



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 2022 • CEASARS SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The Saints lost a 20-10 decision to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in their 2022 home opener.
- The loss moves New Orleans to 1-1 on the season. The loss also snaps a four-game winning streak overall and in home openers, while ending the Saints seven-game winning streak in regular season games against the Bucs.
- New Orleans will return to action on Sunday at the Carolina Panthers. Kickoff at Bank of America Stadium is 12 p.m. CT with the game regionally televised on FOX (WVUE FOX 8)
- New Orleans have played 323 regular consecutive games without being shut out.
- The Saints totaled 308 yards of offense, carrying 20 times for 102 yards (5.1 avg.) and gaining 206 yards through the air on 40 throws.
- New Orleans allowed 260 total net yards, including surrendering 72 rushing yards on 30 carries (2.4 avg.).
- Saints QB **Jameis Winston** completed 25-of-46 passes for 236 yards with one touchdown and three interceptions.
- RB **Mark Ingram II** reached 10,000 career total yards from scrimmage with an eight-yard run in the second quarter, meaning he is the 108th player in NFL history to reach that milestone.
- Ingram II led the New Orleans backfield with 60 rushing yards on 10 carries (6.0 avg.) and had two receptions for three yards.
- WR **Chris Olave** led the team with season-highs of 80 yards on five receptions. Olave was credited with a career-long 51-yard reception in the fourth quarter but fumbled the ball on the play and Tampa Bay recovered.
- WR **Michael Thomas** led the Saints with six receptions and turned in 65 yards and one touchdown.
- Saints TE **Juwan Johnson** logged a career-high four receptions and tallied 40 yards. WR **Jarvis Landry** matched Johnson's four receptions for 25 yards.
- LB **Pete Werner** led the defense with six tackles
- DT **Shy Tuttle** and DT **David Onyemata** shared New Orleans' lone sack of the game. Tuttle led the team with nine tackles.
- Winston connected with Michael Thomas for a seven-yard touchdown, making the score 20-10 with 3:03 left in the game. The lone touchdown for the Saints capped a drive of nine plays and 75 yards in 1:09.
- The Saints went into the locker room at halftime with a 3-0 lead. The Saints defense had held the Buccaneers scoreless for six consecutive quarters dating back to the 9-0 victory at Raymond James Stadium on Dec. 19, 2021.
- The Saints defense came up with the game's first turnover on the opening drive when Buccaneers' Brady fumbled the snap on the Saints 25-yard line on third-and-one. Saints LB **Demario Davis** recovered the fumble. Davis finished with six tackles and one pass defended in addition to the recovery.
- LB **Pete Werner** finished with eight tackles, to extend his team-high total on the season to 20.
- WR/RS **Deonte Harty** returned two kickoffs for 65 yards.
- LB **Kaden Elliss**, FB **Adam Prentice** and LB **Zack Baun** each had one special teams tackle.



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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(On Marshon Lattimore being disqualified): “He (Mike Evans) was the first one to push and shove Lattimore, but I’ve been around this league long enough; usually they don’t get the instigator, they usually get the responder. I think what happened after that was a little bit excessive so we will see how that goes.”

(On his thoughts if Jameis Winston’s back was bothering him and affecting his play): “No I didn’t really see that, necessarily. Again, that is probably a question for him a little bit more. That is a good defense that we played. They do a pretty good job in terms of their rush coverage and some of their pressure packages, so we will get back and look at the tape and see where we can improve. There are a couple of throws we missed that he typically wouldn’t. We will have to evaluate the tape and see.”

(On his plan for Jameis before the game if there was any question of him not being able to play) “No, he was going.”

(On late third quarter fumble): “That was a game changer I think the ball was on the ten-yard line at that point in time and we were in a good position with how we were playing defense that if we were able to put some points on the board; I think there was a minute to go in the third quarter when that happened so I thought that was a momentum changer in the game.”

(On if the disqualification was the factor of the momentum change): “I don’t think that was a factor. I mean we lost momentum and we lost momentum because we turned the ball over. I don’t think that was the factor.”

(On the decision to not kick a field goal before the half): “Look, we knew this was going to be a field position game, which it was. Unfortunately, we played the game on our end of the field a little bit too much the first half, but it was a three to nothing game at that point in time and I didn’t feel like taking an opportunity on a long field goal at that point in the game was the right thing to do.”



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TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS QB JAMEIS WINSTON

(On how his back feels): "It feels like my back."

(On how his back felt going into the game): "What's the most important thing is like our team hauled our tail off. Defense played a great game. Offensively, we just got to give it on third downs and protect the football. For myself I have to get better on third downs and protect the football."

