



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024 • CAESARS SUPERDOME

- The Saints secured their fourth win of the season over the Cleveland Browns 35-14 on Sunday. Following a Week 12 bye, they will return to action on December 1, when they host the Los Angeles Rams at the Caesars Superdome. Kickoff is at 3:05 p.m. CT and the contest will be regionally televised on FOX (broadcast locally on WVUE FOX 8).
- New Orleans improved their regular season record against the Browns to 7-13 and even up their record against Cleveland at the Caesars Superdome to 4-4.
- Dating back to a September 18, 2018, 20-18 win over the Browns at the Superdome, the win today gives the Black and Gold a three-game winning streak against Cleveland, matching a prior three-game winning streak against the Browns in the series from October 28, 1984-October 14, 1990.
- The win evened up New Orleans' home record in 2024 to 3-3. All-time, the win improved their home regular season record to 224-223-1.
- Interim Head Coach **Darren Rizzi** improved to 2-0 as a head coach, joining Sean Payton (2006) as the only two Saints head coaches to win their first two games.
- Today's win improves the Saints' record to 2-1 in the month of November. This marks the first winning record by New Orleans in the month of November since they went 5-0 in 2020, also the first time since that season the team has won multiple games in November.
- The Saints gained a season-high 473 total net yards. New Orleans outrushed the Browns 214-66, setting a season-high for total rushing yards.
- QB **Derek Carr** led New Orleans to back-to-back wins for the second time this season. He finished 21-of-27 for 248 yards with two touchdown passes, zero interceptions and a 129.6 passer rating. Carr also had eight rushing yards on a scramble for a first down.
- With the Saints win over Cleveland on Sunday, Carr improved his record as a starter against the Browns to 5-1 and extended the winning streak against Cleveland to five games.

- Carr now has 255 career touchdown passes, surpassing Joe Flacco and Pro Football Hall of Fame signal-caller Dan Fouts (Class of 1993) all-time, and is now in a tie for 22nd in league history with Pro Football Hall of Fame passer Sonny Jurgensen (Class of 1983).

- Carr's two touchdown strikes were to Saints WR **Marquez Valdes-Scantling** and TE **Juwan Johnson**. Carr and Valdes-Scantling connected on 71-yard bomb, and Carr extended the lead as he threw it to Johnson for the one-yard score.

- The last time the Saints had two straight games with pass plays of 60-plus yards was in 2014 when QB Drew Brees connected with WR Joe Morgan for 62 yards vs. Baltimore on November 24 and WR Kenny Stills had a 69-yard touchdown grab from Brees on November 30, at Pittsburgh. The last individual to have receptions over 60 yards in consecutive games was RB Reggie Bush (2006), when he had a 74-yard reception vs. San Francisco on December 3 and a 61-yard touchdown grab at Dallas on December 10.

- TE **Taysom Hill** contributed significantly on offense and on special teams. He went one-of two for 18 yards and an interception, but surpassed his career-high in receptions with eight grabs for 50 yards and carried seven times for a career-high 138 yards (career-high 19.7 avg.) with three touchdowns, to tie a career-high. Hill finished with a career-high 188 yards from scrimmage. With a 42-yard kickoff return, the longest kickoff return of the season for the Saints, Hill finished with a career-high 230 all-purpose yards.

- With Hill's three touchdowns on Sunday to increase his career total to 44, he surpassed Pierre Thomas in the club record books in career touchdowns, moving into sole possession of ninth place. He also played in his 104th career game on Sunday, moving into a tie for 52nd on the club's all-time games played list with DL/LB Renaldo Turnbull.

- Hill became the first player with three rushing touchdowns, 50 receiving yards and one pass completion in a game since former Kansas City Chiefs RB Ed Podolak on November 25, 1971 at Detroit.

- RB **Alvin Kamara** continued to be productive in the Saints backfield with 16 carries for 67 yards while adding four receptions for 22 yards receiving. With 1,225 yards from scrimmage on the season, he surpassed the 1,160 yards he reached in 2023.

- With his 67 rushing yards, he now has 6,611 for his career, surpassing former Saints teammate Latavius Murray, Le'Veon Bell, and Lawrence McCutcheon to move into 78th in NFL record books for all-time career rushing yards.

- With his 22 receiving yards on Sunday, he surpassed John L. Williams and moved into 15th in the NFL record books for career running back receiving yards (4,642).

- Kamara played in his 112th career regular season game on Sunday and moved into a tie for 36th on the club's all-time list for games played with TE Josh Hill, currently a pro scout with the club.

