



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## NEW YORK JETS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DEC. 21, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME SAINTS POSTGAME NOTES

- The New Orleans Saints downed the New York Jets in its final home game of the 2025 season, 29-6, improving to 5-10 on the season and extending its winning streak to three games, the longest in a single season since 2022. The Saints concluded the game with 23 unanswered points, highlighted by a 20-0 shutout in the second half.
- The three-game win streak for New Orleans is the first time since the team had a four-game win streak from Weeks 17-18 of the 2023 season, carrying over to the first two weeks of the 2024 campaign. It is the team's first three-game winning streak in the same season, since they won three consecutive contests in 2022 from Weeks 15-17.
- The Saints victory improves New Orleans' overall record to 9-6 against the Jets all-time, and 4-3 in games played in New Orleans, all which have been played at the Caesars Superdome.
- New Orleans had 412 yards of offense, including 33-of-50 passing for 346 yards and two touchdowns (was sacked three times for 18 yards). The Saints also rushed for 84 yards. The Black and Gold were only penalized three times to the Jets' seven times.
- QB **Tyler Shough** went 32-49 for a career-high 308 yards with a touchdown, and zero interceptions. He also rushed for eight yards on two attempts. It marked the first time a Saints rookie signal-caller threw for 300 yards and only the second time an NFL rookie threw for 300 in 2025.
- WR **Chris Olave** concluded the game with 10 catches for 148 yards with two touchdowns – a 23-yard catch and 38-yard reception, his top two longest receptions of the day.
- Olave ranks sixth in Saints history with 11 games of 100 or more receiving yards, passing WRs Danny Abramowicz and Devery Henderson.
- Olave recorded his third 1000-yard receiving season, joining Marques Colston (five), Joe Horn and Michael Thomas (four) and Eric Martin (three) to become the fifth Saint with at least three 1,000-yard seasons.
- With his eighth catch of the day, the 23-yard touchdown reception, Olave became the fifth Saint with 90 catches in a single season, joining Michael Thomas, Jimmy Graham, Marques Colston and Joe Horn.
- It is a new career-high in single-season receptions for Olave, besting his previous best of 87 receptions in 2023.

- Olave's first reception logged his third season of 900 yards, joining Marques Colston (eight), Joe Horn and Eric Martin (five), Michael Thomas (four) and Jimmy Graham (three) in Saints history. Olave also joins Graham, Thomas and Colston as the only ones in club history to do it in three of their first four seasons.
- QB **Taysom Hill** has 2,551 rushing yards, 2,426 passing yards and 1,002 receiving yards, becoming the only player with 1,000 pass yards, 1,000 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards in the Super Bowl Era.
- Hill finished the game with 78 yards from scrimmage on a career-high 12 touches. He led the backfield with 42 rushing yards on 12 carries, a 38-yard touchdown pass to Olave, and 36 reception yards on four receptions.
- TE **Juwan Johnson** registered eight catches on nine targets for 89 yards in the win. He had seven catches for 82 yards in the first half alone, marking a career-best in a half.
- With his fourth catch of the day, Johnson surpassed former Saints TE Henry Childs for third all-time in Saints history for most receptions by a tight end in a single season. He has 70 catches after today's game.
- K **Charlie Smyth** tied a club record with five field goals in the win. Smyth connected from 35, 49, 36, 50 and 39 yards out, respectively.
- The New Orleans defense surrendered only 195 total net yards including only 134 net yards passing and 64 net yards rushing. The Saints gave up 92 total yards in the first half, including 28 rushing yards in 11 carries.
- The Saints defense tallied a season-high eight sacks for a total of 57 yards. They held the Jets to converting two-of-15 (13.3 pct.) third down attempts.
- This was the first time New Orleans did not surrender a touchdown to an opponent until a 24-6 win over the New York Giants on December 17, 2023.
- New Orleans defense held the New York Jets offense to 2-for-15 in third down conversions and was 0-for-2 in the redzone.
- LB **Demario Davis** finished with eight tackles (two solo), moving his total to a team-leading 131 this season. After posting 136 stops in 2024, Davis has logged back-to-back seasons of at least 130 tackles for the first time in his 14-year career.
- Davis' first tackle was a solo tackle for a loss, marking the 116th of his career, surpassing DE Jared Allen for 24th all-time.
- With his sixth tackle, Davis joined Washington Commanders MLB Bobby Wagner and Tampa Bay Buccaneers MLB Lavonte David as only the third active player with 1,600 stops.
- Davis played in his 225th career game on Sunday, tying Keith Brooking and Hardy Nickerson for ninth all-time in NFL history among linebackers.