(On the offensive performance): "Like I said, we have to get better on third downs and that's on me. We had a great chance in the redzone to end up with seven and not three, and I missed Chris (Olave). We just got to continue to get better."

(On the offensive struggles the past two games) "Early, early. I think we are going to get better. You know, we had some momentum here early in the third quarter. The biggest thing is ball security. I think we still had a chance to get in this game. They won the turnover battle and that's why they won."

(On whether Tampa's defense was different than previously) "No. We were prepared. It's just on me. I have to take what the defense is giving me and keep the ball in our possession because when we keep the ball in our possession a lot of good things can happen."

(On the missed connections with Chris Olave): "I missed him. Man, I just got to hit it, I got to hit it. When you have opportunities like that, you got to hit them. Especially in this league, this game is a game of inches. Chris did a great job of creating separation and getting open, but I get better. Those are going to be touchdowns real soon."

(On his back, if it impacted his play, and how it could affect him moving forward): "Yeah, what's really important is protecting the football. I have to do I have to do a better job of doing that to give ourselves a chance to win the game."

(On the extent of the injury): "Yeah, you know, everyone in the locker room was playing with some type of banged up or something. But like I said, what's important is offensively I have to do a better job of executing third downs, and I can't give them the football."

(On his various previous injuries leading to this one): "My main thing is focusing on execution. I didn't execute. Like two weeks in a row where we were (around) 4 for 13 on third downs, and that's on me. It's just this time I turned over the football. So we're going to get back to the drawing board and I'm going to protect the football. That's the big thing."

(On Marshon Lattimore getting ejected): "I don't. I don't think he should have at all. But these referees get put in a tough position. Everyone from New York, they have to make that call. But I think he bit the bullet. He made a huge sacrifice for his team because it was not on him. But when the emotions get to flaring, they're humans. The referees are humans and they've got to make a decision."

(On the contentiousness of this game having been on both sides of the rivalry): "I mean, I think we're just two good football teams. And the big thing is it's early in the season. I hate to drop a division game like that. We just got to bounce back. Defense played a heck of a game, they did phenomenal. We had some good things on offense too. But my focus is on eliminating the negatives and building on the positives. Because there's some positives there."

(On finding a sustained rhythm): "I think it just starts with me. We got to just get completions early. It was some opportunities out there that would have really set this game apart, some big plays down the field to Chris that we fell short on. I think that is just it. We are going to just keep hitting the drawing boards, keep on building the chemistry of this offense. We got great playmakers, we just have to execute."

(On Chris's plays that maybe weren't called): "This game, this game is the game of inches. You know, sometimes it ends up in your favor, sometimes it doesn't. But they're gonna start ending up in our favor."

(On how he feels right now): "I don't like to lose. So the biggest thing I hate losing, especially to that group. But, man, they competitors, you know, they compete too. And I just hate to let the team down by turning over the football and not giving us the chance to win."

(On if he ever thought during the week that he may not be able to play): "I never think that. I'm so focused on preparation and how can I execute? I think DA (Dennis Allen) does a good job of putting it on the team. The team is bigger than yourself. So as a team, we were preparing together and we were ready to roll."

(On if he felt that there were any plays where the injury may have affected his decision making):
“Well, I think that I do a better job of protecting the football. That is the most important thing. And when we get in those situations, when you play against a good team like that, whoever wins the turnover battle is going to win. Coach said it - win the turnover battle, you win this game. When this team has won the turnover battle, we won the game. When that team has one the turnover battle, they won the game.”



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S Tyrann Mathieu

(On the fight and Lattimore being ejected from the game): “Obviously, he is one of the better cornerbacks in this league. For the majority of the game, guys weren’t able to catch balls on him. I think that’s a tactic that guys will use playing against him to get him out of his game. I think in that moment we all kind of have to respond.”

(On how the defense played) “I thought we played really well. I mean obviously you always want a few plays back. Anytime you play this quarterback you have to put him away early or he’ll find a way to make one of those types of plays.

(On the defense coming together after the Lattimore ejection) “I thought we bonded well. I feel like we have a deep DB unit. It was good to see Alontae (Taylor) come into the game and hold his own. P.J. (Williams) can play multiple positions. That’s what we are going to need.”

RB Mark Ingram II

(On the fumble) “I have to take protect the football at all costs. We were going in to take control of the game. That was the turning point. I had the ball high and tight and I think it was a punch. Whatever the circumstance is, whatever the situation. I have to protect the football. That’s my job. It’s something that I take pride in, but I’m accountable. I have to do better. We were going in to take control of the game and that can’t happen.”