- In addition to Hill, the tight end duo of TE **Foster Moreau** and Johnson both contributed to the passing attack. Moreau recorded three receptions for 50 yards (16.7 avg.) and Johnson tallied three receptions for 30 yards (10.0 avg.) with the one-yard touchdown.
- WR **Dante Pettis** set a new career-high in punt return yards with 54 and had a career-long punt return with his 53-yarder that set up Johnson's one-yard touchdown grab.
- DT **Bryan Bresee** is now the team-leader with 5.5 sacks in 2024. With his 1.5 sacks on Sunday, he surpassed his rookie total in 2023 of 4.5 and set a new career-high 11 games into the season.
- LB **Demario Davis** led the defensive effort with a club-best and season-high 13 tackles (three solo), including one stop for loss and added two pass breakups.
- With ten tackles in last Sunday's win over Atlanta, Sunday's 13-stop effort by Davis marked the first time as a Saint he had at least ten tackles in back-to-back contests. Davis also surpassed the 750 mark for tackles as a Saint with his 13-tackle effort today (754).
- Davis also played in his 108th game as a Saint and moved into a tie for 42nd all-time in Saints record books for games played with K John Carney and RB Dalton Hilliard.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** played in his 220th career regular season game and moved into sole possession of 20th place in games played among NFL defensive linemen past Pro Football Hall of Fame DT John Randle (Class of 2010) and stalwart DT Jeff Zgonina, recording three tackles, one quarterback hit and one pass defense.
- DEs **Carl Granderson** and **Chase Young** both contributed to the sack total today. Granderson recorded one takedown and Young also had a split-sack against the Browns.
- P **Matthew Hayball** punted three times for 110 yards (36.7 gross avg), including all three downed inside the 20-yard line.
- K **Blake Grupe** drilled all five extra points today, increasing his club-best point total to 75.
- LB **Anfernee Orji** led the special teams units with two stops.
- DB **J.T. Gray** recorded one special teams stop to reach 19 for the season, tying his career-high first set in 2021.



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(Opening Statement) “Before I take any questions, I thought we showed great resiliency. Our theme of the week has been *finish*. You look at our entire season and that’s not something we’ve done very well. Coming in today, we were 1-3 in one score games. We have had some leads that we’ve given up. Even last week at times, offensively we weren’t great, but I felt like one of the best things we did today all three phases, hung in there, finished the game (in the) fourth quarter. We talked about three things this week, just keeping the focus on the preparation, talked about winning the line of scrimmage, and we talked about finish, and those were the themes as a team this week. I thought we did all three of those things, and so I thought that was a check mark for all three things. When they tied the game, the momentum started to swing a little bit again, much like last week, and I thought what a great job us, by the team, all three phases in the fourth quarter, we had big plays from every phase. I just thought that was an outstanding job. Again, the crowd was awesome. To get to hear momentum there, we needed them a little bit at the end, we got loud. All of a sudden they’re in a two minute drive. That was great. Kudos to Taysom (Hill) for responding, and, no surprise, that’s Taysom, but a great response from him. I know he was pissed off at halftime because we had a couple of turnovers, the interception and the fumble, but he might be the poster child for the resilience. You look at him come back, bounce back, make some huge plays. We decide to go for it there on fourth and short, he has a touchdown run. Then we’re in a four minute drill and he busts out another long one. So I’m certainly happy as heck that we have that guy on our team. You look at the offensive line, we rushed for 200 plus yards. Our plan was to kind of neutralize Myles Garrett for the game, and I thought we did some of that. But again, big punt return, just plays by everybody. Again, just super, super proud. As I just said to the team, there’s a process every week on how to win the game, and I thought we did a great job there. There were a couple times we had some self inflicted wounds, for sure, with the explosive plays for them and turnovers for us, but kudos to that whole locker room for being able to overcome that.”

(On intentions behind Taysom Hill’s offensive involvement) “I think when you look, at least for the time I’ve been here, I have been here for most of the time Taysom has been. Listen, when he touches the ball, he is on the field, it affects the game tremendously. And he sometimes doesn’t even have to get the ball. Him being on the field and I thought Klint (Kubiak) did a phenomenal job in the way we used him today. He ran it, he threw it, he caught it, and so when you’re defending that, and you’re not sure where he’s going to line up and all that, it neutralizes defense a little bit. You maybe get some more vanilla looks than if he’s not on the field. I think you had, what did he have, eight catches and seven carries and two pass attempts, like Red Grange. Good for him, and good for us, and good for Klint and good for the offensive staff. But no doubt, you want to get the balls to your playmakers and (we) certainly have done such a great job the entire season to keep teams off balance, and it’s not all on one guy, it’s a big deal.”

(On what came up in game assessments of Hill’s involvement) “We looked at some other games this year when Taysom was active, and it wasn’t just me. I think it collectively felt like, ‘Yeah, we’re going to get this guy the ball more and get him more involved.’”

(On whether Hill is playing closer to how he envisioned preseason) “Yeah, I think it’s a fair statement because you look at the first couple of games, he was very, very involved. He obviously then was dealing with an injury. Coming back off of that, I think he’s gotten a little bit more and more involved every week. But if you look at our wins so far this season, I’m going to tell you that Taysom’s numbers are pretty good. So that’s been a theme around here for a long time and, like I said, Alvin (Kamara)’s been kind of carrying a load there. Again, Alvin had some really tough, really good yards today, and to be able to keep the defenses off balance with those two guys is a big thing.”

