



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS ATLANTA FALCONS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss today, the Saints fall to 7-2 on the season and see their winning streak snapped at six games. The loss is New Orleans' first home loss of the season, as their 2019 record at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome falls to 4-1. New Orleans returns to action on Sunday, November 17 when they take on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Raymond James Stadium. Kickoff is set for 12:00 PM CT.
- The loss is New Orleans' first loss at home to Atlanta since the 2016 season and snaps a Saints' three-game winning streak against the Falcons.
- With the loss, New Orleans' all-time regular season record against the Falcons drops to 48-52 and their record vs. Atlanta drops to 23-20 in games played in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.
- With the loss, Head Coach **Sean Payton**'s record against Atlanta falls to 17-9 in the regular season and 9-4 in home games against the Falcons. Payton's record against Atlanta Head Coach Dan Quinn falls to 5-4.
- Offensively, New Orleans finished with 258 net passing yards and was held to a season-low 52 rushing yards on 11 carries (4.7 avg.). The Saints possessed the ball for 26:14, the team's lowest time of possession total this season and were held to a season-low 25% third down conversion percentage (3-of-12). New Orleans was also held without a touchdown for the third time this season.
- Defensively, the Saints held Atlanta to a season-low 174 passing yards. On the ground, New Orleans held Falcons RB Brian Hill to 61 yards on 20 carries and RB Devonta Freeman to 38 yards on 10 carries and have not let up a 100-yard rusher in 35 consecutive games, including postseason play.
- Saints QB **Drew Brees** appeared in his 268th career game, moving him into a tie with former Chargers teammate Junior Seau for 25th on the NFL's all-time games played list. Brees finished 32-of-45 for 287 yards and was sacked six times on the afternoon.
- In his 56th career game, WR **Michael Thomas** recorded 152 receiving yards on 13 receptions. He surpassed Odell Beckham Jr. (61 games) as the fastest player in NFL history to record 400 receptions with a seven-yard grab with :48 remaining in the second quarter. Thomas recorded his 401st career reception with 13:10 to play in the third quarter, surpassing Jarvis Landry (400 receptions) for the most grabs in a player's first four seasons. He now has 408 receptions in his career and an NFL-best 86 in 2019.
- Thomas increased his season total to 1,027 receiving yards and has now surpassed 1,000 yards in each of his first four seasons in the NFL.
- Thomas recorded his third consecutive game with at least 100 receiving yards, and had the 14th 100-yard receiving game of his career, surpassing TE Jimmy Graham (2010-14) for fourth in club record books. Thomas has also recorded double digit receptions in seven of the Saints' nine games this season.
- In his first game since Week 6 at Jacksonville, TE **Jared Cook** finished with six receptions for 74 yards, both season highs. Cook has caught a pass in each game he has played this season.
- With his four-yard carry with 13:52 to play in the third quarter, RB **Alvin Kamara** became the 14th Saint to surpass 2,000 rushing yards for his career. Kamara finished the afternoon with four carries for 24 yards (moving his career total to 2,008 rushing yards) and added eight receptions for 50 yards.
- QB **Taysom Hill** recorded a completion, reception, and rushing attempt in the same game for the third time in his career and the first time since October 28, 2018 at Minnesota. Hill finished the game with one completion for 17 yards, one three-yard reception, and one rush for 11 yards.
- WR **Tre'Quan Smith** recorded his first reception since recording three in a Week 2 loss at the Los Angeles Rams. Smith finished with 13 yards on the one catch.
- WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** was targeted three times in his 180th career game and was held without a reception for the first time in 2019. Ginn stands at 399 career receptions and will reach 400 with his next catch.
- S **Marcus Williams** recorded his team-leading third interception of the season, picking off Falcons QB Matt Ryan with 4:11 to play in the fourth quarter. Williams finished the game with seven tackles, a career-high four passes defended, and the one interception.
- LB **Demario Davis** recorded his first sack of the 2019 season and finished with a team-leading 11 tackles. Davis added two quarterback hits and one pass defense.
- DE **Cameron Jordan** recorded two tackles and one quarterback hit in his 137th career game. His 137 games played is good for sole possession of 21st place on the Saints all-time games list, breaking a tie with S Tommy Myers.
- LB **AJ Klein** and LB **Kiko Alonso** recorded seven and six tackles, respectively. Klein added a tackle for loss and Alonso added a quarterback hit.