- DE **Cameron Jordan** had back-to-back sacks for a loss of 10 yards combined on the New York Jets' final drive of the first half. With those two sacks, Jordan has 130 career sacks, surpassing former Saints great Rickey Jackson for sole possession of 17th in NFL history in sacks.
- With the two sacks against Jets signal-caller Brady Cook, Cook is the 51st player that Jordan has sacked and the Jets are the 29th NFL team for Jordan to have a sack against, the Baltimore Ravens and Kansas City Chiefs being the only two he doesn't have a sack against.
- With 8.5 sacks on the season, this is the ninth season Jordan has at least eight sacks, joining Jackson, defensive lineman Leslie O'Neal, defensive end Jason Taylor, defensive end Dwight Freeney, outside linebacker Robert Mathis, defensive end Jared Allen, defensive end DeMarcus Ware and defensive tackle Aaron Donald as the ninth player to do so.
- All four of Jordan's tackles were solo.
- Including postseason contests, Jordan played in his 252nd career game, surpassing DE Ron McDole to take sole possession of fifth all-time in NFL history among defensive linemen.
- S **Justin Reid** led the defense with nine total tackles and had one pass deflection.
- CB **Alontae Taylor** made his 50th start for his career and as a Saint. He recorded his seventh sack as a cornerback, giving him the club record at the position, passing Alex Mollen (1996-2000). Taylor had a team-best five solo tackles in the win.
- S **Jonas Sanker's** fourth quarter interception was his third takeaway in his rookie campaign, the most by a Saints rookie since CB Paulson Adebo in 2021. He also had five tackles, two pass deflections and one coverage stin the victory.
- DT **Nathan Shepherd** tied his career-best of 3.0 sacks in a single season (2023) with a sack and forced fumble that was recovered by DE **Chase Young** in the fourth quarter.
- Young also had a sack in the game, as did DE **Chris Rumph II**, LB **Isaiah Stalbird** and DE **Jonah Williams**. Stalbird's lone tackle of the game was a key 10-yard sack to end the New York Jets opening drive of the second half.
- DE **Carl Granderson** played in his 103rd career game on Sunday, moving into a three-way tie for 54th in team history with DB Malcolm Jenkins and DT Elex Price. He finished with three tackles (one solo).
- LS **Zach Wood** played in his 147th game (consecutive and overall) on Sunday, surpassing WR Marques Colston to take sole possession of 16th all-time in Saints history. Wood also moved into a tie for second in club record books with OL Jim Dombrowski (10/25/87-11/3/96) for most consecutive games played.
- S **Terrell Burgess** finished with one special teams tackle.



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### Opening comments

“Good win for our team. Again, we’ve talked a lot about making December football meaningful, and I feel like our guys have really been jumping on that opportunity. To win a few down the stretch here, and have a couple more opportunities –the energy, the juice, the way our guys are playing together is really, really special. It’s a special group in that locker room.”

### (On the defensive performance)

“Just phenomenal. The shoutouts took a while in the locker room. There were a bunch of guys making plays today. I thought it was just credit to our guys, the relentless effort, the finish, the way they’re playing together. Those sacks, there’s coverage associated with that and the way our guys are covering the backend. The guys just took advantage of opportunities, and it was really cool to see.”

### (On how many players received game balls)

“I don’t know. I’ll have to tally them up later. It was a healthy list.”

### (On the importance of winning the final home game of the year)

“It was a big part of our whole entire week, starting on Wednesday—last opportunity in the Dome for this year. Let’s finish it off the right way. It’s been an awesome place, and we’re building something really special. When we play in this dome, special things can happen. We’ve allowed the last couple of wins to really get the crowd into it, which has helped build from there.”

### (On all three phases playing complementary football)

“I think it’s just the focus, the habits guys are creating. We are simply playing better football. In all three phases, we talk about complementary football. All three phases working together, playing off of each other, feeding off of each other in big moments. Again, I love the energy that’s in the locker room.”

### (On the offensive response, with limited impact players in the run game available)

“I thought it was great. Taysom (Hill) stepped up and contributed in really a positive way. That was just really a special game by Taysom. All the things that he did and that he was asked to do in this game were incredible for him to become the first guy in the NFL in the Super Bowl era who has 1,000 rushing [yards], 1,000 receiving [yards] and 1,000 passing [yards]. He’s the first guy in the Super Bowl era to do that. It’s a really special thing. He’s just a special guy. Then, the young guys hopped in there. When

the opportunities present themselves, I thought we were still able to get a few runs in there. It was not always pretty; it was dirty. In the pass game, we were able to create some explosives as a result of that.”

**(On if they were trying to give Taysom Hill a touchdown late in the game)**

“The opportunities were certainly going his way toward the end of the game, yes.”

**(On building confidence)**

“Again, I think the confidence is growing. We’re creating habits, creating meaningful December football. We want to play that moving forward, so we are starting those habits right now. Like you said, winning is contagious. You want to create those winning habits. It starts with every opportunity you have, and it’s really cool to see our guys doing this.”

**(On matching last year’s win total)**

“I have not thought about that. I think our guys, again, are playing better football down the stretch, and we just have to keep building on that. We still have a couple more opportunities. We still have to keep growing.”

**(On DE Cam Jordan’s day)**

“Just awesome, relentless, two sacks, around the ball a ton, making plays a ton. It was just a really special day.”

**(On going for the fake punt instead of challenging the previous play)**

“We talked about it. We felt like the fake punt felt pretty clean. We felt confident about that. It was discussed. We kind of talked through it.”

**(On how close a complete game of complementary football today’s win was)**

“It was good. We have to finish some drives. We have to score some more touchdowns in those situations. I thought special teams-wise Charlie [Smyth] did an excellent job kicking the football. We made some big plays on special teams. That was going to be a really hard challenge for us. They’re basically No.1 in the NFL on special teams, and with good reason. They’re really, really talented there. Our defense was just relentless. I love the way all three phases were working together and came in to compete for four quarters.”

**(On DE Cam Jordan and QB Taysom Hill)**

“Those guys are the best. They have done this for a really long time in this league. They are the ultimate lead-by-example guys. For the effort they have put into this season, the continuous work, all the young guys get to look up to those guys like Cam, like Taysom and the way they prepare. It is really, really special. You can watch it out on the field. Those guys are playing really good football right now. I am really excited about those guys.”