(On Taysom Hill’s performance at 34 years old) “Yeah, he’s kind of an ageless guy. He keeps himself in phenomenal physical shape, the way he takes care of his body, what he puts in his body, all those things. How he prepares himself off the field, in the offseason, all those things. So, he certainly doesn’t look 34. He looked more like a 24-year-old today, that’s for sure. Now we’ve got to be smart with the usage and play counts and all that stuff, we can’t just sweep it under the rug, his age. But I think the reason he has success is because of what he does for the whole calendar year. His preparation, his nutrition, all those things, so the off-the-field stuff is really impressive with him.”

(On confidence in Taysom Hill after turnover) "At halftime I said to him, 'You're going to continue to get the ball, so we've got to get over it. Let's move on.' Listen, any good player that gets that many touches, you're going to have some negative plays. But he was really taking it personal. I just told him on the way out at halftime, 'You're going to keep getting the ball. So I'm going to need you here.' And fortunately for us, he made some big ones."

(On Kubiak's play-calling rhythm) "It's the second week in a row I thought we had a really great start. And that has been a theme in the games that we (have) played well in, it is kind of getting that ball rolling early on. We get a little stagnant there again in maybe the third quarter, but then we're (having) a really good finish. That was the difference between this week and last week. I thought the offense finished. I thought we had a really good start, maybe a little stale in the middle, but I thought Klint called a great game. And you look at the numbers, Derek (Carr)'s 21-of-27. Again, very efficient, made some good decisions, spread the ball around, so for the second week in a row, his QBR is super high, and just played a really efficient game. But that goes back to the play-calling, so I thought Klint did a phenomenal job of spreading the ball around. Foster (Moreau) had a couple of huge catches, Juwan (Johnson), a couple of huge catches, obviously (Marquez Valdes) Scantling, another big play. It's just a great job of understanding the weapons we have and who should be involved, so a great job by Klint."

(On the overall mood of the locker room) "I think we're starting to get some confidence back. I thought we had a lot of confidence in the beginning of the year. We obviously had a little bit of lull, team wise, and I think they got a swag back, if you will. That makes me so happy, just seeing our guys celebrate, and the culmination of the workweek. We talked about that formula for winning, I talked about buy-in and it's a credit to everybody in the locker room. That's what they have done. Listen, I just love to see the excitement. We're going to have a little downtime now. The guys need it. We went 11 in a row here, it's not easy. These late bye weeks, we kind of get to press the reset button again and see if we can make a push here at the end, one day at a time."

(On gratification) "Listen, it's been a crazy two weeks. I'd lie to you if I said I had to sit down and really think about the whole thing. Maybe I'll do that this week. We've still got a lot of things we need to get done in the office and whatnot. It's gratifying to me to win. So, at the end of the day, to watch these guys prepare these last two weeks and go out there, that's the gratifying part for sure. Just the smiles on the faces in the locker room, that's the gratifying part."

(On Pete Werner's game despite cast) "I told you guys all week, Pete (Werner), every day, there was a little more confidence that he could do it. It was really up until last night where it's like, hey, we're going to pull the trigger here. He had some casting options. We weren't 100% sure if he was going to be able to do it, but he prepared all week, didn't get a ton of reps, but prepared all week. Pete's a very intelligent guy, so I wasn't worried about the mental. I was more worried about if he could finish (and) be effective. All the credit to him. He's out there with that club, still flying around and making plays."

(On the defense containing the run game) "That's a big deal. We made an emphasis all week about the line of scrimmage, but more importantly, our tackling. Our tackling on the year is something that has been really inconsistent, so I saw today some really good examples of tackling in the run game. They ripped off a couple runs here and there, but I thought we really did a great job controlling the line. But more importantly, when the back gets to the second level linebackers and DBs, we did a much better job today tackling. Again, that was an emphasis. They've done a good job, their offensive line, tight ends, running backs have been good for them, so we tried to turn it into a passing game, which we did the second half. That was certainly effective."

(On Foster Moreau's performance) "(Foster Moreau) got dinged up early, too, and credit to him, he came back in the game, but he made some huge catches. The one got taken away from him for the holding call, which was a really great pass and catch, but some huge plays. The one where he was falling down, I remember saying in the headset to the coaches, 'That's an unbelievable catch.' He is kind of off balance, sees the ball late, but he makes incredible catches. That whole tight end room really stepped up."