(On if there was a change after the fumble) “I don’t think there was a noticeable change on the sideline. I think everyone was still in tune. The defense went out and got a stop. Essentially, they didn’t get points off that turnover, but we took points off the board by having the turnover. I think it was a turning point. We started having turnovers. We started having penalties. We started having plays that are uncharacteristic of us.”

(On moving the ball but not scoring and the frustration level) “Obviously, we are frustrated. We know what we are capable of doing. We have to do a better job of all the small details and making sure Jameis (Winston) is protected and making sure we can get the ball downfield to our receivers. We have to improve and continue to detail all of that stuff, so we can transfer it to the game.”

WR Michael Thomas

(On if he felt Jameis was 100% with the back problem) “I was just focused on getting my job done and being where they wanted me to be and executing the game plan. I’m sure when we watch the film we will see if there is anything like that going on, but I was focused on my assignment”

(On the Tampa Bay defense) “They are a sneaky defense.”

(On the chippiness going to a different level) “That’s a little bit out of control what those guys are doing. It’s hard not to react like Marshon does when you are getting pushed in the back. That’s reactionary. You are trying to protect yourself. That’s not tough. That’s not cool. Whatever you want to call it. It’s getting old. We can’t allow that to hurt us as a team. We have to find a way to lock in and stay disciplined.”

DE Cameron Jordan

(On how Lattimore’s absence affected the defense) “I think we went out there and had another three and out. I think the series after that we were headed toward another three and out and then there was a random penalty that was made up on a tackle that was missed. Again, we have to fight everything and play a complete sixty minutes. We are not going to be satisfied. Clearly, if you don’t play sixty minutes, then this is what happens. I think defensively there was a game plan put together and that first half showed what we were executing. You can talk about the fourth and one stops and the three and outs that happened. When you feel like you are the better team and you look up and we have five turnovers, then that’s tough to come back from.”

(On having Tom Brady under control) “He was exactly who we thought he was. He gets the ball out fast. He doesn’t allow you to hit him. He doesn’t let you get that extra pass rusher to rush the passer.

We talked about eliminating the run this week. That was our emphasis and our focus. I'm not sure what their average was per carry."



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(On Mike Evan's ejection and the altercation): "I didn't see the whole thing. I just saw a lot of pushing and shoving and flags flying. The next thing I know, everybody was storming the field. We lost a good player. They lost a good player. It was a physical ballgame."

(On if the fight was a turning point for the Buccaneers' offense): "I don't know if it was a turning point. We were into the ballgame. It was 3-3 at that point. It could have went either way. We had to make some plays. (Jamel) Dean came up big twice. Mike (Edwards) came up big. We got a fumble at the end, so I guess that was the turning point. We were into the game, and at the time we were getting down to the fourth quarter. We were trying to make a play."

(On the status of Josh Wells' calf): "Not yet. They're going to run some tests on it, and they will let us know."

(On how close Donovan Smith was to playing): "He didn't practice all week, so we kind of got a feeling in the week that he wasn't going to play."

(On Smith's possibility of playing next week): "I'm not sure. Too early to tell."

(On Tampa Bay's defensive effort): "We shouldn't have given up that (touchdown). We had 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ quarters worth of good work, and we lapsed at the end. We have to learn how to finish out ballgames."

(On being down three receivers and Breshad Perriman's play): "That's why we kept him. He can do everything, and he comes up big at the right time. He can block for us. He plays special teams, and he knows all of the receivers' spots. He's got experience. He proved his worth today."

(On what was working well on the Perriman touchdown): "We gave Tom (Brady) a little time. He made a great throw. Breshad (Perriman) made a great play. They were playing pretty good defense on us as well. Yards were hard to come by, and points were hard to come by in that ballgame. We were just lucky we got one."

(On the Saints defense): "They're bigger up front than Dallas, but they're a good defense. We know they have a good defensive team. Every time they play us it's a tough ballgame and it's a grind-it-out ballgame. We didn't panic this time, and we didn't have careless turnovers other than the one we turned over in the first half. We stayed with what we got, and we grinded it out."

(On the Buccaneers' defensive effort): "The communication's been great with the guys. They get together and watch more film than they have over the years past. They understand what's getting ready to happen to them, and want to be good. They're trying to be good. It is Week Two. It is early. I did not like some of the things we did, but for the most part, they tried to sustain them in the red zone."

(On getting the lead and a tiebreaker over the Saints in the division standings): "Right now, nothing. It gives us a chance in the end. Right now, we're 2-0. We have 15 more games. It was the biggest game this week, division rival. Now they tally up at the end, but we can't do nothing about that now but move on to next week."

