



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS 2009 WEEKLY **MEDIA INFORMATION GUIDE**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
NOV. 30, 2009 @ LOUISIANA SUPERDOME

GAME INFORMATION • ROSTERS • DEPTH CHART
STATISTICS • MINIBIOS • CLIPS



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HOST NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS IN MONDAY NIGHT MATCHUP

Following a 38-7 victory in Tampa Bay, where efficiency on offense, defense and special teams carried them to the finish, the New Orleans Saints will seek to at least retain their one game lead atop the NFC standings under the shine of Monday Night Football when they host the New England Patriots (7-3) on a nationally televised contest.

The Saints enter the matchup against one of the NFL's top juggernauts, who have collected four Super Bowl appearances and three championships over the past ten years, with a 10-0 record, riding their first ten game win streak in franchise history. The Saints and the Indianapolis Colts are the only unbeaten NFL teams remaining entering week 12.

The Saints outgained the Buccaneers 370-219 on Sunday, while holding an explosive Tampa special teams unit at bay. The offense was powered by a run game featuring RBs **Pierre Thomas** and **Mike Bell**, who combined for 167 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. QB **Drew Brees** was 19-of-29 passing for 187 yards with three touchdown throws, zero interceptions and a 118.0 passer rating in just over three quarters of work. Two of Brees' scoring passes went to WR **Robert Meachem**, who has grabbed four touchdowns in the last three contests to give him six on the season.

Despite missing both starting cornerbacks, the Saints put together one of their most dominating defensive displays of the season, allowing Bucs rookie QB **Josh Freeman** to com-

plete only 17-of-33 passes for 126 yards with one touchdown, three interceptions, one lost fumble lost and a 33.1 passer rating. DE **Will Smith** continued his dominant play in the month of November with five tackles and one sack, his sixth quarterback takedown in four games. He leads the club and is tied for second in the NFC and fifth in the NFL with 8.5 sacks and three forced fumbles. Rookie CB **Malcolm Jenkins** recorded an interception in his first NFL start, while he was joined in the pick parade by S **Chris Reis** and LB **Jonathan Vilma**.

Monday's matchup will feature two of the NFL's most prolific offenses over the past three seasons, as both the Saints and the Patriots rank among the league leaders in both points scored and net yardage during this period. 2009 is no different as the Saints, led by Brees, his weapons in the passing game and a vastly improved running attack are ranked first in the NFL in both yardage and scoring, averaging 420.5 yards per game and 36.9 points per game. New England, led by QB **Tom Brady** and his vast arsenal of playmakers, is ranked second offensively, averaging 416.1 yards per game and are ranked third with 29.0 points per game.

Both clubs have also experienced success on the defensive side of the ball as well in 2009. New Orleans has forced an NFL-high 29 turnovers, while the Patriots have allowed 16.4 points per game, the second-lowest figure in the league and have allowed only 296.7 yards per game to rank sixth defensively.

SAINTS SCHEDULE/RESULTS

PRESEASON

Date	Opponent	Time/Network
Aug. 14	CINCINNATI BENGALS	W, 17-7
Aug. 22	@ Houston Texans	W, 38-14
Aug. 29	@ Oakland Raiders	W, 45-7
Sept. 3	MIAMI DOLPHINS	L, 7-10

REGULAR SEASON

Sept. 13	DETROIT LIONS	W, 45-27
Sept. 20	@ Philadelphia Eagles	W, 48-22
Sept. 27	@ Buffalo Bills	W, 27-7
Oct. 4	NEW YORK JETS	W, 24-10
Oct. 11	BYE	
Oct. 18	NEW YORK GIANTS	W, 48-27
Oct. 25	@ Miami Dolphins	W, 46-34
Nov. 2	ATLANTA FALCONS	W, 35-27
Nov. 8	CAROLINA PANTHERS	W, 30-20
Nov. 15	@ St. Louis Rams	W, 28-23
Nov. 22	@ Tampa Bay Buccaneers	W, 38-7
Nov. 30	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	7:30/ESPN
Dec. 6	@ Washington Redskins	Noon/FOX
Dec. 13	@ Atlanta Falcons	Noon/FOX
Dec. 19	DALLAS COWBOYS	7:20/NFLN
Dec. 27	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	Noon/FOX
Jan. 3	@ Carolina Panthers	Noon/FOX

GAMEDAY AT A GLANCE

- **DATE:** Monday, Nov. 30 • **TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
- **SITE:** Louisiana Superdome
- **WORTH NOTING:** The Saints will be trying to win six straight home games for the first time in club history...If Atlanta loses or ties on Sunday, the Saints would clinch the NFC South with a win...New Orleans ranks first in the NFL in offense, fifth rushing and sixth passing the ball...New Orleans is ranked 17th defensively, 20th against the run and 15th versus the pass. The Patriots are ranked second offensively, 15th rushing and second passing...New England is ranked sixth defensively, 15th against the run and sixth against the pass...Monday night's contest will be nationally televised on ESPN with **Mike Tirico** handling play-by-play, **Jon Gruden** and **Ron Jaworski** serving as color analysts and **Suzy Kolber** and **Michele Tafoya** on the sidelines...The game can heard regionally on the Saints Radio Network (WWL 870 AM and 105.3 FM locally) with **Jim Henderson** handling play-by-play, **Hokie Gajan** serving as color analyst and **Kristian Garic** reporting from the Saints sidelines...A Spanish language broadcast can be heard on WFNO 830 AM with **Emilio Peralta** handling play-by-play and **Marco Garcia** serving as color analyst.



SAINTS-PATRIOTS PREVIEW

NEW ORLEANS-PATRIOTS SPECIFICS
THE COACHES

Saints coach **Sean Payton** has posted a record of 35-23 in the regular season and 1-1 in the postseason. He is the lone head coach in club history to open a season with ten straight wins and post a ten-game winning streak, and has the top all-time winning percentage (.604) for a Saints head coach. His 18-11 (.621) home record and 17-12 (.586) road mark are both the top winning percentages in club history. Payton has recorded a 27-16 (.628) mark vs. NFC opponents. In 2006, he took the Saints to the NFC Championship and was named the NFL Coach of the Year by most major media outlets. Payton was hired as New Orleans' 14th head coach on January 18, 2006, after serving on the Dallas Cowboys coaching staff from 2003-2005. He has successfully overtaken a rebuilding project by reshaping the majority of the team's roster, with only eight players remaining from the 2005 campaign. Prior to joining the Cowboys, Payton served on the New York Giants staff from 1999-2002, including the final three seasons as offensive coordinator. His tenure was highlighted by a Super Bowl berth in his first full season in New York as offensive coordinator. Payton's prior NFL coaching experience came as quarterbacks coach for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1997-98.

New England head coach **Bill Belichick** is in his tenth season as the head coach of the Patriots. He is the only head coach in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in four years, and his 15-4 record in the postseason in the postseason is the second-best in league record books. He is in his 35th season as an NFL coach and was hired by New England on January 27, 2000. In 2007, Belichick led the Patriots to the NFL's first 16-0 regular season, becoming only the third coach in NFL history to do so. Belichick has recorded a 160-93 record overall and owns a career winning percentage of .632, which is third all-time. His overall record of 123-48 with the Patriots gives him the most victories and the best winning percentage (.719) of any head coach in franchise history.

SERIES HISTORY

New England has dominated the series, including a stretch where the Patriots won the first five games between the two clubs. New Orleans posted three-straight victories from 1989-95 – all on the road. The Pats have won the last three, including a 24-17 victory in 2005 at Gillette Stadium. This will be the first time that **Sean Payton** has faced New England as head coach of the Saints.

7 of the last 11 games have been decided by a touchdown or less - including two by a field goal. The Saints have never beaten the Patriots in four meetings at home, three which took place in the Superdome. A view of the results:

Date	Score	Site
12/10/72	L, 10-17	Tulane Stadium
12/5/76	L, 6-27	Schaefer Stadium
12/21/80	L, 27-38	Louisiana Superdome
12/4/83	L, 0-7	Schaefer Stadium
11/30/86	L, 20-21	Louisiana Superdome
11/12/89	W, 28-24	Sullivan Stadium
11/8/92	W, 31-14	Foxboro Stadium
12/3/95	W, 31-17	Foxboro Stadium
10/4/98	L, 27-30	Louisiana Superdome
11/25/01	L, 17-34	Foxboro Stadium
11/20/05	L, 17-24	Foxboro Stadium

SUPERLATIVES

A look at the top individual performances for Saints players against the Patriots in the previous 11 meetings between the two clubs. New Orleans has never had a player post a 100-yard receiving day vs. New England:

RUSHING YARDAGE vs. PATS (100+yards)

- RB Rueben Mayes – 33 carries for 157 yards, @ the Louisiana Superdome, Nov. 30, 1986.
- RB Mario Bates – 15 carries for 123 yards, @ Foxboro Stadium, Dec. 3, 1995.
- RB Dalton Hilliard – 28 carries for 106 yards, @ Sullivan Stadium, Nov. 12, 1989.

PASSING YARDAGE vs. PATS (250+yards)

- QB Aaron Brooks – 27 of 50 for 343 yards, @ Foxboro Stadium, Nov. 25, 2001.
- QB Aaron Brooks – 16 of 39 for 307 yards, @ Foxboro Stadium, Nov. 20, 2005.
- QB Archie Manning – 24 of 39 for 301 yards @ Schaefer Stadium, Dec. 21, 1980.
- QB Danny Wuerffel – 25 of 47 for 278 yards, @ the Louisiana Superdome, Oct. 4, 1998.

LAST MEETING

Nov. 20, 2005: Patriots 24, Saints 17 @ Gillette Stadium – QB **Tom Brady** threw three touchdown passes and New England held off a fourth quarter rally by New Orleans after the defending Super Bowl Champions jumped out to a two touchdown lead in the first half.

The Patriots held a 24-7 lead after a 37-yard field goal by K **Adam Vinatieri** with 7:52 left. New Orleans rallied with 10 points in the final five minutes and had a chance for a potential tie on the last play of the game, but QB **Aaron Brooks'** pass intended for WR **Joe Horn** was intercepted in the end zone by FS **Eugene Wilson** as time expired.

With 1:36 and one timeout remaining, the Saints took over at their 22 following a punt and marked to the New England 22. On the final play, a pair of defenders blanketed Horn and Wilson intercepted Brooks as the clock ran out.

Brady took the Patriots on a 16-play, 98-yard drive, capped by a WR **Deion Branch** touchdown grab for a 7-0 lead. New England extended its lead as Brady found LB **Mike Vrabel** for a two-yard touchdown pass.

Brooks found WR **Donte' Stallworth** for two touchdowns in the game. In the third quarter, the Patriots started deep in their own territory at the 7, but a 41-yard run by FB **Patrick Pass** set up a 60-yard touchdown from Brady to WR **Andre' Davis**. Vinatieri's 37-yard FG with 7:52 remaining in the game gave the Patriots a 24-7 lead.

After a New England punt, the Saints drove 24 yards in eight plays for a 46-yard FG by K **John Carney** with 2:20 remaining.

Brooks broke **Archie Manning's** all-time franchise record for touchdown passes, both tying (115) and breaking (116) on scoring strikes to Stallworth. He completed 27-of-50 passes for 343 yards. Stallworth set a career high with two touchdown grabs. Horn led the Saints in receiving yardage with six catches for 80 yards.

Defensively DE **Will Smith** set a career-high with 12 tackles and tied his career-best in the game with 1.5 sacks.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

CONNECTIONS

Offensive coordinator **Pete Carmichael Jr.** prepped at Medway (Mass.) HS in football and baseball and went on to a collegiate baseball career at Boston College where he was a four-year letterman and team captain in 1994. Carmichael started his coaching career at the University of New Hampshire in 1994...New Orleans LB **Jo-Lonn Dunbar** was a two-year starter and team captain at Boston College, where he notched 269 tackles with 2.5 sacks and a pair of interceptions over his 46-game career. he was an Eagles teammate with Patriots DL **Ron Brace**...Saints FB **Kyle Eckel** was originally signed by the Patriots as an undrafted free agent in 2005 and played for New England from 2007-08...New Orleans TE **David Thomas** was a third round draft choice of the Patriots in 2006 and played for New England for his first three NFL seasons until being acquired by the Saints prior to the start of the 2009 regular season...New Orleans CB **Randall Gay** was signed as an undrafted free agent by New England in 2004 and played with the Patriots for four seasons...New England RB **Kevin Faulk** prepped at Carencro (La.) HS and enjoyed a standout career at LSU from 1995-98...Patriots LB **Eric Alexander** played at LSU...Patriots DL **Jarvis Green** prepped at Donaldsonville (La.) HS and played at LSU from 1998-2001, where he and Alexander were teammates of Gay and WR **Devery Henderson**...Saints K **John Carney** is a native of Glastonbury, Ct. New Orleans QB **Drew Brees** and Carney played with Patriots LB **Junior Seau** in San Diego. New England T **Matt Light** blocked for Brees at Purdue...Saints DE **Charles Grant**, T **Jon Stinchcomb** and New England TE **Ben Watson** were teammates at Georgia...New England area scout **Tim Heffelfinger** served in the same position with New Orleans from 1998-2005...Patriots strength and conditioning coach **Mike Woicik** served in the same position in New Orleans from 1997-99...New Orleans Assistant special teams coach **Mike Mallory** coached at the University of Rhode Island from 1993-95...Saints Tight ends coach **Terry Malone** attended Holy Cross and was a four-year starter at tight end for the Crusaders. Malone coached the Holy Cross tight ends in 1985 and served as offensive line coach at Boston College in 2006...New Orleans coaching assistant **Mike Cerullo** is a native of Middleton (Mass.) who played running back and graduated from Central Connecticut State and also tutored the defensive line at Curry (Milton, Mass.) from 1999-2000 and served as tight ends/assistant linebackers coach at Northeastern University from 2001-03. Cerullo and New England linebackers coach **Matt Patricia** served on the same staff at Syracuse in 2003...Saints DT **Remi Ayodele** was originally signed by the Patriots as an undrafted free agent in 2006 and spent part of the offseason in New England...New Orleans QB **Mark Brunell**, DE **Bobby McCray** and G/C **Jamar Nesbit** played with New England P **Chris Hanson** and RB **Fred Taylor** in Jacksonville. Hanson went to training camp with the Saints in 2007. McCray also played with New England C **Dan Connolly** in Jacksonville in 2005...Saints defensive coordinator **Gregg Williams** tutored New England CB **Shawn Springs** in Washington from 2004-07, where he was a teammate of Brunell, S **Pierson Prioleau** and CB **Leigh Torrence**. Prioleau and Taylor were teammates with the Jaguars in 2008...New Orleans TE **Darnell Dinkins**, CB **Chris McAlister** and Patriots LB **Adalius Thomas** were teammates in Baltimore. Thomas starred at Southern Mississippi. Dinkins and Patriots CB **Leigh Bodden** were teammates in Cleveland from 2006-07...New Orleans TE **Jeremy Shockey** and LB **Jonathan Vilma** played with Patriots DT **Vince Wilfork** at the University of Miami (Fl.)...New Orleans C **Jonathan Goodwin** and Patriots QB **Tom Brady**

were teammates at Michigan from 1998-99. Goodwin, LB **Jonathan Vilma** and New England TE **Chris Baker** were teammates with the New York Jets...New England DE/LB **Rob Ninkovich** was a fifth round draft choice of the Saints in 2006 and spent the 2006 campaign and part of the 2008 season with the club...New Orleans LB **Scott Fujita** and Patriots LB **Tully Banta-Cain** were teammates at California...Patriots LB **Derrick Burgess** played at Mississippi...Saints LB **Robert Meachem**, LB **Marvin Mitchell** and New England LB **Jerod Mayo** were teammates at Tennessee...New Orleans WR **Marques Colston** and Patriots DB **Kyle Arrington** were teammates at Hofstra...Patriots DB **Jonathan Wilhite** prepped at Ouachita (Monroe) HS...Saints WR **Lance Moore** and Patriots OL **Nick Kazcur** were teammates at the University of Toledo. New England defensive coordinator **Dean Pees** served as S **Usama Young**'s coach at Kent State. Young and New England WR **Julian Edelman** were college teammates...New Orleans WR **Jabari Greer** and Patriots WR **Sam Aiken** were teammates in Buffalo from 2004-07...New England P **Stephen Gostkowski** is a Baton Rouge native who prepped at Madison (Miss.) Central HS...Patriots RB **Benjarvus Green-Ellis** prepped at St. Augustine HS and starred at Mississippi...Saints S **Chris Reis** and New England LB **Gary Guyton** were teammates at Georgia Tech from 2004-05...New Orleans defensive coordinator **Gregg Williams** coached New England RB **Sammy Morris** when he was in charge of the Bills from 2001-03...Saints defensive line coach **Bill Johnson** tutored Patriots DT **Ty Warren** as a freshman at Texas A&M in 1999...Johnson and New England special teams coach **Scott O'Brien** served on the same staff in Denver from 2007-08...New England wide receivers coach **Chad O'Shea** served as special teams/recruiting coordinator at Southern Mississippi from 2000-02. Assistant head coach **Joe Vitt** and O'Shea served on the same Kansas City staff in 2003. O'Shea tutored LB **Scott Fujita** with the Chiefs in 2004...Patriots director of college scouting **Jonathan Robinson** served as an assistant at Nicholls State from 1999-2001.

SAINTS-PATRIOTS SERIES FACTS

Saints' Largest Margin of Victory: 17 (Saints 31, Patriots 17, 11/8/92 at Foxboro Stadium)
Patriots' Largest Margin of Victory: 19 (Patriots 27, Saints 6, 12/5/76 at Schaefer Stadium)
Current Series Streak: Patriots 3 (10/4/98-present)
Saints' Longest Win Streak: 3 (11/12/89-12/3/95)
Patriots' Longest Win Streak: 5 (12/10/72-11/30/86)
Most Points by Saints: 31, Two times (Saints 31, Patriots 14, 11/8/92 at Foxboro Stadium and Saints 31, Patriots 17, 12/3/95 at Foxboro Stadium)
Most Points by Patriots: 38, Saints 27 (12/21/80 at Louisiana Superdome)
Most Points, Both Teams: 65 (Patriots 38, Saints 27, 12/21/80 at Louisiana Superdome)
Fewest Points by Saints: 0, Patriots 7 (12/4/83 at Sullivan Stadium)
Fewest Points by Patriots: 14, Saints 31 (11/8/892 at Foxboro Stadium)
Fewest Points, Both Teams: 7, (Patriots 7, Saints 0, 12/4/83 at Sullivan Stadium)

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**TEAM & INDIVIDUAL RECORDS BROKEN, TIED OR APPROACHED IN 2009****• SCORING****TOTAL POINTS****Career**

1,318 Morten Andersen, 1982-94 (302 FG, 412 PAT)

742 John Carney, 2001-06, 2009- (162 FG, 256 PAT)

513 Doug Brien, 1995-2000 (123 FG, 144 PAT)

TOUCHDOWNS**Career**

55 Deuce McAllister, 2001-08

53 Dalton Hilliard, 1986-93

50 Joe Horn, 2000-06

48 Eric Martin, 1985-93

37 Danny Abramowicz, 1967-73

33 Tony Galbreath, 1976-80

30 Wayne Wilson, 1979-86**Reggie Bush, 2006-****Marques Colston, 2006-**

29 Chuck Muncie, 1976-80

FIELD GOALS MADE**Career**

302 Morten Andersen, 1982-94 (389 att.)

162 John Carney, 2001-06, 2009- (195 att.)

123 Doug Brien, 1995-2000 (149 att.)

FIELD GOALS ATTEMPTED**Career**

389 Morten Andersen, 1982-94 (302 made)

195 John Carney, 2001-06, 2009- (162 made)

149 Doug Brien, 1995-2000 (123 made)

POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN**Career**

412 Morten Andersen, 1982-94 (418 att.)

256 John Carney, 2001-06, 2009- (260 att.)

144 Doug Brien, 1995-2000 (145 att.)

Game**6 John Carney vs. N.Y. Giants, 10/18/09 (7 att.)****John Carney at Philadelphia, 9/20/09 (6 att.)****Garrett Hartley at Detroit, 12/21/08 (6 att.)****Garrett Hartley vs. Green Bay, 11/24/08 (6 att.)****John Carney at Dallas, 12/10/06 (6 att.)****John Carney vs. N.Y. Giants, 12/14/03 (6 att.)****John Carney at Atlanta, 10/19/03 (6 att.)**

Morten Andersen vs. Denver, 11/20/88 (6 att.)

Garo Yepremian at Tampa Bay, 10/14/79 (6 att.)

Rich Szaro at Chicago, 10/2/77 (6 att.)

Rich Szaro at Seattle, 11/21/76 (6 att.)

Tom Dempsey at St. Louis, 11/2/69 (7 att.)

• RUSHING**HIGHEST RUSHING AVERAGE****Career (minimum 250 attempts)**

5.8 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82 (357 att.-2,058 yds.)

5.4 Hokie Gajan, 1982-85 (252 att.-1,358 yds.)

5.1 Pierre Thomas, 2007- (286 att.-1,461 yds.)**• RECEIVING****TOTAL RECEIVING YARDS****Career**

7,854 Eric Martin, 1985-93 (532 rec.)

7,622 Joe Horn, 2000-06 (523 rec.)

4,875 Danny Abramowicz, 1967-73 (309 rec.)

3,849 Hoby Brenner, 1981-93 (267 rec.)

3,758 Quinn Early, 1991-95 (270 rec.)

3,687 Marques Colston, 2006- (254 rec.)

3,224 Henry Childs, 1974-80 (207 rec.)

2,814 Devery Henderson, 2004- (136 rec.)

2,801 Wes Chandler, 1978-81 (182 rec.)

2,791 Donte' Stallworth, 2002-05 (195 rec.)

MOST 100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES**Career**

27 Joe Horn, 2000-06

18 Eric Martin, 1985-93

12 Marques Colston, 2006-**RECEPTIONS****Career**

532 Eric Martin, 1985-93

523 Joe Horn, 2000-06

309 Danny Abramowicz, 1967-73

284 Tony Galbreath, 1976-80

270 Quinn Early, 1991-95

267 Hoby Brenner, 1981-93

259 Marques Colston, 2006-

249 Dalton Hilliard, 1986-93

242 Reggie Bush, 2006-

234 Deuce McAllister, 2001-08

TOUCHDOWNS RECEIVING**Career**

50 Joe Horn, 2000-06

48 Eric Martin, 1985-93

37 Danny Abramowicz, 1967-73

30 Marques Colston, 2006-

27 Henry Childs, 1974-80

25 Quinn Early, 1991-95

23 Donte' Stallworth, 2002-05

21 Hoby Brenner, 1981-93

16 Dave Parks, 1968-72

Torrance Small, 1992-96

15 Devery Henderson, 2004-

Wes Chandler, 1978-81

John Tice, 1983-92

HIGHEST RECEIVING AVERAGE**Career (minimum 100 receptions)****20.5 Devery Henderson, 2004- (137 rec.-2,814 yds.)****• PASSING****PASSING YARDS****Career**

21,734 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82 (3,335 att.-1,849 comp.)

19,156 Aaron Brooks, 2000-05 (2,771 att.-1,563 comp.)

16,656 Drew Brees, 2006- (2,161 att.-1,427 comp.)**MOST 400-YARD PASSING GAMES****Career****4 Drew Brees, 2006-****MOST 300-YARD PASSING GAMES****Career****28 Drew Brees, 2006-****Season****10 Drew Brees, 2008 (Tied NFL record)****8 Drew Brees, 2007**

6 Archie Manning, 1980

5 Drew Brees, 2007**Drew Brees, 2009****MOST 250-YARD PASSING GAMES****Career****38 Drew Brees, 2006-**

31 Aaron Brooks, 2000-05

23 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS**PASS ATTEMPTS****Career**

3,335 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82 (1,849 comp.)
 2,771 Aaron Brooks, 2000-05 (1,563 comp.)
2,161 Drew Brees, 2006- 1,427 comp.)

PASS COMPLETIONS**Career**

1,849 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82 (3,335 att.)
 1,563 Aaron Brooks, 2000-05 (2,771 att.)
1,427 Drew Brees, 2006- (2,161 att.)

MOST CONSECUTIVE COMPLETIONS

17 Drew Brees, 12/16-12/23/07
15 Drew Brees, vs. N.Y. Giants, 10/18/09
 (Most in club history in a single game)
 Archie Manning, 10/14-10/21/79

COMPLETION PERCENTAGE**Career (minimum 500 attempts)**

66.0 Drew Brees, 2006- (2,161 att.-1,427 comp.)

Season (minimum 100 attempts)

68.1 Drew Brees, 2009 (320 att.-218 comp.)
67.5 Drew Brees, 2007 (652 att.-440 comp.)

TOUCHDOWN PASSES**Career**

120 Aaron Brooks, 2000-05
 115 Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82
110 Drew Brees, 2006-

Game

6 Drew Brees, vs. Detroit, 9/13/09
 Billy Kilmer, at St. Louis, 11/2/69

PASSER RATING**Career (minimum 500 attempts)**

95.6 Drew Brees, 2006-
(1,427-2,161; 16,656 yds., 110 TD, 55 INT)

Season (minimum 100 attempts)

105.8 Drew Brees, 2009,
(218-320; 2,746 yds., 22 TD, 9 INT)
96.2 Drew Brees, 2008,
(413-635; 5,069 yds., 34 TD, 17 INT)
96.2 Drew Brees, 2006,
(356-554; 4,418 yds., 26 TD, 11 INT)

Game (minimum 10 attempts)

158.3 Mike Buck, at Pittsburgh, 10/17/93
 (10-11; 164 yds., 2 TD, 0 INT)
157.5 Drew Brees, vs. Green Bay, 11/24/08
(20-26; 323 yds., 4 TD, 0 INT)
156.8 Drew Brees, vs. N.Y. Giants, 10/18/09
(23-30; 369 yds., 4 TD, 0 INT)

• PUNT RETURNS**MOST RETURNS****Career**

142 Michael Lewis, 2001-06 (10.4 avg.)
 116 Tyrone Hughes, 1993-96 (9.1 avg.)
 104 Jeff Groth, 1981-84 (8.5 avg.)
 75 Rich Mauti, 1977-80, 82-83 (8.1 avg.)
72 Reggie Bush, 2006- (8.0 avg.)
 70 Vince Buck, 1990-95 (8.1 avg.)

PUNTS RETURNED FOR TOUCHDOWNS**Career**

4 Reggie Bush, 2006-

• KICKOFF RETURNS**HIGHEST RETURN AVERAGE****Career (minimum 25 returns)**

27.1 Courtney Roby, 2008- (44 ret.)
 26.3 Walt Roberts, 1967 (28 ret.)
 26.1 John Gilliam, 1967-68, 77 (31 ret.)
 25.5 Eric Guilford, 1997-98 (61 ret.)
 25.0 Tyrone Hughes, 1993-96 (229 ret.)
24.7 Pierre Thomas, 2007- (68 ret.)

• COMBINED KICKOFF/PUNT RETURNS**MOST RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS****Career**

5 Tyrone Hughes, 1993-95
 4 Michael Lewis, 2001-06
Reggie Bush, 2006-
 2 Mel Gray, 1986-88

• INTERCEPTIONS**MOST INTERCEPTIONS****Season**

10 Dave Whitsell, 1967 (178 yds.)
 9 Dave Waymer, 1986 (48 yds.)
 7 Tommy Myers, 1979 (127 yds.)
Darren Sharper, 2009 (317 yds.)

MOST YARDS RETURNED**Career**

621 Tommy Myers, 1972-81 (36 ret.)
 464 Sammy Knight, 1997-2002 (28 ret.)
 395 Dave Waymer, 1980-89 (37 ret.)
 324 Gene Atkins, 1987-93 (21 ret.)
317 Darren Sharper, 2009- (7 ret.)

Season

317 Darren Sharper, 2009 (7 ret.)
 198 Gene Atkins, 1991 (5 ret.)

Game

151 Tommy Myers, vs. Minnesota, 9/3/78 (3 ret.)
99 Darren Sharper, vs. N.Y. Jets, 10/4/09 (2 ret.)
 Gene Atkins, at Phoenix, 12/22/91 (2 ret.)

MOST RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS**Career**

4 Sammy Knight, 1997-2002
 3 Jim Merlo, 1973-79
 Brett Maxie, 1985-93
Darren Sharper, 2009-
 2 Dave Whitsell, 1967-69
 Tommy Myers, 1972-81
 Johnnie Poe, 1981-87
 Dennis Winston, 1982-85
 Toi Cook, 1987-93
 Mike McKenzie, 2004-08

Season

3 Darren Sharper, 2009
 2 Dave Whitsell, 1967
 Dennis Winston, 1984
 Sammy Knight, 1998
 Sammy Knight, 2000
 Mike McKenzie, 2007

Game

1 34 times (last; Jabari Greer vs. Atlanta, 11/2/09)

LONGEST RETURNS

99t Darren Sharper, vs. N.Y. Jets, 10/4/09
97t Darren Sharper, at Philadelphia, 9/20/09
 Tommy Myers, vs. Minnesota, 9/3/78
 94t Bo Burris, vs. Minnesota, 10/13/68

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

• QUARTERBACK SACKS (since 1982)

MOST SACKS

Career

115	Rickey Jackson, 1981-93
82.5	Wayne Martin, 1989-99
76.5	Pat Swilling, 1986-92
52.5	Frank Warren, 1981-89, 91-94
50.5	Joe Johnson, 1994-98, 2000-01
50	La'Roi Glover, 1997-2001
46	Charles Grant, 2002-
45.5	Jim Wilks, 1981-93
45	Will Smith, 2004-

TEAM

• SCORING

MOST TOUCHDOWNS

Game

7	at St. Louis, 11/2/69; vs. Green Bay, 11/24/08; vs. N.Y. Giants, 10/18/09
6	at Seattle, 11/21/76; at Chicago, 10/2/77; at Tampa Bay, 10/14/79; vs. Denver, 11/20/88 at Atlanta, 10/19/03; vs. N.Y. Giants, 12/14/03; at Dallas, 12/10/07; vs. Green Bay, 11/24/08; vs. Detroit, 9/13/09; at Philadelphia, 9/20/09; at Miami, 20/25/09

MOST TOUCHDOWNS PASSING

Game

6	at St. Louis, 11/2/69; vs. Detroit, 9/13/09
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MOST DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS

Season

9	1998
7	2009
6	1992

MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN

Game

6	13 times, last vs. N.Y. Giants, 10/18/09 (7 att.)
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LONGEST WINNING STREAK

10	9/13/09 through present
9	11/1 through 12/27/87; 12/23/90 through 10/20/91

• INTERCEPTIONS

MOST YARDS RETURNED

Season

566	2009 (20 int.)
482	1991 (29 int.)

Game

176	vs. Minnesota, 9/3/78 (4 int.)
126	vs. Minnesota, 10/13/68 (2 int.)
124	vs. N.Y. Jets, 10/4/09 (3 int.)

MOST RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS

Season

5	1998
	2009

Game

2	at Miami, 10/25/09
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CONSECUTIVE RECORDS

GAMES, RECEIVING TOUCHDOWN

5	Lance Moore (10/26-11/30/08) Marques Colston (12/11/09-9/20/09)
4	Eight Times

HOME VICTORIES

5	9/13/09 through present 12/31/90-10/20/91 10/11-12/3/92
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2009 HONORS AND AWARDS

NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER: QB Drew Brees

67 of 97 for 1,276 yards, 9 TDs, 118.1 rating.

NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER: S Darren Sharper

17 tackles, three interceptions, two returned for touchdowns, 0.5 sack.

NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK 1: QB Drew Brees

New Orleans Saints 45, Detroit Lions 27

@ Louisiana Superdome, Sept. 13, 2009

26 of 34, 358 yards, 6 TDs, 137.0 rating

NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK 4: S Darren Sharper

New Orleans Saints 24, New York Jets 10

@ Louisiana Superdome, Oct. 4, 2009

9 tackles, 0.5 sack, 2 interceptions, 1 pass defense

NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK 6: QB Drew Brees

New Orleans Saints 48, New York Giants 27

@ Louisiana Superdome, Sept. 13, 2009

23 of 30, 369 yards, 4 TDs, 156.8 rating

NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

WEEK 9: DL Anthony Hargrove

New Orleans Saints 30, Carolina Panthers 20

@ Louisiana Superdome, Nov. 8, 2009

4 tackles, 1 forced fumble, two fumble recoveries, 1 for a TD, 1 pass defense

2009 GAME SUPERLATIVES REVIEW

WEEK 1: Saints 45, Detroit Lions 27; September 13, 2009 @ Louisiana Superdome – The Saints, behind six **Drew Brees** touchdown passes (including two to TE **Jeremy Shockey**) and a 39-yard field goal by **John Carney**, defeated the visiting Detroit Lions, 45-27, at the Superdome.

The Saints out-gained the Lions, 515 yards to 231 yards, and held the ball for 36:09 in time of possession en route to their most lopsided opening day victory in team history. New Orleans, who never trailed in the contest, lurched out to a 14-0 lead and watched as their lead shrunk and grew in the ebb and flow of the game in Detroit rookie quarterback **Matthew Stafford**'s career debut. The Saints' kickoff game 2009, which lasted nearly three-and-a-half hours, was one of the longest regular season games in team history that did not go to overtime.

The Saints' defense displayed their mettle, allowing only 231 yards of offense by the Lions and held the Lions to three-of-14 on third downs (21%), while the Saints were nine-of-13 (69%) on the afternoon.

S **Darren Sharper** had two interceptions and continued his ascent towards to the top 10 all-time NFL interception leaders, but the story of the day was Brees' dominance and the Saints' new found freedom with a rushing game that helped control the clock in the second half, largely behind **Mike Bell**'s career-high 143 yards on the ground. Stafford finished his first game 16-of-37 passing for 205 yards and three interceptions for a passer rating of 27.4, his counterpart, Brees, was 26-of-34 for 358 yards with a career-high six touchdowns, which tied a club record, and one pick for a passer rating of 137.0.

A stingy defense allowed the Lions to convert only 3-of-14 third down attempts. LB **Jonathan Vilma** recorded a sack, while S **Roman Harper** led the team with ten tackles (six solo).

- The win improved their opening day record to 15-28. This was the fourth time in club history the Saints have won two consecutive season openers.

- WR **Devery Henderson** led the Saints in receiving with five receptions for 103 yards and was the recipient of a 58-yard bomb for a touchdown from Brees in the third quarter that broke the game open to a 38-20 lead.

- Brees and WR **Marques Colston** connected on a nine-yard touchdown on a third down play on New Orleans' first drive for the Saints first score of the season.

- Eight players made their Saints debuts: CB **Jabari Greer**, DL **Anthony Hargrove**, CB **Malcolm Jenkins**, LS **Jason Kyle**, P **Thomas Morstead**, S **Pierson Prioleau**, Sharper, and TE **Dave Thomas**.

- Colston's first-quarter touchdown reception was the 25th of his career, moving into a tie for fifth in club history with WR **Quinn Early**.

- Shockey tied his career high with two touchdown receptions. Shockey, who did not have a touchdown catch in 2008, had his second career two-touchdown game; the other was for the Giants against Atlanta 10/15/06.

- The 45 points scored by the Saints is the most ever on Kickoff Weekend. The previous high of 34 was in 1979, in a 40-34 overtime loss to Atlanta. The Saints have also scored 33 points twice in opening games.

WEEK 2: Saints 48, Philadelphia Eagles 22; September 20, 2009 @ Lincoln Financial Field – The Saints posted an impressive road victory against Philadelphia behind the powerful running of RB **Mike Bell**, the arm of QB **Drew Brees**, the hands of WR **Marques Colston** and four forced turnovers by the defensive and special teams units.

The Saints struck first on the opening drive, as Brees led the offense down the field and found WR Colston for a 15-yard touchdown. Philadelphia struck back quickly to tie things up with a 71-yard pass play from QB **Kevin Kolb** to WR **DeSean Jackson** and the score was knotted up 10-10 in the second quarter before Brees found Colston for his second score of the day, a 25-yarder, which put the Saints ahead for good.

Leading 17-13 at halftime, rookie CB **Malcolm Jenkins** force a fumble on the opening kickoff return that was recovered by S **Chris Reis**, creating a short field to help set up a score that would give the Saints a 24-13 lead and was the start of a 17 point run which would give the Saints a comfortable lead.

Brees completed 25 of 34 passes for 311 yards with three touchdown throws and one interception for a 118.6 passer rating. Bell led the club in rushing with 86 yards on 17 carries with one third quarter scoring run before leaving the game with a sprained MCL. Colston led the Saints in receiving with eight grabs for 98 yards with two touchdowns, joining fellow wideout **Lance Moore** as only the second Saints to catch a TD in five consecutive games.

The Saints defense harassed Kolb, making his first NFL start in throwing three interceptions. LB **Scott Shanle** had a game-high 14 tackles and recorded the first pick, his second in two weeks. S **Darren Sharper** returned an errant pass 97 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. CB **Tracy Porter** had his first interception of the season at the end of the game, while DE **Bobby McCray** also picked up a sack.

- The win marks the first time the Saints have won in Philadelphia since they defeated the Eagles 13-6 at Veteran's Stadium on October 13, 1991. Head coach **Sean Payton** now has a 3-1 mark against the Eagles, including one playoff game.

- Brees' three touchdown passes against the Eagles increased his season total to nine in his first two games. The league-leading performance to start the season tied the NFL record for touchdown passes after two contests, a mark that has stood for 44 years since it was set by **Charley Johnson** of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1965.

- Colston's two touchdowns, gave him a career total of 27 scoring grabs, tying him with former TE **Henry Childs** for fourth place on the club's all-time list.

- Sharper's 97-yard interception return for a touchdown was a career-long and also tied the club record for the longest return with S **Tommy Myers**' 97 yard runback vs. Minnesota on September 3, 1978. Sharper now has 57 career interceptions, tied for tenth all-time in NFL record books and his total of ten returns for touchdowns is tied for second.

- A stingy Saints run defense held the Eagles to 85 yards rushing, as they also successfully defended themselves against several unconventional "wildcat" formations in the first half..

- Along with the 45-point output in the season opener vs. Detroit, this marks the first time in franchise history the Saints have scored at least 40 points in two consecutive games.

2009 GAME SUPERLATIVES REVIEW

WEEK 3: Saints 27, Buffalo Bills 7; September 27, 2009 @ Ralph Wilson Stadium – The Saints improved to 3-0 for the sixth time in club history and the second time in four seasons, powered by a rushing attack that gained 222 yards on the ground and a defense that did not allow the Bills inside the red zone the entire afternoon.

The Saints never trailed in the contest and took their opening offensive drive for a touchdown for the fourth consecutive game. To start the game on the right foot, they embarked on a methodical 10 play, 82 yard drive that culminated with RB **Lynell Hamilton's** first career touchdown.

After giving up a touchdown on a fake field goal attempt at the start of the second quarter, the Saints would not allow the Bills to score again, forcing two turnovers on defense and special teams.

RB **Pierre Thomas** shook off a stomach virus and entered the club's offensive game plan midway through the third quarter, proceeding to run 14 times for a career-high 126 yards with touchdown runs of 34 and 19 yards. QB **Drew Brees** completed 16 of 29 passes for 172 yards, including four throws for 67 yards to WR **Marques Colston**.

A swarming New Orleans defense allowed only 243 net yards and allowed Buffalo QB **Trent Edwards** to complete only 20 of 35 passes for 156 yards, sacking him four times and picking off one pass. The Saints also held the Bills to only 89 yards on the ground, holding an opponent to under 100 yards rushing for the third consecutive week.

- The Saints improved to 3-0 after three games for the sixth time in club history (1991, 1993, 1998, 2002 and 2006).

- The Saints had 222 yards rushing by the Saints, their highest total since they rushed for 239 yards at the New York Giants on December 24, 2006. RB **Reggie Bush** supplemented Thomas' performance with 13 carries for 64 yards.

- The New Orleans held the Bills to only 81 yards in the second half, while recording three of their four sacks and their interception. DE **Will Smith** led the standout defensive effort with five tackles (four solo), one sack and also recorded his first career interception on a tipped pass. DE **Charles Grant** made three tackles (two solo) and led the Saints with two sacks. DT **Sedrick Ellis** also had a takedown. S **Roman Harper** led the Saints with ten tackles (seven solo).

- As part of the defensive effort Bills WR **Terrell Owens** failed to catch a pass to end a streak of 185 consecutive games with at least one catch, turning him away empty handed for the first time since his rookie year with the San Francisco 49ers in 1996.

- • CB **Malcolm Jenkins** led an aggressive Saints special teams unit, with his second quarter play where he forced Bills returner **Roscoe Parrish** to cough up the ball and he recovered it, setting up the game's go ahead field goal.

- TE **Jeremy Shockey** led the Saints in receptions with six grabs for 48 yards. Colston finished first on the team with 67 yards receiving.

- Thomas' pair of touchdown runs gave him the fifth multiple touchdown contest of his career. It was his first 100-yards rushing performance of the season and the third of his career.

WEEK 4: Saints 24, New York Jets 10; October 4, 2009 @ Louisiana Superdome – The Saints posted an impressive victory against the Jets behind a powerful running game, an opportunistic secondary and a relentless pass rush.

For the fourth consecutive week, the Saints scored on their first drive, taking a 3-0 lead on a **John Carney** field goal. The Saints defense then proceeded to clamp down on rookie Jets QB **Mark Sanchez** and forced four turnovers, scoring two defensive touchdowns in the same contest for the first time since 1998 and sacking him four times, while allowing him to complete only 14 of 27 passes for 138 yards with a 27.0 passer rating.

QB **Drew Brees** completed 20 of 32 passes for 190 yards without a turnover as the Saints ran up 153 yards on the ground. RB **Pierre Thomas** led the club in rushing for the second straight week with 86 yards on 19 carries with one fourth quarter touchdown to seal the victory. Thomas also led the saints in receiving yardage with four grabs for 46 yards. TE **Jeremy Shockey** tied with Thomas for the team lead in receptions with four grabs for 34 yards

DE **Charles Grant** led the pass rush with two sacks for the second consecutive game, a career-first, while **Will Smith** added 1.5 takedowns and a forced fumble recovered by DT **Remi Ayodele** in the end zone for a touchdown. S **Darren Sharper** two interceptions, including a team record 99-yard return for the touchdown that put the Saints ahead 10-0, while CB **Randall Gay** had the first pick of his Saints career.

- With the win, the Saints have won are undefeated after four games for the third time in the 43-year history of the franchise. The 1991 (started 7-0) and 1993 (started 5-0) teams also had 4-0 or better starts. The Saints now-lead the series with the Jets 6-5.

- For the second consecutive home game, Sharper had two interceptions. He returned the first one 99 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter, which is a Saints franchise record for longest interception return. Sharper (9/20 vs. Philadelphia) and Tommy Myers (9/3/78) co-held the record with a 97-yard return. The two interceptions give Sharper 59 in his 13-year NFL career, which moves him past Pro Football Hall of Fame DB **Emmitt Thomas** into sole possession of ninth place on the league career list. Of Sharper's 59 career picks, 10 have been returned for touchdowns, putting him in sole possession of second place on the NFL all-time list behind only DB **Rod Woodson**, who has 12. Sharper's five interceptions this season, which lead the NFL, have resulted in 275 yards in returns (a new single-season franchise record; previous mark 198 by S **Gene Atkins** in 1991) and two touchdowns (which ties the Saints season record).

- With four sacks for the second straight week, it marked the first time the Saints recorded at least four takedowns in two straight games since the 2005 season. With his two sacks, Grant now leads the club with four, surpassing his season total of three in the 2008 campaign.

- The Saints held the Jets to 244 net yards rushing, the second straight week they have held an opponent to under 250 yards. This is the first time that has occurred since 2001.

- Smith's first quarter forced fumble was the 14th of his NFL career since entering the league in 2004, the highest number by any player on the club and tied for the 13th highest total in the NFL during this period.

2009 GAME SUPERLATIVES REVIEW

WEEK 6: Saints 48, New York Giants 27; October 18, 2009 @ Louisiana Superdome – In “The Battle of Unbeatens” at the Louisiana Superdome, the New Orleans Saints (5-0) emphatically etched their most impressive victory of the season, handing the previously undefeated New York Giants (5-1) a 48-27 defeat in front of 70,011 spectators.

The Saints took the opening kickoff and methodically marched down field, capped off by a two-yard dive over the line of scrimmage by RB **Mike Bell** and never looked back racking up nearly 500 yards of total offense against the number one ranked defense in the NFL. Saints QB **Drew Brees** completed 23-of-30 passes for 369 yards and four touchdowns, WR **Marques Colston** caught eight passes for 166 yards and a score, TE **Jeremy Shockey** added four receptions for 37 yards and a score, and the Saints’ defense forced two turnovers to the Saints’ 0 in their Black-and-Gold’s resounding win. The Saints’ offensive line kept Brees sack free on the afternoon against the swarming Giants’ defense, as well.

The Saints’ defense stymied the Giants’ power running to only 84 yards, and held New Orleans native **Eli Manning** to 178 yards on 14-of-31 passing for a 61 passer rating in the Giants’ first loss of the season.

- QB **Drew Brees** finished the day by completing 23 of 30 passes for 369 yards and four touchdown passes with two interceptions, for a passer rating of 156.8, the third-highest in club history. He completed 15 consecutive passes in the first half, tied for the second-longest streak in club record books and the most in a single game.

- WR **Marques Colston** had eight receptions for 166 yards with one touchdown, the second-highest single game yardage total of his career. Colston and Brees keyed a third quarter scoring drive where they connected for three passes for 47 yards, including the 12-yard touchdown.

- New Orleans had seven different players (Bell, Shockey, WR **Robert Meachem**, WR **Lance Moore**, RB **Reggie Bush**, Colston and FB **Heath Evans** score a touchdown. The Saints became the fourth team since 1970 to have seven different players score a rushing or receiving touchdown in a game. The Seattle Seahawks (10/30/1977 vs. Buffalo Bills), Cincinnati Bengals (12/17/1989 vs. Houston Oilers) and Jacksonville Jaguars (12/23/2007 vs. Oakland) also accomplished the feat.

- The Saints rushed for 133 yards in the contest. RB **Pierre Thomas** led the way with 15 carries for 72 yards (4.8 avg.).

- A stout run defense surrendered only 84 yards rushing to a rushing offense that was ranked first in the NFL going into the contest, the fifth consecutive contest this season an individual hasn’t gained 100 against the Saints. New Orleans has not allowed an opposing back go over the century mark this season. S **Roman Harper** and LB **Scott Shanle** tied for the team lead with seven tackles. Harper’s second quarter sack of Manning forced him to fumble. The ball was recovered by Shanle and advanced to the Giants seven-yard line, setting up a Bush touchdown with nine seconds left in the half. DT **Remi Ayodele** also added a fourth quarter sack.

- CB **Jabari Greer** recorded his first pick as a Saint in the third quarter, an interception that would eventually lead to Brees’ touchdown pass to Colston to give the Saints a 41-17 lead.

WEEK 7: Saints 46, Miami Dolphins 34; October 25, 2009 @ Land Shark Stadium – The Saints had one of their biggest comebacks in franchise history, when they rebounded from a 24-3 deficit with five seconds left in the first half to beat the Dolphins 46-34 and remain undefeated.

New Orleans started the comeback when QB **Drew Brees** had a one-yard dive into the end zone near the end of the half. It then continued in the third quarter, when S **Darren Sharper** had a 42-yard interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter to move within seven.

Trailing 34-24 going into the fourth quarter, the Saints scored 22 unanswered points courtesy of a **Reggie Bush** touchdown, a two-yard scoring run by Brees to put the Saints ahead, a **John Carney** field goal and a 54 yard interception return for a touchdown by CB **Tracy Porter** to cap the scoring.

New Orleans rolled to 414 yards of total offense, 302 in the second half, while holding Miami to 334 yards, including only 17 on the ground in the final two quarters, while the Saints churned out 115 of their 138 at the same time.

Brees overcame two early interceptions and three overall, completing 22-of-38 passes for 298 yards, one touchdown and a career-high two scoring rushes, one coming in the eight-play, 60-yard fourth quarter scoring drive that put the Saints ahead. Meanwhile, Miami’s **Chad Henne** was held to 18 completions on 36 attempts for 211 yards and two interceptions.

- The win matched the Saints’ biggest comeback in franchise history, tying their 21-point turnarounds in a 41-24 victory against Cincinnati on Dec. 20, 1987, and their 43-38 win against the San Francisco 49ers on Nov. 23, 1969. No other team in NFL history preserved a perfect record this far into a season by erasing a deficit of more than 20 points.

- TE **Jeremy Shockey** caught a pass for the 101st consecutive game, the second-longest active streak among tight ends in the NFL behind Atlanta’s Tony Gonzalez (138). Shockey had four receptions for 104 yards. His fourth quarter 66-yard reception the longest of his career and his receiving yardage total was the highest of his Saints career and his first 100-yard receiving game as a Saint.

- Carney had ten points Sunday to increase his career point total to 2,010. He became the fourth player in NFL history to reach 2,000 career points, joining **Morten Anderson** (2,544), **Gary Anderson** (2,434) and **George Blanda** (2,002) in that select club. With a third quarter extra point, he moved past Blanda into third place on the all-time scoring list.

- WR **Marques Colston** had five receptions for 72 receiving yards and one touchdown.

- RB **Mike Bell** led the Saints in rushing with 12 carries for 80 yards, all occurring in the second half. Two of his rushes were for first downs, including a 35-yard scamper.

- Sharper’s 42-yard interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter was the 60th of his career and sixth of the season. His six interceptions, which leads the NFL, have resulted in 317 yards in returns and three touchdowns, which set a new Saints season record and tied for the second-highest Saints career total. Sharper now has 1,353 career interception return yards on 60 picks, with his 42-yarder moving him into second-place all-time in return yardage behind **Rod Woodson**’s 1,483.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

2009 GAME SUPERLATIVES REVIEW

WEEK 8: Saints 35, Atlanta Falcons 27; November 2, 2009 @ Louisiana Superdome – The Saints rolled up over 400 yards in total offense on Monday Night Football, while the New Orleans defense picked off Falcons QB **Matt Ryan** three times, including twice in the fourth quarter, to provide the formula for only their second 7-0 start ever.

QB **Drew Brees** led an assault through the air for the Saints, completing 25-of-33 passes to eight different players for 308 yards, three touchdown passes and a 111.7 passer rating. WR **Marques Colston** led the Saints in receiving with six receptions for 85 yards with one touchdown.

RB **Pierre Thomas** picked up 100 yards of total yards from scrimmage (91 rushing and 9 receiving) while scoring one touchdown apiece on the ground and through the air.

The swarming New Orleans defense caused Ryan to throw three picks. The first was returned by CB **Jabari Greer** 48 yards for the touchdown to put the Saints up 28-14. Fourth quarter picks by CB **Tracy Porter** and S **Darren Sharper** sealed the victory for New Orleans.

- DE **Will Smith** had four tackles and a career-high tying two sacks. With his quarterback takedowns, he now has 41 for his career and moved past Bruce Clark into 11th place on the club's all-time list. It was the fifth time in his career that he had two sacks in a game to match his career-high.

- With his second quarter touchdown, Colston's 30th of his career, he moved into a tie for seventh place on the club's all-time list.

- This was the fourth time in seven contests this season that Brees has thrown for over 300 yards. Brees passed Pro Football Hall of Famer and Louisiana native Terry Bradshaw and Ron Jaworski, who served as color analyst for ESPN, on the NFL's career passing yards list into 42nd place all-time. Brees entered the game tied with teammate **Mark Brunell** for career TD passes with 182, 41st all-time in NFL record books. With two scoring throws, he now has 184 and moved into sole possession of 40th place.

- TE Jeremy Shockey caught a pass for the 102 consecutive game, the second-longest active streak among tight ends in the NFL behind Atlanta's Tony Gonzalez (139). Shockey had five receptions for 72 yards. Shockey now has 5,087 career receiving yards. He surpassed Jimmie Giles to move into 25th place all-time among NFL tight ends.

- The Saints defense allowed Atlanta to successfully convert only 3-of-11 (27%) third down attempts. Opponents came into the game converting only 31% of third down attempts against the Saints' defense. Conversely, the Saints offense converted 7 of 12 third downs, including all four attempts in the first half. The Saints entered the game converting 44% of third down attempts this season.

- Tonight was the 33rd all-time meeting between the teams in the Superdome. The Saints hold a 17-16 edge in those meetings. The Saints won their fourth straight home game over the Falcons, the first such streak in the series since 1974-77.

WEEK 9: Saints 30, Carolina Panthers 20; November 8, 2009 @ Louisiana Superdome – The Saints rolled up over 400 yards in total offense, while it combined with the defense through two key fourth quarter fumble recoveries to rebound from a 14-point deficit for the second consecutive week in a key division contest.

The win made the Saints 8-0 for the first time in franchise history and gave them a five-game win streak at home for only the third time.

QB **Drew Brees** shook off a first quarter fumble and interception, completing 24-of-35 passes for 330 yards with one touchdown pass and a 96.1 rating. RB **Reggie Bush** led the team with seven receptions for 37 yards. WR **Devery Henderson** had three receptions for 93 yards, including a 63 yard catch and run, while **Robert Meachem** had five receptions for 98 yards, including a 54-yard score that tied the game at 20-20 as time expired in the third quarter.

RB **Pierre Thomas** picked up 81 yards of total yards from scrimmage (51 rushing and 30 receiving) while, as a third quarter ten-yard touchdown run put the Saints within four points.

Two fourth quarter fumble recoveries by DT **Anthony Hargrove** led to the final ten points in the fourth quarter for New Orleans, while he scored a touchdown on his second one to seal the win. DE **Will Smith** had two sacks for the second consecutive game and his forced fumble that was recovered by Hargrove led to the go-ahead field goal. The special teams units contributed when P **Thomas Morstead's** 48-yard fourth quarter punt with less than 2:30 remaining was downed by WR **Courtney Roby** at the Carolina two-yard line to put the Panthers in unenviable field position for the drive that ended in a fumble recovery for a touchdown.

- S **Roman Harper** led the Saints with a career-high 14 tackles (11 solo) and LB **Jonathan Vilma** finished second with a season-high 12 stops (ten solo).

- Hargrove's fumble return is the seventh defensive touchdown scored by the Saints this season (five interceptions, two fumbles). The Saints have scored defensive touchdowns in three consecutive games.

- For the second time in club history, the Saints have scored 30 or more points in four consecutive games. This matched the original streak that occurred in the final two games of 2008 and first two contests of the current campaign.

- Brees moved into 39th place in career passing yards in NFL history with 28,594, passing former LSU quarterback and Pro Football Hall of Famer **Y.A. Tittle**, **Trent Green** and **Chris Chandler**.

- The win was the Saints' first at home against the Panthers since the 2001 season. The Panthers now lead the all-time series 16-13.

- Giving them a 5-0 home record on the season, clinching their second straight winning mark at the Superdome. With five straight home wins, the Saints are now tied for the longest home win streak with two other occasions; from December 31, 1990-October 20, 1991 and from October 11-December 3, 1992.

- Carolina's opening drive of the second half that led to a field goal took 9:46 off the clock, the longest scoring drive in terms of time of possession against the Saints this season. Coincidentally, the longest drive of 2008 – 9:31 – was also by the Panthers and also ended in a field goal.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

2009 GAME SUPERLATIVES REVIEW

WEEK 10: Saints 28, St. Louis 23; November 15, 2009 @ Edward Jones Dome – Despite a furious fourth quarter rally by the Rams, where they rallied from an 11-point deficit and were driving for a touchdown as time expired, one of the highest fourth quarter passing totals in NFL history, the Saints held on and improved to 9-0 as their nine-game winning streak tied a franchise record.

The Saints took charge on their second offensive drive when RB **Reggie Bush** sprinted up the middle for a three-yard touchdown. The Rams would quickly strike back when QB **Marc Bulger** found Rams WR **Donnie Avery** in the back of the end zone for a 29-yard score. The Saints struck back when QB **Drew Brees** found Bush for a 15-yard score on a screen. The Rams knotted the score back up for half-time when RB **Steven Jackson** had a two-yard scoring run, part of his 100-yard first half rushing total. However Jackson would only manage 31 more yards on the ground in the second half.

The Saints would take the lead back for good on the opening kickoff of the second half when WR **Courtney Roby** raced back 97 yards for a touchdown. The Rams would move back within four on a 32-yard field goal by Josh Brown

The Saints extended their lead to 11 points at the start of the fourth quarter on a 27-yard pass play from Brees to WR **Robert Meachem**.

Bulger led a furious rally in the final 4:25. He found Avery for a 19-yard touchdown, but the two point conversion attempt was incomplete. The Saints were unable to get a first down on their final offensive possession and Bulger led the Rams to the New Orleans 32 before time ran out.

The Rams out-gained New Orleans 434 yards to 420, but the Saints were able to make several explosive plays in the passing, running game and on special teams to make the difference. Bush had six carries for a season-high 83 yards (13.8 average) and one score, while Brees completed 18-of-26 passes for 223 yards with two touchdowns.

- **S Roman Harper** and **LB Jonathan Vilma** led the Saints defense with a 12 tackles apiece.

- **TE David Thomas** led the Saints with five receptions for 45 yards to lead the team in catches, also tying a career-high. **WR Devery Henderson** led New Orleans in receiving yardage with four grabs for 72 yards. In addition to his fourth quarter scoring grab, Meachem also had a career-long 41-yard rush on a reverse.

- Roby's kickoff return for a touchdown was the first of his career and the first by the Saints since **WR Michael Lewis** had a 96-yard runback for a score vs. Atlanta on December 26, 2004.

- This was New Orleans' first win against their former NFC West rivals since the 2004 campaign. The Saints now trail the Rams 38-30 in the all-time series.

- **Randall Gay** started at cornerback in place of **Jabari Greer** who was inactive because of a groin injury. **Usama Young** replaced **Darren Sharper** who was sidelined with a knee injury, with his first career start at safety and had four tackles (two solo) and a first quarter 24-yard interception return that helped prevent a potential score.

WEEK 11: Saints 38, Tampa Bay 7; November 22, 2009 @ Raymond James Stadium – The Saints improved to 10-0, giving them the longest win streak in franchise history, rebounding from an early first quarter deficit to take the lead for good near the end of the first half and keeping it, compliments of strong contributions from the offense, defense and special teams.

RBs **Pierre Thomas** and **Mike Bell** were behind an impressive rushing effort as they combined to carry 24 times for 167 yards with two touchdowns, Thomas leading all runners with 92 yards, while Bell added 75 on the ground and punched in the two scores. QB **Drew Brees** completed 19-of-29 passes for 187 yards with three touchdowns and a 118.0 passer rating and WR **Robert Meachem** had a career-high two touchdown grabs, while TE **David Thomas** enjoyed his best day as a Saint, making four receptions for 66 yards with a touchdown, including a career-long 37 yard grab.

The Saints defense recorded three sacks and forced four, while surrendering only 219 yards overall, 126 through the air to the Buccaneers.

- **LB Scott Fujita** tied for the team lead with eight tackles (four solo) and his sack, forced a fumble that was recovered and eventually led to a touchdown.

- **WR Marques Colston** led the Saints in receiving with five receptions for 74 yards. He was particularly dominant on one drive where he and Brees connected on three passes for 57 yards.

- Brees completed 25 of 36 passes for 266 yards with one touchdown pass and one interception. The performance was Brees' 28th 250-yard passing day of his Saints career.

- The Saints defense harassed first-year Tampa Bay QB **Josh Freeman** allowing him to complete only 17 of 33 passes for 126 yards with four turnovers.

- A second quarter interception by rookie CB **Malcolm Jenkins**, the first of his NFL career, stopped a potential Tampa Bay scoring drive in the second half and gave New Orleans the ball back to help set up the go-ahead field goal by K **John Carney**.

- **S Roman Harper** had five tackles, half a sack and one pass defense.

- The defense posted three sacks. Takedowns of Tampa Bay QB **Josh Freeman** were recorded by DE **Will Smith**, Fujita and one was split by CB **Leigh Torrence** and **S Roman Harper**.

- The Saints now lead the all-time series vs. Tampa Bay, 21-14. It is New Orleans' first victory at Raymond James Stadium since the 2006 season. The 31 point of margin in the victory was tied for the most in the series with a 38-7 win at the Superdome on October 19, 1986.

- Jenkins made his first career start at cornerback in place of **Tracy Porter**, who was inactive because of a knee injury. CB **Randall Gay**, made his second consecutive start in place of an injured **Jabari Greer**, while DT **Anthony Hargrove** had his third fumble recovery of the season in substitute of an injured **Sedrick Ellis**.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

SEAN PAYTON NOTES

Since he was named head coach in 2006, the New Orleans Saints have enjoyed a significant turnaround under **Sean Payton**. During this period, New Orleans has posted a 35-23 (.604) regular season record, the best winning percentage in the NFC South. This mark ranked seventh in the NFL and third-best in the NFC. Payton has the top winning percentage for a Saints head coach. His 17-12 mark (.586) on the road and 18-11 (.621) home record are both the club's top winning percentages. Payton has recorded a 27-16 (.628) mark vs. NFC opponents. New Orleans' 12-9 record in division play during this period is the second-best in the competitive NFC South.

IN THE NFC SOUTH

Under Payton, the Saints have enjoyed the top record among NFC South teams since 2006:

Team	W	L	Pct.
New Orleans Saints	35	23	.604
Carolina Panthers	31	27	.535
Atlanta Falcons	27	31	.466
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	23	35	.397

SAINTS HEAD COACHES

Payton has the highest winning percentage among the 14 head coaches in Saints history:

Coach	Seasons	Record	Pct.
Sean Payton	2006-	35-23	.604
Jim Mora	1988-96	93-74	.557
Jim Haslett	2000-05	45-51	.469
Bum Phillips	1981-85	27-42	.391
Dick Nolan	1978-80	15-29	.341
John North	1973-75	11-23	.324
Mike Ditka	1997-99	15-33	.313
Tom Fears	1967-70	13-34-2	.286
Wade Phillips	1985	1-3	.250
Dick Stanfel	1980	1-3	.250
Hank Stram	1976-77	7-21	.250
J.D. Roberts	1970-72	7-25-3	.243
Ernie Hefferle	1975	1-7	.125
Rick Venturi	1996	1-7	.125

– Records reflect regular-season contests only. Playoff games with the Saints: **Jim Mora** 0-4, **Jim Haslett** 1-1, **Sean Payton** 1-1.

TEAM NOTES

STREAKING ONWARD

Following Sunday's win, the Saints are 10-0 for the first time in club history and have their longest win streak ever. Twice before, New Orleans had won nine consecutive games: from November 1-December 27, 1987 and from December 23 1990-October 20, 1991.

DOMEFIELD ADVANTAGE

New Orleans' 2008 6-2 home record was tied for fifth best in the NFL and fourth best in the NFC. The Saints finished with six home wins for the fourth time in club history and for the first time since 1992. 2008 was their first winning home mark since 2003.

The Saints have continued their success at the Louisiana Superdome with a perfect 5-0 home mark in 2009, one of five NFL teams that are still perfect at home. The five-game home win streak is tied for the club record, having been matched on two other times; from December 31, 1990-October 20, 1991 and from October 11-December 3, 1992. This is the 12th time in club history the team has posted a winning home mark. For the first time since 1991 and 1992, the Saints have posted back-to-back winning home marks.

Since the 2008 season, the Saints' 11-2 home record and .846 winning percentage in friendly confines is tied for second best in the NFL.

TURNOVER TURNAROUND

A pesky defense with emphasis on forcing takeaways, combining with scavenging special teams coverage units have resulted in a significant improvement for the Saints in the league rankings in turnover ratio in 2009.

After ranking 22nd in the NFL at -4 in 2008, New Orleans has surged to third place at +10 in 2009. The Saints lead the league with 29 takeaways, already exceeding the figure of 22 posted by the 2008 squad only ten games through the 2009 season.

2009 NFL TAKEAWAY/GIVEAWAY RATIO

Team	Takeaways	Giveaways	Diff.
1. GB.	22	8	+14
2. NE	22	10	+12
3. NO	29	19	+10
4. Phi.	23	15	+8
5t. Ind.	19	13	+6
5t. Min.	16	10	+6

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The Saints have 12 players who have moved up to the club's 53-man roster after beginning on practice squads, eight who are products of the New Orleans practice squad.

The most notable member of this group is WR **Lance Moore**. After spending most of the 2005 and 2006 seasons on the club's practice squad, he evolved into the team's leading receiver in 2008 with 79 catches for 928 yards and ten touchdown grabs. S **Chris Reis** joined the practice squad before becoming an integral part of the special team units. He's again among team leaders with eight coverage stops and one fumble recovery, while adding two tackles one interception and a pass defense.

BUCKING THE ODDS

Players whose names are not called in the NFL draft typically face challenging odds in sticking on a team. However, the Saints feature 17 players on their 53-man roster who have bucked convention and become key contributors after not having their names called on draft day.

Three of the most notable are Moore and RB **Pierre Thomas**, the club's receiving and rushing leaders in 2008 and RB **Mike Bell**. Moore was signed as an undrafted free agent by Cleveland in 2005 before joining the Saints practice squad that fall.

The combination of Thomas and Bell have provided a major impact to the Saints' fifth-ranked running game via the undrafted route. Signed after the 2007 draft, Thomas was the club's leading rusher in 2008 with 129 carries for 625 yards with a team-leading nine touchdowns and led the club with 12 scores overall, the fourth-highest single season total in club history. Thomas' overall touchdown and rushing TD totals were tied for the ninth-highest in NFL history by an undrafted player. He's again the Saints' leading rusher in 2009 with 105 carries for 584 yards (5.6 avg.) and five touchdowns, ranking second in the NFL in yards per carry. He has also made 17 receptions for 112 yards and one touchdown as an option in the passing game. Thomas is ranked third in club history all-time with a 5.1 yards per carry average.

Bell is not far behind his undrafted teammate, ranking second on the club in rushing with 115 carries for 514 yards (4.5 avg.) with four touchdowns after going undrafted and first being brought to training camp with the Denver Broncos in 2006.

The Saints currently have one player that was not chosen in the 2009 draft on their 53-man roster in LB **Jonathan Casillas**.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

WORTH NOTING ON OFFENSE DOMINATING OFFENSE

Since 2006, the Saints have scored an average of 27.8 points per game (1,624 points) in 58 contests, ranking second in the NFL. After leading the NFL in scoring in 2008, the Saints are on pace to repeat as they've averaged a league-best 36.9 points per game.

In their first two contests of the season, the Saints put forth 40 point outputs back to back for the first time in franchise history. These efforts made the Saints the fourth team in NFL history and the first in more than 40 years, to score at least 45 points in each of their first two games. With a quartet of performances of 45 points or more, the Saints have had four of their ten highest-scoring games in club history occur in 2009. Five of the ten have occurred on Payton's watch since he arrived.

Following a 30 point output vs. Carolina, November 8, the Saints have scored 30 or more points in four consecutive games for the second time in club history. The other streak occurred in the final two games of last season and carried over to the first two games of this year. The Saints have scored 30+ points in nine of their last 12 games.

NFL POINTS PER GAME LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. NE	1674	28.9
2. NO	1624	28.0
3. SD	1612	27.8
4. Ind.	1523	26.3
5. Dal.	1473	25.4

NFL POINTS PER GAME LEADERS IN 2009

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. NO	369	36.9
2. Min.	306	30.6
3. NE	290	29.0
4t. Ind.	269	26.9
4t. SD	269	26.9

Since 2006, the Saints have been the NFL's top ranked offense in net yardage, averaging 393.9 yards per game.

In the past three seasons, they were ranked first twice, and are again in 2009, averaging 420.5 yards per game. In a display of balance, the Saints are the only NFL team to be ranked in the top six in both passing and rushing.

NFL TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. NO	22,820	393.4
2. NE	21,957	378.6
3. Ind.	21,162	364.9
4. Phi.	20,987	361.8
5. Dal.	20,954	361.3

NFL TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS IN 2009

Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. NO	4,205	420.5
2. NE.	4,161	416.1
3. Ind.	3,985	398.5
4. NYG	3,855	385.5
5. Dal.	3,819	381.9

IN THE RED ZONE

After finishing ranked third in the NFC and fifth in the NFL in 2008 in red zone touchdown percentage with a 61.3 percent effectiveness rate, the New Orleans offense has found the end zone on 32 of their 49 opportunities (65.3 percent) inside the 20 yard line in 2009 to rank third among teams in the NFL.

TOUCHDOWN PERCENTAGE INSIDE THE 20-YARD LINE NFL LEADERS IN 2009

Team	Poss.	TD	Pct.
1. TB	18	13	72.2
2. Ari.	37	26	70.3
3. NO	49	32	65.3
4. Mia.	33	21	63.6
5. Ten.*	19	12	63.2

* Not including Monday night result

KEEPING DRIVES GOING

In 2008, the Saints finished first in the NFC and second in the NFL with a club record 48.5 (97-of-200) third down conversion percentage. In 2009 The Saints have converted 46.9 percent of their attempts to rank first in the NFC and third in the NFL.

2009 NFL THIRD DOWN CONVERSION PCT. LEADERS

Team	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. Ind.	62	123	50.4
2. Mia.	75	153	49.0
3. NO	61	130	46.9
4t. Min.	65	140	46.4
4t. Jax.	65	140	46.4

FIRST DOWNS

The Saints were among leaders in 2008, ranking first in the NFC and tying for second in the NFL with a club record 354 first downs, the third straight year they set a record. In 2009, the Saints are ranked second in the NFL with 221 first downs.

NFL FIRST DOWN LEADERS IN 2009

Team	No.	Rush	Pass	Pen
1. NE	240	70	149	21
2. NO	221	83	128	10
3. Ind.	220	58	144	18
4. Pit.	213	75	127	11
5. GB	212	71	123	18

GETTING IT DONE ON FIRST DOWN

In 2008 the Saints offense averaged 6.14 yards per first down play in to rank third in the NFL, while leading the NFC, gaining significant yardage on first down. In 2009, the Saints offense has averaged 6.02 yards to rank third in the NFC and sixth in the NFL.

YARDAGE ON FIRST DOWN PLAYS BY NFL TEAMS IN 2009

Team	Yds./Play	Plays	Yards
1. Phi.	6.59	271	1785
2. Ind.	6.45	289	1865
3. NE	6.29	319	2007
4. Pit.	6.14	296	1816
5. Dal.	6.11	284	1736
6. NO	6.02	299	1799

YARDS AFTER THE CATCH

Since 2006, the Saints offense has been ranked first in the NFL in yards after the catch, led by a running back and wide receiver corps that obtain additional yardage after getting the ball. During this time, RB **Reggie Bush** is ranked fourth in the league with 1,710 yards after the catch. After leading the NFL in 2006, the Saints returned to first in 2008 with 2,398 YAC.

MOST YARDS AFTER THE CATCH BY NFL TEAMS SINCE 2006

Team	YAC
1. New Orleans	7,828
2. New England	7,324
2. Green Bay	7,282
4. Philadelphia	7,016
5. Arizona	6,707

Note: Statistic is compiled by Stats, Inc. on Wed.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

HOLDING THE LINE

The Saints offensive line remains one of the top-ranked unit's foundations. Since Payton was named head coach of the Saints in 2006, New Orleans has been the second-least sacked club in the NFL, surrendering only 65 in 58 regular season games.

In 2009, the Saints have experienced their most significant turnover on the line in the past three seasons, losing starting Pro Bowl LT **Jammal Brown** to season-ending abdominal and hip injuries. However **Jermon Bushrod** and **Zach Strief** have joined the lineup of RG **Jahri Evans**, C **Jonathan Goodwin**, LG **Carl Nicks** and RT **Jon Stinchcomb**. and filled in admirably on Brees' blindside as the line's surrendered only 13 sacks, the third-fewest in the NFL for an offense that is ranked first in the NFL overall, fifth running and sixth passing.

LEAST SACKS ALLOWED BY NFL TEAMS FROM 2006-PRESENT

<u>Team</u>	<u>Sacks</u>
1. Indianapolis	60
2. New Orleans	65
3. Tennessee*	78
4. Denver Broncos	94
5t. New York Giants	97
5t. San Diego	97

* Not including Monday night result

LEAST SACKS ALLOWED BY NFL TEAMS IN 2009

<u>Team</u>	<u>Sacks</u>
1. Tennessee*	7
2. Indianapolis	8
3. New Orleans	13
4t. Atlanta	14
4t. New England	14

* Not including Monday night result

FEWEST SACKS ALLOWED IN A SEASON BY A SAINTS TEAM

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sacks</u>
1. 2008	13
2. 1992	15
3. 2007	16
4. 1979	17
5. 1991	19

Below is a synopsis of the key components of the Saints line, including five of it's six members that have started at least one game in 2009, who are draft picks by the club from from 2003-08:

LT Jermon Bushrod - A fourth round draft choice in 2007, this promising young lineman has moved into the lineup. The Towson product has helped spur the NFL's fifth ranked running game.

RG Jahri Evans - This 2006 fourth round draft choice has made a rapid ascent from his small school roots at Bloomsburg into one of the NFL's top right guards. Evans' streak of 58 straight starts with the Saints without missing a contest since moving into the lineup in his first training camp, the longest in club history among offensive linemen to start a career. Evans' streak of consecutive starts to begin a career is ranked third overall in Saints record books.

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES STARTED BY A SAINTS OFFENSIVE LINEMAN TO OPEN A CAREER

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>How acq.</u>
Jahri Evans ,	G	58	2006-	D4, '06
William Roaf,	T	57	1993-96	D1, '93
Don Morrison,	T	42	1971-73	D4e, '71
J.T. Taylor,	T	38	1978-80	D2, '78
Brad Edelman,	G	31	1982-84	D2, '82

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES STARTED BY A SAINT TO OPEN A CAREER

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>How acq.</u>
Rickey Jackson,	LB	91	1981-87	D2b, '81
Bob Pollard,	DT	78	1971-76	D11, '71
Jahri Evans ,	G	58	2006-	D4, '06
William Roaf,	T	57	1993-96	D1, '93
Darren Howard	DE	49	2000-03	D2, '00

C Jonathan Goodwin - Goodwin took the reins of the starting center position in 2008 and has distinguished himself in pass protection, run blocking and making line calls, opening 24 games in the middle of the offensive line over the past three seasons.

LG Carl Nicks - This 6-5, 343 pound mauler who was a 2008 fifth-round draft choice, needed very little time to make a smooth transition to life in the NFL trenches. Nicks opened up the last 13 contests at left guard in 2008 and was selected for All-Rookie honors by several publications. He's combined with Evans for one of the NFL's top young interior combinations

RG Jon Stinchcomb - This 2003 second round draft choice is one of the longest tenured players on the club and among the most respected by his teammates. Anchoring the right side of the line since 2006, he has combined with Evans to start all 58 games on that side of the line. Stinchcomb and Evans are currently tied with QB **Drew Brees** for the most consecutive starts.

G/C Jamar Nesbit - The most tenured blocker on the squad, this 11-year NFL veteran has started games at every position on the line with the exception of left tackle, providing solid versatility. Nesbit has also seen action as a blocking tight end in select formations. Nesbit has opened 90 of the 150 games he has appeared in through his NFL career, starting 43 of 81 with the Saints

T Zach Strief - This 2006 seventh round draft choice has appeared in 51 games for the Saints and has opened five games at left tackle during this time. The versatile Strief has also served as an extra tight end in short yardage situations.

WORTH NOTING ON DEFENSE

The offseason addition of defensive coordinator **Gregg Williams**, shrewd free agent signings of CB **Jabari Greer**, DL **Anthony Hargrove** and S **Darren Sharper**, the drafting of CB **Malcolm Jenkins** and the return of full health of DE **Charles Grant**, CB **Tracy Porter** and DE **Will Smith** has produced a defense that has seen resurgent results. The signings have added to a talented base that features four first round draft choices and several other key contributors. It has resulted in a significant improvement to the Saints defense that has made wholesale improvement in the league rankings in yardage, points allowed, takeaways and defensive touchdowns.

POINTS PER GAME

After finishing the 2008 season ranked 26th in scoring defense, surrendering an average of 24.5 points per game, the Saints have moved up in the NFL rankings. New Orleans is tied for 13th in the NFL, surrendering an average of 20.4 points per game.

YARDAGE IMPROVEMENT

After finishing ranked 23rd in the NFL in yardage surrendered (339.5 yards per game) in 2008, the Saints are currently ranked 17th (330.6 yards per game). After being ranked 17th against the run and 23rd against the pass last season, they are ranked 20th in run defense and 15th in pass defense.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

IN THE RED ZONE

The Saints finished fourth in the NFC and ninth in the NFL in opponent red zone touchdown percentage (48.3) in 2008, allowing TDs on only 29 of 60 possessions inside the 20-yard line. The defense has continued stopping opponents inside the 20 in 2009, allowing only 14 touchdowns on 33 red zone possessions (42.4%) to rank third in the NFC and sixth in the NFL.