(On the return game and field position) "First of all, Dante Pettis, great job by him. I think in 11 games, we've had, what, four or five different guys back there catching punts? And I think like seven or eight different guys doing kick returns. We made a decision late in the week to go with Dante because we needed a roster spot. I thought Jermaine (Jackson) did an admirable job when he's been in there, but Dante is a guy that was a really good returner in college. We knew if we could get him out into space, we could make something happen. It's a shame, I saw right in front of me, he stepped out by about an inch it looked like. I thought it might come back so I wasn't really celebrating too much because I knew they were going to see it. But what a great job, gave us great field position to go down and score again. Like I said, all three phases. Then the kickoff side of things, I thought Blake (Grupe) had some really good kickoffs. Coverage was outstanding. We made them field that one line drive, (that) kind of bounced around, I think they started on the 15, coverage was really good. We want to continue to take advantage

of that. To have a 42-yard kick return and, I don't even know how many yards the punt return was (53), but a long punt return, those are huge plays in the game. Momentum swings, so that was really good."

(On seeing Jameis Winston again) "It's always great to see Jameis (Winston), (he) puts a smile on my face, puts a smile on everybody's face. From a personal level, great to see him. Right away, they had an 89-yard touchdown there in the beginning. That was the concern coming in. Jameis is going to take those shots down the field. I thought we did a really good job defending. You're always worried, even when we went up 14, we just can't have an explosive here. No big ones, and all of a sudden they're back in the game. So I thought we did a good job of taking those second half ones away."

(On Juwan Johnson blocking on Valdes-Scantling touchdown) "It's another bounce back moment. We talked about Taysom (Hill), but Juwan (Johnson) had the holding penalty on the long throw to Foster (Moreau), and here again. That guy didn't sulk, he just came back and made a huge play. As that play is going on, I'm not even watching (Marquez Valdes) Scantling run with the ball. I am watching everybody else. I'm looking at Juwan back there, out front, working his ass off to get us into the end zone. That's what the finish part is all about, so when you see examples like that, I think it's awesome. It's in the selfless acts that maybe not everyone understands or sees, but that's just phenomenal. It is just team football, it's a selfless 111 thing that we always talk about. Awesome. Really cool."

(On secret to making opposing kickers miss) "(Laughs). No, but again, those are big plays. I think our rush team has done a phenomenal job. Kudos to Phil Galiano and Marwan (Maalouf). They kind of put that plan together every week and present it. Great job by those guys. We're getting phenomenal effort on that. That shows on film and that's on the kicker's mind, so the rushes from last week, where we blocked one and should have maybe blocked another, it whizzed by (John) Ridgeway's hand, that is on film. It's what kickers, in the operation, they try to speed up a little bit, get the ball out a little quicker. It's a big deal. When you put that effort on film, when you put that thought into the opponent's mind, it's a great job by our unit and the coaching part of it. Great job."

(On Derek Carr's performance this afternoon) "(Derek) played a phenomenal game across the board, extremely efficient. The turnovers are a big deal, I know he didn't throw one interception today. I think he was 21-of-27. Like I said, that's the second week in a row where his QBR is way, way high. I think we only had one sack today, so two weeks, one sack. Just spreading the ball out. And listen, there's a bunch of guys playing out there that haven't really been playing with him the entire year: Scantling, Kevin Austin, Dante Pettis. The timing and the rhythm. Derek does a great job at practice every week. Just another really great job by him."



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QB TAYSOM HILL

(On if he knew who Red Grange was) "I don't. Rizz (Darren Rizzi) did (compared Hill to him)? I don't know. Is that a compliment? I'm just playing."

(On becoming the first player since Ed Podolak in 1971 to have three rushing TDs, 50 receiving yards and one pass completion in a game) "I don't know. That's one of those things, to be honest, that I don't really pay a ton of attention to those things. I know that the guys who played this game before us did a lot for us that are now playing this. To be talked about with those guys means a lot to me. I love this game, but the reality is the guys who came before us laid a foundation for us to be playing in stadiums like this on national television and stuff. I don't want that to come across the wrong way because it does mean a lot to me."

(On what allowed for that feat to happen) "I've always believed in myself. It was one of those games where Klint [Kubiak] and the way the coverage was working out created opportunities for me. I know Rizz talked about it, but I thought Derek (Carr) played a really efficient game. The ball was going where it needed to go, and it was coming out on time. We're really hard to defend when we're doing that. Man, he made a lot of really pivotal plays. Third down, third-and-long, he's making plays."

(On his frustration after the fumble in the second quarter) "I'm disappointed. I was really disappointed at halftime. No one is going to be harder about all these things than I am. I expect more from myself in those situations. Look, they made a couple of good plays. I've got a lot of great teammates, a lot of great friends who I had conversations with. I've played this game long enough, I know that's what those guys on the other side get paid to do. It's one of those things where I had to take a step back and say there's nothing I could do about it now. Right? Let's go do what I can to help us win this game."

(On what Darren Rizzi told him at halftime) "Look, I had a number of conversations. You play in this league long enough, you're going to have moments like that. Certainly, I've had plays that did not go my way prior to this game too. Look, I had conversations with Klint, Rizz, everyone, it is always the same message. It's the same message I echo to teammates too when something doesn't go our way. I'm aware of all of that and am grateful they obviously continue to give me opportunities."