(On defeating the Saints during the regular season and in the Caesars Superdome): "It's not off our back, but we're glad to have a break for a minute. We have to face them again in a couple of months. It's good to win down here. It's tough to win down here. They've had our number for a long time. They've been getting the turnovers, and we haven't. This time we got them."

(On improving the offense): "We have to get healthy No. 1, and we have to clean up a few things. We have some new guys over there. They're coming. They're doing a good job of managing the ballgame. Our objective is to win. Our points are going to come. I'm not worried about that. The chemistry will come. We have a winning process. These first four or five games while we figure out who we are will lead to wins."

(On managing emotions during games): "It's an emotional game. You don't want punches thrown on either side. I'm sure their coach is saying the same thing. Things happen. We don't need anybody thrown out the ballgame. We need everybody. We can't dress a lot of people, and that's important. We try to be a disciplined ball club. Every now and then, the game gets emotional and gets out of hand. We will make our corrections and move forward."

(On Mike Evans): "I hope not. We will see what happens with the league. Again, I have not seen the tape. I don't know exactly what happened to say I can or can't lose the guy. We will see."

(On the status of Akiem Hicks): "Not at this time. I will go back in the training room after this. He will get some tests run. We will see."



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Quarterback Tom Brady

(on if the fourth quarter ejections was a turning point in the game) "It's an emotional game, so I don't think that's (the reason). I think a little better execution helps all the way around. Defense played great again. The line fought hard. All of the guys that were in there fought hard. It's a really tough team, (that's) really well coached. (It's) a team we really struggle with, so it feels good to win."

(on the fourth quarter altercation) "It's just emotion. It's an emotional game."

(on Breshad Perriman and other receivers stepping up with key players injured) "Yeah, we have to. Everyone in there has to do it. Chris (Godwin), Julio (Jones) (and) Mike (Evans) was out. Donnie (Smith) was out. (Josh) Wells was out."

(on Leonard Fournette's impact) "He's been great. He's played so hard (and) run so hard. He sets the tone for us. Everyone has so much confidence in him, so he's just been such a big-time player."

(on the play of the Bucs offensive line) "They did great. They were awesome out there, played hard. It's a great (New Orleans) front, a very powerful group of guys. They (the offensive line) stood up to it. They did a great job."

(on the play of the Bucs defense, especially in the fourth quarter) "They were awesome. The defense was awesome. They forced some disguise, and came up with the plays. (Jamel) Dean made some great interceptions. Mike's (Edwards), obviously, was the play of the game. They played awesome."

Running Back Leonard Fournette

(on the win today) "It was tough. We're a lot of guys down. Even with me playing (hurt), I was down to playing on one leg today. We know how important this division game is. Coming in, (we know) they're not going to give us anything. They've got a tough front and a tough back (end), too. This game is all about grit and will."

(on the brawl during the game) "It's football. Your emotions get involved. It should never happen, but it is what it is."

(on the Saints' front line) "They're a front that's been together for a long time. They have great chemistry, so every time that we play them it's very tough."

(on playing in the Caesars Superdome) "I'm from the city. And, I never got a chance to play in the dome during my high school years in a championship game or anything like that, so it means a lot (to play here)."

Linebacker Devin White

(on beating the Saints on the road today after recent losses to the team) "It is only win #2....It does not make us win the division. It does not make us win the Super Bowl. It does not make us first place. It does not do anything (long-term). It just lets us know that that is what we came here to do and we did it. Now we need to put our focus somewhere else. Obviously, we've got to play these guys again. Therefore, you don't want to get on your high horse. You don't want to be so (confident) that they humble you when they come to your house. We just want to take this win and go to the next game. Then, when they come back up in discussion to play again, we will lock it in and focus again."

PFWA Pool Reporter Luke Johnson Interview with NFL Senior Vice President of Officiating Walt Anderson
Tampa Bay Buccaneers at New Orleans Saints
Sunday, September 18, 2022

Question: From your perspective, what did you see that led to the disqualification of Marshon Lattimore and Mike Evans?

Anderson: "The officials had flags for both of those players. So, we actually reviewed those actions and determined that the actions by both of those players did rise to the level of flagrant and then therefore disqualification."

Question: Why was Leonard Fournette, who instigated this, not penalized? Were you able to talk to the officials about this?

Anderson: "Rule 19 allows us to end up looking at the potential for other players to be disqualified. We just did not feel like those actions rose to the level of disqualification."

Question: Specifically, if you can, can you comment on what these players did that rose to the level of disqualification and flagrant fouls?

Anderson: "They were involved in the altercation. League policy advises players that coming to the defense or assistance of your fighting teammates does not excuse you for entering the area. So those actions, as well as the physical actions that both players engaged in. We just felt they were flagrant and rose to the level of disqualification."