NFL OPPONENT TOUCHDOWN PERCENTAGE INSIDE THE 20 LEADERS IN 2009

Team	Poss.	TD	Pct.
1. Was.	21	7	33.3
2. Min.	26	10	38.5
3. Pit.	23	9	39.1
4. Cin.	25	10	40.0
5. NO	33	14	42.4

KEEPING THE OFFENSE OFF THE FIELD

New Orleans has held opponents to a 34.5 third down conversion rate, ranked seventh in the NFL.

2009 OPPONENT NFL THIRD DOWN CONVERSION PERCENTAGE LEADERS

Team	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. Ari.	47	144	32.6
2. GB	42	128	32.8
3. Phi.	46	139	33.1
4t. Mia.	42	126	33.3
4t. Min.	43	129	33.3
6. NYG	42	122	34.4
7. NO	48	139	34.5

PICK CITY

One immediate result of the offseason additions of Williams to coordinate the defense and Sharper to man its far reaches has been the increase in interceptions. After recording 15 picks in 2008, the Saints are ranked first in the NFL through ten games with 20 interceptions to exceed these previous totals.

Sharper, the NFL's active interception leader with 61 is ranked first in the NFC and second in the league with seven picks. He has a career-high and club record three interception returns for touchdowns on the season. Porter has recorded three picks to tie for ninth in the NFC and 15th in the NFL.

INTERCEPTIONS BY NFL TEAMS IN 2009

Team	Interceptions
1. New Orleans	20
2. Buffalo	17
3. Philadelphia	16
4. Green Bay	14
5. New England	13

SCORING ON DEFENSE

The Saints defense has scored an NFL-high seven touchdowns on the year, the second-highest total in club history. The club record is nine scored in 1998.

DEFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS BREAKDOWN

- Game 2, at Philadelphia, 9/20: S **Darren Sharper** 97 yd. interception return.
- Game 4, vs. New York Jets, 10/4: S **Darren Sharper** 99 yd. interception return
- Game 4, vs. New York Jets, 10/4: DT **Remi Ayodele** fumble recovery in end zone
- Game 6, at Miami, 10/25; S **Darren Sharper** 42 yd. interception return
- Game 6, at Miami, 10/25; CB **Tracy Porter** 54 yd. interception return
- Game 7, vs. Atlanta, 11/2; CB **Jabari Greer** 48 yd. interception return
- Game 8, vs. Carolina, 11/8; DT **Anthony Hargrove** 1 yd. fumble return

QUARTERBACKS

DREW BREES

• Since arriving in New Orleans in 2006, Brees has ranked among the NFL's elite quarterbacks, throwing for 4,000 or more yards each year and ranking at the top or among leaders in nearly every passing category and breaking a slew of club records.

• After passing for 5,069 yards in 2008, finishing 16 shy of setting the NFL single season yardage record and capturing *Associated Press* NFL Offensive Player of the Year honors, the three time Pro Bowler has continued his outstanding play in 2009. Brees has completed 218 of 320 passes (68.1%) for 2,746 yards with 22 touchdown passes, only nine interceptions and a 105.8 passer rating.

• Brees is ranked first in the NFL in touchdown passes, touchdown percentage (6.9), average gain (8.58) and fourth quarter passer rating (121.9), second in passer rating, fourth in completion percentage, fifth in passing yardage and fifth in third down passer rating (102.6).

• Through eight games at the midway point of the season, Brees is on pace to become only the second player in NFL history to pass for at least 4,000 yards in four consecutive seasons.

• Few players in the free agency era have made the impact that Brees has had on the Saints. Since arriving in 2006 after spending the first five years of his career with the San Diego Chargers, he leads the NFL with 16,656 passing yards, 1,427 completions, 28 games with at least 300 yards and 129 completions of 25 yards or more and is tied for first with 110 touchdown passes.

• Brees has been selected to play in two Pro Bowls as a Saint, three overall. He and **Archie Manning** are the only two Saints signal callers to be selected to the All-Star game in franchise history, with two appearances apiece.

• With 35 wins since signing with the Saints in 2006, Brees is tied for the sixth-most victories by NFL quarterbacks during this time period. With a current career-high ten-game winning streak, Brees surpassed **Bobby Hebert** (Nine straight wins - November 1-December 27, 1987) for the most consecutive victories by a Saints signal caller.

• In his nine-year NFL Career, Brees has completed 2,552-of-3,970 passes (64.3%) for 29,004 yards with 190 touchdown throws and a 90.7 passer rating. He's the league's fifth-most accurate passer all-time, owns the NFL's ninth-best passer rating ever and is currently ranked 37th in passing yardage and 39th in touchdown passes.

Single-Game Superlatives

- **Attempts: 60**, at Chicago (12/30/07)
- **Completions: 39**, @ Denver (9/21/08)
- **Completion Pct.: 88.0**, at Oakland (10/31/04)
- **Passing Yards: 510**, vs. Cincinnati (11/19/06)
- **Long Pass: 86t**, at Carolina (10/1/06)
- **TD Passes: 6** vs. Detroit, (9/13/09)
- **Passer Rating: 157.5**, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08)
- **Rushes: 8**, at Kansas City (11/28/04)
- **Rushing Yards: 31**, at Kansas City (12/24/05)
- **Long Rush: 22**, vs. Oakland (10/31/04)
- **Rushing TDs: 2**, at Miami (10/25/09)

Brees By The Numbers

110 – Touchdown passes through the first 58 games as a Saint to rank third in team records, tied for the highest total in the NFL during this time. With 190 career touchdown passes, he's ranked 39th all-time.

5,069 – Club record and career-high 2008 yardage total in 2008, the second highest in NFL history, making him the second player to reach the 5,000 yards. He's on pace to become the second player in NFL history to throw for 4,000 yards in four straight seasons.

1,427 – Completions since joining the Saints in 2006, which already ranks third in team history. This is the most among NFL quarterbacks over the period.

25 – Games as a Saint with a passer rating of 100 or more with the Saints owning a 20-5 record when he reaches the century mark. He's hit the century mark five times in 2009, including last week at Tampa Bay when he posted a 118.0 rating. Including his tenure with the San Diego Chargers from 2001-05, Brees has surpassed the century mark in 41 contests.

9 – NFC Offensive Player of the Week awards won by Brees in New Orleans. He's captured the most weekly awards by an individual in franchise history. Brees has won the award twice in 2009.

2 – NFC Offensive Player of the Month awards won by Brees in New Orleans, capturing the league honor in both September of 2008 and 2009.

38 – Regular season games with 250 yards or more passing, placing him first in club history. Including his tenure with San Diego and three playoff games, Brees has reached the milestone 53 times.

28 – Regular season contests with 300 yards or more passing during his Saints tenure, a franchise record and the highest NFL total since 2006. With ten 300 yard games in 2008, he tied the NFL single-season record. Brees has thrown for 300 yards on five occasions in 2009.

4 – Regular season games where Brees has thrown for 400 or more yards.

29,004 – Passing yardage in his NFL career, the 37th-highest total in NFL history. Brees has thrown for 16,656 yards since coming to New Orleans, the top NFL total during that period.

66.0 – Brees' team-record completion percentage during his entire Saints tenure, ranked third in the NFL during this period. With a 64.3 career completion percentage, Brees is the fourth most accurate passer all-time in NFL history.

22 – Consecutive contests ranging from Dec. 16, 2007-September 20, 2009 when Brees threw for at least 200 yards.

Memorable Moments

September 13, 2009, vs. Detroit: In the season opening win, Brees started with a record-setting day, completing 26 of 34 attempts for 358 yards, a career-high six TD passes and one interception for a 137.0 passer rating. The passing yardage total was the most ever by a Saints quarterback on kickoff weekend. Three of his completions were for 25 yards or more, including a 38-yard third down throw to WR **Devery Henderson**. Brees was named the NFC Offensive Player of the week and voted the FedEx Air Player of the Week.

- His career-high TD pass total was one shy of the NFL record of seven and the highest in league history on kickoff weekend. It tied the club record originally set by **Billy Kilmer** at St. Louis on Nov. 2, 1969.

- Brees had his second game in a row (going back to last year's season finale), with at least four TD passes. It's the second time in his career he had back-to-back games of four or more. He's the only quarterback in club history to pass for four or more TDs in a game more than once.

September 20, 2009, at Philadelphia: Brees played a

key role in an explosion of 48 points that improved the Saints' record to 2-0. He completed 25 of 34 (73.5%) passing attempts for 311 yards, three touchdown passes and one interception for a 118.6 passer rating. Three of his completions were for 25 yards or more. He was voted the FedEx Air Player of the Week.

- Brees' three TD passes increased his total to nine in his first two games. The league-leading performance to start the season tied the NFL record for scoring passes after two contests, a mark that has stood for 44 years since it was set by **Charley Johnson** of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1965.

September 27, 2009, at Buffalo: Brees effectively managed a balanced offense that improved the Saints to 3-0. He completed 16 of 29 passes for 172 yards. Brees also rushed three times for 11 yards, picking up two key first downs.

- Brees' performance culminated a September that resulted in him being named the NFC Offensive Player of the Month for the second time in his career.

October 4, 2009, vs. New York Jets: Brees completed 20 of 32 passes for 190 yards, moving him within 59 yards of becoming only the third quarterback in Saints history.

October 18, 2009, vs. New York Giants: Brees completed 23 of 30 passes for 369 yards and four TD passes, joining **Aaron Brooks** and **Archie Manning** on a pair of career franchise lists. In the first quarter, Brees became the third quarterback in Saints history with 15,000 yards passing, joining Manning (21,734) and Brooks (19,156) as signal callers who have passed for more than 15,000 yards as a Saint. In the second quarter, Brees threw his 100th career touchdown pass as a Saint, joining Brooks (120) and Manning (115) have passed for 100 touchdowns in a Saints uniform. Brees was named the NFC Offensive Player of the week and voted the FedEx Air Player of the Week.

- Brees completed 15 straight passes in the first half, the most consecutive completions in a single game in club history. Brees holds the team record of 17 straight completions over a two-game span on 12/16-23/07. Manning also had 15 straight completions in a two-game span 30 years ago (10/14-21/79).

- Brees' passer rating of 156.8 was the second-highest of his career, topped only by the 157.5 on 11/24/08 vs. Green Bay. The Saints are 9-0 when he has posted a passer rating of 130.0 or better.

- Brees had at least four TD passes for the ninth time in his career, sixth with the Saints.

October 25, 2009, at Miami Dolphins: Brees completed 22 of 38 passes for 298 yards with one touchdown pass and three interceptions. He also dove into the end zone twice, for the first game of his career where he had two rushing TDs, the second, a two-yard run, which culminated a fourth quarter eight play-60 yard drive that put the Saints ahead 37-34 in game where the Saints trailed 24-3 at one point. The comeback from a 21-point deficit is tied for the largest in franchise history. Brees' 66-yard completion to TE **Jeremy Shockey** was the team's longest play from scrimmage of the season.

November 2, 2009, vs. Atlanta Falcons: Brees completed 25 of 33 passes for 308 yards with two touchdown passes and one interception for a 111.7 rating. With 2,071 passes as a Saint attempted through the contest, he surpassed Hebert for third place on the club's all-time list.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Memorable Moments

November 8, 2009, vs. Carolina Panthers: Brees completed 24 of 35 passes for 330 yards, one touch-down and one interception, overcoming two first half turnovers to rally the Saints.

- Brees completed five-of-seven passes on the fourth quarter drive that resulted in a field goal and gave the Saints their first lead of the game, which they held for good.

- Brees started each half with nine consecutive completions. There was a huge disparity in yardage in those streaks; in the first half, the nine completions covered 60 yards, but in the second half, they covered 190 yards.

November 15, 2009, at St. Louis Rams: Brees completed 18 of 26 passes for 223 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, leading the Saints to their only 9-0 start in club history and third nine-game win streak ever. His touchdown tosses went to RB **Reggie Bush** and WR **Robert Meachem**.

November 22, 2009, at Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Brees posted a 118.0 passer rating and completed 19 of 29 passes for 187 yards with three touchdowns, two to Meachem as he led the Saints, before giving way to backup **Mark Brunell** in the fourth quarter. Brees led the Saints to their first ten-game winning streak in club history. His touchdown tosses went to RB **Reggie Bush** and WR **Robert Meachem**. Brees completed his first seven passes of the game, including going six-for-six in the first quarter.

Rating Success

The Saints have posted a 20-5 (.800) in 25 career regular season games where Brees has posted a passer rating of 100 or above.

GAMES BY DREW BREES AS A SAINT WITH A PASSER RATING OF 100 OR BETTER

Date	Opponent	Rating	Result
11/24/08	vs. Green Bay Packers	157.5	W, 51-29
10/18/08	vs. New York Giants	156.8	W, 48-27
10/12/08	vs. Oakland Raiders	144.4	W, 34-3
12/10/06	at Dallas Cowboys	140.8	W, 42-17
9/13/09	vs. Detroit Lions	137.0	W, 45-27
10/28/07	at San Francisco 49ers	136.8	W, 31-10
11/5/06	at Tampa Bay Bucs	136.7	W, 31-14
12/16/07	vs. Arizona Cardinals	132.6	W, 31-24
11/26/06	at Atlanta Falcons	131.1	W, 31-13
12/1/07	vs. Tampa Bay Bucs	125.1	L, 23-27
9/6/08	vs. Tampa Bay Bucs	124.9	W, 24-20
10/26/08	vs. San Diego Chargers	121.9	W, 37-32
11/4/07	vs. Jacksonville Jaguars	119.9	W, 41-24
9/20/09	at Philadelphia Eagles	118.6	W, 48-21
11/22/09	at Tampa Bay Bucs	118.0	W, 38-7
12/21/08	at Detroit Lions	117.8	W, 42-7
9/28/08	vs. San Francisco 49ers	116.7	W, 31-17
12/10/07	at Atlanta Falcons	116.7	W, 34-14
11/2/09	vs. Atlanta Falcons	111.7	W, 35-27
10/1/06	at Carolina Panthers	110.5	L, 18-21
9/21/08	at Denver Broncos	110.2	L, 32-34
10/14/07	at Seattle Seahawks	106.9	W, 28-17
12/31/06	vs. Carolina Panthers	105.0	L, 21-31
12/28/08	vs. Carolina Panthers	104.6	L, 31-33
11/25/07	at Carolina Panthers	103.9	W, 31-6

With his 90.5 career passer rating, Brees has the ninth-best in NFL history.

TOP TEN PASSER RATINGS IN NFL HISTORY

Rating	Quarterback
96.8	Steve Young
95.2	Peyton Manning
94.1	Tony Romo
94.0	Philip Rivers
93.8	Kurt Warner
93.6	Tom Brady
92.3	Joe Montana
90.8	Ben Roethlisberger
90.7	Drew Brees
90.1	Chad Pennington

With 25 games of a rating of 100 or better since 2006, Brees is tied for fourth in the NFL.

MOST GAMES WITH A 100+ PASSER RATING BY NFL QUARTERBACKS FROM 2006-PRESENT

Quarterback	No.
1. Tony Romo, Dal.	27
2t. Peyton Manning, Ind.	26
2t. Philip Rivers, SD	26
4t. Drew Brees, NO	25
4t. Brett Favre, GB, NYJ, Min.	25

Pinpoint Passer

Brees' 64.3 percent career completion percentage is ranked fourth all-time. He's completed 66.0 percent of his passes since coming to the Saints in 2006, a club record fourth-best in the NFL during this period.

NFL ALL-TIME LEADERS IN COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

(min. 1,500 atts.)

Quarterback	Years	Comp. %
1. Chad Pennington	2000-	66.1 (1631-2469)
2. Kurt Warner	1999-	65.6 (2578-3929)
3. Peyton Manning	1998-	64.7 (4110-6348)
4. Drew Brees	2001-	64.3 (2552-3970)
5. Steve Young	1985-99	64.3 (2667-4149)

Fabulous At 50

Brees amassed 14,579 yards in his first 50 games with the Saints, more than any player in his first 50 games with a new NFL team (rookies and veterans).

QUARTERBACKS WITH THE MOST PASSING YARDS IN THEIR FIRST 50 GAMES WITH A TEAM

Quarterback	Yds.
1. Drew Brees, NO	14,579
2. Kurt Warner, StL	13,864
3. Marc Bulger, StL	13,551
4. Dan Marino, Mia.	13,514
5. Peyton Manning, Ind.	12,939

Yardage Leader

With 28,817 passing yards since entering the NFL in 2001, Brees is ranked ninth among active passers.

TOP TEN CURRENT NFL PASSING YARDAGE TOTALS

Yards	QB	Team
67,609	Brett Favre	Minnesota
48,799	Peyton Manning	Indianapolis
38,464	Kerry Collins	Tennessee
31,826	Mark Brunell	New Orleans
31,309	Kurt Warner	Arizona
31,249	Donovan McNabb	Philadelphia
29,495	Tom Brady	New England
29,004	Drew Brees	New Orleans
27,293	Jon Kitna	Dallas
25,402	Matt Hasselbeck	Seattle

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Where He Ranks

The tables below show where Brees ranks in all major NFL passing categories since signing with the Saints:

NFL PASSING LEADERS, 2006-PRESENT ATTEMPTS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Drew Brees, NO	2161
2. Peyton Manning, Ind.	2015
3. Brett Favre, GB, NYJ, Min.	1980

COMPLETIONS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Drew Brees, NO	1427
2. Peyton Manning, Ind.	1341
3. Brett Favre, GB, NYJ, Min.	1258

COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1. Chad Pennington, NYJ, Mia.	66.7
2. Matt Schaub, Hou.*	66.6
3. Peyton Manning, Ind.	66.6
4. Drew Brees, NO	66.0

* Not including Monday night result

YARDS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Drew Brees, NO	16,656
2. Peyton Manning, Ind.	15,610
3. Brett Favre, GB, NYJ, Min.	13,994

300+ PASSING YARD GAMES

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Drew Brees, NO	28
2t. Tony Romo, Dal.	20
2t. Peyton Manning, Ind.	20

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1t. Drew Brees, NO	110
1t. Peyton Manning, Ind.	110
3. Tony Romo, Dal.	96

PASSER RATING

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Rat.</u>
1. Tom Brady, NE	102.4
2. Peyton Mannng, Ind.	98.9
3. Aaron Rodgers, GB	96.7
4. Drew Brees, NO	95.6

THIRD DOWN PASSER RATING

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Rat.</u>
1. Aaron Rodgers, GB	112.0
2. Drew Brees, NO	103.
3. Peyton Mannng, Ind.	99.6

COMPLETIONS OF 25+ YARDS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>25+ Comp</u>
1. Drew Brees, NO	128
2. Tony Romo, Dal.	111
3. Peyton Manning, Ind.	107

WINS (as a starter)

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Wins</u>
1. Peyton Mannng, Ind.	47
2. Philip Rivers, SD	40
3. Brett Favre, GB, NYJ, Min.	39
4t. Eli Mannng, NYG	36
4t. Tom Brady, NE	36
6t. Ben Roethlisberger, Pit.	35
6t. Drew Brees, NO	35

SAINTS QUARTERBACKS ALL-TIME CAREER RANKINGS

ATTEMPTS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82	3335
2. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	2771
3. Drew Brees, 2006-	2161

COMPLETIONS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82	1849
2. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	1563
3. Drew Brees, 2006-	1427

COMPLETION PERCENTAGE

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1. Drew Brees, 2006-	66.0
2. Jim Everett, 1994-96	61.0
3. Bobby Hebert, 1985-89, 91-92	58.5

YARDS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82	21,734
2. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	19,156
3. Drew Brees, 2006-	16,656

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	120
2. Archie Manning, 1971-75, 77-82	115
3. Drew Brees, 2006-	110

TOUCHDOWN PERCENTAGE

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1. Drew Brees, 2006-	5.1
2. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	4.3
3. Bobby Hebert, 1985-89, 91-92	4.1

PASSER RATING

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Rat.</u>
1. Drew Brees, 2006-	95.6
2. Jim Everett, 1994-96	81.1
3. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	79.7

WINS (as a starter)

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Wins</u>
1. Bobby Hebert, 1985-89, 91-92	49
2. Aaron Brooks, 2000-05	38
3. Archie Mannng, 1971-75, 77-82	36
4. Drew Brees, NO, 2006-	34

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The Saints' Record When Brees

Passes for more than 250 yards.....	23-15
Passes for less than 250 yards.....	12-8
Passes for more than 300 yards.....	19-9
Throws three or more TD passes.....	16-3
Completes more than 60% of passes.....	29-14
Posts a passer rating of 90.0 or more.....	27-7
Posts a passer rating of 100 or more.....	20-5
Home Games.....	18-11
Road Games.....	17-12
Indoors.....	21-14
Outdoors.....	14-9
Artificial Turf.....	25-13
Day Games.....	29-19
Night Games.....	6-4
vs. NFC teams.....	27-16
vs. AFC teams.....	8-7

Brees Team-Record Watch

Brees owns or shares a total of 14 team records which he has accumulated since 2006:

- Career 300-Yard Passing Games - 28**
- Career Completion Percentage - 66.0**
- Career Passer Rating - 95.6**
- Single-Season Passing Yards - 5,069**
- Single-Season 300-Yard Passing Games - 10***
- Single-Season Pass Attempts - 635**
- Single-Season Pass Completions - 440@**
- Single-Season Completion Percentage - 67.5**
- Single-Season Touchdown Passes - 34**
- Single-Season Passer Rating - 96.2**
- Single-Game Passing Yards - 510**
- Single-Game Pass Attempts - 60\$**
- Single Game Pass Completions - 39**
- Consecutive Completions - 17**
- Single Game Touchdown Passes - 6%**

* Tied NFL record

@ NFL record

\$ Tied with Aaron Brooks

% Tied with Billy Kilmer

The 4,000 Club

In 2008, Brees became one of only five quarterbacks in NFL history to have passed for 4,000 or more yards in at least three consecutive seasons. With 2,559 passing yards through ten games, he's on pace to become only the second NFL player with four consecutive 4,000 yard campaigns.

**THREE OR MORE STRAIGHT 4,000-YARD SEASONS
BY NFL QUARTERBACKS**

<u>Rk.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Yrs.</u>
1.	Peyton Manning	6	1999-2004
t2.	Dan Fouts	3	1979-81
t2.	Dan Marino	3	1984-86
t2.	Trent Green	3	2002-04
t2.	Drew Brees	3	2006-08
t2.	Peyton Manning	3	2006-08

Top Of The Charts

Brees has posted four of the top five passing yardage performances in team history. Below is a summary of the club's ten biggest passing days all-time:

<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Att.</u>	<u>Cmp.</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Date</u>
510	Drew Brees	52	30	vs. Cincinnati	11/19/06
445	Drew Brees	49	35	vs. Jacksonville	11/4/07
441	Aaron Brooks	48	30	vs. Denver	12/3/00
422	Drew Brees	58	31	@ Atlanta	11/9/08
421	Drew Brees	48	39	@ Denver	9/21/08

Iron Man

Brees has started 74 consecutive regular season contests at quarterback, all 58 since joining the Saints and 16 games carrying over from his tenure with the San Diego Chargers. This is the fourth longest current games started streak by signal callers in the NFL.

LONGEST CURRENT STREAK OF CONSECUTIVE STARTS BY NFL QUARTERBACKS

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Brett Favre, GB-NYJ	279
2. Peyton Manning, Ind.	186
3. Eli Manning, NYG	81
4. Drew Brees, NO	74
5. Philip Rivers, SD	58

RUNNING BACKS

REGGIE BUSH

• The multi-talented runner enters his fourth season as one of the NFL's most versatile and explosive players. In 47 regular season appearances, Bush has posted 4,203 all purpose yards, scored 30 touchdowns on the ground, through the air and on punt returns and provided numerous memorable moments. He has the most catches of any NFL runner since 2006, and has returned a club-record four punts for touchdowns.

Bush is once again among the team's leaders in both rushing and receiving in 2009, while also handling punt return duties. He has carried 55 times for 277 yards (5.0 avg.) and is tied for first on the club with **Pierre Thomas** with five touchdowns on the ground, while adding 29 receptions for 207 yards and one touchdown in the passing game. He's tied for first on the club with **Marques Colston** and Thomas with six touchdowns overall.

Memorable Moments

September 20, 2009, at Philadelphia: Carried the ball ten times for 33 yards, including a powerful 19-yard touchdown run that sealed the victory in the fourth quarter and also caught three passes for 42 yards.

September 27, 2009, at Buffalo: In his most extensive action in the offense this season, Bush carried 13 times for a then-season-high 64 yards as the Saints gained a total of 222 yards on the ground. Displayed his explosion with 14 and 17-yard runs in the first quarter. Bush also had three receptions for 17 yards for 81 total yards from scrimmage in the winning effort.

October 18, 2009, vs. New York Giants: Bush's second quarter seven-yard touchdown run would give the Saints a 34-17 lead at the end of the half.

October 25, 2009, at Miami Dolphins: Bush took the football on a double reverse in the third quarter and advanced the ball ten yards into the end zone to put the Saints within three points at 34-31 of storming back from a 21 point deficit in one of the biggest comebacks in club history. The photograph of the spectacular play was featured on the cover of the following week's *Sports Illustrated*.

November 2, 2009, vs. Atlanta Falcons: Bush's second quarter one-yard touchdown run where he beat all Falcons defenders to the edge gave the Saints their first lead of the game, one which they would not relinquish.

November 8, 2009, vs. Carolina Panthers: Bush led the Saints in receptions with a season-high seven grabs for 37 yards and also added two carries for 16 yards. On New Orleans' fourth quarter drive that put them ahead for the first time in the contest and for good, Bush had two key receptions for 15 yards, both of which moved the chains for first downs. Having 240 catches by the end of the day, Bush moved into ninth place on the club's all-time list past former teammate **Deuce McAllister**.

November 15, 2009, at St. Louis Rams: Bush led the Saints in rushing with six carries for 83 yards with one touchdown. He ripped off a career-long 55-yard run. Bush also had two grabs for 15 yards, including a 15 yard touchdown grab. With two touchdowns overall, it was Bush's seventh career game with multiple scores, his first of 2009.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Single-Game Superlatives

- **Rushing Attempts:** 21, vs. Carolina (10/7/07)
- **Rushing Yardage:** 126, at NY Giants (12/24/06)
- **Long Rush:** 55, at St. Louis (11/15/09)
- **Long Touchdown Run:** 23, at Denver (9/21/08)
- **Rushing TDs:** 3, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06)
- **Receptions:** 12, at Houston, (11/18/07)
- **Receiving Yards:** 131, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06)
- **Long Reception:** 74, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06)
- **Long TD Reception:** 61, at Dallas (12/10/06)
- **Receiving TDs:** 1 (8x), last vs. Atlanta (12/7/08)
- **Yards from Scrimmage:** 168, vs. SF (12/3/06)
- **Punt Returns:** 5, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08)
- **Punt Return Yardage:** 176, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08)
- **Long Punt Return:** 71t, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08)
- **Punt Return TDs:** 2, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08)
- **Scoring:** 24 points, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06)
- **Total Touchdowns:** 4, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06)

Bush By The Numbers

242 – Receptions in his first 47 NFL regular-season games. It's the highest total among running backs over that span and ranks ninth in club history.

30 – Total TDs for Bush in his career. 17 have come rushing, nine through the air and four on punt returns. He's tied for seventh on the club's all-time list.

17 – Rushing touchdowns for Bush in his career. He's currently ranked ninth on the club's all-time list.

1,806 – Receiving yardage by Bush in his NFL career through 47 games. It's the second-highest total among NFL running backs over that time span.

2,194 – Total yards from scrimmage in 28 games since taking over as a starter in game four of 2007.

12 – Bush ranks 12th in team history in rushing with 1,827 yards on 473 carries, with 17 TDs. Next on the club's all-time rushing yardage list is **Mike Strachan** (1975-80), who had 1,902 yards on 472 attempts.

131 – Receiving yards against San Francisco in his rookie season (12/3/06), the most by a running back in franchise history.

12 – Bush became just the 12th player in NFL history to return two punts for touchdowns in the same contest vs. Minnesota (10/6/08) on Monday Night Football.

176 – Punt return yardage vs. Minnesota, setting a single game franchise record as he averaged 35.2 yards on five returns.

4 – TDs for Bush vs. San Francisco (12/3/06), tying a team single-game record for total touchdowns in a contest. Bush had three TD rushes against the 49ers – also tying a club record – and one scoring reception.

7 – Multiple touchdown games in his four-year career, after having his first of 2009 last week.

Top Five RB Receiving Totals

Since Bush entered the NFL in 2006, no runner has recorded more receptions. Below is a list of league's top five pass-catching running backs over that span:

<u>Name, Team</u>	<u>Rec.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
Reggie Bush, NO	242	1,806	7.5	9
Brian Westbrook, Phi.	240	2,028	8.5	15
Steven Jackson, St.L	203	1,687	8.3	5
Frank Gore, SF	186	1,514	8.1	6
Maurice Jones-Drew, Jax.	184	1,646	8.9	4

Class of the Draft

Bush has recorded the third-most receptions of any player selected in the 2006 NFL Draft, just behind teammate **Marques Colston**, who set a NFL-record for most catches in the first two years of a career (Bush tied for the second-most in history). Each player's overall selection is in parentheses:

<u>Name, Team</u>	<u>Rd.</u>	<u>Rec.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TD</u>
Brandon Marshall, Den.	4 (119)	278	3,527	12.7	21
Marques Colston, NO	7 (252)	259	3,687	14.2	30
Reggie Bush, NO	1 (2)	242	1,806	7.5	9
Greg Jennings, GB	2 (52)	221	3,513	15.9	27
Owen Daniels, Hou.	4 (98)	207	2,501	12.1	15

Double Trouble

Bush has amassed 13 career regular season contests with over 100 yards combined rushing and receiving. The Saints have posted a 9-4 record in these games. A look back at the contests where he has recorded at least 100 yards from scrimmage, with rushing attempts and reception totals in parentheses:

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RUSH</u>	<u>REC.</u>	<u>OPP.</u>	<u>DATE</u>
168	37 (10)	131 (9)	vs. SF (W)	12/3/06
163	51 (14)	112 (8)	vs. TB (W)	9/7/08
162	37 (6)	125 (6)	at DAL (W)	12/10/06
149	126 (20)	23 (2)	at NYG (W)	12/24/06
148	73 (18)	75 (11)	at DEN (L)	9/21/08
141	97 (19)	44 (6)	at SEA (W)	10/14/07
119	67 (21)	52 (9)	vs. CAR (L)	10/7/07
119	67 (15)	52 (7)	at CLE (W)	9/10/06
115	72 (17)	43 (7)	vs. JAX (W)	11/4/07
113	64 (10)	49 (7)	at SF (W)	10/28/07
109	51 (13)	58 (8)	vs. CIN (L)	11/19/06
106	80 (10)	26 (3)	vs. ATL (W)	12/7/08
104	34 (15)	70 (12)	at HOU (L)	11/18/07

50 Times Three

In his first three seasons, Bush posted reception totals of 88 (2006), 73 (2007) and 52 (2008), becoming only the fourth player in Saints history and second running back with three straight seasons of 50 or more grabs.

Bush on pace to record 50 catches for the fourth consecutive season, which would make him only the fourth Saint to do so. He would also join Danny Abramowicz as the only Saints to do so in their first four NFL campaigns.

SAINTS WITH THREE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE SEASONS OF 50+ RECEPTIONS

<u>RK.</u>	<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>CONS. 50+ SEASONS</u>
1.	Eric Martin	6 (1988-93)
2.	Joe Horn	5 (2000-04)
3.	Danny Abramowicz	4 (1967-70)
4t.	Reggie Bush	3 (2006-08)
4t.	Tony Galbreath	3 (1978-80)

PIERRE THOMAS

• In 36 career games with eight starts, Thomas has carried 286 times for 1,461 yards (5.1 avg.) with 15 touchdown runs and added 65 receptions for 547 yards with five touchdowns. He's ranked third in club history in yards per carry average.

• In 2009, Thomas is the club's leading rusher with 105 carries for 584 yards (5.6 avg.), to rank eighth in the NFC and 17th in the NFL, with a five touchdowns and 17 receptions for 112 yards and one touchdown. Thomas' rushing average is ranked first in the NFC and second in the NFL. He's ranked 17th in the NFC and 37th in the NFL with 696 total yards from scrimmage, the second-highest total on the club. He shares the team lead with Bush, Colston and **Robert Meachem** with six total touchdowns. 16.2% (17) of Thomas' runs have been for at least ten yards to rank third in the NFL.

• A second half workhorse, Thomas is ranked ninth in the NFL in rushing yards in the final 30 minutes of a contest as 409 of his 584 yards have come after the team has returned from the locker room following halftime. 212 of these yards have come in the fourth quarter as the club has tried to take time off the clock, to rank seventh in the NFL.

Memorable Moments

September 27, 2009, at Buffalo: In the final 30 minutes of the contest, Thomas carried 14 times for a career-high 126 yards with two touchdowns, with both scores occurring in the fourth quarter. Five of Thomas' runs were for ten yards or more, including 34 and 19-yard touchdown scampers. The contest marked the third time in his short career he had recorded two rushing touchdowns in a single game and the fifth time he had a pair of scores overall.

October 4, 2009, vs. New York Jets: For the second consecutive week Thomas was a second-half work-force. He churned out 81 of his 86 total rushing yards against the Jets after the team returned from the locker room at halftime and scored the Saints' final touchdown in the fourth quarter. Thomas also added a career-long 36-yard reception on a screen pass.

October 18, 2009, vs. New York Giants: For the third straight week, Thomas led the Saints in rushing, as he carried 15 times for 72 yards. 28 of the yards came on a four quarter drive, where the Saints consumed the clock for 7:56, including a game-long 25-yard rush.

November 2, 2009, vs. Atlanta: Posted 100 total yards from scrimmage as he led the Saints with 14 carries for 91 yards and one touchdown, while adding two receptions for nine yards and one score as part of his sixth career multiple touchdown game and second of the season.

November 8, 2009, vs. Carolina: Had 81 total yards from scrimmage as he led the Saints in rushing with 13 carries for 50 yards with a ten-yard touchdown to cut Carolina's lead to four points in the third quarter. Also had five receptions for 31 yards, to tie for second on the team in grabs.

November 15, 2009, at Tampa Bay: Thomas served as a closer as 69 of his 92 yards rushing came in the second half in the Saints' 38-7 victory. Thomas also had three receptions for 11 yards as he had 103 total yards from scrimmage.

Single-Game Superlatives

- **Rushing Attempts: 22**, at Chicago (12/11/08)
- **Rushing Yardage: 126**, at Buffalo (9/27/09)
- **Long Rush: 42t**, at Chicago (12/11/08)
- **Long touchdown Run: 42t**, at Chicago (12/11/08)
- **Rushing TDs: 2 (3x)**, last at Buffalo (9/27/09)
- **Receptions: 12**, last at Chicago, (12/30/07)
- **Receiving Yards: 121**, at Chicago (12/30/07)
- **Long Reception: 36**, vs. New York Jets (10/4/09)
- **Long TD Reception: 20t**, at Tampa Bay (11/30/08)
- **Receiving touchdowns: 1 (5x)**, last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09)
- **Yards from Scrimmage: 226**, at Chicago (12/30/07)
- **Kickoff Returns: 8**, vs. St. Louis (12/5/04)
- **Kickoff Return Yardage: 233**, vs. St. Louis (11/11/07)
- **Long Kickoff Return: 88**, vs. Atlanta (12/7/08)
- **Scoring: 12 points (6x)**, last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09)
- **Total Touchdowns: 2 (6x)**, last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09)

RB MIKE BELL

• A between-the-tackles runner, this fourth-year back has returned to the form he displayed in Denver in 2006, when he ran for 677 yards as an undrafted rookie. After appearing in four games for the Saints in 2008, a resurgent Bell has combined with Bush and Thomas for a formidable three-headed trio at the tail-back position. Bell is ranked second on the Saints in rushing with 115 carries for 514 yards (4.5 avg.) with four touchdowns, ranking 13th in the NFC and tying for 23rd in the NFL in rushing yardage. The hard-nosed University of Arizona product is a key to the club's short yardage game as he is ranked fourth in the NFC and tied for 15th in the NFL in third and one rushing, successfully converting seven-of-eight attempts.

• In the season opener vs. Detroit, Sept. 13 due to Thomas' knee injury and responded with a career-high 28 carry, 143 yard effort. This was the biggest rushing yardage total by a Saint since 2003.

• Bell followed with a strong performance at Philadelphia, Sept. 20, carrying 17 times for a team-leading 86 yards with a TD before departing early in the fourth quarter with a sprained MCL.

• Bell returned to action vs. the New York Giants, Oct. 18 and carried 15 times for 34 yards, scoring on a two-yard touchdown run on the game's opening drive.

• Bell was New Orleans' leading rusher in the comeback win at Miami, Oct. 25, rushing for 80 yards, with all 12 of his carries taking place in the second half.

• Bell carried 13 times for 75 yards with two touchdowns, to tie a career-high in scoring runs, at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22. 63 of his yards took place in the second half. On one third quarter drive, Bell was particularly explosive as he ripped off 28 and 13-yard runs, before capping the drive off with a three-yard touchdown.

WIDE RECEIVERS/TIGHT ENDS

WR MARQUES COLSTON

• Since being chosen by the Saints as the 252nd overall pick in the seventh round of the 2006 NFL Draft, Colston has become one of the league's top targets. He's had one of the fastest starts to an NFL career in most pass-catching categories during this period. Colston has recorded 259 catches for 3,687 yards and 30 touchdown grabs. The Hofstra product is ranked seventh in club record books in receptions, sixth in receiving yardage and fourth in receiving TDs.

• Colston again leads the team in receiving with 44 grabs for 687 yards and a six TD grabs. He's ranked 17th in the NFC and 33rd in the NFL in catches, seventh in the NFC and 18th in the NFL in receiving yardage, 18th in the NFC and 39th in the league in total yards from scrimmage and is tied for fifth in NFC and eighth in the NFL with Meachem in TD grabs. 35 of Colston's receptions have moved the chains for first downs to tie for 13th in the NFC and 32nd in the NFL.

• With 12 100-yard receiving games, only two Saints have surpassed the century mark as many times or more than Colston. He's also has recorded at least one TD reception in 23 of his 49 career contests, including six multiple scoring grab games.

• Of his 259 career catches, 185 have gone for a first down. Over that span, Colston has 70 receptions for 1,070 yards and 11 touchdowns on third down.

• Colston has 54 receptions of 20 yards or more, including eight touchdowns of 20 or more yards.

Memorable Moments

September 13, 2009, vs. Detroit: In the season opener, Colston helped the Saints get on the scoreboard almost immediately when Brees connected with him on a nine-yard touchdown on the game's first drive.

September 20, 2009, at Philadelphia: Colston led the Saints in receiving, making eight grabs for 98 yards with a pair of first-half TDs. With the first grab, he joined fellow wideout **Lance Moore** as the only other Saint to record TD grabs in five consecutive contests.

October 18, 2009, vs. New York Giants: Colston had eight grabs for 166 yards and a 12-yard TD, the second-highest yardage total of his career. Three of his catches were for 25 yards or more.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Memorable Moments

October 25, 2009, at Miami Dolphins: Colston had a team-high five receptions for 72 yards, including a third quarter ten-yard touchdown.

November 2, 2009, vs. Atlanta: Colston had a team-high six grabs for 85 receiving yards and an 18-yard TD. Brees and Colston would connect on a key fourth quarter 29-yard pass play that kept a drive alive that would eventually give New Orleans an 11-point lead.

November 22, 2009, at Tampa bay: Colston led the Saints with five receptions for 74 yards. He was particularly dominant on a second quarter scoring drive, where Brees connected with him on passes of 16, 21 and 20 yards.

Fast Start

Only seven players in NFL history have recorded more pass receptions in their first three seasons than Colston's 215. No player caught more passes in their first two seasons than the 168 that he hauled in from 2006-07.

MOST RECEPTIONS BY A PLAYER IN HIS FIRST TWO NFL SEASONS

Player	Years	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
1. Marques Colston	2006-07	168	2,240	19
t2. Reggie Bush	2006-07	161	1,159	4
t2. Larry Fitzgerald	2004-05	161	2,189	18
4. Anquan Boldin	2003-04	157	2,000	9
5. Wayne Chrebet	1995-96	150	1,635	7

MOST RECEPTIONS BY A PLAYER IN HIS FIRST THREE NFL SEASONS

Player	Years	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
1. Anquan Boldin	2003-05	259	3,402	16
2. LaDainian Tomlinson	2001-03	238	1,581	5
3. Larry Fitzgerald	2004-06	230	3,135	24
t4. Brandon Marshall	2006-08	226	2,899	15
t4. Randy Moss	1998-00	226	4,163	43
6. Issac Bruce	1994-96	224	3,391	23
7. Keyshawn Johnson	1996-98	216	2,938	23
t8. Marques Colston	2006-08	215	3,000	24
t8. Torry Holt	1999-01	215	3,786	19
t8. Andre Rison	1989-91	215	3,004	26

Touchdown Machine

With 30 touchdown grabs since entering the league, Colston's ranked fifth in the NFL during this time.

MOST TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS SINCE 2006 BY NFL PLAYERS

Player	No.
1. Randy Moss, Oak., NE	45
2. Terrell Owens, Dal., Buf.	40
3. Larry Fitzgerald, Ari.	37
4. Reggie Wayne, Ind.	33
5. Marques Colston, NO	30

Within the Saints career annals for touchdown receptions, Colston is ranked fourth all-time in club history.

SAINTS CAREER LEADERS IN TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS

Player	No.
1. Joe Horn, 2000-06	50
2. Eric Martin, 1985-93	48
3. Danny Abramowicz, 1967-73	37
4. Marques Colston, 2006-	30

Grand Achievement

With a career-high 1,202 yards in 2007, Colston joined WR **Randy Moss** and WR **John Jefferson** as the only players since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to record over 1,000 yards receiving in each of their first two seasons:

Player	Year	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
WR Marques Colston	2006	70	1,038	8
WR Marques Colston	2007	98	1,202	11
WR Randy Moss	1998	69	1,313	17
WR Randy Moss	1999	80	1,413	11
WR John Jefferson	1978	56	1,001	13
WR John Jefferson	1979	61	1,091	10

By The Numbers

259 – Career receptions, the seventh-highest total in club history.

3,687 – Career receiving yardage, the 15th highest total in the NFL since 2006 and the sixth-highest in franchise history.

12 – Colston has had over 100 yards receiving 12 times in his brief career - including four contests with over 150 yards. Only two other players in club history have reached the 100-yard milestone as often.

13 – Represents the number of contests over the last four seasons when Colston's recorded eight or more receptions.

215 – Receptions in his first three seasons, the highest total by a Saints' draft pick over his opening three years. Only seven players in NFL history have more grabs in their first three seasons after being drafted.

185 – Career receptions that have moved the chains for a first down - 71.4 percent of the passes he has caught.

33 – Catches of 25 yards or more during his career, including touchdowns of 86 and 70 yards. He has 54 catches of 20 yards or more.

455 – Receiving yards in a three-game stretch in 2006 (10/29-11/12), the most yardage over such a span in club record books. He had over 100 yards in all three contests, a streak that he also equalled again in 2007.

6 – While Colston ranks third in club history with 12 games with over 100 yards receiving in his brief career, he has had over 90 yards in six other contests. The number also represents the multiple-touchdown games in his career.

5 – Consecutive games with a touchdown reception that Colston posted from 12/11/08 through this season's contest at Philadelphia, Sept. 27. Colston shares the record with fellow wideout **Lance Moore** who set the mark in 2008.

WR DEVERY HENDERSON

• One of the NFL's top deep threats, the speedy wideout is a dangerous component with his ability to stretch opposing defenses, averaging an NFL-high 21.5 yards per reception since 2006. He has 15 catches of over 50 yards in his career. Henderson enjoyed his best season in 2008 with 32 grabs for a 793 yards and three touchdowns. His 24.8 yards per catch average was ranked first in the NFL among by nearly five yards, the fourth-best since 1950.

• Henderson has continued to make big plays in the passing game in 2009 as he is on pace to exceed his 2008 totals with 31 receptions for 5231 yards (16.8), to rank second on the club in receiving yardage, with a 58-yard touchdown. Henderson is ranked ninth in the NFL in receiving average, while 12 of his catches have occurred on third down to rank first on the club. He's also one of the club's top blocking wideouts.

HIGHEST RECEIVING AVERAGE BY NFL PLAYERS SINCE 1950 (Min. 32 Receptions)

Player	Year	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Bucky Pope, LA Rams	1964	48	964	20.1
2. Mervyn Fernandez, Raiders	1988	31	805	26.0
3. Theo Bell, Pitt.	1980	29	748	25.8
4. Devery Henderson, NO	2008	32	793	24.8
5. Roy Jefferson, Pitt.	1966	32	772	24.1

HIGHEST RECEIVING AVERAGE BY NFL PLAYERS IN 2008 (Min. 25 Receptions)

Player	Team	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Devery Henderson	NO	32	793	24.8
2. Bernard Berrian	Min.	48	964	20.1
3. Justin Gage	Ten.	34	651	19.1
4. Vincent Jackson	SD	59	1,098	18.6
5. Steve Smith	Car.	78	1,421	18.2

• In his five-year career with the Saints, Henderson, a second-round draft choice of the club in 2004, has averaged 20.5 yards per a reception, the highest receiving average of a Saint with at least 100 grabs. Of his 115 grabs since 2006, 31 have been completions of 25 yards or more, the most on the team during this period. Henderson has recorded five 100-yard days, which ranks seventh all-time in club records, 2,811 receiving yards, which ranks eighth, 15 touchdown catches and has rushed for a score. He also owns three of the five-top single-season yards per catch figures in club history.

• A threat on reverses or run plays as well, the speedy Henderson has carried the ball 11 times as a Saint for 86 yards with one touchdown.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-TIME RECEIVING AVERAGE LEADERS (Min. 100 Receptions)

Player	Years	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.
1. Devery Henderson	2004-	137	2,811	20.5
2. Ike Harris	1978-81	104	1,710	16.4
3. Danny Abramowicz	1967-73	309	4,875	15.8
4. Henry Childs	1974-80	207	3,224	15.6
5. Wes Chandler	1978-81	182	2,801	15.4

HIGHEST SINGLE-SEASON RECEIVING AVERAGE IN SAINTS HISTORY (Min. 20 Receptions)

Player, Year	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1. Devery Henderson, 2008	32	793	24.8	3
2. Devery Henderson, 2006	32	745	23.3	5
3. Keith Poole, 1998	24	509	21.2	2
4. Tyrone Young, 1984	29	597	20.6	3
5. Devery Henderson, 2007	20	409	20.5	3

Memorable Moments

September 13, 2009, vs. Detroit: Henderson provided a sparkling performance in his 2009 debut in the season opener vs. Detroit, Sept. 13, leading the club in catches and receiving yardage with five receptions for 103 yards with one touchdown. The scoring grab was a 58-yard third quarter bomb from Brees that gave the Saints a 38-20 lead.

September 20, 2009, at Philadelphia: Henderson had a key 38-yard third down reception as part of a day where he averaged 23.7 yards a reception on three grabs for 71 yards.

October 25, 2009, at Miami: Henderson had a 37-yard third down reception as part of a day where he averaged 17.8 yards a reception on four grabs for 71 yards, two of which went for first downs.

November 2, 2009, vs. Atlanta: Henderson displayed a clutch performance on Monday night football as he made four receptions for 46 yards. His second quarter 24-yard acrobatic grab helped move the Saints inside the five-yard line to set up the go-ahead touchdown.

November 8, 2009, vs. Carolina: Henderson had three receptions for 93 yards (31.0 avg.) to rank second on the club in receiving yardage. His 63 yard reception, which he took all the way to the Carolina ten yard line on New Orleans' first drive of the third quarter, helped set up the touchdown that cut New Orleans' deficit to 17-13.

November 15, 2009, at St. Louis: Henderson had four receptions for a team-leading 72 yards, including 26 and 21-yard grabs. With 2,813 career receiving yards, Henderson moved into eighth on the club's all-time list.

WR LANCE MOORE

• After spending nearly two seasons on the club's practice squad, this former undrafted free agent has developed into one of Brees' most reliable targets in the wide receiver corps. Moore broke out in 2008, as the club's leading receiver with 79 receptions for 928 yards (11.7 avg.) and ten touchdowns, including at least one in five straight contests to set a club record for receiving touchdowns in consecutive games that has since been tied by Colston. His 47-reception improvement in 2008 is tied for the largest in club history. For all Saints who have entered the league undrafted, Moore had the most prolific single season in all receiving categories, tying for 18th in the NFL in receptions, 13th with 22 third down grabs and fifth in scoring catches.

• Moore enjoyed his most productive game of 2009 vs. the New York Giants, Oct. 19, when he finished second on the team with six grabs for 78 yards with one touchdown.

WR ROBERT MEACHEM

• After spending his rookie campaign recovering from a knee injury and learning the Saints offense, the 2007 first round draft choice made a consistent contribution in 2008 as one of the club's deep threats, averaging 23.1 yards per catch in the 14 games he appeared in with three starts, including pass receptions of 74, 52 and 47 yards. Meachem has continued his evolution into an important part of the Saints' high-flying offense in 2009, making 16 receptions for 333 yards (20.8 avg.) with six touchdowns, to tie for the club lead, and four rushes for 71 yards.

• Meachem had a 39-yard scoring grab in the season opener vs. Detroit, Sept. 13.

• Meachem put his deep threat capabilities on display vs. the New York Giants, Oct. 18, when his two receptions totaled 36 and 34 yards, the longer one putting him in the end zone.

• Meachem had receptions of 17 and 30 yards on Monday night football, vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2. His second quarter 30-yard grab moved the Saints into Atlanta territory on a drive that produced the go-ahead touchdown.

• Meachem's 54-yard touchdown reception at the conclusion of play in the third quarter tied the score at 20-20, vs. Carolina, Nov. 8, nearly completing a dramatic comeback. He had a career-high five receptions for 98 yards, one yard off his career high previously established in 2008.

• Meachem made two key explosive plays in the club's win at St. Louis, Nov. 15. His 41-yard reverse in the second quarter helped put the Saint in Rams territory on a scoring drive, while he hauled in a picture perfect 27 yard throw from Brees in the fourth quarter to give the Saints an 11-point lead.

• Both of Meachem's catches were for first half scores at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22, giving him a career-high for receiving touchdowns and four in his last three games.

TE JEREMY SHOCKEY

- Acquired by New Orleans prior to the beginning of their 2008 training camp in a trade, Brees' tallest target has recorded 460 catches for 5,172 yards (11.2 avg.) with 30 touchdowns in his eight-year NFL career. His career reception total is ranked 12th all-time for NFL tight ends, he's 22nd in receiving yardage and is tied for 39th in receiving touchdowns.

- A healthy Shockey has made a resurgent return to his Pro Bowl form, ranking second on the Saints in receiving with 39 grabs for 461 yards (11.8 avg.) with three touchdowns. his blocking has also played a key role in the fifth-ranked rushing offense in the NFL.

- Shockey tied a career-high with two touchdown grabs, his first time in the end zone as a Saint, vs. Detroit, Sept. 13.

- On a windy day where the run game took precedence at Buffalo, Sept. 27, Shockey was a key outlet for Brees, leading the team with six catches for 48 yards, while providing key blocking for a 222-yard rushing effort, the highest by the club since 2006.

- Shockey tied for the team lead with four receptions for 34 yards vs. the New York Jets, Oct. 4.

- Shockey made four receptions for 37 yards with a first half one-yard TD grab in his first meeting against his former team, the New York Giants, Oct. 18.

- Shockey enjoyed his finest game as a Saint at Miami, Oct. 25. He caught four passes for 105 yards, his highest yardage total as a Saint and the first time he reached the century mark since the 2007 season. Shockey's career-long 66 yard catch and run, helped set up a touchdown that put the Saints within three points in their amazing comeback.

- Shockey followed up his strong performance in South Florida under the lights of Monday Night Football, vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2, when he recorded five receptions for 72 yards, his second-highest receiving totals of 2009. Four of his catches moved the chains for first downs.

- Shockey has been selected to four Pro Bowls in his NFL career. Among active NFL tight ends, his reception total is ranked third overall, his yardage total is fourth and he's caught least one pass in 104 straight regular season games in which he played in, the second-longest active streak among active tight ends.

MOST CAREER RECEPTIONS AMONG ACTIVE NFL TIGHT ENDS

<u>Tight End</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Tony Gonzalez, KC, Atl.	968
2. Jason Witten, Dal.	483
3. Jeremy Shockey, NYG, NO	458

MOST CAREER RECEIVING YARDS AMONG ACTIVE NFL TIGHT ENDS

<u>Tight End</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Tony Gonzalez, KC, Atl.	11,523
2. Antonio Gates, SD	5,775
3. Jason Witten, Dal.	5,416
4. Jeremy Shockey, NYG, NO	5,155

MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION AMONG ACTIVE NFL TIGHT ENDS

<u>Tight End</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Tony Gonzalez, KC, Atl.	142
2. Jeremy Shockey, NYG, NO	105
3. Antonio Gates, SD	90

TE DAVID THOMAS

- Acquired from the New England Patriots at the conclusion of training camp, Thomas has proven to be a quick study in the Saints offense and has served as a solid second option at the tight end position to Shockey. Thomas has enjoyed his most productive season with 16 receptions for 189 yards with one touchdown.

- Thomas' career-long 37-yard first quarter reception helped put the Saints in scoring position at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22. He enjoyed his finest game as a Saint and one of the top of his career with four receptions for 66 yards, including a third quarter 11-yard TD grab.

DEFENSIVE LINE

DE CHARLES GRANT

- A defensive cornerstone and the club's longest tenured player, Grant has been a force as a pass rusher and versus the run. He's recorded 46 sacks since being selected by in the first round of the NFL Draft in 2002 to rank seventh on the club's all-time list. Grant has appeared in 112 games with 100 starts and made 491 tackles (330 solo), 13 forced fumbles, 23 pass defenses, five fumble recoveries and an interception.

- Grant has teamed with fellow end **Will Smith** and played a key role in a defensive effort that's provided the pass rush for an NFL-leading 17 interceptions, He's ranked second on the club with 4.5 sacks, for which he's tied for 16th in the NFC and 30th in the NFL and has chipped in 37 tackles (17 solo).

- Grant notched his first two sacks of the season, among his three tackles at Buffalo, Sept. 27.

- Grant posted his second straight multi-sack game - the first time he has achieved the feat in his career, dropping New York QB **Mark Sanchez** twice among his six tackles to go along with one pass defense vs. the Jets, Oct. 4.

- Grant had six tackles (three solo) and a half sack at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

DE WILL SMITH

- Smith has recorded 390 tackles (247 solo), 45 sacks, one interception, 17 pass defenses, 16 forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and one Pro Bowl selection (2006) in 88 games with 69 starts since being drafted 18th overall by the team in 2004.

- Smith has 48 tackles (24 solo), a team-leading 8.5 sacks, tied for second in the NFC and fifth in the NFL, three forced fumbles, tied for fourth in the NFL, one interception and three pass defenses in 2009.

NFL LEADERS IN SACKS IN 2009

<u>Player</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Elvis Dumervil, Den.	12
2. Jared Allen, Min.	10.5
3. James Harrison, Pit.	10
4. Dwight Freeney, Ind.	9.5.
5t. Will Smith, NO	8.5
5t. Trent Cole, Phi.	8.5
5t. Robert Mathis, Ind.	8.5

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- Smith caught an errant tipped pass several feet in the air and had a sack among his six tackles in a dominating performance at Buffalo, Sept. 27.

- Smith combined with Grant for their second consecutive dominant game as he notched 1.5 sacks of Sanchez, stripping the ball on the first leading to a fumble recovery in the end zone for a TD, while adding six tackles (three solo) vs. New York Jets, Oct. 4.

- Smith enjoyed a dominating performance on Monday Night Football vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2, when he dropped Falcons QB **Matt Ryan** twice, tying a career-high in takedowns, while adding four tackles (two solo) and one pass defense.

- Smith sacked Panthers QB **Jake Delhomme** twice to post two takedowns for the second consecutive week vs. Carolina, Nov. 8. He stripped the ball in the fourth quarter on a sack.

- Smith took down Rams QB **Marc Bulger** and forced him to cough up the ball to go along with seven tackles at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

- Smith continued a highly productive month of November, where he has recorded six sacks with a takedown Buccaneers QB **Josh Freeman**, at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22.

- Since arriving in New Orleans, Smith has been particularly good at creating turnovers. He enjoyed a stretch of five-straight games where he caused a fumble (the final four games of his rookie season and 2005 season opener), the lone player in club history to do so. Smith has forced 16 fumbles in his six-year career, tied for the 11th highest total in the NFL over this span, and has six recoveries on his resume.

NFL LEADERS IN FORCED FUMBLES FROM 2004-

<u>Player</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Robert Mathis, Ind.	30
2t. Dwight Freeney, Ind.	23
2t. Jason Taylor, Wash., Mia.	23
4t. John Abraham, NYJ, Atl.	21
4t. Julius Peppers, Car.	21
6t. Charles Tillman, Chi.	20
6t. DeMarcus Ware, Dal.	20
8. Jared Allen, KC, Min.	19
9t. Brian Dawkins, Phi., Den.	17
9t. James Harrison, Pit.	17
11t. Will Smith, NO	16
11t. Aaron Schobel, Buf.	16
11t. Osi Umenyiora, NYG	16

By The Numbers

3 – Consecutive seasons Smith led the Saints in sacks from 2005-07.

16 – Career forced fumbles, including a club record five-game stretch in 2004-05 where he had one in each game. It's tied for the 11th highest total in the NFL over the last six seasons.

45 – With 45 takedowns, the ninth highest total in team record books.

85 – Tackles in 2005, a career high despite starting just nine games.

10.5 – Number of sacks posted by Smith in his breakout season of 2006 - his first as a full-time starter - helping him earn a starting nod in the Pro Bowl.

18 – Smith was selected by the Saints out of Ohio State with the 18th overall pick in 2004, the highest the club had drafted a defensive end since selecting **Joe Johnson** 13th overall in 1994.

DE BOBBY McCRAY

- The sleek, speedy McCray, a five-year NFL veteran, has appeared in 87 regular season games with 37 starts and recorded 178 tackles (134 solo), 29 sacks, ten passes defensed, nine forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

- Joining the Saints in 2008 after spending his first four seasons with Jacksonville, McCray appeared in 16 games with eight starts replacing an injured Grant midway in game nine and had 37 tackles (26 solo), a team-leading six sacks, the second-best tackle and takedown totals of his career, and one forced fumble. McCray used his combination of a lean body and quick burst to produce two multiple-sack performances.

- McCray recorded the first sack by the Saints defensive line in 2009 in the fourth quarter at Philadelphia, Sept. 20, when he dropped Eagles QB **Kevin Kolb** for a seven-yard loss.

- McCray recorded two tackles and one forced fumble at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

DL ANTHONY HARGROVE

- Hargrove is a five-year NFL veteran who brings a combination of quality depth, versatility and experience to the Saints defensive front. Possessing the athleticism, strength and versatility to play either the end or tackle, he's appeared in 67 regular season contests with 23 starts and recorded 235 tackles (121 solo) to go with 13.5 sacks, eight passes defensed, two forced fumbles and five fumble recoveries.

- After serving a one-year NFL suspension, a rejuvenated Hargrove is in the midst of an inspirational comeback on and off the field. Hargrove is currently ranked among leaders on the defensive line with 43 tackles (20 solo), three sacks to rank third on the club, three fumble recoveries, tied for the highest total in the NFL and three passes defensed.

- Hargrove saw action at tackle following injury to **Sedrick Ellis** at Miami, Oct. 25 and recorded his first two sacks as a Saint, tying a career-high.

- Hargrove started at defensive tackle in place of an injured Ellis, vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2, opening his first game as a Saint and responded with a four tackles (three) solo and a fourth quarter sack.

- Hargrove started at tackle vs. Carolina, Nov. 8 and enjoyed a career day, making four tackles and recovering both fourth quarter fumbles, the second of which he had stripped from Panthers RB **DeAngelo Williams** and returned the ball one yard into the end zone for his first career TD to ice the 30-20 victory. He was named the NFC Defensive Player of the Week.

- Hargrove jumped on a fumble forced by LB **Scott Fujita** at the Buccaneer 25-yard line, leading to a short touchdown at the start of the third quarter which would give the Saints a 24-7 lead, at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22.

DT SEDRICK ELLIS

- The seventh choice in the 2008 NFL draft out of USC, Ellis started all 13 games he played in, recording 42 tackles, while tying for fourth among NFL rookies and second in the NFC with four sacks, the second-highest total on the team. He was selected to the *Pro Football Weekly* all-rookie team. Through six games in 2009, Ellis has 28 tackles (11 solo), while chipping in one sack and two pass defenses.

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- Ellis posted a new career-high with ten tackles (four solo) and recorded one sack for a five-yard loss, in a standout defensive effort at Buffalo, Sept. 27 that yielded only 89 yards on the ground to the Bills.

DT REMI AYODELE

- After splitting time between the practice squads and active rosters of the Cowboys and Saints for his first two NFL seasons, Ayodele's combination of size, work ethic and determination have landed him a starting spot at the nose tackle position.

- Ayodele has manned nose tackle, playing a key role in freeing blockers for the team's other linemen and linebackers to make tackles, while making several key plays. He has recorded 31 tackles (16 solo), 1.5 sacks, a pass defense and a fumble recovery for a TD.

- Ayodele had the finest performance of his career when he started at nose tackle and scored his first career touchdown when he jumped on a fumble in the end zone that Smith had stripped from Sanchez vs. New York Jets, Oct. 4. Ayodele also posted a career-high six tackles in the standout effort.

- Ayodele recorded the first sack of his NFL career, when he dropped Giants QB **David Carr** on the final play of the game vs. New York, Oct. 18.

- Ayodele shared a quarterback takedown with Grant at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

LINEBACKERS

LB SCOTT FUJITA

- The first free agent signed by the Saints in 2006 after a new coaching staff was in place, this versatile veteran is a key leader of the defense. Fujita has established himself as one of the team's top defenders from the strong side position with his impressive production and leadership abilities.

- Since arriving in New Orleans in 2006, Fujita posted 384 tackles (236 solo), 7.5 sacks, seven forced fumbles, four interceptions, two fumble recoveries and 17 pass defenses. In 2009 he's recorded 34 stops (20 solo) and two pass defenses.

- Fujita is the first Saint to have recorded 100 or more tackles in three consecutive seasons since **Sammy Knight** accomplished the feat from 2000-02.

SAINTS LINEBACKERS WITH THREE STRAIGHT 100-TACKLE SEASONS SINCE 1980

<u>Linebacker</u>	<u>Seasons</u>
Scott Fujita	2006-08
Rickey Jackson	1984-86
Sam Mills	1990-92
Mark Fields	1996-98

- Fujita was among the team leaders in tackles with seven stops (four solo) and defended one pass in the season opener vs. Detroit, Sept. 13.

- Fujita recorded a season-high ten tackles (five solo), including one stop for a loss at Buffalo, Sept. 27.

- Fujita enjoyed a standout performance, tying for the team lead with eight tackles at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22 and making an impact play at the start of the third quarter when he sacked QB **Josh Freeman** on a blitz, forcing a fumble which was recovered.

LB SCOTT SHANLE

- Shanle has been a vastly underrated and vital part of the Saints' defense since arriving in 2006. He's a three-down linebacker who can blitz, cover running backs and tight ends and fill holes in the running attack. Making 435 tackles from 2006-09, Shanle has recorded more stops than any other Saints defender during this period.

- In 2009 from the weakside spot he has manned since coming to New Orleans, Shanle has displayed a nose for the football along with his reliable tackling as he is ranked third on the club with 77 tackles (55 solo), two defensive fumble recoveries, to tie for second in the NFC and third in the NFL and the first two interceptions of his career, to tie for 20th in the NFC and first among NFL linebackers. He is tied for first in the league for total takeaways for a linebacker with four.

MOST TAKEAWAYS BY AN NFL LINEBACKER IN 2009

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Int.</u>	<u>FR</u>	<u>Total Takeaways</u>
1t. Scott Shanle	NO	2	2	4
1t. Chad Greenway	Min.	2	2	4
3t. James Laurinaitis	StL	2	1	3
3t. David Hawthorne	Sea.	3	0	3
3t. Clay Matthews	GB	0	3	3

- Shanle recorded his first career interception , when he picked off Lions QB **Matthew Stafford** to go along with seven tackles (four solo) in the season opener vs. Detroit, Sept. 13.

- Shanle recorded an interception in his second consecutive contest at Philadelphia, Sept. 20, bringing back a **Kevin Kolb** pass three yards, while leading the Saints with 14 tackles (11 solo).

- Shanle scooped up a fumble in the second quarter vs. New York Giants, Oct. 18 and raced 12 yards to set up subsequent touchdown.

- Shanle's adept second quarter fumble recovery, led to the touchdown that got the Saints out of a first half 24-3 hole at Miami, Oct. 25. He also chipped in eight solo tackles.

LB JONATHAN VILMA

- Vilma has brought a blend of youth and experience to the middle of the defense. The Miami (Fla.) product has earned a reputation as one of the top middle linebackers in the NFL, capturing NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year honors in 2004 and being selected to the Pro Bowl in 2005. Through his first six seasons, his first four with the New York Jets and last two in New Orleans, Vilma has recorded 689 tackles (462 solo), eight interceptions, 4.5 sacks, eight forced fumbles, six fumble recoveries and 28 pass defenses, starting 79 of the 81 games he has appeared in. Vilma has recorded at least 100 tackles in four of his first five NFL campaigns, only missing out in 2007 due to a knee injury.

- Vilma was ranked first on the club with 151 tackles (100 solo), the highest total by a Saint since 1997, two forced fumbles and a team-leading three fumble recoveries, while adding a sack, an interception, and eight pass defenses as he returned from injury. His defensive fumble recovery total was tied for second in the NFC and fourth in the NFL. With four total takeaways, he was tied for fourth in the NFC and sixth in the NFL for most turnovers recovered by a linebacker in 2008. He was voted by teammates as the club's 2008 Ed Block Courage Award winner, given to a player that has persevered though adversity.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- In March, Vilma signed a five-year contract with the Saints, ensuring he'll remain a defensive cornerstone. He was elected by his teammates the defensive team captain for the 2009 season. Vilma is currently ranked second on the Saints with 78 tackles (63solo), recording one quarterback takedown, one interception and chipping in six passes defended.

- Vilma recorded four solo tackles, a sack of Lions QB **Matthew Stafford** for a loss of seven yards and one pass defense vs. Detroit, Sept. 13, keying a defensive effort that surrendered only 231 yards.

- The South Florida native played in his hometown for the first time since joining the Saints at Miami, Oct. 25 and led the team with 11 solo tackles, including three behind the line of scrimmage.

- Vilma tipped a pass by Falcons QB **Matt Ryan** in the fourth quarter at the New Orleans one-yard line on Monday Night Football vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2 with the Saints holding only a four point lead. The ball was adeptly picked up by CB **Tracy Porter** and returned 18 yards, helping create the drive that would lead to the touchdown and give the Saints an 11-point cushion. Vilma finished tied for third on the Saints with nine tackles (seven solo).

- Vilma enjoyed a season-best 12 tackles (ten solo), with two of his stops coming from behind the line of scrimmage, vs. Carolina, Nov. 8.

- Vilma had 12 tackles (11 solo) for the second consecutive week as he played a key role in New Orleans' run-stopping effort that limited Rams RB **Steven Jackson** to 31 second half rushing yards at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

- Vilma had his first interception of the season with a third quarter pick of QB **Josh Freeman** near midfield, at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22.

SECONDARY

S ROMAN HARPER

- Harper teams with free agent acquisition **Darren Sharper** in the deepest reaches of the secondary to give the Saints a solid duo in the deepest reaches of the secondary. Harper, the team's second round draft choice in 2006, who has started all 46 games he has been active for in his career at strong safety, is ranked first on the team with 91 stops (59 solo), 1.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, to tie for second on the club, and five pass defenses.

- A sure tackler and fierce blitzer, Harper has recorded six sacks since making his debut in 2006, tied for third in the NFL among safeties during this time period and ranked second all-time among Saints safeties. His six forced fumbles since 2006 ranks second on the club over the period, sixth among NFL safeties and second all-time among Saints safeties.

NFL LEADERS AMONG SAFETIES IN SACKS FROM 2006-PRESENT

<u>Player</u>	<u>No.</u>
1t. Kerry Rhodes, NYJ	8
1t. Adrian Wilson, Ari.	8
3t. Chinedum Ndukwe, Cin.	6.5
3t. Roman Harper, NO	6.5
5. Michael Lewis, Phi., SF	5.5

NFL LEADERS AMONG SAFETIES IN FORCED FUMBLES FROM 2006-PRESENT

<u>Player</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Oshiomogho Atogwe, StL	12
2. Brian Dawkins, Phi., Den.	11
3. Chris Harris, Chi., Car.	10
4t. Jermaine Phillips, TB	7
4t. Adrian Wilson, Ari.	7
6. Roman Harper, NO	6

- Harper led the Saints with ten tackles (seven solo) , including one stop for a loss in the team's victory at Buffalo, Sept. 27.

- Harper tied for the team lead with seven tackles (three solo) vs. New York, Oct. 18 and added one pass defense. He sacked Giants QB **Eli Manning** in the second quarter and forced him to cough up the ball on a play where it was recovered by Shanle.

- Harper stripped a ball for a forced fumble for the second consecutive week, which set up New Orleans' first touchdown of the game to help them start a rally from a 21-point deficit at Miami, Oct. 25. He also added six tackles (four solo) and one pass defense.

- Harper Led the Saints with 11 tackles (eight solo) vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2.

- Harper continued to shine as a tackler, posting a career-best and team-leading 14 tackles, with four of them coming for a loss.

- Harper tied for the team led with 12 tackles (six solo), his third straight week of double digit stops and added two pass defenses at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

- Harper split a sack with **Leigh Torrence** on the final play of the first half to go along five tackles (three solo) and one pass defense at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22.

S DARREN SHARPER

- The addition of Sharper strengthened the secondary with a proven performer with playmaking ability, leadership skills and a wealth of experience. The NFL's active leader with 61 interceptions, which ranked ninth all-time, he's been voted to the Pro Bowl four times and scored 11 touchdowns off of picks, the second-highest total in NFL history. The 13-year NFL veteran has appeared in 192 regular season games with 176 starts and has extensive postseason experience in ten games, seven of which he opened.

- 11 of Sharper's picks have been returned for touchdowns, second-most in NFL history. The consistent tackler has posted 75 or more stops ten times. Sharper's ranked first among active NFL players in career picks, ninth overall. He's ranked second among all-time interception return yardage leaders with 1,353.

Pickoff Artist

MOST INTERCEPTIONS IN 2009

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Jairus Byrd	Buf.	8
2. Darren Sharper	NO	7
3t. Asante Samuel	Phi.	5
3t. Aqib Talib	TB	5
3t. Charles Woodson	GB	5
3t. Jonathan Joseph	Cin.	5
3t. Leigh Bodden	NE	5

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

MOST CAREER INTERCEPTIONS BY ACTIVE NFL PLAYERS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Darren Sharper	1997-	61
2. Ty Law	1995-	52
3. Ed Reed	2002-	46
4. Champ Bailey	1999-	44
5. Dre' Bly	1999-	41

MOST CAREER INTERCEPTIONS IN NFL HISTORY

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Paul Krause	1964-79	81
2. Emlen Tunnell	1948-61	79
3. Rod Woodson	1987-03	71
4. Night Train Lane	1952-65	68
5. Ken Riley	1969-83	65
6. Ronnie Lott	1981-94	63
7t. Dick LeBeau	1959-72	62
7t. Dave Brown	1975-89	62
9. Darren Sharper	1997-	61
10. Emmitt Thomas	1966-78	58

MOST CAREER INTERCEPTION RETURN YARDAGE IN NFL HISTORY

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Rod Woodson	1987-03	1483
2. Darren Sharper	1997-	1353
3. Deion Sanders	1989-05	1331
4. Emlen Tunnell	1948-61	1282
5. Ed Reed	2002-	1255

MOST CAREER INTERCEPTIONS FOR TOUCHDOWNS IN NFL HISTORY

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>No.</u>
1. Rod Woodson	1987-03	12
2. Darren Sharper	1997-	11
3t. Ken Houston	1967-80	9
3t. Deion Sanders	1989-05	9
3t. Aeneas Williams	1991-04	9

- Sharper has found the fountain of youth in New Orleans and backed up his reputation as one of the NFL's top defensive playmakers, ranking first in the NFC and second in the NFL with seven interceptions, including two multiple pick performances. A career-high and club record three of his interceptions were returned for touchdowns, while he's added 54 tackles (30 solo), half a sack and seven pass defenses.

- Sharper has already set a career-high and a single season club record in picks for scores and his 317 return yards is a franchise record and is tied for the ninth-highest single season total in NFL record books. With one more pick for a touchdown, He will tie the all-time NFL record both overall (12) and in a single season (4).

- Sharper made a pair of interceptions in his Saints debut vs. Detroit, Sept. 13. It was the first time a Saints safety had two picks in a game for since **Jay Bellamy** had a pair vs. Dallas, Dec. 28, 2003.

- Sharper's fourth quarter then-career-long and 97-yard interception return of Eagles QB **Kevin Kolb** for a touchdown at Philadelphia, Sept. 20 was one for the record books, tying him for the longest return in club history. It marked his 57th career pick, catapulting him into the top ten-all time among interceptors, his ninth for a score, moving him into a tie for second place in touchdown returns.

- Sharper enjoyed another record day vs. the New York Jets Oct. 4, when he led the team with nine tackles (six solo) and intercepted QB **Mark Sanchez** twice, the first which he returned a career-long and club record 99 yards for a touchdown to give the Saints

a 10-0 lead. The picks moved him into ninth place on the NFL's all-time list while he's now ranked second among players in interceptions for TDs. Sharper joins **Deion Sanders** (1994) as the only other NFL player to have to interception returns of at least 90 yards in the same season. He split a sack with Smith and was named NFC Defensive Player of the Week.

- Sharper played a key role in the team's 46-34 victory at Miami, Oct. 25, when he picked off a **Chad Henne** pass early in the third quarter and returned it 42 yards for a touchdown, the 11th return for a TD of his career. With the return, he set a team-mark for most interceptions for TDs in a season and passed Sanders into second place on the all-time return yardage list with 1,353 yards. He also added four tackles.

- Sharper killed Atlanta's flickering comeback hopes late in the fourth quarter, Nov. 2, when his interception of Falcons QB **Matt Ryan** at the New Orleans five with three seconds left. He added seven tackles and two passes defended.

- Sharper posted a season-best ten tackles (seven solo) with two passes defended vs. Carolina, Nov. 8.

S USAMA YOUNG

- Young, chosen by the Saints in the third round of the 2007 NFL Draft, is another member of that class who has shown steady improvement. The speedster has appeared in 38 games with three starts and recording 46 tackles (40 solo), three interceptions and seven passes defended while continuing to be a stalwart on the special teams units where he has garnered 45 stops. Young has move to back up and learn from Sharper at the free safety position for 2009.

- Young received his first career start at free safety in place of an injured Sharper at St. Louis, Nov. 15 and stopped a Rams scoring drive when he returned a pass 24 yards out of the end zone to go with four tackles (two solo).

CB RANDALL GAY

- The 2008 signing of Gay from New England has proven to be a valuable addition to the secondary. A Brusly native and Louisiana State University product, Gay has recorded 169 tackles (64 solo), one sack, six interceptions, 36 passes defended, one forced fumble and three fumble recoveries, returning two for a touchdown in his six-year NFL career. In his second season in New Orleans, Gay recorded 21 tackles (15 solo), one interception and five passes defended in ten games with two starts.

- He's brought valuable postseason experience to New Orleans on both the college and professional levels, having appeared in two Super Bowls, winning one as well as having been part of a National Championship team with the Tigers.

- Gay notched his first interception as a Saint in the fourth quarter vs. New York Jets, Oct. 4, while also adding two pass defenses.

CB TRACY PORTER

- The fleet-footed Porter, the club's second-round draft choice in 2008, made an immediate ascension into the starting lineup and was ranked among the club's defensive leaders with 32 tackles (26 solo) with one interception, one sack and five passes defended before suffering a season-ending right wrist injury in the fifth contest of the season which required surgery.

WEEK 12: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

- The Port Allen, La. native has returned to the lineup and made 53 tackles (37 solo), three interceptions, two forced fumbles and 11 passes defended. He's ranked second on the club in interceptions despite missing last week's contest with a knee injury.

- Porter intercepted a hail mary pass of Eagles QB **Kevin Kolb** at the Saints ten-yard line as time expired to go along with four tackles and a pass defense at Philadelphia, Sept. 20.

- Porter made nine tackles (six solo) and three pass defenses, before he iced New Orleans' victory at Miami, Oct. 25, with a 54-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter.