(On being a creative offensive weapon) "We gain some numbers that way, and that's obviously never been a secret. We've done this in those things in the past, and it's been successful. Certainly, that's one of those things that's been advantageous for us. Klint called a great game and created a lot of opportunities for me to make plays. I think as you start to look at what we're doing offensively and the more things we do that way, the harder it is for us to be defended. I think, when you're running the ball well and you are ahead, it creates more opportunities that way. Hopefully, it is something we can continue to do."

(On Coach Darren Rizzi's pulse on the team) "I think Rizz has done a really nice job of communicating with a lot of guys in the locker room. We've had a lot of meetings with him. We've had private meetings, (meetings as a group), whatever. I think he has a really good pulse on what we need collectively as a team to get ready for the football game. I think guys have responded to that and really respect him and his ability to have conversation but then take feedback and make some changes. As I mentioned, guys have responded very positively."

(On being injured and finding balance) "It's a hard thing when you want to be out there with your team, and you go through OTAs, you go through training camp and then you have a tough training camp. You're out there grinding with all your buddies. Then, you get to the season and you're all

excited and you have to sit on the sideline. That's a hard thing to balance mentally, emotionally and so forth. I understand trying to find a balance of making sure that you're available and all of that, but we also need to make sure we're doing everything we can to win football games. I don't know exactly what that's going to continue to look like, but I'm certainly enjoying the more opportunities I get."

LB DEMARIO DAVIS

(On if he's ever had to try to tackle Taysom Hill full speed) "Taysom? We've had some live drills. I don't know if we've ever had to go head-on in the hole and that. I think in those live drills he might have been at quarterback. I'm glad he's on my team (laughs)."

(On the fourth down play) "I believe that it was firstly on 4th-and-1, and goal line plays always begin with a knockback. Our defensive line took away the interior run by the way they got off the ball with a low pad level. I believe it was Will Harris. He was man-to-man with the tight end. When the tight end got the block, he got the trigger and that took the fullback or the guard off of me. That opened up the path for me to make the tackle. Still making a tough tackle on a really good running back, to be able to make the play, really set the tone in the game."

(On if he almost had a pick in the game) "Oh my gosh. First of all, I almost had two picks. Almost is the key word. Following last week, almost had a pick, so Amazon, I'm going to be looking tonight or have my wife look tonight on Amazon, Prime Delivery. I've got to get some hands. At this point, we shop so much on Amazon, we might have some delivery that we can get for free. Anywhere online, I know Amazon is going to have them. I need the best hands I can find. At this point, I am shopping for some hands. Amazon, just know I'm going to be looking tonight – Amazon delivery in the box. Don't care how they come, if they come gift wrapped or not, box them up nice, just a pair of hands so that I can have them after the bye week."

(On how the defensive scheme has changed over the last few weeks) "Joe Woods is an unbelievable defensive coordinator. Man, he does (a) really good calling plays and keeping the quarterback in a scramble and the offensive coordinator in a scramble. He does a good job of putting the game in his players' hands. We're able to play free. He comes in with the game plan. He makes sure we feel good about it, and we're able to come into the game with a lot confidence. When he's over there calling the plays, we just trust him and go out and execute. It allows us to play with our hair on fire. Guys have really been playing good football the last couple of weeks. That's good, and down the stretch, we've got to do it."

(On Derek Carr's performance) "Aw man, my boy had a field day out there today. He's a two point guard if you really watch him. He gets his Rajon Rondo on quite a bit, finding players. I was telling him in the locker room some of my favorite plays are to watch him when he rolls out the pocket. He had about an eight-yard run today that was special. He bowed up. He's in the room, so I'm going to give him extra love. The poise that he plays with when he rolls out the pocket, when he's on, he's one of the best ones doing it. He dropped a couple of passes down the field. That 4th-and-1 was special and got called back. I think that's my favorite play. When he rolls out the pocket and to see how he can wheel and deal on the fly. They usually have guys at three levels, and I feel like he manipulates the defense in his favor. He did the same thing with a little screen I was telling him about. It wasn't major, but it was pretty cool because he found a way to find a crease between two linemen. You have to think quarterbacks they really have to have some ... I'm not going to say the word ... of steel because you've got Myles Garrett running at you full speed. You have to be able to find a guy and keep your eyes down field with somebody who has plenty of highlights in the league of tearing people's heads off, and he's running at you full speed. To be able to keep your eyes downfield and keep your poise, I just think like, man, you have to give a lot of respect to those guys. I like to see him when he's in a mode like that. I'm glad he's on our side."

(On the overall mood in the locker room) "We're winning. Winning feels good. We want to keep that feeling going. Winning changes everything, and that's what this game is about."