**(On QB Tyler Shough’s performance)**

“He did a really good job. Playing quarterback in this league, there’s a lot of downs, a lot of opportunities, and for him to just handle that and stay steady through this whole process, I thought he did an excellent job today.”

**(On the passing game plan today)**

“Just the way the game was flowing. Certainly, you’d love to run the football a little more, but I just felt like from a pass-game perspective, it was a little cleaner for us, a little more efficient. That’s credit to those guys and Tyler [Shough] executing at a really high level.”

**(On injury updates)**

“We will see what happens. [Bryan] Bresee was a knee. We will see tomorrow about Foster [Moreau] with the ankle and the hip-drop thing and how he got caught there. We will see how that goes.”

**(On K Charlie Smyth signaling for one more kick)**

“Charlie’s awesome. Charlie’s awesome. He’s playing really good football, really good football, and our team’s rallying behind him. He’s got a bright future.”

**(On QB Taysom Hill’s touchdown pass to WR Chris Olave)**

“I think the threat of Taysom running it. Obviously, we went into the play with the ability to either run it, or if the look presented itself to throw it. We were trying to get a first down there, and it turned into a touchdown.”

**(On how unique of a player QB Taysom Hill is)**

“I think at the end of the day, this league talks about trying to get ‘Taysom Hills’ on your football team. There’s a role, and everyone is chasing it. No one seems to be able to duplicate it because of his ability to play in every phase of an offense and contribute on special teams as well. The things he can do from the capacity of having to handle all of these looks, structures and fundamentals that you have to play all these positions at, it’s just really, really special. He’s an A-plus person, an A-plus human being and an A-plus player. I think all of these young guys, especially, can learn a lot from him, as we go through the rest of the year.”



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### (Opening statement)

“Alright when it comes to injuries, we had one. It was Jay Tufele, and he injured his foot. When it comes to this game, here’s what I told our guys. There were three things that really stood out. Two I will keep between me and the players, but the one that I asked our players to do was to play with effort. I thought that our guys did that. I thought that they went out there, they fought hard and did everything they could to keep us in this game. There were a couple of things from an overall perspective that we got to get better at. One thing is that they had too many plays on our side of the ball. So, field position wasn’t as good as I wanted it to be, and us as a team and a staff as we wanted it to be. Offensively, we had way too many penalties that actually put us behind the sticks. We would have a good play that put ourselves in a good position, then we would have a penalty. That happened a number of times, on third down plays, on early downs, you can’t do that in this league and win games. I think at the end of the game, we were trying to do too much, as players. I understand why because they’re trying to make plays, and they did that at the end of the game. I thought Chris Harris did a really good job at calling this first game in a live game. I thought the guys, again, played hard. We knew what this team was. We knew at the beginning of the game that this was our chance to really try and get up on this team. We knew in the second half, if you look at the numbers that’s who they were, a team that really explodes in the second half. They did exactly what we all knew they would do. We have to do a better job of understanding that and playing to that. It’s my job to continue to help these guys to be able to understand that. Listen we got two more games left, and I want to continue to play with effort like we did. It sucks that you lose a game, it does, regardless of the situation it sucks. But we have to get back to work next week and continue to play with effort and continue to find ways to help put our guys in positions to be successful. I know you guys hear that a lot, that’s really the one thing that we all have to do as a staff, to be able to do that. Again, we got to flush this one. I clearly know exactly what happened in this game, and I know you guys are going to talk about Brady (Cook). Brady did some good things, but also there was some things that has to do better at, we cannot turn the ball over. We all know that. He will know that, and he knows that as a quarterback. His hands are on the ball all the time, and he has to protect it. Other than that, listen we’ll clean some stuff up and we’ll move on. Any questions?”

### (On the offense’s general struggles and with penalties)

“I mean that was it, you just said it. Every time we had a good play, we would get a penalty and put ourselves behind the sticks. You can’t do that. I don’t care what defense you’re playing against. It’s too hard on the offense and then it makes you more predictable in that situation where you have to pass the ball. We can’t do that to ourselves; we cannot do it.”

**(On the run game struggles)**

"I don't think that's a surprise. I think last week we ran 130 yards against the number one run defense, so I don't think that's an accurate statement. I would say that yards per carry hasn't been as good as it should be, I will agree with that. But, when you're a team that is a run heavy team, I mean teams are going to stack the box and that's when we have to be better in the passing game. That is one area that we have to improve on. I know our young quarterback knows that, you know everyone in the league knows that. They're going to attack our quarterback with a certain blitz, and I think this team did. I think they were successful on some of those, but also, they made some plays and just ripped the full man rush and had coverage in the back end with seven guys. Again, we have to continue to find ways we can run the ball and then put our quarterback in a situation where he can deliver the ball to open guys."

**(On Brady Cook's struggles with holding onto the ball)**

"Yeah, I would agree with that statement. That's something that we all have to look at on tape and make sure we talk to him about, getting the ball out of your hands as quick as you can. Plus, we have to make sure we give him options to be able to do that. So, that goes both ways. With him, when options are there get the ball out of your hands. With us as a staff, making sure we have concepts that allow him to be able to do that."

**(On if he started Brady Cook to see what he could do or give them the best shot at winning)**

"I think a little bit of both. I think he gives us the best chance to win, but we also want to evaluate where he's at. There are a lot of guys on this roster that we're trying to evaluate where they are at too. Again, we had guys that were hurt, our two quarterbacks and we know that, but I do think he gives us a chance to win games. He wouldn't be in there if he didn't give us a chance to win."