- K **Wil Lutz** converted field goal attempts of 29, 47, and 28 yards. Lutz is now 14-for-14 on field goal attempts against Atlanta for his career.
- The Saints scored on their opening drive of the game for the first time in the 2019 season. Lutz converted a 29-yard field goal that capped off a Saints 10-play, 64-yard first quarter drive.
- S **Vonn Bell** tied a season-high with seven tackles, moving his season total to 43 tackles.
- P **Thomas Morstead** tallied four punts, averaging 48.0 yards per punt, downing two inside Atlanta's 20-yard line, and a long punt of 51 yards.
- WR **Deonte Harris** made an impact in the return game, recording a 46-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter and a 19-yard punt return in the third quarter.
- The Saints extended their streak to 281 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.
- Today's attendance of 73,283 is the highest attendance at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome this season.



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

(opening statement) “Real quickly, obviously it was a disappointing finish for us. First thing I would say, give Atlanta credit. They beat us well in all three areas. They played better than us. Pick a situation and there’s a good chance they won that situation. Third down, they were better both sides of the ball. Penalties they were better. Collectively we’ve got to do a better job and that starts with me. It’s kind of one of those, it’s not a lesson, but this league is too good week-to-week where you can go in and not be focused and ready. This has always been a game played with emotion and I thought they outplayed us. They outplayed us, they outcoached us, and they deserve to win.”

(on Atlanta’s ability to run the ball today) “I think that had something to do with it, but I think the third down stats were (important). I think they had five first downs by penalty and those were good calls. The drives for them extended and the drives for us didn’t. I thought they were going to be patient and mix it up. They were more effective running the ball than teams we’ve seen to date for quite a while. So again, I’m sure when we look at the tape tomorrow with our players there’s going to be a lot of things we’re going to clean up.”

(on hands to the face calls) “No, I thought the officiating was pretty good in this game. That had nothing to do with this game.”

(on if he saw this coming during the week) “No. As coaches we see these things come every week and yet they don’t come and we play well. We think that way. No, that’s the challenge always of this game is making sure that you’ve hit on everything. Making sure your practice week (is productive)...all those things. We didn’t play well enough to win today, really against anybody.”

(on noticing that the team wasn’t focused) “It’s something that happens, I think, throughout the game you begin to see. I mean, the first half, we’re in it at halftime, and it’s a one score game. I thought the third down numbers were telling though.”

(on aspects to look for in film review) “Yes, absolutely, there’s a lot of corrections. A lot of corrections. Look, it’s a good group here and they understand that tomorrow will be tough to watch it. It’ll go down. But shame on us if we can’t get those corrections made. That won’t be a problem. It’s much easier to come in and watch tape after you win, but that’s one of the things about this game that creates a little bit of toughness and grit.

(on offensive line allowing pressure) “I think that’s one of a handful of things today.”



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PLAYERS

FB #42 ZACH LINE

(on today's game) "It was obviously a tough loss for us. There were too many mistakes. There were too many self-inflicted wounds. This should be good for us. Its tough medicine to swallow, But we'll get in the film room and be honest with ourselves. We not worried about this game. We need to worry about how we move forward and respond as a team."

(on not having the football much early) "I think if you look at any stat today it is not good. Their time of possession. The amount of penalties that we had. You can look at everything really. We have a lot to look at Fortunately it is just one game."

(on if he saw this type of game coming) "No, this is a division opponent. It's always going to be a tough game. The spread doesn't matter in these types of games. Part of football is that you have to be ready. Obviously, they were more ready today."

