



## POSTGAME NOTES AND QUOTES

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### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AT BALTIMORE RAVENS SATURDAY, AUG. 14, 2021 • M&T BANK STADIUM SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- With the loss, New Orleans moves to 0-1 on the preseason. The Saints return to action on Monday, Aug. 23 when they play the Jacksonville Jaguars in a nationally televised contest at the Caesars Superdome. Kickoff is set for 7:00 p.m. CST. The game will be aired nationally on ESPN (WDSU 6 in the New Orleans area).
- QB **Taysom Hill**, RB **Latavius Murray**, DB **J.T. Gray**, DE **Marcus Davenport** and DT **David Onyemata** served as the team captains.
- New Orleans' defense held the Ravens to 148 total rushing yards with an average gain of 4.4 yards per carry.
- New Orleans out rushed the Ravens 73-40 in the first half. The Saints finished the game with 94 rushing yards.
- New Orleans out gained the Ravens with 366 total yards to Baltimore's 306.
- At the end of the first half, the Saints outgained the Ravens 230-124.
- QB **Taysom Hill** made the start and completed eight-of-12 passes for 81 yards with one interception. With Hill behind center, the Saints gained five first downs and went four-of-six on third down.
- QB **Jameis Winston** entered the game in the first half in relief of Hill. Winston completed seven-of-12 passes for 96 yards, an eight-yard touchdown pass to WR **Lil'Jordan Humphrey** and one interception.
- Rookie QB **Ian Book** took over at the start of the second half and completed nine-of-16 passes for a team leading 126 yards and an interception
- RB **Tony Jones Jr.** rushed for 82 yards on seven carries (11.7 avg.) and recorded a second quarter 18-yard touchdown run. Jones also caught a team-best five passes for 38 yards for a game-high 120 total yards from scrimmage.
- WR **Marquez Callaway** caught three passes for 61 yards, including a 28-yard grab.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** recorded a second quarter 33-yard catch. Johnson finished the game with two receptions for 71 yards.
- WR **Easop Winston Jr.** recorded a third quarter 35-yard catch.
- LB **Kaden Elliss** finished the game with a team-high eight total tackles, a fumble recovery and a pass defense
- LB **Zack Baun** recorded five total tackles and one pass defense.
- DB **Eric Burrell**, a Baltimore native, had a second half sack/forced fumble as part of a six-tackle effort.
- DB **Bryce Thompson** had an interception near the end of the first half.
- DT **David Onyemata** posted three tackles and had a sack for a five-yard loss on Ravens QB Trace McSorley.
- P **Blake Gillikin** punted three times for 142 yards (47.3 avg.) with one dropped inside the 20-yard line and a 61-yard punt, including a tackle by CB **Paulson Adebo** on punt coverage.
- Rookie P **Nolan Cooney** punted once for 46 yards.



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New Orleans Saints vs. Baltimore Ravens

Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 M&T Bank Stadium

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

#### Head Coach Sean Payton

Opening Statement "When you get six turnovers and 10 penalties, you are going to struggle, and that is what we did. To be ahead at halftime, I thought we did real good defensively, especially in the first half. But the turnovers really hurt us. Bad job by us. The coaches, the players, it was ugly to watch, and we are going to end up losing games like that."

(on QB Taysom Hill's interception) "We were not on the same page. The receivers and the quarterbacks, one was running a shallow cross, and the other was expecting to sit it down. Bad by both of them. We will have to look at it on tape. If you get certain looks, you should sit it down. But if you get another look, you should stay on the move. Obviously, there was a miscommunication there."

(on QB Jameis Winston's interception) "Look, we are going to look at the tape tomorrow. I'd really rather not go turnover, by turnover here."

(on comparing Hill's overall play to Winston's overall play) "I'm not really going to make comparisons tonight, it doesn't really matter who was at quarterback, when you have six turnovers, right? At the same time, I said to these guys, there is going to be some things we like on the film. Like I thought we played with some energy, and there is a handful of things that we are going to like. But it is just going to be overshadowed though with those early mistakes. Despite how you play in the kicking game, the passing game, the defensive game, those mistakes will overshadow all of it."

