

**POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES** GREG BENSEL + SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

# NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS ARIZONA CARDINALS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the win, New Orleans improves their record to 7-1 and extend their winning streak to six games. The Saints joint the New England Patriots as the only teams to have six-game winning streaks in each of the last three seasons.
- With the win, the Saints are now 4-0 in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome this season. The Saints start 4-0 at home for the first time since 2013, when they ended the season 8-0 in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.
- The Saints' win improves their all-time record against the Cardinals to 15-15. Arizona is now the 11<sup>th</sup> team New Orleans has at least a .500 regular season record against.
- With the win, the Saints extend their home winning streak against the Cardinals to four games, extending to five straight wins including the 2009 NFC Divisional Playoff victory. This is the first four-game home win streak against the Cardinals in New Orleans franchise history.
- With the win, Head Coach **Sean Payton** improves his record against Arizona to 4-2 in the regular season and 5-2 including the playoffs. At home, Payton's record against the Cardinals improves to 3-0 all-time and 4-0 including postseason play.
- Cardinals Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury is now the 63<sup>rd</sup> coach Payton has defeated in his career and 46<sup>th</sup> coach Payton has a winning record against.
- Offensively, New Orleans racked up 510 yards of total offense, including 373 passing yards and 137 yards on the ground. 510 yards is the most Arizona has given up this season. The Saints surpassed 500 total yards of offense for the second time this season, and matched a season high for total yards gained (510 vs. Houston on September 9). 373 passing yards is New Orleans' highest passing total this season.
- New Orleans had nine different pass-catchers record at least one reception in the game, their highest total so far this season.
- Defensively, New Orleans held Arizona to 237 total yards, including 40 yards rushing and 197 yards passing. The Saints defense has now held their opponents to under 100 yards rushing for five consecutive games and has not given up 100 rushing yards to an individual player in 34 consecutive games. New Orleans held the Cardinals to less than 100 rushing yards for the first time since Week 2 of this season.
- The Saints defense finished the afternoon with four sacks, moving their season total to 24. New Orleans has recorded at least four quarterback takedowns in three games this season.
- In his first game back from injury, QB **Drew Brees** finished 34-of-43 for 373 yards, three touchdowns, and one interception. Brees threw for three touchdowns for the first time since November 22, 2018, when he threw four against Atlanta.
- Brees became the first player in NFL history to eclipse 75,000 passing yards and now has 75,218 passing yards in his career. Brees has also now appeared in 267 games in his career, breaking a tie with Peyton Manning for sole possession of 26<sup>th</sup> place on the NFL's all-time games list.
- RB Latavius Murray carried the ball 21 times for 102 yards and one rushing touchdown and has now rushed for over 100 yards in back-to-back games for the first time in his career. Murray also added nine receptions for a career-high 55 receiving yards and his first career touchdown reception. Today marks Murray's eighth career multi-touchdown performance and marks the first time in his career that he has multiple touchdowns in back-to-back games.
- Murray surpassed 4,000 career rushing yards and 5,000 career yards from scrimmage in the game, as his career totals move to 4,057 rushing yards and 5,093 career yards from scrimmage.
- WR Michael Thomas scored his fourth touchdown of the season and 27<sup>th</sup> of his career, and finished with 11 receptions for 112 yards and a touchdown. Thomas surpassed 100 yards receiving for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in his career, which puts him in fifth place in the club record books.