- Porter's interception vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2 at the Saints one-yard line, stopped a potential score while the Saints held a narrow fourth quarter 28-24 lead.

- Porter had the first two forced fumbles of his career, to go with six tackles vs. Carolina, Nov. 8

CB JABARI GREER

- Signed to a four-year contract as an unrestricted free agent, Greer was a significant offseason addition that has bolstered the Saints secondary. In his first five NFL seasons with Buffalo, Greer evolved from the role of special teams demon to starting his last 23 games at cornerback for the Bills. One of the NFL's fastest players and a former NCAA Champion in track at Tennessee, the speedy Greer tied for the NFL lead by returning two interceptions for touchdowns in 2008.

- Greer has assumed a starting position opposite Porter and has 47 tackles (38 solo), two interceptions and leads them with 12 passes defended despite missing the past two games with a groin injury.

- Greer made four solo tackles and recorded his first interception as a Saint when he picked off an **Eli Manning** pass vs. New York Giants, Oct. 18.

- Greer's 48-yard interception return for a touchdown with 42 seconds remaining in the first half vs. Atlanta, Nov. 2, gave the Saints a 14 point lead going into halftime. He also added five tackles (four solo) and two passes defense.

CB MALCOLM JENKINS

- A consensus All-American at Ohio State and the top-rated defensive back in the 2009 NFL Draft, Jenkins became the second corner the Saints have chosen in the first round when the club picked him 14th overall. As a senior, he was honored with the Thorpe Award after making 57 tackles (34 solo), adding three forced fumbles, three interceptions, two blocked punts and a sack. He was an All-Big 10 selection for his last three years and key member of the OSU 2007 BCS Championship finalist team. His college totals include 196 stops (124 solo), 28 pass defenses, three blocked punts and four forced fumbles.

- Jenkins has made a strong impression on special teams, also working in the nickel, leading the units with two forced fumbles and a recovery, also making seven coverage stops and 14 defensive tackles, one interception and three pass defenses.

- In his first NFL start at cornerback at Tampa Bay, Nov. 22, Jenkins intercepted a second quarter pass for his first career pick and also tied for the team lead with eight tackles (four solo) and chipped in a pass defense.

CB MIKE MCKENZIE

- McKenzie has been one of the Saints' top defenders and a leader in the secondary since arriving in an early season trade from Green Bay in 2004. A starter in 62 of the 63 games he has appeared in for New Orleans, he leads the club over the span with 12 interceptions while often taking on the opponent's top wide receiver. Known for his fiery play and toughness, McKenzie has started 129 of 133 contests in his career. McKenzie was re-signed this week and will add depth to the Saints secondary.

CB CHRIS McALLISTER

- McAllister signed with the Saints, bringing a wealth of experience to the secondary and depth at cornerback. A 10-year veteran who spent his entire career with the Baltimore Ravens, he has played in 135 regular season games with 127 starts and has made 490 tackles with 160 pass defenses, two forced fumbles, seven recoveries and 26 interceptions, four returned for touchdowns.

SPECIAL TEAMS

SPECIALISTS

- The Saints feature one of the top specialist combinations in the NFL, featuring a solid combination of experience and youth with K **John Carney**, LS **Jason Kyle** and rookie P **Thomas Morstead**.

- Carney, one of the top kickers in team history, returns to New Orleans in 2009. The third-leading scorer in NFL record books with 2,036 points, the 21-year NFL veteran is coming off a Pro Bowl season with the New York Giants. Monday, Carney will become only the sixth player in NFL history to appear in 300 games, joining former Saint **Morten Andersen** (377), **Gary Anderson** (346), **Jeff Feagles** (345), **George Blanda** (325) and **Jerry Rice** (302).

- Once again in 2009, he has displayed his trademark consistency as he's made 12-of-15 field goal attempts and is ranked fourth in the NFC and sixth in the NFL in scoring among kickers with 81 points, on pace to challenge the club's single season scoring record that he set (130) in 2002.

- Carney appeared in his 100th game as a Saint vs. New York Giants, Oct. 18, becoming the 42nd player in club history to reach the century mark. Carney also became the sixth player in NFL history to appear in 100 games for two different teams (he played in 160 games for San Diego from 1990-2000). Two others on the list are former Saints: Andersen (NO 196, Atl. 124) and C **Jerry Fontenot** (Chi. 128, NO 100). The others are Blanda (Oak. 126, Chi. 115), **Ed White** (Min. 122, SD 119) and **Ron McDole** (Was. 114, Buf. 109).

- With his first quarter 46-yard field goal at Miami, Oct. 25, Carney joined Morten Anderson (2,544), Gary Anderson (2,434) and George Blanda (2,002) in the select club of players with 2,000 points. With ten points, he moved past Blanda into third place all-time.

SAINTS ALL-TIME SCORING LEADERS

<u>Player, Years</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>PAT</u>	<u>FG</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. K Morten Andersen (1982-94)	0	412	302	1,318
2. K John Carney (2001-06, 09-)	0	256	162	742
3. K Doug Brien (1995-2000)	0	144	123	513

SAINTS SEASON SCORING LEADERS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. K John Carney	2002	130
2. K Morten Andersen	1987	121
3. K Morten Andersen	1985, 1992	120

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CLUTCH KICKER

Carney has 15 game-winning field goals. He has drilled 12 field goals in the final ten seconds in his career, more than any active kicker.

NEW ORLEANS (Six since 2001)

Date	FG (time remaining)	Opponent	Score
10/28/01	27 yards (:01)	at St. Louis	34-31
11/2/03	47 yards (:08)	at Tampa Bay	17-14
11/16/03	36 yards (11:01, OT)	vs. Atlanta	23-20
9/26/04	31 yards (7:56, OT)	at St. Louis	28-25
9/11/05	47 yards (:03)	at Carolina	23-20
10/15/06	31 yards (:00)	vs. Philadelphia	27-24

NEW YORK GIANTS (One, 2008)

Date	FG (time remaining)	Opponent	Score
9/21/08	22 yards (6:23, OT)	vs. Cincinnati	26-20

SAN DIEGO (Eight, 1990-2000)

Date	FG (time remaining)	Opponent	Score
11/10/91	54 yards (:18)	vs. Seattle	17-14
11/17/91	19 yards (:08)	vs. New Orleans	24-21
9/19/93	27 yards (:03)	vs. Houston	18-17
12/5/93	34 yards (:03)	vs. Denver	13-10
9/25/94	33 yards (:02)	at L.A. Raiders	26-24
12/24/94	32 yards (:03)	vs. Pittsburgh	37-34
12/17/95	43 yards (:03)	at Indianapolis	27-24
10/17/99	41 yards (:00)	vs. Seattle	13-10

- Kyle, a 15-year NFL veteran brings 191 regular season and playoff games and a high level of consistency to the snapping position.

- Morstead, the club's fifth round draft pick in 2009, was among the nation's top punters at Southern Methodist University and has recorded a 43.6 gross punting average and a 37.0 net average. Morstead's kickoffs have been outstanding and have consistently sailed into the end zone as he tied for second in the NFC and third in the NFL with 14 touchbacks.

PUNT/KICKOFF COVERAGE UNITS

- Players who play key roles in the kickoff and punt coverage units include LB **Jonathan Casillas**, DE **Jeff Charleston**, TE **Darnell Dinkins**, LB **Jo-Lonn Dunbar**, LB **Troy Evans**, Jenkins, LB **Marvin Mitchell**, S **Pierson Prioleau**, S **Chris Reis**, WR **Courtney Roby**, and Young.

- The only undrafted free agent to make the 53-man active roster on opening day in 2008, Dunbar established himself as one of the most active players on the club's special teams units, ranking with 16 coverage tackles. He's made 11 special teams stops in 2009 to go along with 14 defensive tackles (seven solo) and a pass defense in spot duty.

- Evans was signed from the Houston Texans in 2007 and has played an important role on the coverage units since joining the Saints. In his NFL career, he has recorded 119 special teams tackles and three fumble recoveries. The second-year special teams captain recorded a career-high and team-leading 20 stops and a fumble recovery on the coverage units in 2008. He's recorded 12 special teams stops, while also filling in with six stops on defense, starting at Miami, Oct. 25, at strongside in substitute for an injured Fujita.

- While serving as a backup at running back, where he has rushed for a touchdown, Hamilton has also added two tackles on coverage.

- Saving a touchdown with a tackle in the red zone on a long kickoff return vs. Detroit, Sept. 13, Jenkins has embraced his role on special teams. On Sept. 20 at Philadelphia, he stripped the ball on a kickoff return

from Philadelphia's **Ellis Hobbs**, which was recovered and helped set up a quick Saints touchdown at the start of the second half. Jenkins, the club's leader with five special teams stops, made another big stop on coverage at Buffalo, Sept. 27, forcing Bills returner **Roscoe Parrish** to fumble and recover on a punt return, setting up the go-ahead field goal. He's ranked among club leaders with seven special teams tackles despite missing two contests with an ankle injury.

- In addition to backing up Vilma at middle linebacker and seeing action inside when New Orleans moves into a four linebacker formation, Mitchell will continue to play a key role on the coverage units. The 2007 seventh round draft choice is tied for second on the team with 14 tackles on coverage to go along with 13 stops (12 solo) on defense.

- One of the top special teams players in the NFL Prioleau has recorded 146 coverage tackles in his 11 seasons in addition to providing solid secondary play in nickel and dime packages. He's ranked first on the Saints with 16 special teams stops.

- Reis has emerged from the practice squad into a valuable member of the special teams coverage units. He made a game-changing play in the opening of the second half at Philadelphia, Sept. 20, when he recovered a ball on the opening kickoff that had been stripped by Jenkins, setting up a quick touchdown. He is ranked among leaders on the Saints with nine special teams tackles in 2009 and has ten tackles, one sack and an interception in his career.

- In addition to handling kickoff returns, Roby is ranked third on the Saints with 13 coverage tackles despite not being on the roster for the season opener. He set a career-high with six special teams stops vs. New York Giants, Oct. 8.

- Young has made an impact on the coverage units with his speed and aggressiveness. After recording 20 stops to rank first on the club in his rookie season in 2007, he finished second on the units with 19 stops in 2008. He's among team leaders in 2009 with six coverage stops.

RETURN UNITS

- Bush finished the 2008 season ranked second in the NFC and third in the NFL in punt return average (13.5) and first in the league in touchdown returns (3) following his record-setting performance with two runbacks for touchdowns on Monday Night Football vs. Minnesota. Despite missing six games due to knee injuries he was a Pro Bowl first alternate selection. Moore also has previously handled punt return duties.

- Roby reprises his role that he filled so well in the second half of the 2008 season in returning kickoffs. He's currently ranked third in the NFC and fourth in the NFL with a 28.8 kickoff return average. He's ranked first all-time on the club with a 27.1 kickoff return average. Thomas also is an experienced returner with a 24.7 average.

- Roby enjoyed a career-day on special teams at Miami, Oct. 25, when he ran back a career-long kickoff 87 yards to set up a Carney field goal as part of his career-high 185 yards on six returns.

- Roby put the Saints in the lead on the opening kickoff of the second half following a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, the first of his career and the first by the club since 2004, at St. Louis, Nov. 15.

SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Entering his fourth season with the New Orleans Saints, Sean Payton already ranks among the most successful coaches in franchise history, with accomplishments that include winning NFL Coach of the Year honors, leading the club to an appearance in the NFC Championship and overseeing an offense that has shattered the majority of the team's all-time records.

Payton has also instilled a winning culture within the organization since his arrival by stressing the principles of responsibility, character and accountability. He has rebuilt the roster and put together a staff of coaches that is deep in teachers of the fundamentals. As the team enters preparations for the 2009 campaign, only seven players remain from the roster Payton inherited when he took over in 2006.

In 2008, the Saints ranked No. 1 in the NFL in total offense for only the second time in franchise history – duplicating the feat originally achieved in 2006, Payton's first season with the team. With Payton serving as play-caller, last season, the Saints set franchise records for points (463), total yards (6,571), net passing yardage (4,977), touchdowns (57) and first downs (354).

Also in 2008, New Orleans defeated playoff participants Atlanta and San Diego – with the victory over the Chargers coming in the NFL International Series at London's Wembley Stadium. The Saints also tied a team record for single-game scoring in a 51-29 win over Green Bay.

In 2007, the Saints endured injuries and a slow start, but put together a four-game winning streak. New Orleans finished the season ranked No. 4 in the NFL in total offense while also holding nine opponents to 17 points or fewer.

Payton scrapped the traditional timetable for rebuilding an NFL club in 2006. In his opening season as a head coach, the Saints jumped out to a 3-0 record—a first in team history for a first-year black and gold coach and equaling the team's win total from the previous year—and clinched the NFC South title before the regular season finale. New Orleans led the NFL in total offense and advanced to play in the NFC Championship for the first time.

When the 2006 season came to a close, Payton was voted the NFL Coach of the Year by the Associated Press, Pro Football Weekly/Pro Football Writers of America, the Sporting News and the Maxwell Club.

Payton was hired as the 14th head coach in Saints history on January 18, 2006 after being a member of the Dallas Cowboys coaching staff since 2003. He enters his 13th NFL season and 21st overall in coaching.

Prior to his final campaign with the Cowboys, Payton was promoted to assistant head coach/passing game coordinator and was responsible for the team's play-calling. For the previous two years, he served as the club's assistant head coach/quarterbacks.

In 2005, the Cowboys tied for second in the NFC with 318 first downs. When Payton arrived Dallas had ranked 31st in passing the previous year, but immediately improved to 17th.

Payton arrived in Dallas after four years with the

SAINTS UNDER PAYTON	
Leading after first quarter:	17-2
Leading at halftime:	30-4
Leading after third quarter:	31-3
Saints score first:	20-5
Saints 200+ yards passing:	28-19
Opponent under 200 yards passing:	16-9
Saints have 100+ yards rushing:	27-6
Forcing 3+ turnovers:	14-2
Defense has three or more sacks:	15-4
Indoors:	21-14
Outdoors:	14-9
At Home:	18-11
On the road:	17-12
On artificial turf:	25-13
Scoring 20 or more points:	35-14
Allowing 20 or fewer points:	21-2
Committing zero turnovers:	12-0

New York Giants (1999-2002), the last three as offensive coordinator after spending his first season as the club's quarterbacks coach. Payton solidified his reputation as one of the NFL's top offensive minds in 2000. In his first season as offensive coordinator, the Giants won the NFC title and went on to play in Super Bowl XXXV. They scored 328 points – their highest total since 1990 – finished 13th in the NFL in total offense.

Payton was first assigned play-calling duties in New York prior to a contest vs. the New York Jets on December 5, 1999. The Giants responded

by scoring 41 points and gaining 490 yards of total offense – season-high totals – and he retained that assignment over the final five games of that season. Officially appointed the offensive coordinator the following season, over the next three years the Giants passing attack continually improved, ranking 13th in the NFL in 2000, tied for eighth in 2001 and ranked sixth in 2002.

In 2002, the Giants also finished sixth overall in total offense, the team's highest ranking since 1985. In the decade prior to his arrival, they hadn't ranked above 20th. Prior to joining the Giants, he spent 1997 and 1998 as Philadelphia's quarterbacks coach.

During his coaching career, Payton has enjoyed particular success tutoring quarterbacks. Drew Brees has thrived in New Orleans, including last year becoming only the second passer in NFL history to throw for over 5,000 yards in a season. In 2007, Brees set a league record with 440 completions, and he now owns franchise records for almost every single-season category.

Since 2000, every passer under Payton's guidance has thrown for over 3,000 yards. The three starting quarterbacks he worked with in Dallas - Drew Bledsoe in 2005, Vinny Testaverde in 2004 and Quincy Carter in 2003 - all surpassed the milestone. And while in New York, Giants QB Kerry Collins passed for 4,073 yards in 2002.

Payton wrapped two coaching stints at San Diego State (1988-89 and 1992-93) around a stop at Indiana State (1990-91). During his second stretch with the Aztecs, he was running backs coach, working with Heisman runner-up **Marshall Faulk** before becoming quarterbacks coach.

Following the 1993 season, Payton moved to Miami of Ohio (1994-95) where he was quarterbacks coach prior to being promoted to co-offensive coordinator for his final season. He spent 1996 as quarterbacks coach at the University of Illinois before entering the NFL.

Payton earned a bachelor's degree in communications at Eastern Illinois University, where he passed for 10,665 yards, then the third-highest total in NCAA Division I-AA history. The three-time Associated Press All-American selection followed his college career with stints with the Chicago Bruisers of the Arena Football League, the Ottawa Roughriders of the Canadian Football League and the Chicago Bears in 1987. Payton was inducted into the Eastern Illinois Hall of Fame in September of 2000.

Born December 29, 1963 in San Mateo, Calif., and raised in Naperville, Ill., Payton and his wife, Beth, have a daughter, Meghan and a son, Connor.

TRANSACTIONS LOG (JAN.-JUNE TRANSACTIONS IN MEDIA GUIDE)**JULY 2009**

23 – Released FB **Darian Barnes**.
30 – Signed P **Thomas Morstead** and S **Chip Vaughn** on four-year contracts. Waived DE/LS **Rob Ninkovich**.

AUGUST 2009

6 – Signed G **Joe McMahon**. Waived G **Shawn Flanagan**.
9 – Agreed to terms with CB **Malcolm Jenkins** on a five-year contract.
10 – Signed CB **Malcolm Jenkins** to a five-year contract. Waived G **Joe McMahon**.
11 – Placed TE **Dan Campbell** on injured reserve. Signed G **Nathan Bennett**.
13 – Waived/injured CB **Reggie Jones**.
14 – Placed CB **Reggie Jones** on injured reserve.
15 – Signed K **John Carney**.
16 – Placed LB **Mark Simoneau** on injured reserve. Signed TE **Martrez Milner**.
17 – Released CB **Jason David**. Signed CB **Greg Fassitt**.
26 – Waived P **Glenn Pakulak** and WR **Paris Warren**.
31 – Released DT **Rod Coleman** and waived/injured CB **Greg Fassitt** and WR **D’Juan Woods**.

SEPTEMBER 2009

1 – Placed WR **D’Juan Woods** on injured reserve.
5 – Placed TE **Billy Miller**, FB **Olaniyi Sobomehin** and S **Chip Vaughn** on injured reserve. Placed K **Garrett Hartley** on NFL reserve/suspended list. Terminated contracts of G/T **Anthony Davis**, QB **Joey Harrington** and DE **Paul Spicer**. Waived WR **Adrian Arrington**, G **Nate Bennett**, T **Michael Brown**, C **Digger Bujnoch**, RB **Herb Donaldson**, G **Tim Duckworth**, CB **Danny Gorrer**, Wr **Skyler Green**, RB **P.J. Hill**, TE **Martrez Milner**, T **Jermey Parnell**, DT **DeMario Pressley**, WR **Courtney Roby**, WR **Matt Simon** and LB **Anthony Waters**. Acquired TE **Dave Thomas** from New England in exchange for a seventh-round draft choice in 2011.
5 – Agreed to terms with WR **Adrian Arrington**, QB **Chase Daniel**, G **Tim Duckworth**, CB **Danny Gorrer**, RB **P.J. Hill**, T **Jermey Parnell**, DT **DeMario Pressley** and WR **Matt Simon** to practice squad.
7 – Signed LB **Stanley Arnoux** to a four-year contract and placed him on injured reserve.
15 – Agreed to terms with WR **Courtney Roby**. Waived TE **Buck Ortega**. Signed TE **Tyler Lorenzen** to the practice squad and released WR **Matt Simon** from the practice squad.
16 – Signed WR **Courtney Roby**.
26 – Signed QB **Chase Daniel** from practice squad. Released C **Nick Leckey**.
29 – Signed C **Nick Leckey**. Placed T **Jammal Brown** on injured reserve.

OCTOBER 2009

5 – K **Garrett Hartley** reinstated by NFL Commissioner. Club received one-week roster exemption.
12 – NFL roster exemption lifted for K **Garrett Hartley**. Waived QB **Chase Daniel**.
13 – Waived FB **Olaniyi Sobomehin** from injured reserve.
16 – Signed QB **Chase Daniel**. Placed WR **Rod Harper** on injured reserve.
27 – Terminated practice squad contract of RB **P.J. Hill** (signed with Philadelphia).
28 – Signed FB **Kyle Eckel**. Placed FB **Heath Evans** on injured reserve. Signed RB **Herb Donaldson** to practice squad.

NOVEMBER 2009

3 – Terminated practice squad contract of CB **Danny Gorrer** (signed with St. Louis).

4 – Signed CB **Mark Parson** to practice squad.
7 – Signed DT **DeMario Pressley** from practice squad. Placed DT **Kendrick Clancy** on injured reserve.
10 – Signed DT **Earl Heyman** to practice squad.
18 – Signed CB **Chris McAlister**. Waived QB **Chase Daniel**.
20 – Signed QB **Chase Daniel** to practice squad. Released RB **Herb Donaldson** from practice squad.
23 – Signed CB **Mike McKenzie**. Placed CB **Leigh Torrence** on injured reserve.

HOW THE SAINTS WERE BUILT

• **2002**

DRAFT
DE Charles Grant (1b)

• **2003**

DRAFT
T Jon Stinchcomb (2)

• **2004**

DRAFT
DE Will Smith (1)
WR Devery Henderson (2a)

FREE AGENTS

G Jamar Nesbit (UFA-Jax)

• **2006**

DRAFT
RB Reggie Bush (1)
S Roman Harper (2)
G Jahri Evans (5a)
T Zach Strief (7a)
WR Marques Colston (7b)

FREE AGENTS

QB Drew Brees (UFA-SD)
LB Scott Fujita (UFA-Dal)
C Jonathan Goodwin (UFA-NYJ)

TRADES

LB Scott Shanle - *Acquired from Dallas for 2007 seventh-round pick.*

• **2007**

DRAFT
WR Robert Meachem (1)
S Usama Young (3a)
T Jermon Bushrod (4b)
LB Marvin Mitchell (7)

FREE AGENTS

LB Troy Evans (UFA-Hou)
WR Lance Moore (FA)
S Chris Reis (FA)
RB Pierre Thomas (FA)

• **2008**

DRAFT
DT Sedrick Ellis (1)
CB Tracy Porter (2)
G Carl Nicks (5b)

FREE AGENTS

DT Remi Ayodele (FA)
RB Mike Bell (FA)
QB Mark Brunell (UFA-Was)
DE Jeff Charleston (FA)
LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar (FA)
CB Randall Gay (UFA-NE)
RB Lynell Hamilton (FA)
K Garrett Hartley (FA)
DE Bobby McCray (UFA-Jax)

TRADES

LB Jonathan Vilma - *Acquired from New York Jets for 2008 fourth-round pick and 2009 third-round pick.*
TE Jeremy Shockey - *Acquired from New York Giants for 2009 second-round and fifth-round picks.*

• **2009**

DRAFT

CB Malcolm Jenkins (1)
P Thomas Morstead (5)

FREE AGENTS

K John Carney (FA)
LB Jonathan Casillas (FA)
FB Kyle Eckel (FA)
CB Jabari Greer (UFA-Buf)
DL Anthony Hargrove (UFA-Buf)
LS Jason Kyle (FA)
C Nick Leckey (FA)
CB Chris McAlister (FA)
CB Mike McKenzie (FA)
DT DeMario Pressley (FA)
S Pierson Prioleau (UFA-Jax)
WR Courtney Roby (UFA)
S Darren Sharper (UFA-Min)

TRADES

TE David Thomas - *Acquired from New England Patriots for 2011 seventh-round pick.*

2009 MEDIA POLICY AND SCHEDULE

Practice Access: Practices will be open to pre-approved accredited media only. Credential requests must be submitted to Justin Macione prior to the season or date you wish to attend. Cameras will be asked to leave after stretch. All media, will be asked to leave after first 30 minutes.

Locker Room Access & Player Interview Times:

Monday 10:15 a.m. -11 a.m.
Tuesday Players Off
Wednesday 2:15 p.m.-3 p.m.
Friday 2:15 p.m.-3 p.m.
Saturday 1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
Interviews outside of set time should be scheduled through communications manager Justin Macione or the communications department. QB **Drew Brees** will be available each week on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Coach **Sean Payton** availability:
Monday 11:30 a.m. (media workroom)
Wednesday 1:30 p.m. (media workroom)
Friday 1:30 p.m. (on field post practice)
Saturday 12:45 p.m. (by request)
All other requests for the Head Coach should be scheduled through vice-president/communications Greg Benschel.

Practice Schedule: The PR department will escort media from the media workroom to the practice field. Please do not miss the escort. Cell phones are prohibited at all Saints practices.

Wednesday 11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Friday 11:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturday 11:05 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Home Game Credential Requests: Requests must be submitted to director of communications **Ricky Zeller** (ricky.zeller@saints.nfl.com) via email no later than Tuesday at 11 a.m. Credential approval can be obtained by calling or emailing **Justin Macione**, after 1 p.m. on Friday of a home game.

Away Game Credential & Hotel Requests: All credential, parking & hotel requests for media traveling to Saints away games must be submitted to **Ricky Zeller** via email only no later than Monday at 10:00 a.m. of a road game.

Wednesday Conference Calls: New England coach **Bill Belichick** will be available at 10:30 a.m. followed by Patriots WR **Wes Welker**. Transcripts will be available following calls on the club's official website www.neworleanssaints.com.

THE LAST TIME

- **300+ yards passing in a game by a player**
SAINTS – 330, QB **Drew Brees** (24 of 35) vs. Carolina, 11/8/09.
Opponent – 391, QB **Kevin Kolb** (31 of 51), @ Philadelphia, 9/20/09.
- **100 yards rushing in a game by a player**
SAINTS – 126, RB **Pierre Thomas** (14 att.), @ Buffalo, 9/27/09.
Opponent – 131, RB **Steven Jackson**, at St. Louis, 11/15/09.
- **Two 100-yard rushers in a game**
SAINTS – 126, RB **Reggie Bush** (20 att.) and 108, RB **Deuce McAllister** (27 att.), @ New York Giants, 12/24/06.
Opponent – 126, RB **Ottis Anderson** (22 att.) and 102 RB **Wayne Morris** (22 att.) vs. St. Louis Cardinals, 10/5/80.
- **200 yards rushing in a game by a player**
SAINTS – 203, RB **Rueben Mayes** (28 att.) vs. Miami, 12/7/86.
Opponent – 213, RB **Willie Parker** (22 att.) @ Pittsburgh, 11/22/06.
- **Two rushing touchdowns in game by a player**
SAINTS – RB **Mike Bell**, @ Tampa Bay, 11/22/09
Opponent – RB **DeAngelo Williams** vs. Carolina, 11/8/09
- **100 yards receiving in a game by a player**
SAINTS – 105, TE **Jeremy Shockey** (4 rec.) at Miami, 10/25/09.
Opponent – 108, WR **Roddy White** (4 rec.) vs. Atlanta, 11/2/09
- **Two 100-yard receivers in a game**
SAINTS – 123, WR **Marques Colston** (11 rec.) @ Tampa Bay, 11/5/06; 111 (3 rec.) WR **Devery Henderson**, @ Tampa Bay, 11/5/06.
Opponent – 104, TE **Brent Celek** (8 rec.) and 101, WR **DeSean Jackson** (4 rec.) @ Philadelphia, 9/20/09
- **200-299 yards receiving in a game by a player**
SAINTS – 200, WR **Torrance Small**, @ Denver, 12/24/94 (6 rec.)
Opponent – 220, WR **Jimmy Smith**, @ Jacksonville, 11/21/99 (9 rec.)
- **300+ yards receiving in a game by a player**
SAINTS – Has never happened
Opponent – 336, WR **Willie Anderson**, vs. L.A. Rams, 11/26/89 (15 rec.) – NFL Record
- **Three touchdown catches in game by a player**
SAINTS – WR **Marques Colston**, @ San Francisco, 10/28/07
Opponent – WR **Chad Johnson** vs. Cincinnati, 11/19/06
- **Four touchdown catches in a game by a player**
SAINTS – WR **Joe Horn**, vs. New York Giants, 12/14/03
Opponent – WR **Dave Williams**, at St. Louis Cardinals, 11/2/69* *Team Opponent Record*
- **Three TDs in a game by a player (rushing, receiving, return)**
SAINTS – WR **Marques Colston**, at San Francisco, 10/28/07 (all receiving)
Opponent – WR **Ricky Williams** at Miami, 10/25/09 (all rushing).
- **Four TDs in a game by a player (rushing, receiving, return)**
SAINTS – RB **Reggie Bush** vs. San Francisco, 12/3/06 (three rushing, one receiving). *Tied team record.*
Opponent – RB **Mike Anderson**, vs. Denver, 12/3/00 (all rushing)
- **Seven FGs attempted in a game by player (converted)**
SAINTS – K **Morten Andersen**, vs. San Fran., 10/25/87 (Five made)
Opponent – K **Bobby Howfield**, @ N.Y. Jets, 12/3/72 (Six made)
- **Six field goals attempted in a game by a player (converted)**
SAINTS – K **John Carney**, @ St. Louis, 9/26/04 (Five made)
Opponent – K **John Kasay**, vs. Carolina, 12/5/04 (Six made)
- **Five field goals attempted in a game by a player**
SAINTS – K **John Carney**, vs. Buffalo, 10/2/05 (Four made)
Opponent – K **John Kasay**, vs. Carolina, 12/28/08 (Four made)
- **Four field goals attempted in a game by a player**
SAINTS – K **Martin Gramatica**, vs. Minnesota, 10/6/08 (Two made)
Opponent – K **Jason Elam**, vs. Atlanta, 11/2/09 (Two made)
- **Six field goals converted in a game by a player**
SAINTS – Has never happened
Opponent – K **John Kasay**, vs. Carolina, 12/5/04 (Six att.)
- **Five field goals converted in a game by a player**
SAINTS – K **John Carney**, @ St. Louis, 9/26/04 (Six att.)
Opponent – K **John Kasay**, vs. Carolina, 9/8/96 (Five att.)
- **Four field goals converted in a game by a player**
SAINTS – K **John Carney**, @ Green Bay, 9/17/06 (Four att.)
Opponent – K **John Kasay**, vs. Carolina, 12/28/08 (Five att.)
- **Three interceptions in a game by a player**
SAINTS – S **Sammy Knight**, @ Buffalo, 9-9-01 (40 yds.)
Opponent – LB **Keith Bulluck**, vs. Tennessee, 9/24/07 (51 yds.)
- **Interception returned for a touchdown**
SAINTS – CB **Jabari Greer** (48 yds.), vs. Atlanta, 11/2/09
Opponent – CB **Chevis Jackson** (95 yds.) @ Atlanta, 11/9/08
- **Fumble returned for a touchdown**
SAINTS – DT **Anthony Hargrove**, vs. Carolina, 11/8/09 (1 yd.)
Opponent – DE **Kroy Biermann**, vs. Atlanta, 11/2/09, (4 yds.)

THE LAST TIME (CONT.)**• Punt returned for a touchdown****SAINTS** – RB Reggie Bush, vs. Minnesota, 10/6/08 (64 yds.)**Opponent** – KR/PR Devin Hester, @ Chicago, 12/30/07 (64 yds.)**• Kickoff returned for a touchdown****SAINTS** – WR Courtney Roby, at St. Louis, 11/15/09 (97 yds.)**Opponent** – S Danieal Manning, @ Chicago, 12/11/08 (83 yds.)**• Fumble recovered in end zone for a touchdown****SAINTS** – DT Remi Ayodele, vs. New York Jets, 10/4/09**Opponent** – WR Kevin Curtis, vs. Philadelphia, 12/23/07 (recovered teammate's fumble in end zone)**• Punt blocked****SAINTS** – S Steve Gleason, vs. Atlanta, 9/25/06**Opponent** – S David Gibson, vs. Tampa Bay, 12/7/03**• Punt blocked and returned for a touchdown****SAINTS** – DE Frank Warren, @ San Diego, 11/17/91 (37 yds.)**Opponent** – FB Mosi Tatupu, vs. New England, 11/30/86 (17 yds.)**• Punt blocked and recovered in end zone for TD****SAINTS** – CB Curtis Deloatch, vs. Atlanta, 9/25/06 (blocked by S Steve Gleason).**Opponent** – LB Roy Bennett, @ San Diego, 10/9/88**• Punt blocked for a safety****SAINTS** – CB Robert Massey, vs. Cleveland, 10/14/90**Opponent** – Has never happened**• Safety scored****SAINTS** – DE Charles Grant stopped RB Andre Hall, @ Denver, 9/21/08**Opponent** – QB Drew Brees fumble out of bounds in end zone, @ Philadelphia 9/20/09**• Field goal blocked****SAINTS** – S Josh Bullocks, @ Seattle, 10/14/07 (44-yd. att.)**Opponent** – DE Dewayne White, vs. Detroit, 9/13/09 (34-yd. att.)**• Field goal blocked and returned for touchdown****SAINTS** – CB Fred Thomas, vs. New York Giants, 12/14/03 (64 yds.), kick blocked by DT Kenny Smith.**Opponent** – CB Antoine Winfield, vs. Minnesota, 10/6/08 (59 yds.), kick blocked by DT Kevin Williams.**• PAT kick missed****SAINTS** – K John Carney, at Miami, 10/25/09**Opponent** – K Neil Rackers, @ Cincinnati, 12/22/02 (blocked)**• PAT kick blocked****SAINTS** – DT Grady Jackson, @ Cincinnati, 12/22/02 (K Neil Rackers attempt)**Opponent** – DT Fred Robbins, vs. New York Giants, 10/4/09 (K John Carney attempt)**• Two-point attempt made****SAINTS** – RB Pierre Thomas run, @ Chicago, 12/30/07**Opponent** – QB Matt Ryan to WR Michael Jenkins, vs. Atlanta, 12/7/08**• Two-point attempt failed****SAINTS** – QB Drew Brees pass, at Miami, 10/25/09**Opponent** – QB Marc Bulger pass, at St. Louis, 11/15/09**• 40-49 points scored in a game****SAINTS** – 46, at Miami, 10/25/09**Opponent** – 41, @ Indianapolis, 9/6/07**• 50-59 points scored in a game****SAINTS** – 51, vs. Green Bay, 11/24/08 (tied team record)**Opponent** – 55 vs. Indianapolis, 9/28/03**• 60+ points scored in a game****SAINTS** – Has never happened**Opponent** – 62, vs. Atlanta, 9/16/73**• Shutout scored in a game****SAINTS** – 12-0, @ N.Y. Jets, 12/24/95**Opponent** – 0-38, vs. San Francisco, 1/6/01**SEAN PAYTON PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 23**

Opening Statement: “Like I said yesterday afterwards, there were a lot of things I was pleased with about the game, starting with the special teams. I thought we settled in after the first quarter and played better football. I was encouraged with that.”

What did you like from Zach Strief after watching the tape? What prompted the change to put him in the starting lineup? “He’s a little different. It’s really more a matter of trying to get him some more playing time. He’s a little bit different than Jermon (Bushrod). He’s had experience at left tackle and we really came out of the St. Louis game wanting to get him some work and we were able to do it in this week’s game and we’ll continue to look at both of those players as options as we move forward.”

Can you discuss the defense’s performance despite missing three starters? “We were a little banged up going in. Guys that substituted handled that well, transitioned well. That was a positive.”

Has Zach Strief overtaken Jermon Bushrod? “Both of those guys are going to play. There’s no announcement there, but both have played earlier in the year. Jermon had gotten a lot of the work. I’m just trying to get Zach work as well.”

Has what New England accomplished over the past decade a model of what you might be trying to duplicate? “I think it’s fairly common in business to look at groups or businesses that are having success and to pay attention to why teams are successful and I think that exists in a lot of areas, not just football. New England’s been one of those franchises. It’s been one of those organizations that have found the right formula. There’s a lot to that. That includes players. It includes what they’re looking for from a talent base, all of those things. When you play a team like that, you begin to observe from afar the things that they are able to do and how that really relates to or transcends to winning games.”

SEAN PAYTON PRESS CONFERENCE (Cont.)

Are you satisfied in the improvement in ball security in the last game? “Yes, it was one area we made a point of that is still a statistical face each week, the importance of turning the ball over and the additional possessions or lack thereof and something that we have to continue to work on. That was a plus.”

Can you talk about the matchup with your cornerbacks and Tom Brady? “I don’t want to get into who’s starting and what the matchup is. I think it would be a little presumptuous to say we won’t have our starting cornerbacks in the game, so we’ll see where we’re at from a health standpoint, but anytime you play a team that throws the ball as effectively as they do and what they’re able to do. The quarterback doesn’t take sacks. They have a big challenge outside with speed, a guy like Randy Moss who has good big play ability and inside with Wes Welker. All of those things become challenging in terms of how you defend a team that is that good on offense. We have a long week ahead of us here. We have a lot of work to do in getting some guys healthy and putting a plan in place that gives us the best chance to win. That’s really the challenge this week in seeing a quarterback as good as Tom and the balance that they’re able to have.”

Is there a chance for Jabari Greer to play? “We’ll see.”

How did you feel about Malcolm Jenkins’ performance? “I thought he played pretty well. He tackled well. He’s smart. I thought he did a good job.”

Some people have said that both the Patriots and the Saints have been successful at exploiting matchups. Can you discuss that? “I don’t know. It would be hard to draw a similarity. I think there are a lot of teams wanting to get to where the New England Patriots have been. I think each team in our league each week tries to look at matchups and attack defenses. I think that’s fairly common with a lot of teams. I don’t know that there’s an exact comparison with the New England Patriots and New Orleans Saints in that matter.”

It seems like a lot of teams want to do it, but wanting to and doing it it seems like these teams are more successful? “If you’re just talking about offensive football, playing good offense, that’s one thing. They provide a challenge with a quarterback that locates the ball well. They do a great job with their screen game. They have the ability to get down the field with the passing game and throw the ball underneath. They force you to defend the whole field. You can see that on tape when you watch them. I think what you’re asking is (here) are teams that are playing good offense. Here are some of the similarities in what they do. They get the ball down the field. They’re able to run the football and generally you have a quarterback that’s playing pretty well.”

Is it safe to say that if a player was on the edge medically against Tampa Bay that you would want to hold him out to be healthy for the New England game? “No. We haven’t held anyone. We try to play guys when they’re ready. That’s what we’re trying to do and last week you had some guys that were close. If a guy’s ready they’re going to play. We don’t look at a game and target a game because of a game. We hope to be as healthy as possible each week and this is certainly a game where it’s a real good opponent.”

Do you have any injury updates today? “No updates on anyone today.”

How did the secondary play overall yesterday? “I thought they played well. We did a good job of containing some threats – (Kellen) Winslow specifically, who I think is an exceptional player, and Antonio Bryant and those guys. We kept the ball in front of us. They had the touchdown on the long scramble where (Josh) Freeman made a real good play. It’s tough – when you extend a pocket three seconds or four seconds or five seconds – it becomes harder on a secondary, but I thought they played well.”

How do you use the excitement of the fans to your advantage in a game like the one coming up? “This goes back to week three against the Jets or week four against the Giants. We’re going to play in a lot of big games, and this is a big game because it’s the 11th game on our schedule. We know it’s a good team that we’re playing. We’ve been on the road for a couple of weeks and are coming back home, but I think we’ve been able to do that and not just give that lip service. We have to improve a lot from this past week. We have some things we have to clean up. We have to get healthy, obviously. Those are all the things that we’re focusing on as we get ready for a Monday night game. The schedule is a little different, but it’s nothing that we haven’t done before in regards to a routine. We should be alright.”

How much will you adjust your defensive philosophy going against the Patriots? “I don’t know that we’re going to adjust our defensive philosophy.”

What are the similarities you see between your offense and New England’s? “When an offense is playing well and has balance, they’re usually getting good quarterback play. I think you’re getting good quarterback play in New England and you’re getting good quarterback play in New Orleans. You probably have an offensive line that has had some continuity that handles the protections and the varied looks that you get, and both teams would appear to have some experience there. There are differences when you look at the offenses, and yet there are probably some similarities. But it starts with that balance and being able to do certain things well.”

Do you see similarities between Drew Brees and Tom Brady? “One of the things that all real good quarterbacks have is that they’re accurate. It’s hard to be good at that position and not be accurate. They’re obviously built differently; guys are wired differently and there are a lot of different characteristics, but generally if you’re getting good quarterback play, you’re getting a guy that is accurate throwing the ball. They’re generally good decision-makers and they generally can decide fairly quickly where they want to go with the football based on the looks they’re getting. Those are certainly traits that you would see with both of these quarterbacks.”

What did you see that helped you eliminate the turnovers on offense this week? “It’s more than just giving it lip service. Physically trying to pull the ball away or physically challenging anyone who has the football, starting with the quarterback to the receivers to the running backs. It’s one thing to talk about wanting to reduce turnovers, but it’s an area that we have to continue to work on as coaches in regards to actually having drills that simulate what happens in a game. Trying to do that has been something that we did a little bit more of last week.”

SEAN PAYTON PRESS CONFERENCE (Cont.)

What do you see when you take an overall look at roster and where some of these guys have come from? “There’s a good mix. One of the things that we’ve tried to preach is that once a player gets here, it’s really unimportant to us how he got here. We really want to play the best players that give us a chance to win. There is a process involved in obtaining talent, whether it’s through free agency or the draft or after the draft, but once they’re here our job is to develop them and their job is to work and compete for playing time and compete to make the team. The stories are different and that makes it interesting and I think that’s fairly common when you look at rosters. But the depth is important; we’ve had to rely on the depth already in the last three or four weeks more than we had to early in the season with some injuries, but I think that’s fairly normal for a long season.”

What was the reasoning behind Reggie Bush and Sedrick Ellis not traveling to Tampa? “It was really where they were at on Saturday; number one, they’re both leg-related injuries so if we’re not going to play a player and Saturday we come in and there’s still some swelling and some uncertainty, we typically will leave a player and let them rest and get the treatment at home as opposed to getting on a plane. We typically don’t take players that aren’t going to play. Sometimes if they’re questionable we take them and work them out there and we’ve done that before, but in their case, after working them out on Saturday morning and observing where they were at, we went ahead and did that. And then we obviously have to notify and change their status, which we were able to do.”

Is there extra pressure every week to remain undefeated? “I don’t know. I think there’s pressure each week to play well and to improve. But I don’t think – and you could ask the players because each one of them might answer it differently – but I don’t think any one of us feels a sense of mounting pressure because of winning football games. I think there’s always that weight of wanting to be perfect, or that added charge of trying to play the best game or coach the best game, and I think that’s urgency. I think we all coach and play with a sense of urgency and that’s a good thing, not a bad thing.”

How do you deal with being 10-0? “Each week it’s preparing and trying to improve and trying to really look at a game and get better the next week. That’s the approach we’re taking right now. We’ve been in the spot where you’re sitting at 4-4 and you lose the next game and you’re eliminated from the playoffs. Then there’s pressure. That’s different. I think right now it’s the focus of one game at a time and really working to improve each week. I know you pointed to a lot of statistics, but we’re not really interested in that. We’re interested in how do we beat New England. That’s the challenge in front of us.”

What happened on the flags that were picked up after being thrown yesterday? “I can tell you that on the long interference call with Robert Meachem, when they convened, there was a feeling that maybe the feet got tangled up so they picked the flag up. That’s what I was told. You keep going, and they felt on the other play that the ball had been thrown before the contact was made illegally. If I’m constantly preaching to our players to get on to the next play, then I have to work to do that myself too.”

How have you been influenced in how you do things by watching the Patriots over the years? “They’re a team that you study. I think that it’s fairly common that when seasons are over with, you pay

attention to the teams that are good at something – good at red zone, good at third down, good at throwing or good at overall offense or defense. We have access to everyone games, so it’s important to look closely at what’s going on in the league to make sure that you’re not missing on something and certainly New England has been one of those teams that we’ve studied and looked a lot at.”

So you pull a lot of New England Patriots game film in the offseason? “We pull all of the top teams in those specific areas. We look at the top five or top seven defenses, third down, red zone. We might be talking about 14 different teams – depending on the statistics that we’re looking to study. What I said at the beginning was that it’s fairly common in business to pay attention to who is doing what successfully and then really examine closely what they’re doing, and that’s something that I think is done a lot in our league.”

18 different players have scored touchdowns for your team. What does that say about the team? “I wasn’t aware of that. One of the things that our quarterback does well is read defenses and recognizes the weaknesses of defenses. We’ve had to insert some players in because of injury, and some of those guys have stepped up. Obviously when you look at a David Thomas, whose role has changed a little bit with Heath Evans’ injury; a number of receivers have gotten their hands on balls. I wasn’t aware that the number was 18 though.”

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER (11/23/09)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Born	Exp.	College	H.S. Hometown
92	Ayodele, Remi	DT	6-2	318	4/22/83	3	Oklahoma	Grand Prairie, Texas
21	Bell, Mike	RB	6-0	225	4/23/83	4	Arizona	Tolleson, Ariz.
9	Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	1/15/79	9	Purdue	Austin, Texas
11	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-1	217	9/17/70	17	Washington	Santa Maria, Calif.
25	Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	3/2/85	4	Southern California	Spring Valley, Calif.
74	Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	315	8/19/84	3	Towson	King George, Va.
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	185	4/20/64	21	Notre Dame	West Palm Beach, Fla.
52	Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	6/3/87	R	Wisconsin	New Brunswick, N.J.
97	Charleston, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	1/19/83	3	Idaho State	Oregon City, Ore.
12	Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	6/5/83	4	Hofstra	Harrisburg, Pa.
80	Dinkins, Darnell	TE	6-4	260	1/20/77	8	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.
56	Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	226	3/13/85	2	Boston College	Syracuse, N.Y.
36	Eckel, Kyle	FB	5-11	237	12/30/81	3	Navy	Haverford, Pa.
98	Ellis, Sedrick	DT	6-1	307	7/9/85	2	Southern California	Chino, Calif.
73	Evans, Jahri	G	6-4	318	8/22/83	4	Bloomsburg	Philadelphia, Pa.
54	Evans, Troy	LB	6-3	238	12/3/77	8	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio
55	Fujita, Scott	LB	6-5	250	4/28/79	8	California	Oxnard, Calif.
20	Gay, Randall	CB	5-11	190	5/5/82	6	Louisiana State	Brusly, La.
76	Goodwin, Jonathan	C	6-3	318	12/2/78	8	Michigan	Richland, S.C.
94	Grant, Charles	DE	6-3	285	9/3/78	8	Georgia	Colquitt, Ga.
32	Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	2/11/82	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.
30	Hamilton, Lynell	RB	6-0	235	8/5/85	1	San Diego State	Stockton, Calif.
69	Hargrove, Anthony	DL	6-3	272	7/20/83	5	Georgia Tech	Punta Gorda, Fla.
41	Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	12/11/82	4	Alabama	Prattville, Ala.
5	Hartley, Garrett	K	5-8	196	5/16/86	2	Oklahoma	Southlake, Texas
19	Henderson, Devery	WR	5-11	200	3/26/82	6	Louisiana State	Opelousas, La.
27	Jenkins, Malcolm	CB	6-0	204	12/20/87	R	Ohio State	Piscataway, N.J.
57	Kyle, Jason	LS	6-3	242	5/12/72	15	Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.
60	Leckey, Nick	C	6-3	291	3/12/82	6	Kansas State	Grapevine, Texas
29	McAlister, Chris	CB	6-1	210	6/14/77	11	Arizona	Pasadena, Calif.
93	McCray, Bobby	DE	6-6	260	8/8/81	6	Florida	Homestead, Fla.
34	McKenzie, Mike	CB	6-0	194	4/26/76	11	Memphis	Miami, Fla.
17	Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	210	9/28/84	3	Tennessee	Tulsa, Okla.
50	Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	249	10/21/84	3	Tennessee	Norfolk, Va.
16	Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	8/31/83	4	Toledo	Westerville, Ohio
6	Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	225	3/7/86	R	Southern Methodist	Pearland, Texas
67	Nesbit, Jamar	G	6-4	328	12/17/76	11	South Carolina	Summerville, S.C.
77	Nicks, Carl	G	6-5	343	5/14/85	2	Nebraska	Salinas, Calif.
22	Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	186	8/11/86	2	Indiana	Port Allen, La.
90	Pressley, DeMario	DT	6-3	301	11/3/85	2	North Carolina State	Greensboro, N.C.
31	Prioleau, Pierson	S	5-11	188	8/6/77	11	Virginia Tech	Alvin, S.C.
39	Reis, Chris	S	6-1	215	9/19/83	3	Georgia Tech	Roswell, Ga.
15	Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	1/10/83	4	Indiana	Indianapolis, Ind.
58	Shanle, Scott	LB	6-2	245	11/23/79	7	Nebraska	St. Edward, Neb.
42	Sharper, Darren	S	6-2	210	11/3/75	13	William & Mary	Richmond, Va.
88	Shockey, Jeremy	TE	6-5	251	8/18/80	8	Miami (Fla.)	Ada, Okla.
91	Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	7/4/81	6	Ohio State	Utica, N.Y.
78	Stinchcomb, Jon	T	6-5	315	8/27/79	7	Georgia	Lilburn, Ga.
64	Strief, Zach	T	6-7	320	9/22/83	4	Northwestern	Milford, Ohio
85	Thomas, David	TE	6-3	248	7/5/83	4	Texas	Plainview, Texas
23	Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	12/18/84	3	Illinois	Lynwood, Ill.
51	Vilma, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	4/16/82	6	Miami (Fla.)	Coral Gables, Fla.
28	Young, Usama	S	6-0	200	5/8/85	3	Kent State	Largo, Md.

Players On Active Roster: 53

Practice Squad

87	Arrington, Adrian	WR	6-3	192	11/7/85	2	Michigan	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
10	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	10/7/86	R	Missouri	Southlake, Texas
72	Duckworth, Tim	G	6-4	318	9/14/82	1	Auburn	Taylorsville, Miss.
75	Foster, Renardo	T	6-7	340	7/15/84	3	Louisville	Ripley, Tenn.
66	Heyman, Earl	DT	6-1	289	9/5/87	R	Louisville	Louisville, Ky.
82	Lorenzen, Tyler	TE	6-5	229	12/24/85	R	Connecticut	Fremont, Iowa
79	Parnell, Jermey	T	6-6	278	7/20/86	R	Mississippi	Gosnell, Ark.
38	Parson, Mark	CB	5-10	192	5/9/86	R	Ohio	Richmond, Va.

Players on Practice Squad: 8

Reserve/Injured

59	Arnoux, Stanley	LB	6-0	232	9/9/86	R	Wake Forest	Sunrise, Fla.
70	Brown, Jammal	T	6-6	313	3/30/81	5	Oklahoma	Lawton, Okla.
	Campbell, Dan	TE	6-5	265	4/13/76	11	Texas A&M	Glen Rose, Texas
71	Clancy, Kendrick	DT	6-1	305	8/17/78	10	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
44	Evans, Heath	FB	6-0	250	12/30/78	9	Auburn	West Palm Beach, Fla.
13	Harper, Rod	WR	6-0	209	3/26/85	1	Murray State	Bradenton, Fla.
35	Jones, Reggie	CB	6-0	193	3/15/86	R	Portland State	Federal Way, Wash.
83	Miller, Billy	TE	6-3	252	4/24/77	10	Southern California	Westlake Village, Calif.
53	Simoneau, Mark	LB	6-0	245	1/16/77	10	Kansas State	Smith Center, Kan.
24	Torrence, Leigh	CB	5-11	179	1/4/82	4	Stanford	Atlanta, Ga.
37	Vaughn, Chip	S	6-2	221	10/26/85	R	Wake Forest	Fairfax, Va.
84	Woods, D'Juan	WR	6-1	210	6/11/84	1	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, Okla.

Players on Reserve/Injured: 12

HEAD COACH: SEAN PAYTON (Fourth season). **Assistants: Pete Carmichael Jr.** (Offensive Coordinator), **Gregg Williams** (Defensive Coordinator), **Joe Vitt** (Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers), **Greg McMahon** (Special Teams Coordinator), **Dennis Allen** (Secondary), **Adam Bailey** (Assistant Strength and Conditioning), **Dan Dalrymple** (Head Strength and Conditioning), **Bret Ingalls** (Running Backs), **Bill Johnson** (Defensive Line), **Curtis Johnson** (Wide Receivers), **Travis Jones** (Assistant Defensive Line), **Aaron Kromer** (Offensive Line/Running Game), **Joe Lombardi** (Quarterbacks), **Mike Mallory** (Assistant Special Teams), **Terry Malone** (Tight Ends), **Tony Oden** (Assistant Secondary), **Carter Sheridan** (Offensive Assistant/Assistant Player Programs), **Adam Zimmer** (Defensive Assistant/Linebackers), **Mike Cerullo** (Coaching Assistant), **Blake Williams** (Coaching Assistant).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS NUMERICAL ROSTER (11/23/09)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired	GP	GS	DNP	IA
3	John Carney	K	5-11	185	45	21	Notre Dame	FA-09	10	0	0	0
5	Garrett Hartley	K	5-8	196	23	2	Oklahoma	FA-08	0	0	0	6
6	Thomas Morstead	P	6-4	225	23	R	Southern Methodist	D5-09	10	0	0	0
9	Drew Brees	QB	6-0	209	30	9	Purdue	UFA-06 (SD)	10	10	0	0
11	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	217	39	17	Washington	UFA-08 (Was)	10	0	0	0
12	Marques Colston	WR	6-4	225	26	4	Hofstra	D7b-06	10	9	0	0
15	Courtney Roby	WR	6-0	189	26	4	Indiana	FA-09	9	0	0	0
16	Lance Moore	WR	5-9	190	26	4	Toledo	FA-07	6	0	0	4
17	Robert Meachem	WR	6-2	210	25	3	Tennessee	D1-07	10	4	0	0
19	Devery Henderson	WR	5-11	200	27	6	Louisiana State	D2a-04	10	6	0	0
20	Randall Gay	CB	5-11	190	27	6	Louisiana State	UFA-08 (NE)	10	3	0	0
21	Mike Bell	RB	6-0	225	26	4	Arizona	FA-08	8	2	0	2
22	Tracy Porter	CB	5-11	186	23	2	Indiana	D2-08	9	9	0	1
23	Pierre Thomas	RB	5-11	215	24	3	Illinois	FA-07	9	2	0	1
25	Reggie Bush	RB	6-0	203	24	4	Southern California	D1-06	9	6	0	1
27	Malcolm Jenkins	CB	6-0	204	21	R	Ohio State	D1-09	8	1	0	2
28	Usama Young	S	6-0	200	24	3	Kent State	D3a-07	9	1	0	1
29	Chris McAlister	CB	6-1	210	32	11	Arizona	FA-09	0	0	0	1
30	Lynell Hamilton	RB	6-0	235	24	1	San Diego State	FA-08	3	1	1	6
31	Pierson Prioleau	S	5-11	188	32	11	Virginia Tech	UFA-09 (Jax)	10	0	0	0
32	Jabari Greer	CB	5-11	180	27	6	Tennessee	UFA-09 (Buf)	8	8	0	2
34	Mike McKenzie	CB	6-0	194	33	11	Memphis	FA-09	0	0	0	0
36	Kyle Eckel	FB	5-11	237	27	3	Navy	FA-09	4	1	0	0
39	Chris Reis	S	6-1	215	26	3	Georgia Tech	FA-07	9	0	0	1
41	Roman Harper	S	6-1	200	26	4	Alabama	D2-06	10	10	0	0
42	Darren Sharper	S	6-2	210	34	13	William & Mary	UFA-09 (Min)	9	9	0	1
50	Marvin Mitchell	LB	6-3	249	25	3	Tennessee	D7-07	10	1	0	0
51	Jonathan Vilma	LB	6-1	230	27	6	Miami (Fla.)	TR-08 (NYJ)	10	10	0	0
52	Jonathan Casillas	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Wisconsin	FA-09	6	0	0	4
54	Troy Evans	LB	6-3	238	31	8	Cincinnati	UFA-07 (Hou)	10	1	0	0
55	Scott Fujita	LB	6-5	250	30	8	California	UFA-06 (Dal)	7	7	0	3
56	Jo-Lonn Dunbar	LB	6-0	226	24	2	Boston College	FA-08	7	2	0	3
57	Jason Kyle	LS	6-3	242	37	15	Arizona State	FA-09	10	0	0	0
58	Scott Shanle	LB	6-2	245	30	7	Nebraska	TR-06 (Dal)	10	10	0	0
60	Nick Leckey	C	6-3	291	27	6	Kansas State	UFA-09 (StL)	2	0	1	6
64	Zach Strief	T	6-7	320	26	4	Northwestern	D7a-06	10	2	0	0
67	Jamar Nesbit	G	6-4	328	32	11	South Carolina	UFA-04 (Jax)	10	0	0	0
69	Anthony Hargrove	DL	6-3	272	26	5	Georgia Tech	UFA-09 (Buf)	10	4	0	0
73	Jahri Evans	G	6-4	318	26	4	Bloomsburg	D4-06	10	10	0	0
74	Jermon Bushrod	T	6-5	315	25	3	Towson	D4b-07	9	8	0	1
76	Jonathan Goodwin	C	6-3	318	30	8	Michigan	UFA-06 (NYJ)	10	10	0	0
77	Carl Nicks	G	6-5	343	24	2	Nebraska	D5b-08	10	10	0	0
78	Jon Stinchcomb	T	6-5	315	30	7	Georgia	D2-03	10	10	0	0
80	Darnell Dinkins	TE	6-4	260	32	8	Pittsburgh	UFA-09 (Cle)	5	0	0	5
85	David Thomas	TE	6-3	248	26	4	Texas	TR-09 (NE)	10	4	0	0
88	Jeremy Shockey	TE	6-5	251	29	8	Miami (Fla.)	TR-08 (NYG)	10	10	0	0
90	DeMario Pressley	DT	6-3	301	24	2	North Carolina State	D5a-08	3	0	0	0
91	Will Smith	DE	6-3	282	28	6	Ohio State	D1-04	10	10	0	0
92	Remi Ayodele	DT	6-2	318	26	3	Oklahoma	FA-08	9	8	0	1
93	Bobby McCray	DE	6-6	260	28	6	Florida	UFA-08 (Jax)	10	0	0	0
94	Charles Grant	DE	6-3	285	31	8	Georgia	D1b-02	10	10	0	0
97	Jeff Charleston	DE	6-4	265	26	3	Idaho State	FA-08	10	0	0	0
98	Sedrick Ellis	DT	6-1	307	24	2	Southern California	D1-08	6	6	0	4

Players On Active Roster: 53

Practice Squad

10	Chase Daniel	QB	6-0	225	23	R	Missouri	FA-09	0	0	0	7
38	Mark Payson	CB	5-10	192	23	R	Ohio	FA-09	0	0	0	0
66	Earl Heyman	DT	6-1	289	22	R	Louisville	FA-09	0	0	0	0
72	Tim Duckworth	G	6-4	318	27	1	Auburn	FA-09	0	0	0	0
75	Renardo Foster	T	6-7	340	25	3	Louisville	FA-09	0	0	0	0
79	Jerme Parnell	T	6-6	278	23	R	Mississippi	FA-09	0	0	0	0
82	Tyler Lorenzen	TE	6-5	229	23	R	Connecticut	FA-09	0	0	0	0
87	Adrian Arrington	WR	6-3	192	24	2	Michigan	D7-08	0	0	0	0

Players on Practice Squad: 8

Reserve/Injured

13	Rod Harper	WR	6-0	209	24	1	Murray State	FA-09	0	0	0	4
24	Leigh Torrence	CB	5-11	179	27	4	Stanford	WAI-08 (Was)	5	0	0	5
35	Reggie Jones	CB	6-0	193	23	R	Portland State	FA-09	0	0	0	0
37	Chip Vaughn	S	6-2	221	24	R	Wake Forest	D4a-09	0	0	0	0
44	Heath Evans	FB	6-0	250	30	9	Auburn	UFA-09 (NE)	6	5	0	0
53	Mark Simoneau	LB	6-0	245	32	10	Kansas State	TR-06 (Phi)	0	0	0	0
59	Stanley Arnoux	LB	6-0	232	23	R	Wake Forest	D4b-09	0	0	0	0
70	Jammal Brown	T	6-6	313	28	5	Oklahoma	D1-05	0	0	0	3
71	Kendrick Clancy	DT	6-1	305	31	10	Mississippi	FA-07	2	0	0	5
83	Billy Miller	TE	6-3	252	32	10	Southern California	FA-08	0	0	0	0
84	D'Juan Woods	WR	6-1	210	25	1	Oklahoma State	FA-09	0	0	0	0
	Dan Campbell	TE	6-5	265	33	11	Texas A&M	FA-09	0	0	0	0

Players on Reserve/Injured: 12

HEAD COACH: SEAN PAYTON (Fourth season). **Assistants: Pete Carmichael Jr.** (Offensive Coordinator), **Gregg Williams** (Defensive Coordinator), **Joe Vitt** (Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers), **Greg McMahon** (Special Teams Coordinator), **Dennis Allen** (Secondary), **Adam Bailey** (Assistant Head Coach and Conditioning), **Dan Dalrymple** (Head Strength and Conditioning), **Bret Ingalls** (Running Backs), **Bill Johnson** (Defensive Line), **Curtis Johnson** (Wide Receivers), **Travis Jones** (Assistant Defensive Line), **Aaron Kromer** (Offensive Line/Running Game), **Joe Lombardi** (Quarterbacks), **Mike Mallory** (Assistant Special Teams), **Terry Malone** (Tight Ends), **Tony Oden** (Assistant Secondary), **Carter Sheridan** (Offensive Assistant/Assistant Player Programs), **Adam Zimmer** (Defensive Assistant/Linebackers), **Mike Cerullo** (Coaching Assistant), **Blake Williams** (Coaching Assistant).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS POSITIONAL ROSTER (11/23/09)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	Hometown	How Acquired
QUARTERBACKS (2)									
9	Drew Brees	QB	6-0	209	30	9	Purdue	Austin, Texas	UFA-06 (SD)
11	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	217	39	17	Washington	Santa Maria, Calif.	UFA-08 (WAS)
RUNNING BACKS (5)									
21	Mike Bell	RB	6-0	225	26	4	Arizona	Tolleson, Ariz.	FA-08
23	Pierre Thomas	RB	5-11	215	24	3	Illinois	Lynwood, Ill.	FA-07
25	Reggie Bush	RB	6-0	203	24	4	Southern California	Spring Valley, Calif.	D1-06
30	Lynell Hamilton	RB	6-0	235	24	1	San Diego State	Stockton, Calif.	FA-08
36	Kyle Eckel	FB	5-11	237	27	3	Navy	Haverford, Pa.	FA-09
WIDE RECEIVERS (5)									
12	Marques Colston	WR	6-4	225	26	4	Hofstra	Harrisburg, Pa.	D7b-06
15	Courtney Roby	WR	6-0	189	26	4	Indiana	Indianapolis, Ind.	FA-09
16	Lance Moore	WR	5-9	190	26	4	Toledo	Westerville, Ohio	FA-07
17	Robert Meachem	WR	6-2	210	25	3	Tennessee	Tulsa, Okla.	D1-07
19	Devery Henderson	WR	5-11	200	27	6	Louisiana State	Opelousas, La.	D2a-04
TIGHT ENDS (3)									
80	Darnell Dinkins	TE	6-4	260	32	8	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.	UFA-09 (Cle)
85	David Thomas	TE	6-3	248	26	4	Texas	Plainview, Texas	TR-09 (NE)
88	Jeremy Shockey	TE	6-5	251	29	8	Miami (Fla.)	Ada, Okla.	TR-08 (NYG)
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN (8)									
60	Nick Leckey	C	6-3	291	27	6	Kansas State	Grapevine, Texas	UFA-09 (StL)
64	Zach Strief	T	6-7	320	26	4	Northwestern	Milford, Ohio	D7a-06
67	Jamar Nesbit	G	6-4	328	32	11	South Carolina	Summerville, S.C.	UFA-04 (Jax)
73	Jahri Evans	G	6-4	318	26	4	Bloomsburg	Philadelphia, Pa.	D4-06
74	Jermon Bushrod	T	6-5	315	25	3	Towson	King George, Va.	D4b-07
76	Jonathan Goodwin	C	6-3	318	30	8	Michigan	Richland, S.C.	UFA-06 (NYJ)
77	Carl Nicks	G	6-5	343	24	2	Nebraska	Salinas, Calif.	D5b-08
78	Jon Stinchcomb	T	6-5	315	30	7	Georgia	Lilburn, Ga.	D2-03
SPECIALISTS (4)									
3	John Carney	K	5-11	185	45	21	Notre Dame	West Palm Beach, Fla.	FA-09
5	Garrett Hartley	K	5-8	196	23	2	Oklahoma	Southlake, Texas	FA-08
6	Thomas Morstead	P	6-4	225	23	R	Southern Methodist	Pearland, Texas	D5-09
57	Jason Kyle	LS	6-3	242	37	15	Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.	FA-09
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (8)									
69	Anthony Hargrove	DL	6-3	272	26	5	Georgia Tech	Punta Gorda, Fla.	UFA-09 (Buf)
90	DeMario Pressley	DT	6-3	301	24	2	North Carolina State	Greensboro, N.C.	D5a-08
91	Will Smith	DE	6-3	282	28	6	Ohio State	Utica, N.Y.	D1-04
92	Remi Ayodele	DT	6-2	318	26	3	Oklahoma	Grand Prairie, Texas	FA-08
93	Bobby McCray	DE	6-6	260	28	6	Florida	Homestead, Fla.	UFA-08 (Jax)
94	Charles Grant	DE	6-3	285	31	8	Georgia	Colquitt, Ga.	D1b-02
97	Jeff Charleston	DE	6-4	265	26	3	Idaho State	Oregon City, Ore.	FA-08
98	Sedrick Ellis	DT	6-1	307	24	2	Southern California	Chino, Calif.	D1-08
LINEBACKERS (7)									
50	Marvin Mitchell	LB	6-3	249	25	3	Tennessee	Norfolk, Va.	D7-07
51	Jonathan Vilma	LB	6-1	230	27	6	Miami (Fla.)	Coral Gables, Fla.	TR-08 (NYJ)
52	Jonathan Casillas	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Wisconsin	New Brunswick, N.J.	FA-09
54	Troy Evans	LB	6-3	238	31	8	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	UFA-07 (Hou)
55	Scott Fujita	LB	6-5	250	30	8	California	Oxnard, Calif.	UFA-06 (Dal)
56	Jo-Lonn Dunbar	LB	6-0	226	24	2	Boston College	Syracuse, N.Y.	FA-08
58	Scott Shanle	LB	6-2	245	30	7	Nebraska	St. Edward, Neb.	TR-06 (Dal)
DEFENSIVE BACKS (11)									
20	Randall Gay	CB	5-11	190	27	6	Louisiana State	Brusly, La.	UFA-08 (NE)
22	Tracy Porter	CB	5-11	186	23	2	Indiana	Port Allen, La.	D2-08
27	Malcolm Jenkins	CB	6-0	204	21	R	Ohio State	Piscataway, N.J.	D1-09
28	Usama Young	S	6-0	200	24	3	Kent State	Largo, Md.	D3a-07
29	Chris McAlister	CB	6-1	210	32	11	Arizona	Pasadena, Calif.	FA-09
31	Pierson Prioleau	S	5-11	188	32	11	Virginia Tech	Alvin, S.C.	UFA-09 (Jax)
32	Jabari Greer	CB	5-11	180	27	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	UFA-09 (Buf)
34	Mike McKenzie	CB	6-0	194	33	11	Memphis	Miami, Fla.	FA-09
39	Chris Reis	S	6-1	215	26	3	Georgia Tech	Roswell, Ga.	FA-07
41	Roman Harper	S	6-1	200	26	4	Alabama	Prattville, Ala.	D2-06
42	Darren Sharper	S	6-2	210	34	13	William & Mary	Richmond, Va.	UFA-09 (Min)

Players On Active Roster: 53

Practice Squad

10	Chase Daniel	QB	6-0	225	23	R	Missouri	Southlake, Texas	FA-09
87	Adrian Arrington	WR	6-3	192	24	2	Michigan	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	D7-08
82	Tyler Lorenzen	TE	6-5	229	23	R	Connecticut	Fremont, Iowa	FA-09
72	Tim Duckworth	G	6-4	318	27	1	Auburn	Taylorville, Miss.	FA-09
75	Renardo Foster	T	6-7	340	25	3	Louisville	Ripley, Tenn.	FA-09
79	Jermey Parnell	T	6-6	278	23	R	Mississippi	Gosnell, Ark.	FA-09
66	Earl Heyman	DT	6-1	289	22	R	Louisville	Louisville, Ky.	FA-09
38	Mark Parson	CB	5-10	192	23	R	Ohio	Richmond, Va.	FA-09

Players on Practice Squad: 8

Reserve/Injured

44	Heath Evans	FB	6-0	250	30	9	Auburn	West Palm Beach, Fla.	UFA-09 (NE)
13	Rod Harper	WR	6-0	209	24	1	Murray State	Bradenton, Fla.	FA-09
84	D'Juan Woods	WR	6-1	210	25	1	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, Okla.	FA-09
83	Billy Miller	TE	6-3	252	32	10	Southern California	Westlake Village, Calif.	FA-08
	Dan Campbell	TE	6-5	265	33	11	Texas A&M	Glen Rose, Texas	FA-09
70	Jammal Brown	T	6-6	313	28	5	Oklahoma	Lawton, Okla.	D1-05
71	Kendrick Clancy	DT	6-1	305	31	10	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	FA-07
53	Mark Simoneau	LB	6-0	245	32	10	Kansas State	Smith Center, Kan.	TR-06 (Phi)
59	Stanley Arnoux	LB	6-0	232	23	R	Wake Forest	Sunrise, Fla.	D4b-09
24	Leigh Torrence	CB	5-11	179	27	4	Stanford	Atlanta, Ga.	WAI-08 (Was)
35	Reggie Jones	CB	6-0	193	23	R	Portland State	Federal Way, Wash.	FA-09
37	Chip Vaughn	S	6-2	221	24	R	Wake Forest	Fairfax, Va.	D4a-09

Players on Reserve/Injured: 12

HEAD COACH: SEAN PAYTON (Fourth season). **Assistants: Pete Carmichael Jr.** (Offensive Coordinator), **Gregg Williams** (Defensive Coordinator), **Joe Vitt** (Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers), **Greg McMahon** (Special Teams Coordinator), **Dennis Allen** (Secondary), **Adam Bailey** (Assistant Strength and Conditioning), **Dan Dalrymple** (Head Strength and Conditioning), **Bret Ingalls** (Running Backs), **Bill Johnson** (Defensive Line), **Curtis Johnson** (Wide Receivers), **Travis Jones** (Assistant Defensive Line), **Aaron Kromer** (Offensive Line/Running Game), **Joe Lombardi** (Quarterbacks), **Mike Mallory** (Assistant Special Teams), **Terry Malone** (Tight Ends), **Tony Oden** (Assistant Secondary), **Carter Sheridan** (Offensive Assistant/Assistant Player Programs), **Adam Zimmer** (Defensive Assistant/Linebackers), **Mike Cerullo** (Coaching Assistant), **Blake Williams** (Coaching Assistant).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ROSTER BY EXPERIENCE (11/23/09)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Born	Exp.	College	H.S. Hometown
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	185	4/20/64	21	Notre Dame	West Palm Beach, Fla.
11	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-1	217	9/17/70	17	Washington	Santa Maria, Calif.
57	Kyle, Jason	LS	6-3	242	5/12/72	15	Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.
42	Sharper, Darren	S	6-2	210	11/3/75	13	William & Mary	Richmond, Va.
29	McAlister, Chris	CB	6-1	210	6/14/77	11	Arizona	Pasadena, Calif.
34	McKenzie, Mike	CB	6-0	194	4/26/76	11	Memphis	Miami, Fla.
67	Nesbit, Jamar	G	6-4	328	12/17/76	11	South Carolina	Summerville, S.C.
31	Prioleau, Pierson	S	5-11	188	8/6/77	11	Virginia Tech	Alvin, S.C.
9	Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	1/15/79	9	Purdue	Austin, Texas
80	Dinkins, Darnell	TE	6-4	260	1/20/77	8	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.
54	Evans, Troy	LB	6-3	238	12/3/77	8	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio
55	Fujita, Scott	LB	6-5	250	4/28/79	8	California	Oxnard, Calif.
76	Goodwin, Jonathan	C	6-3	318	12/2/78	8	Michigan	Richland, S.C.
94	Grant, Charles	DE	6-3	285	9/3/78	8	Georgia	Colquitt, Ga.
88	Shockey, Jeremy	TE	6-5	251	8/18/80	8	Miami (Fla.)	Ada, Okla.
58	Shanle, Scott	LB	6-2	245	11/23/79	7	Nebraska	St. Edward, Neb.
78	Stinchcomb, Jon	T	6-5	315	8/27/79	7	Georgia	Lilburn, Ga.
20	Gay, Randall	CB	5-11	190	5/5/82	6	Louisiana State	Brusly, La.
32	Greer, Jabari	CB	5-11	180	2/11/82	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.
19	Henderson, Devery	WR	5-11	200	3/26/82	6	Louisiana State	Opelousas, La.
60	Leckey, Nick	C	6-3	291	3/12/82	6	Kansas State	Grapevine, Texas
93	McCray, Bobby	DE	6-6	260	8/8/81	6	Florida	Homestead, Fla.
91	Smith, Will	DE	6-3	282	7/4/81	6	Ohio State	Utica, N.Y.
51	Vilma, Jonathan	LB	6-1	230	4/16/82	6	Miami (Fla.)	Coral Gables, Fla.
69	Hargrove, Anthony	DL	6-3	272	7/20/83	5	Georgia Tech	Punta Gorda, Fla.
21	Bell, Mike	RB	6-0	225	4/23/83	4	Arizona	Tolleson, Ariz.
25	Bush, Reggie	RB	6-0	203	3/2/85	4	Southern California	Spring Valley, Calif.
12	Colston, Marques	WR	6-4	225	6/5/83	4	Hofstra	Harrisburg, Pa.
73	Evans, Jahri	G	6-4	318	8/22/83	4	Bloomsburg	Philadelphia, Pa.
41	Harper, Roman	S	6-1	200	12/11/82	4	Alabama	Prattville, Ala.
16	Moore, Lance	WR	5-9	190	8/31/83	4	Toledo	Westerville, Ohio
15	Roby, Courtney	WR	6-0	189	1/10/83	4	Indiana	Indianapolis, Ind.
64	Strief, Zach	T	6-7	320	9/22/83	4	Northwestern	Milford, Ohio
85	Thomas, David	TE	6-3	248	7/5/83	4	Texas	Plainview, Texas
92	Ayodele, Remi	DT	6-2	318	4/22/83	3	Oklahoma	Grand Prairie, Texas
74	Bushrod, Jermon	T	6-5	315	8/19/84	3	Towson	King George, Va.
97	Charleston, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	1/19/83	3	Idaho State	Oregon City, Ore.
36	Eckel, Kyle	FB	5-11	237	12/30/81	3	Navy	Haverford, Pa.
17	Meachem, Robert	WR	6-2	210	9/28/84	3	Tennessee	Tulsa, Okla.
50	Mitchell, Marvin	LB	6-3	249	10/21/84	3	Tennessee	Norfolk, Va.
39	Reis, Chris	S	6-1	215	9/19/83	3	Georgia Tech	Roswell, Ga.
23	Thomas, Pierre	RB	5-11	215	12/18/84	3	Illinois	Lynwood, Ill.
28	Young, Usama	S	6-0	200	5/8/85	3	Kent State	Largo, Md.
56	Dunbar, Jo-Lonn	LB	6-0	226	3/13/85	2	Boston College	Syracuse, N.Y.
98	Ellis, Sedrick	DT	6-1	307	7/9/85	2	Southern California	Chino, Calif.
5	Hartley, Garrett	K	5-8	196	5/16/86	2	Oklahoma	Southlake, Texas
77	Nicks, Carl	G	6-5	343	5/14/85	2	Nebraska	Salinas, Calif.
22	Porter, Tracy	CB	5-11	186	8/11/86	2	Indiana	Port Allen, La.
90	Pressley, DeMario	DT	6-3	301	11/3/85	2	North Carolina State	Greensboro, N.C.
30	Hamilton, Lynell	RB	6-0	235	8/5/85	1	San Diego State	Stockton, Calif.
52	Casillas, Jonathan	LB	6-1	227	6/3/87	R	Wisconsin	New Brunswick, N.J.
27	Jenkins, Malcolm	CB	6-0	204	12/20/87	R	Ohio State	Piscataway, N.J.
6	Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	225	3/7/86	R	Southern Methodist	Pearland, Texas

Players On Active Roster: 53

Practice Squad

75	Foster, Renardo	T	6-7	340	7/15/84	3	Louisville	Ripley, Tenn.
87	Arrington, Adrian	WR	6-3	192	11/7/85	2	Michigan	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
72	Duckworth, Tim	G	6-4	318	9/14/82	1	Auburn	Taylorville, Miss.
10	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	10/7/86	R	Missouri	Southlake, Texas
66	Heyman, Earl	DT	6-1	289	9/5/87	R	Louisville	Louisville, Ky.
82	Lorenzen, Tyler	TE	6-5	229	12/24/85	R	Connecticut	Fremont, Iowa
79	Parnell, Jermey	T	6-6	278	7/20/86	R	Mississippi	Gosnell, Ark.
38	Parson, Mark	CB	5-10	192	5/9/86	R	Ohio	Richmond, Va.