(on the penalties) "Two false starts, four offsides, motion hard count four times, so we will see more of that defensively. Just overall, it was very disappointing. Some of it was that we were in and out with the substitutions and all of that. Like I said, I liked our energy. But hey, look, it wasn't just our rookies. There were some veteran players."

(on QB Ian Book playing the entire second half) "Yes, third phase. Third phase. We got our numbers about right in the first two phases. So, it was more reps than it is halftime versus non halftime. Everybody got their numbers."

(on if there was any plan to play QB Trevor Siemian) "No. It was just those three."

(on if he liked what he saw from the linebackers including LB Zack Baun) "Yes. We will watch the tape, but there were a number of things we liked."

(on DT David Onyemata playing DE today) "Yes. We moved him around because we liked our depth at that position in this game. We moved him around. Some guys were down intentionally for tonight that we should have back next week. That was part of the plan."

(on his defense at the end of the first half) "I didn't like the defense at the end of the half. [Baltimore was] able to get a completion and then another one, down themselves, and then kick a field goal and score. I didn't like that sequence, but it will be something we can learn from."

(on if DT David Onyemata was on a snap count for conditioning purposes even though he was going to be out for a while) "Right. But we are going to play him anyway. We are not going to sit with him right now. We've had this before where a player begins the season on suspension. Those guys still need to be in football shape."



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(on if it was important to have WR Michael Thomas at the stadium tonight) "Well, he is part of the team. It was great seeing him. He is doing well. He is ahead of schedule. He was excited to be around these guys, and we are excited to have him, but it wasn't this big kumbaya moment. He was with us at the start, and then he went to Philly to do some rehab up there."

(on if he had a talk with WR Michael Thomas) "All of that is between me and him. It was good seeing him, yes it was all good."

### **LB Zack Baun**

(on playing the WILL linebacker position) "Playing the WILL is something totally new for me. But I had a lot of fun with it tonight. I just want to use this training camp to show the coaches that they can trust me, putting me at WILL, or SAM, fly around and make plays and show my athleticism."

(on what his goal was tonight) "Like I said, I just wanted to make plays, fly around. [I want to] make good decisions and do the right thing."

(on LB Kaden Elliss) "Kaden is a monster. The WILL and the SAM are two difficult positions to know and learn, and he has done a great job of mastering them both. He is really athletic and really smart."

(on playing the WILL linebacker sport instinctually) "Like I said, I am having fun with it. What I like about the position is it gives you opportunities to make a lot of plays. It is like 50-50. You are setting the edge and defending the pass. Like I said, I am just trying to have a lot of fun with it."

(on his confidence level, year-over-year) "Oh, I feel a lot more confident this year, even playing at a new position on the defense. It definitely helps a lot, not being new. I know the scheme. It is a lot more natural. Last year I was thinking a little more. Now I am just reacting."

(on how important it is for him to play fast) "It is important, especially in these preseason games. You always want to do the right thing, but it is all about showing effort and tenacity for being around the football, and that is nothing I can't do."

(on playing his first game in a while) "I am definitely going to be sore tomorrow. But it is great to get those plays under my belt and get that experience."

### **QB Taysom Hill**

(on the number of turnovers) "I think at first glance, it's hard not to talk about your team having six turnovers, but I think preseason games are where you're trying to get film out there. I think there were a lot of really good things that we can all learn from, [but] without seeing the film and what was going on, it's really hard to say. I think that there were some really good things overall. Obviously, the mistake were the turnovers."

(on the interception that was intended for WR Ty Montgomery) "There was a little confusion there. I was expecting him to stay on the move on that look and he thought he should settle. There was a little pressure and I had to get the ball out. I think those are the things that it's nice to see in a preseason game so we can make sure between our room [quarterbacks] and that room [wide receivers] that we're all on the same page."

