



**BUFFALO BILLS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME**  
**POSTGAME NOTES**

- The Saints loss on Sunday sees New Orleans' record fall to 5-6.
- The Saints loss drops their record against Buffalo to 7-5 all-time.
- The Saints loss drops New Orleans' 2021 home record to 2-3.
- New Orleans' all-time record on Thanksgiving is now 3-1.
- Saints Head Coach Sean Payton's record in the month of November now falls to 38-22.
- The Saints extended their streak to 315 regular season games without having been shut out, dating back to a 26-20 win at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on September 6, 2002 at Raymond James Stadium, the longest running streak in the NFL.
- LB **Demario Davis** tallied a team-leading ten tackles (six solo). Davis now has 703 career solo tackles, surpassing 700 solo stops for his career.
- WR **Lil' Jordan Humphrey** led the team in receiving yardage with three catches for 47 yards, both career-highs.
- DB **J.T. Gray** reached double digit figures for the second time in three seasons, recording his 10<sup>th</sup> special teams tackle on the season.
- DE **Carl Granderson** recorded one sack on his former Wyoming Cowboy teammate and Bills quarterback, Josh Allen.
- CB **Bradley Roby** notched his first interception as a Saint.
- LB **Kwon Alexander** recorded his first interception of 2021, his first since the 2019 season when he was a member of the San Francisco 49ers.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** played in his 171st career contest. Having never missed a game, Jordan moved into a tie with defensive lineman Wayne Martin (1989-99) for ninth place on the club's all-time games played list.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** had four catches for 31 yards. Smith now has 100 career receptions.
- TE **Nick Vannett** had an 11-yard touchdown grab, his first score as a Saint.
- RB **Dwayne Washington** had one special teams tackle. Washington now has 5 special teams tackles on the season, setting a new career high.
- S **Marcus Williams** tallied a season-high nine tackles in Thursday's contest.



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### BUFFALO BILLS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening Statement: "Let's start with the obvious. Obviously, we were not very good tonight. It was a long game, especially offensively. I thought the two things that stood out were that we had trouble with any type of balance, protection. I thought our return game struggled, especially in the kickoff return. I thought we hung in there defensively for the first half. We had some takeaways, but it wasn't very good. Disappointing."

On the first adjustment he will make from this game: "It's hard to do that without reviewing it yet. In fairness to the question, watch the tape, look closely at who's doing what, and we'll get back to work on Sunday."

On Taysom Hill's role this week: "He was still going through the week. We knew he wasn't going to be able to play quarterback this week, but he's listed as full relative to being up. That was his foot."

On his role once healthy: "Again, we'll see. We'll look at everything right now. Obviously, we have to."

On Ian Book being inactive and Taysom Hill active: "[Taysom Hill] was just like last week. He was our No. 2 quarterback, right? Last week was the same way. Obviously, his role would be limited, but it was the same as last week's game."

On the fourth down attempt with lost yardage: "We were late with the get off. The ball was not snapped, but we had guys moving. We will look at it on film, but the timing and the get-off were poor."

On his aggressive play-calling: "I think a little bit. I think we were going to try to return kicks as best as we could, bring them out. How do you create points? I think going in we felt like we had to be a little bit more aggressive. (Buffalo) is a team that's capable of scoring. We weren't going to be able to just score 14 points or 17 points and win a game against a team like this."

On if he can recall a time where he felt like he needed to be this aggressive on certain types of decisions: "I can't remember. I'm sure. There were some tough seasons, but it's now. You deal with the now. Obviously, it was difficult, and I am sure it was difficult for the television viewing audience."

On the offensive struggles: "More importantly being a head coach, the premium on winning is so important with the amount of work you put in for everyone involved – players, coaches, trainers, equipment, everyone. There's so much that goes into it. That's what you think about."

On if the offensive struggles weigh on him being an offensive-minded coach: "No. It just weighs on you, period. It's something that, obviously, we have to look closely at everything we're doing and who we are doing it with. It's not like these players are going to come walking through the hallway. It has to be from within."

On his review of Trevor Siemian's performance: "We just finished the game. It's hard to give a review. He struggled. We struggled blocking him. We struggled running. I think it's going to be difficult to do a lot of anything if you can't block him and you can't have some balance."

On Josh Allen: "Shoot, he's big and athletic. There were probably three or four plays, either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> down, where all of a sudden, he gets into the defense for a first down. He's extremely talented."

On Siemian's interception: "I think he forced it in the two-minute drill outside. I'm sure he will see that on film. Just seeing it, that's something he will see."

On how he keeps the focus one game at a time after four-straight losses: "You have to focus on the next game, the same way if you have three or four-straight wins. It is very narrow relative to who the next opponent is. How do we change the results? How do we improve? That is where our focus will be."

On the two-point conversion attempt: "I'll be honest with you, and I'm aware if you're a pretty good offensive team, it's probably not a problem. If you're not a good offensive team, which is what I would say that's where we are at right now, it probably is a problem. Two yards on a handful of downs tonight were a struggle, but I understand the question."

On if the short week had to do with the performance: "I don't think so. I think both teams (were dealing with the same thing) – it is what it is."



