



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES
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GREEN BAY PACKERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 • LAMBEAU FIELD
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss against the Packers, the Saints moved to 2-1 on the season. New Orleans hosts the Tampa Bay Buccaneers next Sunday at Caesars Superdome. Kickoff is scheduled for 12pm CT.
- Giving up 18 points on Sunday, the Saints have given up 20 or fewer points in eleven consecutive games, extending the franchise record set last Monday night against the Panthers.
- Dating back to surrendering 13 points to San Francisco on November 27, 2022, the Saints have given up 18 or fewer points in nine straight contests, the longest stretch in franchise history breaking the tie of eight games running from Dec. 16, 1991-Oct. 11, 1992.
- The defense held Green Bay to zero first half points and just 74 yards passing.
- QB **Derek Carr** led the Saints offense, finishing 13-of-18 for 103 yards and a score with a passer rating of 104.6.
- Carr now has 3,258 career completions, passing Alex Smith Sunday to move into 25th all-time in NFL record books.
- QB **Jameis Winston** filled in for Carr after being injured in the third quarter and totaled 10 completions on 16 attempts for 101 yards.
- WR **Chris Olave** led the Black and Gold receivers again, adding eight receptions for 104 yards in the contest, including the longest play of the day for the offense on a 28 yard grab.
- WR/RS **Rashid Shaheed** had a 76 yard punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter, the first punt return for a touchdown since a 53 yard return score by Deonte Harty on 9/22/19 at Seattle. Shaheed's return also marked the third longest in franchise history, with the top two being 83 yard return touchdowns by former Saints, Michael Lewis at Washington 10/12/02 and Tyron Hughes at Philadelphia, 12/26/1993
- WR **Michael Thomas** finished with six catches for 50 yards.
- Rookie RB **Kendre Miller** made his NFL debut against Green Bay, adding team-highs in carries (9) and rushing yards (34).

- TE **Jimmy Graham's** caught an eight-yard touchdown grab in the first quarter, moving into 17th all-time in touchdown receptions (86) and 53nd all-time in NFL record books with 714 career catches.
- LB **Pete Werner** led the defense with 11 tackles in the contest.
- With his solo tackle against the Packers, LB **Demario Davis** now has 800 career solo stops.
- CB **Marshon Lattimore** contributed seven defensive stops and a pass defended.
- CB **Alontae Taylor totaled five** tackles, a career-high five passes defended, a sack and two tackles for loss.
- CB **Isaac Yiadom** added four tackles and a career-high four passes defended for the Saints secondary.
- P **Lou Hedley** punted seven times for 293 yards (41.9 avg).

SAINTS HEAD COACH DENNIS ALLEN:

(opening comments) "Give the Packers credit. They made the plays they needed to make to win the game. I feel like we let one slip through our hands, and we've got to be better than that. I thought the second half, too many explosives. Penalties down the field which I thought ended up costing us in the game. We've got to get in more. We've got to make the corrections and we've got to learn from this and we've got to get better from it."

(on QB Derek Carr being in the hospital) "He's being examined for something with his shoulder."

(on if he knows what they are looking for at the hospital on Carr) "I don't know. They're doing an evaluation. I think it's x-rays. I haven't heard yet. He's being evaluated. I can't tell you really any more than that. It's a shoulder injury and he's being evaluated. When we know what it is, we'll let you know."

(on what happened with the field goal kicking operation) "I haven't asked the question. We just got off the field."

(on the approach changing being up by 17) "No, I don't think so. I mean, I just don't think we executed as well as we should have, and I think they did. So that's really what it was."

(on QB Jameis Winston stepping in) "Yeah, I thought Jameis did fine stepping in. We'll have to look at the tape and really go back and evaluate where he was. Look, overall, I'm just going to say it wasn't good enough for any of us, so I'm not pointing anybody individually out. I'm just saying as a team we weren't good enough. We've got to be better than that. Particularly in the second half."

(on the back-to-back pass interference calls) "I didn't have a great view of it, so I couldn't comment on it. One of them, the one I think it was on Alontae (Taylor), I wasn't sure that I agreed with that one so."