(on how he processes mistakes in the midst of competition within his position group) "The talk of the competition is right here. I think it's going out there and playing my best football every night. I don't like when things don't go well. At the end of the day, I'm trying to be as good as I possibly can."



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(on the offense's performance with him in as QB) "Again, I think that there were some really good things. I think we were moving the ball, and then we had some costly mistakes that we overcame in our few drives. Again, without seeing the tape, there were some really good things that we saw tonight. In the first drive, I thought guys were where they needed to be, and I was seeing the field, and it was good."

(on how he evaluates his performance, given all the absences on the offense) "It's a good question, and I don't know that I have a great answer for you. I think, at the end of the day, we've been through this long enough, and you guys have seen how seasons go. It's hard to last 17 games in the NFL season, so I think these things are really important for us to establish depth. Obviously, we don't hope that guys get injured, and we have everyone that we need every game, but that's not the reality, so I think you assess each game like it is a game. There are some things to clean up, [and] we've got time to do that, but there is a certain sense of urgency."

(on how the offense was able to adjust at the line of scrimmage and set protections) "I thought everything was pretty smooth. Erik McCoy did a great job, He's a smart player. I think everyone was on the same page. I don't think there was a lot of miscommunication up front. I felt that was really smooth."

(on how he and QB Jameis Winston help each other) "I think we might digest information differently, but the information is all the same. So, whether we get that from each other or whether we get that from pictures ... But I know that there were times tonight, and historically last year, [when] I would come to the sideline and Jameis [Winston] insight. We have plays where we have routes that are alerts that we have that might not be part of a progression, but he'll peep those for me. And I did the same thing for him when he was playing tonight and just throw a little one-liner in there for him, and you can take that information and do with it what you want. It's all about getting good information and then making the right decision."

(on WR Marquez Callaway and the catch and run he made on the sideline) "Yes, I like [Marquez] Callaway. He's a great player. I think he's really ... He stepped up and has made a lot of plays throughout all of camp. So, on that particular play, that's the expectation for him. If you hit him on a route like that, you expect him to [catch it]. If you put the ball out there, he's going to make the play. He's a good player, and that's what we've seen the last two weeks."

(on QB Ian Book) "I thought Ian [Book] handled the situation really well. I was proud of him. There were a lot of young guys who he was playing with. When you step in the huddle, all eyes go to you, and I had conversations with guys that were in the huddle, and all the feedback was really positive. I think that he handled the situation really well. Guys were not in the spots that he was expecting them [to be]. It's a part of playing in the preseason. It's about managing chaos, and I think he did that."

### **QB Jameis Winston**

(on if he agrees with Taysom Hill that playing preseason games is like managing chaos, and if it felt like that to him) "I wouldn't describe it like that. It was fun just to be out there and compete. We saw the great things that we did, and we know the things we have to fix."

(on his touchdown pass) "Great play call by [offensive coordinator] Pete [Carmichael] and we ran it a little farther out than I was expecting. Great timing. [Lil' Jordan] 'LJ' got open in the backend. I think they had pressure on us. They were in man-to-man coverage. We got us a good one."

(on playing with guys that hasn't been practicing with much and if that is challenging in a preseason game) "Got to compete and play football. We have guys that have worked their whole life opportunity. I



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have worked my whole life for this opportunity. I'm so happy to be back out there playing football with whoever. I felt like we did a good job executing for the most part. We have room for improvement, that's a good thing."

(on playing catch with Michael Thomas and seeing him before the game) "I communicate with him every now and then. Any time you get a chance to throw 'Mike T.' some balls, you are going to feed him that rock. It was good for the team to see him and be around. Everyone embraced him, and we were happy to have him with us. When you have a leader like him, his presence is always felt. It was good to see him. I am trying to toss him as many balls as I can. It was excellent. It was the highlight of my day."