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### BUFFALO BILLS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

#### QB TREVOR SIEMIAN

**On how he played tonight:** “Not good enough to win. I didn’t play very well.”

**On why the offense has struggled in the past four weeks:** “It just feels hard. We’re just not getting anything going early in games and today we kind of allowed it to snowball. We put our defense in a bad situation, so, we have to get (the offense) right.”

**On what happened during the critical missed fourth down conversion in the first half:** “Yeah, it was just a miscommunication with the snap and the cadence.”

**On how he will prepare to adjust his preparation to have more success:** “You just try to get some first downs and get some momentum back. You have to play it one play at a time. When you get first downs, good things happen from there. (It felt like) there were way too many three-and-outs today.”

#### LB KWON ALEXANDER

**On the mood of the team after losing four straight:** “Everybody is upset. We’re trying to figure it out. But we will figure it out. We have to get back to the drawing board and get ready for next week.”

**On if there was a tackling issue:** “We just have to get better at every little thing; tackling, coverage, communication, everything. Everybody has to work together, figure out a plan, and execute.”

**On how hard it is on the defense when the offense is struggling to score:** “It’s our job not to let the other team score. We have to hold our offense down and pick them up. We have to figure out a way to keep them energized.”



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#### C ERIK McCOY

**On the impact of a changing offensive starting lineup:** “I wouldn’t really say so. It’s all guys that have experience, all guys that played together before. Like I said, we just did not play our best ball today.”

**On the feeling of snowballing offensively, and how to get out of it:** “I think it goes back to practice this week. We’ve got to come in, we have to pay attention, even closer attention. It all comes down to the execution in practice and in games, we just have to do it.”

**On the difficulty converting third downs and its impact on the offense:** “Yeah, when you come off the field on third down, three and outs, you don’t get anything going. You don’t get the run game going. Nobody’s getting their touches, and it’s just hard.”

#### DE CAMERON JORDAN

**On a strong first-half performance, then the point of team morale falling:** “As a defender, if we can get one turnover, we can get two. If we can get two turnovers, we can get three, and we didn’t get enough turnovers today. So, I mean, four quarters, no spirit diminished. We knew what the emphasis was, we needed to create another turnovers and we didn’t, so we have to get better from that.”

**On issues created by Josh Allen, especially after facing Jalen Hurts:** “I would say after seeing (Jalen) Hurts, probably not. You feel like you’re aware that he (Josh Allen) can stretch some plays out with his feet. I think we did a good job of rounding him (Josh Allen) early and often. He was hit a few times, we got two turnovers out of it, but again, if you can get two turnovers, you can get three. If you can affect the quarterback every other play, you can affect the quarterback every play, and again, we have to put it on our defense right now. We knew we had to come in and take the load, and we’ve got to be who we think we are.”

**On the burden on defense to generate turnovers or impact the quarterback on every play:** “What do you mean? We are a team. Our offense is dinged up, that is no excuse. It is (a) next man up mentality. Our defense is relatively healthy in terms of our linebacker corps and our secondary. So, we (the defense) have to be the strength. We (the defense) have to be more than we are in this game, more than we were in this game.”



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

### **BUFFALO BILLS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021 • CAESARS SUPERDOME BUFFALO BILLS HEAD COACH SEAN McDERMOTT**

Opening comments: "Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families out there. I really appreciate the support that we got from Bills mafia down here the last couple of days. It was awesome to see. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone back home in Buffalo. I can't wait to see you guys back home."

On kickoff coverage: "Kickoff coverage was outstanding. Special teams, I thought, did a terrific job giving us a spark that I think we needed."

On Isaiah McKenzie's being inactive: "He's a competitive guy. I understand that he wants to be out there, so those emotions are real, and I get that."

On Marquez Stevenson's performance: "This is his first game, so there is work to be done there, but I thought that he handled himself fairly well in his first game. More than anything, I thought that he came in and, having not played, in particular, in a few months, he handled himself well. It's really about, number one, taking care of the football. That is the number one thing that I am looking for."

On the injury to Tre'Davious White: "Don't know at this point. I think that we will know more in the next couple of days."

On what goes through his head when he sees White injured: "To be honest, I care for all of them the same, regardless of the caliber of player. So, we just pray that he's back and we'll see where it goes. We just take it one day at a time."

On Dane Jackson's performance: "I thought that he did a good job. He's been in that position before, in terms of having to come in, whether it's been for Tre (White) or Levi (Wallace); and he usually handles himself well just like he did tonight."

On if Matt Breida gave the team a spark: "I thought that both backs ran well. I thought that we had a couple of opportunities overall in the first half as an offense where we didn't come away with points, where we should have come away with more points. We have to look at that. Overall, we were able to overcome the turnovers in the first half. I thought that our defense did a good job with a sudden change defense right there. I thought that both backs in the second half, in particular, ran strong."

On the team's kick coverage: "Awesome. I'll give the guys credit. I trust them. We wanted to kick one out of the end zone when we were up a little bit and had a little bit of a lead there. That was about 20 yards away, and they start looking at me. I said, "What do you want?" They said, "Let's try and pin them down there." I trust them. I think that is the one that got them on the 11. So, it's fun to watch."