CB #26 P.J. WILLIAMS

(on the tough loss) "They played great. They came to play. They definitely outplayed us. We didn't play up to our standard and our ability. We have to go look at the film and make sure that we come back stronger next week."

(on the inability to get them off the field) "That was crucial. We have to get them off the field. Third down is money down. That's a big don for us and we have done really well on third down throughout the season. Today we didn't do good at all. That was a big part of the loss."

(on not having Marshon Lattimore in the second half) "It's tough not having one of the best corners in the league. You have to step up and lock in. It's always tough losing one of your best players."

(on knocking off the rust) "I felt good. I was a little winded and didn't expect to play as many plays as I did. I knew I had to step up and make sure that I was locked in to be able to help the team."

DE #94 CAMERON JORDAN

(on if the loss surprised him) "Absolutely, you know you are going to get their best shots when you go into a game against a division opponent. You look at their last eight games and they have not fared too well. At the same time, we knew we were going to get their best shot. You can't have these third downs overturned by penalties each and every time. We had self-inflicted wounds. At the end of the day, we have to turn this tape on and get better ASAP. There is no room for error. There is no room for slacking. Today was not up to our standards and expectations."

(on their run game) "They had success running the ball and they stuck to what was working for them. We take it on our front seven. We take it on our defense to be stout against the run. That's something we need to turn the film on and figure out ASAP."

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

WR #10 TRE'QUAN SMITH

(on today's game) "We did not play like we usually play. Credit the Falcons, they came out ready to play. This wasn't our style of play. You have to give them a lot of credit."

(on the lack of possessions early on) "That was an important message from our (position) coach Curtis Johnson. He said that we weren't going to get a lot of touches, so we had to make the most of the opportunities when we did get it. "

(on if the loss is hard to swallow) “It’s very hard especially coming off a bye week. You want to get a win and get back into a groove. Taking a loss, you are starting back at square one. We need to focus on getting the win next week.”

T #71 RYAN RAMCZYK

(on moving forward) “We’ll come in and watch the film and assess that. I know as far as up front there will definitely be some things to work on.”

(on the penalties today) “Penalties are killer especially when you get a drive going and you get behind the sticks. It’s never a good thing. It’s challenging to put yourself in those situations and try to battle back from them. Penalties definitely hurt us today.”

WR #13 MICHAEL THOMAS

(on the lack of big plays) “We will review the film tomorrow and we will get right back to work.”

(on the penalties today) “We just have to play Saints football and do what we’re capable (of). The refs are going to call what they are going to call. We have to be completely honest with us. We have to do our job.”

DT #98 SHELDON RANKINS

(on if a positive from today’s game is that it teaches a midseason lesson) “Taking a loss at home against a division team’s never a positive. Overall, It’s just the way it goes in this league sometimes. You show up to play. You do your preparation throughout the week. Your opponent does a few more things better than you. They make a few more plays when they need them in big time situations. That’s what they did today. For us moving forward we have to continue to work like we always work. We need to continue to prepare like we always prepare and we’ll be fine.”

(on Marshon Lattimore being out) “I feel like for the most part they stuck to their guns. P.J. (Williams) and those guys stepped in and did a good job. We have a lot of good players in that secondary and I think they stepped up and did a good job. Overall, from top to bottom on this defense, we just didn’t get it done today. It wasn’t just one guy who was responsible for what went wrong today. The overall effort wasn’t good enough. We’ll make the changes going forward and get back to playing New Orleans Saints defense.”