(on how he felt pass protections went with the offensive line) "They did an outstanding job. I think I was touched one time. I held the ball for like eight seconds. They did an outstanding job. Baltimore through a lot at us. They did a good job picking up pressures. Like I said, we have room for improvement. I have to get the ball out on time. As a quarterback, we have to get the ball to the guys that make the plays, and it works all together."

(on RB Tony Jones Jr.) "We see it all the time. He is a dynamic back. I think we have a great room of running backs. I'm happy with Tony having the game that he had. He works his tail off. He was waiting for this opportunity, and he did a great job of showing up."

(on his impressions on Tyler Huntley) "It was always a sight to see a young quarterback out there getting exposure. When I looked up and I glanced at him, he looked like Lamar [Jackson] I think they do somethings very similar, but it's tough to find another Lamar Jackson. He's as dynamic as it gets. He did a great job in making decisions and using his legs when he had to. He did a great job executing. All those young bucks, especially young black quarterbacks, I am always supporting those guys and trying to motivate those guys to be better. It was good to see him. I saw some him play some last year when Lamar [Jackson] was out. He did a great job."

(on what he saw from Ian Book) "His communication and his execution, I think he did a great job. That was his first feeling for it. So, he is going to continue to get better. We all as a whole, have to continue to get better. But you can tell, he is built for the moment. You can tell he does some really great things."

### **RB Tony Jones Jr.**

(on how he's going to look back on tonight's game after a touchdown and a fumble) "To be honest, I think you just have to go back to the film and just learn from my mistakes and just not do that again with the next couple of weeks so I can make this team."

(on if not having full contact practice impacted his readiness for tonight's game) "To be honest, that's on me. Just plain – the ball was loose, and he dove at the right spot. So, that's on me. That has nothing to do with contact; it's just me getting focused."

(on how he's grown as a runner over the last year) "I think I can see the runs better now, because coming out of college, my runs were a little different than the schemes here. Now since I have a year under my belt, I can see it better. I see the holes before they even open, so it seems like it's working."

(on what the difference is between the runs with the Saints versus his time in college) "Just the outside zone stuff. I mean ... I never did that in college. But now I've done it for like the whole year, so now it's good."





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(on if more patience has contributed to his growth) "It's more patience and having faith that you can make those types of cuts and stuff like that. So, now I'm more confident and I can make those cuts." *(Reporter: "It looked like you had a couple of those today for big gains.")* "Yes, something like that."

(on how it felt to be playing in a game after not playing much last season) "I had four carries [last season]. Four [carries] for 14 [yards], or something like that. But to be honest, I haven't had a real game since college. It felt great. It was like a coming out party. I felt great. ... I mean, we lost, but it was a good day for me, besides the fumble. I have to fix that next week."

(on if the team had to brace themselves for head coach Sean Payton's reaction to six turnovers) "Yes, I mean ... Coach [Sean Payton] has the right to do that, because the loss relies on those turnovers. If we don't have those, the score is not even the same."

(on if his turnover contributes to him not playing a game since college) "No, because in practice, they punch at the ball. We go like thud; it's the same type of thing. I was just not focused on the ball at that point. I was trying to make moves, and I wasn't staying on keys, so that's on me."

(on how he felt on his scoring play) "I had that same exact play in college, and I didn't score. So, I was like, 'I have to score on it tonight. I have to score.' But Coach [Sean Payton] said if you dive for the pylon, you better not fumble. So, I dove for it, and I pulled it back in. It worked it, so it was alright."

### **LB Kaden Elliss**

(on what the LB room has been like this year with a lot of new guys trying to establish themselves) "It's been a really fun room. It's been high energy having Kwon Alexander and Damario Davis back. Thank the Lord, like always says, be legendary. His energy is also through the roof. Just getting to be with them and learn from them is amazing. We have a lot of young guys trying to establish themselves. We saw a lot of linebackers making plays, and someone was getting a tackle, forcing a tackle and getting things done. It's really cool."