Players on Practice Squad: 8

Reserve/Injured

	Campbell, Dan	TE	6-5	265	4/13/76	11	Texas A&M	Glen Rose, Texas
71	Clancy, Kendrick	DT	6-1	305	8/17/78	10	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa, Ala.
83	Miller, Billy	TE	6-3	252	4/24/77	10	Southern California	Westlake Village, Calif.
53	Simoneau, Mark	LB	6-0	245	1/16/77	10	Kansas State	Smith Center, Kan.
44	Evans, Heath	FB	6-0	250	12/30/78	9	Auburn	West Palm Beach, Fla.
70	Brown, Jammal	T	6-6	313	3/30/81	5	Oklahoma	Lawton, Okla.
24	Torrence, Leigh	CB	5-11	179	1/4/82	4	Stanford	Atlanta, Ga.
13	Harper, Rod	WR	6-0	209	3/26/85	1	Murray State	Bradenton, Fla.
84	Woods, D'Juan	WR	6-1	210	6/11/84	1	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, Okla.
59	Arnoux, Stanley	LB	6-0	232	9/9/86	R	Wake Forest	Sunrise, Fla.
35	Jones, Reggie	CB	6-0	193	3/15/86	R	Portland State	Federal Way, Wash.
37	Vaughn, Chip	S	6-2	221	10/26/85	R	Wake Forest	Fairfax, Va.

Players on Reserve/Injured: 12

HEAD COACH: SEAN PAYTON (Fourth season). **Assistants:** Pete Carmichael Jr. (Offensive Coordinator), Gregg Williams (Defensive Coordinator), Joe Vitt (Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers), Greg McMahon (Special Teams Coordinator), Dennis Allen (Secondary), Adam Bailey (Assistant Strength and Conditioning), Dan Dalrymple (Head Strength and Conditioning), Bret Ingalls (Running Backs), Bill Johnson (Defensive Line), Curtis Johnson (Wide Receivers), Travis Jones (Assistant Defensive Line), Aaron Kromer (Offensive Line/Running Game), Joe Lombardi (Quarterbacks), Mike Mallory (Assistant Special Teams), Terry Malone (Tight Ends), Tony Oden (Assistant Secondary), Carter Sheridan (Offensive Assistant/Assistant Player Programs), Adam Zimmer (Defensive Assistant/Linebackers), Mike Cerullo (Coaching Assistant), Blake Williams (Coaching Assistant).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ROSTER BY AGE (11/23/09)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	H.S. Hometown	How Acquired
3	John Carney	K	5-11	185	45	21	Notre Dame	West Palm Beach, Fla.	FA-09
11	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	217	39	17	Washington	Santa Maria, Calif.	UFA-08 (Was)
57	Jason Kyle	LS	6-3	242	37	15	Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.	FA-09
42	Darren Sharper	S	6-2	210	34	13	William & Mary	Richmond, Va.	UFA-09 (Min)
34	Mike McKenzie	CB	6-0	194	33	11	Memphis	Miami, Fla.	FA-09
67	Jamar Nesbit	G	6-4	328	32	11	South Carolina	Summerville, S.C.	UFA-04 (Jax)
80	Darnell Dinkins	TE	6-4	260	32	8	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, Pa.	UFA-09 (Cle)
29	Chris McAlister	CB	6-1	210	32	11	Arizona	Pasadena, Calif.	FA-09
31	Pierson Prioleau	S	5-11	188	32	11	Virginia Tech	Alvin, S.C.	UFA-09 (Jax)
54	Troy Evans	LB	6-3	238	31	8	Cincinnati	Cincinnati, Ohio	UFA-07 (Hou)
94	Charles Grant	DE	6-3	285	31	8	Georgia	Colquitt, Ga.	D1b-02
76	Jonathan Goodwin	C	6-3	318	30	8	Michigan	Richland, S.C.	UFA-06 (NYJ)
9	Drew Brees	QB	6-0	209	30	9	Purdue	Austin, Texas	UFA-06 (SD)
55	Scott Fujita	LB	6-5	250	30	8	California	Oxnard, Calif.	UFA-06 (Dal)
78	Jon Stinchcomb	T	6-5	315	30	7	Georgia	Lilburn, Ga.	D2-03
58	Scott Shanle	LB	6-2	245	30	7	Nebraska	St. Edward, Neb.	TR-06 (Dal)
88	Jeremy Shockey	TE	6-5	251	29	8	Miami (Fla.)	Ada, Okla.	TR-08 (NYG)
91	Will Smith	DE	6-3	282	28	6	Ohio State	Utica, N.Y.	D1-04
93	Bobby McCray	DE	6-6	260	28	6	Florida	Homestead, Fla.	UFA-08 (Jax)
36	Kyle Eckel	FB	5-11	237	27	9	Navy	Haverford, Pa.	FA-09
32	Jabari Greer	CB	5-11	180	27	6	Tennessee	Jackson, Tenn.	UFA-09 (Buf)
60	Nick Leckey	C	6-3	291	27	6	Kansas State	Grapevine, Texas	UFA-09 (StL)
19	Devery Henderson	WR	5-11	200	27	6	Louisiana State	Opelousas, La.	D2a-04
51	Jonathan Vilma	LB	6-1	230	27	6	Miami (Fla.)	Coral Gables, Fla.	TR-08 (NYJ)
20	Randall Gay	CB	5-11	190	27	6	Louisiana State	Brusly, La.	UFA-08 (NE)
41	Roman Harper	S	6-1	200	26	4	Alabama	Prattville, Ala.	D2-06
15	Courtney Roby	WR	6-0	189	26	4	Indiana	Indianapolis, Ind.	FA-09
97	Jeff Charleston	DE	6-4	265	26	3	Idaho State	Oregon City, Ore.	FA-08
92	Remi Ayodele	DT	6-2	318	26	3	Oklahoma	Grand Prairie, Texas	FA-08
21	Mike Bell	RB	6-0	225	26	4	Arizona	Tolleson, Ariz.	FA-08
12	Marques Colston	WR	6-4	225	26	4	Hofstra	Harrisburg, Pa.	D7b-06
85	David Thomas	TE	6-3	248	26	4	Texas	Plainview, Texas	TR-09 (NE)
69	Anthony Hargrove	DL	6-3	272	26	5	Georgia Tech	Punta Gorda, Fla.	UFA-09 (Buf)
73	Jahri Evans	G	6-4	318	26	4	Bloomsburg	Philadelphia, Pa.	D4-06
16	Lance Moore	WR	5-9	190	26	4	Toledo	Westerville, Ohio	FA-07
39	Chris Reis	S	6-1	215	26	3	Georgia Tech	Roswell, Ga.	FA-07
64	Zach Strief	T	6-7	320	26	4	Northwestern	Milford, Ohio	D7a-06
74	Jermion Bushrod	T	6-5	315	25	3	Towson	King George, Va.	D4b-07
17	Robert Meachem	WR	6-2	210	25	3	Tennessee	Tulsa, Okla.	D1-07
50	Marvin Mitchell	LB	6-3	249	25	3	Tennessee	Norfolk, Va.	D7-07
23	Pierre Thomas	RB	5-11	215	24	3	Illinois	Lynwood, Ill.	FA-07
25	Reggie Bush	RB	6-0	203	24	4	Southern California	Spring Valley, Calif.	D1-06
56	Jo-Lonn Dunbar	LB	6-0	226	24	2	Boston College	Syracuse, N.Y.	FA-08
28	Usama Young	S	6-0	200	24	3	Kent State	Largo, Md.	D3a-07
77	Carl Nicks	G	6-5	343	24	2	Nebraska	Salinas, Calif.	D5b-08
98	Sedrick Ellis	DT	6-1	307	24	2	Southern California	Chino, Calif.	D1-08
30	Lynell Hamilton	RB	6-0	235	24	1	San Diego State	Stockton, Calif.	FA-08
90	DeMario Pressley	DT	6-3	301	24	2	North Carolina State	Greensboro, N.C.	D5a-08
6	Thomas Horstead	P	6-4	225	23	R	Southern Methodist	Pearland, Texas	D5-09
5	Garrett Hartley	K	5-8	196	23	2	Oklahoma	Southlake, Texas	FA-08
22	Tracy Porter	CB	5-11	186	23	2	Indiana	Port Allen, La.	D2-08
52	Jonathan Casillas	LB	6-1	227	22	R	Wisconsin	New Brunswick, N.J.	FA-09
27	Malcolm Jenkins	CB	6-0	204	21	R	Ohio State	Piscataway, N.J.	D1-09

Players On Active Roster: 53

Practice Squad

72	Tim Duckworth	G	6-4	318	27	1	Auburn	Taylorsville, Miss.	FA-09
75	Renardo Foster	T	6-7	340	25	3	Louisville	Ripley, Tenn.	FA-09
87	Adrian Arrington	WR	6-3	192	24	2	Michigan	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	D7-08
82	Tyler Lorenzen	TE	6-5	229	23	R	Connecticut	Fremont, Iowa	FA-09
38	Mark Parson	CB	5-10	192	23	R	Ohio	Richmond, Va.	FA-09
79	Jermey Parnell	T	6-6	278	23	R	Mississippi	Gosnell, Ark.	FA-09
10	Chase Daniel	QB	6-0	225	23	R	Missouri	Southlake, Texas	FA-09
66	Earl Heyman	DT	6-1	289	22	R	Louisville	Louisville, Ky.	FA-09

Players on Practice Squad: 8

Reserve/Injured

	Dan Campbell	TE	6-5	265	33	11	Texas A&M	Glen Rose, Texas	FA-09
53	Mark Simoneau	LB	6-0	245	32	10	Kansas State	Smith Center, Kan.	TR-06 (Phi)
83	Billy Miller	TE	6-3	252	32	10	Southern California	Westlake Village, Calif.	FA-08
71	Kendrick Clancy	DT	6-1	305	31	10	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	FA-07
44	Heath Evans	FB	6-0	250	30	9	Auburn	West Palm Beach, Fla.	UFA-09 (NE)
70	Jammal Brown	T	6-6	313	28	5	Oklahoma	Lawton, Okla.	D1-05
24	Leigh Torrence	CB	5-11	179	27	4	Stanford	Atlanta, Ga.	WAI-08 (Was)
84	D'Juan Woods	WR	6-1	210	25	1	Oklahoma State	Oklahoma City, Okla.	FA-09
13	Rod Harper	WR	6-0	209	24	1	Murray State	Bradenton, Fla.	FA-09
37	Chip Vaughn	S	6-2	221	24	R	Wake Forest	Fairfax, Va.	D4a-09
35	Reggie Jones	CB	6-0	193	23	R	Portland State	Federal Way, Wash.	FA-09
59	Stanley Arnoux	LB	6-0	232	23	R	Wake Forest	Sunrise, Fla.	D4b-09

Players on Reserve/Injured: 12

HEAD COACH: SEAN PAYTON (Fourth season). **Assistants: Pete Carmichael Jr.** (Offensive Coordinator), **Gregg Williams** (Defensive Coordinator), **Joe Vitt** (Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers), **Gregg McMahon** (Special Teams Coordinator), **Dennis Allen** (Secondary), **Adam Bailey** (Assistant Strength and Conditioning), **Dan Dalrymple** (Head Strength and Conditioning), **Bret Ingalls** (Running Backs), **Bill Johnson** (Defensive Line), **Curtis Johnson** (Wide Receivers), **Travis Jones** (Assistant Defensive Line), **Aaron Kromer** (Offensive Line/Running Game), **Joe Lombardi** (Quarterbacks), **Mike Mallory** (Assistant Special Teams), **Terry Malone** (Tight Ends), **Tony Oden** (Assistant Secondary), **Carter Sheridan** (Offensive Assistant/Assistant Player Programs), **Adam Zimmer** (Defensive Assistant/Linebackers), **Mike Cerullo** (Coaching Assistant), **Blake Williams** (Coaching Assistant).

UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART (AS OF NOV. 23)

• **OFFENSE**

WR	12	Marques Colston	16	Lance Moore		
LT	74	Jermon Bushrod	64	Zach Strief		
LG	77	Carl Nicks	67	Jamar Nesbit		
C	76	Jonathan Goodwin	60	Nick Leckey		
RG	73	Jahri Evans	67	Jamar Nesbit		
RT	78	Jon Stinchcomb	64	Zach Strief		
TE	88	Jeremy Shockey	85	David Thomas	80	Darnell Dinkins
WR	19	Devery Henderson	17	Robert Meachem	15	Courtney Roby
QB	9	Drew Brees	11	Mark Brunell		
RB	25	Reggie Bush	23	Pierre Thomas	21	Mike Bell
					30	Lynell Hamilton
FB	36	Kyle Eckel				

• **DEFENSE**

LDE	94	Charles Grant	97	Jeff Charleston		
DT	98	Sedrick Ellis	69	Anthony Hargrove		
NT	92	Remi Ayodele	90	DeMario Pressley		
RDE	91	Will Smith	93	Bobby McCray		
SLB	55	Scott Fujita	54	Troy Evans		
MLB	51	Jonathan Vilma	50	Marvin Mitchell		
WLB	58	Scott Shanle	56	Jo-Lonn Dunbar	52	Jonathan Casillas
LCB	32	Jabari Greer	27	Malcolm Jenkins	29	Chris McAlister
SS	41	Roman Harper	31	Pierson Prioleau	39	Chris Reis
FS	42	Darren Sharper	28	Usama Young		
RCB	22	Tracy Porter	20	Randall Gay	34	Mike McKenzie

• **SPECIAL TEAMS**

P	6	Thomas Morstead				
K	3	John Carney	5	Garrett Hartley		
LS	57	Jason Kyle				
H	11	Mark Brunell				
PR	25	Reggie Bush	16	Lance Moore		
KR	15	Courtney Roby	23	Pierre Thomas	17	Robert Meachem
					16	Lance Moore
KO	6	Thomas Morstead	5	Garrett Hartley		

Pronunciation Guide:

DT Remi Ayodele (AY-dell)
 WR Marques Colston (MAR-kiss)
 G Jahri Evans (JAR-ee)
 LB Scott Fujita (Foo-GEE-ta)
 CB Jabari Greer (Juh-BAR-ee)
 S Pierson Prioleau (PRAY-low)
 S Chris Reis (Reese)
 LB Scott Shanle (SHAN-lee)
 T Zach Strief (Streef)
 CB Usama Young (OO-sama)

PLAYER BIOS NOT IN 2009 MEDIA GUIDE

3 John Carney**HEIGHT:** 5-11 **WEIGHT:** 185**COLLEGE:** Notre Dame**JOINED SAINTS:** FA-09**NFL EXPERIENCE:** 21**BIRTHDATE:** 4/20/64

NFL CAREER – While Carney has ranked among the NFL's most productive and accurate kickers since 1990, he has taken his considerable skills to a new level since originally coming to New Orleans in 2001 and has become one of the best kickers in franchise history. Carney is the fourth-leading scorer in NFL record books, with 1,955 points. In a six-year stint with the Saints from 2001-06, he converted 150 of 180 field goals (83.3 percent) and scored 661 points, which ranks second in team record books. He is coming off a Pro Bowl season in 2008 with the New York Giants where he scored a career-best 143 points – his 11th triple-digit scoring season – on 35-for-38 field goal accuracy and making all 38 extra point kicks. In 2006, he led New Orleans with 115 points – tied for ninth in the league – and earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Month honors for September. In 2002, Carney set a club record with 130 points, and his 31 field goals that season also tied a Saints record. Prior to coming to New Orleans, Carney spent 11 seasons with the San Diego Chargers.

CAREER TRANSACTIONS – Signed by Saints to a one-year contract, 8/15/09; Signed to a one-year contract with the New York Giants, 8/30/08; Signed a one-year contract with Kansas City Chiefs, 11/27/07; Released by Jacksonville Jaguars, 11/20/07; Signed with Jacksonville, 9/12/07; Released by Saints, 4/5/07; Re-signed by the Saints to five-year contract, 3/7/03; Re-signed by the Saints to a one-year contract, 3/18/02; Signed by the Saints to a one-year contract, 8/5/01; Placed on reserve/injured by the San Diego Chargers, 11/15/97; Re-signed by San Diego to three-year contract, 4/6/94; Re-signed by San Diego to one-year contract, 6/9/93; Re-signed by San Diego, 7/27/92; Signed by San Diego, 10/3/90; Released by Los Angeles Rams, 9/26/90; Signed by Los Angeles, 9/21/90. Released by San Diego, 8/28/90; Signed by San Diego, 4/21/90; Re-signed by Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 12/13/89; Released by Tampa Bay, 9/5/89; Re-signed by Tampa Bay, 4/5/88; Released by Tampa Bay, 10/14/87; Signed by Tampa Bay, 9/24/87; Released by Cincinnati Bengals, 8/10/87; Signed as undrafted free agent by Cincinnati, 5/1/87.

HONORS – **2008:** Pro Bowl; NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, Week 3; **2006:** NFC Special Teams Player of the Month, September; **2005:** NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, Week 1. **2004:** NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, Week 3; **2003:** Sporting News No. 1 Good Guy Award for the NFL; **2001:** NFC Special Teams Player of the Month (October); NFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Weeks 4 and 7). **2000:** AFC Special teams Player of the Week (Week 13). **1999:** AFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week 14). **1998:** AFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week 1). **1996:** AFC Special Teams Player of the Week, (Weeks 1 and 5); AFC Special Teams Player of the Month (September). **1994:** Pro Bowl; Associated Press, College & Pro Football Newsweekly, The Sporting News and USA Today first team All-Pro, Football News and United Press International All-AFC, AFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week 4), AFC Special Teams Player of the Month (October). 1993: AFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week 3), AFC Special Teams Player of the Month (September).

2008 – Signed with Giants late in preseason and played in 15 games, posting a career-best 143 points on 35-for-38 field goal kicking, also hitting all 38 of his PAT kicks...Ranked third in NFL in scoring and earned second

career Pro Bowl selection...Connected on all three FG attempts against Washington, Sept. 4, making kicks from 24, 25 and 47 yards...Kicked four FGs against Cincinnati Sept. 22, the last in overtime to win the game for Giants. It was the 15th game-winning FG of his career, the third in overtime. Earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week...Against San Francisco, Oct. 19, made first FG attempt, from 21 yards, extending streak to 13 in a row in 2008 and 19 in a row dating back to 2007, then NFL's longest active streak...Streak ended when his second attempt was blocked and returned 74 yards for a TD...Inactive vs. Baltimore Nov. 16...Kicked four field goals in five attempts in season finale against Minnesota Dec. 28, the fourth time in 2008 he kicked four FGs in a game. Pushed a 48-yard attempt wide right in fourth quarter, the only one of his three misses that was not blocked. Finished season with 35 FGs in 38 attempts, a .921 percentage, best in Giants history. His 51-yard field goal with 9:30 left in the second quarter was the 44-year-old kicker's longest since Sept. 25, 2006, when he booted a 51-yarder in the Saints' return to the Superdome in a Monday night victory over Atlanta. **2007** – Played in 13 games in stints with Kansas City and Jacksonville. Converted 12 of 14 FGs and 27 of 28 PATs for 63 points...Played in five games with Kansas City, connecting on three FGs and seven PATs for 16 points...Saw duty in eight games and inactive for a contest with Jacksonville hitting nine of 11 FGs and 20 of 21 PATs for 47 points for the Jaguars...Joined Jacksonville as a free agent, Sept. 12 before being released Nov. 20...Signed with Chiefs, Nov. 27. **2006** – Finished season with 115 points, drilling 23 of 25 FG attempts and 46 of 47 PATs...92 percent conversion rate was career-best for a 16-game season...Reached triple digits in scoring for 10th time in career...Perfect on FG attempts in all but two contests...NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for September, making all nine FGs during first three games of the season and scoring 36 points...At Cleveland, Sept. 10, successful on all four FG attempts and PAT in 19-14 win...Sept. 25 vs. Atlanta had season-long 51-yard FG, one of three in contest...Made 400th FG of career at Carolina, Oct. 1...Appeared in 250th NFL game vs. Tampa Bay, Oct. 8...Oct. 15 vs. Philadelphia booted a 31-yard FG as time expired for a 27-24 win, his sixth game-winner for Saints in the last 10 seconds. Also became the third player in NFL history to have 400 or more field goals...Had PAT attempt blocked vs. Cincinnati, Nov. 19...At Dallas, Dec. 10, made all six PATs, going over 500 for career...Joined K Morten Andersen (1982-94) as only players in team history to attempt 150 FGs at New York Giants, Dec. 24, making all three attempts...Drilled two FGs vs. Philadelphia in NFC Divisional Playoff, 1/13/07. **2005** – Finished with 97 points, tied for eighth in NFC...Was 25 of 32 on field goals and made all 22 PATs...Had at least a FG in 14 contests and did not miss an attempt in nine games...Made three-of-three FG attempts (from 29, 48 and 47 yards) at Carolina, Sept. 11, including game-winning kick with seven seconds left. It was 13th game-winning FG of career and fifth with Saints...Named NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, the fifth consecutive Saint to receive that honor, carrying over from final four weeks of 2004...Closed season with 546 points in New Orleans, surpassing K Doug Brien for second-most in club history. **2004** – Finished with 104 points, fourth in the NFC and his third-highest total since joining the Saints in 2001...Was 22 of 27 on FGs and made all 38 PATs...Had at least one FG in 12 games, and did not miss an attempt in nine games...Top performance at St. Louis, Sept. 26, tying club record with five FGs and booting fourth game-winning kick with Saints. Voted NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, which included 52-, 53-, 39-, 38- and 31-yard FGs. Lone miss was from 51 yards, and the 53-yarder was his longest with Saints and longest since 2000. His 38-yard kick at end of regulation sent game into overtime, and his 31-yard FG was game-winner.

PLAYER BIOS NOT IN 2009 MEDIA GUIDE (CONT.)

2003 – With 102 points, moved into third all-time on club's scoring chart with 345. Joined K Morten Andersen (1,318, 1982-94), K Doug Brien (513, 1995-2000) and RB Dalton Hilliard (318, 1986-93) as the only four players in team history to score over 300 points...Booted a field goal in first 10 games, pushing his club record to 22 straight contests with a field goal before having lone attempt blocked vs. Philadelphia, Nov. 23 (streak started Oct. 6, 2002 vs. Pittsburgh)...At Tampa Bay, Nov. 2, made 47-yard attempt with eight seconds left to clinch win...Drilled all three field goal attempts (28, 26, 36) and a pair of extra points vs. Atlanta, Nov. 16. Final kick was a 36-yard game-winner with 11:01 left in overtime...Tied career-high for PATs again, 6-of-6 vs. N.Y. Giants, Dec. 14...Suffered first missed PAT at Jacksonville, Dec. 21 since having one blocked in 1999.

2002 – Had record-setting season, leading team with franchise-best 130 points and finishing third in the NFL in scoring among kickers...Connected on 31-of-35 field goal attempts and 37-of-37 PATs...31 field goals tied team record set by Andersen in 1985...His .886 field goal accuracy made him the most accurate kicker in the NFC in 2002 and was his best since 1994 (34-of-38, .895).

2001 – After joining Saints in training camp, appeared in 15 games (active vs. San Francisco, 1/6/02, but did not play)...Led team with 113 points, crossing 1,200-point mark for career...Ranked fourth in the NFC in scoring among kickers...Connected on 27-of-31 field goal attempts (.871) and 32-of-32 extra points...Opened season making first 11 field goal attempts...During stretch made all five vs. Minnesota, Oct. 7, tying club record. Selected as the NFC Special Teams Player of the Week, his ninth time to take the honor, the most by any NFL kicker...Made five-of-five at St. Louis, Oct. 28. Final attempt, a 27-yarder, clinched 34-31 win over the Rams...For his efforts, which also tied the club record for field goals in a game for the second time, he was named the NFL Special Teams Player of the Week for the second time and the tenth of his career.

2000 – Chargers scoring leader with 81 points...Connected on 18-of-25 (.720) and 27-of-27 PATs...Helped snap an 11-game losing streak in game 12 vs. Kansas City, Nov. 26, when he booted a 52-yard field goal with just over two minutes left for 17-16 victory.

1999 – Led San Diego with 115 points...Connected on 31-of-36 field goal (.861) and 22-of-23 PATs...Opened the campaign with a season-high 14 points by connecting on all four of his field goal attempts (27, 23, 21 and 42 yards) and two PATs at Cincinnati, Sept. 19...Hit a season-long 50-yard field goal vs. Indianapolis, Sept. 26...Earned AFC Special Teams Player of Week honors for drilling all four field goal tries (33, 42, 28 and 41 yards) and one PAT to account for 13 points in 19-16 win at Seattle, Dec. 12...Connected on three-of-three field goals vs. Oakland, Dec. 26, including a 37-yard game-winner in the fourth quarter.

1998 – Appeared in all 16 games...Finished as the team leader with 97 points...Connected on 26-of-30 field goal attempts and 19 PATs... Opened the season with a stellar performance, hitting 3-of-3 field goals from 48, 47 and a 54-yard game-winner vs. Buffalo, Sept. 6 and was named the AFC Special Teams Player of the Week.

1997 – Became Chargers' all-time points leader with 767 in Game 3 against Carolina, Sept. 14 with a PAT ...Played in the first four games before suffering a strained MCL in his right knee at Seattle, Sept. 21, and missed the remainder of the season.

1996 – Kicked for the Chargers in all 16 games...Named the AFC Special Teams Player of the Week twice and Player of Month once...Ranked fourth in AFC with 118 points...Made 31-of-31 PATs and 29-of-36 (.805) field goals...Named AFC Special Teams Player of Week after compiling 17 points by hitting two-of-two PAT and five-of-five field goal (35, 53, 22, 50 and 31) vs. Seattle, Sept. 1. Second time in career he made two field goals from 50 yards or more in same game...Named Week 5 AFC Special Teams Player of Week after making lone PAT and five-of-five field goals (33, 38, 44, 39 and 33) vs. Kansas City, Sept. 29...Named September

AFC Special Teams Player of the Month after making 11-of-11 PAT and 15-of-17 field goal attempts for 56 points.

1995 – Kicked in all 16 regular-season games and one playoff contest...Became Chargers' all-time leading field goal kicker in Game 15 at Indianapolis when he made his 147th and 148th field goals...Led the Chargers with 95 points, marking sixth-straight season he paced club...Finished 21-of-26 on field goal attempts (.808) and 32-of-33 PAT (.970)...Set team postseason record with 54-yard field goal in Wild Card vs. Indianapolis, Dec. 31.

1994 – Led the NFL with a career-high 135 points...Named to his first Pro Bowl...Named the AFC Special Teams Player of Month (October) after hitting all 14 field goals and 8-of-8 PATs for total of 50 points...Perfect 33-of-33 PATs and hit 34-of-38 field goal attempts...Tied his career-high with a season-best 18 points in 36-22 win at New Orleans Oct. 16, when he hit all three PATs and all five field goals (49, 31, 29, 29 and 28 yards)...Successfully hit five-of-five field goals the following week vs. Denver, Oct. 23...In the playoffs, hitting two of two field goals (20 and 21 yards) in 22-21 win over Miami in AFC Divisional Playoff, 1/8/95...Drilled 31-yard field goals in Super Bowl XXIX vs. San Francisco, 1/29/95.

1993 – Led San Diego with 124 points...His 31 field goals in 1993 broke his own team record of 26, set in 1992...Set team records for field goals in a game by hitting six-of-six twice...Made all six attempted field goals in a season-opening 18-12 win over Seattle, Sept. 5...Made six-of-six field goals and supplied all of Chargers' points again two weeks later when San Diego defeated Houston 18-17, Sept. 19...His final field goal of the Houston contest was his 29th-straight, setting an NFL record.

1992 – Chargers' scoring leader with 113 points...35-of-35 on PATs...Hit 26 field goals, including 16-straight to finish the season...Perfect on every field goal attempt in the final six games (16-for-16).

1991 – Led Chargers in scoring with 88 points...Set a club record with a 54-yard field goal to give San Diego 17-14 last-second victory over Seattle, Nov. 10...Also kicked the game-winning, 19-yard field goal the following week with five seconds remaining in a 24-21 win over playoffbound New Orleans, Nov. 17...Hit 31-of-31 PATs and 19-of-29 field goal attempts.

1990 – Set a club record with a .905 field goal percentage by hitting 19-of-21 field goal attempts...Led the Chargers in scoring with 84 points...Originally arrived as a Plan B free agent from Tampa Bay, April 2, but was released in the final roster cut...Nearly flawless in the final 12 games after being re-signed by San Diego, Oct. 2...Hit 27-of-28 PAT and 19-of-21 field goals...Had a one-game stint with Rams before joining Chargers, handling kickoffs vs. Philadelphia, Sept. 23.

1989 – Activated by Tampa Bay for the final two games.

1988 – Joined Tampa Bay for the final four games...Two of five on field goal attempts and made all six PAT attempts.

1987 – Originally signed by Cincinnati as rookie free agent and waived in camp before joining Tampa Bay.

COLLEGE – Finished his college career as Notre Dame's all-time field goal leader, drilling 51 of 69 attempts for a .739 accuracy percentage...Departed school ranked second on the Irish scoring chart with 223 points...Game-winning, 19-yard at USC on the final kick of his college career capped Irish comeback in 38-37 victory in 1986.

PERSONAL – All-state kicker for Cardinal Newman (West Palm Beach, Fla.) HS, where he also served as the team's punter...An avid surfer and enjoys golfing...Appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated following his game-winning kick in the 2005 season opener at Carolina, a victory that came days after the club was forced to evacuate New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina...A very caring and community-minded player...John and his wife, Holly, have two sons, Luke and John David and a daughter, Keely Marie...Full name: John Michael Carney...Born April 20, 1964 in Hartford, Conn.

PLAYER BIOS NOT IN 2009 MEDIA GUIDE (CONT.)

36 Kyle Eckel**HEIGHT:** 5-11 **WEIGHT:** 237**COLLEGE:** Navy**JOINED SAINTS:** FA-09**NFL EXPERIENCE:** 3**BIRTHDATE:** 12/30/81

NFL CAREER – Eckel comes to New Orleans to provide depth in the backfield. Originally an undrafted free agent signee of New England in 2005, he's spent time with the Miami Dolphins (2005-06), New England (2007-08) and Philadelphia (2008).

CAREER TRANSACTIONS –Signed by Saints, 10/29/09; Released by Philadelphia, 9/5/09; Signed by Philadelphia Eagles to a two-year contract, 10/21/08; Released by Patriots, 9/22/08; Re-signed by Patriots, 9/15/08; Waived by Patriots, 8/26/08; Activated from practice squad by New England, 10/1/07; Signed to New England practice squad, 9/3/07; Released by Dolphins, 9/1/07; Reinstated from Reserve/Military list, 11/2/06; Placed on Reserve/Military list, 9/7/05; Claimed off waivers by Miami Dolphins, 9/4/05; Waived by Patriots, 9/3/05; Signed by the New England Patriots as an undrafted rookie free agent, 4/29/05.

2008 – After spending one week of the regular season on New England's active roster, Eckel was signed by the Eagles before midseason and appeared in five games, carrying 24 times for 79 yards...He also appeared in all three playoff games. **2007** – Appeared in 12 regular season games for New England and carried 33 times for 90 yards with two touchdowns, adding one reception for six yards and 12 special teams tackles...Scored his first career touchdown at Dallas, Oct. 14, adding four carries for nine yards...Appeared in two postseason games, including Super Bowl vs. N.Y. Giants. **2006** – Spent second half of 2006 season with the Dolphins after being activated from the Reserve/Military list.

COLLEGE – Finished his career at Navy ranked fourth in school history in both rushing yards (2,906) and rushing touchdowns (25)...Rushed for 1,147 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior, including a 2h6 carry, 179 yard, one touchdown performance in the annual Army-Navy game...The showing earned him his second straight Philadelphia Sportswriters Most Valuable Player of Army-Navy game award...Rushed for 1,249 yards and ten touchdowns as a junior, playing in every game (12 starts) and carried 29 times for 152 yards and two touchdowns vs. Army...Finished second on the team with 510 rush yards and four touchdowns as a sophomore, playing in nine games (eight starts)...Majored in economics.

PERSONAL – A three-year letterwinner in football and baseball at Episcopal (Merion, Pa.) Academy...Was a two-time first team all-area and all-league selection in football and garnered first team all-city accolades in his senior year...Served as an honorary coach in the 2007 BELL Bowl, a fundraiser at Gillette Stadium to benefit the BELL foundation, which is an acronym for Building Educated Leaders for Life...Helped distribute Thanksgiving food baskets at Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries in Boston in 2007...Enjoys adventure sports such as hiking and mountain biking, also would like to learn how to surf...Plays college football online against fans on Play Station...Born Dec. 30, 1981 in Philadelphia, Pa.

29 Chris McAlister CB**HEIGHT:** 6-1**WEIGHT:** 210**COLLEGE:** Arizona**NFL EXPERIENCE:** 11**JOINED SAINTS:** FA-09**BIRTHDATE:** 6/14/77

NFL CAREER – McAlister signs with the Saints, bringing a wealth of experience to the secondary and adds depth at the cornerback position. A 10-year veteran who has spent his entire professional career with the Baltimore Ravens, the Pasadena, Calif. native has played in 135 career regular-season games with 127 starts and has made 490 tackles, with 160 passes defensed, two forced fumbles, seven fumble recoveries and 26 interceptions, four of which he returned for touchdowns. A three-time Pro Bowl selection (2003, 2004, 2006), the former first-round draft choice also carries postseason experience, having started eight playoff games with 29 tackles, 14 passes defensed and three interceptions, including an interception in the Ravens' Super Bowl XXXV win over the New York Giants following the 2000 season.

CAREER TRANSACTIONS – Signed by Saints as a free agent to a one-year contract, 11/18/09; Released by Baltimore Ravens, 2/17/09; Placed on injured reserve, 11/7/08; Placed on injured reserve, 12/12/07; Re-signed to seven-year contract by Baltimore, 10/9/04; Signed Franchise Player tender, 8/30/04; Signed Franchise Player tender, 7/27/03; Selected by Baltimore in the first round (10th overall) in the 1999 NFL Draft.

HONORS – 2006: Pro Bowl; AFC Defensive Player of the Week (Week 17). 2004: Pro Bowl (starter); 2003: Pro Bowl (starter); Associated Press All-Pro (1st team); Pro Football Weekly All-NFL; Football Digest All-Pro (1st team); 2002: AFC Special Teams Player of the Week (Week four); 2000: Football Digest All Pro (2nd team); 1999: College & Pro Football Newsweekly All-Rookie Team).

2008 – Played in six games with five starts, a year that was cut short by a knee injury that saw him post 19 tackles (17 solo), three interceptions, seven pass defenses and a fumble recovery...Made four solo tackles, intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble in season-opener vs. Cincinnati, Sept. 7...Notched an interception and had two solo tackles vs. Cleveland, Sept. 21...Recorded three passes defensed with an interception vs. Tennessee, Oct. 5...Posted a season-best seven tackles at Indianapolis, Oct. 12...Placed on injured reserve, Nov. 7. **2007** – Started all eight games in which he played (missed eight games due to a knee injury) and posted 23 tackles (19 solo), 10 pass defenses and an interception before being placed on Injured Reserve (knee), 12/12... Posted two solo tackles and tied for the team lead with three pass defenses, helping pressure QB Kellen Clemens into two INTs in the victory over N.Y. Jets, Sept. 16...Led team with seven tackles (six solo) and two passes defensed in the win vs. Arizona, Sept. 23...Had five tackles (four solo), a pass defense and an interception in the 22-3 win vs. St. Louis, Oct. 14. **2006** – Named to his third Pro Bowl after starting all 16 games for the third time in his career, posting 56 tackles with an NFL-best 25 passes defensed (the second-highest total of his career)...Led the NFL's No. 1-rated defense, which posted a league-best 28 INTs, with a career-high six INTs, two of which he returned for TDs and also netted two fumble recoveries on the year...Started and posted two solo tackles, two pass defenses and an interception, which he returned 60 yards for a TD - his first INT returned for a TD since 2004 and the fifth score of his career - in the 27-0 victory in season opener at Tampa Bay, Sept. 10...Had two solo tackles and a game-saving INT at Cleveland, Sept. 24...Started and netted four solo tackles, three passes defensed and an INT which sealed the win in the win vs. Cincinnati, Nov. 5...Posted six tackles (five solo) and had two passes defensed and an INT, which he returned 10 yards in the win over Cleveland, Dec. 17... Started and had three tackles, three passes defensed and an INT, which he returned 31 yards for a TD, earning him AFC Defensive Player of the Week honors in 19-7 win in the season finale vs. Buffalo, Dec. 31.

PLAYER BIOS NOT IN 2009 MEDIA GUIDE (CONT.)



2005 – Started 14 games (missing 2 due to a hamstring injury) and netted 53 tackles, including 47 solo with one interception and led team with 20 passes defended...Posted three tackles and intercepted a pass at Detroit, Oct. 9...Posted six solo tackles (tying for the secondary lead) and two pass defenses at Pittsburgh, Oct. 31. **2004** – Named to his second consecutive Pro Bowl after playing in 15 games...Finished the season with 44 tackles (38 solo), one interception, eight passes defended and two fumble recoveries...Scored two TDs, returning an INT 51 yards for a score vs. Pittsburgh and recovering an Ed Reed fumble vs. Cincinnati after Reed intercepted the pass; McAlister took it 64 yards into the end zone for the TD... Tied for the lead in the secondary with seven tackles (four solo) and two passes defended with an interception, which he returned 51 yards for a touchdown (third INT return for a TD in his career), vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 19. **2003** – Earned his first Pro Bowl nod and also grabbed AP first-team All-Pro, Pro Football Weekly All-NFL and Football Digest first-team All-Pro honors...Played and started in 15 games, recording 52 tackles (43 solo), tied for second on the team with 16 pass defenses and had three interceptions, including one he returned 83 yards for a TD... Started at LCB and had four tackles (three solo) at Arizona, Oct. 12, posting his first career multi-INT game, returning the second 83 yards for a touchdown... Blanketed the NFL's leading WR Torry Holt, allowing him only three receptions for 38 yards and posted two solo tackles as the defense allowed the league's No. 1-rated offense just 121 yards at St. Louis, Nov. 9...Recorded one solo tackle and helped force QB Jon Kitna into two interceptions vs. Cincinnati, Dec. 7...Shadowed Pro Bowl WR Derrick Mason and held him to three receptions for 28 yards, while posting three solo tackles, two passes defended and moved into second place on the Ravens' all-time postseason INT list with the third of his career in the Wild Card loss vs. Tennessee, Jan. 3. **2002** – Saw action in 13 games, starting 12 and finished the season with 67 tackles (58 solo), a forced fumble and an interception along with a team-leading 24 passes defended...Started at RCB and logged seven tackles vs. Denver, Sept. 30...McAlister also led the team with four passes defended in the Monday Night Football contest and set a then-NFL record for longest play with a 107-yard return for a TD on Jason Elam's missed field goal in the closing seconds of the first half against the Broncos, earning AFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors...Returned from injury at Cincinnati, Dec. 1, and played in mostly nickel situations after missing previous three games and amassed six tackles (four solo) and led the team with three pass defenses. **2001** – Started all 16 games at CB and posted 69 tackles (59 solo), an interception and 10 passes defended...Returned punts in place of injured WR/KR Jermaine Lewis (thigh) at Cincinnati, Sept. 23, and returned 5 punts for 44 yards, including a 24-yard return...Recorded five tackles on defense...Recorded one tackle and a pass defense in 20-3 Wild Card win at Miami, Jan. 13 as the defense held the Dolphins to 151 total yards, a team-postseason record. **2000** – Named to *Football Digest's* All-Pro second-team after he posted 49 tackles (39 solo), four INTs and had 23 pass defenses in 16 starts...In the playoffs, McAlister recorded 17 tackles, led team with eight pass defenses and had one of Baltimore's 10 INTs...Won DirecTV's Play of the Week Award in the Ravens' win vs. N.Y. Jets, Dec. 24, when he stepped in front of a Vinny Testaverde pass on the two-yard line and raced 98 yards for the Ravens' only defensive TD of the regular season...Was the longest INT return in team history and second-longest in the NFL in 2000...Also had five tackles and four passes defended...Notched seven tackles and a team-high three passes defended in the AFC Wild Card win over Denver, Dec. 31...Recorded two tackles, a pass defense and an INT of QB Kerry Collins in the 34-7 Super Bowl XXXV win over the N.Y. Giants. **1999** – Had a solid rookie season by leading the team with 27 pass defenses

and finished tied for second among NFL rookies with five interceptions...Started final 12 games at LCB and finished with 58 tackles...Named to *College & Pro Football Newsweekly's* All-Rookie Team...Picked off his first career pass in season opener at St. Louis, Sept. 12... Made first NFL start at LCB in at Tennessee, Oct. 10, and credited with four tackles...Posted a career-high 10 tackles vs. Buffalo, Oct. 31, and recorded his third INT of the season...Also had three passes defended...Had four tackle and intercepted his fourth pass of the season vs. Tennessee, Dec. 5...Made two stops and recorded his fifth INT of the season in the season finale at New England, Jan. 2.

COLLEGE – Won unanimous All-America first-team honors and was an All-Pac 10 first-team choice for three straight seasons...Only the seventh player in college football history (first in Arizona history) to return a kickoff, punt and INT for TDs in the same season (1998)...His 18 INTs (including bowl games) at the end of his Arizona career ranked third on the school's career-record chart...Concluded Arizona career with 122 tackles, three forced fumbles, 15 interceptions (two returned for TDs), 43 kickoff returns, including two 100-yard TDs, for a 25.5-yard average and five punt returns, one for a 65-yard TD, for a 20.8-yard average...One of three finalists for the Jim Thorpe Award as a senior in 1998...Winner of the Mosi Tatupu Special Teams Player of the Year Award...Earned first-team All-Pac 10 honors as a junior in 1997...In his first year as a Wildcat in 1996, he won All-Pac 10 first-team honors after recording 45 tackles (36 solo), with two sacks for 18 yards...Ranked fifth in the nation with six INTs for 103 yards (including a TD)...Earned All-State honors as a CB at Mt. San Antonio JC in Walnut, Calif. in 1995...Was a family studies major, with an emphasis in broadcasting.

PERSONAL – Won Conference Player of the Year and California's MVP at Pasadena HS in 1995...Threw for 1,153 yards and rushed for 1,302 yards as a QB in his senior year...Conference Player of the Year and football MVP...Had his jersey retired (No. 9) at Pasadena HS in 2001...Lettered in football and track...His father, James, was a 1st-team All-American RB at UCLA in 1972-73, and later played for the WFL's Southern California and Philadelphia and New England in the NFL...The Chris McAlister Foundation holds an annual golf tournament to help raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena, Calif...Donates food to at-risk children and needy families during the holiday seasons through his foundation...Provided turkey and prepared meals for the Echo House and served as tennis coach for the Pam Shriver Celebrity Tennis Challenge at the First Mariner Arena from 2002-04...The county of Los Angeles held a luncheon to honor McAlister's outstanding athletic and community achievement in 2001...Full name: Christopher James McAlister.

85 David Thomas**HEIGHT:** 6-3 **WEIGHT:** 248**COLLEGE:** Texas**JOINED SAINTS:** TR-09 (NE)**NFL EXPERIENCE:** 4**BIRTHDATE:** 7/5/83

NFL CAREER – Acquired by the Saints at the conclusion of the 2009 preseason, Thomas brings a combination of blocking prowess and experience to the group. Thomas enters 2009 having appeared in 32 games with 13 starts since joining the Patriots as a third-round selection in the 2006 NFL Draft. Through his first three NFL seasons, Thomas has caught 21 passes for 261 yards and a TD. His contributions as a blocker in 2008 helped the Patriots to their best rushing season in more than 20 years in total yards (2,278), rushing average (4.4) and rushing TDs (21). Started a career-high 10 games in 2008 to lead Patriots tight ends.

CAREER TRANSACTIONS – Acquired by Saints from New England Patriots in exchange for a 2011 seventh-round draft choice, 9/5/09...Placed on injured reserve by New England, 10/3/07...Signed by New England to a four-year contract, 7/24/06...Selected by New England in third round (86th overall) of the 2006 NFL Draft.

2008 – Set single-season career high, starting 10 of 15 games played in 2008...Recorded nine receptions for 93 yards and a special teams tackle...Contributions as a blocker helped the Patriots to their best rushing season in more than 20 years in yards (2,278), rushing average (4.4) and rushing TDs (21)...Started and hauled in two passes for 24 yards against Kansas City, Sept. 7...Started and recorded a 14-yard catch at N.Y. Jets, Sept. 14...Started, making a four-yard reception vs. Miami, Sept. 21...Started and hauled in a 13-yard catch at San Diego, Oct. 12...Tallied season-high three receptions for 29 yards at Indianapolis, Nov. 2... Started and made a special teams tackle at Buffalo, Dec. 28. **2007** – Played in two games before being placed on injured reserve with foot injury, Oct. 3...Saw first action of season playing in reserve against Buffalo, Sept. 23 and registered first reception of the season, a nine-yard catch...Saw limited action in reserve before leaving game at Cincinnati (Oct. 1) with foot injury. **2006** – Played in 15 games as rookie with three starts...Made NFL debut in 19-17 victory over Buffalo, Sept. 10...Collected first career reception, a 29-yard catch against the New York Jets, Sept. 17... Led team with a career-high five receptions for 83 yards and a diving 22-yard TD catch at Jacksonville, Dec. 24...Recovered an Eric Parker muffed punt at the San Diego 31-yard line in the third quarter in the divisional playoffs against San Diego, Jan. 14.

COLLEGE – Finished college career as the most prolific receiving TE in Texas history and led the nation's TEs in blocking consistency as a senior...Set school's all-time career records for receptions by a TE (98), receiving yards by a TE (1,367) and TD receptions by a TE (15)...Owns the Longhorns' single-season record for receptions by a TE (50, 2005)...Set Texas single-game record for receptions by a tight end with 10 grabs in the 2006 Rose Bowl, helping Longhorns claim the BCS championship...Did not miss game in collegiate career, starting 38 of 51 games...Earned first-team Academic All-Big 12 honors in 2004 and 2005.

PERSONAL – John David Thomas was born on July 5, 1983 in Plainview, Texas...Three-time member of UT's Athletics Director's Honor Roll...Visited patients at Austin Children's Hospital with college teammates...Attended Frenship (Wolfforth, Texas) HS, where he was a three-year starter, lining up at TE and LB final two seasons and FS as sophomore...As senior, set school records with 63 receptions for 1,130 yards and 15 TDs, adding six more rushing...Also lettered in basketball and track...Honor Roll student...Member of National Honor Society...Participated in 2007 Salvation Army Holiday Party at Gillette Stadium with nearly 250 children...Majored in Kinesiology...David and his wife Cassidy have two sons, Jaxon David and Rylan Casey.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**Week 12, vs. New England Patriots
Offensive, Defensive and Team Statistics, Player
Minibios**



**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
VS.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
November 30, 2009 at Louisiana Superdome**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS / WEEK 11 / THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

WON 10, LOST 0				* RUSHING		No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD			
09/13	W 45-27	Detroit	69,719	P. Thomas	105	584	5.6	34t	5				
09/20	W 48-22	at Philadelphia	69,144	Bell	115	514	4.5	35	4				
09/27	W 27- 7	at Buffalo	70,261	Bush	55	277	5.0	55	5				
10/04	W 24-10	New York Jets	70,009	Meachem	4	71	17.8	41	0				
10/18	W 48-27	New York Giants	70,011	Hamilton	14	43	3.1	16	1				
10/25	W 46-34	at Miami	66,689	Brees	17	28	1.6	10	2				
11/02	W 35-27	Atlanta	70,088	H. Evans	5	16	3.2	6	1				
11/08	W 30-20	Carolina	70,011	Henderson	2	10	5.0	13	0				
11/15	W 28-23	at St. Louis	59,858	Colston	1	6	6.0	6	0				
11/22	W 38- 7	at Tampa Bay	62,720	Eckel	2	6	3.0	7	0				
11/30		New England		Brunell	4	-12	-3.0	-1	0				
12/06		at Washington		TEAM	324	1543	4.8	55	18				
12/13		at Atlanta		OPPONENTS	254	1157	4.6	68t	12				
12/19		Dallas		* RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD				
12/27		Tampa Bay		Colston	44	687	15.6	45	6				
01/03		at Carolina		Shockey	39	461	11.8	66	3				
		N.O.	Opp.	Henderson	31	521	16.8	63	1				
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	221	177	Bush	29	207	7.1	29	1					
Rushing	83	67	P. Thomas	17	112	6.6	36	1					
Passing	128	96	Meachem	16	333	20.8	54t	6					
Penalty	10	14	D. Thomas	16	189	11.8	37	1					
3rd Down: Made/Att	61/130	48/139	Moore	13	146	11.2	22	1					
3rd Down Pct.	46.9	34.5	H. Evans	10	70	7.0	13t	2					
4th Down: Made/Att	3/10	8/17	Bell	2	14	7.0	9	0					
4th Down Pct.	30.0	47.1	Roby	1	6	6.0	6	0					
POSSESSION AVG.	32:21	27:39	TEAM	218	2746	12.6	66	22					
TOTAL NET YARDS	4205	3306	OPPONENTS	197	2290	11.6	71t	9					
Avg. Per Game	420.5	330.6	* INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD					
Total Plays	657	648	Sharper	7	317	45.3	99t	3					
Avg. Per Play	6.4	5.1	Porter	3	72	24.0	54t	1					
NET YARDS RUSHING	1543	1157	Greer	2	59	29.5	48t	1					
Avg. Per Game	154.3	115.7	Shanle	2	16	8.0	13	0					
Total Rushes	324	254	Reis	1	33	33.0	33	0					
NET YARDS PASSING	2662	2149	Gay	1	25	25.0	25	0					
Avg. Per Game	266.2	214.9	Young	1	24	24.0	24	0					
Sacked/Yards Lost	13/84	24/141	Jenkins	1	14	14.0	14	0					
Gross Yards	2746	2290	Vilma	1	6	6.0	6	0					
Att./Completions	320/218	370/197	Smith	1	0	0.0	0	0					
Completion Pct.	68.1	53.2	TEAM	20	566	28.3	99t	5					
Had Intercepted	9	20	OPPONENTS	9	119	13.2	41	0					
PUNTS/AVERAGE	34/43.6	50/43.0	* PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B		
NET PUNTING AVG.	34/37.0	50/39.0	Morstead	34	1484	43.6	37.0	3	7	60	0		
PENALTIES/YARDS	62/511	64/527	TEAM	34	1484	43.6	37.0	3	7	60	0		
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	17/10	12/9	OPPONENTS	50	2148	43.0	39.0	5	15	61	0		
TOUCHDOWNS	48	23	* PUNT RETURNS	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD				
Rushing	18	12	Bush	21	6	80	3.8	22	0				
Passing	22	9	Henderson	2	1	10	5.0	5	0				
Returns	8	2	Colston	1	0	6	6.0	6	0				
* SCORE BY PERIODS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS	Moore	0	2	0	---	---	0
TEAM	65	116	83	105	0	369	Sharper	0	1	0	---	---	0
OPPONENTS	62	64	54	24	0	204	TEAM	24	10	96	4.0	22	0
* SCORING	TD-Ru-Pa-Rt	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS	OPPONENTS	15	8	166	11.1	43	0	
Carney	0 0 0 0	45/47	12/15	0	81	* KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD		
Bush	6 5 1 0			0	36	Roby	25	721	28.8	97t	1		
Colston	6 0 6 0			0	36	Meachem	6	148	24.7	42	0		
Meachem	6 0 6 0			0	36	Charleston	1	0	0.0	0	0		
P. Thomas	6 5 1 0			0	36	P. Thomas	1	19	19.0	19	0		
Bell	4 4 0 0			0	24	TEAM	33	888	26.9	97t	1		
H. Evans	3 1 2 0			0	18	OPPONENTS	51	1265	24.8	87	0		
Sharper	3 0 0 3			0	18	* FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+		
Shockey	3 0 3 0			0	18	Carney	0/ 0	6/ 6	4/ 6	2/ 3	0/0		
Brees	2 2 0 0			0	12	TEAM	0/ 0	6/ 6	4/ 6	2/ 3	0/0		
Ayodele	1 0 0 1			0	6	OPPONENTS	0/ 0	4/ 4	7/ 8	3/ 3	0/1		
Greer	1 0 0 1			0	6	Carney: (34B, 39G) (23G, 25G) (27G, 35G) (34G) ()							
Hamilton	1 1 0 0			0	6	(46G, 49N, 20G) (37N) (23G, 25G, 40G) () (38G)							
Hargrove	1 0 0 1			0	6	OPPONENTS: (47G, 24G) (23G, 32G) () (38G) (49G, 38G)							
Henderson	1 0 1 0			0	6	(32G, 33G) (34N, 51N, 25G, 40G) (32G, 25G) (32G) ()							
Moore	1 0 1 0			0	6								
Porter	1 0 0 1			0	6								
Roby	1 0 0 1			0	6								
D. Thomas	1 0 1 0			0	6								
TEAM	48 18 22	8 45/47	12/15	0	369								
OPPONENTS	23 12 9	2 22/22	14/16	1	204								
2-Pt. Conversions:	TEAM 0-1, OPPONENTS 0-1												
SACKS:	Smith 8.5, Grant 4.5, Hargrove 3, Ayodele 1.5, Rom. Harper 1.5, Ellis 1, Fujita 1, McCray 1, Vilma 1, Sharper 0.5, Torrence 0.5, TEAM 24, OPPONENTS 13												
FUM/LOST:	Brees 8/4, Bush 3/2, Bell 2/2, P. Thomas 2/1, Colston 1/1, Meachem 1/0												
* PASSING	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating	
Brees	320	218	2746	68.1	8.58	22	6.9	9	2.8	66	13/ 84	105.8	
TEAM	320	218	2746	68.1	8.58	22	6.9	9	2.8	66	13/ 84	105.8	
OPPONENTS	370	197	2290	53.2	6.19	9	2.4	20	5.4	71t	24/ 141	57.8	

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS 2009 DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(from coaches' film review)

Name	DEFENSIVE STATISTICS											SPECIAL TEAMS						MISCELLANEOUS			
	TKL	AST	TOT	Sacks/Yds	QH	INT	PD	FF	FR	TFL	TKL	AST	TOT	FF	FR	BK	TKL	AST	FF	FR	
Roman Harper	59	32	91	1.5	13	7	0	5	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Vilma	63	15	78	1	7	7	1	6	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott Shanle	55	22	77	0	0	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Sharper	30	24	54	0.5	5.5	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tracy Porter	37	16	53	0	0	0	3	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Will Smith	25	24	49	8.5	41.5	14	1	4	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jabari Greer	38	9	47	0	0	1	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scott Fujita	25	18	43	1	10	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anthony Hargrove	20	23	43	3	17	8	0	3	1	3	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charles Grant	19	20	39	4.5	30	9	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Remi Ayodele	10	21	31	1.5	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedrick Ellis	12	16	28	1	5	5	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randall Gay	15	6	21	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bobby McCray	6	12	18	1	7	10	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jo-Lonn Dunbar	8	8	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malcolm Jenkins	8	6	14	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	2	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeMario Pressley	7	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marvin Mitchell	12	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Usama Young	7	2	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierson Prioleau	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	5	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leigh Torrence	7	1	8	0.5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeff Charleston	2	5	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Troy Evans	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kendrick Clancy	1	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Reis	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6	3	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Courtney Roby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jonathan Casillas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynell Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jason Kyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darnell Dinkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Bell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thomas Morstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierre Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeremy Shockey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Devery Henderson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Reggie Bush	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jahri Evans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lance Moore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
David Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Drew Brees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jonathan Goodwin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	476	300	776	24	141	68	19	72	9	7	33	64	46	110	1	1	0	9	0	0	4

2009 New Orleans Saints Game Participation

Name	9/13 DET	9/20 @Phi	9/27 @Buf	10/4 NYJ	10/18 NYG	10/25 @Mia	11/2 ATL	11/8 CAR	11/15 @STL	11/22 @TB	11/30 NE	12/6 @Was	12/13 @Atl	12/19 DAL	12/27 TB	1/3 @Car	GP	GS	DNP	IA
ARNOUX, Stanley	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
ARRINGTON, Adrian	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
AYODELE, Remi	IA	ST	PL	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							9	8	0	1
BELL, Mike	PL	PL	IA	IA	PL	PL	ST	PL	ST	PL							8	2	0	2
BREES, Drew	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
BROWN, Jammal	IA	IA	IA	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							0	0	0	3
BRUNELL, Mark	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
BUSH, Reggie	ST	ST	ST	PL	ST	ST	PL	ST	PL	IA							9	6	0	1
BUSHROD, Jermon	ST	ST	ST	IA	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	PL							9	8	0	1
CAMPBELL, Dan	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
CARNEY, John	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
CASILLAS, Jonathan	IA	IA	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	IA	IA							6	0	0	4
CHARLESTON, Jeff	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
CLANCY, Kendrick	PL	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA	PL	IR	IR	IR							2	0	0	5
COLSTON, Marques	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	PL	ST							10	9	0	0
DANIEL, Chase	PS	PS	3QB	3QB	3QB	3QB	3QB	3QB	3QB	PS							0	0	0	7
DINKINS, Darnell	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							5	0	0	5
DONALDSON, Herb							PS	PS	PS								Practice Squad			
DUCKWORTH, Tim	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
DUNBAR, Jo-Lonn	PL	PL	IA	IA	IA	PL	ST	ST	PL	PL							7	2	0	3
ECKEL, Kyle							PL	PL	ST	PL							4	1	0	0
ELLIS, Sedrick	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IA	IA	IA	IA							6	6	0	4
EVANS, Heath	PL	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IR	IR	IR	IR							6	5	0	0
EVANS, Jahri	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
EVANS, Troy	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	1	0	0
FOSTER, Renardo				PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
FUJITA, Scott	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IA	IA	IA	ST	ST							7	7	0	3
GAY, Randall	PL	PL	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST	ST							10	3	0	0
GOODWIN, Jonathan	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
GORRER, Danny	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS										Practice Squad			
GRANT, Charles	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
GREER, Jabari	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IA	IA							8	8	0	2
HAMILTON, Lynell	DNP	IA	ST	PL	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA	PL							3	1	1	6
HARGROVE, Anthony	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	4	0	0
HARPER, Rod	IA	IA	IA	IA	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							0	0	0	4
HARPER, Roman	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
HARTLEY, Garrett	SUSP	SUSP	SUSP	SUSP	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA							0	0	0	6
HENDERSON, Devery	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	6	0	0
HEYMAN, Earl									PS	PS							Practice Squad			
HILL, P.J.	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS											Practice Squad			
JENKINS, Malcolm	PL	PL	PL	IA	PL	IA	PL	PL	PL	ST							8	1	0	2
JONES, Reggie	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
KYLE, Jason	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
LECKEY, Nick	IA	IA	XXX	PL	IA	IA	IA	IA	DNP	PL							2	0	1	6
LORENZEN, Tyler		PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
McALISTER, Chris										IA							0	0	0	1
McCRAVY, Bobby	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
MEACHEM, Robert	PL	PL	PL	ST	ST	PL	PL	ST	PL	ST							10	4	0	0
MILLER, Billy	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
MITCHELL, Marvin	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	1	0	0
MOORE, Lance	PL	PL	IA	PL	PL	PL	PL	IA	IA	IA							6	0	0	4
MORSTEAD, Thomas	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
NESBIT, Jamar	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
NICKS, Carl	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
ORTEGA, Buck	PL	XXX															1	0	0	0
PARNELL, Jermeij	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
PARSON, Mark								PS	PS	PS							Practice Squad			
PORTER, Tracy	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IA							9	9	0	1
PRESSLEY, DeMario	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PS	PL	PL	PL							3	0	0	0
PRIOLEAU, Pierson	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							10	0	0	0
REIS, Chris	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	IA	PL	PL	PL							9	0	0	1
ROBY, Courtney		PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL							9	0	0	0
SHANLE, Scott	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
SHARPER, Darren	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	IA	ST							9	9	0	1
SHOCKEY, Jeremy	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
SIMON, Matt	PS																Practice Squad			
SIMONEAU, Mark	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
SMITH, Will	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
SOBOMEHIN, Olanijiy	IR	IR	IR	IR	XXX												Injured Reserve			
STINCHCOMB, Jon	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
STRIEF, Zach	PL	PL	PL	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST							10	2	0	0
THOMAS, David	ST	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST	PL	ST	PL							10	4	0	0
THOMAS, Pierre	IA	PL	PL	ST	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST							9	2	0	1
TORRENCE, Leigh	PL	IA	PL	PL	IA	IA	IA	IA	PL	PL							5	0	0	5
VAUGHN, Chip	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
WILMA, Jonathan	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST	ST							10	10	0	0
WOODS, D'Juan	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR	IR							Injured Reserve			
YOUNG, Usama	IA	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	PL	ST	PL							9	1	0	1

LEGEND

- DNP=Did Not Play
- IA=Inactive
- IR=Injured Reserve
- PL=Played
- PS=Practice Squad
- PUP=Physically Unable to Perform
- ST=Started
- SUSP=Suspension
- 3QB=3rd Quarterback
- XXX=Not With Team

2009 New Orleans Saints Game-By-Game

Saints																																							
Game	Pts	First Downs				Offense			Net Rushing			Net Passing						Fumb.		Pen.		Punts			Returns					TDs			PAT	FG	2P	TOP			
		T	R	Pa	Pe	AT	Yards	Avg.	Att	Yards	Avg.	A	C	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Yds	#	Lst	#	Yds	#	Yds	Avg.	P	Yds	KO	Yds	Int	Yds	Ru	Pa	Ret	M/A	M/A	M/A		
DET	45	28	10	16	2	69	515	7.5	35	157	4.5	34	26	358	6	1	0	0	3	2	7	36	2	96	48.0	3	11	6	148	3	92	0	6	0	6/6	1/2	0/0	36:30	
@Phi	48	23	8	15	0	65	421	6.5	29	133	4.6	34	25	288	3	1	2	23	2	0	3	13	3	156	52.0	2	-3	3	72	3	100	2	3	1	6/6	2/2	0/0	30:26	
@Buf	27	21	11	8	2	69	378	5.5	38	222	5.8	29	16	156	0	0	2	16	1	1	9	97	5	213	42.6	4	17	2	16	1	0	3	0	0	3/3	2/2	0/0	33:34	
NYJ	24	18	9	8	1	64	343	5.4	32	153	4.8	32	20	190	0	0	0	0	2	1	7	70	5	190	38.0	1	22	1	26	3	124	1	0	2	3/3	1/1	0/0	32:39	
NYG	48	28	8	18	2	70	493	7.0	40	124	3.1	30	23	369	4	0	0	0	1	0	6	55	4	180	45.0	2	0	4	91	1	11	3	4	0	6/7	0/0	0/0	36:07	
@Mia	46	22	7	14	1	70	414	5.9	27	138	5.1	38	22	276	1	3	5	22	2	1	6	25	3	137	45.7	5	23	6	185	2	96	3	1	2	4/5	2/3	0/1	33:02	
ATL	35	23	7	15	1	70	437	6.2	35	146	4.2	33	25	291	2	1	2	17	3	3	7	65	2	89	44.5	1	1	3	88	3	66	2	2	1	5/5	0/1	0/0	33:14	
CAR	30	18	6	11	1	59	414	7.0	23	84	3.7	35	24	330	1	1	1	0	2	1	7	55	3	116	38.7	1	4	3	65	0	0	1	1	1	3/3	3/3	0/0	27:34	
@StL	28	19	8	11	0	56	420	7.5	29	203	7.0	26	18	217	2	2	1	6	1	1	6	40	3	112	37.3	2	5	3	146	1	24	1	2	1	4/4	0/0	0/0	27:58	
@TB	38	21	9	12	0	65	370	5.7	36	183	5.1	29	19	187	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	55	4	195	48.8	3	16	2	51	3	53	2	3	0	5/5	1/1	0/0	32:24	
NE																																							
@Was																																							
@Atl																																							
DAL																																							
TB																																							
@Car																																							
Totals	369	221	83	128	10	657	4,205	6.4	324	1,543	4.8	320	218	2,662	22	9	13	84	17	10	62	511	34	1,484	43.6	24	96	33	888	20	566	18	22	8	45/47	12/15	0/1	32:21	

Opponents																																								
Game	Pts	First Downs				Offense			Net Rushing			Net Passing						Fumb.		Pen.		Punts			Returns					TDs			PAT	FG	2P	TOP				
		T	R	Pa	Pe	AT	Yards	Avg.	Att	Yards	Avg.	A	C	Yds	TD	Int	Sk	Yds	#	Lst	#	Yds	#	Yds	Avg.	P	Yds	KO	Yds	Int	Yds	Ru	Pa	Ret	M/A	M/A	M/A			
DET	27	14	5	7	2	58	231	4.0	20	33	1.7	37	16	198	0	3	1	7	0	0	8	80	5	208	41.6	2	55	5	180	1	26	2	0	1	3/3	2/2	0/0	23:30		
@Phi	22	23	7	16	0	75	463	6.2	22	79	3.6	52	31	384	2	3	1	7	1	1	7	45	5	225	45.0	2	5	8	186	1	3	0	2	0	2/2	2/2	0/0	29:34		
@Buf	7	13	5	5	3	61	243	4.0	21	89	4.2	36	21	154	1	1	4	27	1	1	12	116	9	419	46.6	3	-1	5	111	0	0	0	1	0	0	1/1	0/0	0/0	26:26	
NYJ	10	14	6	6	2	58	244	4.2	27	132	4.9	27	14	112	0	3	4	26	1	1	3	21	6	252	42.0	0	0	1	17	0	0	1	0	0	1/1	1/1	0/0	27:21		
NYG	27	17	5	11	1	57	325	5.7	19	84	4.4	36	18	241	2	1	2	9	1	1	9	110	4	186	46.5	2	51	8	230	0	0	1	2	0	3/3	2/2	0/0	23:53		
@Mia	34	17	8	8	1	69	334	4.8	30	137	4.6	37	18	197	0	2	2	14	1	1	8	55	6	280	46.7	3	26	5	112	3	23	4	0	0	4/4	2/2	0/0	26:58		
ATL	27	21	8	12	1	69	442	6.4	24	161	6.7	42	19	281	1	3	3	8	0	0	4	25	3	116	38.7	1	9	6	148	1	0	1	1	1	3/3	2/4	0/0	26:46		
CAR	20	21	9	11	1	71	371	5.2	39	182	4.7	30	17	189	0	0	2	12	5	3	6	37	3	112	37.3	0	0	5	97	1	41	2	0	0	2/2	2/2	0/0	32:26		
@StL	23	23	7	15	1	71	434	6.1	29	141	4.9	40	26	293	2	1	2	5	1	0	4	20	4	144	36.0	1	10	4	78	2	26	1	2	0	2/2	1/1	0/1	32:02		
@TB	7	14	7	5	2	59	219	3.7	23	119	5.2	33	17	100	1	3	3	26	1	1	3	18	5	206	41.2	1	11	4	106	0	0	0	1	0	0	1/1	0/0	0/0	27:36	
NE																																								
@Was																																								
@Atl																																								
DAL																																								
TB																																								
@Car																																								
Totals	204	177	67	96	14	648	3,306	5.1	254	1,157	4.6	370	197	2,149	9	20	24	141	12	9	64	527	50	2,148	43.0	15	166	51	1,265	9	119	12	9	2	22/22	14/16	1/1	27:39		

2009 SUPERLATIVES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS		
Category	High	Low
POINTS	48 9/20 at PHI, 10/18 vs. NYG	24 10/4 vs. NYJ
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	28 9/13 vs. DET, 10/18 vs. NYG	18 10/4 vs. NYJ, 11/8 vs. CAR
RUSHING FIRST DOWNS	11 9/27 at BUF	6 11/8 vs. CAR
PASSING FIRST DOWNS	18 10/18 vs. NYG	8 9/27 at BUF, 10/4 vs. NYJ
PENALTY FIRST DOWNS	2 3 times, last 10/18 vs. NYG	0 3 times, last 11/22 at TB
3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	69% 9/13 vs. DET	31% 10/4 vs. NYJ
4TH DOWN CONVERSIONS	50% 3 times, last 11/22 at TB	0% 7 times, last 11/15 at STL
TOTAL NET YARDS	515 9/13 vs. DET	343 10/4 vs. NYJ
TOTAL PLAYS	70 3 times, last 11/2 vs. ATL	56 11/15 at STL
NET RUSHING YARDS	222 9/27 at BUF	84 11/8 vs. CAR
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	39 10/18 vs. NYG	23 11/8 vs. CAR
NET PASSING YARDS	360 10/18 vs. NYG	156 9/27 at BUF
PASS ATTEMPTS	38 10/25 at MIA	26 11/15 at STL
PASS COMPLETIONS	26 9/13 vs. DET	16 9/27 at BUF
INTERCEPTIONS	3 10/25 at MIA	0 4 times, last 11/22 at TB
TIMES SACKED	5 10/25 at MIA	0 4 times, last 11/22 at TB
PUNTS	5 9/27 at BUF, 10/4 vs. NYJ	2 9/13 vs. DET, 11/2 vs. ATL
PENALTIES	9 9/27 at BUF	3 9/20 at PHI
PENALTY YARDS	97 9/27 at BUF	13 9/20 at PHI
FUMBLES	3 9/13 vs. ATL, 11/2 vs. ATL	0 11/22 at TB
FUMBLES LOST	3 11/2 vs. ATL	0 3 times, last 11/22 at TB
TOUCHDOWNS	7 10/18 vs. NYG	3 3 times, last 11/8 vs. CAR
RUSHING	3 3 times, last 10/25 at MIA	0 9/13 vs. DET
PASSING	6 9/13 vs. DET	0 9/27 at BUF, 10/4 vs. NYJ
RETURNS	2 10/4 vs. NYJ, 10/25 at MIA	0 4 times, last 11/22 at TB
TIME OF POSSESSION	36:30 9/13 vs. DET	27:34 11/8 vs. CAR

OPPONENTS		
Category	High	Low
POINTS	34 10/25 at MIA	7 9/27 at BUF, 11/22 at TB
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	23 9/20 at PHI, 11/15 at STL	13 9/27 at BUF
RUSHING FIRST DOWNS	9 11/8 vs. CAR	5 9/13 vs. DET, 9/27 at BUF
PASSING FIRST DOWNS	16 9/20 at PHI	5 9/27 at BUF, 11/22 at TB
PENALTY FIRST DOWNS	3 9/27 at BUF	0 9/20 at PHI
3RD DOWN CONVERSIONS	50% 11/8 vs. CAR	14% 9/27 at BUF
4TH DOWN CONVERSIONS	100% 3 times, last 10/18 vs. NYG	0% 3 times, last 11/22 at TB
TOTAL NET YARDS	463 9/20 at PHI	219 11/22 at TB
TOTAL PLAYS	75 9/20 at PHI	57 10/18 vs. NYG
NET RUSHING YARDS	182 11/8 vs. CAR	33 9/13 vs. DET
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	39 11/8 vs. CAR	19 10/18 vs. NYG
NET PASSING YARDS	378 9/20 at PHI	100 11/22 at TB
PASS ATTEMPTS	52 9/20 at PHI	27 10/4 vs. NYJ
PASS COMPLETIONS	31 9/20 at PHI	14 10/4 vs. NYJ
INTERCEPTIONS	3 5 times, last 11/22 at TB	0 11/8 vs. CAR
TIMES SACKED	4 9/27 at BUF, 10/4 vs. NYJ	1 9/13 vs. DET, 9/20 at PHI
PUNTS	9 9/27 at BUF	3 11/2 vs. ATL, 11/8 vs. CAR
PENALTIES	12 9/27 at BUF	3 10/4 vs. NYJ, 11/22 at TB
PENALTY YARDS	116 9/27 at BUF	18 11/22 at TB
FUMBLES	5 11/8 vs. CAR	0 9/13 vs. DET, 11/2 vs. ATL
FUMBLES LOST	3 11/8 vs. CAR	0 3 times, last 11/15 at STL
TOUCHDOWNS	4 10/25 at MIA	1 3 times, last 11/22 at TB
RUSHING	4 10/25 at MIA	0 3 times, last 11/22 at TB
PASSING	2 3 times, last 11/15 at STL	0 4 times, last 11/8 vs. CAR
RETURNS	1 9/13 vs. DET, 11/2 vs. ATL	0 8 times, last 11/22 at TB
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:26 11/8 vs. CAR	23:30 9/13 vs. DET

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS & OPPONENT INDIVIDUAL GAME SUPERLATIVES

CATEGORY	SAINTS			OPPONENTS		
PASS ATTEMPTS	38	Drew Brees	10/25 at MIA	51	Kevin Kolb	9/20 at PHI
PASS COMPLETIONS	26	Drew Brees	9/13 vs. DET	31	Kevin Kolb	9/20 at PHI
GROSS PASSING YARDS	369	Drew Brees	10/18 vs. NYG	391	Kevin Kolb	9/20 at PHI
COMPLETION PERCENTAGE	76.7%	Drew Brees	10/18 vs. NYG	65.0%	Marc Bulger	11/15 at STL
TOUCHDOWN PASSES	6	Drew Brees	9/13 vs. DET	2	Kevin Kolb, Marc Bulger	9/20, 11/15
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED	3	Drew Brees	10/25 at MIA	3	5 players, last Josh Freeman	11/22 at TB
RUSHING ATTEMPTS	28	Mike Bell	9/13 vs. DET	26	Steven Jackson	11/15 at STL
YARDS RUSHING	143	Mike Bell	9/13 vs. DET	151	Michael Turner	11/2 vs. ATL
RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS	2	3 times, last Mike Bell	11/22 at TB	3	Ricky Williams	10/25 at MIA
LONGEST RUN FROM SCRIMMAGE	55	Reggie Bush	11/15 at STL	68t	Ricky Williams	10/25 at MIA
RECEPTIONS	8	Marques Colston	9/20, 10/18	9	Steven Jackson	11/15 at STL
RECEIVING YARDS	166	Marques Colston	10/18 vs. NYG	114	Hakeem Nicks	10/18 vs. NYG
RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS	2	3 times, last Robert Meachem	11/22 at TB	2	Donnie Avery	11/15 at STL
LONGEST PASS RECEPTION	66	Jeremy Shockey	9/13 vs. DET	71t	DeSean Jackson	9/20 at PHI
TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE	166	Marques Colston	10/18 vs. NYG	176	Steven Jackson	11/15 at STL
FIELD GOALS	3	John Carney	11/8 vs. CAR	2	5 players, last Jason Elam	11/2 vs. ATL
LONGEST FIELD GOAL ATTEMPT	49	John Carney	10/25 at MIA	51	Jason Elam	11/2 vs. ATL
LONGEST FIELD GOAL MADE	46	John Carney	10/25 at MIA	49	Lawrence Tynes	10/18 vs. NYG
PUNTS	5	Thomas Morstead	9/27, 10/4	9	Brian Moorman	9/27 at BUF
LONGEST PUNT	60	Thomas Morstead	9/20 at PHI	61	Sav Rocca	9/20 at PHI
LONGEST PUNT RETURN	22	Reggie Bush	10/4 vs. NYJ	43	Dennis Northcutt	9/13 vs. DET
LONGEST KICKOFF RETURN	97t	Courtney Roby	11/15 at STL	87	Aaron Brown	9/13 vs. DET
TACKLES	14	Scott Shanle	9/20 at PHI	14	Curtis Lofton	11/2 vs. ATL
SACKS	2	5 times, last Will Smith	11/8 vs. CAR	2	Jason Taylor	10/25 at MIA
INTERCEPTIONS	2	Darren Sharper	9/13, 10/4	1	9 players, last James Butler	11/15 at STL
LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN	99t	Darren Sharper	10/4 vs. NYJ	41	Chris Gamble	11/8 vs. CAR
LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN	12	Scott Shanle	10/18 vs. NYG	65t	Louis Delmas	9/13 vs. DET