(on the quarterback protection) "Yeah, I think it needs to be better. For whatever reason, we've got to figure that out. Particularly early in game. I think that's something that we've got to improve, and we've got to get better at. We knew that this was a team that can rush the passer."

(on why the quarterback protection isn't working) "There's a couple of them where we just got beat early. We'll have to keep looking at what we're doing technique wise, what are we teaching. Are we teaching the right things, but certainly that's an area that we've got to get better at that because it's not been good enough."

(on passing up a 55-yard field goal) "Look, I felt like at that moment in the game, I mean I felt like that was the right call. The way we were playing, the moment in the game. Turns out that those points right there could have been a big deal. Everybody's got the ability to look back and see how it ended and question what you did, but I thought that was still the right decision."

(on what changed for the secondary) "They started taking their shots down the field and they converted a couple. They got a couple of PI (pass interference) calls which created some, you know, flipped the field and I thought that was really kind of the difference."

(on his confidence in Winston if Carr is hurt) "Look, I'm confident in our football team. We stumbled today. We'll learn from it; we'll get better from it, and we'll keep going."

(on how Carr was doing when he left the game) “Yeah, look, I mean he was frustrated. He was hurt and then they took him in the medical tent and told me he’d be out for the game. They said they were taking him to get some evaluation and then we’ll see where that goes.”

(on the spirit of the team being impacted by Carr’s injury) “No, I don’t think that was it at all. Once they kind of got the momentum, it was hard for us to try to get it flipped. I don’t know that we ever really did.”

SAINTS QUARTERBACK JAMEIS WINSTON:

(on his mindset entering the game) “Initially, is Derek (Carr) okay and hopefully he will be fine. The second thing is, I am prepared for this opportunity. I have been there before and I was ready.”

(on dealing with momentum shifts) “We all are getting better week to week so we are going to build on the positives and eliminate the negatives. This is a great environment. Everyone in that locker room was grateful to be in this environment and like I said we are getting better and we are going to build on the positives and eliminate the negatives.”

(on being in a similar situation a few years back) “You just stay ready. You encourage the guy, like Derek, make sure he is okay, and that is what my concern is right now. This team, we will be fine. We are ready. We are prepared. We have great leaders on this team. So that is the main thing, just making sure that Derek is fine.”

(on his offensive weapons if he will be starting a few games) “Well, just take advantage of every opportunity that is given out there. We have some great players. The Saints have historically had great players. Now it is just going out there and executing.”

(on if his mentality changes with great offensive weapons) “Yeah when you go into every game the mentality is to win, and as long as we are winning, that’s when it’s fun.”

(on the final drive of the game) “The goal is to win, and we win together as a team and we lose together as a team. We are going to build off that and we will be better.”

(on how the team is feeling) “We have been here before. I believe we are prepared. We have a tough division opponent next week, and this week is a great opportunity for all of us to be accountable for ourselves and come together closer, come closer together as a team and go out there and execute, and get a win.”

(on if he talked with Carr) “I didn’t see him, but I know he is a warrior and he will be fine.”

(on what he saw on the Carr injury) “I just saw I had to get my helmet. That is what I saw. I know, again, that he is a warrior and when he didn’t get off the field, my main focus is how is he doing and I am ready.”

(on getting RB Alvin Kamara back next week) “This team is definitely excited to get AK. I think he is definitely a part of our team that we have been missing. He adds electricity to our team. I am going to be happy to see him in the building and to be able to work with him. Anytime you get an opportunity to work with a future hall of famer as he is you get excited.”

(on how he can relate to Carr's injury) "No, you focus on building on the positives and eliminating the negatives. Just get healthy and do what you can to be there for the team, and I know that is what he is going to be doing. Getting ready."

(on not winning this game) "I believe that I was prepared for this opportunity and I believe as a team we know that we let this one slip away, but we will be resilient and we will persevere. That is the game that we play. We love this game. Sometimes this game doesn't benefit us the way that we want, but in that room over there is a bunch of warriors. This is a bunch of resilient men, and I know that we will bounce back."