**(On what he saw out of Chris Harris in terms of his play calling)**

"I thought he was patient. I don't think there was anything with the way he was calling where I thought he was frazzled at all. This team did a ton of up-tempo, so that really gave me an opportunity to evaluate how he had calls in his head going on to the next play if that makes sense. There was no second guessing. Every game, every play caller will have a couple of calls where they say man I wish I had that back, and I know he will say that. I would say this: there was no panic, there was no second guessing from what I know, and I'm proud of the way he operated. I felt he did a really great job going into this week to be able to call a game against an operation like they had with so much tempo."

**(On if he considered Tyrod Taylor in the second half)**

"You know what, no. The thing is, we weren't stagnant until the second half. Take a look at where we were, what 9-6? I thought we were right there in the game. I just thought at that time that Brady would give us the best chance to win. I thought that was a game, which we've been talking about all week, where the game was right there for us. I really wanted to see how he was going to operate. I'll go back to this: the operation side was really good; it was the penalties that got us in a situation where they got us behind the sticks. It's hard as an offense to try and continue to get past that."



**(On setting an NFL record for the longest streak of games without an interception)**

"I hate the fact that we haven't gotten an interception. The thing is, we got a turnover and we got a fourth down stop. Those things are something we can build on, and our guys will continue to build on that. I want interceptions just like everybody else, but if we can get a turnover that's all I care about."

**(On if he saw anything that he liked defensively)**

"I thought we were really sound for the most part, I really did. That first half I thought our guys did a really good job of understanding exactly what Chris Harris was trying to do. There were some calls that we just put in that our guys executed really well. I think the one fumble that we got was outstanding. I think that one of the third down plays in the red zone, which was one of our calls but I don't want to get into that, was outstanding. Chris called it at the right time when he knew we really needed it. But yeah, I thought we were really sound. That's where you start when it comes to defense, just how sound you are. Then, you start to add all of the other things within that. Exotic pressures, the single back pressures, things like that. But once you're just sound and you can make sure your gaps are sound, that's where it starts."



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### DE CAMERON JORDAN

**(Opening comments about family and friends)** “We’ve got a lot of family here. My sister flew in from Germany. My brother came down from Arizona. Dad, I am not sure where he flies in and out of. I never have a (clue where he is). I’ve got like eight boys from Cal that came through (for the game).”

**(On the game today)** “We went into this game knowing that this was one of those games that we could take advantage of on defense. I love that we had eight sacks. From Jonah Williams to Nathan Shepherd to Chris Rumph to Chase Young to Alontae Taylor, Isaiah Stalbird, and myself. I think the defense just took advantage where we could. I almost thought that Alontae was going to take it to the crib at the very end of the game. He jumped the route so perfectly (on the interception). A great defensive outing (by the team). Jonas Sanker (also had) an interception.”

**(On the reason why family and friends attended)** “Absolutely. (It was) just like they did last year. When you are getting towards your elder-statesmanship, you know, you never know if you are going to come back or not or whatever that may be. I have never not had guaranteed money in a contract and I have never not had a contract. Now, we are leaning on not having a contract, so you can’t have guaranteed money when a contract isn’t (in place). It’s a simple conundrum. As you get older, you just sort of start looking around and seeing where you are at. I am just totally blessed to be a part of a defense where you have such an influx of young guys playing at such a high level, like Jonas (Sanker), like Danny Stuts(man). You’ve got guys (on the team) like Taliese Fuaga (and) Kelvin Banks. Our team has such a great core of veteran leadership like Demario Davis and myself and such a great core of young guys who are heading towards leadership, when you talk about Alontae Taylor; when you talk about everybody on offense; when you talk about you inset Tyler Shough, the way that he’s played this last couple of games. It’s exciting because you see such a future and I want to be a part of everything about it; and, now I am in that limbo of, ‘Are you sending me a new contract or not?’ I just take every game for what it is. I am blessed and honored to be presented to affect the game any way that I can.”

(On if he treated this game differently than ones in the past) “I think I did last year. This year, everybody texted me. Last year, I was texting everybody. Now, everybody just wants to partake. My Manager, Rebecca Otto, has been with me since the beginning. (My agent) Doug Hendrickson showed up. I said, ‘Oh, dang!’ I’ve got best friends who have been with me since college show up. I had a cousin from Arizona come through. I was like, ‘Alright, we are going to make this thing a party. So, we are going to hit the streets tonight. It is what it is.”

**(On the many Cam Jordan head shots in the crowd today)** “That was my wife, for sure. I came out there with the family. Nikki Jordan, of course, has all of the big heads. We came together (to the stadium). How did I miss this? We drove in the same car. Great job (with that). We just went from there. I love that it was against the Jets. I didn’t know that I hadn’t sacked the Jets before. I guess that they haven’t been on my list in the AFC. I don’t really care. There is one team that I hate and there are two other teams in our division. The league is the league.”

**(On how it feels to be aging backwards)** “Is it aging backwards or is it just taking advantage of opportunities presented? If you take it back to 2023, I tore a couple of ligaments in the leg. I was straight run mode. I capped my season in like Week 11 or whatever it was. I finished with 2.5 sacks or whatever it was. It was 2. The next year I sort of got buried once I saw light back on the edge, because, apparently, I am not a nose tackle. This year, (I was) back on the edge (and) had some fun, Stop the run and have some fun. That has been the name of the game. You know, take advantage of every opportunity presented. It’s nice to have multi-sack games.”