- Thomas' 11 receptions move his career total to 394, surpassing tight end Jimmy Graham (386) for fourth place in team history.
- RB **Dwayne Washington** finished the afternoon with 38 rushing yards on three carries, including a new career-long carry of 31 yards coming on the Saints' final drive.
- QB **Taysom Hill** finished the game with three receptions for 63 yards and a touchdown, including the Saints' longest gain of the day a 36-yard fourth quarter reception from Drew Brees. Hill has recorded touchdown receptions in back-to-back games for the first time in his career.
- Appearing in his 179<sup>th</sup> career game, WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** finished the afternoon with two receptions for 42 yards. With his next reception, Ginn will reach 400 for his career.
- TE **Josh Hill** recorded his fourth game with at least three receptions this season, finishing the afternoon with three catches for 39 yards. With two more receptions, Hill will reach 100 for his career.
- Appearing in his 136<sup>th</sup> career game, DE **Cameron Jordan** finished with two tackles, one sack, and one quarterback hit. With the sack, Cardinals QB Kyler Murray becomes the 32<sup>nd</sup> quarterback Jordan has dropped in his career.
- Jordan's 136 games played is tied with Tommy Myers for 24<sup>th</sup> on the club's all-time games played list. Jordan has also now amassed 79.5 sacks in his career. With his next .5 sack, Jordan will become only the third Saint all-time with 80 career quarterback takedowns, joining LB Ricky Jackson and DL Wayne Martin.
- LB **Demario Davis** led the Saints with eight tackles, his highest total since he recorded nine tackles in a Week 4 victory over Dallas.
- CB/S **C.J. Gardner-Johnson** finished the afternoon with five tackles and two pass defenses. Gardner-Johnson has now recorded two pass defenses in back-to-back weeks for the first time this season.
- DT **David Onyemata** recorded his second sack of the season, and now has recorded at least two takedowns in each of the past three seasons. Onyemata finished with two tackles, one quarterback hit, and the one sack.
- DT **Shy Tuttle** recorded a sack of Murray for his first career takedown. Tuttle finished with two tackles on the afternoon, a new season and career-high.
- DE Mario Edwards Jr. appeared in his 50<sup>th</sup> career game.
- K **Wil Lutz** scored the Saints' first points, converting a 26-yard field with 14:17 to play in the second quarter. Lutz finished the afternoon 1-for-2 on field goal attempts.
- P **Thomas Morstead** averaged 44 yards on two punts, including a 50-yard punt with 9:14 to play in the game.
- The Saints extended their streak to 280 regular season games without having been shutout. The streak dates back to a 26-20 victory at Tampa Bay on September 6, 2002 and is the longest running streak in the NFL and fourth longest streak all-time.



## ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS QUOTES

## SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

**Opening comments:** "It will be good tape to watch. Defensively, again, I was real pleased with how we played. Offensively, I thought, in the first half, we left some opportunities to score out there. I was pleased in the second half. Fortunately, we were able to separate ourselves a little bit."

(On if Drew Brees exceeded expectations today) "Honestly, we talked about this decision. We really had to pay attention to the doctors. We weren't going to be careless with it. He threw it really well last Monday. I know that there was this sentiment to wait until after the bye. Look, if a player is 100 percent healthy and feels ready to go, like him, who I trust (that's going to play an important role in the decision)...He looked fabulous all week of practice. This is an important game. Each one of these 16 games has the same value. We are close to the six-week (recovery) mark now. Yes, to have a game like he did today (was a great return). We scored a lot in the second half. It was a good win."

**(On Latavius Murray's performance)** "Real steady. He's one of these runners that has good vision and can kind of put his foot in the ground and pick up speed in a hurry. He is a fantastic teammate. All of the things that we look for in a player, he has. He has been a good addition to us."

(On if Latavius Murray is built for games like today) "He is one of those backs, who you feel like as the game goes on he's got good stamina. He's in great shape. I don't know that you go in (to the game) knowing that you're going to have those type of touches. We got into the fourth quarter with a pretty good lead. I was pleased with how we ran it."

(On the Saints stopping the Cardinals on fourth down) "Good stop. Obviously, it was on their end of the field. It was a real good play. To the defense's credit, they were one-dimensional. Our ability to run the ball and possess the ball, I think, all of those things that we talk about, relative to winning games, I think, came to fruition in this game....It's taking advantage of the field position. That was one of a number of big plays. I thought we contested throws well. I thought that we did a lot of things well."

(On why the clock continued running after Latavius Murray ran out of bounds) "They ruled that his progress was going away from the line of scrimmage. If that hand by the official just keeps rolling, (the clock doesn't stop). You have to finish going forward on the sideline. If they ever feel like you were finished going backwards, they will keep it going."

**(On if there were any limitations to play calling today)** "None. It was really the defense that we're seeing and putting our plan together. There weren't any (thoughts), 'Well, this week let's not do (certain plays).' There wasn't one of them. He (Drew Brees) was 100 percent."

(On if Latavius Murray was used the same way as Alvin Kamara would be) "A little bit, but not quite totally. We had two halfbacks up in this game, which is a little bit unusual. Zach's (Line) a player who is familiar with the (tailback) position. Of course, if need be, Taysom's (Hill) one of those guys that can fill in. I think in order to run your offense, there are certain things that he might do that maybe would've been plays that Alvin might (have had). It does change, for us, a little bit, relative to personnel groupings."