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS ATLANTA FALCONS SUNDAY, NOV. 10, 2019 • MERCEDES BENZ SUPERDOME SAINTS QUARTERBACK DREW BREES

(On the protection) "I haven't seen the film, my eyes were down in the field, but listen, they're a good pass rush team. They've got a lot of guys and they rotate them. I think they got after us at times, but listen, that's the great equalizer in any game is the pass rush. If you have enough time, guys are eventually going to get open down the field. That's always the game within the game on both sides of the ball. Their offensive front against our defensive front and vice versa. Listen, this will always be a game about execution. Sometimes the difference between continuing a drive, getting a third down conversion or making that big play is just inches or it's fractions of a second. As I look to today, obviously nine points is not what we aspire to score, especially at home. But man, there's just so many little things, so many plays here and there on every drive where it's just a split second here, just an extra foot here, whatever it is, just better execution all the way around that I think would have resulted in a better result. You continue to drive, you get a little momentum, you have a tempo, and then all of a sudden now you're in scoring position."

(On if the team lacked energy) "We definitely didn't execute as well as we normally do or expect to do. I don't think that had to do with anything. If we come off a week where it was flat all week in practice and it just carried over to the game, that's one thing, but no we're obviously rested coming off the bye. I felt like we had good practices, up-tempo and we went offense against defense on Monday, kind of Saints for Saints. We got into the game planning with Atlanta just like we normally would on any week, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Nothing was different there. Unfortunately, the result today offensively was not where it needed to be."

(On if there was miscommunications that couldn't get the offense going) Again, these are just like little things, monotonous. The second drive of the game we had a play action and we lost inside so I scramble to the right to throw it to Tre'Quan (Smith) and he jumps up for it and just barely misses it. He kind of bobbles, it hits the ground and it pops free. There was a defender underneath and had I thrown the ball just literally a couple inches lower it probably would've allowed him to catch that ball in stride and not have to leave his feet. Then maybe he's down the sideline for a 40 yard gain. Instead that puts us to third and long and we jumped off sides and now we're in third and extra-long and we don't get it and we punt the ball. Inches are the difference between us punting or us getting a 40-yard gain. There was a couple of examples of that throughout the game."

(On if it's normal to have a bad game in a 16 game season) "I'd say this, yes, for portions of a game, but then man, when you have a chance to make it a game, put yourself in position to win, you've got to do that. I've been a part of many games where maybe you don't play your best for the first three quarters, maybe things just don't go your way or whatever it is. And then you just made you fight, scratch, claw, you keep fighting and then all of a sudden you're in a position where you've got the ball and you're down six and you have a chance to go win. Unfortunately, for us in that fourth quarter, what we missed on three, fourth downs or something like that? Come on that's not us, we're better than that."

(On buying into the notion of the coming out flat) "It's all execution. Again, it's not some

grand, mind boggling, some sort of revelation here. It's simple execution. It's just little things here and there that put yourself into a better position to convert a third down or make a big play and then from there create scoring opportunities. That's really what it is. I can't think of every one right now, but I can certainly think of a few where if we just make that play it's a totally different game."

(On the concern surrounding slow starts offensively) "I'd say that's one of the bigger things that we're lacking right now offensively is that fast start. I can't think of anytime this season where we've just come out like game busters and just score, score, score. It's been kind of a slow start and we kind of find ourselves and then maybe we break it open in the second half, but I'd say that that's definitely an area where we can improve and we'll need to improve if we want to get to where we want to go."

(On the difficulty of getting into a rhythm with so many penalties) "That's another thing. I don't know how many first downs we gave them that allowed them to continue drives. I think just looking at the stat sheet, I think they got six first downs on penalties and at least half, more than half of those were on third down. We're off the field and all of a sudden we're giving them the ball back and they're going down and getting points. That's obviously something I know our guys are talking about on the other side of the ball is man don't give any freebies. For us offensively, it's a penalty here and there all of a sudden makes it third and 15 as opposed to the third and five or seven or eight. Your percentages of converting those go way down. There's those areas certainly where we can get better, we can improve. Defensively, let's get off the field. Let's get the offense back out there. Offensively, we put ourselves in manageable positions. Man we're going to convert a lot of third downs. We're going to keep drives alive. We're going to go score points. That was a big factor in this game as well."

