. You know, don't take all those hits running the ball. You know, lean on us, allow us to make it right. Let's complement each other. And I feel like that's what we did. Like I said, I am just proud of him. Man, he played tremendous.”

On the chemistry between him and Taysom Hill: “I feel like it's a combination of development and just, execution throughout the week of practice. You know, allowing him, like running that route exactly how we'll run it on Sunday. So, that he knows where I'll be at and he knows where to put the ball and just execute in the preparation. And that's how you build confidence throughout the week. And then on Sunday, he gives me opportunities and I make them right.”

On changing any doubts about Taysom Hill today: “One-hundred percent. I feel like me and Taysom (Hill), we have the same chip on our shoulder. We're always trying to come out here and dominate and help this team win games. And always prove people wrong and prove the people that believe in us right. So, man, like, you know, he's a dog. Taysom (Hill) is a dog. So, just to see him come out there and play like he played today. Who cares what anybody else says, he's a baller.”



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

New Orleans Saints QB Taysom Hill

On finding out he would get the start at quarterback: “Look, I had a pretty good idea early in the week, Monday, Tuesday that I was going to get the start. Wasn’t confirmed, confirmed, until later in the week.”

On paying attention to criticism about the start: “No, no. Yeah, and not to be rude or disrespectful in any way. I don’t pay attention to any of that stuff. I care about the opinions of those closest to me, my friends, my family, my teammates, my coaches. And, you know, you get to this level and you have to have tunnel vision and do your thing.”

On how much designed run plays were scaled back this game: “Significantly. We obviously, had a couple and we obviously ran a couple in critical situations where we felt like we had an advantage and needed it. But, what you saw at the game, in terms of carries, is about what I expected.”

On what Drew Brees was like this week: “Man, Drew’s (Brees) the best. If I’m being honest, I didn’t fully understand what it took to be a starter in the NFL until I got here and I had the opportunity to learn from Drew (Brees). Man, Drew (Brees) was with me every step of the way this week. As we watched film, he was constantly asking me what I needed, and how he could be helpful. And so, he was so critical. He was such a comfort for me to have around. And I look up to him so much. He has become one of my best friends. And he was awesome.”

On reflecting about his journey to get to this point in his career: “I spent a lot of time reflecting. This week, my wife and I had so many conversations about where we’ve been, the process of getting here. And if I’m being honest, it was an emotional week. I felt a lot of love from a lot of people. And it was overwhelming in a good way. So, we spent a lot of time reflecting. And then to be able to come out and get a win in my first start, was gratifying more than anything. Man, I have so much love and respect for Drew (Brees) and my other teammates, that I wanted to make sure that I did my part to help us continue to win.”

On the overall evaluation of how the game went: “Yeah. Overall, I was happy with what we did. You know, I think the first thing is, you come out, you look at turnovers and I was really disappointed that I put the ball on the ground late in the game. (I) Felt like that was a drive where we could have just put the game away. And I coughed one up and I was disappointed in that. I missed a couple throws where the ball just kind of slipped out of my hand. And again, I think that those things are easy to fix. But overall, without looking at the film and really breaking everything down. I was happy with the way that I played. I was happy with the way that my teammates played. And man, it was a collective effort to get this win.”

On battling to get to the second or third reads instead of taking off: “No, I’d say as I prepared this week, look, I always know that I have the ability, if things break down I can make a play. And I had conversations with all my receivers going into the game. And I said, listen, just be ready if I

escape the pocket, to keep working because there are big plays to be had, situations like that. But my mindset was, man, let's keep your eyes down the field and let's find opportunities for those guys. The play you specifically referenced. We were hoping to get a heavier run sell, and get the ball to Tre'Quan (Smith). And the Falcons covered it well. And that was one of those situations where I was trying to get the ball to Emmanuel (Sanders) and they covered it well again. And I was able to make a play."

On appreciating how much attention and curiosity he gets: "I'm not sure how to answer that. I will say that my focus, my time, my attention was preparing on winning the football game today. And that was about it."

On getting more run heavy looks on first down from the Falcons today: "Yeah, we felt that way. That they were giving us a heavy box, kind of a run front. And then they were dropping out and playing a lot of zone behind it. So look, that's one of the things that makes Coach Payton, Coach Payton. So, we made a lot of adjustments, a lot of play action pass this week. And that was really because of what they were doing."