(On the progress of C.J. Gardner-Johnson) "We've seen it in training camp and we've seen (it in) the preseason. He is extremely competitive. I like that about him. He plays hard; and, he's got really, really good ball skills. We've gotten some really good production out of him. In games like this where they are in a lot of four receiver sets, you can't have enough of those guys."

(On if there is anything that he knows now about the team that he didn't before the season) "Obviously, we have a lot of football left. You go through momentum cycles and sometimes being on different teams you're trying to create momentum. I'd say this is a pretty close and resilient group. I think that they care a lot about each other. I think that they understand how to win and also how difficult it is. We will have some time away and then get back in here, ready for another home game."

**(On the crowd cheering for teddy Bridgewater)** "He was outstanding (as the starter). He appreciates that (the fans support him). Look, it's a big reason why we acquired him in the offseason. Sometimes, you don't know if you are going to need that. It was good to see the team rally and play well when we needed to and continue that momentum here when Drew (Brees) came back. It is about winning. With the roster size the way that it is, we are going to need to count on everyone."





# ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS QUARTERBACK DREW BREES

(on being back) "Felt good, felt really good. Obviously, the last five weeks have been tough just rehabbing, just trying to get healthy again, it was tough. Early on I think there was a lot of excitement and the feeling of maybe shaking the rust off a little bit. I love the game. I love being out there with my teammates. I think starting practice this week and getting through it, I was hoping this would be the week. This was kind of the week I had in my mind from the moment I got hurt. I think the doctors, and everybody was saying after bye week, but I was trying to fast track that as much as possible. Understanding that there's a healing process that needs to take place but trying to push this as much as we can. A lot of it was just the ability to get a grip on the ball, being able to throw the ball accurately, and being myself. Being able to throw without thinking about it constantly. So as soon as I was able to grip it and rip it, I wanted to play. I wanted to be out there with my teammates."

(on what was going through his mind when looking at stats during the game) "Well, I thought we were better on third down. It felt like we sustained a lot of really long drives and I felt like during the game that was a big emphasis knowing the explosiveness of their team on the other side. We wanted to possess the ball as long as possible, to keep it out of their hands, out of Kyler Murray's hands and take care of the football to try and generate points. The first half was a little disappointing, just in the fact that I felt like we had put together four really good drives by going down into their redzone but only leaving with six points, well ten points. I think second half we felt like that's where we do a lot of our best work from the standpoint of our halftime adjustments and our ability to execute, wear a team down, and begin to score touchdown, which is what we were able to do in the second half. Defense played great throughout the game. They managed a lot of their playmakers and were able to create fourth down stops and I thought special teams did a great job as well."

(on moment when he knew he was good to play) "So I've been on a throwing schedule the last couple of weeks. Starting off with a really light ball, Nerf ball even, and kind of progressing my way to the same size, same weight of an NFL ball. I felt like the progression was indicating that this would be the week. Last week, really Saturday, I told them (the team) that next week would be the week. I was going to throw on Monday again and was going to be ready to go at practice on Wednesday. That was the process. That was the plan. We just stuck to the plan and it all worked out the way we predicted."

(on if after a particular throw he knew he was going to be good) "No, I felt like I'd say that really took place in practice. Thursday practice is when I felt like 'alright, I'm able to make the all the throws I would make."

(on anticipating soreness) "I think it's going to be ok. I think just the level of healing, I haven't been reckless with this (gestures towards hand). I meet with someone today and I've been in touch with the doctor and he was able to look at an MRI and see the healing. Everything kind of had to pass certain parameters in order for this to happen. We, the team, as in Sean Payton, doctor, therapist, everybody felt I was good to go."

(on what he was wearing on his hand) "There's a hard, plastic splint on the outside of my thumb. And that's evolved, we've worked with it to develop a comfortable level. As a quarterback you don't like having a hard, plastic splint on your thumb throwing a ball. I'd rather not have to have it."

(on the interception) "Bad decision. Should not have thrown that ball. Got a little greedy. Mike (Michael) Thomas was underneath, so I threw it to him and live to play another day."