(On the Falcons having six sacks) "listen, I pride myself on getting the ball out. Listen, there's times where you've got hold it and the situation, the circumstance calls for it. You've got to hang in there because you've got to push that ball down the field and take the sack and if that's the worst thing that happens then that's okay. There's other times where even if we get beat or even if that guy's not supposed to be there, but he's about to take me down and find a way to get out of it, buy a little extra time or just get rid of the ball so I can avoid the sack and then maybe that gives us a better chance on third down now. So instead of let's say a seven yard loss and we're in third and 15 we're in third and seven and we've got a lot better chance to convert that. Again, all the little things that played a big factor in this game. Making some of those plays, just extra split-second or game of inches, playing the percentages, run the ball better, avoiding a sack or the negative play. Not committing any unforced errors and then penalties. Wrap them all together and that's what happened today and lack of execution kind of all the way around, just encompasses all that. So that pretty much summed up the game right there. We shouldn't need any more questions."



POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

ATLANTA FALCONS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME FALCONS COACH DAN QUINN

Opening Statement : “Heading into this one, you knew it was going to be a fight. In fact, as the 100th game in this rivalry, we wanted to be aggressive right from the start. With Arthur (Blank) in here, I’m sure there are tons that come back to memory. It is a fun rivalry to be a part of. Not everybody in the NFL has these, so we were aggressive and played good. I thought both of the lines of scrimmage played with a lot of energy and a lot of discipline. I thought that was one of the real factors in this game. This is the first of our four game block in the division. Carry this energy into next week with Carolina. Good team win tonight. We are certainly pleased. Made some adjustments. Put some people in different spots, and we will go on from here.”

(On Extended Scoring Drives) “I think it is critical, because anytime you can give this offense less chances and less possessions, that to me that is the key. We had to get some shots at takeaways and turnovers to limit their chances. They have been that effective. They are that talented. To have some stops on fourth down. Being able to go for it on fourth downs, that was going to be a real part of his game. They have been an effective a third and fourth down, and we knew we had to be bold and aggressive to do the same.”

(On Pass rush) “I thought the players did a great job. Number one their communication, that’s really where you see complementary football come to life when the rush and coverage can be in synch. So, to see that take place, give credit to the guys. They were really in tune and communicated and really brought the game plane to life. Excellent job by the front and the secondary. Obviously, to get the hits and sacks, you have to have good coverage to go along with it.

(On limiting big offensive plays) “I am hopeful when you go back through the tape to see it, and find some of the explosive plays that have been costing us. At times, we have beaten yourself. We just wanted to make sure that wasn’t the case. We went as hard as we could on our communication player to player and coaches. I thought tonight they did an excellent job at that really caring it out together. That kind of fight, that kind of communication is what is needed and I was really happy to see that with those guys tonight.”

(On different performance on defense) “I thought the ability to affect the QB, when you get into those long yards and get a couple sacks, and that is a completely different call when you get into 2nd and 15 or 3rd and 15. They have been such an effective team where you can screen and utilize every player there, so when you can create some of those long yardage ones that is a real factor. The other side of that, we didn’t play as many snaps defensively, having some long drives extended. I thought field position was going to be key in this game. We had changed both specialists on the kicking side and the punting side. That isn’t always easy to do in the middle of the year.”

(On acting as if it was a new season after the bye week) “I know that is coachspeak to a certain degree, because if you don’t apply the lessons you have learned, obviously, you can’t start new and get to fresh. Because you don’t, there are consequence to that, but what we did want to talk about was applying the lessons. Could our focus improve? Could that put us into that base that we needed to? We are heading right into the division to do that. We put up 0-0 to start it off, but we knew there were lessons that if you don’t learn them, then the pain of going through them is for not.”

(On the feeling of getting a win) "It was too long. Personally, it is not about me. It is about the players. To see their excitement in the locker room. You get to see them for three or three and half hours on a Sunday. What they go through to play and the toughness they display. I was happy for them to see some of the hard work they have put in to get some reward today."