On not taking part in his usual roles this week on offense and special teams: "Yeah. It was definitely different. I think the biggest difference was obviously stepping into the role and making sure that as the QB you're ready for practice and you run those meetings and practice and everything else. But, it was significantly different, but in a great way. And I had a ton of fun all last week and had a ton of fun today."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME ATLANTA FALCONS QUOTES

FALCONS HEAD COACH RAHEEM MORRIS

(On if he can pinpoint why the offense struggled) “We really came out and got things going the way we wanted to, got down the field and weren’t able to punch it away in that red zone possession we had and that really got the three going. You’ve got to score touchdowns in those situations. We talk about all the time our job being able to score touchdowns, being able to score points. We got the three, we were able to get it down there and get it a couple of times. Koo did a nice job of making the field goals when he had the opportunity, but we never got going in the second half. They absolutely dominated us on third down. They did a really good job in coverage, I know the sack numbers will probably get out of whack because of how well they played in their coverage. It was really not a lack of protection or a lack of discipline, busted assignments, it was really those guys doing a really good job of coverage, absolutely covering our wideouts and Matt (Ryan) having to hold onto the ball. A combination of all of those things played into that.”

(On the wide receivers struggle to get open) “They played a nice mixture of two man, nice mixture of corners, and did a really good job of playing underneath coverage and sitting on routes and really taking away some of the things that we like to do. Kudos and hats off to Dennis Allen and his crew and his guys, along with A.G (Aaron Glenn). over there. Those guys did a nice job of covering us.”

(On Taysom Hill) “Taysom (Hill) came out and really had them under control in that first half and did some really good things. He got off a couple play action passes and was able to get his run game going with his legs and that really got him going. Once he got it going with his run game we had to make some sacrifices to stop some people to do those things. He was able to get some completions down the field on play action passes that we have to make plays on. His guys did it for him and the Saints beat us today in a well-fought, physical battle.”

(On preparing for both Hill and Winston, and if prepared as much as they should for Hill) “I just told the guys I didn’t feel bad about the week of preparation. I thought the guys did a great job of going out there and preparing and knowing exactly what they wanted to do. It showed when we came out in the first half as far as the preparation for the quarterback and what you wanted to do. He made more plays, he is a good football player. Hats off to him.”

(On Julio Jones hamstring) “We will find out what is going on tomorrow, but obviously he was not able to come back into the game because of the hammy. He did it pretty early and those guys went out there and battled but we have to see what is going on with Julio Jones.”

(On how to flip the switch when Julio Jones goes out): “It’s just like any other great player, when they leave, in those moments somebody has to step up, next man up mentality. We have to be able to do those things quicker, faster and more deliberately while we are in the game so we can go on and get a win.”

(On if the creativity was there offensively) “It’s hard to diminish what they are doing when you talk about the creativity and what they have been able to do the last couple of weeks. We have to go out and we have to execute better. We talked about this game being about the good, the bad, and the ugly, and we had more bad than good today. We definitely let those guys win the ugly battle. They came out and they were able to intimidate and do some different things. We were able to play physical and do some physical things, but they definitely got us when you talk about the good and the bad.”

(On if he expected Taysom Hill to pass as much as he did) “We knew he was the quarterback, we knew he was going to be able to come out and be able to be the quarterback. We knew he was going to throw the type of passes that he would throw, keeping them on the move with the keeper game, absolutely giving them the play action game. He did some of those things, he absolutely was able to do a few drop backs that he was able to complete that looked pretty good. Other than that, we knew and felt really good about our plan for him. We have to make some of those plays with some of the balls he did make down the field. We were not able to do that today and we have to go back and look at the reasons why and correct those things quickly and efficiently and be able to move on because we are going to see these guys in a couple of weeks.”

(On if the O-line was overpowered or out of sync) "It was a combination of those guys covering us really well, not being able to hold up for as long as some of those pass plays may have taken. We'll get a chance to go back and see what the analytics say on how long the pass goes in the progression and who got covered, who did what as far as progressions, but we don't want to just blow blame on the O-line all the way. A lot of those were a combination of coverage and rush."