PACKERS HEAD COACH MATT LaFLEUR:

(on the game) "Well there was never a doubt, right? Not how we draw it up. You have to give the Saints a ton of credit. They built a pretty good lead right there, but I've never been a part of a game like this. The guys in the locker room, they believed. They believed in one another, and they continued to battle. That's really, as a coach, that's all you can ask of anybody is to continue to fight, continue to battle. It certainly wasn't pretty from an offensive standpoint. There was obviously a huge mistake on special teams. I thought our defense battled for four quarters. If you hold an offense to 10 points in this league, you should typically win that game. But the resiliency of that locker room was incredible. I have never seen anything like it. It's hard not to get too emotional about it, but I just can't say enough great things about this group in terms of just the mentality and the belief in one another. The way they work. Obviously, we were shorthanded. A lot of really good players when you look at that inactive list, there's a lot of big-time names on that list. But, it doesn't matter cause that's the National Football League and everybody's dealing with different things, but our guys continued to fight, continued to battle. It was like a nightmare that went to a dream. I can't even remember the fourth quarter, it was just a blur. Have to give our coaching staff and everybody a part of this, our players certainly, a ton of credit to continue to fight and battle for four quarters."

(on when the dream started) "I think after we got that two-point conversion. A lot of times I've been on the other side of that thing now, and when that whole momentum flips, it's a crazy phenomenon that you can't explain. I think there was just a lot of belief that we were going to find a way. It got hairy obviously at the end of the game. They put themselves in a situation to kick a field goal and go for the win, and everything just kind of broke right for us."

(on the decision to go for the two-point conversion) "Well, I've got this guy Connor Lewis in my ear non-stop telling me 'go for two, go for two.' To be honest with you, I didn't feel great about the play call, and then the execution definitely was not how we practiced it, but I had a lot of belief in the way our quarterback was playing. He was making off-schedule plays, and I thought our offensive line, I know our running game wasn't always pretty. There were some bad play calls in there certainly, but the way we were pass protecting, I thought 'well if the initial read isn't there, we have a guy that can go off-schedule' and that's what happened. We went off-schedule. The timing of the motion was certainly not right. I think that's something we have to re-evaluate as a coaching staff. We had a lot of mistakes offensively and a lot of penalties that put us in some bad situations. We just didn't execute most of the plan, at least not the way we designed it. If it is, if that's the way we designed it, then that's some bad ball out there. But, that's also a credit to the Saints defense. I mean, that's a legit defense. They have players on all three levels. They did a great job of playing with great effort. We had to go two-minute, and that's when we started making plays."

(on the emotion of today's win) "Yeah, I mean I can't wait to go back and watch, which is going to happen right now because we're obviously on a short week. We'll be right back in the office. It's basically Wednesday on our timeline. We have a big opponent coming in with Detroit, doing a lot of great things. But, that whole fourth quarter was just a blur. I've never been a part of something like that before. Where it looks so bleak, but our guys continued to fight, continued to battle, and that's all you can ask of anybody. To me that says something about those guys in that locker room."

(on what it does for a young quarterback to get a comeback win like this) "I think it does a lot. Again, that wasn't always how we drew it up, certainly, but when he had to make plays, he was making plays. And I thought there were more plays out there. We have to come down with some of those balls. Now, a lot of those wideouts made some great catches as well, I think we have to look at some of the things we're asking certain guys to do and make the necessary adjustments. But, the poise that he shows is really remarkable. I think the leadership that he shows is unbelievable. I would go down there before we take a drive and he's talking to all the guys and encouraging everybody. Those guys are going to fight for him. I think everybody in that locker room is going to fight for Jordan Love."

(on continuing to keep calling the endzone fade routes to WR Romeo Doubs despite the lack of success early on) "Yeah, we felt we had something there, obviously, and you have to take advantage when you have a situation. Everybody knows the type of corner that (Marshon) Lattimore is and you go opposite of him. If you think that's the best thing you can do, you take advantage and those guys made a play, and I can't say enough of 'Rome.' The aggressive hands to go up for that, and he came down with it."