(on Latavius Murray) "He did a great job. I can't say enough things about him. He's a pro. He's a ball player. Really great as a workhorse throwing him the football, but a very good back out of the backfield. I don't know how many catches he ended up with, but it felt like a lot, and felt like he was a great outlet. He was getting us a lot of positive yards, positive plays, and getting us out of third and manageable situations by being able to dump it off to him. The touchdown catch was a great all-around play by him to get open and turn what was normally a seven-yard game into a 17-yard touchdown. He came up to me on the sideline after and said, 'Believe it or not, as many years as I've played, that was my first touchdown catch."

(on Teddy Bridgewater chants and performance) "He's obviously a very calm, poised guy so I don't think you're ever going to get an over-the-top emotion from Teddy. I think that's why he's so calm, cool, and collected. I can't say enough great things about Teddy and his leadership over the last five weeks. He basically stepped into the role that I would normally have, as far as addressing the team

and addressing skill players and different things throughout the week. He was the starting quarterback and he took on that role. Not just as the guy throwing the ball, handing off the ball, but the guy being in charge of the huddle and being a leader. He did a great job with it. I think the offense responded; the team responded. I can't say enough good things about him and I love the fact that our fan base has embraced him the way that they have. He's a tremendous teammate and obviously he was a big part of our success over the last few weeks. Listen, I hope I'm able to stay healthy for the rest of the go, but knowing that you have a guy like that who the guys love so much and the guys trust, and is as capable as he is, that's a great thing to have."

(on if they hand stayed clean all game) "Yea, I got hit a few times so that was good. I think that's one thing you can't really simulate. I can do a lot of things in practice but I'm really going to say, someone run into my hand real quick so I can see. You kind of wait and see how that goes."

(on offensive line) "Yea, Ramczyk, Armstead, those guys have done a phenomenal job all year long. A tackle gets put on an island. When you talk about the O-line you really have to talk about them as a unit. They are a unit. They have to work together, it's communication, it's all those things and it's my communication with them as well throughout the week, gameday. At the end of the day, once it's all sorted out, it's the one-on-one matchups. It's the one-on-one battles and they pretty much know who that's going to be each week. Here we go, mano y mano. Those guys have done a phenomenal job and stepping up to whatever challenges are before them. They're just warriors. Warriors. Love them."

(on being 7-1 despite injuries) "I think it means that we've, number one, got a lot of great players, great guys, great teammates. Guys that love coming to work, and we know how to have fun. We had lights and smoke and everything else in the locker room after the game, having a great time, and turning it (the locker room) into Studio 54 or something. We know how to have fun, but the level of work matches the level of fun. We work hard to be in this position, and I think we understand that at times we're going to face adversity, at times guys are going to need to step up and play, but we're all in this together. None more so evident than what's happened the last six weeks. All kinds of guys stepping up and playing lights out, playing together. Being able to come together as a team builds confidence because you feel like no matter what situation we get in this team has a chance. When you believe that and you trust that, it gives you a lot of confidence."





## ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

#### **RB #28 LATAVIUS MURRAY**

(on his performance) "It starts up front. They did a great job creating space. Drew (Brees) did a great job of checking down to me. I'm thankful for them. I just went out there and made plays and excited to get the win."

(on getting stronger as the game goes on) "I definitely do. You just get into a rhythm. I get the reps and I get the carries. I just try to take advantage of it."

(on his first career receiving touchdown) "I told Drew that. I was hyped after that one. It's year seven and my first receiving touchdown. It was due. I was just happy to get it done. It has been a long time coming. I told him that. It was a special day especially coming from a guy like Drew."

### QB #7 TAYSOM HILL

(on the heading into the bye week) "I think we are right where we want to be. We set high expectations of ourselves at the beginning of the season. We are kind of hitting our groove and things are going really well. We are playing really clean football. I think earlier in the season we were trying to clean things up. You try to find an identity for yourself each year and I think that we have found that. We are rolling right now."

(on the if he was surprised on him be open on the long pass reception) "I was surprised. I thought I was going to have a safety barreling down on me, but as I caught it there was obviously nobody there. It was a big conversion."

#### **DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN**

(on the defensive play) "I wish there wasn't a bye week so we could keep rolling. I want to take the field with my guys again. I don't want to go to the bye. I love the way our defense is playing. I love the way our team is playing. Each one of these wins in a 16-game schedule is precious and crucial. I guess I'm going to take this week and play Call of Duty."