**(On coming back to play for New Orleans this year instead of signing with another team)** “I’ve never seen myself not being in black and gold. I’ve stated since Sean Payton and Mickey (Loomis) called me on draft night, I said, ‘Alright, let’s do this.’ When I said, ‘Let’s do this’, I meant, ‘Let’s do this together.’ 15 years later, I still say, ‘Let’s do this.’ I see a bright future with all of the guys that we have. We have such a talented young core. We have such a talented veteran (group). We have such a talented group. I am mad that it took us this long to find some success, because once you find some success, you understand how to win.”

## **S JONAS SANKER**

**(On making play and the defense playing well together)** “It’s awesome to hear guys like Cam (Jordan) talk. It’s great to have somebody like that constantly building guys up. He’s been that guy that we have expected him to be every day. It’s awesome to see guys like him (and) Demario (Davis) just be able to have that consistency for the team, even at year 15.”

**(On the interception and other chances today)** “We were definitely looking for that and really emphasizing playing off of the quarterback’s eyes. It is funny, because literally, before that possession, our coach was talking about, ‘When they go three by one, be ready to cut that

special. Sure enough, that is the play that we got. They have done a really good job helping me to be prepared and just pushing me to take this season with a grain of salt and constantly get better every week, not get too caught up in the ups and downs and find ways to constantly be improving.”

**(On being a part of this team turnaround)** “I am a big believer in what we have and I think that we are doing things the right way. I really trust the establishment in what we are trying to do. (We) keep improving and focus on what I can control, understanding that we have a lot of other guys who are having that same mentality I am really excited to see what we can do in the future.”

## **QB TYLER SHOUGH**

**(On if the plan was to throw this many times)** “I think it was kind of the way it played out. We felt good about throwing the ball, and we had a really good plan in all phases of it, so, obviously, you want to maybe not throw it so much, but I think whatever it takes to win. I've said it before, and it was really a great offensive unit effort, and we left a lot out there, quite frankly, so we got to patch it up and continue to go.”

**(On if the TD pass to Chris Olave increased momentum)** “No, I mean, it was frustrating because we didn't start how we knew what we could do, and I think we were moving the ball, we were just like a yard short in some of those third downs, and it was tough. But it was just a great play call by Kellen (Moore), and a great route by CO (Olave), and all the guys kind of helped him get open versus that man coverage look, and yeah, I mean, whenever you can get him one-on-one, obviously you have to own the ball.”

**(On if there was a plan to get Olave involved early this week)** “Yeah, for sure. I think we got to do everything we can to get him the ball, and that's my goal. We had great communication the whole week; he's one of our best players, and he needs to get the ball. And credit to him, preparing the way that he did, showing up—it was big time, obviously. Things happen during the game, or certain flows, but he's always the same dude.”

**(On how three straight wins and maybe more feel going into the next year)** “Yeah, anytime you can put something on tape that you want to show other people, show your teammates, all of us, we're all playing for everything that's valuable to us, whether that's we're going to be here on a different team—for certain guys. We're super proud of what we're putting together. We're just having fun, and I think that's the biggest thing. We all want to be here together. We understand that how we finish this game is the characterization of this team, and I think that it's reflecting that in the play. The defense, special teams, everybody, I think we've done a better job of just playing with each other, playing complementary football.”

**(On reaching the milestone of 300 yards in a game, first Saints rookie to do so)** “I don't really care. I mean, we should have had quite a bit more and left a lot of points on the board, so we've got to find a way to fix those things and continue to go forward.”

**(On Coach Moore “selling out” to make sure Taysom Hill had his TD)** “Yeah, I mean, I knew when the play call was coming in. I knew we were close. We talked about it on the sideline. I was hoping we got that touchdown to be the signaling moment for him, but I'm just super proud. That's a credit to him. His preparation has worked. He takes a beating physically week in, week out, playing different positions, different personnel groups. So he's just such an asset for us, and he's very deserving of everything that he gets, and that's a huge milestone.”

**(On building off of the score last week and what advantage that provided)** “Yeah. I mean, a great two-play package there. Obviously, you're playing with tempo, going up on the ball, having the ability to run it out in space, and then kind of having to pass off of it as well. So, it was a great play call and a great design by him.”

**(On the process of blossoming into leadership)** “I think it started as soon as I got here. I was really, really intentional about getting to know everybody. Making sure that I'm the same dude every single day. And obviously, when you're in a backup role, you're not pulling guys aside or jumping guys or talking to them. There's a different element of that, naturally. But you still want to be the same dude. But I kept my same routine, sending guys scripts, making sure the communication was great regardless of that way. When I became a starter, it did not change. And then, obviously, you kind of expand on that. And you have got to earn that and earn the respect of those guys. And I think we have kind of been able to bond together. And for me, that is my whole goal—to continue to build that. And, obviously, the quarterback position, you're thrust into it. But for me, how I behave around my teammates, who I am every single day, what we put on the film, that's the stuff that really matters to me.”

**(On what are some factors that go into leading as a QB)** “You have to have a one-on-one relationship with each guy. You can't ask them to do something that you wouldn't do yourself. And we have a great bond with each other. We spend a lot of time outside the facility together. It's been a journey. Obviously, the season hasn't gone as exactly as we wanted to. But we've stayed resilient through that. And for me, that is why you play football, to go out there every single day. But for me, I'm going to do everything I can to earn this guy's respect every single day, no matter the circumstance.”