(on being able to play consecutive snaps and how he felt playing) "You know, I had some of the nerves come back, getting back out there and getting things done. It was so fun. I'm just thankful to God to get back out there. It's so cool and so special. It's such a blessing and an honor. Just to get out and do it again, is awesome."

(on the fourth-and-1 play) "We don't do too much film study on preseason games. But in a day and a half of studying, they had been in that kind of wedge formation, tight with tight ends, kind of close, and they just ran a wedge play basically and overpower you for a couple yards. But on that, they didn't block the edge players. So, they gave me an edge rush. I saw the formation, and I knew. That was the only play we saw them run in the first two preseason games in 2018 and 2019. So, I knew I could come off the edge hot. The interior did a great job of stonewalling it so they could not get the initial push. He was looking for somewhere else to go, and I was able to grab him and pull back."



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### BALTIMORE RAVENS

#### Head Coach John Harbaugh

(opening statement) "OK, good to see you guys here. I appreciate you being here. [It was a] great night, back to football with fans. [It was] a pretty good crowd. What was our number? Does anybody know? Nobody cares. *(laughter)* It was loud. It was loud, [and] it was great. They were into it. [It was] good to get the victory. [There are] a lot of things to work on; so many things to work on, [and] so many little things that can cost you games. We made some mistakes, so we'll go to work the next couple of days before we go to Carolina and try to clean all those issues up. [We'll] take a good hard look at the tape and just try to improve. [We'll] evaluate the guys and see where we go from there. What questions do you have?"

(on what he saw from QB Tyler Huntley and QB Trace McSorley) "I thought they both operated really well. Trace [McSorley], he was dealing with a little back spasm issue. So, I think that limited his ability to move around in the pocket and run around, but he made some good throws. Then Tyler [Huntley] came in and just played tremendous football. [He] made plays running and throwing. [He] just did a great job. He won us the game. We called him up – he broke the huddle at the end of the day, and it was great. Shaun Wade, another guy, a rookie who makes the play to get the interception to close them out when they're moving down the field there. It was a great play. To see those guys make plays like that was pretty fun."

(on the six defensive turnovers) "It's good to see. We caught the ones they threw to us. I think we punched a couple balls out. Even ... you think about the one that wasn't a turnover; Marcus [Peters], one of the first plays. They had the catch, and Marcus punched the ball out. That's what we work on in practice, and our guys take a lot of pride in that. The other thing is that we were running to the ball. Usually when you run to the ball, you have a chance to recover fumbles. Our guys did a great job of that."

(on how LB Patrick Queen and LB Malik Harrison played tonight) "Yes, I agree with you. They both played great. Pat [Queen] made ... One series, he had two plays in a row. He went and got a screen, and then the other play, I can't remember what it was, but just two speed plays. He was a rocket going to get that, and that's how you expect him to play. He did a lot of good things. I didn't really see anything that was an issue. I'm sure there will be stuff from the tape, but I thought both those guys played very good."

(on an injury update on C/G Bradley Bozeman) "Brad [Bozeman] just had a pretty minor ankle sprain, it turned out, which was good news. Kristian Welch had a stinger. So, I think we got out of there in pretty good shape. Knock on wood, until tomorrow morning, when guys start coming back in."

(on what it was like to have fans back in the stands) "It was thrilling. It just felt like it was supposed to feel. It wasn't eerie like it had been last year." *(Reporter: "That's a good word.")* "Yes, it wasn't that; it was like it was supposed to be. It was great. Our fans are great. You could tell they were excited to be there. So, [I'm] looking forward to when they can tailgate again – that'll be a nice day."

(on if it's important that the offensive line plays a game together before the regular season or if practice sessions) "You just kind of have to do what you have to do. If we don't get them together because of circumstances, it's not like we're not going to play. I can't say we're not going to play, so it'll be what it is. Hopefully, we can get them out there for the last [preseason] game. There's a lot of time and a lot of circumstances between now and then. So, I think everybody ... If you look at the Saints, they didn't have everyone out there, either. It's just the way it works in the NFL in training camp."