(on if he was surprised they went for it on fourth & 1 from their own 30) "No, If you feel like you are a gutsy offensive coordinator and you trust your guys. We trust our guys more."

(on the play of C.J. Gardner-Johnson) "He is playing extremely well the last three games. He continues to elevate his play.

#### **LB #56 DEMARIO DAVIS**

(on the defense's play) "We did a good job executing the game plan. The coaches did a good job of having us prepare for the game. We knew all we needed to do was to come in and execute. Things are good any day that you can stop the run, be good on third downs, be good in the red zone and get off the field on fourth down."

(on the 4<sup>th</sup> and one stop at the 30) "It was a huge momentum shift. Fourth and inches. Its mano y mano. For a team to go for it, it's like you are trying to send a message. We welcome that kind type challenge. That was a big stop and momentum shift. Our offense went down and scored. That changed the game tremendously. It as huge. "





# ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 ARIZONA CARDINALS QUOTES

# CARDINALS HEAD COACH KLIFF KINGSBURY

(On fourth down call in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) "Yeah, I thought we had a good chance to get it basically. That is a very good offense and they were moving the ball well and felt at that point after getting the turnover, we had to make something happen. Unfortunately, it did not work out. You have to give them a lot of credit. They have a great defense and made a play.

(On play call before the fourth down) "I liked the play call. Love that, practiced it a bunch. They did a great job disrupting the play and got in our face. That is a play we have executed at a high level. Once again you have to give them credit."

(On Chase Edmonds injury) "How is Chase? We will see. That is all I can give you at this point. He didn't finish the game obviously."

(On Kyler Murray's play) "Yeah, that is a really good defense coming after him. 94 (Cam Jordan) is as good as there is in the league. He made his presence felt most of the game. To come into this environment and not turn the ball over, we still had our chances down there and made some bad play calls, that put us in some bad spots in the red zone on fourth down. But he is competing at a high level and making plays. Couple he wished he had back but overall, I continue to see progression. These are great lessons to play one of the best teams on the road. He will learn from all of it."

(On message to team after the game) "A lot about that is a very good football team. We know we can play better, but we have to get over this one quick with the short week and get ready for Thursday night. There is no time to let it linger."

(On lack of rushing attack) "They are a very good defense. That is all I can say. I thought they made a good plan defensively. Did a nice job taking that away and kind of kept us at third and long most of the game, which made it difficult."

(On if 4<sup>th</sup> down play call was difficult) "Not at all. The analytics plus myself, I was all for that. We had two shots to get half a yard and we didn't get enough."

(On if the lack of touchdowns is similar to the beginning of the season) "No, we have moved passed that. That is just a good defense and we were not able to put it in the endzone."

(On if they were expecting Drew Brees to start and their defensive strategy against him) "I did. He is a great competitor, Hall of Fame quarterback. I knew he would want to play and be back sooner than anticipated. They are a great offense. One of the best quarterbacks to ever play, and a great receiver, and a great offensive play caller. I thought are guys played hard. I will watch the film to see what went wrong, but they got it rolling. Won 6 in a row and are a very good football team."

(On Chase Edmonds availability next week) "Obviously, there is concern. We don't have a back with us that long (Zach Zenner), but there is definitely concern."

(On if he regrets any red zone play call) "Anytime we don't score, I would like to have them all back."

(On David Johnson's availability for the next game) "It is still day-to-day with David."

(On if Alfred Morris was a healthy scratch) "He was, yeah."

(On how to have similar success like the Saints) "They have been doing it a long time. They have drafted well defensively. (They) Have had a quarterback in the same system with the same head coach for a long time. It clicks. You didn't see the ball touch the ground many times. (They have a) Great running game. They are a complete team. That is what we are trying to build."

(On if David Johnson could play if Chase Edmonds cannot) "I mean we are not going to put David out there if he is not 100%."

(On Christian Kirk's return) "He brings a real explosiveness to the passing game. There are a couple other things and we will have to watch the tape, but we were not able to get it to him. He plays hard. He plays the game the right way. He brings that element of speed down the middle of the field."

(On if this loss felt better than others) "No. It is disappointing to lose anytime, but once again you have to give them a lot of credit. They are a very good football team and are on a roll. They were playing at an extremely high level and you could see it."