2009 BIG GAMES

SAINTS					
300-Yard Passers		100-Yard Rushers		100-Yard Receivers	
Drew Brees, 9/13 vs. DET	358	Mike Bell, 9/13 vs. DET	143	Devery Henderson, 9/13 vs. DET	103
Drew Brees, 9/20 at PHI	311	Pierre Thomas, 9/27 at BUF	126	Marques Colston, 10/18 vs. NYG	166
Drew Brees, 10/18 vs. NYG	369			Jeremy Shockey, 10/25 at MIA	105
Drew Brees, 11/2 vs. ATL	308				
Drew Brees, 11/8 vs. CAR	330				
OPPONENTS					
300-Yard Passers		100-Yard Rushers		100-Yard Receivers	
Kevin Kolb, 9/20 at PHI	391	Michael Turner, 11/2 vs. ATL	151	Brent Celek, 9/20 at PHI	104
Jake Delhomme, 11/8 vs. CAR	330	DeAngelo Williams, 11/8 vs. CAR	149	DeSean Jackson, 9/20 at PHI	101
		Steven Jackson, 11/15 at STL	131	Hakeem Nicks, 10/18 vs. NYG	114
				Roddy White, 11/2 vs. ATL	108

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

DRIVE ENGINEERING

SAINTS															
Date	Opp.	Drives	TD	FG	Miss FG	Punt	Bk Punt	Fumble	INT	Downs	Safety	Half	Game	Off.Pts.	Score Pct.
9/13	DET	13	6	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	45	53.8%
9/20	@Phi	12	5	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	41	58.3%
9/27	@Buf	14	3	2	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	27	35.7%
10/4	NYJ	11	1	1	0	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	10	18.2%
10/18	NYG	12	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	48	58.3%
10/25	@Mia	14	4	2	1	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	33	42.9%
11/2	ATL	12	4	0	1	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	28	33.3%
11/8	CAR	11	2	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	23	45.5%
11/15	@StL	10	3	0	0	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	21	30.0%
11/22	@TB	12	5	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	38	50.0%
11/30	NE														
12/6	@Was														
12/13	@Atl														
12/19	DAL														
12/27	TB														
1/3	@Car														
Totals		121	40	12	3	34	0	9	9	6	1	1	6	314	43.0%

OPPONENTS															
Date	Opp.	Drives	TD	FG	Miss FG	Punt	Bk Punt	Fumble	INT	Downs	Safety	Half	Game	Off.Pts.	Score Pct.
9/13	DET	13	2	2	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	20	30.8%
9/20	@Phi	14	2	2	0	5	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	20	28.6%
9/27	@Buf	12	1	0	0	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	7	8.3%
10/4	NYJ	13	1	1	0	6	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	10	15.4%
10/18	NYG	13	3	2	0	4	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	27	38.5%
10/25	@Mia	17	4	2	0	6	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	34	35.3%
11/2	ATL	13	2	2	2	3	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	20	30.8%
11/8	CAR	12	2	2	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	20	33.3%
11/15	@StL	11	3	1	0	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	23	36.4%
11/22	@TB	12	1	0	0	5	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	7	8.3%
11/30	NE														
12/6	@Was														
12/13	@Atl														
12/19	DAL														
12/27	TB														
1/3	@Car														
Totals		130	21	14	2	50	0	8	20	7	0	6	2	188	26.9%

INSIDE THE RED ZONE

SAINTS															
Date	Opp.	No.	TD	FG	MFG	INT	Fumble	Downs	Punt	Half	End Reg	Game	TD%	Score Pct.	Points
9/13	DET	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	66.7%	66.7%	28
9/20	@Phi	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.7%	100.0%	34
9/27	@Buf	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	100.0%	20
10/4	NYJ	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	25.0%	50.0%	10
10/18	NYG	7	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	85.7%	85.7%	42
10/25	@Mia	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80.0%	100.0%	30
11/2	ATL	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75.0%	75.0%	21
11/8	CAR	5	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20.0%	80.0%	16
11/15	@StL	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	66.7%	66.7%	14
11/22	@TB	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	35
11/30	NE														
12/6	@Was														
12/13	@Atl														
12/19	DAL														
12/27	TB														
1/3	@Car														
Totals		49	32	9	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	65.3%	83.7%	250

OPPONENTS															
Date	Opp.	No.	TD	FG	MFG	INT	Fumble	Downs	Punt	Half	End Reg	Game	TD%	Score Pct.	Points
9/13	DET	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	75.0%	17
9/20	@Phi	5	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	20.0%	60.0%	13
9/27	@Buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0
10/4	NYJ	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	50.0%	7
10/18	NYG	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.7%	100.0%	17
10/25	@Mia	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	50.0%	83.3%	27
11/2	ATL	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	25.0%	50.0%	10
11/8	CAR	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	25.0%	75.0%	13
11/15	@StL	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	75.0%	16
11/22	@TB	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	7
11/30	NE														
12/6	@Was														
12/13	@Atl														
12/19	DAL														
12/27	TB														
1/3	@Car														
Totals		33	14	10	1	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	42.4%	72.7%	127

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SUPPLEMENTAL STATISTICS

GOAL-TO-GO SITUATIONS

SAINTS																
Date	Opp.	No.	TD	FG	MFG	INT	Fumble	Downs	Punt	Half	End Reg	Game	TD%	Score Pct.	Points	
9/13	DET	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	66.7%	66.7%	14	
9/20	@Phi	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.3%	100.0%	13	
9/27	@Buf	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	7	
10/4	NYJ	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	33.3%	33.3%	7	
10/18	NYG	4	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	75.0%	75.0%	21	
10/25	@Mia	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.7%	100.0%	17	
11/2	ATL	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	14	
11/8	CAR	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.3%	100.0%	13	
11/15	@StL	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	50.0%	7	
11/22	@TB	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	28	
11/30	NE															
12/6	@Was															
12/13	@Atl															
12/19	DAL															
12/27	TB															
1/3	@Car															
Totals		28	18	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	64.3%	82.1%	141	

OPPONENTS																
Date	Opp.	No.	TD	FG	MFG	INT	Fumble	Downs	Punt	Half	End Reg	Game	TD%	Score Pct.	Points	
9/13	DET	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50.0%	100.0%	10	
9/20	@Phi	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	33.3%	66.7%	10	
9/27	@Buf	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	
10/4	NYJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	
10/18	NYG	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	100.0%	3	
10/25	@Mia	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	75.0%	75.0%	21	
11/2	ATL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	
11/8	CAR	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0%	50.0%	3	
11/15	@StL	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%	100.0%	7	
11/22	@TB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	
11/30	NE															
12/6	@Was															
12/13	@Atl															
12/19	DAL															
12/27	TB															
1/3	@Car															
Totals		13	6	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	46.2%	76.9%	54	

		TAKEAWAYS			GIVEAWAYS			+/-	Res
		INT	Fum	Total	INT	Fum	Total		
9/13	DET	3	0	3	1	2	3	0	W
9/20	@Phi	3	1	4	1	0	1	3	W
9/27	@Buf	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	W
10/4	NYJ	3	1	4	0	1	1	3	W
10/18	NYG	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	W
10/25	@Mia	2	1	3	3	1	4	-1	W
11/2	ATL	3	0	3	1	3	4	-1	W
11/8	CAR	0	3	3	1	1	2	1	W
11/15	@StL	1	0	1	2	1	3	-2	W
11/22	@TB	3	1	4	0	0	0	4	W
11/30	NE								
12/6	@Was								
12/13	@Atl								
12/19	DAL								
12/27	TB								
1/3	@Car								
Totals		20	9	29	9	10	19	10	(10-0)

3rd DOWN CONVERSIONS

SAINTS				
3rd &	Made	Att.	Percent	
1	14	19	73.7%	
2	3	9	33.3%	
3	4	11	36.4%	
4	16	19	84.2%	
5	6	13	46.2%	
6	5	6	83.3%	
7	2	8	25.0%	
8	3	12	25.0%	
9	2	6	33.3%	
10+	6	27	22.2%	
Totals	61	130	46.9%	

OPPONENTS				
3rd &	Made	Att.	Percent	
1	10	15	66.7%	
2	9	13	69.2%	
3	3	11	27.3%	
4	2	12	16.7%	
5	2	18	11.1%	
6	6	14	42.9%	
7	4	6	66.7%	
8	2	6	33.3%	
9	2	8	25.0%	
10+	8	36	22.2%	
Totals	48	139	34.5%	

BLOCKS				
	FGs	PATs	Punts	Total
Saints	0	0	0	0
Opp.	1	1	0	2

4th DOWN CONVERSIONS			
	Made	Att.	Pct.
Saints	3	10	30.0%
Opp.	8	17	47.1%

SCORING BY QUARTERS

SAINTS							OPPONENTS								
Date	Opp.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total	Date	Opp.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
9/13	DET	14	14	10	7	0	45	9/13	DET	3	7	17	0	0	27
9/20	@Phi	10	7	17	14	0	48	9/20	@Phi	7	6	7	2	0	22
9/27	@Buf	7	3	0	17	0	27	9/27	@Buf	0	7	0	0	0	7
10/4	NYJ	3	14	0	7	0	24	10/4	NYJ	0	3	7	0	0	10
10/18	NYG	14	20	7	7	0	48	10/18	NYG	3	14	0	10	0	27
10/25	@Mia	3	7	14	22	0	46	10/25	@Mia	14	10	10	0	0	34
11/2	ATL	7	21	0	7	0	35	11/2	ATL	14	0	7	6	0	27
11/8	CAR	0	6	14	10	0	30	11/8	CAR	14	3	3	0	0	20
11/15	@StL	0	14	7	7	0	28	11/15	@StL	0	14	3	6	0	23
11/22	@TB	7	10	14	7	0	38	11/22	@TB	7	0	0	0	0	7
11/30	NE							11/30	NE						
12/6	@Was							12/6	@Was						
12/13	@Atl							12/13	@Atl						
12/19	DAL							12/19	DAL						
12/27	TB							12/27	TB						
1/3	@Car							1/3	@Car						
Totals		65	116	83	105	0	369	Totals		62	64	54	24	0	204

2009 TURNOVER TABLES

SAINTS TAKEAWAYS				
Opp	Qtr	Turnover	Spot*	Result
vs. DET	2	Stafford intercepted by Sharper	NO 4	Blocked Field Goal
vs. DET	3	Stafford intercepted by Shanle	DET 43	Fumble
vs. DET	4	Stafford intercepted by Sharper	NO 13	End of Game
at PHI	3	Hobbs fumble recovered by Reis	PHI 22	Touchdown
at PHI	3	Kolb intercepted by Shanle	PHI 27	Touchdown
at PHI	4	Kolb intercepted by Sharper	NO 3	Touchdown
at PHI	4	Kolb intercepted by Porter	NO 22	End of Game
at BUF	2	Parrish fumble recovered by Jenkins	BUF 33	Field Goal
at BUF	3	Edwards intercepted by Smith	NO 23	Punt
vs. NYJ	2	Sanchez intercepted by Sharper	NO 1	Touchdown
vs. NYJ	2	Sanchez fumble recovered by Ayodele	NYJ EZ	Touchdown
vs. NYJ	4	Sanchez intercepted by Sharper	NO 32	Punt
vs. NYJ	4	Sanchez intercepted by Gay	NYJ 30	End of Game
vs. NYG	2	Manning fumble recovered by Shanle	NYG 26	Touchdown
vs. NYG	3	Manning intercepted by Greer	NO 18	Touchdown
at MIA	2	Bess fumble recovered by Shanle	NO 47	Touchdown
at MIA	3	Henne intercepted by Sharper	MIA 42	Touchdown
at MIA	4	Henne intercepted by Porter	NO 45	Touchdown
vs. ATL	2	Ryan intercepted by Greer	ATL 48	Touchdown
vs. ATL	4	Ryan intercepted by Porter	NO 1	Touchdown
vs. ATL	4	Ryan intercepted by Sharper	NO 5	Game
vs. CAR	2	Stewart fumble recovered by Prioleau	CAR 16	Interception
vs. CAR	4	Delhomme fumble recovered by Hargrove	NO 48	Punt
vs. CAR	4	Williams fumble recovered by Hargrove	CAR 1	Touchdown
at STL	1	Bulger intercepted by Young	NO EZ	Touchdown
at TB	2	Freeman intercepted by Jenkins	TB 43	Field Goal
at TB	3	Freeman fumble recovered by Hargrove	TB 12	Touchdown
at TB	3	Freeman intercepted by Vilma	NO 39	Touchdown
at TB	4	Freeman intercepted by Reis	NO 10	End of Game
Takeaway Totals: 29 takeaways (20 interceptions, 9 fumbles), 117 points (16 TD, 2 FG)				

SAINTS GIVEAWAYS				
Opp	Qtr	Turnover	Spot*	Result
vs. DET	2	Brees intercepted by Henry	DET EZ	Punt
vs. DET	2	Bush muffed punt recovered by Bing	NO 16	Interception
vs. DET	3	Bell fumble recovered by Delmas	DET 32	Touchdown
at PHI	2	Brees intercepted by Jordan	PHI 24	Field Goal
at BUF	2	Brees fumble recovered by Schobel	BUF 38	Punt
vs. NYJ	3	Bush fumble recovered by Lowery	NO 33	Touchdown
at MIA	1	Brees intercepted by Culver	NO 27	Touchdown
at MIA	2	Brees intercepted by Torbor	NO 19	Touchdown
at MIA	3	Brees intercepted by Jones	NO 16	Punt
at MIA	3	Brees fumble recovered by Starks	NO 13	Field Goal
vs. ATL	1	Brees fumble recovered by Biermann	NO 4	Touchdown
vs. ATL	2	Brees intercepted by Grimes	ATL 18	Punt
vs. ATL	4	P.Thomas fumble recovered by Nicholas	NO 35	Interception
vs. ATL	4	Bell fumble recovered by Wire	ATL 47	Field Goal
vs. CAR	1	Brees fumble recovered by Beason	NO 9	Touchdown
vs. CAR	2	Brees intercepted by Gamble	CAR 4	Field Goal
at STL	1	Brees intercepted by Atogwe	STL 45	Interception
at STL	3	Brees intercepted by Butler	STL 23	Field Goal
at STL	3	Colston fumble out of bounds for touchback	STL 1	Punt
Giveaway Totals: 19 giveaways (9 interceptions, 10 fumbles), 57 points (6 TD, 5 FG)				

*Spot where the turnover was made

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS SCORING PLAYS

SAINTS SCORING PLAYS							
Opp	Qtr	Time	Play	Plays	Yards	Time	Saints Opp.
vs. DET	1	12:11	Colston 9 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	5	54	2:49	7 0
vs. DET	1	9:34	Meachem 39 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	3	53	1:09	14 0
vs. DET	2	3:45	Shockey 1 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	10	65	5:04	21 10
vs. DET	2	1:10	Shockey 15 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	4	59	1:11	28 10
vs. DET	3	6:11	Carney 39 yd. FG	10	64	5:36	31 17
vs. DET	3	3:03	Henderson 58 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	1	58	0:19	38 20
vs. DET	4	8:29	H.Evans 13 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	13	78	8:00	45 27
at PHI	1	10:54	Colston 15 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	8	74	4:06	7 0
at PHI	1	1:54	Carney 23 yd. FG	10	48	3:21	10 7
at PHI	2	0:43	Colston 25 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	2	54	0:37	17 10
at PHI	3	13:39	H.Evans 11 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	3	22	1:10	24 13
at PHI	3	11:39	Bell 7 yd. run (Carney kick)	4	24	1:19	31 10
at PHI	3	4:10	Carney 25 yd. FG	12	70	6:16	34 13
at PHI	4	9:36	Bush 19 yd. run (Carney kick)	6	52	3:14	41 20
at PHI	4	0:55	Sharper 97 yd. interception return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	48 22
at BUF	1	10:04	Hamilton 1 yd. run (Carney kick)	10	82	4:56	7 0
at BUF	2	4:17	Carney 27 yd. FG	5	23	1:55	10 7
at BUF	4	9:45	P.Thomas 34 yd. run (Carney kick)	3	66	1:16	17 7
at BUF	4	3:21	Carney 35 yd. FG	9	49	4:01	20 7
at BUF	4	2:03	P.Thomas 19 yd. run (Carney kick)	2	25	0:12	27 7
vs. NYJ	1	8:06	Carney 34 yd. FG	13	60	6:54	3 0
vs. NYJ	2	14:45	Sharper 99 yd. interception return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	10 0
vs. NYJ	2	9:00	Ayodele fumble recovery in end zone (Carney kick)	-	-	-	17 0
vs. NYJ	4	6:07	P.Thomas 1 yd. run (Carney kick)	11	74	6:49	24 10
vs. NYG	1	7:19	Bell 2 yd. run (Carney kick)	15	70	7:41	7 0
vs. NYG	1	2:11	Shockey 1 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	6	80	2:48	14 0
vs. NYG	2	12:40	Meachem 36 yd. pass from Brees (kick blocked)	4	57	2:23	20 3
vs. NYG	2	5:04	Moore 12 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	5	61	2:37	27 10
vs. NYG	2	0:09	Bush 7 yd. run (Carney kick)	2	7	0:09	34 17
vs. NYG	3	4:10	Colston 12 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	9	71	5:11	41 20
vs. NYG	4	7:04	H.Evans 2 yd. run (Carney kick)	8	80	5:05	48 20
at MIA	1	5:06	Carney 46 yd. FG	4	-7	2:14	3 7
at MIA	2	0:02	Brees 1 yd. run (Carney kick)	8	51	1:36	10 24
at MIA	3	13:56	Sharper 42 yd. interception return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	17 24
at MIA	3	1:09	Colston 10 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	8	82	4:50	24 27
at MIA	4	13:23	Bush 10 yd. run (Carney kick)	3	79	1:40	31 34
at MIA	4	8:35	Brees 2 yd. run (kick failed, wl)	8	60	4:17	37 34
at MIA	4	3:23	Carney 20 yd. FG	10	64	4:38	40 34
at MIA	4	1:53	Porter 54 yd. interception return (pass failed)	-	-	-	46 34
vs. ATL	1	5:26	P.Thomas 22 yd. run (Carney kick)	10	80	5:37	7 7
vs. ATL	2	10:38	Colston 18 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	12	80	6:36	14 14
vs. ATL	2	1:05	Bush 1 yd. run (Carney kick)	6	80	1:41	21 14
vs. ATL	2	0:42	Greer 48 yd. interception return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	28 14
vs. ATL	4	3:03	P.Thomas 1 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	11	81	5:27	35 24
vs. CAR	2	13:41	Carney 23 yd. FG	15	74	8:12	3 14
vs. CAR	2	0:04	Carney 25 yd. FG	11	76	1:39	6 17
vs. CAR	3	13:14	P.Thomas 10 yd. run (Carney kick)	4	80	1:46	13 17
vs. CAR	3	0:00	Meachem 54 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	6	73	3:27	20 20
vs. CAR	4	4:36	Carney 40 yd. FG	13	76	6:43	23 20
vs. CAR	4	2:00	Hargrove 1 yd. fumble return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	30 20
at STL	2	14:14	Bush 3 yd. run (Carney kick)	13	78	7:30	7 0
at STL	2	6:51	Bush 15 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	6	72	2:32	14 7
at STL	3	14:49	Roby 97 yd. kickoff return (Carney kick)	-	-	-	21 14
at STL	4	12:15	Meachem 27 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	7	77	3:59	28 17
at TB	1	1:04	Meachem 4 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	7	68	3:54	7 7
at TB	2	4:11	Carney 38 yd. FG	4	9	1:17	10 7
at TB	2	0:28	Meachem 6 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	5	63	1:10	17 7
at TB	3	10:36	D.Thomas 11 yd. pass from Brees (Carney kick)	3	15	1:25	24 7
at TB	3	4:50	Bell 3 yd. run (Carney kick)	6	55	2:10	31 7
at TB	4	10:12	Bell 1 yd. run (Carney kick)	13	82	7:26	38 7

Scoring Totals: 48 TD (21 pass, 19 rush, 8 return), 12 FG -- 369 pts

OPPONENT SCORING PLAYS							
Opp	Qtr	Time	Play	Plays	Yards	Time	Saints Opp.
vs. DET	1	5:12	Hanson 47 yd. FG	9	51	4:22	14 3
vs. DET	2	14:06	K.Smith 4 yd. run (Hanson kick)	4	13	2:05	14 10
vs. DET	3	11:47	Stafford 1 yd. run (Hanson kick)	8	71	3:13	28 17
vs. DET	3	3:22	Hanson 24 yd. FG	6	6	2:49	31 20
vs. DET	3	1:29	Delmas 65 yd. fumble return (Hanson kick)	-	-	-	38 27
at PHI	1	9:03	D.Jackson 71 yd. pass from Kolb (Akers kick)	4	85	1:51	7 7
at PHI	2	2:38	Akers 23 yd. FG	15	68	8:20	10 10
at PHI	2	0:00	Akers 32 yd. FG	7	65	0:43	17 13
at PHI	3	0:29	Avant 3 yd. pass from Kolb (Akers kick)	8	35	3:41	34 20
at PHI	4	3:35	Brees fumbled out of end zone for safety	-	-	-	41 22
at BUF	2	14:48	Denney 25 yd. pass from Moorman Lindell kick	9	72	3:26	7 7
vs. NYJ	2	1:48	Feely 38 yd. FG	14	60	7:12	17 3
vs. NYJ	3	7:48	Jones 15 yd. run (Feely kick)	11	74	6:49	17 10
vs. NYG	1	0:03	Tynes 49 yd. FG	6	19	2:08	14 3
vs. NYG	2	7:41	Bradshaw 10 yd. run (Tynes kick)	9	73	4:59	20 10
vs. NYG	2	3:19	Manningham 15 yd. pass from Manning (Tynes kick)	4	37	1:45	27 17
vs. NYG	4	12:09	Tynes 38 yd. FG	11	60	2:43	41 20
vs. NYG	4	3:15	Nicks 37 yd. pass from Carr (Tynes kick)	3	50	1:00	48 27
at MIA	1	7:20	Williams 4 yd. run (Carpenter kick)	1	4	0:05	0 7
at MIA	1	4:47	Williams 68 yd. run (Carpenter kick)	1	63	0:19	3 14
at MIA	2	11:21	Carpenter 32 yd. FG	12	46	7:24	3 17
at MIA	2	8:55	Brown 8 yd. run (Carpenter kick)	4	19	2:05	3 24
at MIA	3	5:59	Carpenter 33 yd. FG	4	0	1:18	17 27
at MIA	3	0:03	Williams 4 yd. run (Carpenter kick)	3	71	1:06	24 34
vs. ATL	1	11:03	Turner 13 yd. run (Elam kick)	8	77	3:57	0 7
vs. ATL	1	2:14	Biermann 4 yd. fumble return (Elam kick)	-	-	-	7 14
vs. ATL	3	12:25	White 68 yd. pass from Ryan (Elam kick)	3	68	1:26	28 21
vs. ATL	4	11:33	Elam 25 yd. FG	14	70	6:45	28 24
vs. ATL	4	0:28	Elam 40 yd. FG	7	31	0:55	35 27
vs. CAR	1	14:00	Williams 66 yd. run (Kasay kick)	2	75	1:00	0 7
vs. CAR	1	6:53	Williams 7 yd. run (Kasay kick)	2	11	0:46	0 14
vs. CAR	2	5:30	Kasay 32 yd. FG	10	41	5:26	3 17
vs. CAR	3	3:27	Kasay 25 yd. FG	19	73	9:47	13 20
at STL	2	9:23	Avery 29 yd. pass from Bulger (Jo.Brown kick)	8	75	4:51	7 7
at STL	2	0:55	Jackson 2 yd. run (Jo.Brown kick)	13	73	5:56	14 14
at STL	3	7:08	Jo.Brown 32 yd. FG	9	46	3:49	21 17
at STL	4	2:44	Avery 19 yd. pass from Bulger (pass failed)	6	80	1:41	28 23
at TB	1	4:58	Clayton 18 yd. pass from Freeman (Barth kick)	12	95	6:55	0 7

Scoring Totals: 23 TD (9 pass, 12 rush, 2 return), 14 FG, 1 safety -- 204 points

2009 BIG PLAYS

SAINTS 20+ YARD PASSES				
Yds	Receiver	Passer	Qtr	Opp
66	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	4	at MIA
63	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	3	vs. CAR
58t	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	3	vs. DET
54t	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	3	vs. CAR
45	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	vs. CAR
40	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	vs. NYG
39t	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	1	vs. DET
38	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	3	at PHI
37	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	3	at MIA
37	David Thomas	Drew Brees	1	at TB
36	Pierre Thomas	Drew Brees	2	vs. NYJ
36t	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	1	vs. NYG
34	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	4	vs. NYG
32	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	1	at BUF
30	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	2	vs. ATL
29	Reggie Bush	Drew Brees	2	at PHI
29	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	4	vs. ATL
28	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	1	vs. NYG
27	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	2	vs. ATL
27t	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	4	at STL
26	Reggie Bush	Drew Brees	1	vs. DET
26	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	3	vs. NYG
26	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	3	at STL
25t	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	at PHI
25	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	at MIA
25	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	4	at STL
24	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	2	vs. ATL
22	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	2	at PHI
22	Lance Moore	Drew Brees	3	vs. NYG
21	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	1	at BUF
21	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	4	at MIA
21	Robert Meachem	Drew Brees	4	vs. CAR
21	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	1	at STL
21	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	at TB
20	Lance Moore	Drew Brees	2	vs. DET
20	Devery Henderson	Drew Brees	1	at BUF
20	Jeremy Shockey	Drew Brees	3	vs. NYJ
20	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	vs. NYG
20	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	at MIA
20	Marques Colston	Drew Brees	2	at TB

OPPONENTS 20+ YARD PASSES				
Yds	Receiver	Passer	Qtr	Opp
71t	DeSean Jackson	Kevin Kolb	1	at PHI
68t	Roddy White	Matt Ryan	3	vs. ATL
67	Brian Hartline	Chad Henne	3	at MIA
64	Calvin Johnson	Matthew Stafford	3	vs. DET
58	Hakeem Nicks	Eli Manning	4	vs. NYG
46	Steve Smith	Jake Delhomme	4	vs. CAR
37t	Hakeem Nicks	David Carr	4	vs. NYG
29	Michael Jenkins	Matt Ryan	3	vs. ATL
29t	Donnie Avery	Marc Bulger	2	at STL
27	Jerricho Cotchery	Mark Sanchez	4	vs. NYJ
27	Tony Gonzalez	Matt Ryan	1	vs. ATL
26	Jason Avant	Kevin Kolb	2	at PHI
26	Brent Celek	Kevin Kolb	4	at PHI
25	Jason Avant	Kevin Kolb	4	at PHI
25t	Ryan Denney	Brian Moorman	2	at BUF
24	Greg Camarillo	Chad Henne	2	at MIA
23	Dustin Keller	Mark Sanchez	3	vs. NYJ
23	Brandon Gibson	Marc Bulger	4	at STL
23	Daniel Fells	Marc Bulger	4	at STL
22	Steve Smith	David Carr	4	vs. NYG
22	Kenneth Moore	Jake Delhomme	4	vs. CAR
21	Calvin Johnson	Matthew Stafford	1	vs. DET
21	Brent Celek	Kevin Kolb	4	at PHI
21	Antonio Bryant	Josh Freeman	2	at TB
20	Brandon Gibson	Marc Bulger	3	at STL

SAINTS 10+ YARD RUSHES			
Yds	Rusher	Qtr	Opp
55	Reggie Bush	3	at STL
41	Robert Meachem	2	at STL
35	Mike Bell	3	at MIA
34t	Pierre Thomas	4	at BUF
30	Pierre Thomas	2	vs. ATL
28	Mike Bell	3	at TB
25	Pierre Thomas	4	vs. NYG
23	Mike Bell	1	at PHI
23	Pierre Thomas	3	at TB
22	Mike Bell	2	vs. DET
22t	Pierre Thomas	1	vs. ATL
19t	Reggie Bush	4	at PHI
19	Pierre Thomas	3	at BUF
19t	Pierre Thomas	4	at BUF
18	Pierre Thomas	3	vs. NYJ
18	Pierre Thomas	3	vs. NYJ
18	Pierre Thomas	3	at TB
18	Pierre Thomas	4	at TB
17	Reggie Bush	1	at BUF
16	Mike Bell	4	at PHI
16	Lynell Hamilton	2	at BUF
16	Reggie Bush	1	at STL
15	Mike Bell	4	vs. DET
15	Robert Meachem	1	at PHI
15	Pierre Thomas	4	at BUF
15	Pierre Thomas	4	vs. NYJ
14	Reggie Bush	1	at BUF
13	Mike Bell	2	vs. DET
13	Pierre Thomas	3	at BUF
13	Robert Meachem	1	vs. NYJ
13	Devery Henderson	3	at MIA
13	Mike Bell	3	at TB
12	Reggie Bush	2	vs. NYJ
12	Pierre Thomas	4	vs. CAR
11	Reggie Bush	1	vs. NYJ
11	Pierre Thomas	3	at STL
10	Reggie Bush	4	vs. DET
10	Drew Brees	2	at BUF
10t	Reggie Bush	4	at MIA
10t	Pierre Thomas	3	vs. CAR

OPPONENTS 10+ YARD RUSHES			
Yds	Rusher	Qtr	Opp
68t	Ricky Williams	1	at MIA
66t	DeAngelo Williams	1	vs. CAR
37	Michael Turner	2	vs. ATL
30	Steven Jackson	1	at STL
24	Michael Turner	4	vs. ATL
22	Michael Turner	1	vs. ATL
18	Brad Smith	1	vs. NYJ
17	Earnest Graham	1	at TB
16	Brian Westbrook	2	at PHI
15t	Thomas Jones	3	vs. NYJ
15	Josh Freeman	1	at TB
15	Josh Freeman	3	at TB
14	Brandon Jacobs	1	vs. NYG
14	Steven Jackson	2	at STL
13	Ahmad Bradshaw	2	vs. NYG
13t	Michael Turner	1	vs. ATL
13	DeAngelo Williams	2	vs. CAR
13	DeAngelo Williams	2	vs. CAR
13	Steven Jackson	2	at STL
12	Fred Jackson	2	at BUF
12	Mark Sanchez	2	vs. NYJ
12	Earnest Graham	1	at TB
11	LeSean McCoy	4	at PHI
11	Trent Edwards	2	at BUF
11	Fred Jackson	3	at BUF
10t	Ahmad Bradshaw	2	vs. NYG
10	DeAngelo Williams	3	vs. CAR
10	Jonathan Stewart	3	vs. CAR

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS GAME-BY-GAME RUSHING STATS

Date	Opp.	Mike Bell					Drew Brees					Mark Brunell					Reggie Bush					Marques Colston					Kyle Eckel					
		Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
9/13	DET	28	143	5.1	22	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14	2.0	10	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@Phi	17	86	5.1	23	1	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	10	33	3.3	19	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/27	@Buf	Inactive					6	8	1.3	10	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	13	64	4.9	17	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	Inactive					3	5	1.7	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	37	6.2	12	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	15	34	2.3	6	1	1	6	6.0	6	0	1	-9	-9.0	-9	0	6	17	2.8	9	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@Mia	12	80	6.7	35	0	2	3	1.5	2	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	10	3.3	10	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Signed, 10/29
11/2	ATL	17	49	2.9	9	0	2	3	1.5	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	3	1.5	2	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	5	17	3.4	5	0	2	4	2.0	5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	16	8.0	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@StL	8	30	3.8	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	83	13.8	55	1	1	6	6.0	6	0	2	6	3.0	7	0	
11/22	@TB	13	75	5.8	28	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	-3	-1.0	-1	0	Inactive					0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/30	NE																															
12/6	@Was																															
12/13	@Atl																															
12/19	DAL																															
12/27	TB																															
1/3	@Car																															
Totals		115	514	4.5	35	4	17	28	1.6	10	2	4	-12	-3.0	-1	0	55	277	5.0	55	5	1	6	6.0	6	0	2	6	3.0	7	0	
Date	Opp.	Heath Evans					Lynell Hamilton					Devery Henderson					Robert Meachem					Pierre Thomas										
		Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
9/13	DET	0	0	0.0	0	0	Did Not Play					0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	Inactive									
9/20	@Phi	0	0	0.0	0	0	Inactive					0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	15	15.0	15	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@Buf	0	0	0.0	0	0	5	24	4.8	16	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	14	126	9.0	34	2	0	0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	3	12	4.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	13	13.0	13	0	19	86	4.5	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10/18	NYG	1	2	2.0	2	1	Inactive					0	0	0.0	0	0	1	2	2.0	2	0	15	72	4.8	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@Mia	1	2	2.0	2	0	Inactive					1	13	13.0	13	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	8	30	3.8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	Injured Reserve, 10/29					Inactive					0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	14	91	6.5	30	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11/8	CAR						Inactive					1	-3	-3.0	-3	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	13	50	3.8	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11/15	@StL						Inactive					0	0	0.0	0	0	1	41	41.0	41	0	11	37	3.4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/22	@TB						9	19	2.1	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	11	92	8.4	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/30	NE																															
12/6	@Was																															
12/13	@Atl																															
12/19	DAL																															
12/27	TB																															
1/3	@Car																															
Totals		5	16	3.2	6	1	14	43	3.1	16	1	2	10	5.0	13	0	4	71	17.8	41	0	105	584	5.6	34	5						

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS GAME-BY-GAME RECEIVING STATS

Date	Opp.	Mike Bell					Reggie Bush					Marques Colston					Heath Evans					Devery Henderson					Robert Meachem					Lance Moore					
		Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
9/13	DET	0	0	0.0	0	0	5	55	11.0	26	0	3	30	10.0	14	1	4	35	8.8	13	1	5	103	20.6	58	1	2	51	25.5	39	1	2	38	19.0	20	0	
9/20	@Phi	1	9	9.0	9	0	3	42	14.0	29	0	8	98	12.3	25	2	2	16	8.0	11	1	3	71	23.7	38	0	1	11	11.0	11	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	
9/27	@Buf	Inactive					3	17	5.7	12	0	4	67	16.8	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	40	13.3	20	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	Inactive				
10/4	NYJ	Inactive					3	7	2.3	4	0	2	33	16.5	17	0	1	11	11.0	11	0	3	21	7.0	9	0	1	19	19.0	19	0	1	1	1.0	1	0	
10/18	NYG	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	7	7.0	7	0	8	166	20.8	40	1	1	5	5.0	5	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	2	70	35.0	36	1	6	78	13.0	22	1	
10/25	@Mia	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	16	5.3	11	0	5	72	14.4	25	1	2	3	1.5	8	0	4	71	17.8	37	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	18	9.0	11	0	
11/2	ATL	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	11	5.5	7	0	6	85	14.2	29	1	Injured Reserve, 10/29					4	46	11.5	24	0	2	47	23.5	30	0	2	11	5.5	7	0	
11/8	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	7	37	5.3	10	0	1	45	45.0	45	0						3	93	31.0	63	0	5	98	19.6	54	1	Inactive					
11/15	@StL	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	15	7.5	15	1	2	17	8.5	9	0						4	72	18.0	26	0	1	27	27.0	27	1	Inactive					
11/22	@TB	1	5	5.0	5	0	Inactive					5	74	14.8	21	0						1	-2	-2.0	-2	0	2	10	5.0	6	2	Inactive					
11/30	NE																																				
12/6	@Was																																				
12/13	@Atl																																				
12/19	DAL																																				
12/27	TB																																				
1/3	@Car																																				
Totals		2	14	7.0	9	0	29	207	7.1	29	1	44	687	15.6	45	6	10	70	7.0	13	2	31	521	16.8	63	1	16	333	20.8	54	6	13	146	11.2	22	1	
Date	Opp.	Courtney Roby					Jeremy Shockey					David Thomas					Pierre Thomas																				
		Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD																
9/13	DET	Signed, 9/16					4	31	7.8	15	2	1	15	15.0	15	0	Inactive																				
9/20	@Phi	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	49	12.3	22	0	2	19	9.5	11	0	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0																
9/27	@Buf	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	48	8.0	21	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0																
10/4	NYJ	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	34	8.5	20	0	1	18	18.0	18	0	4	46	11.5	36	0																
10/18	NYG	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	37	9.3	18	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0																
10/25	@Mia	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	105	26.3	66	0	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0	1	14	14.0	14	0																
11/2	ATL	0	0	0.0	0	0	5	72	14.4	27	0	2	27	13.5	16	0	2	9	4.5	8	1																
11/8	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	26	8.7	14	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	5	31	6.2	17	0																
11/15	@StL	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	42	14.0	25	0	5	45	9.0	18	0	1	5	5.0	5	0																
11/22	@TB	1	6	6.0	6	0	2	17	8.5	12	0	4	66	16.5	37	1	3	11	3.7	6	0																
11/30	NE																																				
12/6	@Was																																				
12/13	@Atl																																				
12/19	DAL																																				
12/27	TB																																				
1/3	@Car																																				
Totals		1	6	6.0	6	0	39	461	11.8	66	3	16	189	11.8	37	1	17	112	6.6	36	1																

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS GAME-BY-GAME KICKOFF RETURN STATS

Date	Opp.	Jeff Charleston					Robert Meachem					Courtney Roby					Pierre Thomas				
		Ret	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	148	24.7	42	0	Signed, 9/16					Inactive				
9/20	@Phi	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	72	24.0	27	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/27	@Buf	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	16	16.0	16	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	26	26.0	26	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/18	NYG	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	91	22.8	29	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/25	@Mia	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	185	30.8	87	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/2	ATL	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	88	29.3	35	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/8	CAR	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	46	23.0	25	0	1	19	19.0	19	0
11/15	@StL	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	3	146	48.7	97	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	51	25.5	27	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/30	NE																				
12/6	@Was																				
12/13	@Atl																				
12/19	DAL																				
12/27	TB																				
1/3	@Car																				
Totals		1	0	0.0	0	0	6	148	24.7	42	0	25	721	28.8	97	1	1	19	19.0	19	0

2009 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS GAME-BY-GAME PUNT RETURN STATS

Date	Opp.	Reggie Bush						Devery Henderson						Lance Moore						Darren Sharper					
		Ret	Yds	Avg	FC	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	FC	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	FC	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg	FC	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	3	11	3.7	1	11	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@Phi	2	-3	-1.5	0	3	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@Buf	4	17	4.3	1	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	Inactive										
10/4	NYJ	1	22	22.0	1	22	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/18	NYG	2	0	0.0	0	2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@Mia	5	23	4.6	0	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/2	ATL	1	1	1.0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/8	CAR	1	4	4.0	1	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	Inactive											
11/15	@StL	2	5	2.5	1	4	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	Inactive											
11/22	@TB			Inactive				2	10	5.0	1	5	0	Inactive											
11/30	NE																								
12/6	@Was																								
12/13	@Atl																								
12/19	DAL																								
12/27	TB																								
1/3	@Car																								
Totals		21	80	3.8	6	22	0	2	10	5.0	1	5	0	0	0	0.0	2	0	0	1	6	6.0	1	0	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

92 Remi Ayodele
Pos.: DT Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 318 Exp.: 3 College: Oklahoma

Career GP/GS: (22/8); 2009: (9/8/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Inactive. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made his first career start at NT and recorded two tackles. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played in the defensive line rotation and notched two solo tackles. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at NT and scored his first career touchdown, recovering a fumble in the end zone after Will Smith stripped the ball from QB Mark Sanchez. Also posted a career-best six tackles. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at nose tackle made three tackles, including his first career sack when he dropped QB David Carr and knocked down a pass. **at Miami (10/25):** Started at NT for the fourth consecutive week and made five tackles. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started at nose tackle and made two tackles. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Notched four tackles from his starting nose tackle spot. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at nose tackle and made four tackles and split a two-yard sack of QB Marc Bulger with Charles Grant. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Recorded three tackles from his starting NT spot.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 6, vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); Sacks – 1 (2x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); Interceptions – 0; Pass Defenses – 1, vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09); Forced Fumbles – 1, vs. Chicago (9/23/07); Fumble Recoveries – 1, vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09).

92 DT Remi Ayodele											
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR
9/13	DET	Inactive									
9/20	@PHI	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	1
10/18	NYG	1	1	1	2	3	1	0	0	1	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	1	3	4	0.5	1	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		9	8	10	21	31	1.5	1	0	1	1
Saints Career		15	8	12	26	38	1.5	1	0	1	1
Career Totals		22	8	17	26	43	1.5	1	0	1	1



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

21 Mike Bell
Pos.: RB Ht...: 6-0 Wt.: 225 Exp.: 4 College: Arizona

Career GP/GS: (32/5); **2009:** (8/2/0/2)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Posted career-highs with 143 yards on 28 carries, the most for a Saints back since Deuce McAllister ran for 165 yards at Washington in November 2003. It was his second career 100-yard rushing game and first as a Saint. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Led the rushing attack with 17 carries for 86 yards and a seven-yard touchdown before leaving the game in the fourth quarter with a sprained knee. Also caught one pass for nine yards. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive due to the knee sprain. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive with the knee injury. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Returned from his sprained knee and carried the ball 15 times for 34 yards and scored the game's first touchdown on a two-yard dive in the 48-27 victory. Also made one tackle in kickoff coverage. **at Miami (10/25):** Served as the Saints' featured runner in the second half of the 46-34 win, leading the team with 80 rushing yards on 12 carries including a season-long 35-yard scamper. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made his first start of the season and carried the ball 17 times for 49 yards. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played in the running back rotation and carried five times for 17 yards. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at running back and ran for 30 yards on eight carries. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Ran for two touchdowns for the fourth time in his career, gaining 75 yards on 13 attempts with a five-yard reception in the 38-7 victory.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 2); (2009, 1) **Total: 3.**

CAREER HIGHS: Rushes – 28, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Rushing Yards** – 143, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Long Rush** – 48, vs. Indianapolis (10/29/06); **Rushing TDs** – 2 (4x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Receptions** – 5, at Pittsburgh (11/5/06); **Receiving Yards** – 40, at Pittsburgh (11/5/06); **Long Reception** – 24, at Pittsburgh (11/5/06); **Receiving TDs** – 0; **Kickoff Returns** – 2, at St. Louis (9/10/06); **Kickoff Return Yards** – 40, at St. Louis (9/10/06); **Long Kickoff Return** – 22, vs. San Diego (11/19/06); **Kickoff Returned for TD** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 1 (3x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09).

21 RB Mike Bell																			
				Rushing					Receiving					Kickoff Returns					
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	Ret	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	1	0	28	143	5.1	22	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	17	86	5.1	23	1	1	9	9.0	9	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	Inactive (knee)																	
10/4	NYJ	Inactive (knee)																	
10/18	NYG	1	0	15	34	2.3	6	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	12	80	6.7	35	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	17	49	2.9	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	5	17	3.4	5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	8	30	3.8	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	13	75	5.8	28	2	1	5	5.0	5	0	12	0	0	0.0	0	0
2009 Season		8	2	115	514	4.5	35	4	2	14	7.0	9	0	24	0	0	0.0	0	0
Saints Career		12	2	128	556	4.3	35	5	3	28	9.3	14	0	30	0	0	0.0	0	0
Career Totals		32	5	291	1,236	4.2	48	13	24	193	8.0	24	0	78	5	97	19.4	22	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

9 Drew Brees
Pos.: QB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 209 Exp.: 9 College: Purdue

Career GP/GS (117/116): 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Selected by his teammates as one of three season-long captains. **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Threw for a career-best six touchdown passes – tying a franchise record set by Billy Kilmer in 1969 – in leading the Saints to a 45-27 Opening Day victory as he completed 26 of 34 passes for 358 yards with an interception for a passer rating of 137.0. The 300-yard passing day was the 31st of Brees' career and 24th in a New Orleans uniform. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Led the Saints to a 48-22 victory, throwing three touchdown passes on 25-for-34 passing for 311 yards with one interception for a passer rating of 118.6 in his 50th regular-season game at the helm of the New Orleans offense. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Completed 16 of 29 passes for 172 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions and also ran for a pair of first downs, finishing the day with six carries for eight yards. Moved into third place on the franchise's all-time passing yardage list, passing Bobby Hebert. Named NFC Offensive Player of the Month for September after leading the Saints to a 3-0 start, completing 67 of 97 passes for 841 with nine touchdowns and two interceptions on the month. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Went 20-for-32 passing for 190 yards in engineering the 24-10 victory. Also ran seven yards for a first down, threw a block on a Reggie Bush run and recovered a fumble to keep a touchdown drive alive in a solid all-around performance. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Led the Saints to a 48-27 victory over the previously unbeaten Giants, completing 23 of 30 passes for a season-high 369 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions and a near-perfect passer rating of 156.8 along with a six-yard carry to convert a third down in the first quarter to prolong a touchdown drive. At one point in the first half, he completed 15 consecutive passes in engineering touchdown drives on the team's first four possessions. Also became the third quarterback in franchise history to throw for 15,000 yards in his Saints career and the third to throw 100 touchdowns in a New Orleans uniform as well. **at Miami (10/25):** Overcame a rough start to lead the Saints to a thrilling come-from-behind victory, engineering a 36-point second half in erasing a 24-3 deficit for a 46-34 victory. Completed 22 of 38 passes on the day for 298 yards with one touchdown pass and three interceptions and scored two rushing touchdowns for the first time in his career, the first on a QB sneak just before halftime and the second giving the Saints their first lead of the game at 37-34 in the fourth quarter on a two-yard run through the middle of the line. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Carried the Saints to their seventh consecutive win, completing 25 of 33 passes for 308 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for a passer rating of 111.7. Also ran the ball twice for three yards. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Was 25-for-34 passing, good for 330 yards with one touchdown and an interception in the 30-20 victory for a passer rating of 96.1. Also carried the ball twice for four yards, with a five-yard run to convert a third down. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Completed 18 out of 26 passes for 223 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for a passer rating of 89.1 in the 28-23 victory to push the team to their ninth straight win. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Efficiently guided the Saints to their 10th consecutive win, completing 19 of 29 passes for 187 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions and a passer rating of 118.0 in the 38-7 win.

CAREER HIGHS: Attempts – 60, at Chicago (12/30/07); **Completions** – 39, at Denver (9/21/08); **Completion Pct.** – 88.0 (22 for 25) vs. Oakland (10/31/04); **Passing Yards** – 510, vs. Cincinnati (11/19/06); **Long Pass** – 86t, at Carolina (10/1/06); **Interceptions** – 4, vs. Tennessee (9/24/07); **Passing TDs** – 6, vs. Detroit (9/13/07); **Passer Rating** – 157.5 (20-of-26, 323 yds., 4 TDs, 0 INT), vs. Green Bay (11/24/08); **Rushes** – 8, at Kansas City (11/28/04); **Rushing Yards** – 31, at Kansas City (12/24/05); **Long Rush** – 22, vs. Oakland (10/31/04); **Rushing TDs** – 2, at Miami (10/25/09).

ADDITIONAL STATS: Receiving – (2003, 1 rec., 21 yds., 1 TD); (2004, 1 rec., 38 yds.); (2007, 2 rec., 10 yds.)
Total: 4 rec., 69 yds., 1 TD.

9 QB Drew Brees																
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Passing								Rushing				
				Att	Comp	Pct.	Yds	TD	INT	Lg	Rating	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	1	1	34	26	76.5%	358	6	1	58t	137.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	34	25	73.5%	311	3	1	38	118.6	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	29	16	55.2%	172	0	0	32	72.8	6	8	1.3	10	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	32	20	62.5%	190	0	0	36	78.9	3	5	1.7	7	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	30	23	76.7%	369	4	0	40	156.8	1	6	6.0	6	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	38	22	57.9%	298	1	3	66	58.9	2	3	1.5	2t	2
11/2	ATL	1	1	33	25	75.8%	308	2	1	30	111.7	2	3	1.5	4	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	35	24	68.6%	330	1	1	63	96.1	2	4	2.0	5	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	26	18	69.2%	223	2	2	27t	89.1	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	29	19	65.5%	187	3	0	37	118.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2009 Season		10	10	320	218	68.1%	2,746	22	9	66	105.8	17	28	1.6	10	2
Saints Career		58	58	2,161	1,427	66.0%	16,656	110	55	86t	95.6	104	111	1.1	16	3
Career Totals		117	116	3,970	2,552	64.3%	29,004	190	108	86t	90.7	239	477	2.0	22	7

70 Jammal Brown
Pos.: T Ht.: 6-6 Wt.: 313 Exp.: 5 College: Oklahoma

Career GP/GS (58/58); 2009: (0/0/0/3)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Inactive while recovering from sports hernia and hip surgeries. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Inactive with the hip injury. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive with the hip injury. Placed on injured reserve, 9/29.



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

11 Mark Brunell
Pos.: QB Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 217 Exp.: 17 College: Washington

Career GP/GS (169/150): 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Served as the holder on all placekicks. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Was the holder on all eight successful PAT and field goal attempts. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Was the holder on all placekicks. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played as the holder on all placekicks. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Served as the holder and saw his first action at quarterback late in the game but did not attempt a pass. Carried once for a nine-yard loss. **at Miami (10/25):** Was the holder on all placekicks. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Served as the holder on all placekicks. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Was the holder for three successful field goals and three extra points. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Was the holder on all four of John Carney's successful extra point kicks. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played late in the game but did not attempt a pass. Took three kneel-down snaps to close the contest.

CAREER HIGHS: Attempts – 53, at Denver (10/9/05); **Completions** – 37, at St. Louis (10/20/96); **Completion Pct.** – 88.9 (24 for 27) at Houston (9/24/06); **Passing Yards** – 432, at New England (9/22/96); **Long Pass** – 79t, at Kansas City (9/22/96); **Interceptions** – 5, at St. Louis (10/20/95); **Passing TDs** – 4 (2x), last vs. Dallas (12/28/05); **Passer Rating** – 147.9 (13-of-20, 252 yds., 3 TDs, 0 INT), vs. San Francisco (10/23/05); **Rushes** – 11, at Cleveland (10/22/95); **Rushing Yards** – 63, at N.Y. Giants (11/3/02); **Long Rush** – 38, at Baltimore (10/28/01); **Rushing TDs** – 1 (15x), last vs. Buffalo (9/14/03).

11 QB Mark Brunell

				Passing								Rushing				
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Att	Comp	Pct.	Yds	TD	INT	Lg	Rating	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	1	-9	-9.0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	3	-3	-1.0	-1	0
2009 Season		10	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	4	-12	-3.0	-1	0
Saints Career		12	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0	4	-12	-3.0	-1	0
Career Totals		169	150	4,594	2,738	59.6%	31,826	182	106	79t	84.2	513	2,421	4.7	38	15



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

25 Reggie Bush
Pos.: RB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 203 Exp.: 4 College: Southern California

Career GP/GS: (47/32); 2009: (9/6/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Started at RB and tied for the team-lead with five receptions, going for 55 yards and ran for 14 yards on seven carries. Also gained 11 yards on three punt returns. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Carried the ball 10 times for 33 yards, including a powerful 19-yard touchdown run that sealed the victory in the fourth quarter and also caught three passes for 42 yards from his starting RB position. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Carried 13 times for 64 yards and caught three passes for 17 yards. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Carried the ball six times for 37 yards, caught three passes for seven yards and had a 22-yard punt return in the win. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Had six carries for 17 yards with a seven-yard touchdown run and caught one pass for seven yards in the victory. **at Miami (10/25):** Caught three passes for 16 yards and rushed three times for 10 yards but provided one of the game's biggest highlights when he scored on a 10-yard run off of a double-reverse, leaping into the end zone from about five yards away over a defender in the win. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Caught two passes for 11 yards and carried twice for three yards, including a one-yard dash around the left end into the end zone to score for the third consecutive game. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at running back and had a team-high seven receptions for 37 yards with two carries for 16 rushing yards. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Posted his first multi-touchdown game of the season, running for a three-yard score and later taking a pass on a crossing route and outrunning the defense for a 15-yard touchdown. Totaled six carries for 83 yards, including a career-long 55-yard dash, and caught two passes for 15 yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Inactive with an injured knee.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Passing – (2006, 1 att., 0 comp., 0 yds., 1 int., 0 TD, 0 LG, 0.0 passer rating) **Total:** 1 att., 0 comp., 1 int., 0 yds, 0 LG, 0.0 passer rating; **Two-Point Conversions** – (2007, 3) **Total:** 3.

CAREER HIGHS: Rushes – 21, vs. Carolina (10/7/07); **Rushing Yards** –126, at New York Giants (12/24/06); **Long Rush** – 55, at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Rushing TDs** – 3, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06); **Receptions** –12, at Houston (11/18/07); **Receiving Yards** –131, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06); **Long Reception** – 74, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06); **Receiving TDs** –1 (9x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Yards from Scrimmage** – 168, vs. San Francisco (12/3/06); **Punt Returns** – 5 (2x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Punt Return Yards** – 176, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08); **Long Punt Return** – 71t, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08); **Punt Return TDs** – 2, vs. Minnesota (10/6/08).

25 RB Reggie Bush

Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rushing					Receiving					Punt Returns						
				Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	Ret	Yds	Avg.	FC	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	1	1	7	14	2.0	10	0	5	55	11.0	26	0	0	3	11	3.7	1	11	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	10	33	3.3	19t	1	3	42	14.0	29	0	6	2	-3	-1.5	0	3	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	13	64	4.9	17	0	3	17	5.7	12	0	0	4	17	4.3	1	9	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	6	37	6.2	12	0	3	7	2.3	4	0	0	1	22	22.0	1	22	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	6	17	2.8	9	1	1	7	7.0	7	0	6	2	0	0.0	0	2	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	3	10	3.3	10t	1	3	16	5.3	11	0	6	5	23	4.6	0	9	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	2	3	1.5	2	1	2	11	5.5	7	0	6	1	1	1.0	1	1	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	2	16	8.0	9	0	7	37	5.3	10	0	0	1	4	4.0	1	4	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	6	83	13.8	55	1	2	15	7.5	15t	1	12	2	5	2.5	1	4	0
11/22	@TB	Inactive (knee)																		
2009 Season		9	6	55	277	5.0	55	5	29	207	7.1	29	1	36	21	80	3.8	6	22	0
Saints Career		47	32	473	1,827	3.9	55	17	242	1,806	7.5	74	9	186	72	578	8.0	11	71t	4
Career Totals		47	32	473	1,827	3.9	55	17	242	1,806	7.5	74	9	186	72	578	8.0	11	71t	4

74 Jermon Bushrod
Pos.: T Ht.: 6-5 Wt.: 315 Exp.: 3 College: Towson

Career GP/GS (12/8); 2009: (9/8/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Made his first career start, opening at LT and helped the team to a 45-27 victory with 515 yards of total offense and zero sacks allowed. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Started at LT in the 48-22 win. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at LT before leaving the game with an ankle injury. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive with knee and ankle injuries. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at LT and helped the offense to put up 48 points with 493 total yards and kept QB Drew Brees without being sacked against the previously top-ranked Giants defense. **at Miami (10/25):** Was the starting LT in the win. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started at LT in the victory. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at LT and helped hold All-Pro DE Julius Peppers without a sack in the win. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at LT and helped the team post 203 rushing yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played in a rotation at left tackle and helped keep Drew Brees from being sacked in the win.



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

97 Jeff Charleston
Pos.: DE Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 265 Exp.: 3 College: Idaho State

Career GP/GS: (33/3); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Played as a reserve end and on special teams, making one tackle on defense and another in kick coverage. at Philadelphia (9/20): Made one solo tackle from his reserve defensive end spot. at Buffalo (9/27): Made one tackle on defense and another on special teams. Also alertly fielded a short kickoff. vs. NY Jets (10/4): Recorded one solo tackle as a reserve defensive end. vs. NY Giants (10/18): Saw action on defense and made one solo tackle on special teams. at Miami (10/25): Played as a reserve defensive end as well as on special teams. vs. Atlanta (11/2): Played on special teams and as a reserve defensive end. vs. Carolina (11/8): Saw action in the defensive line rotation and on special teams. at St. Louis (11/15): Made one tackle as a reserve defensive end. at Tampa Bay (11/22): Recorded two tackles, playing in the defensive line rotation.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 2); (2008, 15); (2009, 3) Total: 20; Kickoff Returns – (2009, 1 for 0 yards) Total: 1 for 0 yards.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 11, at Oakland (12/16/07); Sacks – 2, at Kansas City (11/16/08); Interceptions – 0; Pass Defenses – 2, vs. Houston (12/23/07); Forced Fumbles – 1, at Baltimore (12/9/07); Fumble Recoveries – 0; Special Teams Tackles – 8, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08).

97 DE Jeff Charleston												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
9/20	@PHI	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	
2009 Season		10	0	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	
Saints Career		20	0	10	8	18	3	25	0	0	0	
Career Totals		33	3	32	28	60	4	25	0	2	1	

71 Kendrick Clancy
Pos.: DT Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 305 Exp.: 10 College: Mississippi

Career GP/GS: (110/46); 2009: (2/0/0/5)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Made two tackles in the season-opening victory. at Philadelphia (9/20): Inactive with a knee injury. at Buffalo (9/27): Inactive due to his injured knee. vs. NY Jets (10/4): Inactive with the knee injury. vs. NY Giants (10/18): Inactive. at Miami (10/25): Inactive. vs. Atlanta (11/2): Played as part of the defensive line rotation and made four tackles. Placed in injured reserve with an injured knee, 11/7.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 8, at Washington (9/14/08); Sacks – 1 (5x), last at Carolina (10/19/08); Interceptions – 1, vs. Tennessee (10/29/01); Forced Fumbles – 1 (3x), last vs. St. Louis (9/24/06); Fumble Recoveries – 1 (2x), last vs. Oakland (10/12/08).

71 DT Kendrick Clancy												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	
9/20	@PHI						Inactive (knee)					
9/27	@BUF						Inactive (knee)					
10/4	NYJ						Inactive (knee)					
10/18	NYG						Inactive					
10/25	@MIA						Inactive					
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	
							Placed on IR, 11/7					
2009 Season		2	0	1	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Saints Career		30	16	47	38	85	2.5	8.5	0	3	1	
Career Totals		110	46	129	62	191	5.5	31.5	1	3	2	



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

12 Marques Colston
Pos.: WR Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 225 Exp.: 4 College: Hofstra

Career GP/GS: (51/41); 2009: (10/9/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at WR and caught his 25th career touchdown pass as he totaled three receptions for 30 yards in the 45-27 win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Had a big day in front of his hometown fans, catching a pair of first-half touchdowns (of 15 and 25 yards) and tallying a team-high eight receptions for 98 yards in the 48-22 victory. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Caught four passes for a team-best 67 yards from his starting WR position. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at WR and caught a pair of passes for 33 yards. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Led the team with eight receptions for a season-best 166 yards and a touchdown in the 48-27 win. **at Miami (10/25):** Caught a team-best five catches for 72 yards and a 10-yard touchdown in the 46-34 victory. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Was the team's leading receiver with six catches for 85 yards and scored a touchdown for the third straight game, an 18-yard reception. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Had one catch from his starting WR spot, gaining 45 yards and helping to set up a Saints field goal. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played in his 50th career game after being limited in practice all week with the flu and caught two passes for 17 yards. Also had the first rushing attempt of his career, gaining six yards on an end-around. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at wide receiver and led the team with five receptions for 74 yards.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Rushing – (2009, 1 att., 6 yds.) **Total: 1 att., 6 yds.**

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 11, at Tampa Bay (11/5/06); **Receiving Yards** – 169, at Pittsburgh (11/12/06); **Long Reception** – 86t, at Carolina (10/1/06); **Receiving TDs** – 3, at San Francisco (10/28/07).

12 WR Marques Colston									
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts
9/13	DET	1	1	3	30	10.0	14	1	6
9/20	@PHI	1	1	8	98	12.3	25t	2	12
9/27	@BUF	1	1	4	67	16.8	32	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	2	33	16.5	17	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	8	166	20.8	40	1	6
10/25	@MIA	1	1	5	72	14.4	25	1	6
11/2	ATL	1	1	6	85	14.2	29	1	6
11/8	CAR	1	1	1	45	45.0	45	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	2	17	8.5	9	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	5	74	14.8	21	0	0
2009 Season		10	9	44	687	15.6	45	6	36
Saints Career		51	41	259	3,687	14.2	86t	30	180
Career Totals		51	41	259	3,687	14.2	86t	30	180

80 Darnell Dinkins
Pos.: TE Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 260 Exp.: 8 College: Pittsburgh

Career GP/GS: (83/12); 2009: (5/0/0/5)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Inactive with an injured foot. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Inactive with the foot injury. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive due to the foot injury. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive with the injured foot. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Inactive. **at Miami (10/25):** Made his Saints debut, playing on special teams and made one tackle. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Played as a blocking tight end and on special teams and made one tackle. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams and as a blocking tight end. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played on special teams and as a blocking tight end. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played on special teams and as a blocking tight end.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2002, 1); (2003, 8); (2006, 5); (2007, 5); (2008, 5); (2009, 2) **Total: 26. Kickoff Returns** – (2004, 1 ret., 7 yds., 7 lg.); (2005, 1 ret., 10, yds., 10 lg.); (2006, 3 ret., 44 yds., 20 lg.); (2007, 7 ret., 62 yds., 19 lg.); (2008, 3 ret., 37 yds., 14 lg.) **Total: 15 ret., 160 yds., 20 lg.**

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 3 (2x), last vs. Indianapolis (9/11/05); **Receiving Yards** – 40, vs. Dallas (11/21/04); **Long Reception** – 22t, vs. N.Y. Giants (10/13/08); **Receiving TDs** – 1 (3x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/13/08).

80 TE Darnell Dinkins									
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts
9/13	DET	Inactive (foot)							
9/20	@PHI	Inactive (foot)							
9/27	@BUF	Inactive (foot)							
10/4	NYJ	Inactive (foot)							
10/18	NYG	Inactive							
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
2009 Season		5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Saints Career		5	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Career Totals		83	12	25	228	9.1	22t	3	18



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

56 Jo-Lonn Dunbar
Pos.: LB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 226 Exp.: 2 College: Boston College

Career GP/GS: (22/4); **2009:** (7/2/0/3)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played on special teams. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made two tackles in special teams duty. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive with a hamstring injury. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Inactive. **at Miami (10/25):** Recorded one tackle and a pass defense as a reserve linebacker and another stop on special teams. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made his first start of the season, opening at strong-side linebacker and made six tackles with two more stops on special teams. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at SLB and for the second straight week posted a career-high with seven tackles (three solo) and added another on special teams. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played on special teams and made two tackles in kick coverage. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made two tackles as a reserve linebacker and tied his career-high with three special teams tackles.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2008, 16); (2009, 11) **Total: 27.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 7, vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Sacks** – 0; **Interceptions** – 0; **Pass Defenses** – 2, at Washington (9/14/08); **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 3 (2x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09).

56 LB Jo-Lonn Dunbar													
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR		
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	Inactive (hamstring)											
10/4	NYJ	Inactive											
10/18	NYG	Inactive											
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		7	2	8	8	16	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Saints Career		22	4	10	13	23	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Career Totals		22	4	10	13	23	0	0	0	0	3	0	0

36 Kyle Eckel
Pos.: FB Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 237 Exp.: 3 College: Navy

Career GP/GS (21/1); **2009:** (4/1/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Signed as a free agent, 10/29. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Saw action as a blocker in his first game in a Saints uniform. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams and at fullback. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made the first start of his career, opening at fullback, and carried the ball twice for six yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played on special teams and at fullback.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 12); (2008, 1) **Total: 13.**

CAREER HIGHS: Rushes – 10, at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Rushing Yards** – 40, at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Long Rush** – 14 (2x), last vs. Arizona (11/27/08); **Rushing TDs** – 1 (2x), last at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Receptions** – 1, at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Receiving Yards** – 6, at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Long Reception** – 6, at Buffalo (11/18/07); **Receiving TDs** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 3, at Indianapolis (11/4/07).

36 FB Kyle Eckel															
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rushing					Receiving					Pts	
				Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD		
Signed, 10/29															
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	2	6	3.0	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		4	1	2	6	3.0	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		4	1	2	6	3.0	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
Career Totals		21	1	59	175	3.0	14	2	1	6	6.0	6	0	12	



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

98 Sedrick Ellis
Pos.: DT Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 307 Exp.: 2 College: Southern California

Career GP/GS: (19/19); **2009:** (6/6/0/4)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Started at DT and made four tackles along with knocking down a pass. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made six tackles (three solo) from his starting DT spot. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Posted a new career-high with 10 tackles (four solo) from his starting DT spot and recorded his first sack of the season, dropping QB Trent Edwards for a five-yard loss. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Made three tackles from his starting DT position. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at DT and made two tackles along with a pass defense. **at Miami (10/25):** Made three tackles from his starting defensive tackle spot before leaving the game with a knee injury in the second quarter. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive due to his sprained knee. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Missed the game with a knee injury. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Missed his third straight game with his injured knee. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Inactive with a sprained knee.

CAREER HIGHS: **Tackles** – 10, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Sacks** – 1 (5x), last at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Interceptions** – 0; **Pass Defenses** – 1 (7x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09); **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0.

98 DT Sedrick Ellis													
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR		
9/13	DET	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/20	@PHI	1	1	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	1	4	6	10	1	5	0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/18	NYG	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	
10/25	@MIA	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/2	ATL	Inactive (knee)											
11/8	CAR	Inactive (knee)											
11/15	@STL	Inactive (knee)											
11/22	@TB	Inactive (knee)											
2009 Season		6	6	12	16	28	1	5	0	0	2	0	0
Saints Career		19	19	26	44	70	5	21	0	0	7	0	0
Career Totals		19	19	26	44	70	5	21	0	0	7	0	0

44 Heath Evans
Pos.: FB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 250 Exp.: 9 College: Auburn

Career GP/GS (127/17); **2009:** (6/5/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Marked his Saints debut by catching his second career touchdown pass, a 13-yard screen pass among his career-best four receptions for 35 yards. Also served as the lead-blocker for many of Mike Bell's 143 rushing yards. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Started at FB and scored on a reception for the second consecutive week, catching an 11-yard touchdown and totaled two receptions for 16 yards and helped to lead the way for 133 team rushing yards. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at FB and helped pave the way for many of the team's 222 rushing yards on the day, including a key lead block on Pierre Thomas's 34-yard touchdown run. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Had his first rushing attempts in a Saints uniform, carrying three times for 12 yards and caught one pass for 11 yards from his starting FB spot. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Scored on two-yard run and helped block for the team's 133 rushing yards in the 48-27 victory. Also caught one pass for five yards. **at Miami (10/25):** Carried the ball once for two yards and caught two passes for three yards from his starting FB spot before leaving the game with a knee injury. Placed on injured reserve with a torn ACL in his right knee, 10/29.

ADDITIONAL STATS: **Special Teams Tackles** – (2001, 5); (2002, 1); (2003, 2); (2004, 8); (2005, 1); (2006, 2); (2007, 6); (2008, 4) **Total: 29.** **Kickoff Returns** – (2001, 3 ret., 40 yds., 20 lg.); (2002, 6 ret., 85, yds., 20 lg.); (2003, 1 ret., 14 yds., 14 lg.); (2004, 3 ret., 51 yds., 21 lg.); (2007, 1 ret., 13 yds., 13 lg.) **Total: 14 ret., 202 yds., 21 lg.** **Two-point Conversions** – (2005, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: **Rushes** – 17, vs. Miami (11/13/05); **Rushing Yards** – 84, vs. Miami (11/13/05); **Long Rush** – 35, at Minnesota (10/30/06); **Rushing TDs** – 1 (4x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09); **Receptions** – 4, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Receiving Yards** – 35, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Long Reception** – 29, at Miami (10/21/07); **Receiving TDs** – 1 (3x), last at Philadelphia (9/20/09).

44 FB Heath Evans														
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rushing					Receiving					Pts
				Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	4	35	8.8	13t	1	6
9/20	@PHI	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	2	16	8.0	11t	1	6
9/27	@BUF	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	3	12	4.0	6	0	1	11	11.0	11	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	1	2	2.0	2t	1	1	5	5.0	5	0	6
10/25	@MIA	1	1	1	2	2.0	2	0	2	3	1.5	8	0	0
Placed on IR, 10/29														
2009 Season		6	5	5	16	3.2	6	1	10	70	7.0	13t	2	18
Saints Career		6	5	5	16	3.2	6	1	10	70	7.0	13t	2	18
Career Totals		127	17	162	577	3.6	35	4	50	398	8.0	29	3	44



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

73 Jahri Evans

Pos.: G Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 318 Exp.: 4 College: Bloomsburg

Career GP/GS: (58/58); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at RG and helped lead the Saints to 515 yards of total offense, with 157 rushing yards and zero sacks allowed in the 45-27 Opening Day win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made his 50th career start and helped lead the offense to 421 yards of offense in a 48-22 victory. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at RG and helped lead the way for the team's 222 rushing yards. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at RG and helped to hold the Jets' defense without a sack and the Saints to rush for 153 yards in the 24-10 win. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at RG and paced the offense to 493 yards and 48 points in the win over the previously unbeaten Giants. **at Miami (10/25):** Was the starting right guard in the team's 46-34 victory. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started at RG in the Monday Night win. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Was the starting right guard in the win. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at RG in the victory, a game that saw the team gain 203 rushing yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at right guard and helped to keep Drew Brees sack-free in the win.

54 Troy Evans

Pos.: LB Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 238 Exp.: 8 College: Cincinnati

Career GP/GS: (113/1); 2009: (10/1/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Selected by his teammates as one of three season-long captains. **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Played on special teams. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made two tackles on special teams. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played on special teams and made two tackles in kick coverage. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Saw extended playing time on defense after Scott Fujita left with a calf injury and made four tackles (three solo). **at Miami (10/25):** Made his first career start, entering the starting lineup for an injured Scott Fujita and made two tackles along with another stop on special teams. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Played on special teams and made two tackles. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Notched two tackles on special teams. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made one tackle on special teams. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played on special teams and tallied two tackles.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2002, 14); (2003, 15); (2004, 16); (2005, 11); (2006, 13); (2007, 18); (2008, 20); (2009, 12) **Total: 119; Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – (2002, 1); (2005, 1); (2008, 1) **Total: 3.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 9, vs. Arizona (12/18/05); **Sacks** – 0; **Interceptions** – 1, at Seattle (10/16/05); **Pass Defenses** – 1, vs. Jacksonville (12/24/05); **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 4 (4x), last vs. Carolina (12/28/08).

54 LB Troy Evans												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		41	1	8	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Career Totals		113	1	25	20	45	0	0	1	0	0	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

55 Scott Fujita**Pos.:** LB **Ht.:** 6-5 **Wt.:** 250 **Exp.:** 8 **College:** California**Career GP/GS:** (116/100); **2009:** (7/7/0/3)

2008 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at SLB and posted seven tackles (four solo) and also had a pass defense. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made four tackles from his starting strongside linebacker spot. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Recorded 10 tackles (five solo), including one for a loss in the victory. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at SLB and notched six tackles (five solo) with two behind the line of scrimmage. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made one solo tackle and broke up a pass from his starting SLB spot before leaving the game in the first quarter with a calf strain. **at Miami (10/25):** Inactive with a calf injury. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive with the injured calf. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Missed his third straight game with his calf injury. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Returned to action and made six tackles from his starting strongside linebacker spot. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made his 100th career start and recorded his first sack since 2007, stripping the ball from QB Josh Freeman on a 10-yard sack that led to a Saints touchdown after the fumble was recovered by Anthony Hargrove. Totaled a team-leading nine tackles (five solo) on the day.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2002, 15); (2004, 1); (2005, 9); (2008, 1) **Total: 26; Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – (2002, 1) **Total: 1.****CAREER HIGHS: Tackles** – 18, at Buffalo (10/26/03); **Sacks** – 2 (3x), last vs. Arizona (12/16/07); **Interceptions** – 1 (5x), last at Chicago (12/11/08); **Pass Defenses** – 2 (5x), last at Indianapolis (9/6/07); **Forced Fumbles** – 2, vs. Arizona (12/16/07); **Fumble Recoveries** – 1 (2x), last at Houston (11/18/07); **Special Teams Tackles** – 3, at San Diego (10/13/02).

55 LB Scott Fujita													
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR		
9/13	DET	1	1	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	5	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10/25	@MIA	Inactive (calf)											
11/2	ATL	Inactive (calf)											
11/8	CAR	Inactive (calf)											
11/15	@STL	1	1	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	5	4	9	1	10	0	0	0	1	0
2009 Season		7	7	25	18	43	1	10	0	0	2	1	0
Saints Career		52	51	237	148	385	7.5	52.5	4	38	17	7	2
Career Totals		116	100	510	259	769	19	120.5	5	46	33	10	2

20 Randall Gay**Pos.:** CB **Ht.:** 5-11 **Wt.:** 190 **Exp.:** 6 **College:** Louisiana State**Career GP/GS:** (63/30); **2009:** (10/3/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Saw action as an extra defensive back and made two tackles as well as knocking down a pass. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made five tackles (four solo) in his role as a reserve defensive back. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started in the team's nickel defense and made three tackles. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Notched his first interception as a Saint, picking off QB Mark Sanchez late in the fourth quarter and had two pass defenses. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made one solo tackle as a reserve defensive back. **at Miami (10/25):** Played as a reserve defensive back and made two solo tackles. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made three solo tackles from his nickel back position. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played at nickel back and later filled in for Jabari Greer in the base defense and made two solo tackles with a pass break-up. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at CB in place of an injured Jabari Greer notched three tackles with a pass defense. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at cornerback but left the game with a leg injury before he cracked the stat sheet.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2005, 3); (2006, 1); (2007, 1) **Total: 5.****CAREER HIGHS: Tackles** – 10, vs. Carolina (12/28/08); **Sacks** – 1, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08); **Interceptions** – 1 (6x), last vs. N.Y. Jets (10/04/09); **Int. Ret for TD** – 0; **Pass Defenses** – 5, at Kansas City (11/16/08); **Forced Fumbles** – 1, vs. Cleveland (10/7/07); **Fumble Recoveries** – 1 (3x), last vs. Cleveland (10/7/07); **Fumble Ret for TD** – 1 (2x), last vs. Cleveland (10/7/07).

20 CB Randall Gay													
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR		
9/13	DET	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	25	2	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	3	15	6	21	0	0	1	25	5	0	0
Saints Career		24	16	64	22	86	1	6	1	25	22	0	0
Career Totals		63	30	139	30	169	1	6	6	100	36	1	3



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

76 Jonathan Goodwin
Pos.: C Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 318 Exp.: 8 College: Michigan

Career GP/GS: (110/38); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at C and helped lead the team to a 45-27 win that featured 515 yards of offense, 157 rushing yards and zero sacks allowed. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Was the starting center in the team's 48-22 victory. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Helped lead the way for the team's 222 rushing yards from his starting center spot. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Started at C and helped the offense to 153 yards rushing and zero sacks allowed in the 24-10 victory over his former team. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Started at center and helped pace the offense's 493-yard day in the 48-27 win over the Giants. at **Miami (10/25):** Was the starting center in the 46-34 victory. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Started at C in the 35-27 Monday Night win. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Started at center in the win. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Was the starting center in the victory that featured 203 rushing yards by the team. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at C in the 38-7 victory.

94 Charles Grant
Pos.: DE Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 285 Exp.: 7 College: Georgia

Career GP/GS: (112/100); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at DE and made three tackles. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Made four tackles from his starting defensive end position. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Notched his first sacks of the season, tallying two sacks of QB Trent Edwards for a combined loss of 19 yards among his three tackles. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Posted his second consecutive multi-sack game – the first time he has achieved that feat in his career – in dropping QB Mark Sanchez twice among his six tackles to go along with a pass defense. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Made four tackles from his starting DE spot. at **Miami (10/25):** Started at defensive end and made three tackles. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Made five tackles from his starting defensive end position. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Recorded three tackles as he started at defensive end. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Made six tackles (three solo) with two behind the line of scrimmage from his starting DE position and split a two-yard sack of QB Marc Bulger with DT Remi Ayodele. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made his 100th career start and recorded two solo tackles.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Safeties – (2008, 1) **Total: 1; Kick Returns:** (2002, 2 ret., 10 yds., 5.0 avg., 5 Lg.) **Total: 2** ret., 10 yds., 5.0 avg., 5 Lg.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 12, at Carolina (1/2/05); Sacks – 3, at St. Louis (9/26/04); Interceptions – 1, at Atlanta (11/28/04); Int. Ret for TD – 0; Forced Fumbles – 2, vs. Chicago (10/12/03); Fumble Recoveries – 1 (5x), last at N.Y. Giants (12/24/06); Fumbles Ret for TD - 1, vs. Carolina (11/10/02).