**(On if winning Rookie of the Year would matter to him)** “Yeah, that's obviously a great achievement. But I think for us, that can be attained by finishing the season the right way with getting the victory next week and then the week after that. So that's all I'm focused on right now. And we'll go from there.”

**(On seeing Olave bounce back after injuries and what that means to him)** “It's tough. It is tough because you understand where he's coming from mentally, and you understand the value of your body, and for him to continue to step up to the plate every single week, every single year. And like I said before, he's the same dude. And he's continuing to grow. We're around the same age. He's got so much left in the tank. And obviously, he understands what's in front of him and what he's doing now. So I am really proud of him. I know it's obviously not easy, but that is a credit to him and the coaching staff and everybody for believing in him, and he's going to be great for us.”

**(On 50 Cent being present and if he's planning a song for his IG post)** “I don't know. I was not expecting to see him pregame. I was like, holy crap, that was 50, man. That was pretty cool. That was probably one of the cooler moments for me as a player. But I got to talk to him a little bit, and hopefully get him back a few more times as well.

**(On Juwan Johnson saying that the music he plays in the locker room is weird)** “I just got a wide genre, man. I keep it fresh. We got reggae. We got rap. We got country, EDM. I like to keep it fresh. Keep the juices flowing. For me, I've been everywhere college-wise, so I've got a wide array. He's vibing to it as well, but we usually keep the same rotation.”

## **DT NATHAN SHEPHERD**

**(On what this year has meant to him so far)** “It's been filled with a lot of challenges. I always go into a year knowing that there's going to be adversity. You just don't know where it's going to come from. You don't know what form it's going to take. It's just about whatever obstacle is in our way, how are we going to overcome it, because that's where progress happens. I feel like we have just been doing the best we can to lean on each other in these hard times and times of adversity, and be like ‘why are we facing this?’ It is to get better. That's what we committed to early on in the year before any of this started. ‘Here's an obstacle. How are we going to overcome it together?’ So that's been the focus that we try to surround ourselves around and block out any other distractions.”

**(On how multiple sacks contribute to momentum)** “I get what you're saying. It's a little bit of a feeding frenzy, but it's great when that happens, but there's a huge recipe to be a part of that. Everyone has to contribute. It's not just the defense. If I'm looking at this game, I'm looking at

special teams. To begin with, special teams played very well. We're able to have great field position no matter where we started. So, got to give it out to special teams. Offense did a great job of sustaining drives. That's definitely huge. Does a couple of things. We're able to come up with more points. We were also able to keep their offense off the field. They have less opportunities to create explosives. Definitely won the turnover battle—this all goes into it. On the defensive perspective, don't quote me, but I think we had kept them under like 70 yards against Breece Hall—he is a premier back in this league. So every time you can take away the run game, eventually, and you are scoring points on offense, great field position, eventually it as a pressure cooker where it is like, okay, what is an offense going to do? They are going to go throw the ball. And when we are in that great position, hey, everyone can kind of contribute off of each other and get those big plays.”

**(On the difference between the Jets and Saints locker rooms)** “I started my career off earlier in the Jets and had a great opportunity to get drafted by them. Todd Bowles, Mike Maccagnan, who was the GM at the time, I’m still close with Todd—now he's at Tampa Bay. And there was definitely a lot of turnover in my time there. So, everything I took from the Jets is part of who I am today. So I can't really take away from that. I would say that in this locker room, what we're trying to do is just keep going forward. Whatever the adversity is, we are just trying to keep going forward, trying to lean on each other. And, our mentality is, ‘Hey, as long as we don't give up, we don't lose.’ Whatever the scoreboard says at the end of the day, that does not explain the effort that we've got to put in; it's not related. So it is like, ‘Hey, whatever adversity we have, whatever problems there are, how are we attacking it?’ Whatever the scoreboard says.”

**(On having Cam Jordan as a teammate)** “I mean, with Cam, it's just a matter of time. You give that guy reps, and you're going to have production. So, definitely happy for him but not surprised. I'm just like, I know, because I'm like, ‘I know this is what Cam does, this is what he's going to get done, this is what he's going to continue doing for, you know, as long as he chooses to.’ So, it's really great to just, I wasn't here for his whole career, but it's really great to be a part of what he was able to accomplish today, and just look back at his body of work, and what he's been able to do, look at his resume, to be part of that is a great opportunity. But also he's an inspiration to everyone else, whatever part of your career you're in, like, ‘hey, as long as you keep with it, you know, a lot of things can happen at the end.’”

**(On how Brandon Staley's approach stands out)** “Just how he goes about getting you guys ready and preparation and all that stuff. One great thing about Staley—you can tell that he is looking at the big picture. And he is definitely looking down the road, even though each day he takes one day at a time. He definitely has a lot of belief in this defense. He definitely wants to drive his defense in a winning direction, in a dominant direction. And that's what he holds us to every day. And every day, same guy, same expectations, high expectations for everyone in that room. And there's no easy way out. So, mistakes, whatever it is, he's going to get on you. But

only because he expects so much from everyone in that locker room. And, you know, we're able to put that together and have good performances."

**(On if he swapped jerseys with Bink (Saunders))** "Bink and I were gonna hit it up. I'm gonna talk to him. Actually, we're supposed to be hitting him up right now. He was waiting on me. I had to text him and say, 'I got some things to do.' But, Bink's my guy. It was great seeing him. It was great seeing a lot of other guys. I mean, Jermaine Johnson. I'm glad to see that he came back from injury and he's healthy. Michael Clemons. Who else is there right now? Breece Hall. Those are a few guys. It was great to see them and some other guys in the building for sure, too."