(On the decision to receive the ball to start the game) "We had decided yesterday or the day before if we had chances when in the game management moments, how do you want to go attack? At the end of game if it is tied, will you go for two or go to overtime? So often those decision are made early to make sure when we are in the moment, people are prepared for that. We just wanted to be aggressive and if we had the chance to win the toss, we would choose to play on offense. I haven't done it a lot, but we just wanted to be as aggressive as we could."

(On Brian Hill stepping in for Devonta Freeman) "I said to the guys inside the locker room that this victory is produced by everyone, but knowing that this team trust Brian in a big way. So, when his moment came to deliver, he was able to. We don't know the extent of Free's (Freeman) injury or where he is at, but Bryan was certainly ready for the moment. He is one of the hardest workers that we have, so when that moment came he had a lot of trust built up in that locker room."



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QB #2 MATT RYAN

(On long drives): "It was huge for us to stay on the field and come away with points on those long drives and keep their offense off the field. That was a big part of the outcome today. I also thought our defense played extremely well. For them to hold a really good New Orleans offense to just three field goals is impressive. It was a good team effort across the board, and certainly one we needed."

(On running the ball): "It was a huge part of the game-plan. Coming into it, we wanted to be able to establish the run and get that going. I thought our offensive line played extremely well. You never want to see somebody go down, and (Devonte Freeman) was out for the second half. But Brian Hill stepped up and ran the football effectively for us. He would turn some of those-two-or-three yard runs into five or six yard runs with just his physical nature. That was huge for him. I thought Kenjon (Barner) did a good job coming in as well. From when we drafted him, he's worked extremely hard to become a complete player, and I think that he's moving in that direction. It was a really good catch for him on the touchdown. It was a good finish for him to come down with the touchdown in that situation."

"Winning is always a good tonic. Regardless of how the season is going, when you win games, that's what we're setting out to do. Obviously, our backs are against the wall with where we're at in this point in the season. I'm proud of the way we've taken that first step, and that's what you've got to do. We've got to get back to work and try to find another division win this week."

(On defensive performance): "I thought our defense did a great job of rushing the passer. I'm not sure how many sacks we had today but they got after it pretty good. For them to get after (Brees) in the pass game and to play good secondary defense is critical for us. That is going to be huge for us moving forward."

"When you're one and seven at the halfway point, you think a lot of times, 'where has the consistent play been for us?' When you're out there playing today it's about being locked in and doing your job and handling the task at hand. It was there today. We need to keep it there as we move forward. We need to keep the consistency there for the rest of the season and try and play the way we're capable of playing week-in-and-week-out."

"I don't think we were going out of our way to try and stall or keep them off the field. Running the football was a big point of emphasis for us. You never know how a game is going to shake out. New Orleans defense has been really good about giving up some yards at different points but not letting you into the end zone. We knew we were going to have to finish some long 10-12-plus play drives. For us to come away with a few touchdowns on those types of drives is big."

WR #11 JULIO JONES

"It felt really good. The energy felt great today. It felt like it should have been like that the whole time. Guys weren't complacent. Defense did a really good job today. Special teams did an amazing job today. Offensively we did okay. We can continue to keep working on that side of the ball; I can see that. The defense and special teams, from my point of view had a hell of a day today."

"I told (Brian Hill) congratulations. He did a hell of a job today. Free (Devonta Freeman) went down, next man up, he didn't blink. He went out there and held onto the ball. He was just straight downhill running for us today."

(On carry-over from the Seattle game): "I don't know. I don't look in the rear-view mirror. For me and for this team, we have to continue to do what we're doing and believe in one another. We've got to keep building on that week-in-and-week-out. You cannot get complacent. When everybody counts you out, we don't do this for everybody. It's about the men in this room. We come to work every day to get better. The only way we're going to get better is if we believe that we can get better, and we have all the pieces to do so."