(on Jordan's leadership and if it's grown more than he could have imagined this early) "Yeah, I think so. I mean, it's not like he's been in this league for a while, but it's cool to see his personality come out. I think it's always tough, and I've said this before, on quarterbacks when you are in that No. 2 role, you want to be respectful of the position, but it's not your team until you are the guy. And we are seeing what he's all about. He's a competitive dude, and I think he's learned a lot over these last couple years from one of the all-time greats, and it's cool to see his personality come out in his play and his play making ability. I know it wasn't perfect and some of that is play design and some of that is having young people in certain spots. Whether we're not on the same page like the fourth down comes to mind, and there was one to (Luke) Musgrave down the middle, just in terms of the angles guys are going to take on certain routes. That came up a week ago. We've got a lot of young guys and there's going to be some tough learning moments and our job, really everybody's job, is try not to make the same mistake twice."

(on expecting injuries to key players) "I don't think there's any expectation other than going out there and competing to the best of your ability, and that's what we challenge this group to do. That's the only expectation is go out there and compete for four quarters, and those guys did that. They responded, and that's a credit to everybody. RG (Rashan Gary), he was awesome when he credited the look teams in practice. They are making it hard on our defense, and the look team on defense is making it hard on our offense, and that's what it's all about. When you have everybody competing to the best of their ability, it might not always look pretty in practice but hopefully that translates to the game and the games not so hard. Although today was pretty hard in certain aspects, but I'm super proud of those guys."

(On the impact of a win for the short week upcoming) "I would say it gives you momentary momentum, but that all gets erased as soon as Thursday hits. Like I said, it's Wednesday in our world and our guys are in the tubs right now doing some recovery. We'll give them until tomorrow

to try to get their bodies back and then it's a grind from here on out until Thursday. That's the way Thursday Night Football rolls."

(On corrections to make before the game against Detroit) "We need to correct everything. There's a lot to correct. Detroit, in my opinion, is one of the more talented and better teams in our league, certainly in our division and conference. They're a gritty football team. Dan Campbell has done a hell of a job there. They've brought in a lot of good players, so it's going to be a great challenge for us on a short week. We're going to have to try to get everybody back as soon as possible. We're missing some big-time players. Hopefully they're available, but if they're not, it's the next man up."

(On defensive performance) "I thought it was great. I've got to go back and look at the tape. I was wracking my brain and trying to figure out how to get a first down most of the game. Our coaches work their butts off trying to come up with a plan to, in all phases, to attack whomever we are playing and our players were battling and competing their butts off. They did a great job defensively. Joe Barry and that crew did a great job and we really held them to 10 points. A lot of the credit goes to our defense today."

(On the 4th down incompleteness to begin the 4th quarter) "The fourth down, to be honest with you, we were looking at the match up of (Luke) Musgrave and what he was going to have. But Damarion Davis, who was covering (Patrick Taylor), but he was seven or eight yards off and he (Jordan Love) looked out there and saw it open. I have to go back and look at the timing of it, but it is a three-step route, and quite honestly, I was looking the other way when I saw the ball go flying incomplete. In that situation, what I told Jordan was, 'If you like the matchup, you can take it. If not, you can take the delay and we'll get three points.' I can't fault him for the decision he made. Again, I have to go back and look at it. But I thought Patrick Taylor has done some great things for us. Obviously being on the practice squad, coming in and contributing not only on the special teams, but doing things on offense from not only a pass protection standpoint, but also catching the ball out of the back field and blocking. It was just one of those plays that didn't work out and we'll get criticized for that."

(On the team attitude) "I felt the energy on the sideline. A guy like Darnell Savage, that first drive after we tried that trick play that failed miserably, said, 'Don't worry about it.' I'm guessing my body language wasn't very good after that play and we talk to these guys all the time about having good body language. I probably wasn't a model for that. He (Darnell Savage) said, 'Don't worry about it! We've got you.' at half time again. That's why I was hugging him so long at the end of the game there. All you can ask, and I've said it a million times tonight, is for guys to continue to compete for four quarters. That's what our team did and that's why I'm so proud of them."