94 DE Charles Grant												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	2	1	3	2	19	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	5	1	6	2	10	0	0	1	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	3	3	6	0.5	1	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	10	19	20	39	4.5	30	0	0	1	0
Saints Career		112	100	330	161	491	46	290	1	8	23	13
Career Totals		112	100	330	161	491	46	290	1	8	23	13



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

32 Jabari Greer
Pos.: CB Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 180 Exp.: 6 College: Tennessee

Career GP/GS: (78/34); 2009: (8/8/0/2)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at CB in his Saints debut and made five tackles (three solo) to go along with a pair of pass defenses. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Made 10 tackles (seven solo) from his starting CB position with a pass defense. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Returned to face his former team and made eight tackles (six solo). Also batted a pass up in the air that resulted in an interception by DE Will Smith. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Started at CB and tied a career-best with three pass defenses to go along with eight solo tackles. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Made four solo tackles, added two pass defenses and recorded his first interception as a Saint when he picked off a QB Eli Manning pass in the 48-27 win. at **Miami (10/25):** Started at CB and made four tackles with two pass defenses in the victory. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Recorded his first touchdown as a Saint, picking off a Matt Ryan pass and running back for a career-long 48-yard score and also made five tackles (four solo) with two pass defenses. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Started at cornerback and made three tackles prior to leaving with a groin injury. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Inactive with an injured groin. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Inactive for the second straight game with a groin injury.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2004, 3); (2005, 15); (2006, 20); (2007, 6) **Total: 44.** Rushing – 1 carry for -6 yards in 2004.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 12, at Arizona (10/5/08); **Sacks** – 1 (2x), last vs. Houston (9/11/05); **Interceptions** – 1 (6x), last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09); **Long Interception Return** – 48t, vs. Atlanta (11/2/09); **Int. Ret for TD** – 1 (3x), last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09); **Pass Defenses** – 3 (2x), last vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (2x), last vs. Seattle (9/7/08); **Fumble Recoveries** – 0.

32 CB Jabari Greer												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	7	3	10	0	0	0	1	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	8	0	8	0	0	0	3	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	1	11	2	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	4	1	5	0	0	1	48	2	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	Inactive (groin)										
11/22	@TB	Inactive (groin)										
2009 Season		8	8	38	9	47	0	2	59	12	0	0
Saints Career		8	8	38	9	47	0	0	2	59	12	0
Career Totals		78	34	152	35	187	2	30	6	135	45	2

30 Lynell Hamilton
Pos.: RB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 235 Exp.: 1 College: San Diego State

Career GP/GS (3/1); 2009: (3/1/1/5)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Active, but did not play. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Inactive. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Started at RB in his first regular season action and ran for 24 yards on five carries, including a one-yard touchdown dive in the first quarter. Also added one tackle on special teams. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Played primarily on special teams. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Inactive. at **Miami (10/25):** Inactive. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Inactive. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Inactive. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played in the running back rotation and gained 19 yards on nine carries. Added a tackle on special teams.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2009, 2) **Total: 2.**

CAREER HIGHS: Rushes – 9, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Rushing Yards** – 24, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Long Rush** – 16, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Rushing TDs** – 1, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Receptions** – 0; **Receiving Yards** – 0; **Long Reception** – 0; **Receiving TDs** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 1 (2x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09).

30 RB Lynell Hamilton														
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rushing					Receiving					
				Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts
9/13	DET	Did Not Play												
9/20	@PHI	Inactive												
9/27	@BUF	1	1	5	24	4.8	16	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	Inactive												
10/25	@MIA	Inactive												
11/2	ATL	Inactive												
11/8	CAR	Inactive												
11/15	@STL	Inactive												
11/22	@TB	1	0	9	19	2.1	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
2009 Season		3	1	14	43	3.1	16	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6
Saints Career		3	1	14	43	3.1	16	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6
Career Totals		3	1	14	43	3.1	16	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

69 Anthony Hargrove

Pos.: DL Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 272 Exp.: 5 College: Georgia Tech

Career GP/GS: (67/23); 2009: (10/4/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played in the defensive line rotation and made five tackles in his Saints debut. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made five tackles – including one behind the line of scrimmage – and added a pass defense as he played as a reserve lineman. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Made four tackles against his former team. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played as a reserve lineman and made two tackles. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made three tackles from his reserve lineman spot and added another stop on special teams. **at Miami (10/25):** Saw extensive time on the defensive line and recorded his first two sacks as a Saint, dropping QB Chad Henne twice among his seven tackles. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made his first start in a Saints uniform, stepping in for an injured Sedrick Ellis at DT, and made five tackles with a three-yard sack of QB Matt Ryan. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at defensive tackle and had a banner day, making four tackles and recovering two fumbles, the second of which he had stripped from RB DeAngelo Williams and returned the ball one yard into the end zone to ice the 30-20 victory. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made four solo tackles with a pass break-up from his starting DT spot. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at DT and recorded four tackles and recovered a fumble that led to a Saints touchdown.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2004, 5); (2005, 5); (2006, 7); (2007, 11); (2009, 1) **Total: 29.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 9, at Houston (11/27/05); **Sacks** – 2 (2x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Interceptions** – 0; **Passes Defensed** – 2, vs. New Orleans (10/23/05); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (2x), last vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Fumble Recoveries** – 2, vs. Carolina (11/8/09).

69 DL Anthony Hargrove												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	3	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	3	4	7	2	14	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	3	2	5	1	3	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	2
11/15	@STL	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
2009 Season		10	4	20	23	43	3	17	0	3	1	3
Saints Career		10	4	20	23	43	3	17	0	3	1	3
Career Totals		67	23	121	114	235	13.5	69.5	0	8	2	5

13 Rod Harper

Pos.: WR Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 209 Exp.: 1 College: Murray State

Career GP/GS: (0/0); 2009: (0/0/0/4)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Inactive. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Inactive. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive. Placed on injured reserve with a stress fracture in his foot, 10/16.

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 0; **Receiving Yards** – 0; **Long Reception** – 0; **Receiving TDs** – 0.

13 WR Rod Harper										
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	
9/13	DET									Inactive
9/20	@PHI									Inactive
9/27	@BUF									Inactive
10/4	NYJ									Inactive
										Placed on IR, 10/16
2009 Season		0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
Saints Career		0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
Career Totals		0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

41 Roman Harper
Pos.: S Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 200 Exp.: 4 College: Alabama

Career GP/GS: (46/46); **2009:** (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Started at SS and made a team-leading 10 tackles (six solo), including a stop of RB Kevin Smith behind the line of scrimmage. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made eight tackles (six solo) from his starting SS spot, including a six-yard stop behind the line of QB Kevin Kolb on a draw play. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Led the team with 10 tackles (seven solo) from his starting SS position. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at strong safety and made six tackles. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Led the defensive attack from his starting SS spot with eight tackles (four solo) and knocked the ball away from QB Eli Manning on a sack in the second quarter with the fumble leading to a Saints score. Also had a pass defense and affected Manning's delivery on a pass that was intercepted by CB Jabari Greer. **at Miami (10/25):** Made six tackles (four solo) from his starting strong safety position with a pass defense and also forced a fumble from WR Davone Bess that was recovered by Scott Shanle to set up a New Orleans touchdown. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Led the Saints and matched a then career-high with 11 tackles (eight solo) from his starting SS spot. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Continued to shine as a tackler, posting a career-best and team-leading 14 tackles with four of them coming behind the line of scrimmage from his starting strong safety position. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Tied for the team lead with 12 tackles and added a pair of pass defenses as he started at SS. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made six tackles from his starting strong safety spot, with a pass defense and split a sack of QB Josh Freeman with Leigh Torrence.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 10); (2008, 12) **Total: 22.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 14, vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Sacks** – 2 (2x), at Chicago (12/30/07); **Interceptions** 1 (3x), last vs. Arizona (12/16/07); **Pass Defenses** – 2 (5x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (6x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 4, at Tampa Bay (11/30/08).

41 S Roman Harper												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	6	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	7	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	4	4	8	1	9	0	0	1	1
10/25	@MIA	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	1
11/2	ATL	1	1	8	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	11	3	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	6	6	12	0	0	0	0	2	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	3	3	6	0.5	4	0	0	1	0
2009 Season		10	10	59	32	91	1.5	13	0	0	5	2
Saints Career		46	46	218	107	325	6.5	58	3	58	22	6
Career Totals		46	46	218	107	325	6.5	58	3	58	22	6

5 Garrett Hartley
Pos.: K Ht.: 5-8 Wt.: 196 Exp.: 2 College: Oklahoma

Career GP/GS: (8/0); **2009:** (0/0/0/6)

2009 REVIEW: Suspended for the first four games of the season. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Inactive. **at Miami (10/25):** Inactive. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Inactive with an ankle injury. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Inactive. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):**

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2008, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: FG Made – 3 (2x), last vs. Atlanta (12/7/08); **FG Attempts** – 3 (2x), last vs. Atlanta (12/7/08); **Longest FG** – 47, at Tampa Bay (11/30/08); **Longest FG Attempt** – 47, at Tampa Bay (11/30/08); **PAT Made** – 6 (2x), last at Detroit (12/21/08); **PAT Attempted** – 6 (2x), last at Detroit (12/21/08); **Points** – 12, at Kansas City (11/16/08); **Consecutive FG Made** – 13, (11/9/08-current); **Touchbacks** – 4, at Detroit (12/21/08); **Special Teams Tackles** – 1, at Atlanta (11/9/08).

5 K Garrett Hartley																				
Date	Opp.	GP	Field Goals				1-19		20-29		30-39		40-49		50+		PATs		Pts	
			M	A	Pct.	Lg	Blk	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M	A	M		A
9/13	DET																			
9/20	@PHI																			
9/27	@BUF																			
10/4	NYJ																			
10/18	NYG																			
10/25	@MIA																			
11/2	ATL																			
11/8	CAR																			
11/15	@STL																			
11/22	@TB																			
2009 Season		0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		8	13	13	100.0%	47	0	0	0	5	5	4	4	4	4	0	0	28	28	67
Career Totals		8	13	13	100.0%	47	0	0	0	5	5	4	4	4	4	0	0	28	28	67



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

19 Devery Henderson**Pos.: WR Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 200 Exp.: 6 College.: Louisiana State****Career GP/GS:** (70/38); **2009:** (10/6/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Led the team with 103 receiving yards from his starting WR position, catching five passes including a 58-yard touchdown from QB Drew Brees. The game marked the sixth time in his career he reached the 100-yard mark in a game. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Caught three passes for 71 yards, including a game-long 38-yard reception. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Hauled in three receptions for 40 yards in the victory. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Caught three balls for 21 yards. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Caught one pass for six yards. **at Miami (10/25):** Started at WR and caught four passes for 71 yards and ran for a 13-yard gain on an end-around. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Caught four passes for 46 yards from his starting WR spot. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at wide receiver and caught three balls for 93 yards with a season-long 63-yard catch-and-run that set up the Saints' first touchdown of the afternoon. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Was the lone WR in the starting lineup and caught five passes for a team-best 72 yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at wide receiver and was held to one catch for a loss of two yards. Also filled in at punt returner and had a pair of five-yard returns.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Punt Returns – (2009, 2 for 10 yards, 5 lg.) **Total: 2 for 10 yards, 5 lg.**

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 9, vs. Cincinnati (11/19/06); **Receiving Yards** – 169, vs. Cincinnati (11/19/06); **Long Reception** – 84t, vs. Tampa Bay (9/7/08); **Receiving TDs** – 2, at Tampa Bay (11/5/06). **Rushes** – 1 (11x), last vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Rushing Yards** – 30, at Atlanta (11/9/08); **Long Rush** – 30, at Atlanta (11/9/08); **Rushing TDs** – 1, vs. Atlanta (9/25/06).

19 WR Devery Henderson														
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Receiving					Rushing					Pts
				Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	
9/13	DET	1	1	5	103	20.6	58t	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6
9/20	@PHI	1	0	3	71	23.7	38	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	3	40	13.3	20	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	3	21	7.0	9	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	4	71	17.8	37	0	1	13	13.0	13	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	4	46	11.5	24	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	3	93	31.0	63	0	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	4	72	18.0	26	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	6	31	521	16.8	63	1	2	10	5.0	13	0	6
Saints Career		70	38	137	2,811	20.5	84t	15	11	86	7.8	30	1	96
Career Totals		70	38	137	2,811	20.5	84t	15	11	86	7.8	30	1	96



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

27 Malcolm Jenkins
Pos.: CB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 204 Exp.: R College: Ohio State

Career GP/GS: (8/1); 2009: (8/1/0/2)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played on special teams and as a reserve cornerback in his NFL debut, making one special teams stop. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Made two tackles on special teams and made a key play by stripping the ball from KR Ellis Hobbs on the opening kickoff of the second half that led to a Saints touchdown. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Made a big play on special teams for the second straight week, stripping the ball from PR Roscoe Parrish and recovering the fumble that set up a Saints field goal. Also made a tackle on defense. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Inactive with a sprained ankle. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Played on special teams and made one tackle. at **Miami (10/25):** Inactive with an ankle injury. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Saw action on special teams and as an extra defensive back, making one tackle in kick coverage. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Made one tackle on defense and another on special teams; also helped keep a punt out of the end zone that was downed at the two-yard line. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Made four tackles and two pass defenses as he played extensively on defense and also had a key block on Courtney Roby's 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the 28-23 victory. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made his first career start – opening in place of an injured Tracy Porter – and made eight tackles (four solo) with a pass defense and intercepted a QB Josh Freeman pass, returning it 14 yards to help set up a New Orleans field goal.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2009, 7) Total: 7; Special Teams Forced Fumbles – (2009, 2) Total: 2; Special Teams Fumble Recoveries – (2009, 1) Total: 1.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 8, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); Sacks – 0; Interceptions – 1, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); Int. Ret for TD – 0; Passes Defensed – 2, at St. Louis (11/15/09); Forced Fumbles – 0; Fumble Recoveries – 0; Special Teams Tackles – 2, at Philadelphia (9/20/09); Special Teams Forced Fumbles – 1 (2x), last at Buffalo (9/27/09); Special Teams Fumble Recoveries – 1, at Buffalo (9/27/09).

27 CB Malcolm Jenkins												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	Inactive (ankle)										
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@MIA	Inactive (ankle)										
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/8	CAR	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11/15	@STL	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	2	0	
11/22	@TB	1	1	4	4	8	0	0	1	14	1	
2009 Season		8	1	8	6	14	0	0	1	14	3	
Saints Career		8	1	8	6	14	0	0	1	14	3	
Career Totals		8	1	8	6	14	0	0	1	14	3	

57 Jason Kyle
Pos.: LS Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 242 Exp.: 15 College: Arizona State

Career GP/GS: (188/0); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Made his Saints debut and served as the long snapper on all punts and placekicks. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Served as the long snapper on all punts and placekicks. at **Buffalo (9/27):** Played as the long snapper. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Was the long snapper on all punts and kicks. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Was the snapper on punts and kicks and made a tackle in punt coverage. at **Miami (10/25):** Was the long snapper on all kicks and punts and made one special teams tackle. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Was the long snapper on all punts and kicks. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Served as the long snapper on all punts and placekicks. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Was the long snapper on all punts and kicks. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Served as the long snapper on all punts and placekicks.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (1995, 14); (1996, 17); (1998, 5); (2001, 2); (2002, 2); (2003, 2); (2004, 1); (2005, 3); (2006, 4); (2007, 2); (2008, 3); (2009, 2) Total: 57; Special Teams Fumble Recoveries – (2001, 1); (2002, 1); Total: 2; Defensive Tackles – (2000, 3) Total: 3.

60 Nick Leckey
Pos.: C Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 291 Exp.: 6 College: Kansas State

Career GP/GS: (59/32); 2009: (2/0/1/6)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Inactive. at **Philadelphia (9/20):** Inactive. Released 9/26 and later re-signed, 9/29. vs. **NY Jets (10/4):** Made his Saints debut, playing on special teams. vs. **NY Giants (10/18):** Inactive. at **Miami (10/25):** Inactive. vs. **Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive. vs. **Carolina (11/8):** Inactive. at **St. Louis (11/15):** Dressed but did not play. at **Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played on special teams and saw action at center late in the game.



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

29 Chris McAlister
Pos.: CB Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 210 Exp.: 11 College: Arizona

Career GP/GS: (135/127); 2009: (0/0/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: Signed as a free agent, 11/18. at Tampa Bay (11/22): Inactive.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 10, vs. Buffalo (10/31/99); Sacks – 0; Interceptions – 2, at Arizona (10/12/03); Int. Ret for TD – 1 (4x), last at Tampa Bay (9/10/06); Passes Defensed – 5, at Cleveland (10/6/02); Forced Fumbles – 1 (2x), last at Cincinnati (11/27/05); Fumble Recoveries – 1 (7x), last vs. Cincinnati (9/7/08).

29 CB Chris McAlister												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
Signed, 11/18												
11/22	@TB	Inactive										
2009 Season		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Career Totals		135	127	421	69	490	0	0	26	486	160	2

93 Bobby McCray
Pos.: DE Ht.: 6-6 Wt.: 260 Exp.: 6 College: Florida

Career GP/GS: (87/37); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Played as a reserve defensive end and recorded one tackle. at Philadelphia (9/20): Made one solo tackle, coming on a seven-yard sack of QB Kevin Kolb and added two pass defenses. at Buffalo (9/27): Made two tackles from his reserve defensive end spot. vs. NY Jets (10/4): Made five tackles as a reserve defensive end. vs. NY Giants (10/18): Played as a reserve defensive end and made two tackles. at Miami (10/25): Played as a reserve defensive end. vs. Atlanta (11/2): Played as a reserve defensive end and made one tackle. vs. Carolina (11/8): Made three tackles from his reserve defensive end spot. at St. Louis (11/15): Registered two tackles as he played in the defensive line rotation. at Tampa Bay (11/22): Made one tackle from his reserve defensive end spot with a pass break-up.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 7, at Carolina (10/19/08); Sacks – 2 (5x), last at Tampa Bay (11/30/08); Interceptions – 0; Forced Fumbles – 1 (8x), last vs. Oakland (10/12/08); Fumble Recoveries – 1, vs. Houston (11/6/05); Pass Defenses – 2, at Philadelphia (9/20/09).

93 DE Bobby McCray												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	1	0	1	1	7	0	0	2	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2009 Season		10	0	6	12	18	1	7	0	3	0	0
Saints Career		26	8	32	23	55	7	42	0	3	1	0
Career Totals		87	37	134	44	178	29	182	0	10	8	1

34 Mike McKenzie
Pos.: CB Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 194 Exp.: 11 College: Memphis

Career GP/GS: (133/129); 2009: (0/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Signed as a free agent, 11/23.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2002, 1); (2005, 1) Total: 2.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles: 9 (3x), last at Seattle (10/14/07); Interceptions: 2 (4x), last vs. San Francisco (12/3/06); INT Returned for TD: 1 (4x), last 53 yards vs. Tampa Bay (12/2/07); Passes Defensed: 6 (2x), last vs. Chicago (12/7/03); Forced Fumble: 1, at Houston (11/18/07); Fumble Recovery: 1, vs. Atlanta (9/8/02).

34 CB Mike McKenzie												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
Signed, 11/23												
2009 Season		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		63	62	167	58	225	0	0	12	259	58	1
Career Totals		133	129	413	103	516	1	9	27	424	141	1



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

17 Robert Meachem

Pos.: WR Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 210 Exp.: 3 College: Tennessee

Career GP/GS: (24/7); 2009: (10/4/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Caught two passes for 51 yards, including a 39-yard touchdown in the first quarter and averaged 24.7 yards on six kickoff returns in his first game as the featured kick returner. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Caught one pass for 11 yards and carried the ball on one rushing attempt, gaining 15 yards. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played as a reserve receiver but did not have a reception. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at WR and his lone catch came on a 19-yard grab to convert a key third down; also carried the ball once for 13 yards. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at receiver and caught two passes for 70 yards, including a 36-yard touchdown grab in the 48-27 win; also had one rushing attempt for a two-yard gain. **at Miami (10/25):** Played as a reserve receiver but did not have a reception. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Caught two passes for 47 yards with both of his catches resulting in New Orleans first downs. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started in the team's three-wide receiver set and set a new career-high with five receptions for 98 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown that tied the score at the end of the third quarter. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played as a reserve receiver and only touched the ball twice, but both were for big plays. The first was a career-long 41-yard run on an end-around followed by a 27-yard touchdown reception in the fourth quarter of the 28-23 victory. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started in a three-wide receiver set and caught two passes – both for touchdowns – for 10 yards in the victory, marking the first multi-score game of his career.

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 5, vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Receiving Yards** – 99, vs. San Francisco (9/28/08); **Long Reception** – 74, at Denver (9/21/08); **Receiving TDs** – 2, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Rushing Attempts** – 1 (5x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Rushing Yards** – 41, at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Long Rush** – 41, at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Rushing TDs** – 1, at Detroit (12/21/08); **Kickoff Returns** – 6, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Kickoff Return Yards** – 148, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Long Kickoff Return** – 42, vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Kickoff Returns for TD** – 0.

17 WR Robert Meachem

Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Receiving					Rushing					Kickoff Returns					
				Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	Ret	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	1	0	2	51	25.5	39t	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	6	148	24.7	42	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	1	11	11.0	11	0	1	15	15.0	15	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	1	19	19.0	19	0	1	13	13.0	13	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	2	70	35.0	36t	1	1	2	2.0	2	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	2	47	23.5	30	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	5	98	19.6	54t	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	1	27	27.0	27t	1	1	41	41.0	41	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	2	10	5.0	6t	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	12	0	0	0.0	0	0
2009 Season		10	4	16	333	20.8	54t	6	4	71	17.8	41	0	36	6	148	24.7	42	0
Saints Career		24	7	28	622	22.2	74	9	5	91	18.2	41	1	60	7	157	22.4	42	0
Career Totals		24	7	28	622	22.2	74	9	5	91	18.2	41	1	60	7	157	22.4	42	0

50 Marvin Mitchell

Pos.: LB Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 249 Exp.: 3 College: Tennessee

Career GP/GS: (35/1); 2009: (10/1/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Started as an inside linebacker in the team's 3-4 set and made three tackles on special teams. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Played on special teams and made one tackle. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Made four tackles from his reserve inside linebacker spot and added two more stops on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Saw action as a reserve linebacker and made two solo tackles while adding three stops on special teams. **at Miami (10/25):** Made one tackle on special teams. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made two tackles as a reserve linebacker and another two on special teams. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Recorded two tackles from his reserve linebacker spot. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played as a reserve linebacker and made two tackles. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made one tackle as a reserve linebacker and recorded two more stops on special teams.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 11); (2008, 15); (2009, 14) **Total: 40.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 4, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Sacks** – 0; **Interceptions** – 0; **Passes Defensed** – 0; **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 3 (4x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09).

50 LB Marvin Mitchell

Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR
9/13	DET	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	1	12	1	13	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		35	1	13	1	14	0	0	0	0	0
Career Totals		35	1	13	1	14	0	0	0	0	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

16 Lance Moore
Pos.: WR Ht.: 5-9 Wt: 190 Exp.: 4 College: Toledo

Career GP/GS: (42/10); **2009:** (6/0/0/4)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Caught two passes for 38 yards with both receptions producing Saints first downs. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Saw limited action at receiver before leaving the game with hamstring tightness but did not catch a pass. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Inactive with an injured hamstring. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Caught one pass for one yard. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Had his best game of the season to date, catching six passes for 78 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown pass in the victory. Five of his six grabs went for first downs with three of them coming on third down conversions. **at Miami (10/25):** Made two catches for 18 yards in the win. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Caught two passes for 11 yards in the first half before leaving the game with a sprained ankle. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Inactive with an ankle injury. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Inactive with his injured ankle. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Inactive for the third consecutive game with his ankle injury.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Passing – (2008, 1 att., 0 comp., 0 yds., 1 int., 0 TD, 0 LG, 0.0 passer rating) **Total:** 1 att., 0 comp., 1 int., 0 yds, 0 LG, 0.0 passer rating.

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 8 (2x), last vs. Carolina (12/28/08); **Receiving Yards** – 115, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08); **Long Reception** – 70t, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08); **Receiving TDs** – 2 (3x), last vs. Carolina (12/28/08); **Rushes** – 1 (2x), last at Houston (11/18/07); **Rushing Yards** – 7, at Seattle (10/14/07); **Long Rush** – 7t, at Seattle (10/14/07); **Rushing TDs** – 1, at Seattle (10/14/07); **Kickoff Returns** – 5, vs. Tampa Bay (12/2/07); **Kickoff Return Yards** – 83, vs. Tampa Bay (12/2/07); **Long Kickoff Return** – 32, vs. Tampa Bay (12/2/07); **Kickoff Returned for TD** – 0; **Punt Returns** – 4, at San Francisco (10/28/07); **Punt Return Yards** – 55, vs. Atlanta (10/21/07); **Long Punt Return** – 48, vs. Atlanta (10/21/07); **Punt Returned for TD** – 0.

16 WR Lance Moore																								
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Receiving				Rushing				Pts	Kickoff Returns				Punt Returns							
				Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg.		Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Ret	Yds	Avg.	FC	Lg
9/13	DET	1	0	2	38	19.0	20	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	Inactive (hamstring)																						
10/4	NYJ	1	0	1	1	1.0	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	6	78	13.0	22	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	2	18	9.0	11	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	2	11	5.5	7	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
11/8	CAR	Inactive (ankle)																						
11/15	@STL	Inactive (ankle)																						
11/22	@TB	Inactive (ankle)																						
2009 Season		6	0	13	146	11.2	22	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Saints Career		42	10	125	1,386	11.1	70t	13	2	7	3.5	7t	1	84	18	354	19.7	36	0	32	270	8.4	32	48
Career Totals		42	10	125	1,386	11.1	70t	13	2	7	3.5	7t	1	84	18	354	19.7	36	0	32	270	8.4	32	48



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

6 Thomas Morstead
Pos.: P Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 225 Exp.: R College: Southern Methodist

Career GP/GS (10/0); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Punted twice in his NFL debut, averaging 48 yards per kick. Also handled kickoff duties and put six of eight kickoffs into the end zone with three of the kicks resulting in touchbacks. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Averaged 52 yards on three punts with a long of 60 and put three of 10 kickoffs into the end zone with one touchback. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Punted five times for an average of 42.6 yards and pinned one of the kicks inside the Bills' five-yard line. Also knocked three of his six kickoffs into the end zone with one being downed for a touchback. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Averaged 38 yards on five punts with two of them downed inside the 20-yard line. Also knocked all five of his kickoffs into the end zone with four going for touchbacks. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Averaged 45 yards on his four punts and put four of his eight kickoffs into the end zone. Made his first career tackle with a touchdown-saving stop on a kickoff. **at Miami (10/25):** Punted three times for an average of 45.7 yards and knocked five of his nine kickoffs into the end zone with three for touchbacks. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Averaged 44.5 yards on two punts and put two of six kickoffs into the end zone. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Punted three times, averaging 38.7 yards with his final punt being downed at the two-yard line with DT Anthony Hargrove causing a fumble on the next play and returning it for a touchdown. Put three of five kickoffs into the end zone with two for touchbacks. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Averaged 37.3 yards on three punts and knocked three of five kickoffs into the end zone. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Turned in an outstanding performance, dropping two punts inside the five-yard line and averaged 48.8 yards on four punts. Also put six of seven kickoffs into the end zone, three of them going for touchbacks.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2009, 1) Total: 1.

CAREER HIGHS: Punts– 5 (2x), last vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); Yards – 213, at Buffalo (9/27/09); Gross Avg. – 52.0, at Philadelphia (9/20/09); Net Avg. – 50.3, at Philadelphia (9/20/09); Punts Inside the 20 – 2 (2x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); Long Punt – 60, at Philadelphia (9/20/09); Kickoff Touchbacks – 4, vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); Special Teams Tackles – 1, vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09).

6 P Thomas Morstead														
		Punting										Kickoffs		
Date	Opp.	GP	No	Yds	Avg	Net	Avg	TB	In20	Lg	Blk	KO	In EZ	TB
9/13	DET	1	2	96	48.0	41	20.5	0	0	54	0	8	6	3
9/20	@PHI	1	3	156	52.0	151	50.3	0	1	60	0	10	3	1
9/27	@BUF	1	5	213	42.6	214	42.8	0	1	49	0	6	3	1
10/4	NYJ	1	5	190	38.0	190	38.0	0	2	43	0	5	5	4
10/18	NYG	1	4	180	45.0	109	27.3	1	0	58	0	8	4	0
10/25	@MIA	1	3	137	45.7	111	37.0	0	0	53	0	9	5	3
11/2	ATL	1	2	89	44.5	80	40.0	0	0	47	0	6	2	0
11/8	CAR	1	3	116	38.7	116	38.7	0	1	48	0	5	3	2
11/15	@STL	1	3	112	37.3	62	20.7	2	0	40	0	5	3	1
11/22	@TB	1	4	195	48.8	184	46.0	0	2	58	0	7	6	3
2009 Season		10	34	1,484	43.6	1,258	37.0	3	7	60	0	69	40	18
Saints Career		10	34	1,484	43.6	1,258	37.0	3	7	60	0	69	40	18
Career Totals		10	34	1,484	43.6	1,258	37.0	3	7	60	0	69	40	18

67 Jamar Nesbit
Pos.: G Ht.: 6-4 Wt.: 328 Exp.: 11 College: South Carolina

Career GP/GS: (150/90); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Played on special teams. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Played on special teams. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played on special teams and saw action as an extra blocking tight end. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played on special teams and as an extra tight end in short-yardage sets. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Played on special teams and saw action as an extra blocking tight end. **at Miami (10/25):** Played on special teams and saw action as an extra blocking tight end. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Played on special teams and got a few snaps at center in relief of Jonathan Goodwin. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played on special teams. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played on special teams in his 150th career game.

77 Carl Nicks
Pos.: G Ht.: 6-5 Wt.: 343 Exp.: 2 College: Nebraska

Career GP/GS: (26/23); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Started at LG and helped lead the way for 515 yards of total offense, including 157 rushing yards and allowing zero sacks. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Was the starting LG in the team's 48-22 victory. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at LG at blocked for the team's 222 rushing yards in the win. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at LG and helped the team to 153 rushing yards and zero sacks allowed in the victory. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at left guard and helped pace the team's 493-yard offensive attack that produced 48 points in the victory. **at Miami (10/25):** Was the starting left guard in the team's 46-34 victory. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started at LG in the win over the Falcons. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at left guard. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Was the starting left guard in the victory that featured 203 rushing yards for the team. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at left guard in the 38-7, helping to keep Drew Brees sack-free.



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

22 Tracy Porter
Pos.: CB Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 186 Exp.: 2 College: Indiana

Career GP/GS: (14/14); 2009: (9/9/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at CB and recorded with five tackles (four solo) with a pass defense. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made four tackles from his starting CB spot and added a pass defense on top of intercepting a Kevin Kolb pass on the game's final play. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at CB and made seven tackles (four solo) with a pass defense. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Made five tackles (four solo) from his starting cornerback position. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made six tackles (four solo) from his starting CB spot with three pass break-ups. **at Miami (10/25):** Started at CB and made eight tackles (five solo) with a career-best four pass defenses before icing the victory with his 54-yard interception return for a touchdown. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made eight tackles (six solo) from his starting cornerback position and picked off a Matt Ryan pass near the goal line that led to a Saints touchdown. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at cornerback and posted six tackles (five solo) with two forced fumbles, one of which was recovered by the Saints. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made four tackles from his starting CB spot before leaving the game in the third quarter with an injured knee. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Missed the game with his injured knee.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 10, at Denver (9/21/08); Sacks – 1, vs. San Francisco (9/28/08); Interceptions – 1 (4x), last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09); Int. Ret for TD – 1, at Miami (10/25/09); Passes Defensed – 4, at Miami (10/25/09); Forced Fumbles – 2, vs. Carolina (11/8/09); Fumble Recoveries – 0.

22 CB Tracy Porter												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	1	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	3	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	5	3	8	0	0	1	54	4	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	6	2	8	0	0	1	18	1	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	2
11/15	@STL	1	1	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	Inactive (knee)										
2009 Season		9	9	37	16	53	0	0	3	72	11	2
Saints Career		14	14	63	22	85	1	8	4	97	16	2
Career Totals		14	14	63	22	85	1	8	4	97	16	2

90 DeMario Pressley
Pos.: DT Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 301 Exp.: 2 College: North Carolina State

Career GP/GS: (3/0); 2009: (3/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Signed from the practice squad to the active roster, 11/7. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Made his regular-season NFL debut and made four tackles, with one of them coming behind the line of scrimmage. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made seven tackles – two of them for losses – from his reserve defensive tackles spot in the win. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Recorded three tackles, playing in the defensive line rotation.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 7, at St. Louis (11/8/09); Sacks – 0; Interceptions – 0; Forced Fumbles – 0; Fumble Recoveries – 0.

90 DT DeMario Pressley												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
Signed from practice squad, 11/7												
11/8	CAR	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		3	0	7	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		3	0	7	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Career Totals		3	0	7	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

31 Pierson Prioleau
Pos.: S Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 188 Exp.: 11 College: Virginia Tech

Career GP/GS: (139/48); 2009: (10/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played as a reserve defensive back and on special teams and made one solo tackle on defense and in kick coverage in his Saints debut. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Saw action on defense and special teams, making three tackles in kick coverage. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Played on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Played on special teams and as an extra defensive back. **at Miami (10/25):** Made two tackle as a reserve defensive back and added three more stops on special teams. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Recorded one tackle as a reserve defender and made four more tackles in kick coverage. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played as a reserve defensive back and recovered a fumble; also made a tackle on special teams. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made two tackles as a reserve safety and also added two stops on special teams. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made three tackles as a reserve defensive back with two special teams tackles in kick coverage.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (1999, 5); (2000, 10); (2001, 6); (2002, 10); (2003, 12); (2004, 28); (2005, 21); (2007, 16); (2008, 22); (2009, 16) **Total: 146; Blocked Punts** – (2003, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 13, at Miami (1/6/02); **Sacks** – 1 (5x), last at Philadelphia (1/1/06); **Interceptions** – 1, vs. Oakland (10/8/00); **Int. Ret for TD** – 0; **Pass Defenses** – 2 (2x), last vs. Oakland (10/8/00); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (6x), last at Arizona (12/11/05); **Fumble Recoveries** – 1 (3x), last vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Special Teams Tackles** – 5, at San Francisco (12/26/04).

31 S Pierson Prioleau												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
11/15	@STL	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	0	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	1
Saints Career		10	0	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	1
Career Totals		139	48	271	109	380	5.5	36.5	1	13	31	6

39 Chris Reis
Pos.: S Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 215 Exp.: 3 College: Georgia Tech

Career GP/GS: (38/0); 2009: (9/0/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played as a reserve defensive back and on special teams and made one tackle on defense and another in kick coverage. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Played on defense and made one tackle as a reserve safety and also had a special teams tackle and recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff of the second half, leading to a Saints touchdown. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Saw action on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Tied his career high with four tackles on special teams. **at Miami (10/25):** Made one tackle on special teams. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Inactive. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams and made two tackles in kick coverage. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played on special teams. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Played as a reserve safety and notched his first career interception when he picked off a QB Josh Freeman pass late in the game with an additional pass defense.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2007, 13); (2008, 16); (2009, 9) **Total: 38; Special Teams Forced Fumbles** – (2008, 1) **Total: 1; Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – (2009, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 4, vs. Carolina (12/28/08); **Sacks** – 1, at Washington (9/14/08); **Interceptions** – 1, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Passes Defensed** – 1, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 4 (2x), last vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09); **Special Teams Forced Fumbles** – 1, vs. San Diego (10/26/08); **Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – 1, at Philadelphia (9/20/09).

39 S Chris Reis												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL											
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	33	1	0
2009 Season		9	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	33	1	0
Saints Career		38	0	7	3	10	1	3	1	33	1	0
Career Totals		38	0	7	3	10	1	3	1	33	1	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

15 Courtney Roby
Pos.: WR Ht.: 6-0 Wt.: 189 Exp.: 4 College: Indiana

Career GP/GS: (40/6); **2009:** (9/0/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Signed as a free agent, Sept. 15. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Averaged 24 yards on three kickoff returns with a long runback of 27 and made three tackles in kick coverage. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Had one kickoff return for 16 yards and played on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Returned one kickoff for 26 yards and made one tackle on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Averaged 22.8 yards on four kickoff returns and made a career-best five tackles in kick coverage. **at Miami (10/25):** Had six kickoff returns for an average of 30.8 yards with a career-long 87-yard return. Also made one tackle in punt coverage. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Averaged 29.3 yards on three kickoff returns and made one tackle on special teams. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Returned two kickoffs for an average of 23 yards and made a special teams tackle. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Opened the second half by returning the kickoff 97 yards for his first career return score and averaged 48.7 yards on three kick returns in the 28-23 victory. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Caught his first pass as a Saint, a six-yard reception in addition to averaging 25.5 yards on two kickoff returns. Also helped to down a punt at the goal-line and made a tackle on special teams.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2008, 5); (2009, 13) **Total: 18.**

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 7, vs. Oakland (10/30/05); **Receiving Yards** – 83 vs. Oakland (10/30/05); **Long Reception** – 32, vs. Seattle (12/18/05); **Receiving TDs** – 1, vs. Oakland (10/30/05); **Rushes** – 2, vs. Cincinnati (10/16/05); **Rushing Yards** – 16, vs. Cincinnati (10/16/05); **Long Rush** – 11, vs. Cincinnati (10/16/05); **Rushing TDs** - 0; **Kickoff Returns** – 6 (3x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Kickoff Return Yards** – 185, at Miami (10/25/09); **Long Kickoff Return** – 97t, at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Kickoff Returned for TD** – 1, at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Special Teams Tackles** – 5, vs. N.Y. Giants (10/18/09).

15 WR Courtney Roby																			
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Receiving					Rushing					Pts	Kickoff Returns				
				Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD		No	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
Signed, 9/15																			
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	3	72	24.0	27	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	16	16.0	16	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1	26	26.0	26	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	4	91	22.8	29	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	6	185	30.8	87	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	3	88	29.3	35	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	2	46	23.0	25	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	3	146	48.7	97t	1
11/22	@TB	1	0	1	6	6.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	2	51	25.5	27	0
2009 Season		9	0	1	6	0.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	25	721	28.8	97t	1
Saints Career		14	0	1	6	0.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	6	44	1193	27.1	97t	1
Career Totals		40	6	24	323	13.5	32	1	3	19	6.3	11	0	12	71	1,789	25.2	97t	1



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

58 Scott Shanle
Pos.: LB Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 245 Exp.: 7 College: Nebraska

Career GP/GS: (93/66); **2009:** (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Started at weakside linebacker and made seven tackles (four solo), along with his first career interception as he picked off QB Matthew Stafford in the season-opening 45-27 win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Led the team with 14 tackles (11 solo) from his starting WLB spot and made a key play when he intercepted a Kevin Kolb pass in the third quarter that led to a Saints touchdown. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Made seven tackles (five solo) from his starting WLB position. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Recorded seven tackles (six solo) in his 50th career game as a member of the Saints. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Started at WLB and had his hand in his third turnover of the season, recovering a fumble to set up a Saints touchdown to go along with seven tackles (four solo). **at Miami (10/25):** Made eight solo tackles from his starting WLB spot and recovered a fumble which led to a Saints touchdown in the victory. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started at weakside linebacker and made five tackles. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Recorded seven tackles (four solo) from his starting WLB position and also knocked away two passes. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at weakside linebacker and made nine tackles (seven solo) with a pass defense, crossing the 500-tackle plateau for his career in the victory. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made six tackles (three solo) from his starting WLB spot.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2003, 4); (2004, 15); (2005, 8); (2006, 1); (2007, 2); (2008, 1)
Total: 31.

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles: 15, vs. Atlanta (12/7/08); **Interceptions:** 1 (2x), last at Philadelphia (9/20/09); **Sacks:** 1 (6x), last vs. Carolina (12/28/08); **Passes Defensed:** 2 (3x), last vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Forced Fumbles:** 1 (3x), last at Denver (9/21/08); **Fumble Recoveries:** 1 (3x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Special Teams Tackles:** 2 (4x), last at San Francisco (9/25/05).

58 LB Scott Shanle												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	4	3	7	0	1	13	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	11	3	14	0	1	3	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	5	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	6	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
10/25	@MIA	1	1	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1
11/2	ATL	1	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	4	3	7	0	0	0	2	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	7	2	9	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		10	10	55	22	77	0	2	16	3	0	2
Saints Career		56	55	267	168	435	6	39	2	16	14	3
Career Totals		93	66	310	204	514	7.5	41	2	16	16	3



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

42 Darren Sharper
Pos.: S Ht.: 6-2 Wt.: 210 Exp.: 13 College: William & Mary

Career GP/GS: (192/176); **2009:** (9/9/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Made an immediate impact in his Saints debut, recording his eighth career multi-interception game as he picked off a pair of Matthew Stafford passes from his starting FS spot. He also made one five tackles. His 55th and 56th career interceptions moved him into a tie for 15th place on the all-time career interceptions list with Pat Fischer and Lem Barney. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Continued to climb the all-time interception list when he picked off a Kevin Kolb pass and returned it 97 yards for a touchdown, tying a franchise record for longest return set by Tommy Myers in September 1978. His 57th career interception moved him into a tie for 10th place all-time, his ninth career interception return for a touchdown ties him for second place and 1,212 interception return yards rank fourth in NFL history. Also made five tackles (four solo) to cross the 1,000-tackle mark for his career. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Made five tackles from his starting FS position. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Led the team in tackles with nine (six solo) and intercepted QB Mark Sanchez twice, the first of which he returned 99 yards for a touchdown and a 10-0 lead in the 24-10 victory. The 99-yard return was the longest in team history and his 58th and 59th career picks moved him into ninth place on the career interception list and he now ranks third with 1,311 career interception return yards. The touchdown was his 10th interception returned for a score for his career, making him only the second player in NFL history to reach double-digits in that category. He also split an 11-yard sack of Sanchez with DE Will Smith. Sharper was named NFC Defensive Player of the Week for his performance. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made four tackles from his starting free safety spot and added two pass defenses. **at Miami (10/25):** Played a key role in the team's 46-34 comeback victory, picking off a Chad Henne pass early in the third quarter and returned it 42 yards for a touchdown. Totaled four tackles and a pass defense from his starting free safety position. With his third INT return for a score, he set a franchise-mark for most interceptions for touchdowns in a single year. He also passed Deion Sanders to move into second place on the all-time interception return yardage list with 1,353 yards. Earned NFC Defensive Player of the Month honors for his performance in the team's three wins. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Notched his seventh interception of the season, picking off a QB Matt Ryan pass and added seven tackles with a pass defense. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at free safety and posted a season-best 10 tackles (seven solo) with two pass defenses. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Inactive with a sprained knee. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Returned to the lineup and made five tackles (four solo). Also had a punt return for six yards.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (1997, 7); (2007, 4); (2008, 2) **Total: 13; Fumble Recoveries Returned for TDs** – (1997, 1 for 34 yards); (2004, 1 for 15 yards) **Total: 2; Punt Returns** – (1997, 7 for 32 yards); (2001, 1 for 3 yards); (2002, 1 for 0 yards); (2004, 1 for 9 yards); (2009, 1 for 6 yards) **Total: 11 for 50 yards; Kickoff Returns** – (1997, 1 for 3 yards); (1999, 1 for 4 yards) **Total: 2 for 7 yards.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 14, at Chicago (11/11/01); **Sacks** – 2, at Chicago (9/29/03); **Interceptions** – 3, at N.Y. Giants (11/13/05); **Long Int. Return** – 99t, vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); **Int. Return Yards** – 123, at N.Y. Giants (11/13/05); **Int. Ret for TD** – 1 (11x), last at Miami (10/25/09); **Pass Defenses** – 6, at Arizona (9/24/00); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (9x), last vs. Detroit (10/12/08); **Fumble Recoveries** – 1 (7x), last at Arizona (12/14/08).

42 S Darren Sharper													
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR		
9/13	DET	1	1	0	5	5	0	0	2	79	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	4	1	5	0	0	1	97	0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	6	3	9	0.5	5.5	2	99	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	1	42	1	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	3	4	7	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	7	3	10	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
11/15	@STL	Inactive (knee)											
11/22	@TB	1	1	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Season		9	9	30	24	54	0.5	5.5	7	317	7	0	0
Saints Career		9	9	30	24	54	0.5	5.5	7	317	7	0	0
Career Totals		192	176	771	275	1,046	7.5	45.5	61	1,353	147	9	7



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

88 Jeremy Shockey
Pos.: TE Ht.: 6-5 Wt.: 251 Exp.: 8 College: Miami (Fla.)

Career GP/GS: (105/103); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at TE and caught four passes for 31 yards, including his first two touchdowns in a Saints uniform, hauling in scoring passes of one and 15 yards in the 45-27 win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made four catches for 49 yards from his starting TE position. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Led the team with six catches from his starting TE spot, gaining 48 yards. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at tight end and tied for the team-lead with four receptions for 34 yards. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Playing in his 100th career game, helped defeat his former team with four catches for 37 yards with a one-yard touchdown catch. **at Miami (10/25):** Turned in his first 100-yard game as a Saint and the seventh of his career, leading the team with 105 yards on four receptions, including a career-long 66-yard catch-and-run that saw him carry defenders for nearly 30 yards down the field. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Made his 100th career start and posted five catches for 72 yards in the win. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Caught three passes for 26 yards from his starting TE position. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at tight end and caught had three receptions for 42 yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Pulled in two receptions for 17 yards from his starting tight end spot.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Rushing – 1 for 6 yards in 2007.

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 12, vs. Dallas (11/11/07); Receiving Yards – 129 (2x), last vs. Dallas (11/11/07); Long Reception – 66, at Miami (10/25/09); Receiving TDs – 2 (2x), last vs. Detroit (9/13/09).

88 TE Jeremy Shockey									
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts
9/13	DET	1	1	4	31	7.8	15t	2	12
9/20	@PHI	1	1	4	49	12.3	22	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	6	48	8.0	21	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	4	34	8.5	20	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	4	37	9.3	18	1	6
10/25	@MIA	1	1	4	105	26.3	66	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	5	72	14.4	27	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	3	26	8.7	14	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	3	42	14.0	25	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	2	17	8.5	12	0	0
2009 Season		10	10	39	461	11.8	66	3	18
Saints Career		22	21	89	944	10.6	66	3	18
Career Totals		105	103	460	5,172	11.2	66	30	182



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

91 Will Smith

Pos.: DE Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 282 Exp.: 6 College: Ohio State

Career GP/GS: (88/69); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at DE and made four tackles in the season-opening win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made three tackles from his starting defensive end spot and knocked down a pass. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Helped lead a dominating defensive performance as he sacked QB Trent Edwards among his six tackles and also notched his first career interception as grabbed a tipped pass in the 27-7 victory. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Had a second consecutive dominant game, notching 1½ sacks of QB Mark Sanchez twice, stripping the ball on the first leading to Remi Ayodele recovering the fumble in the end zone for a touchdown. Tallied six tackles on the day. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Made five tackles from his starting defensive end spot and drew a holding penalty that nullified a New York touchdown pass and forced a field goal. **at Miami (10/25):** Made three tackles and knocked down a pass from his starting defensive end position. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Matched a career-high with two sacks of QB Matt Ryan as he posted his seventh career multi-sack performance, recording four tackles with an additional pass defense on another near-sack. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Recorded his second straight multi-sack game, dropping QB Jake Delhomme twice and stripped the ball on one of the sacks along with making a total of five tackles. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Made seven tackles from his starting DE spot with a forced fumble and a three-yard sack of QB Marc Bulger. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at defensive end and made six tackles, recording an eight-yard sack of QB Josh Freeman, marking the fourth consecutive game he recorded a sack, the longest such streak of his career.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Safeties – (2007, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles – 12, at New England (1/16/05); **Sacks** – 2 (5x), last vs. Carolina (11/8/09); **Interceptions** – 1, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Forced Fumbles** – 1 (16x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Fumble Recoveries** – 1 (6x), last vs. Philadelphia (12/23/07); **Safeties** – 1, vs. Tampa Bay (12/2/07).

91 DE Will Smith												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	
9/20	@PHI	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	1	5	1	6	1	3	1	0	1	
10/4	NYJ	1	1	3	3	6	1.5	10.5	0	0	1	
10/18	NYG	1	1	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@MIA	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	
11/2	ATL	1	1	3	1	4	2	5	0	0	1	
11/8	CAR	1	1	3	2	5	2	12	0	0	1	
11/15	@STL	1	1	4	3	7	1	3	0	0	1	
11/22	@TB	1	1	2	4	6	1	8	0	0	0	
2009 Season		10	10	25	24	49	8.5	41.5	1	0	4	3
Saints Career		88	69	248	143	391	45	286	1	0	17	16
Career Totals		88	69	248	143	391	45	286	1	0	17	16

78 Jon Stinchcomb

Pos.: T Ht.: 6-5 Wt.: 315 Exp.: 7 College: Georgia

Career GP/GS: (68/58); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Started at RT and helped pace an offense that ran up 515 total yards, including 157 rushing yards and zero sacks allowed in the 45-27 win. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made his 50th career start and helped lead the way to 133 rushing yards and a 48-22 victory. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Started at RT and blocked for the team's 222 rushing yards in the 27-7 win. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at RT and helped lead the team to 153 yards on the ground and held the Jets without a sack in the victory. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Was the starting right tackle in the Saints' 48-27 victory that was highlighted by 493 yards of offense against the top-ranked Giants defense. **at Miami (10/25):** Started at right tackle in the 46-34 victory. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Was the starting RT in the Monday Night win. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Started at right tackle in the win. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at right tackle and contributed to the team's 203 rushing yards in the victory. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Was the starting right tackle in the 38-7 win, a game that saw the line hold the Buccaneers without a sack.

64 Zach Strief

Pos.: T Ht.: 6-7 Wt.: 320 Exp.: 4 College: Northwestern

Career GP/GS: (51/5); 2009: (10/2/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: vs. **Detroit (9/13):** Played on special teams and also filled in during the second quarter at LT in place of Jermon Bushrod in addition to seeing action as an extra blocking tight end. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Played on special teams and as an extra blocking tight end. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Saw extended playing time at LT after Jermon Bushrod left with an ankle injury and also played on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at left tackle and helped block for the team's 153 rushing yards and zero sacks allowed in the 24-10 win. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Played on special teams and as an extra blocking tight end. **at Miami (10/25):** Saw action at RT when Jon Stinchcomb was sidelined briefly and also on special teams and as an extra blocker in short-yardage sets. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Played on special teams and as an extra blocking tight end. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams and as an extra blocking tight end. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played on special teams and as an extra blocking tight end in his 50th career game. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at left tackle and played on the line in a rotation, helping to lead the team to a 38-7 win with no sacks allowed.



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

85 David Thomas
Pos.: TE Ht.: 6-3 Wt.: 248 Exp.: 4 College: Texas

Career GP/GS: (42/17); **2009:** (10/4/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Started in a two-tight end set in his Saints debut and caught one pass for 15 yards, converting a third-and-nine in the fourth quarter. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Made two catches for 19 yards from a starting TE spot. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Played in multiple tight end sets but did not record a catch. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Caught one pass for 18 yards, a key third-down reception on a fourth quarter touchdown drive. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Played as a reserve tight end. **at Miami (10/25):** Caught one pass for a one-yard loss. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Started the game at fullback and also played tight end, catching two passes for 27 yards. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played as a reserve tight end. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at tight end in a double-tight end set and matched his career-high with a team-best five receptions for 45 yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Scored his first touchdown in a New Orleans uniform as he caught four passes for 66 yards, including a career-long 37-yard reception.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2006, 2); (2008, 1) **Total: 3**

CAREER HIGHS: Receptions – 5 (2x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Receiving Yards** – 83, at Jacksonville (12/24/06); **Long Reception** – 37, at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Receiving TDs** – 1 (2x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09).

85 TE David Thomas										
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	
9/13	DET	1	1	1	15	15.0	15	0	0	
9/20	@PHI	1	1	2	19	9.5	11	0	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	1	0	1	18	18.0	18	0	0	
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
10/25	@MIA	1	0	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0	0	
11/2	ATL	1	1	2	27	13.5	16	0	0	
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	
11/15	@STL	1	1	5	45	9.0	18	0	0	
11/22	@TB	1	0	4	66	16.5	37	1	6	
2009 Season		10	4	16	189	11.8	37	1	6	
Saints Career		10	4	16	189	11.8	37	1	6	
Career Totals		42	17	37	450	12.2	37	2	12	



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

23 Pierre Thomas
Pos: RB Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 215 Exp.: 3 College: Illinois

Career GP/GS: (36/8); **2009:** (9/2/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Inactive with a knee injury. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Saw limited action in his return from a knee injury, playing on special teams and caught one pass for a loss of four yards. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Saw extended playing time in the backfield for the first time on the season and ran for a career-best 126 yards on 14 carries with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdown runs of 34 and 19 yards, marking his fifth career multi-touchdown game. Also made one tackle on special teams. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Started at RB and led the team both in rushing and receiving, carrying 19 times for 86 yards and a touchdown along with catching four passes for 46 yards and a career-long 36-yard gain on a screen pass. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Led the team with 72 rushing yards on 15 attempts. **at Miami (10/25):** Gained 30 yards on eight rushing attempts and also caught one pass for 14 yards. **Atlanta (11/2):** Scored two touchdowns in a game for the sixth time in his career, rushing for 90 yards on 14 carries with a 22-yard touchdown and catching two passes for nine yards with an acrobatic one-yard scoring reception that saw him take a swing pass and leap into the end zone. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Led the team with 50 yards rushing on 13 carries with a 10-yard touchdown and also caught five passes for 31 yards. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Played in the running back rotation and rushed for 37 yards on 11 carries and additionally caught one pass for five yards. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Started at running back and led a balanced rushing attack with 92 yards on 11 carries to go with three receptions for 11 yards.

ADDITIONAL STATS: **Special Teams Tackles** – (2007, 5); (2008, 5); (2009, 1) **Total: 11;** **Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – (2007, 1) **Total: 1;** **Two-Point Conversions** – (2007, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: **Rushes** – 22, at Chicago (12/11/08); **Rushing Yards** – 126, at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Long Rush** – 42t, at Chicago (12/11/08); **Rushing TDs** – 2 (3x), last at Buffalo (9/27/09); **Receptions** – 12, at Chicago (12/30/07); **Receiving Yards** – 121, at Chicago (12/30/07); **Long Reception** – 36, vs. N.Y. Jets (10/4/09); **Receiving TDs** – 1 (5x), last vs. Atlanta (11/2/09); **Kickoff Returns** – 8, vs. St. Louis (11/11/07); **Kickoff Return Yards** – 233, vs. St. Louis (11/11/07); **Long Kickoff Return** – 88, vs. Atlanta (12/7/08); **Kickoff Returned for TD** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 2, at Washington (9/14/08).

23 RB Pierre Thomas																			
		Rushing								Receiving					Kickoff Returns				
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Att	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD	Pts	Ret	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
9/13	DET	Inactive (knee)																	
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
9/27	@BUF	1	0	14	126	9.0	34t	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	12	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	19	86	4.5	18	1	4	46	11.5	36	0	6	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	0	15	72	4.8	25	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	0	8	30	3.8	9	0	1	14	14.0	14	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	0	14	91	6.5	30	1	2	9	4.5	8	1	12	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	0	13	50	3.8	12	1	5	31	6.2	17	0	6	1	19	19.0	19	0
11/15	@STL	1	0	11	37	3.4	11	0	1	5	5.0	5	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	11	92	8.4	23	0	3	11	3.7	6	0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0
2009 Season		9	2	105	584	5.6	34t	5	17	112	6.6	36	1	36	1	19	0.0	19	0
Saints Career		36	8	286	1,461	5.1	42t	15	65	547	8.4	36	5	128	68	1,677	24.7	88	0
Career Totals		36	8	286	1,461	5.1	42t	15	65	547	8.4	36	5	128	68	1,677	24.7	88	0



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

24 Leigh Torrence
Pos.: CB Ht.: 5-11 Wt.: 179 Exp.: 4 College: Stanford

Career GP/GS: (47/1); 2009: (5/0/0/5)

2009 REVIEW: vs. Detroit (9/13): Played on special teams and made three tackles in kick coverage. at Philadelphia (9/20): Inactive. at Buffalo (9/27): Played on special teams. vs. NY Jets (10/4): Played on special teams. vs. NY Giants (10/18): Inactive with a hamstring injury. at Miami (10/25): Inactive. vs. Atlanta (11/2): Inactive. vs. Carolina (11/8): Inactive. at St. Louis (11/15): Made four solo tackles as a reserve cornerback and added one stop on special teams. at Tampa Bay (11/22): Played an extensive role on defense, making four tackles and combining with Roman Harper on a sack of QB Josh Freeman along with a tackle on special teams before leaving the game with a shoulder injury. Placed on injured reserve, 11/23.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2005, 4); (2007, 14); (2008, 19); (2009, 5) **Total: 42.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles: 6, vs. Chicago (12/6/07); **Interceptions:** 0; **Sacks:** 1, at Minnesota (12/23/07); **Pass Defenses:** 2, at Detroit (12/21/08); **Fumble Recoveries:** 0; **Forced Fumbles:** 0.

24 CB Leigh Torrence												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9/20	@PHI	Inactive										
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	Inactive (hamstring)										
10/25	@MIA	Inactive										
11/2	ATL	Inactive										
11/8	CAR	Inactive										
11/15	@STL	1	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	0	3	1	4	0.5	4	0	0	0	0
Placed on Injured Reserve, 11/23												
2009 Season		5	0	7	1	8	0.5	4	0	0	0	0
Saints Career		12	0	10	2	12	0.5	4	0	0	2	0
Career Totals		47	1	40	15	55	1.5	12	0	0	4	0

51 Jonathan Vilma
Pos.: LB Ht.: 6-1 Wt.: 230 Exp.: 6 College: Miami (Fla.)

Career GP/GS: (81/79); 2009: (10/10/0/0)

2009 REVIEW: Selected by his teammates as one of three season-long captains. vs. Detroit (9/13): Started at MLB and made four tackles, including a seven-yard sack of QB Matthew Stafford and added a pass defense. at Philadelphia (9/20): Made eight tackles (six solo) from his starting MLB position with a pass defense. at Buffalo (9/27): Started at MLB and recorded five tackles (three solo). vs. NY Jets (10/4): Recorded eight tackles (three solo) from his starting middle linebacker spot. vs. NY Giants (10/18): Started at MLB and made three solo tackles. at Miami (10/25): Led the team with 11 solo tackles from his starting MLB spot, including three behind the line of scrimmage. vs. Atlanta (11/2): Made nine tackles (seven solo) from his starting middle linebacker position and recorded two pass defenses, including a pass he deflected that was intercepted near the goal line by CB Tracy Porter that led to a New Orleans touchdown. vs. Carolina (11/8): Posted a season-best 12 tackles (10 solo) with two of them coming behind the line of scrimmage from his starting MLB spot. at St. Louis (11/15): Started at MLB and tied for the team-lead with 12 tackles (11 solo). at Tampa Bay (11/22): Made six solo tackles from his starting middle linebacker position with a pass defense along with his first interception of the season, picking off a QB Josh Freeman pass to help set up a Saints touchdown.

ADDITIONAL STATS: Special Teams Tackles – (2004, 8) **Total: 8.**

CAREER HIGHS: Tackles: 18, at Denver (11/20/05); **Interceptions:** 1 (8x), last at Tampa Bay (11/22/09); **Sacks:** 1 (4x), last vs. Detroit (9/13/09); **Pass Defenses:** 2 (5x), last at Washington (9/14/08); **Fumble Recoveries:** 1 (6x), last at Chicago (12/11/08); **Forced Fumbles:** 2, at Tampa Bay (11/30/08).

51 LB Jonathan Vilma												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	1	1	3	1	4	1	7	0	0	1	0
9/20	@PHI	1	1	6	2	8	0	0	0	0	1	0
9/27	@BUF	1	1	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/4	NYJ	1	1	3	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/18	NYG	1	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
10/25	@MIA	1	1	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/2	ATL	1	1	7	2	9	0	0	0	2	0	0
11/8	CAR	1	1	10	2	12	0	0	0	1	0	0
11/15	@STL	1	1	11	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
11/22	@TB	1	1	6	0	6	0	0	1	6	1	0
2009 Season		10	10	63	15	78	1	7	1	6	6	0
Saints Career		26	26	163	66	229	2	12	2	14	14	2
Career Totals		81	79	475	214	689	4.5	29	8	74	28	8



2009 MINI BIOS AND STATS

28 Usama Young

Pos.: S **Ht.:** 6-0 **Wt.:** 200 **Exp.:** 3 **College:** Kent State

Career GP/GS: (38/3); **2009:** (9/1/0/1)

2009 REVIEW: **vs. Detroit (9/13):** Inactive. **at Philadelphia (9/20):** Played on special teams, making two tackles. **at Buffalo (9/27):** Saw action on special teams with one tackle. **vs. NY Jets (10/4):** Made two tackles as a reserve defensive back and also played on special teams. **vs. NY Giants (10/18):** Saw action as a reserve defender and also made one tackle on special teams. **at Miami (10/25):** Played as a reserve defender and made one tackle. **vs. Atlanta (11/2):** Played on special teams and made two stops in kick coverage. **vs. Carolina (11/8):** Played on special teams. **at St. Louis (11/15):** Started at FS in place of an injured Darren Sharper and made four tackles with an interception of QB Marc Bulger in the New Orleans end zone to snuff out a Rams drive. **at Tampa Bay (11/22):** Made two solo tackles on defense, being pressed into duty at cornerback due to injuries.

ADDITIONAL STATS: **Special Teams Tackles** – (2007, 20); (2008, 19); (2009, 6) **Total: 45;** **Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – (2008, 1) **Total: 1.**

CAREER HIGHS: **Tackles** – 7, vs. Green Bay (11/24/08); **Sacks** – 0; **Interceptions** – 1 (3x), last at St. Louis (11/15/09); **Passes Defensed** – 1 (7x), last at Chicago (12/11/08); **Forced Fumbles** – 0; **Fumble Recoveries** – 0; **Special Teams Tackles** – 4, at Washington (9/14/08); **Special Teams Fumble Recoveries** – 1, vs. San Diego (10/26/08).

28 S Usama Young												
Date	Opp.	GP	ST	Solo	Ast	Total	Sack/Yds	INT/Yds	PD	FF	FR	
9/13	DET	Inactive										
9/20	@PHI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9/27	@BUF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/4	NYJ	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
10/18	NYG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10/25	@MIA	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
11/2	ATL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/8	CAR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11/15	@STL	1	1	2	2	4	0	0	1	24	0	
11/22	@TB	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
2009 Season		9	1	7	2	9	0	0	1	24	0	
Saints Career		38	3	40	6	46	0	0	3	27	7	
Career Totals		38	3	40	6	46	0	0	3	27	7	

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

**Week 12, vs. New England Patriots
Game Clips and Player and Coach Feature Clips**



**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
VS.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
November 30, 2009 at Louisiana Superdome**

HANGING 10

Saints rout overmatched Buccaneers to continue their perfect start; focus shifts to Patriots

By Mike Triplett
The Times-Picayune
Monday, November 23, 2009

Let the hype begin.

Actually, the buildup to next Monday night's showdown against the New England Patriots at the Superdome began when the Saints' schedule came out in April.

But now that the Saints have dispensed with their first 10 opponents -- the latest an overwhelmed Tampa Bay Buccaneers squad in Sunday's 38-7 rout -- the anticipation will reach a fever pitch.

"Everyone's going to blow this game up to be the biggest thing in the world," Saints linebacker Scott Fujita said. "We've just got to keep our composure and not let anything affect us, not have any distractions, and just follow the mindset we've had all year."

Momentum and confidence obviously won't be problems for the Saints since they've won every game so far, but especially because of the way they played Sunday.

After a four-week stretch of sloppy performances, the Saints ran away with an efficient and thorough victory over the struggling Buccaneers (1-9).

"We needed a game like this to come out, to look sharp in all phases," said Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who threw for 187 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions.

The Saints actually started slow on offense and trailed 7-0 after allowing a 95-yard touchdown drive. But the Buccaneers didn't show any more signs of life, as the Saints won the turnover battle 4-0 and didn't allow any sacks.

"It wasn't always pretty," Brees said. "The first half, (we were) 1-of-6 on third downs. . . . Then obviously we broke the seal there in the second half and came out with a lot of points.

"If you look at us historically, especially this year, if we take care of the football and eliminate negative plays, we are very, very hard to beat. And obviously when the defense is taking the ball away like they did today and have been, it gives us so many more opportunities." The most impressive part of the Saints' defensive dominance is that they were so depleted by injuries.

New Orleans was without starting defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis and starting cornerbacks Jabari Greer and Tracy Porter. They also kept new cornerback Chris McAlister on the bench, deciding that he's not quite in football shape yet. During the game, cornerbacks Randall Gay and Leigh Torrence were injured, causing the Saints to use backup safety Usama Young as an emergency cornerback.

"We are having a little bad luck curse right now, a little funk," said Gay, who suffered a hamstring injury in the second quarter and did not return. "But it shows the character and that the next guy has to step up.

"Hey, seven points (allowed). With four cornerbacks out, that's huge."

Rookie cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, in particular, stood out in his first NFL start. He held up all afternoon, but the highlight was a terrific athletic play to snag his first career interception in the second quarter when the score was tied at 7.

Jenkins changed direction and dived back to his left to make the catch after receiver Antonio Bryant ran one way and Tampa Bay rookie quarterback Josh Freeman threw the other.

"I jumped it, and when I jumped it (Bryant) kind of just broke off his route, because I kind of cut him off," Jenkins said. "So when the quarterback threw it anyway, I think he was anticipating him being inside. And since I took that away, he kind of just threw it to me."

Freeman, who was making his third career start, looked good on that first drive, using his legs and his powerful arm to convert three third downs, including an 18-yard touchdown strike to receiver Michael Clayton in the back of the end zone.

Freeman had a lot of time to throw on the play, and the Saints' makeshift secondary had communication problems, leaving Clayton wide open.

After that, though, the Saints' pass rush improved, and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams flummoxed Freeman with a variety of blitzes and alignments.

Freeman completed 17 of 33 passes for 126 yards, three interceptions and a fumble.

Fujita forced the fumble when he sacked Freeman on a blitz during the opening drive of the second half.

Linebacker Jonathan Vilma made a great leaping catch to intercept a Freeman pass on the Buccaneers' next possession. And safety Chris Reis hauled in an interception in the final two minutes, making up for an easy interception he dropped earlier.

"Coming into this game, we knew how potent their offense was and we knew the best defense was for our offense to sustain drives," Freeman said. "We knew what we had to do to come out and win, and I put that on myself. . . . I was just a little off, and I couldn't get into a rhythm."

The Saints' potent offense eventually burned the Buccaneers.

Brees hit receiver Robert Meachem with a 4-yard touchdown pass late in the first quarter. He found Meachem again in the final minute of the first half for a 6-yard touchdown pass.

And he threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to tight end David Thomas early in the third quarter after Freeman's fumble.

By then it was 24-7, and the Saints ran out the clock after that with tailbacks Pierre Thomas and Mike Bell, who combined for 167 yards on 24 carries (an average of nearly 7 yards per carry). Bell scored the final two touchdowns on runs of 3 yards and 1 yard.

"You've got to like the mentality of this team. When we get a chance to open up the game a little bit, we've

been able to take advantage of that opportunity. Today was no exception," said offensive tackle Jon Stinchcomb, who said it was just "a matter of time" for the Saints to win a game in this fashion again, like they had been doing in the first five games.

Now it looks like the Patriots (7-3), who defeated the Jets 31-14 on Sunday, will be getting the Saints at their best.

Although the Saints went into a bit of a slump this month -- as much as an undefeated team can be considered "slumping" -- they're rolling now, and a handful of injured players could be back by Monday night (Ellis? Greer? Gay? tailback Reggie Bush?)

"I like where we are at. I mean, we are 10-0," said Saints Coach Sean Payton, who also stressed Sunday that his team excelled on special teams, which had been an inconsistent area throughout the season. "I thought we got better today."

The Saints have now won 10 games in a row for the first time in franchise history, breaking the mark set in 1987 and matched in 1990-91.

And they could clinch the NFC South title by next week, if they win and the Atlanta Falcons (5-5) lose at home to Tampa Bay.

But Brees said the Saints haven't really accomplished anything yet, and he doesn't think they've reached their peak.

"I feel like the sky's the limit for this team," Brees said. "But like we've said all year, and it's going to get old, it's only going to get harder. Every team that we play would love to be the team to give us that first loss. And we're about to play a team who arguably has been one of the best teams in this league the last decade, somewhat of a dynasty. They know how to win, they know how to win big games. And obviously we want to be one of those teams, year in and year out, that's fighting for a championship.

"We're building something special right now. But we also have to understand that in order to get there, you've got to be able to win games like this one coming up. And obviously it's going to take a total team effort."

Saints Report Card

By Mike Triplett
The Times-Picayune
Monday, November 23, 2009

OFFENSE 3 1/2 fleur de lis.

The Saints started a little slow, converting one of six third-down attempts in the first half. But they didn't sabotage themselves with turnovers, sacks or a slew of penalties, and eventually they started to score in bunches. Quarterback Drew Brees was forced to check down quite a bit in the first half, but he got hot for a stretch and threw three touchdown passes. Then the run game was outstanding in the second half. Tailbacks Mike Bell and Pierre Thomas averaged 7 yards per carry, and Bell scored twice. . . . Receiver Robert Meachem had his first two-touchdown game. Tight end David Thomas had his first touchdown catch as a Saint and finished with 66 yards. Marques Colston made some nice catches in traffic and finished with 74 yards. . . . The Saints started Zach Strief at left tackle, then rotated in Jermon Bushrod. Strief got beat once on the edge, but otherwise he held up well.

DEFENSE 3 1/2 fleur de lis.

Once again, the defense struggled against the run in the first quarter, letting Tampa Bay march 95 yards for a touchdown. But after that, the Saints were dominant. Cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, linebacker Jonathan Vilma and safety Chris Reis all intercepted passes, and linebacker Scott Fujita forced a fumble on a sack, which was recovered by tackle Anthony Hargrove. . . . Rookie quarterback Josh Freeman started strong, but the Saints eventually rattled him with a variety of formations and blitzes. . . . The Saints kept tight end Kellen Winslow in check all day. And they did it with an injury-depleted secondary. . . . Safety Darren Sharper and tackle Remi Ayodele each committed costly penalties on Tampa Bay's touchdown drive.

SPECIAL TEAMS

3 1/2 fleur de lis. Punter/kickoff specialist Thomas Morstead might have been the game's MVP, pinning the Buccaneers back all afternoon. He averaged 48.8 yards per punt, including one that was pinned on the 1-yard line by Usama Young and Courtney Roby. . . . The coverage teams were excellent against Tampa Bay's dangerous returner Clifton Smith. The Saints didn't do anything special in the return game, but they did survive with emergency punt returners Devery Henderson and Darren Sharper. . . . John Carney made his lone field-goal attempt from 38 yards.

COACHING

3 1/2 fleur de lis. The Saints finally cleaned up all the mistakes that have been plaguing them for the last month. No turnovers, no sacks, only a handful of penalties. They started slow on both sides of the ball but dominated the final three quarters. They had a great plan for rattling Freeman on defense and forced four turnovers. And the offense was aggressive at the right times, like when they went no-huddle inside the 3-yard line to punch in a Mike Bell touchdown run in the third quarter before the Buccaneers could adjust their personnel.

Rare air

Saints move to 10-0 with romp over Bucs

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Monday, November 23, 2009

After winning their first eight games of the season, the New Orleans Saints wouldn't dare let themselves start thinking about a huge Week 12 matchup with the New England Patriots.

At that time, the only things that stood between the Saints and a 10-0 start were the one-win St. Louis Rams and Tampa Bay Buccaneers on the road.

After narrowly escaping with a five-point win over the Rams last week, the injury-plagued Saints kicked aside the Bucs 38-7 on Sunday in Raymond James Stadium to set up the showdown with the 7-3 Patriots a week from tonight in the Superdome.

The Saints won for the 10th straight game for the first time in team history.

In doing so, the Saints offense snapped out of a four-game mini-funk that saw them turn the ball over 13 times and give up nine sacks in that stretch.

Against the Bucs, the Saints had no turnovers for the second time this season and Drew Brees wasn't sacked. And despite a bit of a slow start, they scored four touchdowns on four consecutive possessions in the second and third quarters to easily put the Bucs away.

"I like where we are at; I mean we are 10-0," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "We beat a division opponent on the road. I was pleased that we eliminated some of those mistakes offensively."

He was also pleased to get away with another victory after losing two more cornerbacks during the game.

The Saints, who were already playing without starters Jabari Greer and Tracy Porter, lost Randall Gay to a hamstring injury in the second quarter and Leigh Torrence to a shoulder stinger twice in the third quarter. Free safety Usama Young was used at the position in a pinch.

The injuries weren't good news for the Saints after the Bucs' first drive of the game. They took the ball at their own 5-yard line and marched 95 yards in 12 plays, capping it with rookie Josh Freeman's 18-yard touchdown pass to former LSU wide receiver Michael Clayton.

It was all Saints from that point on, however.

While the offense struggled a little in the first half, they tied the game with a 68-yard drive that ended with the first of three touchdown passes by Brees — a 4-yard toss to wide receiver Robert Meachem.

Then, they scored 10 more points on a 38-yard field goal by John Carney and a 6-yard TD pass to Meachem with 28 seconds left in the half. Carney's field goal was set up by rookie cornerback Malcolm Jenkins' first NFL interception and 14-yard return into Bucs' territory.

Meachem's second touchdown was the first of four in a row for the Saints, who got an 11-yard pass from Brees to tight end David Thomas and scoring runs of 3 and 1 yards by Mike Bell.

The Brees-to-Thomas touchdown came after strongside linebacker Scott Fujita sacked rookie quarterback Josh Freeman and forced a fumble which Saints defensive tackle Anthony Hargrove fell on at the Bucs' 15.

Three plays later, Thomas' touchdown gave them a commanding 24-7 lead.

"That was big," Brees said of the Saints' two quick scores. "We definitely wanted some momentum going into halftime and were disappointed when we went out there with three minutes left (after Carney's field goal).

"Thankfully our defense was able to get it back for us and executed well that second time around to get down there and get points. That was big," he said. "Then, the defense gets a big turnover and we're able to convert it to seven points. All of a sudden, it's a 14-point swing."

After that, the offense worked on the running game while the defense continued to play well.

The Saints, who had 36 rushing yards in the first half, rolled to 147 yards in the second half and finished with 183. Pierre Thomas had 92 yards on 11 carries and Bell finished with 75 yards on 13 attempts and two TDs. Brees completed 19 of 29 passes for 187 yards and a passer rating of 118.0 in leading his team to 370 total yards.

The defense came up with four takeaways, which the offense turned into 17 points, and also sacked Freeman three times. After officially getting 75 yards on their first drive (20 more came on penalties), the Saints held the Bucs to 144 yards on the next 47 plays with a 3.1 average and 219 total yards.

"Early on we were able to get some things rolling and capture some momentum that worked in our favor," said Clayton. "At some point, we let go of that rope. We can't let that happen."

Freeman wound up completing 17 of 33 passes for 126 yards and had a passer rating of 33.1. In addition to Jenkins, middle linebacker Jonathan Vilma and backup safety Chris Reis came up with interceptions.

Free safety Darren Sharper said it was good to see the Saints, who now have 29 takeaways in 10 games, playing at the level they were early in the season.

"There are things we can still improve on," he said, "but this is the type of game you want to have. That's dominating teams for four quarters, and that is a good sign because we all know our next opponent is a tough one."

Replacements shine

DBs Jenkins, Torrence play well in win

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Monday, November 23, 2009

When it became apparent first-round draft pick Malcolm Jenkins would make his first NFL start Sunday, New Orleans Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams began preparing his young cornerback for the task at hand.

Williams reminded Jenkins, the 14th pick in the draft this spring, it would be rookie cornerback against rookie quarterback when they faced the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Raymond James Stadium.

The rookie quarterback was Josh Freeman, whom the Bucs took three picks after the Saints quickly snatched up Jenkins. In the first of what could be many meetings between the two, Jenkins came out on top in a 38-7 win over the Bucs.

The former Ohio State All-American, who was making his first NFL start because starters Jabari Greer and Tracy Porter were out with injuries, came up with his first interception as a pro and chalked up a team-high seven tackles while breaking up two passes.

"He did challenge me this week," Jenkins said of Williams. "It's all in fun to make sure that I was ready to play and everything.

"He messes with me pretty much every week. so that's nothing new to me. But I played well, and I know he's pretty proud of me."

However, Jenkins wasn't the only cornerback who came up big in a defensive effort that held Freeman and the Bucs to just 144 yards in the final 3% quarters after they had 75 yards on a 95-yard touchdown drive (20 yards came on penalties) on their opening possession.

Reserve cornerback Leigh Torrence was pressed into service when Randall Gay, who started in place of Greer, had to leave the game in the second quarter with a hamstring injury.

Torrence, a four-year veteran, played in the nickel and dime packages while free safety Usama Young, a converted cornerback, was switched back to help out.

Torrence finished with four tackles and shared a sack with strong safety Roman Harper even though he went out twice in the third quarter with what he said was a left shoulder stinger. He didn't return in the final period.

"That's what we're here for," said Torrence, who helped hold Freeman to a 17-of-33 passing day for 126 yards and the Bucs to 100 net passing yards after sack yardage was subtracted. "When you make a roster, you have to give them depth.

"I've been in those situations before, and I felt comfortable coming in. I knew the coaching staff had confidence in me being able to get the job done, so it's good to come out here and kind of show your worth and contribute."

It was the second straight week the Saints had to go to a makeshift secondary because of injuries.