On what he enjoyed about the special teams play: "They were hungry. That's a really good returner as well (for the Saints). I think they are one of the tops in the league with their return game. And, our kickoff coverage was outstanding. Our offense moved the ball well enough that we could get in some sky punts and some pooch punt situations. I thought that Matt Haack did a great job as well."

On how much the defensive line took last week's loss personally: "By the way they played, the message hit home. That is what I expected, to be honest with you. That is what veteran leaders do. They lead by their play. The physicality of our defense is where I thought it needed to be."

On going for it on fourth down when the team could have kicked a field goal: "I thought that it was a great call by Coach (Brian) Daboll and well executed. That's what you want. You want to be able to trust your players. There will be other situations where we go for it (or) do not go for it. At the end of the day, I am always trying to put the team in the right position to win the game based on score (and based on situation.)"

On why Dawson Knox is having so much success this season: "He's just confident. Over half of this game is mental. I think that his confidence is where it needs to be this year. He's had success, and he's been able to bounce back from some moments where he needed to reset. I think that shows how mentally tough he is."

On what it's like to see Knox come back from injury and resume having a good year: "Yeah, that shows how mentally tough he is. It's great to have him out there. I know that Josh (Allen) has a lot of faith in him."

On the team's ability to bounce back from a loss: "Yeah, it's a resilient group. I think that they respond to a challenge. And, we will be challenged this week as we look ahead to the Patriots. That will be a big challenge for us."

On the team cutting down on its penalties: "You have got to make it a conscious effort to play with good technique and fundamentals, and move your feet and get your hands inside. That is all three sides of the ball. I know that we had the one penalty on the quarterback. I thought that they should have been called for one, quite honestly, on Josh (Allen). It is really frustrating that that does not get called. (It is) really frustrating. That is clear, clear as day to see that. I just want to protect my quarterback. Yeah, overall, I thought that we did a better job playing disciplined and playing with better technique. So, it's got to continue."



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#### QB JOSH ALLEN

**What did getting the ball to Diggs do for the offense?** “That’s the type of player he is. He’s extremely special when the ball is in his hands. Things like run after catch, making guys miss, and making plays for us. I’m glad we got some running game going tonight which forced them to give us some different looks and Diggs took advantage of it. We’re going to need everyone going forward in order to start stacking wins.”

**What did he see on Diggs touchdown?** “Diggs gets open basically. He’s a route technician and I think everybody knows that. I do not know what you are supposed to do when you are out there with him because he’s very smart with the way he sets you up and the quickness and speed’s unbelievable. I saw him open and I just tried to get it to him as quickly as possible before he got out too wide. See open, throw open, and he made a great play.”

**What did you talk about after the second touchdown was erased at the end of the first half?** “He made a great play. I put the ball in harms way a little too much there and fortunately he came down with it and we had a few guys down field. There’s a few things we need to clean up and things that can’t happen, but we’ll focus on that.”

**Does coach McDermott have faith in you to make those decisions in big-down situations?** “You want coach to have supreme faith in you especially on 4<sup>th</sup> down situations where analytics say one thing, but sometimes the coaches’ guts say another thing. Hopefully he sides with us more times than not because we’ve got guys that want to make plays and want to do everything they can for this team. Thankful he let us go for it there.”

**Was being more involved in run game partially due to watching what Eagles did last week with the Saints?** “I think we took a couple things from them. It’s really just stuff we’ve had for a long time that we kind of just threw back in. I think coach did a great job of sprinkling those in when he did.”

**What’s your reaction when you see those playoff brackets?** “We don’t really focus on that. It is just one game at a time that we can focus on. We know that we’re not going to get in with seven wins, we know we’re not, not going to make it with four losses. We have to continue to find ways to play to the best of our abilities as these weeks go by. We’ve got a long week to look at the next opponent and go from there.”

**When a guy like Tre’Davious White goes down, what does that do for your football team?** “Prayers up for him. I hope nothing is too serious and I know all the guys in the locker room are praying for him and hurting with him. You can’t say a single bad thing about that man. He comes in and busts his ass every day. He’s such a great teammate and treats everybody the right way. He just does the little things well that not many people see, but that’s why he’s so good. Hoping again it’s not too serious.”

#### S MICAH HYDE

**On washing away last week?** “We knew what happened last week. We couldn’t wait to get back. Luckily it was Thursday, Thanksgiving game and we were able to come in here and get a win. We’re just happy to get this win.”

**On the large number of Bills fans at the game?** “It’s not a surprise to me. This happens every week. Win or lose.”

**On the performance of the defense tonight?** “Same as last week. We knew what we did last week where we kind of laid an egg. So we had to come in this week and give our offense good field position

and take the ball away and we were able to do that today, but we need to be able to continue to do this every week.”

**On taking back first place in the AFC East?** “It’s still a long season, a very long season. Good to hopefully get this weekend off, get some rest, spend some time with the family, celebrate Thanksgiving tomorrow and get ready for our Monday Night game.”