(On going for it on fourth downs today) "There's a lot to go into that when you're down some key people. I told the coaching staff that we're going to be aggressive. Although I'm sure there's times where it didn't look like that. I'm sure our fans didn't love it when we took a kneel down with around six seconds left before half-time, backed up at our own 25-yard line. For the most part, we're trying to have an aggressive mindset. Some things are going to work in your favor and some things aren't. That's just the price of doing business. Hopefully it'll end up in our favor more times than not, but you're going to do whatever you have to do to get a win. Thankfully for all my miscues, our guys battled and continued to fight and overcame them."

PACKERS QUARTERBACK JORDAN LOVE:

(on how that win feels for him) "It feels great, that's all I can say. It feels great."

(on what the mood was after not converting the fourth down deep in Saints territory) "That was frustrating. We put a great drive together and decided to go for it right there and came up empty-handed. It definitely sucked going back to the sideline after that one, but nobody batted an eye, nobody flinched. We knew there was still time left, there was still opportunity."

(on what happened on the missed pass to RB Patrick Taylor) "It was just miscommunication between both us, so we'll have to see it on film and see what happened exactly."

(on what changed on the last three scoring drives) "I think we were just going (into) two-minute mode, going a little bit faster and taking some more shots downfield. We were getting a lot of man-to-man coverage and receivers were just capitalizing on those opportunities and just making plays for us."

(on the Jayden Reed and Romeo Doubs catches) "Those guys are special. They made some great plays when we needed it most. That's a credit to everybody. It wasn't perfect a lot of that game, but guys never flinched and they showed out, showed up and they played to the end."

(on how difficult of a comeback this was) "It's very hard, especially (when) you haven't done what you wanted all game, especially offensively. We hurt ourselves more than we helped ourselves. Just to be able to stay poised and stay confident in what we're doing and just have that next play mentality, it's not easy. It's a total team win right there. Everybody's got to step up, make plays, and we did it in all phases at the end."

(on how he didn't let the bad start bring him down at the end) "I think everybody just stayed together. We went into the locker room at halftime and we knew it wasn't good, but at the same time we knew we were putting some drives together, but penalties and different things – not converting some third downs – were hurting us. We knew if we just stuck together, stuck to the plan and just executed and locked in on all the details that there's a chance for us, and that's what we did."

(on his emotions from before and throughout the game) "It's always about how the game ends, and it felt great at the end. That's all I can say, it felt really good at the end."

(on not being accurate early on) "I think I just missed a couple of those throws. I think the biggest one was the one down the middle to (Luke) Musgrave, but I can't credit it to anything. I think it's just me being able to stay calm at the beginning of the game and just make those throws. I can't really credit it to anything, but it's something that we've got to clean up going into next week."

(on going for a two-point conversion after the first touchdown) "I was on the field so I didn't really have a lot of conversation (with the coaches), but I think that's just Matt (LaFleur) just trusting us, trusting that we're going to go make a play, and it turned out to be huge for us, being able to go for that and convert it. But really just having that momentum and capitalizing on that I think was huge for our whole team."

(on whether he needed to show emotion after his rushing TD) “Yeah, 100 percent. Where we were at throughout that game, a lot of things weren’t going right for us, and then to be able to turn around and start putting some drives together and get some points, it felt great. The energy in that stadium was awesome and we got our fans going, and we got our team going, so I think that’s exactly what we needed right there.”

(on the mindset of what LB Rashan Gary said about celebrating the win briefly and moving on to next week) “Exactly what he (Gary) said, and that’s what Matt (LaFleur) said in the locker room too. It’s a great win, it feels good, but obviously we’ve got a really short week ahead of us and we are playing an NFC North opponent who’s really good as well, so we’ve got to go enjoy this one like we do all wins, but just know that we’ve got a tight turnaround and got to get ready for this week coming up.”

(on what this does for his confidence) “I think it’s just confidence for the whole team. The way that we were able to stick together, nobody flinched. Being able to put up a comeback win like that, being down 17, I think that’s just a huge confidence booster for our whole team, and more importantly to bounce back off the loss we had last week, I think that’s a huge confidence booster and it brought us all together a little closer today.”

(on creating chemistry with the younger receivers while missing key weapons) “It’s been good. We’ve got a lot of reps going through OTAs, training camp, just with everybody. The mindset when guys are down is always next man up and credit to all those guys that stepped up. They made some huge plays right there. It’s never going to be perfect, but those guys stepped up and did big things today. It’s that next man up mindset.”