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(on why RB Gus Edwards did not dress tonight) “Gus [Edwards] had a personal thing. When he comes back, I’ll let him explain it to you. [It was] a family matter he had to attend to.”

### **QB Trace McSorley**

(on how it feels to be playing preseason football) “It felt pretty good just to get out and get back to playing games. Obviously, it was awesome going against different competition. We’ve got some things we need to clean up, so, we’ll go back, study the tape and then get ready to come into practice to clean those things up before we get down to Carolina. But [we’ll] just keep grinding, keep working to get better. That’s the main thing. But it felt pretty good just, again, getting out there and playing a game tonight.”

(on dealing with back spasms) “It’s something that happened earlier today; it just started locking up on me before I got down to the stadium. So, we got it down, got with the doctors, trainers. I tried to loosen it up, get out there, and I tested it out. It felt pretty good to be able to go in and operate and do what I needed to do. So, I’m just going to keep working with them, and I feel pretty good right now. So, we’ll just kind of keep trying to keep it loose and see where we go from there, but I’m feeling pretty good about it.”

(on if his mobility was limited by the back spasms) “I mean, I felt it a little bit. I was just kind of tight throughout the entire game. Honestly, I was really just working through it, having to kind of press and grind through it. So, it sucked that it happened earlier today, but like I said, the trainers were great and were able to help get it loosened up enough that I could get out there and play today, so we’ll just keep going with that.”

(on the offensive struggles early) “Like you said, we couldn’t get into that rhythm. Getting that first first down is so important, and once you get that, you can kind of get on a roll. We were able to see that once we got a few first downs, we were able to kind of use some of our tempo things and keep the ball moving downfield; that was the biggest thing. Early on, we just weren’t able to get that first first down, and we weren’t able to keep the chains moving to get the defense worn down. So, those are some of the main things that ... We’ve just got to get into that rhythm [and] find a way. New Orleans had a great gameplan coming into it. They just didn’t let guys get off the line early, and then pass rush was pretty good for them early. So, those are some of the things that they did well, so we’ve got to give them credit on that. And then we’ve just got to find a way to get into a rhythm, get that first first down and keep the chains moving.”

(on if throwing a completion and taking a big hit got his “juices” flowing) “Yes, I took that one, and at that point, I was like, ‘Alright.’ My back held up, and I was fine. I was just ready to go. I like getting the first hit out. I obviously don’t love getting hit like that, but I like getting the first hit out and then just kind of get into that flow of the game. So, like you said, we got that one going, and like you saw, once you get the first first down, we can kind of keep those chains moving, we can kind of get into a groove as an offense, and that’s when we really start operating well.”

### **QB Tyler Huntley**

(on taking a hit that forced a fumble) “I’ve got to get down low a bit quicker. Yes, I’ve got to get down a little quicker.”

(on how it felt to score a touchdown) “It was good. It would have felt better if we had [scored] a touchdown on the drive before, for sure, but it felt good to get in that end zone.”





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(on his teammates celebrating his touchdown) "Just joy. You're playing the game you love, for people [who are] your teammates, your friends, for them to cheer you on and everything, that's a good feeling to have. I feel like that just explains how the Ravens work – all of us together, and we all go for each other."

(on taking reps at practice and getting game experience) "[I'm] just taking the reps one play at a time, just trying to [get us] better opportunities of scoring. Playing the game of football, the more reps you get, the more you feel comfortable. I feel like all the training camp reps [and] this little half, it's just building on our camaraderie."

(on escaping pressure and making plays with his legs) "I'm just really trying to get another first down, so however we're going to get the first down, that's how we're going to get it. That's my focus. So, if it's me running, me throwing, me punting it, (*laughter*) we're going to get a first down."

(on if he thinks about competing for the second QB position with QB Trace McSorley) "Not when you're out there. I don't think about it – period. We're just playing football, and everything else is going to take care of itself. We're teammates; there isn't a competition – for real."