(On Pete Werner) "That's some Walker Texas Ranger toughness right there. Man, me broke his hand last game, had a major surgery. I think he has a steel plate in his hand, and he wraps it up in a club that he tested out in practice. He's like, 'when I hit somebody it still feels like I'm punching a brick wall, but I'm going to tough it out'. He's got my respect. He already had my respect. I already knew he was a tough player. Your hands and feet, those are some very sensitive areas. I know people look at football and are like those are some tough guys. If you stub your toe, it still hurts. If you break a finger

or something, it hurts. For him to be out there toughing it out like that for the team and making some really big plays, it speaks to his toughness and his commitment to the game.”

(On confidence in adverse situations and the change in response recently) “I think it was just an emphasis on the finish that started with Coach Rizzi. He just talked about how we weren’t finishing well, and that was something we had to change. Joe Woods came in and emphasized it and talked about in eight or nine of our losses, we either were tied or had the lead in the fourth quarter. He really challenged us on defense, but we had to finish better. That’s what we’ve been putting on display the last couple of weeks. That was an interesting stat. It was 21-0 in the fourth quarter today. That’s the type of football we have to play. I think it makes the difference.”

(On playing against Jameis Winston) “That’s my brother. I love that man to death. He is a very unique guy, and he’s a memorable teammate. He gives everything that he has, and he has a spirit about him that’s contagious. I think watching him grow, specifically in his relationship with the Lord, his relationship with his family, just being a leader all around, seeing him use his platform properly has been amazing to see. In this game, you’re going to have highs and lows, and it’s all about how you choose to show up every day. He is one guy that if you want to talk about how you show up every single day, he’s as great as they come in that regard. The things that he’s had to endure, the waves and the high highs that he’s had and the low lows that he’s had. When he continues to show up with that spirit, I think that’s an example to the world. If I could show up with his spirit every day, I’d be a better human being. I’m proud to call him my brother. I will praise and honor him on any stage.”

QB DEREK CARR

(On the third-and-one quarterback keeper play) “I thought after that run I was definitely going to beat Taysom [Hill] in the rushing title again today, and I did not, obviously. That was my last one. It was actually a play we had before. This game presented good looks and the coaches, they liked it. It was going to be our first short-yardage calls. I’ve been trying to tell them I don’t mind doing that. Finally, they let me do it, and we got a first down. It was huge for us, for sure.

(On the plan for defending Myles Garrett) “I think it went really well. We made sure we had a plan for him because he’s one of the most dominant players I’ve every played in my 11 years in the NFL. He is insane how good he is. Some of the plays he can make – the strength with the speed with the effort. There’s a play you can watch him against Washington where you watch him on a run play, 50, 60 yards down the field, he’s outrunning DBs. He’s unbelievable. Thankfully, he didn’t decapitate me on the one I was throwing to Foster [Moreau] because he found a way in. I thought our offensive line did an outstanding job. Tight ends, running backs, whatever receivers we had in just different kind of looks, different kind of things you don’t always use in every game but with a guy like that you have to use. I put him up there with the guys I’ve played like Von Miller, Aaron Donald, TJ Watt. They’re just that dominant. I’m going to stop naming people, so someone down the road doesn’t get mad. They just have a way to impact games. You watch the film, and you see him about to get chipped, and he’s hitting the chipper three yards in the air; both feet are off the ground. Then, he’s running through the tackle. Not everybody can do that kind of stuff.”

(On Taliese Fuaga’s performance) “Yeah, what a great challenge for him because we did leave him out there a couple of times. You can’t always chip and do certain things 100 percent of the time. There are certain concepts and routes you live with and just have to do it. I thought what a fantastic job. What an experience for him to go up against one of the most dominant players our league has ever seen to just grow in confidence and continue to get better. He’ll see things he’d want better and all those things. For him to get a taste of playing against Myles and seeing what that’s like and handling himself well – the thing I look for is the body language and the eyes before we go out there in the huddle. On the third down, that’s what I’m looking at, and he’s a very confident young man. His confidence gives me confidence. I’ve been in huddles with guys who are like I don’t know about this play, and that’s not a good feeling as a quarterback. His confidence is definitely years beyond how old he actually is.”

(On the Rajon Rondo comparison) “I love Rondo. I really love Rondo, but I’m a Laker fan. That one’s tough for me. I think any kind of praise from a player like that is very honoring, and I’m humbled by it because for him to say that, he doesn’t just say words. You guys know Demario. He says what he means, so I’m honored that he would compare me to someone like that. We talk about that all the time. Whenever you have players around you, it allows you manipulate coverages. It allows you to look this way, pump and then come back because you know you can get it complete. I have to move

this guy one step. There was one today, and I knew if I was going to throw a certain ball, I had to move that guy one step. If I don't have time to do that, I can't play the position how I want to play it. I'm allowed to do that because of how well our offensive line is playing, how well our guys are on their details about the little things like the landmarks on their routes. You have to catch this ball outside the hash right here. You have to be ready right here when I hit this third step. All that stuff matters. I'm just really impressed by everyone else around me because it gives me such joy everytime I go out there because I know I can play free I know that I'm free to be me, manipulate guys. I know Klint [Kubiak] and (Andrew) Janocko won't like it but sometimes take an extra hitch to move somebody to throw a certain ball and all that kind of stuff. If you don't have time to do those kind of things and guys aren't on the details, it won't matter, and it won't work. I've just been thankful for the guys around me. They have been playing so well that it allows me to be free."