## **K CHARLIE**

**(On if he was disappointed with the Olave-Taysom TD, which prevented him from trying to get a franchise-record sixth field goal)** "I didn't know the circumstances of what was at stake for Taysom, so whenever I heard that, I was super pumped up for him, but in that moment, I saw it was 5 and tied for club record. But after hearing about what was at stake for Taysom, it was awesome, and you want to give great credit to the offense and defense today—I think we're really starting to play some good, complementary football here. Defense got a lot of turnovers, and offense was awesome again, and getting us in position. Then we got some opportunities to go out there and execute. And the O-line did a great job, and got to knock a couple of them through, so it was nice."

**(On if he heard the crowd during the 61-yard FG attempt)** "Yeah, it's a moment I would like back. It's a little bit of a learning moment where I know I can hit those without having to change my form, but because it was my first 60-plus attempt in the game, and it was the end of half, I was kind of a little amped up going out there, and I wish I could have that one back. It was a great learning moment for going forward, where I feel like I don't need to change my form to hit that 61, but I just sort of short-stabbed it, but I pulled it a little bit, so we'll learn going forward."

**(On the support/response back in Ireland)** "Yeah, the support from everybody back home in Ireland has been unreal. I am super grateful for it. A lot of people are pushing the game of American football in Ireland, and it's nice to play—I suppose—a small part in the rise of it and just the fan culture at home. Yeah, I am super elated to be a part of that and the support has been amazing. I am constantly getting texts, and the phone is constantly blowing up this past couple of weeks, so it's been unreal. It's been unreal because this organization took a chance on me a couple of weeks ago and said, 'Look, despite all the lack of experience, we are still going to give him a shot, and we see what he has been doing in the building, so just super grateful to everybody here. And I think we're all reaping the rewards of it at the minute.'"

**(On this being his fourth career game and already being in the record books, and what that means for sports in Ireland)** "It's been a great year for all of our Irish sports to be honest. Rory (McIlroy) won the Masters, and then Lowry hit the putt in the Ryder Cup, and the athletics at home has taken off really



well and a couple of the girls are doing really well. The Irish soccer team had a big win against Hungary a couple of weeks ago, so the sports at home is rising. Katie Taylor in boxing—the Irish sporting culture around the world is really great and picking up. It's pretty good to be a part of that, so just got to keep it going now.”

## **TE JUWAN JOHNSON**

### **(On having a win like this to help close out the season)**

“It means a lot, when you start off the season the way that we did, and then they kind of regroup the way we did, kind of put some stuff together. Ironically, it kind of happened when Tyler (Shough) became quarterback, and things started to happen, pieces started to move, and then we just started to come together. And then the gel started coming in, sort of like how it was in the offseason, kind of playful, we were always kind of playful, but it was just kind of let loose, just kind of play free. And so, when we started doing that, the offense kind of came alive Kellen (Moore) started getting a little more comfortable. But yeah, I just feel like everybody should get a little more comfortable, to let their hair down a little bit. And I think we got after a little bit. So, I think that was the biggest part in just kind of this whole win streak in December, just really getting back to what we're good at doing things well, being selfless.”

### **(On personality being a big conversation/Kellen yelling at the referee)**

“He 100% yelled at a referee. I think the biggest thing is brush off some stuff. And I think you can get a little pass on that, going to let it slide, let it slide. But when it happens over and over again, it's always good to see Kellen kind of get out of what people think he is, and kind of get after it. But the thing is, he's done a great job, aside from that, he's been doing a phenomenal job, and I think he's done well with what is going on throughout the whole year, keeping his composure, keeping the locker room the way it is, and this is the best locker room I have ever had. Especially with the season, what it has been, nobody ever wavered, no one ever wanted to give up, no one ever looked forward to the offseason. I do not think I really even had a lot of offseason conversations like everybody can be locked in and kind of wanting to finish the year off right. He has good guys, he has the right guys in there to do the job, and I think that's the biggest part.”

### **(On why this is the best locker room he has been a part of)**

“Yeah, sort of like I said, you could always have a good locker room when you win it, but when you're losing, it shows the character of a person. And so, when you're losing, you can always feel like, oh well we're not doing this right, we're not doing this right, you point the finger, you kind of want to leave, you want things to go a certain way, you think you should be getting the ball more. And the thing is, is, you don't really see that. And the thing is, like I said he brought in

the right guys to have the right mindset. I think that all started with the offseason activities that we did. There's a lot of offseason activities you get to know, like the guys you're going to war with, and the guys are going to play with. And I think that's the biggest thing. Getting to do paintball, going bowling, things like that. I think that's all part of something that people may not think it's necessary. But when you get to top, like December, it really pays off. You really know who you are going to war with."

### **(On the vibe last year versus this year)**

"Yeah, but just the way you win too. And I think, like I said, when you win with certain people, especially like the players, it means a lot more, because we know how much work we put in to be where we're at. You know, I don't think people expect a lot of us this year, but I think the narrative is starting to change, just the way that we're compiling on wins, and the way that we're playing in the way that we're winning. I think that's the biggest, I think last year, yeah, we got the first two wins, and that was early, and then we kind of had one here and there. But I think right now, just the way that we're winning and the style that we're winning at and the way that we're playing, I think that's the biggest one."