(On the plan for Taysom Hill knowing he could pass and run) "you know what he is and you know what he can do really well so you want to limit the ability for him to be able to do those things really well, which he got going really well in the second half. We were able to cause that one fumble on him when he broke out on us on a big time run, and those things limit you on as far as what you want to do. You know he has the ability to fake that and come out with a play action pass and you have to make a play on some of these play action passes whether it be a sack-fumble or whether it be making a play on the ball down the field and we were not able to do that in the second half to absolutely flip the momentum once they got it."

(On Matt Ryan seeming out of sync) "You have to give the Saints credit. They did a great job on defense, their defensive backs did a nice job to limit us and what we were able to do. Those guys came out and had a great game plan for us. They did a nice job of keeping Matt (Ryan) under control. They did a nice job of keeping our receivers under control. You have to give those guys credit for what they were able to do."

(On the importance of staying motivated knowing they will see the Saints again) "It's a division opponent and those things always sting but you have to get back knowing that you are going to play these guys a couple times. We know them, they know us, it's always going to be about the stuff we talked about before, more good, less bad and we have to go out there and we have to absolutely win the ugly game. We did not win that today and they won it. It was a good job by those guys."

(On if he is surprised by the performance coming out of a bye week) "The guys really had a great week of preparation. I thought it was one of our best. That's doesn't always dictate the terms of how it's going to look when you go out there and play the game obviously as it happened today. We came out ready to play, guys came off the bus ready to play. We had a nice feel for it in the first half. Going into halftime and having a chance to take a lead going into half but those guys getting a big time sack and then knocking down the hail mary coming out with the one point lead. We really felt like we could take control of the game in the second half and we were never able to capture that. They went right down and scored on us. They got the ball back. We had a bunch of three and out, we were limited on third down which we have to get better at. All of things happened in that game and we could never shift momentum back to where we could take control of the game and win it."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME ATLANTA FALCONS QUOTES

QUARTERBACK MATT RYAN

(On the New Orleans Saints defense): “They did a good job of rushing different packages the entire day, stressing our pass protection and they did a good job of covering in the back end. Tip your hat to them, they played well today and we have to play better in a couple of weeks when we see them again. We will look at the film tomorrow and find ways to be better next week.”

(On if the Saints defense is a little under the radar based off of what they showed today) “They are playing well, there is no doubt about it. They have been playing well all year and giving people trouble at different time. Again, my hats off to them, I thought they played really well. We have to find a way to be better in a couple of weeks when we see them.”

(On discussions at half on more creativity): “I just think we need to be better at first down. In the third quarter, first and second down we got behind the chains much and put ourselves in really tough third down positions that you are not going to convert at a high clip. I thought we came out and didn’t play great in the third quarter and just got behind in the game, behind in the chains a little too much coming out of the half.”

(On trying to change pass protections and get more time to throw the ball) “Yes, we did, we had some different protection schemes where we were keeping five, or keeping six, and helping with the seventh, but it’s just one of those days. We have to find a way to be better as we move forward, we did not do a good enough job today.”

(On Julio Jones absence) “It’s always tough any time he goes down because it’s hard to replace that production and it also changes how teams defend us, but it’s not an excuse. We have to find a way with the guys that we have out there to better off and that is going to take all of the guys on our offense, 22, 23 guys deep, we have to find a way to be productive.”

(On preparation coming off of a bye week) “Any time you don’t score touchdowns you are disappointed whether it’s coming off of a bye or regardless of the week. We do this and we work hard, our responsibility as an offense is to score touchdowns and to score points. We were not very good today. We have to be better next week.”

(On the ground game being tough): “I just think we’ve got to be more efficient on early downs, first and second down, to get further into drives. I think we run the football best as we get into drives, six, eight, ten plays into it, we start to run the football and wear people down. We didn’t have many drives like that today.”

(On getting a chance to play the Saints again at home) “For sure, it’s going to be a quick turnaround. Obviously, we have Vegas next week and they are playing very well so we have to focus on that and be better and get a win next week, but we’ll see these guys in two weeks and hopefully have a different outcome.”