(On how he is feeling health-wise) "I've got to be honest, the end of last year into the beginning of this year, I feel great. I felt like it's been my best football that I've played in my career. I feel confident in that. I feel confident in who I'm playing with. I feel confident in the building that I'm in. They continue to breed confidence into me. That goes a long way for players. I feel like, in my 11 years the last, I don't know how many games, the last have been my best."

(On Taysom Hill's performance) "It's unbelievable what he does and what we ask him to do. He's fullback, lead blocking on inside zones and isos, and then, he's playing fullback on a stretch run. He's playing tight end and then he's at receiver. Then he's at quarterback. Then, he's throwing it 50 yards down the field, then he's running with it. I turn around, and I'm in a no-huddle situation checking plays to hand him the ball at running back. Good luck finding someone who can do all of those things. I knew what kind of weapon he was when I made the decision to come here. It makes it even cooler now playing with him just because he's such a great friend. He's such a great person. Now it is just like, there is nothing wrong with this guy. This guy's awesome, except sometimes I can beat him at golf. That's about all. I can't out-drive him though."



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 2024 • CAESARS SUPERDOME BROWNS HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI

Opening comments

“That game was 14-14 going into the fourth quarter. Then, we didn’t finish in any phase, and that is very frustrating for me, for our players, for our coaches. We have to learn from it and we’ve got to move on, because we’ve got one Thursday night at our place. That is where our focus is going to be on.”

On the performance by Jameis Winston

“I thought that he saw clear. I thought that protection was good, for the most part. Maybe (we had) a couple of sacks on third down. I thought that the protection was good. I thought that guys did a good job of getting open. Obviously, there are plays that we left out there, and we have to do better. I thought that, when given time, he made good decisions.”

On Taysom Hill

“I give credit, obviously, to their players and coaches. They put him into some good spots. He’s a guy that gets your attention. Defensively, you are aware where he is at all times, whether he is a quarterback or (a) tight end. We just did not do a very good job of limiting him, slowing him down, tackling him. We did not (do a good job).”

On the direct snaps to Taysom Hill

“We need to execute in those moments. We’ll look at it and see if there are any things that we can do better and put our guys in position. It certainly wasn’t good enough.”

On the missed field goals by Kicker Dustin Hopkins

“He needs to make those kicks. He knows that. He’s been in this league a long time. He’s kicked for a long time. I believe that he will fix that issue that he had, and he will be fine.”

On the effort by Jameis Winston in his return to New Orleans

“For all of our guys, I think, certainly, the effort’s there, it’s great. The frustrating part is to not come out of here with a win. It doesn’t take away some of those good things. It’s frustrating when you play like we did in that fourth quarter.”

On Saints receivers being wide open down the field

“I’ll have to look at the tape to give you a better answer, other than to say that we just need to execute better.”

On Denzel Ward’s performance today

“Taking the ball away a couple of times, we knew that that was going to be a key down here. We made some big plays on the ball. We need him to play great defense.”

On how shocking it is to lose by 21 points after having no turnovers

“I think it goes back to, in this game, you have to play clean on all three sides of the ball. We did not do that. Certainly, in that fourth quarter, we did not do that. When you lose like we did by 21, you don’t really feel good about anything. We have to get back to Cleveland, lick our wounds, and get over it really, really quickly because we’ve got a game on Thursday.”

On the amount of missed tackles

“We need to tackle better. That is a good football team, as we all know. We’ve got to get them on the ground so we can get them into a punt situation.”



POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024 • CAESARS SUPERDOME CLEVELAND BROWNS PLAYERS

QB JAMEIS WINSTON

On his emotions after the game

"I'm just beyond grateful for the love and support that I have received from this city. This is definitely not the outcome that we wanted. We will continue to fight. We will continue to look better. We are going to look within and be the solution. We have to individually be the solution."

On Taysom Hill's performance

"Derek, Taysom, Alvin Kamara, the offensive line did an amazing job. They dominated the line of scrimmage. I know Taysom. He is an amazing player. We used to share reps all of the time. That's just how great of a player that he is. He is tough to plan (against). He is tough to stop. I did not know that he could run the inside zone. He did that well. You are playing against one of the best all-time athletes that the NFL has seen. You have to come with it. He was prepared and he did a great job today. He has always done a great job."

On the progress of the offense

"I feel like we just have to finish drives and score touchdowns. We did some good things, but every week you do good things. We have to find ways to finish. I'm going to be doing everything in my power to ensure that we put up enough points for the defense."