(On lack of pressure on Drew Brees) "He has that savvy. He's been doing it for a long time. You don't get him down like that. He gets the ball out and knows where his outlets are. He knows even when it is time to throw it away and where he has to throw the ball away. That is what the great ones do."

(On being one play away from breaking through in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) "I thought our guys had good energy throughout halftime and coming back out, but once again, we didn't get it done when we needed to and they did."





#### ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME ARIZONA CARDINALS PLAYERS

### **QB #1 KYLER MURRAY**

"It was a great environment. When you've got a good football team with great fans, it's going to be a great place to play. Today they came out and showed up."

"It definitely hurts because we felt like we were in the game. And we were. There were a couple of negative plays, and we weren't finishing drives. We weren't cashing out and we had a couple of three-and-outs. It's tough to do when you play a good team like that."

"The one to Chase [Edmonds], Kevin Jordan was in between both of us, so I tried to throw him upfield. It was tough for me and him, both. The fourth down, we just didn't get it. We've got to be better and we will."

"I'm all for being aggressive. We've just got to execute, and we didn't. It's tough."

(on his performance): "I thought it was alright. I wish I could have some back. For the most part we moved the ball. We just didn't finish. We couldn't really run the ball well, so that always makes things hard too."

(On Drew Brees): "I told him it was crazy watching him on T.V. my whole life. Then to see him up close and personal, it's definitely an experience. He just takes what the defense gives him, and when the shots are there, they're there. We've just got to be better as a whole." ... "I didn't think he was going to play today." ... "He said a lot (about what he is with his play)."

(On offensive issues): "We were just not finishing."

"It's tough when you lose Chase [Edmonds]. Then a guy who hasn't been here, but a couple days (Zach Zenner) has to play. It's tough with Dave [Johnson] out as well, but we've got to find a way."

## WR #11 LARRY FITZGERALD

"We've got to do better. We've got to play better. This is a playoff atmosphere. The Saints, I don't know how many times they've made the playoffs in the last 10 years, but I know it's been a lot. This is a team that's used to winning and protecting home field. That kind of atmosphere is (among the) top 5 greatest atmospheres in professional sports."

(On Saint's defense): "We don't play them every single year so it's hard to compare them from yearto-year. When they get you on third-and-long and those great pass rushers can get after you, [Marcus] Davenport and [Cameron] Jordan, those guys can really do a lot of great things. They are very talented and athletic in the back-end."

(On the fourth-and-one call): "I support all the coach's decisions. We work really hard on executing those plays. Once the plays are called it comes down to man-on-man and being able to win your individual match-ups. Across the board. We didn't do enough today. We didn't use enough of our individual one-on-one match-ups. You want to win, and you have to win when you're playing against really good teams in this league."

"You want to execute. You want to be able to get a rhythm going. It's something we weren't able to get done early on in the game. When the clock is ticking, and you have guys on the field. You've got to play hard no matter what the score is. It's just the way we're wired."

(On the incomplete pass in the end zone): "I would have loved to have been able to get the other foot down. It was a decisive play in the game. I haven't seen it yet, but when I get on the plane and get a chance to watch the tape, I'll see what I could have done better. Kyler [Murray] put a great ball on me. I expect to make those plays."

"No one individual play changes the outcome of the game. The incomplete pass that could have been a fumble-recovery for a touchdown, that's a decisive play. There's a lot of plays that you could look back and say, 'if this would have happened,' or 'that would have happened,' you can play the what-if game all day. We got beat today. We got beat handily. We've got to put it out of our minds and get ready for a quick turnaround."

(On Drew Brees): "[He's] a first-ballot Hall-of-Famer competing, taking charge, and doing what leaders do. He was Drew Brees. There's a reason he's the leading passer in the history of this game.

We've been doing this one-hundred years and he's the most to ever do it. Hats off to him and what he's been able to accomplish. I'm happy to see him back out there and playing. He's a great man and a wonderful ambassador to this league."

(On atmosphere): "We prepare for it. We know what to expect. The only thing you can't replicate is the talent on the defense. When you get prepared for them, they're extremely talented. Coach (Dennis) Allen has those guys flying around. They gave us some different looks on every single down-and-distance. That'll really keep you on your toes. You've just got to tip your hat to those guys. They played well."