### LB Patrick Queen

(on how much more comfortable he felt in a game scenario after a full offseason) "[I felt] way more comfortable. I could just feel it. Just way more relaxed [and] way more anxious for the play to happen. It was a lot of hard work that I put into it, so I'm happy."

(on if he feels even faster this season) "Yes, I feel like I'm going two steps faster now. It's just a lot of film work, a lot of dedication to the craft and to the sport. So, I feel way better."

(on how it felt to see LB Malik Harrison force a fumble and where he thinks the two of them together can go) "Yes, that play, it was crazy. The ball just popped out. I was happy for him, but I was so tired, I couldn't even move. So, I was happy for him. But it's going to be a great season. Like I said, Malik [Harrison] is my guy. We're always talking. We're always communicating on the field. So, I know what type of player he is, [and] I know what type of player he can be. He expects the same out of me, so it's going to be a nice season for us two."

(on if the team talked about the preseason win streak before the game) "No, we don't talk about that at all. We just show up and play. 'Harbs' [head coach John Harbaugh] hadn't mentioned anything about it. The other players hadn't said anything about it. We just show up and handle business – that's it."

(on how it felt to have fans in the stands) "It's way different from last year [with] no fans at all, and then we come into M&T Bank Stadium, and it's going crazy. You could feel the energy. When I got my sack and my tackle for a loss, I was like, 'Wow.' It's insane. It felt like [LSU's] Tiger Stadium, almost."

(on what brought out the excitement on the sideline) "It's just the energy. I don't know what it is with the fans being in there, but it's just a different vibe. The guys feel it. Everybody feels it. The fans are feeling it from us. So, it's just something that's going to work together all this season."

(on how validating it was to show he furthered his development) "It feels good. ... I'm a person that likes to read what the critics say. I took to what they said, and I just went to work on it. I tried to get better, and I feel like I have a lot. So, I feel really good, like I said. It's a big season. There are a lot of expectations for me. So, I'm just trying to live up to them."



## BALTIMORE RAVENS POST-GAME QUOTES

**New Orleans Saints vs. Baltimore Ravens**

**Saturday, Aug. 14, 2021 M&T Bank Stadium**

(on how his outlook has changed in the past year) “A lot. ... You could say I’m young, but I realized a lot of stuff. You can say I matured a lot faster than most, but it’s crazy, because when you’re young, you kind of rush things, and you kind of stress. Just going through last season, I felt like I was pressing too hard sometimes, and it was just making me make mistakes. Going through that whole year and just having time off and realizing all that stuff, it’s so much simpler now. It’s so much more relaxed [and] just focused one play at a time, one day at a time, whatever it may be. I feel like I’m getting better at that, too.”

(on if someone talked to him about needing to slow his game down) “Yes, [former LSU teammate and current Tampa Bay Buccaneer] Devin [White]. Like I said, that’s my guy. We go way back. So, he called me after the season ... Well, he called me during the season and told me then. But at the time, like I said, I’m young, so I really didn’t realize. But after the season, he called me again and sat me down and told me. It kind of clicked then. My dad always told me the same thing, too. So, when I heard it from two people that I know really care about me, it clicked.”

(on if it was a confidence boost to see his teammates around him doing well) “It’s way better. I love to see my guys ball out. I don’t have a hating bone in my body. So, I love all my guys.”

(on why he likes to read what the critics say) “It’s just ... I don’t have [any] hatred in my heart. If a critic says something, obviously they see something that I don’t see, or they’re pointing out something that needs to be pointed out. So, I like to read that stuff, [and] I like to take it as fuel. I remember at LSU, when I was getting criticized, I put it as my screensaver for a little while. It’s just something I like.”

(on if he put the Pro Football Focus rankings from last year as his screensaver) *(laughter)* “No. I’ve seen a couple of their tweets, but it’s PFF, so ...”

### **WR Devin Duvernay**

(on QB Tyler Huntley’s game) “Electric, for sure. He’s electric; he can run it, throw it, do things that Lamar [Jackson] can do as well. So, he’s definitely electric and provided that boost.”