"The next guy has to be ready to step up," Torrence said. "It really shows that the guys are really tuned in to what we've got going here. Everyone is ready to step up, so it's been good."

Jenkins and the Saints defense rose up after the Bucs' first series ended with Freeman scrambling to his left and finding former LSU wide receiver Michael Clayton in the back of the end zone for an 18-yard TD.

"Take out the first drive, and I think I played pretty well," Jenkins said.

"There were a couple of things that I know I messed up on. But outside of that, I thought it was a pretty good performance."

His interception and 14-yard return to the Bucs' 29 in the second quarter led to a John Carney field goal and a 10-7 lead for the Saints, who never trailed again.

On the play, wide receiver Antonio Bryant ran an out route, but the pass went to the inside and Jenkins made an adjustment and made a diving grab.

"Basically, we were playing zero (man-to-man) coverage," Jenkins said. "I kind of jumped the route, and he threw it right to me. He was under pressure and had to get rid of the ball quick. He threw it and I picked it off."

Later in the second quarter, Jenkins got his hand on another pass intended for Bryant but couldn't reel it in.

"I was mad I didn't catch that one," he said with a laugh. "As the game went on after the first drive, everything kind of settled down. After that, it was just about playing."

TE Thomas joins Saints scoring party

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Monday, November 23, 2009

The New Orleans Saints' scoring machine, which remains on pace to break the NFL record for points in a season, welcomed a new member to the club Sunday in a 38-7 win against the Tampa Bay Bucs.

When tight end David Thomas caught an 11-yard scoring strike from Drew Brees in the third quarter, he became the 18th Saints player to reach the end zone this season.

"It just shows how many great players we have on this team — and how unselfish they are," said Thomas, who joined the Saints in a trade with the New England Patriots on Sept. 5.

By comparison, the Patriots had 21 players score touchdowns when they rolled to a league-record 589 points in 2007.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS FEATURE CLIPS

The Saints are averaging 36.9 points a game and are on pace to score 590 points — one more than the Patriots.

Late switch

Four-year veteran Zach Strief was a surprise starter at left tackle for Jermon Bushrod, who started eight of the first nine games, and the two rotated in the first half.

Saints coach Sean Payton said Strief has practiced well lately and wanted to get him some work. The start was the fifth of Strief's career.

Bushrod had played the majority of the time since Pro Bowl tackle Jammal Brown was lost in the preseason with a sports hernia and a hip injury.

Game ball

To the Saints' defense, which allowed 75 yards on 12 plays on the Bucs' first series of the game (20 more came on penalties), then gave up just 144 yards on 47 snaps the rest of the way. The Saints also had four takeaways and three sacks.

Play of the game

Saints strongside linebacker Scott Fujita tracked down quarterback Josh Freeman and sacked him on the first possession of the second half, forcing a fumble that Anthony Hargrove recovered at the Bucs' 15. The Saints scored a touchdown three plays later to extend their 10-point halftime lead to 24-7.

Key stat

The Saints did not turn the ball over against the Bucs after having 13 giveaways in their previous four games.

Inactives

The Saints inactives were running back Reggie Bush, cornerback Tracy Porter, cornerback Jabari Greer, defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis, wide receiver Lance Moore, cornerback Chris McAlister, kicker Garrett Hartley and linebacker Jonathan Casillas.

Bush, Porter and Ellis missed the game with knee injuries, while Greer has a groin problem and Moore a sprained ankle.

Lineup changes

The injuries forced the Saints to make several lineup changes.

Bush was replaced by Pierre Thomas, and Anthony Hargrove started for Ellis. Former LSU star Randall Gay and rookie Malcolm Jenkins started for Greer and Porter at left and right cornerback, respectively.

Still going strong

Right guard Jahri Evans has started every game since being selected in the fourth round of the 2006 draft. His streak reached 58 games Sunday, moving him past former All-Pro tackle William Roaf for consecutive starts by a Saints' offensive lineman to open a career.

Lagniappe

The Saints' fourth touchdown, a 3-yard run by Mike Bell with 4:50 left in the third period, was the team's 200th since Payton became head coach. ... The Saints are 12-0 under Payton when they have no giveaways. ... Saints defensive end Charles Grant made the 100th start of his NFL career Sunday. ... Before Sunday's 31-point blowout by the Saints, 15 of the past 18 games in the series were decided by a touchdown or less.

PAYTON'S PLACE

Coach paid his dues before landing in New Orleans

By Jim Mashek

Sun Herald

Monday, October 12, 2009

Sean Payton always has been drawn to football. Growing up in Naperville, Ill., playing Division I-AA football at Eastern Illinois University, living a nomadic life as a journeyman quarterback in several pro leagues, Payton may have been destined to be a coach.

In 1988, after playing his last game in the British League with the Leicester Panthers, Payton took a job as an offensive assistant at San Diego State. Within seven years, he had coached at SDSU, Indiana State, SDSU again and Miami of Ohio, before moving on to the Big Ten, taking the quarterbacks coach job at Illinois.

Then, in 1997, Payton became the quarterbacks coach with the Philadelphia Eagles, serving under the intense, sometimes brooding Ray Rhodes. He stayed two seasons before becoming Jim Fassel's quarterbacks coach with the New York Giants, and he was promoted to offensive coordinator in 2000.

In 2002, however, with the Giants slumping, Fassel stripped the offensive play calling duties from Payton, assuming those responsibilities himself, a rarity for an NFL head coach. The Giants would go on to reach the playoffs with a wild-card berth, but Payton would soon leave for greener pastures, becoming Bill Parcells' assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach with the Dallas Cowboys.

Parcells, one of the more demanding coaches in the business, made quite an impression on Payton. Payton had a chance to take the head coaching job with the NFL's Oakland Raiders in 2004, but he was wary of that club's reputation and consulted with Parcells before deciding to stay put.

Then, in 2006, the New Orleans Saints came calling.

The Saints had been displaced from the Louisiana Superdome after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area on Aug. 29, 2005, and they played home games in San Antonio, Texas, and LSU's Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge. The team was dreadful, and then-Saints coach Jim Haslett finally benched enigmatic quarterback Aaron Brooks with three games left. Haslett was soon gone himself, and Saints owner Tom Benson looked to take his team in a different direction,

Enter Payton.

"I think this was an opportunity unique to the NFL," he said at the time.

Payton moved quickly in his first few months on the job, parting ways with Brooks and bringing in veteran quarterback Drew Brees, who had been a steady player with the San Diego Chargers. The Saints used the second pick in the NFL Draft to take Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush to go with former Ole Miss star Deuce McAllister in the backfield. They took Alabama safety Roman Harper in that draft, along with offensive lineman Jahri Evans and Zach Strief.

With their final draft choice that year, however, the Saints selected unheralded Hofstra wide receiver Marques Colston. He was the 252nd player chosen overall. That fall, the 6-foot-4 Colston caught 70 passes for 1,038 yards and eight touchdowns. The Saints would win 10 games in regular-season play and reach the NFC championship game, only to lose to the Chicago Bears at chilly Soldier Field.

Payton had found a home.

The Saints struggled on defense the next two seasons, at which point Payton fired defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs. He brought in respected defensive coordinator Gregg Williams from the Jacksonville Jaguars, and Williams' influence has made an immediate impact in the Saints' 4-0 start over the last five weeks. Meanwhile, on offense, Payton, Brees and the rest of the Saints continued to put up points on the board. The Saints will face Eli Manning and the New York Giants on Sunday in the Louisiana Superdome.

"All these games are important," Payton said, "and I think that's important to understand. As you continue to play, and if you do continue to play well, they become increasingly bigger. And if you don't, they dissipate." Saints fans are counting on the former in Year 4 of the Sean Payton era.

FUTURE IS NOW

Reggie Bush is healthy and hungry to prove he is the prototypical modern NFL running back

By Nakia Hogan
The Times-Picayune
Sunday, August 2, 2009

It was a balmy, sauna-like June afternoon when Reggie Bush, dripping with sweat, wobbled off the practice field.

Beat down from two hours of running, catching and just baking in the sun, Bush was headed for the comfortable confines of the Saints' locker room. This is the time when Bush usually looks away from the gauntlet of reporters and darts into the players' sanctuary.

But there is something different about Bush, the Saints' ultra-hyped Heisman Trophy-winning running back, who now is sporting a Mohawk.

Besides the fact that he participated in the Saints' voluntary organized team activities, he appeared to be more comfortable with his surroundings.

During his walk to the locker room, Bush playfully ribbed TE Billy Miller, as Miller chatted with a local reporter. It was an encounter that caught veteran Saints observers off guard. For the first time since the Saints used the No. 2 pick in 2006 to draft Bush, he seemed like one of the fellas -- something his teammates have contended he has been for a while, but something many outsiders found hard to believe.

"I've always been close to my teammates," said Bush, 24. "I've always been a team guy."

His teammates agreed.

"He comes in here and we laugh, and he gets made fun of like everybody else, and he makes fun of other people," defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis said as Bush walked by still laughing and joking inside the locker room. "I don't think he is outside of that circle at all. I don't think he tries to put himself outside of that circle. As long as I have known him he has been an open team player and a good guy."

"He's hesitant," Miller said. "When you get a guy like that -- I'm sure he's in a situation where everybody wants something from him -- he's got to be a little careful who he opens up to and who he allows into his small circle."

Too much, too soon

For three seasons, all Saints fans wanted from Bush was to see him racing past defenders into the end zone, to watch him break records, to celebrate with him as he helped the team win a Super Bowl.

That was asking a lot. But that's what fans were almost made to believe he was capable of bringing.

When Bush arrived in 2006, he came with the kind of flash, hoopla and hype that left the former Southern Cal star with nowhere to go but down.

From commercials to music videos, talk shows to magazine covers, to his high-profile relationship with reality TV star Kim Kardashian, Bush was everywhere.

He was one of the NFL's marquee attractions before he played a down. He was easily the most high-profile athlete to land in New Orleans.

He claimed to be completely comfortable with that role. But was he?

"It was overwhelming for him," said Mike Ornstein, Bush's former marketing agent. "If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn't have done that again. I think I put too much on his plate."

"We had 28 national commercials. We were on 31 covers of magazines. At the end of the day, we created such a phenomenon that he could do nothing unless he had a 2,000-yard season and had 100 catches. He wasn't going to live up to it."

"He had a hell of a first year, and still people look at it like he had a bad year. But because we built him into this plateau of being such a great player, we may have overdone it."

"He made a ton of money off the field. I don't think it went to his head, though. But listen, when you have 28

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national commercials, you're right up there with Michael Jordan."

On the field, though, Bush hasn't reached such heights.

In three seasons, Bush has rushed for 1,550 yards and 12 touchdowns. He has gained a less-than-stellar 3.7 yards per carry.

Just when Bush appeared poised for a breakout campaign last season, he injured his left knee on the final play of the first half of the Saints' seventh game against Carolina and needed offseason surgery.

After six games last season, Bush had rushed for 294 yards and two touchdowns, caught 41 passes with three going for touchdowns and had three punt returns for touchdowns.

He was living up to the lofty expectations.

"Those expectations were no higher than I expected out of myself," he said. "I don't think they were set too high for me. With the unfortunate couple of injuries, I haven't been able to perform to my best ability. But the good thing is I'm young, so I still have time."

Finding his niche

Bush is a bit "hesitant" on and off the field. But after three years of teasing fans with his tantalizing explosive-ness, Bush is comfortable enough in his role with the offense that he may be ready to shut up all of his critics. That is, if he can stay healthy.

"I think he's found his niche," Saints Coach Sean Payton said. "He's been really explosive for us as a returner and as a runner and a receiver. He has been a big part to us running the football. I think I answered this as to his ability to stay healthy and to find that right amount of touches for him.

"Prior to his injury last year, he was having a great year. Certainly I think we have a good role for him, and he feels very comfortable with what we're doing."

Miller agreed.

"We are doing some things now to allow him to run the ball the way Reggie likes to run the ball and doing some things that can make him the most productive player he can be on this team."

Bush, who was limited in the offseason after knee surgery, has been fluid and crisp in training camp. He has lined up with the first team at running back, and he has returned punts.

"I wouldn't say I'm 100 percent," Bush said. "I would say strength-wise 100 percent, health-wise at about 90-95 percent. Which is expected on the first real day back. I'm still staying on top of it like it was the first day being injured."

He missed Saturday's afternoon practice as a precaution.

Unique role

In the Saints' offense, he won't be asked to carry the ball between the tackles 25 times per game. His job will not be to bully his way into the end zone against linebackers.

What the 6-foot, 203-pounder can't do with power, he'll try to do with speed and grace, playing a multiple role of change-of-pace runner, pass catcher, decoy and return man.

This doesn't mean that Bush can't run between the tackles. Bush said he's quite capable of running up the middle.

"I can run the ball between the tackles," he said. "Anybody can run the ball between the tackles. I don't feel like that is going to make me or break me. I don't feel like running the ball between the tackles is going to win us the Super Bowl or help me win the MVP.

"It's being versatile, being able to run the ball between the tackles, outside the tackles, returning punts, catching the ball out of the backfield and catching the ball down the field. That's what I do. That's who I am."

With many teams in the NFL shifting to a two- or three-back system, Bush is the type of dynamic playmaker who can flourish.

"The direction the NFL is headed toward you don't see those types of backs anymore," Bush said. "You see guys who are splitting time. You see guys who are able to play running back and multiple positions. The days of the one-running-back system are over. Teams can find guys who can play running back and be split out wide and play the receiver position, and do punt return and kick return. It gives them more versatility. That's where the NFL is headed."

The time for Bush to showcase his full worth to the team could be now. He is in the fourth year of a six year, \$62 million contract -- with \$26.3 million guaranteed -- that he signed as a rookie. He is set to earn \$8.58 million in salary, bonuses and likely incentives this season.

That number jumps to \$10 million in 2010 and \$12.5 million in 2011. The Saints could part ways with Bush after this season for a manageable cap hit of \$7 million in 2010 and \$3.5 million in 2011.

A recommitment

The secret to a successful campaign isn't some magic potion, Bush said. It's simply staying healthy.

Bush missed six games in 2008 and four in 2007 with left knee ailments. He doesn't want more of the same.

"I had to recommit myself and to really focus down to staying healthy and having a great offseason and get myself to 100 percent," Bush said.

That's why after offseason surgery to repair torn cartilage, he rehabilitated in New Orleans for the second consecutive year, spending time with his teammates and trainers.

"He wants this to be his breakout year," Ornstein said. "And he's doing everything he can. He's not a party guy. He doesn't go out. He takes care of his body. He gets a massage twice a week. He goes to a chiropractor once a week. He has a chef that cooks him healthy food.

"It's not like he's going out having a great time. He's really focused on football. And now instead of wanting to be in L.A., he wants to be in New Orleans. He wants to be around his teammates."

More important, he wants to live up to the hype. He wants to earn Pro Bowl berths. He wants to win championships. He wants to show the world what he knows he is capable of doing.

"There are goals that you set, and I want to be in the Pro Bowl," Bush said in June. "But injuries have kept

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me back from being able to perform to my best ability. When I'm healthy it's kind of apparent what I am able to do. But if you don't stay healthy the whole season, your chance of making the Pro Bowl is slim to none. "I know that it is in my future. I'll get there; it's just a matter of staying healthy."

NEW DIRECTION

Reggie Bush admits juking wasn't working, so it's time to go straight

By Jeff Duncan
The Times-Picayune
Thursday, August 20 2009

The best move an NFL running back can make often is no move at all.

Sometimes a back needs to betray his instincts and abandon the jitterbug jukes and ankle-breaking cuts for a less spectacular but more efficient style of running.

Three years and countless east-west meanderings into his NFL career, Saints running back Reggie Bush has arrived at this realization.

"The first step to recognizing when you have a bad habit is just admitting it to yourself," Bush said Wednesday after another impressive preseason performance, this one in a full-squad practice against the Houston Texans at their Reliant Park training complex.

"It's like an alcoholic when they go into an (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting or something," he said. "That's the first step, just recognizing it and getting better from there. . . . I'm really just working on being explosive and, yes, hitting the holes. I think over these last two years I haven't done that."

For a player of Bush's notoriety and background, it's a startling admission.

After all, Bush arrived in New Orleans widely hailed as one of the greatest runners in collegiate football history. In three seasons at Southern Cal he could do no wrong. He was everybody's All-American, a national cover boy and the 2006 Heisman Trophy winner.

Bush entered the league expecting greatness. Instead, he has experienced something well short of it.

He hasn't been a bust. But he hasn't lit the league on fire, either.

Bush's initial reaction was to criticize his critics. That's natural, especially for someone who had been largely above reproach.

But as his critics multiplied, reality set in. Maybe, he thought, they're right. Instead of fighting, Bush focused. On himself. On his approach. On his game.

"Obviously people are saying that for a reason," Bush said. "I haven't been the most productive over these last two years."

Injuries undoubtedly have contributed to Bush's disappointing career. But so have bad habits, most notably his penchant for trying to bounce every run outside for a touchdown.

Too often Bush tiptoed to the hole or beelined outside at the first sign of a foreign jersey. Worse, he often abandoned the scripted play for an improvised solo session.

The results were not pretty. In three NFL seasons, Bush has gained 3.7 yards per carry. That's roughly half his college average of 7.3 and well below the marks of former Saints back Deuce McAllister (4.3) and teammate Pierre Thomas (4.8).

The Saints perhaps would be more willing to live with Bush's risks if they produced greater rewards. If you're going to swing for the fences, you need to go deep every once in a while. So far Bush has been Dave Kingman without the prodigious clots. In 418 career carries, his improvised gambles have produced one run of more than 40 yards and none for a touchdown.

"He's so fast, he was used to just running around everybody in college," Saints offensive line coach and running game coordinator Aaron Kromer said.

"Reggie has such talent on the perimeter and catching the ball and running with it and doing a great job on the perimeter. . . . He's a very talented player. And the really good players work on their weaknesses, and they're comfortable working on it and talking about it. And that's what he's doing."

Kromer said Bush is learning to trust the scheme more and better utilize his blockers. He's also motivated to become a more physical and decisive north-south runner.

Against the Texans on Wednesday, Bush sped through the line of scrimmage for a pair of big gains the first two times he carried the ball. By the time the Houston defensive linemen could shed their blocks, Bush had raced past them into the secondary.

"Reggie is actually hitting the holes a lot harder than he used to, and that's a big improvement by him," Thomas said. "He's looked great."

"The key with any runner is understanding the scheme and trusting the track he's on," Coach Sean Payton said. "I think that's an area he's working with specifically and doing well."

Bush speaks like a man who understands his career could be at a crossroads. He said he's motivated by the criticism but not consumed by it. Better yet, he understands it.

He worked diligently this offseason to rehab from surgery to his surgically repaired right knee. If the knee is affecting him, he doesn't show it. Bush looks as fast and elusive as ever.

"If I'm healthy 100 percent throughout the season, then I should be able to do what I expect myself to do," Bush said. "All I can do is control what I can control. I can't control what people say. I can control what I do on the field. . . . I understand where (the criticism) comes from. I hear it, and I just use it as motivation."

Thanks to his recent recognition, No. 25 runs north-south now -- not just east-west. And for the Saints offense, that's a change in the right direction.

Running backs don't lack for bravado

Thomas, Bell & Co. eager to shoulder the load this season

By Nakia Hogan
The Times-Picayune
Sunday, August 2, 2009

Members of the Saints' running back corps kept waiting to hear the word that the team was bringing in another back to fill the void left by Deuce McAllister, who was released in the offseason.

They waited through the draft and the start of free agency. They heard rumors about Edgerrin James and found out about the team's interest in a draft-day trade that would have brought Beanie Wells to New Orleans.

Three days into training camp, they are still waiting.

Pierre Thomas, Mike Bell and Lynell Hamilton are all vying with starter Reggie Bush, trying to prove the Saints made the right decision by not spending heavily to bring in another running back. Rookie free agents Herb Donaldson and P.J. Hill are also competing.

"I didn't care (who the Saints brought in)," Thomas said. "I'm not worried about that. If they want to bring in another guy, let them bring him in. I said earlier, I'm going to beat out whoever they bring in. That's my whole goal, my whole mindset. If they want to bring somebody in, I'm going to beat them out."

Saints Coach Sean Payton has kept a close eye on his ball carriers. He and his coaching staff will continue to evaluate the players throughout camp.

"There is a group behind Reggie and Pierre that is going to be really interesting to evaluate," Payton said.

"Mike Bell, Lynell Hamilton and then P.J. Hill and Herb Donaldson -- there's a group of guys that we have to get a handle on in the next four weeks as to where we think they fit, and they'll get a lot of work. Not just in practice, they'll get a lot of work in the preseason."

That's certainly good news for Bell and Hamilton, who appear to be in a battle for the No. 3 running back spot behind Bush and Thomas.

"That shows a lot of confidence from upstairs in knowing that they feel like they have what they need here," said Hamilton, who spent all but the season finale on the practice squad. "That makes us work harder to prove that. It's fierce. All the guys are good. All the guys bring a lot to the table. We are only going to make each other better."

The rushing attack will be counted on to play a bigger role in the offense and take some of the pressure off quarterback Drew Brees, who passed for a league-high 5,069 yards last season.

But while the Saints were airing it out, their running game gained only 99.6 yards per game, 28th in the 32-team league.

Thomas, who led the team in rushing last season with 625 yards and 12 touchdowns, said he's ready to change that. He has bulked up to 223 pounds to take on the added rushing responsibility.

He's also confident that Bush, Bell and Hamilton can help jump-start the running game.

"Reggie, myself, Lynell, Mike, we feel we have to get it started," Thomas said. "We feel we are good backs that can help lead this team. We just have to play our role."

"I believe I've gotten myself prepared. My mind is set for it. I'm learning the offense very well. I'm picking up blitzes and pass protections well, and I think I can handle it."

"Last year it was all about showing them that I can, showing them that I can take that load, take the 15 carries if they wanted to give them out, I could take the pounding. And I could do it for weeks. I tried to show them last year that I could do it. And hopefully coming into this year I can show them that I can be the guy they need."

Bell, who has trimmed down to 219 pounds (from a high of 235), is trying to do likewise.

Bell didn't get as much of a chance to showcase his ability last season. He was signed Nov. 19 and played in four games, totaling 13 carries for 42 yards and a touchdown.

Bell entered the league in 2006 as an undrafted free agent with the Denver Broncos and rushed for 677 yards and eight touchdowns as a rookie. But his next two seasons weren't nearly as productive, and he rebelled against moving to fullback.

But he has appeared to be both quick and powerful early in training camp. He said his improvement from last season could be limitless.

"I don't want to put a lid on the container," Bell said "I'm excited. If I can stay under 220 the whole year, I feel like I'm going to be a force to be reckoned with."

Williams brings a demanding style to Saints' defense

By Jim Mashek
Sun Herald
Sunday, August 2, 2009

The Washington Redskins had a chance to hire Gregg Williams as their head coach after the 2007 NFL season.

They blew it.

Williams resurfaced with the Jacksonville Jaguars last year, as that club's defensive coordinator, and the New Orleans Saints plucked him away in January. Williams' mandate in New Orleans is simple:

Get the defense to hold up its end of the bargain.

And, as a result, get the Saints back in the playoffs.

That'll be the underlying story of the Saints' training camp, which opened Friday in Metairie. The Saints have been able to score points since Sean Payton's arrival in 2006. Drew Brees is one of the NFL's premier quarterbacks. The Saints' offensive line knows how to protect him. And Brees has enough capable receivers to light up the scoreboard.

Defensively, however, they've been lacking.

And Williams knows what he's doing.

Everyone is being evaluated. Every day. Even last year's first-round pick, defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis. Nothing is guaranteed.

"There are no starters," Williams said on Friday. "Sean has made that evident, I've made that evident. Now everybody is interviewing, and everybody is looking for their positions. We're going to play a lot of different people. We're going to play a lot of packages on defense.

"The guys that play the most for us are going to be the guys that produce."

Williams is a proponent of an aggressive 4-3 defensive package, and he'll have a big-time linebacker, Jonathan Vilma, directing traffic most of the time. The Saints are going to have to overcome the absence of two key components, however, in the first four games of the season. Defensive ends Will Smith and Charles Grant will serve suspensions for using a banned substance, a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent for steroids.

The Saints have yet to come to terms with this year's No. 1 draft pick, Ohio State cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, who was a critical acquisition for a team in need of a lock-down corner. In the meantime, the Saints' defenders will have to become accustomed to his demanding style.

"I'm not going to be a person that's going to back away from hands-on teaching every single day," Williams said. "That's what I love. I love the competition of practice, the hard work that you have to have during the week. And I wouldn't trade those three hours on game day for anything."

The Saints ranked 23rd in the NFL last year in yards allowed, and 26th in the league in points allowed. There will be other questions surrounding this team. In particular, the consistency of gifted but inconsistent Reggie Bush in the offense. But none loom larger than the defense.

Williams will establish the tone for that defense in training camp. It'll be up to the players to follow his lead.

Williams brings positive influence to Saints' defense

By Brady Aymond
Lafayette Gannett News
Sunday, August 2, 2009

Since Gregg Williams was officially introduced as the New Orleans Saints' defensive coordinator on Jan. 15, there have been a lot of buzzwords flying around the team's training facility.

Pressure.

Intensity.

Aggressiveness.

And, according to the players involved, those words and their meaning to the Saints defense are as much about mind-set as about X's and O's.

"It's a different feeling because there's so many different things going on," linebacker Scott Fujita said. "It's not like scheme-wise you're changing from top to bottom. There's only so many things you can do defensively in this league. For the most part, everybody runs the same type of coverages.

"It's about coming in trying to create a different culture. At the same time, there's a sense of uneasiness, which is healthy. And sometimes change can be a good thing — it can bring a positive attitude. Guys have to come in every day and earn their jobs all over again. I think all of those things create better competition." Creating a positive attitude on defense was a definite goal in the offseason and it all started when the Saints hired Williams.

Entering his 20th season in the NFL, Williams has had 10 of his defensive units rank in the top 10 of the league, including the top defense in the NFL in 2000 with the 13-3 Tennessee Titans.

"He had a track record that was coincidental and for a number of years I had experience in going against him," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "Then in the interview process, you saw his passion for what we were wanting to do.

"I think the combination of what he wants to implement, his past success, his ability to come in and play a key role from a leadership standpoint and get those guys up to speed, all of them factored in."

Securing the main piece: After the Saints interviewed Williams, all that was left was sweating out his trip to Green Bay, where he was interviewing with former Saints offensive coordinator Mike McCarthy for the same position with the Packers.

"He drove me nuts; he's ADD," Williams said when asked if Payton contacted him while deciding between the Saints and Packers. "He called a lot and texted a lot and what I was trying to do was to get all my family together and make some family decisions.

"Mike McCarthy and I go way back, we're real good friends and they have a real good, young team up there too. But this was the place that was the best fit for us to come."

And so far, it seems Williams has been a good fit for the Saints. His offseason workouts have helped pave the way for a good first two days of training camp.

"Our attitude is right," linebacker Jonathan Vilma said. "We're running to the ball. Right or wrong, X's and O's, it's going to be what it's going to be. As long as we're making an effort to really get to the ball, have 10-11

players around the ball, we're going to be a good defense."

Wreaking havoc on defense: After ranking 24th and 22nd, respectively, the last two seasons in turnover margin, one of the points of emphasis this offseason has been forcing turnovers. It's evident the players are getting the message in practice.

Defensive players are scooping up every ball that hits the ground, whether it's an incomplete pass or a legitimate fumble.

"We treat every single ball on the ground as a fumble," Williams said. "That has to be an instinctive reaction that we're looking to pick the ball up and scoop it and score. We don't want to be surprised in a ballgame when the ball gets popped out. What we do is that when the ball is on the ground, you're going to see us treat it as a fumble."

"The only time when we're hesitant when the ball is on the ground is when No. 9 (Drew Brees) fumbles a snap, I want them to stay away from No. 9's hands and feet. But poor old Mark (Brunell) and Joey (Harrington) might get the brunt of it."

Speaking of No. 9, Williams said the opportunity to work alongside the NFL's best offense in 2008 was a huge factor in deciding to take the New Orleans job.

"I wanted to draft Drew Brees when I was the head coach of the Bills," Williams said. "One of the reasons I'm here is that we didn't draft Drew Brees with the Bills. When I was the head coach of the Bills when he was coming out, I fell in love with him in the interview.

"Everyone was questioning his size, as if that matters, and his arm strength, as if that matters. We're looking for what is "it." I can't define "it" but he's got "it." You can't believe when you're around him how every single thing that he does is a competition — every single second of the day is a competition. He understands how important it is to compete. In order to win in this league, once you get to the playoffs you have to have a field general that can navigate through some unbelievably stressful situations. He was a big part of me going ahead and making the final decision to come here, yes."

Pressure not a concern: With the Saints offense ranking among the NFL's best the last three years, and the defense ranking among the NFL's worst, fans have high expectations going into 2009 after the hiring of Williams.

The veteran coach says there's no added pressure, at least not on his shoulders.

"My playing days are over," Williams said. "I don't play. I look forward to looking at these guys. There's no more competition or pressure than I put on myself. I look forward to going out there with these guys and finding the final 53. That's the most important decision we can make as a coaching staff and Sean has done a great job of it.

"They've done a great job of building a foundation. There's a really solid foundation of defensive football here and they played a lot better than a few big plays here and there would warrant. These guys want to play good, they want to play better and hopefully we can help them a little bit."

Bushrod passes test despite some anxiety

By Brian Allee-Walsh
The Times-Picayune
Monday, August 24, 2009

Prior to Saturday night's exhibition game against the Houston Texans, Saints third-string left tackle Jermon Bushrod spoke long distance with two-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jammal Brown.

From his home in New Orleans while recovering from recent surgery to repair a sports hernia injury, Brown extended a helping hand and words of encouragement to the third-year pro from Towson University who was making his first NFL start.

"Jammal said he was praying for me, and I told Jammal I was praying for him," Bushrod recalled while standing at his locker after the Saints' 38-14 victory at Reliant Stadium.

When Saints Coach Sean Payton first announced that Bushrod would start for Brown, most observers believed Bushrod would need all the help he could muster going up against Texans All-Pro right defensive end Mario Williams, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2006 NFL draft who had 26 sacks the past two seasons. After further review, Bushrod appeared to hold his own against Williams and the Texans, fulfilling a prediction from backup left tackle Zach Strief, who missed the game with an injured left knee.

"I told you he'd be fine," Strief said.

Bushrod was fine after a few anxious moments to start the game.

"I was anxious right up until that first step," said Bushrod, a fourth-round draft pick by the Saints in 2007.

"Then after that you just try to do your job. I did some good things, but there are definitely some things I need to work on. But this is definitely going to help me become a better player. You got to really be on your game just to hold up against a guy like Williams. He's a great player."

As for Brown, Bushrod said he wished him a speedy recovery and hoped they would be able to spend another season together in New Orleans. Brown is assured of a spot on the 53-man roster; Bushrod is not.

"I'm just blessed to have the opportunity to step in and play until Jammal comes back," Bushrod said. "We're all family here. We'll do whatever it takes to help the team and help each other."

New Saints defensive coach under the spotlight

By Brett Martel
The Associated Press
Monday, August 3, 2008

When a scuffle erupted on the practice field, new Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams looked downright giddy.

As tempers calmed and a tangle of tussling players broke up, Williams laughed, hopped over toward a few members of his unit and offered some congratulatory slaps on the shoulder pads.

It wasn't so much the scrap that Williams was celebrating, but the scrappiness that led to it.

Williams understands he was hired to improve a unit that was seen as a liability last season, when the Saints' floundered to an 8-8 record and missed the playoffs despite having the most prolific offense in the NFL. He figured the best way to turn that around was to instill a mentality in which his unit attempts to "win" every practice against Drew Brees and his talented corps of playmakers.

"We grade the practice on who won on every single play," Williams said. "This is not a real complicated game. Guys who play hard, guys who do what you ask them to do all the time are going to have a chance if they're smart and tough. So far, I've seen good toughness."

The Saints' defense ranked 23rd in the NFL in 2008 in yards allowed per game (339.5) and 26th in points allowed per game (24.6). Additionally, the Saints allowed opponent to complete 53 passes of 20 or more yards last season, and gave up five plays of 40 or more yards, including a 67-yard touchdown.

Head coach Sean Payton decided he had to make a change, and fired defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs. His top choice for a replacement was Williams, whose defenses had frustrated Payton in the past. Williams was Washington's defensive coordinator in 2006, when the Redskins stifled the playoff-bound Saints 16-10 in the Louisiana Superdome.

"For a number of years I had experience in going against him. Then in the interview process, you saw his passion for what we were wanting to do," Payton said. "If we were able to get him on board, the search was going to stop there."

The Saints added an extra incentive for Williams, who interviewed with several teams, including Green Bay. New Orleans created a coaching job for his son, Blake, a former player at Princeton who was looking to get into coaching.

And Payton was persistent.

"He drove me nuts," Williams said. "He called a lot and texted a lot."

Williams built his reputation as a defensive coach with Tennessee in the late 1990s. He was the defensive coordinator for the 1999 team that forced 39 turnovers and narrowly lost in the Super Bowl to the St. Louis Rams. In 2000, the Titans' defense led the NFL.

His tenure as head coach in Buffalo from 2001-2003 did not go particularly well, but his defenses were strong: the Bills' ranked second in the league in 2003. He moved on to the Redskins from 2004-07 and oversaw a top-10 defense in three of those seasons.

Williams is animated at practice and has installed a new scheme that involves a lot of blitzing and versatility. He brushes off concerns about the likelihood of starting ends Will Smith and Charles Grant being forced to miss the first four games of the regular season because of positive tests for a banned diuretic last year.

"I'm one of those guys that like guys that are versatile players," Williams said. "Corners have to play safety, safeties have to play corner, linebackers have to play defensive end, defensive ends have to play linebacker - you'll see defensive tackles move out and defensive ends move inside. We're going to have enough guys to show up and play on opening day."

New Saints safety Darren Sharper, a 12-year veteran and four-time starter in the Pro Bowl, called Williams "a brilliant coach."

"It's probably the best defense that I've been a part of as far as schematically," Sharper said. "I'm excited to play in his style of defense because it's very aggressive."

Sharper said Williams has already told the club that he doesn't see himself as a savior, but appreciates that Williams is under a good bit of pressure to turn things around.

"Everyone knows around here, when you have the No. 1-rated offense, everyone's expecting the defense to come along and hold up their side of the bargain," Sharper said.

Williams is quick to dismiss the limelight that has shined on him in New Orleans since he was hired last winter.

"I'm just a piece of the puzzle," Williams said. "I'll be a better coach when these guys play better. How we're going to get them to play better is to play hard. That's what we're promising."

"I can't affect very much what mom and dad gave them in the gene pool," he continued. "Mom and dad need the blame more than blaming the coaches. But playing hard and hopefully trying to play smart, that's what we're trying to help them to do."

Brees is the engine that drives the Saints

By Jim Mashek
Sun Herald
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

He's become the face of the New Orleans Saints, the leader, the guy who pulls the trigger, makes quick deci-

sions and knows how to get his team in the end zone.

Drew Brees hasn't missed a start since joining the Saints in 2006 and made two Pro Bowl appearances, including last year's amazing season when he passed for 5,069 yards and 34 touchdowns, just 15 yards short of the single-season yardage record set by the Miami Dolphins' Dan Marino in 1984.

The bottom line, however, is that the Saints went 8-8 last year, and that wasn't good enough for Brees, or his coach, Sean Payton. It wasn't good enough for anyone with the Saints.

"With Drew, the bar is set so high," Saints offensive tackle Jon Stinchcomb said.

Brees tied a club record on opening day last month, throwing six touchdown passes in a 45-27 rout of the Detroit Lions. He was equally effective the next week, when the Saints went on the road and thumped the Donovan McNabb-less Philadelphia Eagles.

Their defense has taken the lead in their last two games, victories over Buffalo and the New York Jets, and now the Saints are off to the third 4-0 start in club history.

"In the end, we're going to execute our offense," Brees said. "We're going to take our shots (at the end zone). We're going to try to throw for completions. We're going to try to run the ball effectively. We're going to try to formation you to death and personnel you to death and all those things.

"We go into every game with the attitude that we're going to dictate the tempo of the game."

Actually, that's one of Brees' secrets.

There is very little wasted motion with the Saints' quarterback. He locks himself into film rooms and puts in extra time on the practice field.

His play fakes are usually crisp, he knows how to read defenses, and he knows how to read his teammates. And his coaches, too.

"This isn't about style points, guys," Payton said. "It's about the formula to win each game and move on to the next week, and that's the truth."

A big key to the Saints' success this season is getting away from totally relying on Brees and establishing a strong running game.

They did that in the first two weeks with journeyman Mike Bell at running back, and Pierre Thomas came back from a knee injury to give the Saints a presence between the tackles in the 24-10 victory over the Jets. The constant, of course, is Brees. He hasn't missed a start since joining the Saints and at the age of 30, should be in the prime of his career.

This season, he's being compared to the NFL's greatest quarterbacks, guys like Tom Brady and Peyton Manning.

He isn't as tall as some of his contemporaries, and he isn't going to dazzle you with his speed, either, but few quarterbacks are more prepared. Few quarterbacks understand their job better than Drew Brees.

"It's about taking care of the football," Brees said, "but when teams do pressure you, you want to be able to make them pay." So far, the Saints have been doing just that.

Brees is perpetually on target but never satisfied

By John DeShazier
The Times-Picayune
Monday, August 31, 2009

It's going to get harder for New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees. He doesn't doubt that for a second. "I could be happier (with my play)," he said. "I just think there are constantly areas where you can become more efficient. There's things that have happened in these last three preseason games that, in a tight game, we made a mistake that could potentially get us beat.

"So you want to get rid of those things. You want to be as sharp as you can because you understand that tougher games are ahead."

But he sure does have a taking-candy-from-a-baby look against defenses this exhibition season, which seems to be a ratcheted-up extension from last year, when he produced one of the most prolific regular seasons in NFL history.

So if he actually does have a sharper image to offer, well, that really is going to be something to see.

Because it's clear right now that he seems to be at peak efficiency regardless of the time of year, situation or circumstances.

Only three of his passes fell incomplete Saturday against Oakland. Granted, the current Raiders are a pitiful representation for the storied franchise, more deserving of a Band-Aid over the forehead than a patch over the eye. But 14-of-17 for 179 yards and two touchdowns is tough to accomplish in seven-on-seven drills with no pass rush.

Add that to the shredding of Houston (9-of 14 for 87 yards) and Cincinnati (6-of-9 for 88 yards and a touchdown) and pooh-pooh the competition and stakes all you want -- but the guy has been awfully good.

The show in Oakland, particularly, was a thing of beauty. Aided by it, the Saints registered the most impressive exhibition victory (45-7) in franchise history.

Again, the margin can and should be taken with a grain of salt. The Raiders looked like a team that has quit before the regular season has begun. The hope that fuels immense expectations for every NFL team seems to have disappeared in the Black Hole, which now is more renowned for the fans it produces than for the football team that plays inside.

But the guy still has to do the work, still has to throw the pass to the right guy at the right time and make the coverage appear nonexistent.

"We want to look sharp in the preseason, especially once the third preseason game rolls around," Brees said.

"That's as close to the first game you can get as far as preparation and the amount of playing time for the first team.

"We're happy we came away with the win. Obviously, we scored a lot of points -- that first group, three possessions and three touchdowns. But it definitely is going to get tougher, and there are definitely areas where we can improve."

Now, here, the guy starts to quibble.

Probably, that's out of necessity because there simply aren't large deficiencies in his game.

"I feel good," he said. "There are areas where I feel like I can continue to improve, even if it's just making that decision a split second faster or, 'Hey, I threw it to the guy and he caught it, but the ball location wasn't quite exactly where I wanted it to be.' (There's) always room for improvement."

And a player doesn't approach greatness without working on his weaknesses, however trivial. He doesn't fly to the top of the game -- and you wouldn't take a quarterback not named Peyton Manning or Tom Brady ahead of Brees -- unless he magnifies the minutiae.

He doesn't become who he is unless he torches every opponent every chance he gets, even in exhibition games, even against less-than-formidable defenses.

The truth is, it'd be nice if the Saints simply could skip Thursday's practice session against Miami at the Superdome. Surely, for the paying customer who wants to see Brees, not much is going to be offered.

But the maestro doesn't mind participating in one more dress rehearsal.

"I think it's necessary at this stage, just to continue to get some of these young guys some reps," he said.

"This game, typically, they get the most reps out of any game. We still have some guys we're trying to evaluate, still some guys that are fighting for roster spots. So it's necessary."

Not for him, though.

Even when it gets tougher, and the games begin to count and the defenses aren't so vanilla, it might not be so much tougher for him. Not for a guy who seemed to do little wrong last season and appears ready to do less wrong this one.

Death makes Brees blink, but focus remains

By Jason Cole

Yahoo! Sports

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

It was only the last play of practice for Drew Brees on Monday afternoon, but it was the dream scenario for any athlete.

Fourth-and-goal from about the 15-yard line, six seconds left, needing a touchdown to win. Brees lined up with four receivers, but only two mattered as tight end Jeremy Shockey and wideout Marques Colston ran in the middle of the field toward the end zone.

Brees looked at Shockey, but also saw the three guys waiting for him near the end zone, making a touchdown almost impossible. He waited a second longer for Colston to get in position, then threw high and hard, just over the shoulders of two defenders near Colston, who leaped for the grab.

For that moment, Brees had a little joy after three days of sorrow. On Friday, Brees' mother, Mina, died in Grand County, Colo. (The cause of death is under investigation.) Worst of all, Brees was on the way to repairing what had been a strained relationship with her. In 2006, he had said there was no relationship between them.

"It was getting better," Brees said. "That [quote] was something that upset me because it was from three years ago."

Sadly, the chance for complete healing was ripped away, leaving thoughts of what should have been said or what could have been done atop all the grief. Now, the sport that tests his physical and mental will on a weekly basis serves as his escape.

"Sometimes football is your release," Brees said. "As much as my mind and heart was with family and everything I was dealing with this weekend, I couldn't wait to get back here and get on the field and play ball. I love football and I love this team. It was a way to not think about it for awhile, to get my mind off all of this and just think about something else. This is my craft, my job, what I want to be great at. Football has been that way for me, just like for some people, they go workout to blow off steam."

The question for the Saints and Brees, who is coming off only the second 5,000 passing-yard season in NFL history, is how he will deal with the death of a parent at a time when he's trying to lead the Saints back to places they have never been as a franchise.

If Monday afternoon is an indication, New Orleans fans can be optimistic. Not just because of one pass, but because of the focused resolve Brees talked about.

"It's tough, but I think you have to be able to compartmentalize," he said. "I've got my football over here. I've got this whole thing with my mom over here. I've got the [executive committee job with the NFL Players Association] going on here. I've got my family time, all these things so that when I'm in the moment, I try to be in that moment. ... It was hard not to think about the weekend and all the things taking place, my mom passing on Friday and thinking about my family members, thinking about her.

"My mind does just shut off everything else. It's crazy how that happens, but from the time you get the play and walk up to the line, you're thinking about nothing else. There are a lot of bad things that can happen if you're not able to turn it off, if you're not completely focused."

Brees chuckled lightly after that last sentence, as if any bad thing on a football field could compare to a death in the family.

Brees has dealt with his share of adversity, from the torn labrum and rotator cuff he suffered at the end of the 2005 season with San Diego. That injury hastened his exit from the Chargers and had many doctors doubting if he'd play in 2006. He didn't just play, he excelled. He led the Saints to the NFC title game and finished the season with 4,418 yards, 26 touchdown passes, 11 interceptions and a 96.2 pass rating.

Three years later, Brees is part of a good debate over who is the third-best quarterback in the league behind Tom Brady and Peyton Manning. Ben Roethlisberger might get the nod on Super Bowls. Donovan McNabb could get it based on his body of work. But Brees is in the mix.

The undersized Brees (he's 6-foot and is built more along the lines of a high school point guard), has gotten to this point with determination that borders on anal retentive behavior.

"He does a great job of understanding what he needs to do each day in practice," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "He's a routine person, he takes his supplements in the morning, he has his workout routine, he's got his practice routine. He doesn't get off schedule much and that's how I would describe him. Every aspect of his preparation is very tedious, from the quarterback-center exchange to the film work this afternoon to everything he's doing at practice, it's very efficient."

The Saints saw that from the first time they ate dinner with Brees and his wife.

"We took him to [chef Emeril Lagasse's restaurant]," Payton said. "We're back in the kitchen about to have this real fancy dinner, me, [general manager Mickey Loomis], Drew and his wife. Five minutes there, the little packets of ... supplements come out and he and his wife each wash them down with water. I'm saying, 'What are you doing here, we're about to have some redfish.' But he doesn't budge from his routine."

Payton understands that himself. In 2002, Payton lost his mother to cancer in the middle of the season. He was the offensive coordinator of the New York Giants. At the same time, Payton was the person talking to the oncologist. He had to break the news to his mother that the cancer had spread throughout her body and that there was nothing the doctors could do.

"A month and a half later she died. She died in the season on a bye weekend. We buried her during the bye weekend and I came back to the team shortly thereafter and finished the season," Payton said. "It's difficult because there's a certain part of the process you need to spend remembering and grieving and sometimes, because of the demands of this sport, it can steal some of that away from you."

Or provide a soothing distraction, if only for a few moments. Monday was the first time Brees could celebrate, even for just a few moments. Next week, Brees will hold a memorial service and bury his mother in Texas.

"I think, knowing Drew Brees, the best thing I can tell him is, 'I need you to do whatever you feel is necessary' to grieve the death of his mother," Payton said. "We don't play for 4 ½ more weeks. Drew Brees will be ready. Just knowing him, he'll know how to set that schedule and find that time to properly be with his family and then be back here and get back to work."

"There are other players who you'd be more concerned about as to how they're able to handle that. If there's anyone who's strong enough to handle the death of a parent in training camp, it's Drew Brees."

Brees Leads Saints on field, helps New Orleans off it

By Lesley Visser

CBS Sports

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

NEW ORLEANS -- Four years ago this Saturday, Drew Brees was home in San Diego watching the devastation of Katrina and wondering if his college roommate, who lived in the Big un-Easy, was somewhere safe.

"My roommate and his wife got out, but when I came here in 2006, my wife and I decided to raise money specifically to help rebuild," said Brees, who raised \$1.8 million and now sponsors, among other projects, all the athletic teams at Carver High School in the Ninth Ward, the impoverished neighborhood where Marshall Faulk grew up. "This city's coming back, but kids are still kids and they deserve a normal chance to succeed."

Brees also hopes the Saints will bounce back from their extremely disappointing 8-8 season last year, even though Brees threw for a glittering 5,069 yards. It made him only the second quarterback in NFL history to throw for more than 5,000 yards in a single season.

"I think we have all the ingredients this year to handle the playoffs," said Brees, whom some consider the best quarterback in the NFC and maybe second overall behind Tom Brady. "Our defense has really stepped up."

Defense? Since when do Pro Bowl quarterbacks talk about defense?

"Our defense is punishing, even in practice," said Brees, crediting new defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, the former head coach from Buffalo who replaced Gary Gibbs.

The Saints defense was the red-headed stepchild to the offense, finishing 17th against the run, 23rd against the pass and 26th in scoring.

Even though possible four-game suspensions for substance abuse hang over defensive ends Will Smith and Charles Grant, the Saints are expecting strong seasons from both. Paul Spicer and Rod Coleman have been added to the defensive line, while Jabari Greer and Darren Sharper are new to the secondary. No. 1 pick

Malcolm Jenkins will have to earn his respect, though.

While I was talking to Brees after practice, the cornerback from Ohio State was being taped to the goalposts by unsympathetic veterans.

"It's all here," said Brees, whose throwing motion and field-awareness are so close to perfect that offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael says he can call any play at any time.

"You watch him on tape and it can take your breath away," said Carmichael, who was Brees' quarterback coach before moving up the ladder. "And off the field, he is meticulous in his preparation."

With the league's top producing offense last year -- the Saints averaged a whopping 410.7 yards a game -- there is one play Brees would like to have back. In the final game, on the final play, Brees was 15 yards shy of tying Dan Marino's legendary record of 5,084 yards set in 1984.

Brees had entered the game needing 401 yards, but after an unimpressive first quarter against Carolina, he didn't give it much more thought. The Panthers needed a 42-yard field goal from John Kasay to take a 33-31 lead with one second left. After Kasay's squib kick went out of bounds, the Saints had one more play.

"No one had talked to me about the record," said Brees, who was clueless about how close he was. "I guess they felt it was like a no-hitter, no one wanted to mention it. When I went over to [head coach] Sean Peyton on the final plays and said, 'Hail, Mary, right?' he looked at me and said, 'why don't you send the receivers all out about 20 yards and see what happens.'"

Still unaware, Brees didn't connect with receiver Lance Moore, the game ended and Brees is still shaking his head.

"Would I like to have that record, of course," he said, "but I didn't want to know how close I was because I didn't want it to change the integrity of what I was trying to do, which was to win the game. It's like a hitter who sits out to protect his average."

This man knows of where he speaks.

The reason Brees wears No. 9 is because he has long idolized Ted Williams, who so famously played on the final day in 1941, even though his batting average was .39955, which would have rounded off to 400.

"It was a double-header," said Brees, who loved baseball as a child in Austin, Texas. "Williams went 4 for 4 in the first game and 2 for 3 in the second, finishing the season at .406. He had integrity. I watched old tapes of him when I was growing up. In San Diego, I lived off Ted Williams Parkway. John Wayne played all the roles in Hollywood. But Ted Williams lived them."

I think Brees is a quarterback to count on.

Brees makes short jump to Brady, Peyton stature

By Pete Prisco
CBSSports.com
Friday, September 25, 2009

Two years ago, it would have been blasphemous to even consider there was another NFL quarterback in the same class with New England's Tom Brady and Peyton Manning of the Indianapolis Colts.

They were -- and are -- 1 and 1A, depending on your preference.

Now say hello to 1B. His name is Drew Brees, quarterback of the New Orleans Saints.

"Yes, he's up there with them," Jacksonville Jaguars corner Rashean Mathis said. "He's proven it year in and year out. His numbers speak for themselves. You can't argue where he stands. He's definitely up there with those two."

In an unscientific poll of a handful of general managers, coaches and players, the consensus opinion is that Brees has moved into the elite stratosphere of quarterbacks, alongside both Brady and Manning.

It's been thought for most of the past decade that Manning and Brady were a couple levels above the next group of passers.

They need to make room on the ledge for the short guy slinging it on the Bayou.

There wasn't one person interviewed who didn't think Brees should be up there. Some mentioned his needing a Super Bowl ring to make it a definite, but even that didn't keep them from putting him into that rarified quarterback level.

Brees is off to a torrid start with the New Orleans Saints, throwing nine touchdown passes in his first two games, putting him on a wacky pace to throw 72 for the season, which would be 22 more than Brady's record of 50. This hit start comes after a 2008 season that saw Brees come within 16 yards of breaking Dan Marino's single-season record for passing yards. He finished with 5,069 yards, second-best in league history. In each of his three seasons with the Saints, since coming over as a free agent in 2006, Brees has thrown for

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over 4,000 yards and averaged 29 touchdown passes a season.

I asked Brees this spring during a minicamp if he felt he was in the elite class with Manning and Brady. He laughed.

"I wouldn't say no," he said.

Neither did any of those I asked.

"As much as I believe in size at the quarterback position, I fully believe he is in that class," said one NFC personnel director. "His ability to throw on the run equalizes his lack of size. He certainly should be considered in the top group with Brady and Manning."

"He's as good as there is in the league," said longtime safety Brian Russell, now with the Jaguars. "I think he's proven a lot of people wrong. But he is up there with those two."

Brees averaged 4,637 yards the past three seasons, second only to Dan Marino for a three-year run -- 4,665 yards from 1984-86. Manning's best three-year run in terms of yardage was from 2002-04 when he averaged 4,341 passing yards while Brady's best was from 2005-08 when he averaged 4,148 passing yards.

Those two have the edge on Brees in touchdown passes during those three-year runs, with Manning averaging 35 per season, Brady 33.3 and Brees 29.3.

Brees can own the four-year run if he continues at his current pace. He is on a course to throw for 5,352 yards, which would break Marino's record, and the 72 touchdown passes. If he comes close to those numbers, his four-year numbers will be the better than the other two ever had.

"It's more than the numbers," said an AFC personnel director. "He makes it look so easy. He always seems to know where to go with the football. His vision and accuracy are amazing."

What makes Brees' ascent to the top so stunning is that he doesn't come close to looking like Brady and Manning. They are both prototypical -- standing at least 6-foot-4 and looking strong and powerful while easily seeing over the line. Brees is barely 6-feet tall, which makes throwing over the top a lot tougher.

That lack of size is why Brees lasted until the second round of the 2001 draft coming out of Purdue. There were also questions about his arm strength, which is why his amazing numbers for the Boliermakers were discounted some by the scouts.

"Like Brady, his arm has gotten stronger," said the AFC personnel director. "We didn't know for sure how good it was coming out."

Said Russell: "He can rifle it in there."

Brees spent five seasons with the Chargers, with his best season coming in 2004 when he threw for 3,159 yards and 27 touchdown passes. But in 2005, he suffered a shoulder injury -- a torn labrum -- that required surgery and the Chargers opted to let him leave via free agency to play Philip Rivers.

When Brees was on the market, some thought he was damaged goods. How reliable is a quarterback with a surgically repaired shoulder?

His fastball wasn't in the high 90s and a cut shoulder might make it worse, some theorized.

The Saints took a chance and Brees landed with the perfect coach for his style of play in Sean Payton. The two haven't let their foot off the pedal since Brees took over. They play an up-tempo style that lends itself to a smart quarterback, who is an extension of the coach. Payton gives Brees ample freedom to run the offense from behind center.

"He's so good at the line," said another NFC general manager. "You see him getting his team into the right play almost all the time. He has that knack for doing the perfect thing to counter what you do."

Then there's the accuracy. Every person I spoke to for this story made mention of his ability to put the ball into tight spots. But more than that, he gives it to his receivers on the move.

Brees is fifth all-time with a 64.1 completion percentage. That's just behind Manning (64.5) and ahead of Brady (63.0).

"It's on the hands of the receivers all the time," said an NFC coach. "He fits it into tight windows. You don't see a lot of errant throws."

Manning and Brady posted two of the greatest individual passing seasons ever. In 2004, Manning threw for 4,557 yards, 49 touchdown passes and had a pass rating of 121.1 In 2007, Brady passed for 4,806 yards, 50 touchdowns and had a passer rating of 117.2

If Brees takes those down, his case for being an elite quarterback will grow stronger. But some of those interviewed for this story think he has to win a ring before he can truly be considered in the same class. Brady has three rings and Manning has one -- Brees is still looking.

Some even compared what he's doing now to what Manning did before he won his ring. At the time, Manning was considered one of the game's great passers, but he wasn't graded as high on the all-time lists sans a Super Bowl victory.

"If he wants to get to the 1A tier he has to win one," said the NFC personnel director.

"Manning and Brady have won so many pressure games," said the AFC personnel director. "I'd like to see him win more pressure games in the playoffs and then win a Super Bowl. If he does that, there will be no debate."

The players didn't buy it.

"No, he's there now," Mathis said. "Look at what he's done. I don't care that he hasn't won a Super Bowl. He's still a great player."

"That would make it an easier argument," said Russell. "But it won't change my mind if he doesn't."

So here's a welcome to the club for Drew Brees. You've made it.

You're officially now 1B.

What's the view like from above?

Everything but the title: Drew Brees is crashing the QB party

By Jim Corbett

USA Today

Friday, October 2, 2009

Sean Payton pops up from behind his office desk at the New Orleans Saints headquarters to retrieve a book from his coffee table. It's a gift from his quarterback, Drew Brees, titled 212: The Extra Degree. The inscription underscores the bond between the coach and his quarterback.

Brees gave Payton the book when training camp began last summer to thank the coach for convincing him to come in March 2006 to this Hurricane Katrina-ravaged city and become on-field leader of a lost franchise.

The Saints went 63-97 from 1996 to 2005.

His thank-you reads in part: You are the reason that I am here and I appreciate that every day. ... I want to win a championship for you.

"That (inscription) re-energizes what you do as a coach and teacher," Payton says. "At 211 degrees, water is just scalding hot. But at 212, it boils. It's the significance of one extra degree. Everything about Drew's preparation is about that extra degree."

Payton, who played quarterback in the CFL and Arena league as well as for the 1987 Chicago Bears, and Brees are kindred spirits who have built the league's most explosive offense, averaging 40 points a game.

"Drew and Sean have such a special relationship," says Brees' wife, Brittany. "They're so similar, such hard workers. They weren't the biggest or strongest. But they're smart guys who are going to figure out a way to win."

Brees is eager to honor that championship pledge. The 3-0 Saints look to bolster that chance if they can pass their toughest test yet Sunday against the New York Jets and coach Rex Ryan's "Organized Chaos" blitzes.

"Am I going to throw for 5,000 yards this year? Probably not," says Brees, whose 5,069 yards last season were second most to Dan Marino's 5,084 in 1984. "But I'll know I did certain things to advance as a quarterback and a leader, the guy who touches the ball every play and does everything I can to help this team.

"I want to hoist that (Lombardi) trophy."

Brees has tallied 14,751 passing yards and 97 touchdowns after a grueling rehabilitation from throwing shoulder surgery following the final game of his five seasons with the San Diego Chargers. No quarterback — not the New England Patriots' Tom Brady nor New Orleans natives Peyton nor Eli Manning — has thrown for more yards or touchdowns or tallied the 25 300-yard games Brees has since signing his six-year, \$60 million deal.

Payton tells the quintessential Brees story.

"A year ago during the bye week, players are getting out of here. I was leaving the building on Sunday, and out on the field I see this guy in shorts with a ball," Payton says.

"It's Brees out there by himself, Sunday, 1:30. And I say, 'What are you doing?'

"He says, 'I'm just trying to stay in my routine, simulate a game, so my body is still in condition.' "

That mock game is one explanation why Brees has crashed the Brady-Peyton Manning talk on who is the top quarterback.

"Drew just outworks everybody," linebacker Scott Fujita says. "He's a guy's guy, not one of those pretty boy, prima donna quarterbacks."

Saints tight end Jeremy Shockey says Brees, the 2008 offensive player of the year, has a knack for frustrating defenses.

"He's a special player," Shockey says. "You can actually cover and guard everything, but he can put it in places where people can't do anything and it looks like you're covered."

With nine touchdowns, Brees — the NFC offensive player of the month — is on pace for 48, two shy of Brady's 2007 season record. He has thrown two interceptions and leads the league with a 118.1 passer rating, completing 67 of 97 for 841 yards.

"Drew is like Tiger Woods right now; he's on fire," says former running back Deuce McAllister, who shared the Saints backfield with Brees from 2006 to 2008.

Family and community man

Brees has special inspiration — 8 1/2-month-old son Baylen Robert, born on Brees' 30th birthday, Jan. 15.

Baylen attended his first game Sept. 13, the Saints' 45-27 season-opening win against the Detroit Lions.

The first-time father threw a career-best six touchdowns. "He got to see daddy do something he'd never done," Brees says.

Brees says Baylen's hand-eye coordination is unbelievable. "He's going to be tall and lanky," he says.

Maybe taller than dad. Scouts consider the 6-0, 209-pound Austin native short for a quarterback. Brees once beat tennis star Andy Roddick as a teenager and flashes smooth footwork in the pocket.

It seems Brees has a sixth sense for the right move.

"Coming to New Orleans is the best thing we ever did," Brees says. "It was truly a calling. Look at everything that's happened: I took my career to the next level, starting a family happened here.

"We've taken our Brees Dream Foundation to a nationally respected level, raised \$4 1/2 million here, in San Diego and in West Lafayette, Ind." He starred at Purdue.

Things are moving a little slower in his adopted hometown.

"There's still a lot to be done," Brees says of New Orleans. "A lot of people look at it as an opportunity to rebuild things better. It's getting better a little at a time."

Committed to New Orleans

Brees is more average Joe than "Broadway" Joe Namath, the Jets icon. He has a 120-year-old house in the

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city's oldest neighborhood. His idea of a night out is taking a walk with Brittany, Baylen and their dog, Alexis. He usually turns down endorsement offers unless they promote his foundation, which is dedicated to helping children with cancer and upgrading schools and playing fields for post-Katrina challenged youth.

The Lusher Charter School the Breeses helped transform three years ago will dedicate its football-baseball field Oct. 20 as "Brees Family Field."

One of Brees' young fans is Micah Roshell, 12, who is battling Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Micah's mother, Val, says she recalls the January day Brees and "a very pregnant Brittany" walked into Micah's hospital room and granted his wish to see his hero.

"Micah was very depressed because he knew his time was coming to an end," his mother says. "But when Drew came in with Brittany, I started screaming, 'Drew Brees is here!'"

"Micah woke up and started talking to Drew. They began to play the Wii games. The two of them were inseparable."

Brees wore a mask because Micah's immune system was so weak. Micah won every game.

"After his visit, my son began to do what Drew Brees does every Sunday: He continues to fight and win," Roshell says. "Three weeks ago, we went to the clinic, and nobody recognized Micah. He looked that different."

Says Micah, "Drew told me to keep fighting."

Micah is healthy enough to have a November bone marrow transplant.

"That is awesome," Brees says. "Sometimes, the best treatment for some of these kids is not the medicine. It's the ability to put a smile on their face, to give them hope in a different way."

Says Fox analyst and Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman: "Saints safety Darren Sharper said he's played with Brett Favre in his prime in Green Bay, and Darren would take Drew Brees over Brett Favre in his prime."

"Drew's embraced the city since he arrived, and New Orleans has embraced him. Brees and Payton got there at the same time. It's the perfect marriage."

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers bought a San Diego home in April and trained with a group that included Brees, who trains each offseason with San Diego fitness guru Todd Durkin.

Brees, a three-time Pro Bowler, led the twice-weekly throwing sessions that included Rodgers, Jeff Garcia (released by the Philadelphia Eagles this week), the St. Louis Rams' Kyle Boller, Carolina Panthers veteran A.J. Feeley and Jets backup Kevin O'Connell.

"Drew's such an engaging personality, it's no surprise what a great leader he is," says Rodgers, who learned why Brees was sacked 13 times in 635 attempts last season.

"Already knowing the pocket presence he has and seeing him work on his internal clock when there's no rush, I picked up a lot," Rodgers says. "Big-time player. Big-time person."

It's a sentiment echoed on the streets of New Orleans.

"That grit Drew plays with, it's very much the personification of this city," says life-long Saints fan Mickey Triche, 45. "We have the mayoral elections (in February). Brees could win as a write-in candidate. Brees is one of us."

Brees knows politics is not the way he'll cement his place in New Orleans history.

"He knows that your legacy is your wins and winning a Super Bowl," Payton says. "That's ultimately how quarterbacks and coaches are remembered."

WEAPONS OF CHOICE

Quarterback Drew Brees, who leads the NFL's most prolific offense, discusses the playmakers at his disposal

By Brian Allee-Walsh
The Times-Picayune
Sunday, September 6, 2009

The day before a recent exhibition game against the Texans, Saints quarterback Drew Brees sat in the lobby of a five-star Houston hotel and laid out his vision for the 2009 season.

There were no bold predictions or outrageous guarantees. That's not his style.

However, the captain of the NFL's most prolific offense in 2008 did provide a glimpse into his game plan, saying there is no better time than now for the Saints to "do something great together."

It's prime time.

"On offense, particularly with our playmakers, we're all at this stage in our careers where this is kind of our prime," Brees said. "Some of us are at the beginning of our prime, some of us are in our prime, but the fact is we're all here in the prime."

"We've put in a lot of hard work together, and we've gone through a lot of growing pains together to get to this point. So this is our window of opportunity. This is our chance to walk together forever, to go down in history together."

For the first time under Coach Sean Payton, the Saints will enter the regular season without a new face among Brees' top echelon of offensive playmakers. All eight remain the same from a year ago: wide receivers Marques Colston, Lance Moore, Devery Henderson and Robert Meachem; tight ends Jeremy Shockey and Billy Miller, and running backs Reggie Bush and Pierre Thomas.

Brees went inside the huddle and offered his perspective into each player. Here is his informal scouting report:

MARQUES COLSTON: "First thing you notice is his physical prowess. He's a huge target, a big, strong guy who can go up and get the ball pretty much wherever you put it. There are so many places you can put the ball where only he can get it. For a big man he has great suddenness, more like a subtle quickness. Even

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against the really quick corners, he's able to get by them. He's kind of deceiving when it comes to straight-line speed. There have been many times over the last few years where you'll see him catch the ball and he'll pull away from people. There is something about the ball in his hand and running away from people.

"We've worked together now so much that he knows where I'm going to put the ball, what I'm expecting against different looks. We just have that feel for each other. It's very much a timing thing. I felt like we got rolling together in midseason his rookie season. He's one of those players who has great feel, and he uses his body very well. He's a very good basketball player, so he knows how to box out defenders."

LANCE MOORE: "He's a technician. He makes every route look the same. On film you see where he can run straight for 10 or 15 yards, on 10 different routes, and he looks exactly the same on each one. So, as a DB, how are you supposed to cover that? Typically, DBs look for some type of tip or clue as to what the guy is running. Lance makes everything look the same. He's got great hands. He's so quick in and out of cuts. His transition is really, really good. He's our best route-runner. He very much has the mentality of a go-to guy, which you love that about him. You feel like at crunch time he's going to make a play for you."

DEVERY HENDERSON: "Unbelievable straight-line speed. I've actually been the most impressed with Devery as far as the progression that he's made from 2006 until now. He's kind of gone from being just a situational kind of guy to a guy who can be an every-down guy. And whereas before I think he was a one-position receiver, Devery can play X and he can play Z. He can run the short stuff, he can run the deep stuff. He is becoming more of an every-down receiver who can play multiple receiver positions."

ROBERT MEACHEM: "He definitely still has some development to go. But probably from day one when he got here until now, he and Pierre Thomas are two guys who have improved the most. That leads you to believe that the sky is still kind of the limit for both of those guys. I still think they have a lot of upside. Meachem is another guy who has unbelievable straight-line speed. He is getting much better at the transition in and out of routes, in and out of cuts; knowledge of the route cuts, why I need you here and why you are running this route. I see him playing even more of a role this year than he played last year. You watched as the season went on he just improved, and his role increased, and I see that this year for him too."

JEREMY SHOCKEY: "This is the first time I've ever seen him healthy. I've never seen a guy that big, that strong, that physical who can run that fast. It's pretty crazy.

"He's just coming into a little bit of a comfort zone with the offense and his role and what's being expected of him and just the dynamics of where he fits in and all those things. I have big goals for him. My confidence in him is huge. We just didn't get any time together last year. We got into situations in games where we hadn't had a lot of time on certain passes in certain situations, but now I feel like we've had a lot of time. I feel really good about the direction we're going in together. I feel like he can play a very big role in this offense.

Offensively, we need him to stay healthy.

"What I am starting to see more and more of with Jeremy, which I love, is when I'm watching film and he's open and he sees me throw it to someone else and that guy catches it for a big play, I see Jeremy is going, 'Yeah, yeah.' Like he's happy we got a big play and it doesn't matter that it didn't come to him. That's when you know when everybody is buying into the team concept. Everybody is going to get an opportunity. You know at times, this guy is going to clear the defense out for you to make a big play, and then the next play you're going to be asked to clear it out for him."

BILLY MILLER: "The trust factor with him is just out of this world. We've had a lot of time together and spent a lot of time in this offense together, to a point where he knows the timing aspect of it, he knows where I need him, he knows where that ball is going to be. He's got great feel. He's one of those guys who is a great athlete who just has it; whatever it is, he has it. He's got a big heart, a big heart."

PIERRE THOMAS: " Pierre is a very good blocker, a good pass catcher. He's a good runner inside and outside.

"I love the road that Pierre is traveling. He wasn't supposed to make the team when he got here because we drafted (Antonio) Pittman. But we took Pierre, an undrafted free agent, over a fourth-round pick that we had invested some money in. But it's because Pierre worked his butt off and he understood that to make this team he had to be awesome on special teams, and he had to show them something at running back. Well, he did both. At the start of the '07 season, on special teams, he recovered the blocked punt for a touchdown, and then we got some injuries, and all of sudden we're down to him. And in his first start at Chicago, he rushes for 100 yards and he catches for 100 yards. C'mon!

"He's a guy who has taken advantage of every opportunity he's been given and fought through every adversity and injuries and everything else. He's a war daddy, he's a grinder. You know you get toughness with him, you know you get that mentality of he's a bruiser. He has a plan. Everything he does, he's got a plan. He says he wants to gain 10 pounds of muscle this offseason and he does it. Whatever he sets his mind to, he's going to do. He just needs to stay healthy."

REGGIE BUSH: "I think this is going to be Reggie's best year. I think it's because those first three years he put a lot of pressure on himself. Obviously the expectations are very high on him. There is no doubt that he is unbelievably athletic, potentially one of the most athletic guys I have ever seen. But there is still that adjustment from college to pros, even three years down the road."

Why?

"Because I think in Reggie's case, you always need a guy who can serve as a mentor for you. I've had that mentor as a quarterback. I had Doug Flutie for four years at San Diego and Mark Brunell here. These guys have played a lot of football. Well, Deuce (McAllister) was that guy for Reggie his rookie year, but (McAllister) tore his ACL and missed the majority of the '07 season. Then last year (McAllister) was kind of in and out of the lineup and all banged up. So it's been kind of tough for Reggie at times, because you really do need somebody like that."

Can Brees be that guy for Bush?

"I'm not in that running back room. I can do that on the field and when we're together, but you spend a lot of time in that room with your position coach and the guys at your position. That's when that thing kind of carries over. Plus, I don't know what it's like to play running back in this league. Deuce McAllister knows what it's like to play running back in this league. He knows what it's like to have to take the pounding, what you've got to do to take care of your body, how to study film and what you're looking at. Definitely that mentorship is key.

"So going into his fourth year now, I think he's at a place now where he feels very comfortable with the offense, and I think he feels comfortable with his role. Yes, the expectations are high for himself, but he doesn't need to put all the pressure on himself.

"Look, this guy cares about the game. He cares about being good. He's certainly not satisfied with just winning the Heisman and being the second pick of the draft and being this marketing phenom. I think we've seen plenty of those guys come and go in this league; a lot of the hype and then nothing to show for it. He's not that guy mentally. He wants to be good. He wants to be great, and I think at times he just needs a little direction and a little mentorship. I think it's only a matter of time. There is a window of opportunity for this team. But with regard to him, because of the style or type of player he is, he's not going to be athletic forever. So there's a window of opportunity for him just like there is for us as a team."

Colston ready to resume sure-handed role

By Mike Triplett
The Times-Picayune
Thursday, August 6, 2009

Last season Drew Brees became the second quarterback in NFL history to throw for more than 5,000 yards. And he did it, essentially, with one hand tied behind his back.

Brees' favorite target -- receiver Marques Colston -- missed five games after tearing a ligament in his left thumb in Week 1, and he was not the same after he came back. Colston finished the season with an uncharacteristic eight dropped passes, tied for seventh most in the NFL.

This year, though, the thumb is a non-factor. That could spell doom for opposing defensive backs. And, if possible, it could actually make Brees a more dangerous quarterback.

"It's a totally different ballgame for me," said Colston, 26, who also seems to be fully recovered from January knee surgery to repair a small hole he had worn in his kneecap.

In fact, Colston said the knee "feels as good as it's ever felt" after he had battled through some nagging soreness on and off for the past two years.

"Physically I'm feeling great. I'm able to get through practices, no problem," Colston said. "I've been busting my butt since January to get to this point, and it feels good to finally be here healthy and not having any physical issues.

"My whole goal is to become a better receiver. I had a lot of drops last year. You know, whether or not I want to credit it to the injured thumb is a non-issue. I just want to go out and concentrate and just catch the ball a lot more consistently this year."

Colston was certainly doing that in practice Wednesday morning, emerging as the star performer in red-zone drills. He caught two touchdown passes, including one leaping grab between safety Roman Harper and cornerback Tracy Porter.

That could be a common sight again this season, as it was during 2006-2007, when Colston turned the end zone into a second home. The 6-foot-4, 225-pounder developed an instant rapport with Brees and caught 20 touchdown passes in his first two NFL seasons, including one in the NFC championship game against the Bears in January 2007.

But what quarterback wouldn't fall in love with a target like Colston, who boasts a rare combination of size, speed, range and sure hands?

"I feel like I could throw it just about anywhere with him, and he's got a chance to catch it," said Brees, who compared Colston to a great power forward in basketball. "It's because he has great body control. Most guys like that, you can look at and be like, 'I guarantee he's a good basketball player,' which he is. Just the way they position their body down in the paint, or where they're used to shielding guys off, giving you a place to get them the ball.

"And then there just comes a confidence level with that, where I know that if he's one-on-one, there's not many times I'm not going to throw him the ball."

Brees said he will often throw the ball behind Colston, or well above him, where no defensive back has a chance to get it, because he knows Colston has the ability and instincts to get to it.

Asked if he could think of a time when Colston had "bailed him out" after a ball that wasn't perfectly on target, Brees didn't have to search far.

"Just look at Carolina (in Week 17) last year," Brees said, recalling a pass that he threw high to get over the safety's head. "It ends up being one of those balls that is going to be a collision -- and I don't like to do that to guys -- but Marques jumps up there and snatches that ball, and this guy just kind of falls off of him. It was one of those throws that I don't know if there's anyone else on the team that could've made it, just because of its location.

"And obviously him being such a big body, he was able to take that shot while elevated and grabbing the ball and then he falls on his feet, keeps his balance and then runs 5 yards into the end zone."

Wide receivers coach Curtis Johnson said Colston can do two things better than any receiver he has been around -- "torque his body" and catch the ball behind him.

"If you overplay him, Drew can throw it behind him. And if you don't, he can reach out and catch it in front of

him," said Johnson, who said teams have a hard time matching up against Colston. "One thing about Marques is when we put him in the slot, he is a mismatch on smaller DBs, and he's a big target for Drew. Then when they put a big guy on him, he'll just run right by him. So that's a hard combination. "He's a weapon to help us control the middle of the field. And if teams don't keep him out of the middle of the field, boy, we've got something special going."

Colston lines up at different positions in the Saints' offense, both outside and in the slot.

cornerback Randall Gay, who often lines up against the slot receiver in practice, said he has had to battle the frustration of covering Colston in practice for the past two seasons.

"I know when I first came here last year, I was frustrated many days when I'm thinking I have the perfect coverage. Then they throw it high at him, and I'm like, 'He can't catch it,' and he comes down with it," Gay said. "So as a DB, it's just tough on you, you just have to keep your confidence up when you cover somebody like that."

Saints Coach Sean Payton said the only receiver he has coached who compares to Colston physically is former New York Giants receiver Amani Toomer, though Toomer is not quite as big at 6-3, 203 pounds.

Brees said Colston has a lot of similarities with San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates, though Gates isn't as fast or flexible at 6-4, 260. Gates was a basketball player before he turned into a football phenom.

"For being big guys that you wouldn't think would be really quick, they have a suddenness to them, where it doesn't seem that they're really running," Brees said. "They're just really fluid, and all of a sudden they just give you a little shake and it freezes a defender or just stuns them enough to where they can gain separation and get by the guy really quickly without the guy really knowing it. I call that 'suddenness.' "

Brees and Colston made a point to develop their bond further this summer, hooking up for some impromptu passing sessions in Southern California.

Brees was working out in San Diego, as he does every offseason. And Colston was in Los Angeles, where he spent part of the summer training at teammate Billy Miller's workout facility. So they met in the middle.

"It was just a great opportunity to get together with him and just try to work some timing things out," said Colston, who said he trained in Los Angeles for the first time this year because he wanted to mix up his practice routine a little bit.

"It always seems that I come out the gates a little slow," Colston said. "My goal is Week 1 to explode out of the gates and carry that throughout the season."

When Colston is healthy, he's almost impossible to stop

By John DeShazier

The Times-Picayune

Thursday, September 24, 2009

As great and as reliable as New Orleans Saints wide receiver Marques Colston's hands are, maybe they're not what defenses should be concerned with.

"I've always found myself trying to catch with my hands," Colston said. "It's pretty much just working to your strengths. That's one of my strengths. It's more eyes than anything. As long as I can get my eyes on the ball, I feel like I have a pretty good chance of catching it."

He's seeing it pretty well so far this season, and quarterback Drew Brees has been locked in on Colston.

It's easy to see exactly what it is the Saints were missing last season, when Colston missed time with an injured hand. He didn't really return to form until it was too late for him to regain his spot as the Saints' No. 1 receiver, and too deep in the season for the Saints to get in the playoffs.

"I'm finally healthy," Colston said. "I got a chance to really work and rehab this offseason and get back to 100 percent, and I think you're seeing some of the results of that."