(on what the win does for the team’s belief moving forward) “I think it just brings everybody closer together. Like I said, nobody flinched on the sideline out there. At halftime the defense was telling us ‘We got you,’ and that’s exactly what they did and the offense stepped up in the fourth quarter and made plays, but it feels great and it’s a confidence boost for our whole team to be able to pull that one off.”

(On his long run and how he stayed in bounds) “I was just happy to get out of the pocket and I took off and was running down the sideline and I’m not sure who it was but one of the receivers was able to get a block on the on the DB from inside so I was kind of ready to run out of bounds and I saw that block and just was able to stay in bounds and go down the sideline and get a few more yards. So credit to the receiver who made the block. I’m not sure who it was but he made a good play for us.”

(On going back to Doubs in the end zone) “Romeo makes plays all the time down there. That’s kind of our bread and butter. He’s a great receiver and he’s going to go up and he has super strong hands and he’s going to come down with it. It wasn’t working for us a couple of times and that’s something that we just have to keep going at it. I felt like, we just keep throwing it at him one of them is going to hit and that’s what we did, and I have all the faith in the world and trust in in Romeo so I’m going to keep feeding him.”

(On the fourth quarter this week compared to last week) “It’s always great when you experience this – the highs and the lows but it’s a complete 180 off last week, losing and blowing a lead and then when it comes to this week just sticking together and coming back from being down a lot so

it's just credit to the whole team sticking together and there's a lot of things that we can learn from this. I'm going to watch the film and just bounce back for next week."

(On the momentum it gives them going into Thursday's game) "It's always fun to win and it gives us great momentum and we just have to get ready for next week. We have another home game, so I think we'll have some momentum just being in this stadium and having those fans behind us. It's just getting ready for next week."

(On what the emotion is like coming through the tunnel) "It's special, man. That's a moment I've been waiting for a while. To be able to do that, it was special. I couldn't really hear the crowd when I was coming out, it was a surreal moment, kind of a black out and it was really exciting. I could feel the energy and it was just special and then obviously going back in the tunnel after the game it was another special moment."

(On what his message was to the team when they were down 17) "The message for everybody was to stay together, keep going, take one play at a time. We all know the game is never over until it's over. Being down 17 is not fun, it's not easy but we stuck together and we just took it one play at a time."

(On his confidence in the defense) "They said "we got you" and that's what they did. We have a great defense and, when they do things like that, it gives everybody confidence. We know they're going to go out there and get stops and they put on a show in the second half, really all game, but they did exactly what we needed, shut them down in the second half, and it was up to the offense to put up some points. Credit to them."

(On whether his TD run was a read option) "It was a read option. It was one-on-one and it's really who wants it more. I saw him out there kind of flying over and I just knew I had to make it in. I really wanted to get in the end zone right there and I just knew I was going to try."

(On the feeling in the locker room for LB Rashan Gary) "Rashan is a great player, a great leader for us. He's had to battle through a lot last year with his injury. He was doing really good things throughout his whole rehab and everybody sees him over there working hard every day. He's the guy that has a huge impact on everyone on our defense and just to see him come back and make his presence felt and having the sacks he did it's huge and he's an emotional guy. He brings everybody along and gives everybody a lot of juice. At halftime he's the one guy that's in there getting everybody going. He's fired up. He's passionate. It feels great to have a player like him on your team."

(On what inspired the team to turn things around) "I think it's just all the plays. It was definitely a momentum builder. We got on the ropes a little bit and we were just making plays and driving but it's all the plays."

(On why he is so calm after the win) "I'm very happy. I think everybody feels like celebrating in the locker room but that's how you have to be. You have to stay even keeled, never be too high, or too low. It felt great but it's on to the next week and we've got a good opponent but I'm going to celebrate it for sure."

(On how his focus helps the team) "I do think it's important. I always want to be that guy that guys can look at and never seems to get flustered, never see it on my face that things aren't going well. The guy that people can look at and get confidence from because we're going to keep going. I

feel like that's how you've got to be, never too high, never too low and I think that helped in this situation."