## **QB TAYSOM HILL**

### **(On his thoughts on the locker room this year)**

"Yeah, I think it's, it's been a great locker room. Juwan talked about when; the season started the way that it did. I think it shows a lot about the characters and the character of our team. And the reality is there's been no quit in anybody in that locker room, and everyone's still competing and playing for one another. And, God, it's a fun environment to be in. And we know that the postseason stuff is off the table, but everyone's still cherishing every opportunity to get and I think, that that's pretty unique and special."

### **(On family and friends showing up to the game)**

"Yeah, my entire family's here for the game, so it was fun to have them here and put a lot of love and support for people around me, that's for sure."

### **(On taking a second through potential change in the future)**

"Yeah, ask me the tough questions. Look, my wife asked me that this morning, and I didn't really feel any type of way this morning, but as I was driving the stadium today you start to, think about the last nine years and what it's meant to me and my family and the city and stuff. So, I think for

me personally, you just try to take it all in. They had a great experience here tonight, and I don't know what the future holds for me, but it was a special day."

**(On having thoughts about his future)**

"I'm focused on the next two weeks and kind of tackle the rest of that as we get down the road."

**(On his touchdown play)**

"I was a little bit surprised when it came in. You have to ask (Chris) Olave I think they were, they were going to hold him out of the game. And he found out what the call was. He says, No, I'm in. I know, Kellen made a concerted effort to give me more opportunities and stuff, given the circumstances, and God's it's a great way to, great way to seal (a) game. We had the look that, that we wanted, and it worked out perfect."

## **WR CHRIS OLAVE**

**(On wanting to be a part of Taysom Hill's play)**

"Definitely wanted to be a part of that, especially I knew Taysom, they wanted to get him a touchdown, so I wanted to be a part of that, a deep ball too so I definitely want to be in there."

**(On career-high in receiving yards this game)**

"It feels good man, I feel like we left a lot of plays out there too, especially that first touchdown kind of hold on to that, couple of those deep balls. I feel like could have done a lot more, but I'm glad we executed and went out there and was able to come out with a win. Tyler did a great job today, Offensive line did a great job. And we executed when we needed the most."

**(On going through his injury last year to a career year)**

"Just got to thank God man, it was a tough time last year. I was only 24 years old, contemplating retirement, especially with head injuries, but prayed about it. My close family was around me, they stuck by my side. Just gave it another try, another chance. And it's been a great year for like through all the ups and downs, just kept focused. Kellen still believes in me and all I can do is thank God, in this situation and I'm super grateful. Really, you know, just really, after the same concussion, being out there in Carolina and to next few days. I mean, that was my last game. I don't know when it was. Think was October or November, but it was a long time, especially not coming back to last year. Having that being my last game, it was tough, it was real tough, long offseason, a lot of things, and especially early in the year. It's easy to be in practice and run

routes and do all that without getting hit. But first few games, it was tough going out there, kind of trying to get down, used to playing again. But kind of after a few games, I kind of got more and more comfortable.”

**(On his continuing contract conversations)**

“Yeah, they continue. You know, it's been a clear communication. But I ain't really focused on that right now. Just finished trying to finish the year off strong. You know, it's been a couple conversations here and there, but like I said, just want to prove that I'm one of the top receivers in the league, year in, year out, when I got a full year. So just got to finish these last two strong and those conversations will come.”

**(On if he wants an extension)**

“Oh, yeah, of course, this is where I want to be man. They took a chance on me, they traded up in draft to be able to come get me. So, they've been nothing but good to me. They were here for me last year, when I was going through that tough time. They told me to take my time, they stood by my side. And even this year, when Kellen came in, he still believed in me through the ups and downs. This year, he kept coming to me. I'm super grateful for that, and I can't thank the organization enough for that.”



# POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

## NEW YORK JETS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 • CAESARS SUPERDOME JETS PLAYER QUOTES

### QB BRADY COOK

(Overall Play) “Definitely need to watch the film. Good moments but not enough; not enough points, not enough sustained drives. We are putting our defense on the field way too often – too many punts.”

#### (On a slow start for the team )

“Number one, we need to start fast and sustain it, we need to sustain drives. It starts with being efficient on first down and second down; not putting all the pressure on third and longs and forcing ourselves to be perfect on third down when the defense is in control. It starts with starting fast on the first and second down.”

#### (On sacks and the Saints defense getting through quicker)

“I think so, like I said I need to watch the film, especially with protections and sacks. It’s hard to tell exactly what’s going on right at the moment. At the end of the day I need to get the ball out. I don’t think I threw the ball down the field very much today.”

#### (On why he didn’t throw as much today)

“There’s always going to be opportunities to throw the ball down the field – the defense played a great game, they really did. They covered a lot up and had a great plan for us. I need to watch the film and see how we can push the ball down the field better.”

#### (On emotion/energy in the locker room)

“Extremely disappointed. We came here prepared, ready to win this game and we didn’t do it. Naturally you’re going to feel disappointment from that, but all we can do now is go back to work. We have two games left and we need to play for each other, and we need to fight for each other and find a way to get a win. ”

#### (On Coach Glenn’s message to the team)

“Keep fighting and stay in, and that’s what we’re going to do. This locker room is bought in, and we’re going to stay in for these last two games. We’re going to fight, and we’re going to go back to work.”

#### (On difficulty playing behind the sticks)

“As I alluded to, I think it starts with that first and second down efficiency, and setting yourself up for success on the third down. Instead of putting all the pressure on yourselves on the 3rd and XL’s and 3rd and longs. That’s when the defense can be in control and control it. It starts with me operation wise, making sure we’re in the right calls and we’re not getting those flags, and making sure everyone’s in the right spots. Need to look at it and continue to get better.”