(on his role in a receivers’ group that is dealing with some injuries) “Just doing my part. I come locked in every day, every week, and I do my part and just continue to try to pave a role for myself.”

### **DB Brandon Stephens**

(on playing in his first NFL game) “Man, it was great. I just soaked it all in. I went out there early when I first got here, and I just sat on the field soaking everything in. It was good to just be out there with my boys, just grinding, but most importantly, getting this win.”

(on the defensive effort) “The defense, we definitely did our thing. Geno [Stone] had two interceptions, Shaun [Wade] with the game-winning [interception] there in the fourth quarter. But it was good all around. Guys were flying to the ball, just showing effort and showing that we deserve to be Ravens. I was pleased with how we performed.”

### **OLB Odafe Oweh**

(on playing in his first NFL game) “It felt good. It was a big moment. I had to get the jitters out in the first few plays, but after that, it was just football. I was just trying to be active and play hard – I love it. It was a really good experience.”



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(on the defense forcing six turnovers and having a strong game) “Yes, the defense was everywhere; I think we had six takeaways. Geno [Stone] was everywhere, Ar’Darius [Washington], DeShon [Elliott], Brandon [Stephens] – just everywhere. There was havoc going everywhere. We’d like to get a few more sacks, but in terms of just being all over the field, I think we did that. It was really Ravens’ defense.”

(on running down field as a gunner on special teams) “I think it’s just an opportunity to show my athleticism, show my speed and physicality. It was fun. Just running down the field and forcing them into a fair catch and everything, I just hope the next time, I get an opportunity to make a play. That was definitely fun, though, I love doing it.”

### **RB Ty’Son Williams**

(on getting a heavy workload on the offense) “It felt good. First time getting back in live action since I went down with my injury, so it just felt good to get back out there, and I had fun playing ball with the guys.”

(on the offensive performance and building on this outing) “Yeah, I think we’re keeping things kind of simple right now, but even with that, I feel like we still didn’t have a problem moving the ball. Let’s just continue to build, and hopefully we’ll continue to create momentum on offense.”

(on finally having some fans back in the stands) “That’s huge. Having the fans out there brings so much energy, and that’s huge. You can’t replicate them being out there, so it was awesome.”

### **S Geno Stone**

(on the last time he’s had two interceptions in a game) “High school – in high school. It probably was the second to last ever high school game, but I had three of them that game, so ... *(laughter)*. But yes, it felt good to get two.”

(on how it felt being out there) “I’ll take as many more as I can get. It was just fun being out there. It was probably my first real ball since college – playing defense. So, it felt good being back out there.”

(on the value of this opportunity seeing how there was no preseason last year) “It definitely has helped a lot – especially OTAs. I didn’t have OTAs last year, and I felt like this year, going into the spring, I took a really big leap, because the OTAs are really just for building the playbook and everything like that. And I felt like I grew a lot in that area. I learned my playbook, learned the positions, and I feel like it really helped me a lot today, and it’s helped me all [training] camp. I feel like it’s really a good thing for our young players to get, and I wish I had it last year, honestly.”

(on re-signing with the Ravens) “It wasn’t really unfinished business – it was really just me getting somewhere where I felt was best for me. Baltimore, when I first got here, it’s a really special place. I can tell when I first walked into the building with the players, the head coach, and all the way up. Just definitely somewhere that I wanted to come back when I talked to my agent about it. I love this place, honestly.”

(on securing two interceptions for the team that drafted him) “Honestly, I’m still trying to process it all. It was a great night for me, but at the same time, I can’t just think about this night. I’ve got to think about next week, and the week after that. Not even next week – [but] tomorrow. I just want to get better each day. I felt like I got better today, but at the same time, I’ve got stuff to work on. You always have



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something to work on. I'm just ready to keep improving, get better working with these guys in the locker room. I got a lot of help from the DBs [defensive backs]. There's a lot of experience in that room."