On getting everyone involved in the offense

"Ken (Dorsey) did a nice job of getting everybody involved. Everyone touched the ball today and that's a great thing from an offensive perspective. We need to continue to work on finishing the game and finishing drives so that we can (be on the) end of celebrating."

On the 89-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Jeudy

"He's explosive. When you get the ball into (an) explosive player's hands, then he does that. It was a great call, but we worked on the scramble drill. Both of our touchdowns were on that. We have to continue to find ways to execute that and find ways to finish in the end zone."

On throwing for nearly 400 yards, no interceptions and only 14 points

"This is why I love football so much. It is a true complementary game. No one can go out there and put 50 up and lead the team to victory. We all have to be in this together. That's why I love my teammates so much. That's why I love what I do so much being a quarterback. We are going to find a way to come together because we are never giving up. We have to find out a way to win together."

On keeping guys motivated moving forward despite the 2-8 record

"I'm going to keep guys up. At the end of the day, we all have our individual responsibilities to help this team win and we have to look within to find a way to do that."

G WYATT TELLER

On today's game

"At the end of the day we didn't execute. It doesn't matter who is calling the plays and what play it is. I don't think the Saints were calling a crazy run scheme. They turned right and ran. They turned left and

ran. When you execute and your running back finds the hole and you block, then they sprint, especially in the third and fourth quarter. When you go down by 21 points in the fourth quarter, then it is hard to run the ball.”

On Dawand Jones’ injury

“He’s a hell of a player. He’s a hell of a teammate. It sucks. I said this early. It sucks when you were the guy who was table topped into his ankle. If you just did your job a little bit better, then maybe he would still be playing. You can’t think like that. Football is a vicious sport. I went down earlier this year for something that happened. It’s all around us. You pray it’s not your brother.”

On not winning despite for throwing for almost 400 yards

“100 yards of touchdown you would think is roughly 7 points. So, when you have 400, you’d think 28 points is enough to win. Today it wasn’t. It was a tight game going into the fourth quarter, 14-14. We didn’t finish. We didn’t execute and we didn’t finish.”

DE MYLES GARRETT

On the frustration of Taysom Hill’s performance

“It’s just nuts. We are not doing what we are supposed to do. It’s what they wanted to do with their offense. It’s a guy that you circle beforehand. You have to take care of him and we didn’t accomplish that.”

On their success with misdirection plays

“It’s definitely tough. Stuff like that keeps you off guard on the defensive line front. It kept us from being able to penetrate like we wanted to consistently. We knocked the backs at the ends, but sometimes it was run. Sometimes it was stretch. Sometimes it was a boot or play action. It was a lot to play into and react to. You just have to make the plays when they are there.”

On the solutions for handling misdirection moving forward

“be locked in on your man and make the play that you are supposed to make. It is all 11. It’s not just the back end. It’s not just the front seven. It’s all of us.”

On if this performance is upsetting coming out of a bye week

“It’s frustrating regardless of when it happens in a season. Losing is losing.”

DE OGBO OKORONKWO

On the frustration of Taysom Hill’s performance

“Hats off to Taysom Hill. He’s a really good player. I’m definitely a believer. He can do a lot of things well on the football field. He’s a Swiss army knife for them. He had a day on us. I feel like there were some things we could have done better to slow him down and to stop him ultimately, but we didn’t get that done. There’s no finger pointing. We have a short turnaround, so we have to fix those things. We put it on tape, so we have to fix it.”

On the difficulty in adjusting defend Taysom Hill

“It’s man on man. Everybody has to win their one on ones. If you don’t win your one on ones, then it is a touchdown.”

On if there were a lot of lost one on one’s

“I wouldn’t say it was a loss. I would say out of position. You have to put yourself in the right position to make the plays and to execute the defense. I don’t feel like we did that.”

On if Taysom Hill surprised him on his impact on the game

“I wouldn’t say he surprised me. I knew he was a good player. He definitely had a bigger role in the offense than I thought he would today. Hats off to him. He’s a hell of a player. He made a lot of plays against us today.”

K DUSTIN HOPKINS

On his performance today

“I expect to be better for my teammates. I expect to be better for the city of Cleveland. It does not feel good being the weakest link in the football game and I was definitely that today. Form-wise I went into halftime feeling better about where I needed to be. It was too late.”

On if he feels like something is off

“There are times when you don’t make one in practice and then you just make it happen in the game. This is the first time in several weeks it is the opposite. Usually, gameday is good. Hopefully, I got my finger on it at halftime today and I can take that into the short week.”

On how he knows he got it out of his system

“It’s not a system thing. Mentally I feel really good I don’t feel too relaxed. I don’t feel panicky out there. Mentally I feel like I am in a good space. It’s more that I need to take that swing thought that I have in practice that I don’t necessarily into the game. I need to take that into the game for some reason. I don’t know if maybe I am rushing the ball and I have to think about that. I think taking that thought into game mode is going to be really good.