The results are this: A team-leading 11 catches for 128 yards and three touchdowns for the 2-0 Saints. Not mind-blowing numbers, sure, but major, considering Colston was injured by this time last season. He finished with career lows in receptions (47), yards (760) and touchdowns (five) after catching more passes (168) in his first two seasons than any player in NFL history.

Better, though, is the form he has recaptured.

He can make brilliance appear routine, like he did on a 25-yard touchdown catch against Philadelphia in the second quarter last Sunday. Brees passed to Colston down the left seam, even though he was covered, and No. 9 put the ball just over Colston's back shoulder, allowing him to make a leaping, twisting catch that the Eagles could not defend.

Later, Brees said he trusted Colston more than he has ever trusted anyone on the field.

"That's a great compliment, coming from somebody that works as hard as he does," Colston said. "It all goes back to the work we put in throughout the week, staying, getting extra reps after practice and things like that. I think that helps the confidence level."

It helps, too, that the play is fairly routine for the Saints. Brees and Colston have practiced the throw, and probably have perfected it, given how prideful each man is in his craft.

"He's a big target, and you're trying to throw the ball to our guy, away from their guy," Brees said. "And our guy is 6 foot 5, and their guy is 5-10, so you kind of put it high and outside. We've thrown enough of those balls that he knows where that ball is going to be and when it's going to be there, and he jumped up and made a great play."

Said Colston: "It's actually a look that Drew and I have gotten a chance to rep numerous times. As soon as I saw the ball come out of his hands I knew exactly where it was going to be, so it's just that level of trust and that level of confidence."

That simply is a result of Colston being Colston.

Obviously, the Saints have a high-powered offense, full of interchangeable parts. One guy goes down, another steps up. One gets covered, another pops open. One posts great numbers one Sunday, another posts great numbers the next.

Colston is different. Big, sure-handed, reliable, tough, better-speed-than-you-think targets are hard to find. He almost can be unstoppable -- as long as he's playing.

"That's important," Brees said. "The healthier you are, the more you're in there, the more you can continue to build on what you've already created and continue to gain that confidence.

"Obviously, I have all the confidence in the world with him. This is our fourth year together, and I know that last year was frustrating for him just because of the injuries and that kind of thing. But he's hit his stride right now, but we don't want to peak too early. We still want to take this thing vertical and continue to get better and better each week."

That, Colston can do.

That, he can see.

To Saints foes: Good luck trying to get past Evans

By Jeff Duncan

The Times-Picayune

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Ask NFL scouts who the best player on the Saints roster is, and you might be surprised by their answer.

It's not Drew Brees, although they all consistently rank him among the top signal callers in the league.

It's not two-time Pro Bowler Jammal Brown.

And it's not any of Brees' heralded offensive weapons: Reggie Bush or Marques Colston or Jeremy Shockey.

No, the highest-ranked player on the Saints roster is Jahri Evans, a fourth-year right guard from Division II Bloomsburg State. Scouts believe he's the best young guard in the NFL, and some even think he's the best guard, period, regardless of age or experience.

"I've had two scouts tell me (Evans) is the best offensive guard in football," former NFL scout Daniel Jeremiah wrote this week on his Twitter account.

That's an assessment Saints Coach Sean Payton wouldn't dispute.

"I think Jahri is a guy that's going to play in a lot of Pro Bowls before his career is over with," Payton said.

The last bespectacled Saints lineman to play in multiple Pro Bowls was left tackle Willie Roaf. The Saints have had only three guards make the Pro Bowl in their 43-year history. Jake Kupp made it in 1969, Brad Edelman was honored in 1987, and LeCharles Bentley went in 2003.

If Evans continues his improvement, he could become the first Saints draft pick of the Sean Payton era to earn a Pro Bowl invite. That's quite an accomplishment considering Colston and Bush were in the same draft class.

"It feels good to get the notoriety and that people think that of you, but it's a team game," Evans said. "It's about trying to win games and trying to get that Super Bowl ring on your finger. You've got to get into the playoffs to get into the Pro Bowl. That's what I'm focused on. Obviously, I do want to be the best and help this team as much as I can."

Saints offensive line coach Aaron Kromer said Evans' footwork, hand technique, strength and intelligence are all above average for a starting NFL lineman. His agility, in particular, is special for a player of his massive size -- 6 feet 4, 318 pounds.

He said every team had a solid grade on Evans when he left Bloomsburg State in 2006, including the Buccaneers, where Kromer coached during Evans' senior season. But the unknown element -- the quality of Evans' competition -- caused teams to downgrade him in their scouting reports.

"If he'd have gone to Florida, he would have been a first- or second-round pick," Kromer said. "The question on Jahri was could he play at the speed of this level."

Clearly, Evans has proven he not only can play at the NFL level, but excel.

During one-on-one pass protection drills at practice on Monday, Evans stonewalled defensive end Charles Grant in his tracks. Grant, a former first-round draft pick from Georgia and one of the most powerful ends in the league, could manage only one stride before Evans engulfed him and stood him up.

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"Going up against him at practice, you realize how good he is," Saints defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis said. "And if he's playing this well at practice, I know he has to be giving guys the blues in the games."

Puns aside, the league is in the midst of changing of the guard at Evans' position. Veteran stalwarts Steve Hutchinson, Alan Faneca and Brian Waters are on the tail end of their respective careers. The powerful Evans stands at the front of the new wave of guards, a group that includes the Davin Joseph, Chris Snee and Kris Dielman.

"When you take a player like that in the fourth round, obviously I would say we hit on him," Payton said. "If the draft was held again, some club would take him in the first round."

Evans might already be the most accomplished product of Bloomsburg. Bob Tucker, who played tight end for the Giants and Vikings from 1970 to 1981, is his primary competition.

How does a talent like Evans end up at a Division II school with an enrollment of less than 9,000 students? A bad break, Evans said.

He broke his leg playing basketball before his senior year in high school, scaring off all of his suitors from Division I schools. Only Bloomsburg stuck with him. Evans rewarded their loyalty by becoming a finalist for the Division II Gene Upshaw Offensive Player of the Year award in each of his final two seasons.

For his part, the easy-going Evans takes the Division I snub in stride, just as he did being overlooked on draft day three years ago. Evans was the fifth guard selected that year, but only Joseph, whom Tampa Bay took in the first round, would be considered his equal today.

"I think I'm learning more each year," he said. "I've got a lot of different skills and things that I've learned in my bag now. I'm maturing and getting better, calming down the wild footwork and hands, getting a little tighter and becoming a better technician. I'm learning things that are going to help me improve."

A better Evans? Scary thought for NFL defensive linemen.

Offensive line aims to help improve Saints' run game

By Les East
The Advocate
Monday, August 10, 2009

Even as Drew Brees was passing for the second-most yards in NFL history last season, the Saints offensive line was allowing the fewest sacks in franchise history (13).

But, chances are, if you ask Saints fans what they remember most about the offensive line last season, the sack record will get overshadowed by a couple of short-yardage failures in the running game in September. No matter how well the line protects Brees and aids the NFL's top-rated passing offense, it will be improvement in the running game, short-yardage situations and others, that will be the measuring stick for the group. "We need to do better in the running game overall," tackle Jon Stinchcomb said. "You can't give us credit until we produce in the running game. You can't claim to be a great running game offensive line and not be close statistically. That's something that needs to be earned."

Stinchcomb said he expects coach Sean Payton to call more running plays this season, but added, "I think we have to give him the confidence that we can get the job done."

Last season, the Saints passed on 62 percent of their plays as their running game ranked 28th in the league. Circumstances contributed to the lack of balance as health issues limited the top three running backs — Pierre Thomas, Reggie Bush, and Deuce McAllister — and New Orleans played from behind quite a bit. "I think people outside the building feel that we need to run the ball more," said offensive line coach Aaron Kromer, who's in charge of the running game. "We feel like we didn't run the ball enough, but the situations most of the time didn't call for the run so we didn't run it. If we're up by three touchdowns we'll probably run it more."

But in the absence of three-touchdown leads most of last season, the Saints failed on a third-and-1 run that might have enabled them to run out the clock and beat the Redskins instead of losing late, and on a third-and-1 that preceded a missed field goal in a two-point loss to Denver.

"If you want to win games, if you want to play in the playoffs," Stinchcomb said, (the short-yardage running game) is an area where we have to get a lot better."

The improvement will have to come from within because the line is the most stable unit on the team.

Stinchcomb has started the last 48 games at right tackle as has Jahri Evans at right guard.

Jonathan Goodwin became the starter at center at the beginning of last season, though he missed three games with a knee injury, and left tackle Jammal Brown has started all 58 games in which he has played. Carl Nicks, a fifth-round draft choice last year, moved into the starting lineup after five games when Jamar Nesbit was suspended after testing positive for a banned substance.

"There's no better way to develop than to get to play in games," Kromer said. "So he got that opportunity and he seized the moment."

Nesbit couldn't win back the job when his four-game suspension ended, and it doesn't look like he'll win it

back in training camp either.

"My father always taught me that when you're doing good and you're complacent, that's when you lose your job," Nicks said. "I'm glad coach had the confidence to keep me in there, but I'm not complacent or satisfied with my position. Even though I started 13 games, it feels like I only played a couple and there's still a lot for me to learn."

Much attention has been paid to how Bush, Thomas, and perhaps others, will improve the running game in the absence of McAllister, the franchise's all-time leading rusher who was released during the offseason.

"I'm one of the biggest Deuce fans to ever come through New Orleans, and he's going to be missed,"

Stinchcomb said, "but this year we just have to rally around the guys we've got and they're good ones.

"There are going to be games where we're going to have to run it a lot more and games where we're going to lean a little more heavily on the pass. That's just the nature of the beast, but obviously this year we understand it can't just be the passing game for us."

Greer says New Orleans was best possible option

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Friday, September 25, 2009

Jabari Greer rattles off the names of Frenchman Street music clubs with unusual ease for someone who hasn't been in the Big Easy for long.

It's one example of what the Saints' new starting cornerback is talking about when he says signing with New Orleans "was by far the best possibility for me."

"It's been incredible and the city of New Orleans, man, everybody knows I love jazz," Greer said after practice this week. "On and off the field, it was just a perfect fit. It was what I was looking for."

That's not to say Greer didn't fit in at Buffalo, where he spent his first five seasons — and where, incidentally, the Saints will be playing on Sunday.

"That was a team that gave me an opportunity when nobody drafted me. ... I'm grateful for it," said Greer, who Buffalo signed as a rookie free agent out of Tennessee in 2004.

"Some of my closest friends that I've grown in the league with are still there, so it will be great to see them," Greer said. "It will be even better to compete with them, because any time you get to compete with some of your close friends, that brings the level of competition up even higher. ... Not only do you want to win, you don't want (them) to win."

Greer made major strides in his last two seasons with the Bills, starting 23 games and intercepting four passes — including two last season that he returned for touchdowns.

"We really love Jabari Greer. He was a terrific player for us, first of all, on special teams and as a starting corner," Bills head coach Dick Jauron said. "Obviously, he's got athletic skills and has a great attitude and an interesting and great personality. So we look forward to seeing him — just wish he wasn't opposite from us. ... He's a tremendous young person."

Yet, after the Bills drafted cornerback Leodis McKelvin in 2008, Buffalo no longer needed Greer as badly as the Saints, a team looking to make changes in a defensive backfield lambasted for giving up too many big plays last season.

So Greer played out the last year of his contract in Buffalo and moved on to New Orleans, where he is now regarded as the team's top cornerback.

"He's come in and played with confidence," Saints head coach Sean Payton said. "He can run well. He's got good anticipation. ... He's someone that has really fit in well in his first year here."

Greer is one of several members of the Saints with former ties to Buffalo, including defensive tackle Anthony Hargrove and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who was the Bills' head coach from 2001-03.

Williams said he's curious to see how Greer handles his emotions upon returning to Buffalo.

"I've been teasing him all week long about: 'Which ones are your untouchable friends? Which are the ones that we're going to go up and hug and kiss and which are the ones that we're going to go out there and smack?'" Williams said. "So, it will be interesting to see him play this week."

The Saints have been getting informal scouting reports from Greer about some of Buffalo's personnel this week.

Saints keeping an eye on Hargrove

By Pat Yasinskas

ESPN.com

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

I just was reading through the transcript of New Orleans defensive coordinator Gregg Williams' session with the media Sunday and it brought back an echo of something I heard when I was visiting camp.

"Keep an eye on Anthony Hargrove," someone with the Saints told me.

That's worth repeating now because Hargrove is starting to emerge as a force. For those who don't know the history on Hargrove, he's a defensive lineman who has shown enormous potential at times, but also has had off-field troubles. He previously played for St. Louis and Buffalo. He was suspended for the entire 2008 season for reportedly violating the NFL's substance-abuse policy. He also served a four-game suspension while with Buffalo in 2007.

But Hargrove had been turning heads in camp and he continued to do it in Friday night's preseason opener against Cincinnati. Williams raved about the speed Hargrove showed downfield.

"They threw a five-yard hitch to a wide receiver -- (Chad) Ochocinco -- we miss a tackle and we had two defensive linemen run a wide receiver down," Williams said. "If you don't think that's special, you're missing something big. That's special. Charles Grant pushed the guy out of bounds. Unfortunately, they didn't get the feed to see that the guy steps out of bounds. Unfortunately that just happens in a ballgame. Anthony Hargrove was stride for stride. I joked with our guys after the ballgame that if I was Ochocinco, I'd think that maybe I lost a step when you have defensive linemen running you down the field in the wide-open field." Williams was asked if the Saints might have found a gem in Hargrove and he didn't dispute that.

"He's rare," Williams said. "We have a 300-pound man that runs like a linebacker. You'll see him in more situations. I hope he continues to play as well as he has."

With starting defensive ends Grant and Will Smith expected to be suspended for the first four games, Hargrove is likely to have a shot at redemption.

"I love coaching those kinds of guys," Williams said. "I specialize in those kinds of people. Coaching is what it is X and O's wise. Sometimes getting difficult people to change, getting them to learn more or learn faster, or giving them another opportunity and giving them tough love and show them how to live a disciplined lifestyle, I really, really like giving him this opportunity. I don't think he could be with a better group of coaches in the league than where he is to get him his second, third chance or whatever it is. Now, he just has to keep his nose clean and do the right things every day."

Hargrove looks for redemption

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Friday, November 13, 2009

Now that he and the New Orleans Saints have revived his football career, Anthony Hargrove figures he has one more bit of business to take care of Sunday before he can officially put years of trouble behind him.

First, the 26-year-old defensive tackle wants to help the undefeated Saints beat the St. Louis Rams in the Edward Jones Dome. Then, he wants to make amends with the Rams, who chose him in the third round of the 2004 draft, and their fans.

"I'm trying to treat it as just another business trip," Hargrove said Wednesday. "That's where I started, where I was drafted to, and I have to make amends with the city. I have to apologize for letting them down and not being the player they wanted me to be."

Hargrove lasted just 2 1/2 seasons in St. Louis. Shortly after he went missing for two days early in the 2006 season, the Rams traded him and his troubles to the Buffalo Bills for a fifth-round draft pick.

"I haven't been back there since I left," Hargrove said of the trip to St. Louis. "I've talked to a few people on the phone, but I never made direct amends to the owners and (others)."

By his own admission, Hargrove nearly ran himself out of the NFL. Repeat violations of its substance abuse policy cost him four games in 2007 and the entire '08 season.

That's when it hit him: a once-promising career was circling the drain fast.

A long stint in a rehab facility got Hargrove, who's been open and honest about his troubles, back on track before the Saints gave him a chance — three months after he was reinstated by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

He made the most of his shot, making the roster and filling in capably for injured defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis in the past three games. In that stretch, Hargrove, the NFC Defensive Player of the Week, has three sacks and two fumble recoveries.

Hargrove has the letter that gave him the opportunity to resume his career taped to the wall of his locker, displayed prominently among pictures of his two children.

While Hargrove treasures the photos, the letter from Goodell is a source of inspiration, too. It tells him every day that it can be taken away from him again — the next time for good.

When asked how he manages to avoid the temptation to go back to that life, he said it's easy.

"It's a simple question," Hargrove said. "Do I want to continue to play football or do I not? It's a reminder of what I'm supposed to do."

While he said many athletes don't make it back, he knows it's important to succeed and be an inspiration to others.

"The NFL is a place where if you want the help, you can get it," Hargrove said. "That's one of the things they did for me. So now, it's about repaying the favor and showing the other side of the NFL. Even though they're a real disciplined organization, they'll give you every chance that you need."

Now, he has to keep taking advantage of it.

Hargrove making the most of his second chance

Saints DT thriving after yearlong suspension

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Taped to one side of Anthony Hargrove's locker, next to photos of his two young children, is a letter with the

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NFL's trademark shield at the top and commissioner Roger Goodell's signature at the bottom.

Hargrove pushes aside his hanging gold New Orleans Saints uniform pants to fully reveal the text, then begins reading.

"It says, 'It's important when I emphasize that your reinstatement is the beginning of the road back to a productive career in the league. I'm counting on you to continue to demonstrate that you can conduct yourself in a reasonable manner. You should understand this is your opportunity to prove that you belong in the NFL.'"

The letter, dated Feb. 12, 2009, formally opened the way for the talkative, energetic defensive lineman to resume his NFL career following his yearlong suspension for drug abuse.

"It's a reminder of what I'm supposed to do," Hargrove said. "A lot of guys, if they get kicked out of the league, they don't make it back. ... I want to be an inspiration. I want to be a testimony for people to be like, 'Listen, if he can do it, what did he do?'"

A third-round draft choice by the St. Louis Rams in 2004, Hargrove seemed to have a promising career ahead when started 15 games in his second season and ranked second on the club with 6 1/2 sacks. Then he proceeded down a path toward throwing it all away.

Unexcused absences and declining performance, related to what Hargrove now readily admits was drug and alcohol use, got him traded to Buffalo in 2007. He was arrested and briefly suspended after a fight outside a night club during the 2007 preseason, then suspended again in 2008 for a full season.

Now getting another chance in the "City that Care Forgot," Hargrove has so far proved that he cares about his career enough to attend three meetings a week for recovering substance abusers in an effort to stay sober in this city of drive-thru daiquiris stands. He also hasn't forgotten how to play football, as he showed last weekend during New Orleans' 30-20 victory over Carolina.

Seeing an increase in playing time at defensive tackle in recent weeks because of starter Sedrick Ellis' sprained right knee, Hargrove was credited with three tackles, one forced fumble and a pair of fumble recoveries, the second of which he returned for a 1-yard touchdown.

For that, he was named the NFC defensive player of the week, then reacted to the honor with a reference to the wholesome "Cosby Show."

"In the words of my friend, Theodore Huxtable, I'm taking it all in stride," said Hargrove, now trying to be a straight-shooting role model for his son, Tre, and daughter, Amiah Grace.

"It's just a blessing. ... I have to thank this New Orleans Saints organization for the opportunity because if it wasn't for them, none of this would have been possible - without them and God also."

Hargrove smiles and speaks openly, without a hint of embarrassment, about his difficult early childhood in Brooklyn, N.Y., or his more recent troubles with substance abuse.

"Hopefully if anybody that's struggling hears this, maybe they'll open up themselves." Hargrove said. "I have to get it out, I have to express it one way or another. And it's working. It keeps me on the right track. It keeps my mind down. It keeps the stress low and anxiety low."

Hargrove lost both of his parents by the time he was 9. His mother died of AIDS. His father died in a fire. He spent teenage years in Florida, excelled in football at Port Charlotte High School and went on to Georgia Tech, where he performed well enough to get the attention of pro scouts before flunking out.

At 26 years old, he still could have a number of productive seasons ahead if he doesn't slip up off the field. His teammates are well aware of his past problems and are pulling for him.

"It is an uplifting story to see how in no way does he deny his past or shy away from it," Saints right tackle Jon Stinchcomb said. "It's not a point of pride, but it's also something that he openly will recognize, that he's made some bad choices. ... It's good for most of the guys in this locker room to see somebody who has fallen and get back up and try to do things the right way."

This Sunday, Hargrove will return to St. Louis, the place where he saw his first NFL snaps, and where his life began to spiral out of control just when he was getting his first taste of stardom.

Hargrove said he still feels like he let those old teammates down. Some of them, like defensive end Leonard Little, running back Steven Jackson and quarterback Marc Bulger, still play for the Rams. Hargrove said he is looking forward to seeing them.

"I'll probably cry," Hargrove said. "I get to see some of the faces that was there when I was and put a little more closure to some of these things. ... Once I finally say hi and get a few hugs in, it will settle a lot of things."

Saints WR Henderson hitting his stride

05:32 PM CDT on Thursday, October 22, 2009

Bradley Handwerger / WWL-TV.com Sports Writer

METAIRIE, La. — In a season in which the Saints' run game is as good as it has been in years, it might be seem a bit odd to point out a receiver as a major reason that change has occurred instead of the offensive line.

But talk with any offensive player on the team and they all point out Devery Henderson, calling him one of the biggest reasons New Orleans is a top five run team in the NFL.

"I've seen him make some really good blocks and some really key blocks," running back Reggie Bush said. "Even if it doesn't spring us loose, it's still a mentality and it still puts that fear in the secondary's minds that they're not just going to run up and get free hits on the running backs."

"I think he takes on a pretty aggressive mentality and takes pride in getting down there and shadowing a guy, getting in front of him, helping our running backs be able to get to that second level and turn a 10-yard gain

into a 25-yard gain," quarterback Drew Brees said.

Indeed, in Henderson's fifth season with the Saints, he's finally breaking out into the all-around receiver they hoped he would be when they drafted him with the 50th selection in the 2004 draft.

While it's his downfield threat that separates him – "He scares the lights out of guys when they see him on film," receivers coach Curtis Johnson said, – it's his blocking that makes him smile the most.

When told the running backs singled him out when talking about the improved run game, Henderson just smiled and humbly asked if they "really said that."

It's what he takes pride in the most right now.

"I do," Henderson said. "Starting off, I made a couple of good blocks early on and just kept it going and noticed the significance of them. I just take pride in being that type of receiver.

"I worked my butt off to get those blocks and now they put me in position now to make those types of blocks. As a man, you know you've got to man up and do them."

Things haven't always gone so well for Lafayette native. He was battered by fans for continually dropping passes. He had trouble gaining the confidence of the coaching staff. And he didn't necessarily take things as seriously as he should have.

But Johnson says he sees the 5-foot-11, 200-pound receiver as more mature player now. In fact, Johnson said the 27-year-old is watching film now and understands the offense and his role in it.

"His maturity about attacking what we're doing, the maturity about the play book, the maturity about getting to meetings and getting something out of all the meetings – along with all that, he has had success," Johnson said.

The growth has come in Henderson's head, he said. Instead of focusing on the negatives, he said he's now keeping a "level head" and moving on to the next play.

"It was a problem at times," he said. "You make a bad play or miss a block or any little thing and it'll carry on if you let it. I learned to forget about it and move on to the next play."

Nevertheless, it's his speed and long-ball threat that put Henderson at a different level.

Two of the past three seasons for Henderson put him in the top six all-time in highest receiving average since 1950. In 2008, he averaged 24.8 yards per catch while in 2006, he ended with a 23.3 average.

He led the Saints in the season-opener with five catches for 103 yards and a touchdown, the score coming on a 58-yard reception. A week later, he caught three passes for 71 yards, coming up with a key 38-yard catch on a third down.

Henderson is second on the team this season with 241 yards. Nearly half his yards have come on third down, where he is tied for 28th in the NFL with seven catches for 107 yards.

He's confident now.

"You just go out there and have fun," Henderson said. "That's the main part. I'm going out there and I know what I'm doing. I've done it over and over again so why shouldn't I be able to do it.

"Just have confidence and know that when the ball is coming my way, I'm going to catch it."

And he's getting noticed from those who count the most. Namely, Brees.

"He's really becoming more of a complete route-runner, ball-catcher, deep threat – all those things – a good blocker in the run game," Brees said. "I'd say he's as good a player now as he has ever been."

Rookie Jenkins showing he has it covered

No. 1 pick has done well in bigger roles

By Mike Triplett

The Times-Picayune

Friday, November 20, 2009

Malcolm Jenkins went practically unnoticed during last Sunday's game at St. Louis.

And that's a good thing for a rookie cornerback who had a few welcome-to-the-NFL moments earlier this season.

Jenkins played most extensive time of his young career Sunday, first filling in as the nickel back because of Jabari Greer's groin injury, then moving into an every-down role after Tracy Porter had a knee injury early in the third quarter.

Jenkins held up well, not giving up any significant plays in the passing game or in run support. This week, he's expected to start for the first time when the Saints play at Tampa Bay.

"He did well. He did really well," Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams said. "And I tease him a little bit this week as he steps up again in this role, that it's a rookie quarterback (Tampa Bay's Josh Freeman) against a rookie corner. So we'll see who steps up the most and how they do. But he's progressing very well.

"He's stayed healthy (after a nagging ankle injury). And what I hope you and the fans will get to see is that he's one of those rare cornerbacks that's physical like a safety. Not only can he play the cornerback position, but he plays it in his aggressive style, like a safety or a small linebacker. And that's what attracted me to him when I started watching the college film, anyway."

Jenkins (6 feet, 204 pounds), the team's first-round draft pick from Ohio State, said he fully expects the Buccaneers to test him this weekend. Earlier this season teams had some success attacking him. He had some rough moments in the preseason against Houston and Miami, then was burned for a 64-yard pass from Detroit's Matthew Stafford to Calvin Johnson in Week 1 when he was in for just a few plays.

"Before, it seemed like I'd get out there for two or three plays and miss a tackle or something on one of them," said Jenkins, who held up well after Greer was injured in the second half against Carolina in Week 9 and then last week at St. Louis. "It was good to finally get my feet wet."

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Jenkins said his ankle feels better, and he's shaken off some of the physical and mental rust. Like with most rookies, Jenkins said his biggest problem has been trying not to think too much so he can react and play at full speed.

He has proven on special teams that he has natural playmaking ability. He forced two game-changing fumbles at Philadelphia and at Buffalo in Weeks 2 and 3, then he helped the Saints down a punt inside the 2-yard line against Carolina in Week 9.

He's hoping some of those instincts can carry over on defense.

"The plays on special teams are just about the will, the desire to play and compete. I think that part I can bring over to the defense," Jenkins said. "But it's a little different as far as the assignments and responsibilities."

Porter is out for Sunday's game, and Greer is doubtful after missing practice again Thursday. That leaves four healthy corners on the Saints' roster -- Randall Gay, Jenkins, Leigh Torrence and newly-acquired veteran Chris McAlister.

Williams said it's too early to tell how much McAlister will be able to contribute this week after just two practices.

Lombardi says working with Payton and Brees is a dream come true

By Peter Finney
The Times-Picayune
Thursday, August 6, 2009

It's no surprise Joe Lombardi spends part of every day counting his blessings.

It's not only that he proudly wears the family name, grandson of a coaching legend whose Green Bay Packers won three NFL championships, followed by victories in Super Bowls I and II.

It's also a matter of being asked to join Sean Payton's staff as a Saints offensive assistant two years ago, that he has been promoted to quarterbacks coach, putting him in daily contact with Drew Brees, along with serving under newly elevated offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael for a third season.

"No assistant in the league could ask for more," said the 38-year-old son of Vince Lombardi Jr.

When he spent the 2006 season as a defensive assistant with Atlanta, Joe Lombardi's job was breaking down offensive game tape of Falcons opponents.

"I remember watching the Saints and being blown away at the creativity in the way Coach Payton went about business," Lombardi said. "To me, none of the other offenses I looked at did more with formations to give the defense problems. And no quarterback filled the role of a coach on the field more effectively than Drew Brees."

"I remember thinking, if the day ever came and I had a choice to be involved, in any small way, with any offense in the league, the Saints would be No. 1. I'm sure Pete Carmichael would tell you the same thing. That's what makes it such a pleasure going to work every day."

History tells you growing up in the family of one of the most successful coaches of all time did not make coaching an automatic choice of professions.

Joe Lombardi was born nine months after Vince Lombardi died of cancer in 1970. From Vince Jr. he would learn all about his grandfather, as he put it, "a tough man who was as tough on his children as he was on his players."

"My dad wanted to be a coach," Joe said. "But my grandfather said no. He told him, if you become a coach, I'm not going to pay for your college. I want you to be a lawyer. My dad became one, but he didn't like being a lawyer."

It was only after Coach Lombardi died that Vince Jr. gave up law and got involved in the NFL, not as a coach but as general manager of the expansion Seattle Seahawks in 1976.

Today Vince Jr. earns a living as an author and motivational speaker.

When it came time for Joe Lombardi to make a serious choice of a profession, an older brother had given up any thought to becoming a coach and became a lawyer instead.

Coming out of high school, Joe Lombardi was not good enough to land a football scholarship from one of the big-time football schools. He decided to accept an offer from the Air Force Academy, where he played three years as a tight end, highlighted by a victory over Mississippi State in the 1991 Liberty Bowl.

It was while serving his four-year military commitment that Lombardi realized how much he missed football, all of which wound up with a coaching offer, this one to become an assistant at the University of Dayton.

"All my dad told me was to weigh the hours a coach has to devote to coaching alongside the job of raising a family," Joe said. "He wanted me to consider: How important was coaching football for a living? Considering what he went through with my grandfather, he understood the negatives as well as anyone."

Joe and Molly Lombardi are now the parents of five children 7 years old and younger, which happens to be a faster pace than the one set by granddad.

Young Coach Lombardi couldn't be happier.

"You go to work with your eyes and ears open," he said. "If you don't learn something every day, it's your fault. Drew Brees is super smart and a super-hard worker, with an attention to detail that's beyond belief. Watching him work hand-and-hand with Coach Payton would be a clinic for any assistant."

Joe Lombardi grew up watching film of his grandfather's Packers become a dynasty behind a smash-mouth offense and defense, vastly different from the wide-open passing game we see today.

"I grew up watching Jimmy Taylor running those power sweeps," Joe said.

He also grew up listening to tapes of his granddad deliver homilies out of those Green Bay years: "Contrary

to the opinion of many people, leaders are not born. Leaders are made, by effort and hard work."

He also grew up listening to his dad tell stories about his dad.

When Vince Jr. was 22 and in law school, he came home for a weekend and rushed out to meet some friends for a few drinks. He was back home by 9 o'clock, watching television alongside the coach.

"You smell like a brewery," the coach said to his son. "Go to bed."

"I was 22 years old, and I got sent to bed by my father. I went."

McAlister joins Saints

Gay's role expanding

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Some relief for the New Orleans Saints battered cornerback position came Wednesday morning in the form of three-time Pro Bowl pick Chris McAlister.

McAlister, a first-round draft pick of the Baltimore Ravens in 1999, was signed to a one-year contract after a Tuesday workout in which former Amite High School and San Diego Chargers cornerback Cletis Gordon also auditioned for club officials.

It wasn't immediately known if McAlister, who hasn't played in 13 months, will be ready for Sunday's game with the Tampa Bay Bucs. But at least the Saints will have some depth at the position in practice this week.

"I really don't know what my role is going to be. I'm just here to produce," the 11-year veteran said when asked if he expects to play against the Bucs. "It's up to the coaches and up to the team. I've been picking up the defense and learning, but it's still football at the end of the day."

The Saints finished Sunday's game against the St. Louis Rams with only three healthy cornerbacks after Tracy Porter sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee in the third quarter. He could be sidelined four to six weeks.

The Saints were already playing without their other starting cornerback as Jabari Greer missed the Rams game with an injury to his left groin. Greer did not practice again Wednesday, and his availability for Sunday's game was not known.

That left the Saints with former LSU standout Randall Gay, who started in place of Greer, rookie Malcolm Jenkins and seldom-used reserve Leigh Torrence. Gay usually plays in the nickel and dime packages.

"We've been through this before," Gay said Wednesday. "Last year, it seemed like corners were going down every week. When it happens, everybody has to be ready.

"Injuries happen every week. That's why you don't keep just two cornerbacks on your team. You keep multiple corners, and the people that come in need to step up and make plays. That's what I'm going to try to go out there this week and do."

While Gay was victimized for two touchdown passes last week by Rams wide receiver Donnie Avery, Saints coach Sean Payton said Wednesday that he didn't play that badly.

"He graded out better than you would have thought," Payton said, noting that on the first one the Saints were coming with a full blitz and didn't get to the quarterback. "The next play was really a play above his head. We have a lot of confidence in Randall Gay. Those were two good plays by St. Louis."

McAlister, 32, was released by the Ravens on Feb. 19 after a lingering problem with the posterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. The injury caused him to miss eight games in 2007 and 10 more a year ago before he had surgery in November and was put on injured reserve.

The 6-foot-1, 210-pound McAlister enjoyed a solid career with the Ravens, intercepting 26 passes with five touchdowns before what he called a "bitter divorce" with the team. He also had two tackles and an interception in the Ravens' victory over the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXXV.

He might be best known, however, for producing the longest play in NFL history when he returned a missed field goal 107 yards for a score against the Denver Broncos in 2002, a record that has been surpassed twice since.

Payton said McAlister's role, for this week anyway, will be determined by the health of players in front of him—particularly Greer.

"But he's a veteran player that understands defense and is someone that we think can come in and help us," said Payton, who also had Jenkins miss playing time earlier this season with an ankle injury.

Gay was certainly excited about the addition of McAlister to the roster.

"Whenever they bring in an older guy who's played in a lot of games and been to the Pro Bowl and played at a high level, you always want to go and talk to him and see what he knows so you can learn a little bit from him," he said.

Greer said he felt better than he did last week, but said it was too early to tell if he'll be ready Sunday.

"I'm a competitor," he said, "and it never feels good if you're not able to contribute to the team's success."

Jenkins, the 14th overall pick in this year's draft, may have to make his first NFL start. But he said he's ready if called upon after playing the second half last week and breaking up two passes against the Rams.

"I got comfortable with being out there," he said of his first extended playing time. "The first couple of plays, you're trying to get adjusted to the speed and everything. But after you get out there for a while, you get a feel for what they're doing and you just get comfortable.

"I think we're confident ... The coaches are confident in the guys that we've got, and we'll just go from there."

Meachem making most of his touches

By John DeShazier
The Times-Picayune
Thursday, October 22, 2009

No need lying and saying we haven't expected more from New Orleans Saints receiver Robert Meachem. The third-year receiver expected more from himself, and wouldn't be much of a competitor if he hadn't. You don't enter the NFL as a first-round pick (No. 27 overall in 2007), proceed to catch no passes in your rookie season, and 12 in the second, and feign satisfaction.

Give Meachem this, though: On an offense littered with big-play potential and chunks-of-yards gainers, he makes the most of his touches.

The 12 catches he made last season were good for 289 yards and three touchdowns, an average of 24.1 yards per catch. The six he has this season have gone for 151 yards and two touchdowns, an average of 25.2 per catch.

So far, that's a touchdown reception for every 3.6 catches, an average of 24.4 yards per catch.

That's a pace he couldn't possibly sustain if he caught more passes, of course. But certainly, it shows some of what Meachem can do, what the Saints believed he might do when they drafted him.

"One thing you saw with him on his tape from Tennessee was he was very good after the catch," Coach Sean Payton said. "So you saw a player that was very explosive when he caught a hitch or caught a screen. He was able to turn a 5-yard throw into a big play.

"To his credit, he's gotten better. Each year he's been able to incorporate new things into his skill set. He can run, and he's become a lot better receiver, rather than just a target. And that has helped him a lot."

It's helped the Saints, too.

An offense can't have too many playmakers, and Meachem only was rumored to be one in his first season, when he was inactive every game. But throw him in the mix with Marques Colston, Jeremy Shockey, Lance Moore, Reggie Bush and Devery Henderson -- and include Drew Brees as quarterback -- and add in a little self-improvement, and what the Saints have is a receiver who seems to get behind the secondary every game he plays, and makes tough catches on the deep balls when he has to.

"My faith is there and my confidence is back," said Meachem, who also has run four times for 50 yards and a touchdown in his 19 games. "That takes a player a long way, because when you have your faith and your confidence, everything else is easy to you. I was always taught as a young kid to try to make practice like a game, and that's what I've been trying to go out there and do every day.

"All my life, I've been a big-play guy. That's what this team asks of me, to be a big-play guy. So, 25 yards a catch, I love it."

Who wouldn't love it? What player on the roster these days doesn't love having a sliver of anything to do with the rampaging Saints, who've rolled over five consecutive opponents?

Meachem has no complaints whatsoever.

"Being a competitor, you always want to touch the ball on every play," he said. "But we have so many weapons, and we're 5-0. So why be frustrated when you're not getting any touches?"

"When it is your chance to get a touch, it's something big. It's something that helps the offense. It's something that helps the team. So you've got to love it and enjoy it, because there are a lot of other receivers out there in the league that don't have a quarterback like Drew Brees. They may not get the ball at all."

That's not going to be a problem with the Saints.

Guys get open, they get the ball. Sometimes they get it when they're not open, too.

"The one thing the player does is, he's able to make plays above his shoulders," Payton said. "So on those balls that are thrown up -- we saw this against Detroit, we saw it last weekend against New York -- those proverbial jump balls, he's able to high point and does a good job of coming down with those."

Said Meachem: "It comes natural when you're a two-sport guy. I played basketball, so it's almost like going up and getting a rebound. Drew is going to put the ball in an area where only you can get it. If that (defensive back) has a chance to get it, you'd better knock it down or get a pass interference."

Not much of the latter seems to be happening to Meachem. When the chance comes, he's taking advantage of it, 25 yards at a time.

His time to shine

Saints WR Meachem comes up big against Carolina

By Sheldon Mickles
The Advocate
Thursday, November 12, 2009

Before each game, New Orleans Saints wide receiver Marques Colston has a short message for his friend and fellow receiver Robert Meachem.

"Marques always tells me, 'Today, it's time for you to be a star,'" said the modest Meachem, who's had his ups and downs since the Saints made him their first-round draft pick in 2007. "I always say, 'Yeah, OK, whatever.'"

However, Meachem sensed something was up when Colston said it just before Sunday's game against the Carolina Panthers. What was different, Meachem said, was the way Colston said it.

"I knew he was kind of down ... he was having symptoms of the flu, and I knew I had to do my best to step

up," Meachem said. "So I just said a prayer and I took it from there."

Meachem, who was already being thrust into the role of the third receiver behind Colston and Devery Henderson because Lance Moore was out with a sprained ankle, suddenly had to take on an expanded role for the NFL's top-ranked offense.

He handled it well, catching five passes for a team-high 98 yards in a 30-20 win over the Panthers. His five receptions were a career high and he was just 1 yard off matching his best game as a pro.

While Meachem played well overall, his two receptions in the second half were huge.

His 54-yard catch and run for a touchdown on the final play of the third quarter tied the game at 20-20 and a 21-yard grab on their next possession set up John Carney's 40-yard field goal that gave the Saints the lead for good.

The touchdown was the third this year and sixth in the past 1 1/2 seasons for Meachem, who had to patiently wait for his chance with the potent Saints offense because of a knee injury that ruined his rookie season.

But Sunday's score was a big moment for the soft-spoken 25-year-old.

"It was a big play and Drew (Brees) put the ball where only I could get it," Meachem said. "I caught it and ran and scored, and we all celebrated because we tied the game up.

"But we all knew it wasn't over because Carolina has a great team. We asked our defense to go get us a stop and they got us a stop, actually two, so everything was good for us at the end."

Things are certainly good for Meachem, who was viewed as a bust by some fans after his first season.

But the speedy former Tennessee star got a chance in 2008, catching 12 passes for 289 yards and averaging 24.1 yards per catch with a long of 74 yards. Through eight games this season, he's topped both totals with 13 receptions for 296 yards.

"I'm encouraged with how Robert's playing," Saints coach Sean Payton said Wednesday. "We have to continue to find ways to get him the football. He's a guy that has great speed, he's powerful and he's playing with more and more confidence.

"The challenge each week is finding opportunities for him. In the second half last week there were some big plays he made, certainly, and it was good to see."

For Brees, Meachem is another capable receiver to plug into the offense along with Colston, Henderson, Moore and tight end Jeremy Shockey.

"He's always been one of these raw talents, but now he's becoming a little more polished and there are a lot of things he does extremely well," Brees said. "He's another guy that I have a lot of confidence in.

"I love his mentality and the way he approaches work every day. He has really learned how to be a professional. He learned that from some of those other wide receivers and being around the veteran guys on our team. I see his role ever-increasing as we go along here."

Payton said Meachem is showing the skills that he displayed at Tennessee when the Saints made him the 27th overall pick in the 2007 draft — namely a player that was explosive after the catch.

"To his credit, he has gotten better each year and has been able to incorporate new things into his skill set," Payton said. "He can run and he has become a lot better receiver rather than just a target. That has helped him a lot."

As a result, Meachem said Sunday's game finally made him understand what Colston was telling him all along: that it would eventually be his time.

"I'm glad I got the opportunity," Meachem said. "Now, I just have to keep progressing. I can't go backward. I've got to go forward."

Meachem emerging in Saints passing game

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Friday, November 13, 2009

Robert Meachem promised during New Orleans' training camp that he would remind the Saints why they made him their first-round draft choice in 2007.

Half way into his third season, Meachem has advanced far beyond the frustration of his rookie season, when he arrived at rookie camp out of shape, hurt his knee, and wound up spending all 16 regular season games on the inactive list and watching from the sideline in a sweat suit.

"I'm blessed. I'm living the dream right now," Meachem said. "Things weren't going the way I wanted them to go the first two years, but I knew once everything settled down and calmed down, I would be the guy that I am today. So I just kept praying and just trying to do everything I could on my part to help this team."

With a clutch, 54-yard, game-tying touchdown catch last Sunday against Carolina, Meachem further buried the bad memories of his rookie year, when he heard many critics calling him first-round bust.

His five catches for 98 yards against the Panthers helped New Orleans overcome a two-touchdown deficit and win 30-20 to remain unbeaten at 8-0.

Now getting chances to be on the field in pressure-filled, late-game situations, Meachem can say he's played a considerable role in what is now the best start to a season in the Saints' 43-year history.

With 13 catches for 296 yards and three touchdowns, Meachem has needed only half of this season to surpass his performance for all of 2008, when he caught 12 passes for 289 yards and three TDS.

The former Tennessee standout is averaging a team-high 22.8 yards per catch this season.

Saints coach Sean Payton also has featured Meachem in running plays such as reverses. He has averaged 10 yards on three carries, with a long of 15.

"I'm encouraged with how Robert's playing," Payton said this week. "We have to continue to find ways to get

him the football. Week in and week out, he's a guy that has great speed, he's powerful and he's playing with more and more confidence.

"The challenge each week is finding opportunities for him," Payton said. "In the second half last week there were some big plays he made certainly and it was good to see."

The Saints are deep at receiver, which is one of the reasons Meachem has to fight for everything he gets. However, opportunities have opened up lately with Lance Moore's ankle injury. Also, Marques Colston was trying to play through the flu last Sunday and struggled.

Brees was able to turn to Devery Henderson and Meachem for the bulk of his passing yards, though he expects Colston to play better in St. Louis this Sunday.

"That's what our offence has thrived on and prided itself on in the last few years, guys stepping up and performing very well and now becoming somewhat of household names," Brees said. "Nobody had heard of Marques Colston until mid-way through the 2006 season when the seventh-rounder from Hofstra was coming out and making plays and getting opportunities and making the most of them. Devery is really coming into his own. Meachem - the more opportunities he gets, he's playing great. Lance Moore was on the practice squad when I first got here and now he's a great player."

Meachem said he could tell during off-season workouts and training camp that he was on the brink of finally getting comfortable as an NFL receiver. Now Brees throws the ball to him even in coverage at times, confident that Meachem has the speed and ability to come down with the ball, as he did between two defenders for a 36-yard touchdown against the New York Giants in Week 6.

Those types of plays, Meachem said, "is what I've been feeling in my heart the whole season."

NO WORRIES

Saints have confidence Moore will return to his sure-handed ways

By Mike Triplett

The Times-Picayune

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

To the outside world, Saints receiver Lance Moore appears to be a prime candidate for a letdown this season. For starters, the fourth-year pro came seemingly out of nowhere last season, filling in when starter Marques Colston went down with a thumb injury and finishing with a breakout season: 79 receptions, 928 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Then his follow-up campaign got off to an inauspicious start when he dislocated his left shoulder and tore his labrum during a weightlifting mishap in April.

But the Saints have developed an unwavering confidence in Moore, who turns 26 at the end of this month. The 5-foot-9, 190-pounder has a pretty good track record when it comes to bucking the odds. And he doesn't plan to let up now.

"Nothing has been easy for me pretty much my whole life. So I don't see any reason why it should be any different now," said Moore, who turned a last-minute scholarship offer from Toledo into a record-breaking college career, then worked on the practice squad in Cleveland and New Orleans and did a stint in NFL Europe before cracking the active roster.

"I've had to grind to get here; I'm going to have to grind to stay here," Moore said. "And I have no problem with that."

Moore returned to the practice field on a full-time basis this week after being limited for the first two weeks of camp. He's not expected to play in Saturday's preseason game at Houston, but he's on track to make his debut at Oakland a week later.

"I'm ahead of schedule," said Moore, who had surgery performed by Dr. James Andrews four months ago. Moore said he was doing extended squats with light weights, but he lost control of the bar, causing an awkward twist in his shoulder. He said he had similar surgery performed on his right shoulder in college and estimated that it took him four months to recover then.

"Obviously it was a disappointment after last season," Moore said of the injury. "You know, I came off a great year and definitely felt like I was going to have a better year this year. And when I got hurt it definitely put a damper on my plans. But I feel good now, and the rehab went well."

"It sucked, that four months. But everything happens for a reason, and I'm a believer that as long as I do the same things that got me here, I should be fine."

Those things that got Moore here are the kind of things they make movies about. He joined the team for the first time in San Antonio, during the 2005 post-Katrina season, then stuck around when the roster was overhauled under new coach Sean Payton. He spent most of the '06 season on the practice squad, but he turned heads as a punt returner in the preseason and got onto the field for one regular-season game at Green Bay. Quarterback Drew Brees said he remembered watching Moore fly around the field, catching everything in practice, and he wondered why he wasn't higher on the depth chart. And as the season went on, the two of them often stayed after practice, working on pass routes and developing chemistry.

By the time the '07 training camp came around, Brees and Payton were both gushing with praise for the young receiver, who had mastered all three receiving positions, in addition to his return skills -- proving himself as the kind of "gym rat" no coach could ignore.

Moore made it onto the field for all 16 games that season, catching 32 passes for 302 yards and two touchdowns.

By 2008, no one in the building was surprised when Moore stepped up after Colston's injury in Week 1.

"It was just kind of when Marques went down and Drew told me he was going to need me to step up," Moore

said when asked if there was ever a "light bulb moment" for him last year. "I knew that if I heard it from him, I had no choice but to do that. And we had somewhat a little bit of camaraderie from years past and staying after practice and things like that. And you know, I had to step up."

And now, no one in the building is doubting Moore's ability to step up again.

"I don't worry about Lance," receivers coach Curtis Johnson said. "One thing I like about Lance, he's always in tremendous shape. And he's super smart and understands all the positions. And he's spent a lot of time after practice with Drew. Just getting the reps, getting the timing with Drew, that's the most important thing. "I don't see much of a drop-off. I don't know if he's going to get those same numbers, but it doesn't matter. Just keep catching the ball like he did and do what we ask him to do.

"He's a team guy, and we're thankful that we've got Lance."

Foes test Porter at their peril

By John DeShazier

The Times-Picayune

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Let's see, now.

Free safety Darren Sharper, with seven interceptions and three picks returned for touchdowns, should be one of the leading candidates for Defensive Player of the Year.

Strong safety Roman Harper, who has caused two fumbles and posted a sack and is playing the best football of his career, appears to be operating at Pro Bowl level.

Left cornerback Jabari Greer, the prize of the free-agent class, has played lock-down against whoever has had the misfortune of drawing him and has made oft-burned Jason David a distant memory.

That leaves right cornerback Tracy Porter just where, exactly, in the pecking order?

"He's just the youngest guy out there, so he has to take the lumps," Harper said, laughing. "He understands that. He's the young guy. He has to take it."

That might be the only ribbing he's taking, though. Certainly, none of the good-natured flak can be because of the way he's playing this season.

Not when he's on the books for 36 solo tackles, good for third most on the team; two forced fumbles, putting him in a four-way tie for first; and three interceptions, good for second.

Oh, and one pick returned for a touchdown, the deal-sealer in New Orleans' 46-34 victory at Miami on Oct. 25.

"I think he's having a great season," Greer said. "I think he's capitalized on many opportunities that have come his way. He's made big plays, and he's been a valuable asset to this team."

As valuable as any, probably.

Not that any of what Porter is doing comes as a shock. Last year the rookie cracked the lineup for the season opener, and he started the first five games of his NFL career before dislocating his right wrist against the Vikings and missing the rest of the season.

The surprise would've been if he didn't come back and reclaim his job, even after the Saints added cornerback help in free agency and the draft. Because it's not like he started by default, and when he was on the field, it's not like he didn't show considerable skill, the kind that made him the Saints' second-round pick in 2008.

But Porter's play, as expected, has improved. What's being asked of him and Greer on the corners hasn't been too much for him to handle.

"He's getting more and more confident every week," Harper said. "He's a smart guy. He understands the little schemes within our defense, and whenever he's allowed to make plays, he does.

"The one thing about Tracy that I've noticed, ever since the day he got here, the guy can cover man to man. And as long as you can cover guys in this league, you're going to be able to play, and you're going to make some plays in this league for a long time at corner. He can run -- he can fly -- and he catches the ball well whenever teams throw it at him."

Now, it hasn't all been gravy.

Notably, Santana Moss got behind him for a 67-yard touchdown last season in Washington, the winning score in a 29-24 Redskins victory. And certainly, he hasn't been spotless this year; no one has, even though the Saints' record (8-0) is.

But it's hard to find much fault.

The Saints have allowed six touchdown passes and 1,756 yards passing this season, and that's not because opponents are running over them. At that pace they'll burrow under last year's totals of 21 touchdown passes and 3,708 yards passing allowed.

"I believe we complement each other," Greer said. "In the secondary, we do things in a different way, (and) we take pride in what we do. We value each other. We value each other's effort, and we always encourage each other to go out there and be the best we can be. And I just can't say enough about the way he's playing. "It's something that if you can succeed in it, it gives our team a better chance of winning. It gives our defensive line a better chance of going in there and making plays on the quarterback and creating pressure. It gives our linebackers time to add to their coverage and do some things. If you can play man to man, if you can do some of the things that we're being asked to do, I think it'll definitely show on Sunday."

It's showing for Porter, even while playing in a starting secondary where everyone else is having a breakout season.

Saints linebacker Shanle quietly getting job done

By Sheldon Mickles
The Advocate
Tuesday, August 18, 2009

When Gregg Williams agreed to take over the New Orleans Saints defense in January, he went into his new job with an open mind.

That included the players he knew from all his years as an NFL defensive coordinator — and those he didn't know so well.

Seven months later, Williams admits he didn't know much about weakside linebacker Scott Shanle. But that's not a big surprise considering many fans don't know that much about Shanle, a seven-year veteran who's going into his fourth season with the Saints.

For starters, it could be because they don't give him enough credit for what he does — especially last year. Nor do they appreciate what he does, judging by calls to radio shows and comments on fan boards questioning his ability.

"I started getting wind of it a little more this offseason," Shanle said of the outside criticism. "It was a little discouraging, because I felt like I had one of my better years. But I've said all along that as long as my position coach, my defensive coordinator, and my head coach and general manager like what I'm doing, I'll be around."

His numbers in 2008 certainly suggest he will.

Shanle piled up a career-high 145 tackles, which ranked second on the team behind middle linebacker Jonathan Vilma's 151. Shanle also had two sacks, broke up eight passes and forced a fumble in what he said was his most complete season as a pro.

"He was one of our better players a year ago, he graded out near the top," said Saints coach Sean Payton, who traded a seventh-round draft pick to the Dallas Cowboys in August 2006 to get the former Nebraska standout. "Not a lot of people know of him, but Scott is playing as well as any of our guys at linebacker right now.

"We're pleased with his progress. He's a sure tackler and plays within the scheme of the defense very well. He has been real consistent over the last year and a half. We like what we have in him."

The same goes for Williams, who didn't know much about Shanle until he accepted Payton's offer to take over the defense after Gary Gibbs was fired.

"He's a lot better football player than I knew," Williams said. "We've got a good mix of guys, but he's very talented. He is very sharp. When I got here, (linebackers coach) Joe Vitt said he was arguably the best linebacker on this team.

"He's a good coverage linebacker. We stick him in a lot of man-to-man situations with the tight end or running back, and he can rush, too."

Those are the things Shanle, a seventh-round draft pick of the St. Louis Rams in 2003, is most proud of, the things he can do that keep him on the field for all three downs.

In an age of defensive specialization, it's not uncommon for some linebackers to play on first and second down, then come out in passing situations in favor of an extra defensive back.

"I feel like I'm a consistent player, I'm not going to make mental mistakes," Shanle said. "Physically, I've been a three-down linebacker since I've been here, so when we get to third down, I'm staying on the field and I'm usually covering a tight end or running back.

"People question my physical ability even though I play all three downs, but there are guys that get drafted each year in the first round who play first down, second down — and they're off the field on third down."

Vilma can certainly appreciate a player who does that. In his first season with the Saints, he played every down on defense.

"Scott Shanle has to be one of the most underrated starters we have on this team — offense or defense," Vilma said. "He had a tremendous year last year. I know personally, because I feed off what he does.

"There were times when he would make great plays, and I would watch him on film the next day and appreci-

ate that. He doesn't get a lot of attention or respect, and that's unfortunate, because he's a very, very good linebacker."

The highlights came late in a Week 3 game at Denver when he stripped tight end Tony Scheffler after a completion to give his team a chance to win.

Then, in a Week 8 game against San Diego in London, Shanle dropped into coverage and got a hand on a pass that Vilma intercepted to seal a victory.

When he hears he doesn't make plays, or big plays, he uses it as motivation.

"It provides great motivation to go out there every week, every year to prove that I'm a starter in this league," Shanle said. "But I don't get caught up so much in it that it worries me. It goes back to what I've said: As long as my coaches and teammates trust me, that's all that matters."

Saints' coaches singing Shanle's praises

By John DeShazier
The Times-Picayune
Tuesday, August 25, 2009

You know Scott Shanle.

Sure you do, because he's That Guy.

That Guy on every NFL roster that the team's fans and media most often seem to identify as the one who should be replaced in the starting lineup. The one the majority believes the franchise can upgrade from. The one people lobby against when a big-name free agent that plays his position becomes available.

True, for the Saints, Shanle isn't the only one on that list. Recently waived cornerback Jason David comes to mind, and Pro Bowl offensive tackle Jammal Brown has taken his share of hits. But Shanle has occupied a top spot on it since the day he joined the Saints in 2006 from Dallas in exchange for a seventh-round draft pick, to right now, 19 days before the regular-season opener against Detroit.

"I don't know. I don't know. I mean, I don't know," Shanle said, smiling, after being asked why people love trying to give away his job. "I'm not one that's going to go out there and talk about myself and throw my stats out there and say, 'This is what I've done since I've been here.' I've never really gotten caught up in that.

"As long as my coaches and teammates think I'm doing a good job, I'll have a job. So I really don't get caught up in that. But maybe we need to pose that as a question, have people respond."

No need to bother with that; we already know the answer.

Saints fans would rather have Derrick Brooks at Shanle's spot. Or Derek Smith. Or Garth Brooks. Or Jada Pinkett-Smith. Anyone, it appears, but Shanle.

Funny thing, that, because the people who matter -- Saints coaches and Shanle's teammates -- seem to be all good with what they have. Neither Derrick Brooks nor Derek Smith was signed after working out for the Saints, and even if either had been, taking snaps from Shanle might've proved more difficult than outsiders could have imagined.

Coach Sean Payton, who traded for Shanle after he took over in 2006, and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who evaluated every defensive chess piece during the offseason, were effusive in their praise.

"He's a lot better football player than I knew," Williams said. "He is very sharp. When I got here (linebackers coach) Joe Vitt said he was arguably the best linebacker on this team."

Shanle has started 45 of his 46 regular-season games since joining the Saints. And no New Orleans player has more than his 358 tackles since 2006, which include a career-high 145 last season, when he also had two sacks and eight passes defended.

That is a lot of production.

"I'm very comfortable playing with him," middle linebacker Jonathan Vilma said. "I had a good feel for him last year, and we got better as the season went on, playing off each other. He's the most underrated player on our defense, one of the most underrated guys in the NFL on defense. I like the way he plays; I like the way he comes downhill.

"It's definitely one of those things where, if people were able to watch film the way we watch film and see the quiet things he does (they'd appreciate him). He's not a loud guy, not vocal -- but he's a real good linebacker.

"He takes on blocks, he covers his guys. There are plenty of times that he's covered Tony Gonzalez or Antonio Gates, and we left him one-on-one. (Shanle does) things like that, where it may not show up on stats but you look and say, 'Wow, he's one-on-one with one of the best tight ends in the NFL right now and doing a good job.' You can't really account for that with the media, but for us, as players, we look at that and we appreciate it."

That doesn't mean the rest of us will appreciate it, too. Only that, just maybe, we should.

"It's one thing if you feel like you're not holding up your end of the deal, you're not making a play, you're letting the team down," Shanle said. "But I feel like I've done some good things and made plays. I think when you start worrying about other things -- people don't like me, don't think I should be a starter -- you really can't concern yourself with that a whole lot. Just keep trying to do your thing."

This is his thing: playing weakside linebacker for three years and, this season, switching sides with Scott Fujita while acclimating to a new scheme and coordinator.

"I think it's going good," he said. "I'm getting a new understanding of a new defense. I think I carried over a lit-

tle momentum from last year, just understanding the game."

And proving he's a keeper to the people whose opinions of him really matter.

"I'm pretty comfortable," Shanle said. "Just going back to last year and building some confidence and understanding what offenses are trying to do, I think my understanding of the game is as good as it's been. That goes a long way. Even though I'm playing a new position, I still understand what they're trying to do."

As for what some others would prefer to do, in terms of moving him out of the lineup, he probably has a better understanding of that, too. He's That Guy.

Only to people outside his locker room, though.

Saints' Shanle quietly makes big plays

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Scott Shanle may be the last person to get caught up in his sudden surge in popularity, resulting largely from the first two interceptions in his seven-year career.

"Darren Sharper — what's he at, 57 now?" Shanle said after practice this week. "I've got 55 more to go to tie him."

With interceptions in each of New Orleans' first two games, Shanle ranks second on the Saints in that category this season. He's one behind Sharper, who also is the NFL's active career interception leader.

Shanle has never really fancied himself a big-play guy so much as a right-play guy, which might explain why he quietly went about his job so well last season that teammates named him the Saints' most valuable defensive player, ahead of defensive captain and team tackles leader Jonathan Vilma.

Shanle was second on the Saints in tackles in 2008 with 87, including two sacks and a forced fumble.

Through the first two weeks of this season, the 6-foot-2, 245-pound veteran leads the team in tackles with 16. "I've never really been the type of guy that needed to have the attention," Shanle said. "I've felt like if I do my job, good things will result from it. I was a seventh-round pick. This is my seventh year in the league, so obviously,

"I've been doing something right. Somebody in a position of power has felt like I've done a good job, so that's really all that matters to me."

The former Nebraska standout began his pro career with the St. Louis Rams in 2003, but was waived before his rookie season ended. Dallas claimed him off waivers, however, and he stuck there until the Saints traded for him in 2006, the same year former Cowboys assistant Sean Payton took over as head coach in New Orleans.

Shanle has started at weakside linebacker the last three seasons. While teammates say he's almost always where he's supposed to be, based on the defense that is called, his lack of highlights made him an easy target for fans who were growing impatient with the Saints' wide-ranging struggles on defense in recent seasons.

When Derrick Brooks became a free agent and the Saints brought him in for a workout, fans called sports talk shows en masse to express their wish that Brooks replace Shanle.

The Saints, however, have yet to sign Brooks, while Shanle is suddenly no stranger to highlight reels any more.

"He was our MVP last year on defense," Payton said. "I think sometimes it's misunderstood when we work out a linebacker that it's to replace Scott Shanle. That really couldn't be further from the truth. He's playing well. He's smart. He can run well.

"He got his hands on a ball last week which was a big play for us. He's someone who is getting a lot of snaps, not only in the base but in the nickel as well."

Vilma, who played every defensive snap for the Saints in 2008 after being traded to New Orleans from the New York Jets, was quick to praise Shanle's play as well.

"He's been that consistent guy week in and week out and that quiet guy. Right now I'm really excited for him because he's making big plays, so now people are taking more notice of him and the way he plays," Vilma said. "He's definitely a very athletic linebacker for his size. He can move, he can run, he can cover, so for us, having him have that athleticism is great ... and he can fly around and he makes plays."

Shanle said he was aware of fans' calls for the Saints to bring in Brooks. He knew he'd been a target for criticism on Internet message boards over recent seasons. He said he never let it bother him for the same reasons he won't get carried away with his recent spate of interceptions.

"It really doesn't affect me too much. I have a good understanding of how the people in this building feel about me — upstairs and in this locker room," Shanle said.

Saints may have found secondary 'QB' in Sharper

By Sheldon Mickles

The Advocate

Thursday, August 6, 2009

When first-year defensive coordinator Gregg Williams took a look at what he had to work with when he joined the team this winter, he knew he had to find a "quarterback" for his secondary.

Young or old, it didn't make a difference to Williams.

Then again, maybe it did.

"I like those (older) guys," he said. "Young guys drive me nuts. Once the season starts, there are no longer old guys and there are no longer young guys. They're our guys. Those are the ones we have to do it with." They already knew they weren't going to do it with Josh Bullocks, an unrestricted free agent who they allowed to leave, and Kevin Kaesviharn, who was released.

They just had to find the right guy. When they failed to land Jacksonville's Gerald Sensabaugh in free agency, they turned to four-time Pro Bowl pick Darren Sharper.

At age 33, Sharper and the Saints believe he has enough left in the tank to help them get back to the playoffs after two seasons when the defense — especially the pass defense — let down time after time.

As a result, the Saints gave up 67 completions of 25 yards or more. They also allowed 53 touchdowns in ranking 30th and 23rd, respectively, against the pass in 2007 and '08.

It will be up to a rotation of cornerbacks — including Jabari Greer, Tracy Porter and Radall Gay — as well as Sharper and strong safety Roman Harper, a three-year starter, to cut down on those big plays.

Sharper played his first 12 NFL seasons with the Green Bay Packers and Minnesota Vikings and has become accustomed to being a part of some good secondaries over the years.

"The key to being a good secondary is making plays when they're there — being opportunistic when the ball is in the air," Sharper said. "I know a lot of you guys saw it last year. They had chances when the ball was in the air and they didn't come down with it.

"It's about making the plays we're supposed to make. You have to be sound with your techniques and tackle well and come down with the ball when you have a chance. You have to know the game and study the game, and a lot of it is being able to anticipate where the ball is going."

Sharper, who's played in 183 career games with 167 starts, knows about that. He is first among active NFL players with 54 career interceptions and ranks 18th on the league's all-time list. He also has seven fumble recoveries for 61 career takeaways.

"We use our safeties and we give them a chance to make plays," Williams said. "Darren is in the books at being able to make plays on the ball. That's why he's here — to help us make plays on the ball.

"I have to help keep him fresh (in training camp), but the instincts and the ability to make plays on the ball — that's Darren Sharper. That's not us, that's not me."

Harper is certainly excited about the opportunity to work with Sharper. He's happy to be working with him, and, more importantly, for the opportunity to learn from him.

"We're meshing real well so far on the field and he's a nice guy off the field, too," Harper said. "But on the field, I'm always picking his brain to see what he's thinking. A big part of this position is mental and I try to see things through his eyes."

Harper, who gives the defense flexibility because he is capable of playing close to the line of scrimmage for extra run support, takes into account the fact Sharper played strong safety a good portion of his first eight years in the league with Green Bay.

"From what I've seen so far, Roman has it down," Sharper said. "He reacts well and I think strong safety suits him well.

"From Day 1, I could tell he was a guy who wants to work and is willing to listen. He wants to get better and you can tell he's got talent."

Secondary coach Dennis Allen likes what he's seen from his new safety combination in the first 10 training camp practices.

"I think they really complement each other well," Allen said. "Obviously, their skill sets are different. Darren has great athleticism and instincts and he's played in the league longer. He's been to four Pro Bowls, so he has those instincts and feel for the game.

"Roman is a great athlete who helps us against the run. We don't mind putting him in the front (seven) and in the box. But they really do complement each other well."

Sharper turning back the clock

By Mike Triplett

The Times-Picayune

Thursday, September 17, 2009

After intercepting only one pass last season in Minnesota, safety Darren Sharper was eager to come to the New Orleans Saints, where he said defensive coordinator Gregg Williams would "let playmakers be playmakers."

Sure enough, one game into this season, he has already doubled his interception total from last season.

"That showed last year was a fluke to me," said Sharper, 33, who is tied for 15th in NFL history with 56 career picks after robbing Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford twice in the Saints' season-opening victory. One more, and he moves into a tie for 10th.

"I was brought here because I've done that in my career, and I was glad that I had the chance to do that in my first game," he said.

Sharper said he knew last season was a fluke, chalking it up to a case of not getting enough opportunities in the Vikings' Cover 2 defense. He also admitted that a lot of outsiders were probably curious to see if he could return to his old form in his "old" age.

Teams weren't beating down his door when he hit the market in free agency. The Saints were the first team to show serious interest, but they waited a few weeks before signing him to a modest one-year, \$1.7 million deal that included \$250,000 roster bonuses after Week 6 and Week 12 -- essentially amounting to incentive claus-

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es -- or escape clauses if he didn't meet expectations.

"It's funny how, say, if that was my fifth year and I had one interception, nobody would be thinking about, 'Well, does this guy still got it?' " Sharper said. "But it happens in your 12th year, and everybody is wondering. That comes with the game. I've gotten too old to worry about that now."

Sharper isn't quite as fast or athletic as he once was, but his instincts and anticipation skills are as keen as they've ever been. That makes him a clear upgrade at free safety, where the Saints have struggled to find consistent production for years.

Sharper spent most of Sunday shadowing the Lions' top target -- receiver Calvin Johnson. His first pick came on an overthrown ball intended for Johnson. There was nothing fluky about the second one, however.

Sharper stepped in front of Johnson near the goal line and snatched it away like he knew it was coming.

"That was experience, definitely, " Sharper said of reading both the quarterback and the situation. "I wouldn't have done that as a younger player."

Fourth-year strong safety Roman Harper -- who has three career interceptions -- said Sharper makes it look too easy.

"I tell everybody, the hardest part is catching it, " said Harper, who has received plenty of ribbing from friends and teammates over the years for dropping potential picks. "That's how he makes his money."

There is a lot more to it, Harper said, and he's been learning at the foot of the master this year.

Harper brought up an example from a play in Houston during the preseason, when Sharper got in his ear just before the snap and told him to expect a slant route if a certain receiver went in motion. Sure enough, it played out just like Sharper predicted, and Harper made a quick tackle that might have been an interception if he reacted even sooner.

"He has great ball skills, and it was great to see him make a few plays the other day. The ball kind of finds him, " said Saints Coach Sean Payton, who identified Sharper as one of a group of veterans heading into training camp that would need to prove they've "still got it" during some important moments.

Obviously, Sharper has done that.

"You don't try to pre-determine, " Payton said. "You try to pay attention to what you're seeing, and since he's been here, he has done a good job."

Sharper said he chose to sign with the Saints both because the defense was the best fit for him and because it offered him the best chance to win a championship.

He said he has earned enough personal accolades in his first 12 seasons in Green Bay and Minnesota -- including four All-Pro and Pro Bowl selections -- that the ring is the only thing left to pursue.

He did admit that he is honored to be among some select company on the career interceptions list. Among those he passed were former Saints cornerback Eric Allen and New Orleans native Aeneas Williams.

Asked if there is any magic number or milestone for cornerbacks, Sharper said he never really thought about it until he passed Deion Sanders (53 career interceptions) last season. Now, he said, he would like to chase down Hall of Fame safety Ronnie Lott, who ranks sixth all-time with 63 interceptions.

"If I got Ronnie, that's something I would definitely write on the football. 'This one passed Ronnie, ' " Sharper said. "That's a guy you emulate, you look up to."

Sharper got a chance to visit with Lott last month when the Saints were in Oakland for a preseason game, and Payton brought in Lott to address the team.

Sharper said he has met Lott a few times, but he said Lott gave him some advice this time that he especially took to heart about enjoying the twilight years of his career.

"One thing he told me is that a lot of times, when guys get to the stage of their career that I'm in, they feel as though things should be given to them, " Sharper said. "You know, they should be granted this because they put in their time. But he said, 'Why shouldn't you go out there and act like a rookie? This is the time you really should, because you don't have that many years left. So you should start to appreciate the fact that you still have a chance to play, and go out there in practice and do all the extra things, run around like a kid, like you did when you first came into the league.'

"You know each year I come into the season and prepare myself and work, but you always have those thoughts, when you're like, 'Oh man, another two-a-day.' And he was telling me to just have the attitude of, 'Hey, it's another day to go out here and play football.' And when he told me that, I was like, 'You know what? You're right.' Because any second it can be gone."

One game into his 13th season, Sharper is indeed making the most of it.

Healthy at last, Shockey out to prove worth to N.O.

By Les East

The Advocate

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

When tight end Jeremy Shockey joined the Saints on the eve of last summer's training camp, he was coming off ankle surgery.

Shortly after beginning camp, he suffered a sports hernia injury that would limit him until he underwent surgery during the season.

Now, 13 months into his New Orleans career, Shockey is healthy, active and eager for the season to start.

"The toughest part of this game is staying healthy, and I play a pretty hard position, a rough position with a lot of contact," said Shockey, who has never played 16 games in any of his previous seven seasons. "It's good to be healthy and to be able to help this team.

"Last year is last year. The year before that is the year before that. I'm just trying to forget about the past and

prove to myself and everybody else I can play at a high level. Being injured is the hardest thing mentally. The game is hard enough being healthy.”

Saints coach Sean Payton, who was offensive coordinator for the Giants when Shockey made the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 2002, was eager to bring the 6-foot-5 four-time Pro Bowler to New Orleans.

When it became clear New York was looking to move Shockey after he was sidelined during the team’s run to the Super Bowl title two years ago, the Saints pursued Shockey.

Trade talks heated up before and during the 2008 draft, but a deal was never finalized. Finally, the deal got done nearly three months later when the Saints shipped second- and fifth-round picks to the Giants.

“He’s a big target,” Payton said. “I’ve said that this is really the healthiest that he has been since he’s been here. He’s in good shape. He’s injury free. He’s moving around well. It’s good to see him running the way he’s running.”

Though Shockey was limited last season and missed four games — three after the hernia surgery and the season finale because of an ankle injury — he finished third on the team with 50 receptions. Those numbers were tempered by the fact that he never got into the end zone.

“I think the fact that we ended up 8-8 has a lot to do with how people perceive things,” tight ends coach Terry Malone said. “If you look at the numbers and understand that he was really playing at half speed, he did an awful lot for this football team.”

Shockey’s season mirrored that of the tight ends at large. New Orleans used five tight ends, but none played in all 16 games.

Billy Miller came the closest, playing in 15 (starting five), but he was off the roster for the game against the Redskins. He finished with 45 catches for 579 yards and a touchdown. The other returnee is Buck Ortega, who played in 11 games (starting one) and caught one pass for three yards. In the offseason, New Orleans added Darnell Dinkins, an eight-year veteran.

“We’ve got veteran guys who know how to play,” Malone said. “The bottom line is getting these guys as healthy as we can, keeping them healthy and playing to the top level.”

If the tight ends are going to play a significant receiving role in what was the top-rated offense in the NFL last season, it’s Shockey who figures to be at the forefront.

“It is night and day compared to where he was at this time last year,” Malone said. “He showed me a tremendous amount of toughness last year. Now, we’ve got a healthy Jeremy Shockey, and it’s exciting to watch him play.

“He’s a very smart football player. He really understands the game. He’s got a tremendous amount of experience.”

Shockey made headlines in June, when he was briefly hospitalized after becoming dehydrated poolside at a Las Vegas resort, but turned the attention back to football when he participated in the final eight Organized Team Activities, something he usually avoids.

He said he was motivated to participate in order to get better acquainted with quarterback Drew Brees.

“Getting started here and being in the offseason program definitely helped,” Shockey said. “You have to be prepared, because he’ll tell you straight to your face if you’re not and you’re wasting people’s time. You don’t want to get called out by Drew.

“He makes you work a whole lot harder than other people I’ve been around. He puts a lot on himself and the people around him. He expects a high level.”

Shockey Q&A: Full speed at all times

By Jason Cole

Yahoo! Sports

Thursday, April 13, 2009

New Orleans Saints tight end Jeremy Shockey appears to have emerged from his time in football purgatory with a decidedly optimistic attitude. Finally healthy after suffering a leg fracture late in the 2007 (an injury that cost him a chance to play in the Super Bowl for the New York Giants) and tendon tears in both legs which left him hobbled for much of 2008, Shockey looks like the swift, powerful receiver who was a first-round pick in 2002.

With that in mind, the irreverent Shockey talked about what he considers the most troubling year of his career and what lies ahead for him, including a life as a world traveler and entrepreneur.

Cole: Your buddy Plaxico Burress wrote in his book “Giant” that you get hurt a lot because you fight too hard for every yard. He said you need to make what he called better “business decisions” on the field to stay healthy. Your thoughts?

Shockey: I wish it was so easy as you describe. This is how I’ve always played football – to fight for every inch, every yard. Plaxico plays a different way. He slides. You see him make a catch and he does the baseball slide. If that’s a business decision, it’s a business decision. In the middle of a play, I don’t think I’ve got to slide or I’m going to get hurt.

Cole: Is this some testosterone-filled, manhood thing for you?

Shockey: Obviously, you haven’t played organized sports at this high a level.

Cole: Yes, that’s obvious, but this is what Burress and other players talk about – saving themselves for the long haul.

Shockey: Well, I don’t have that button in my head that says, “Hey, get down.” I wish I did. I don’t. My attitude is full go, go full speed. Last year, even after I had the surgery, I wanted to be out there – full go – and play

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and try my best.

Cole: When you can't play at full go, how much does it hurt you?

Shockey: It hurts very bad. It's an empty feeling that's hard to describe. When I can't do something I love and enjoy so much, it's hard. We had this speaker come in the other day who had worked for President [George W.] Bush, and he talked about going to work in the White House. The [players] were talking to him about how he can be around these great athletes whose heads are so big they can barely walk through the door. He said, "Listen, the guys you are around, those 45 or 50 guys on a roster, they truly enjoy what they're doing." And then we asked him, "You're the CEO of a company; does everybody truly love working at your company?" And he said no.

Everybody in this game loves their occupation, and that's very unique. So when you can't play ... it's a feeling that's really hard to describe. To me, I've matured a lot over the years. In some sense, it's good to sit back and watch a little, but at the same time it's hard to sit back and think, "I haven't hurt anybody in my life, I've never been arrested; why is this happening to me?" I had a lot of those questions in my head last year. Why is this happening to me? Why did I break my leg with the Giants? Why, in my first training camp with the Saints, did I pop both the tendons in my legs?

Cole: Do you ever think about what you're going to do to replace the feeling you get from playing when you're done?

Shockey: I have businesses. I own [a business] in Panama. I sell art, I sell houses, a lot of things in Panama. That's a competitive thing for me. Whatever I do is going to be a competitive thing. I love to fish, deep-sea fish. I've been in a lot of tournaments in various countries. I've won a lot of money doing billfish tournaments.

Cole: So, you're going to escape to Panama when you retire and we'll never see you again?

Shockey: I probably will not retire in the United States. I'll have a home here, but I doubt I'll retire in this country. I'm always somewhere.

Cole: So replacing the thrill of playing doesn't sound easy.

Shockey: It's hard to explain. Because if you ask people what it's like to be sick and you can't go to work, most people would say that sucks. But in the back of their mind, they're thinking, "Cool, I can stay home for the day and chill." In this sport, you want to be part of it. We're competitive people out there every day, and another thing I'll miss most about all this is the locker room: joking around with the guys, telling stories about five years ago, girl stories, going-out stories, different experiences in your life.

Cole: So your approach is that you're all in, every day, in this game

Shockey: I enjoy it. This year I obviously enjoy it a lot more because I'm healthy. Last year was a really hard time for me. I would say I will remember last year more than any other year – not all the accolades and all the awards. It will be last year more than anything in my life because of the broken leg, the trade went down, fighting back from the adversity of popping both tendons ...

Cole: And all the negative stuff from the fans in New York?

Shockey: That's fine; I don't care what those people think. In my mind, I will remember last year more than any other year because of all the adversity I had to face. Coming to a new team and wanting to do so well and then getting hurt. I was thinking, These guys gave up a lot for me and I can't really do much. I probably only played six games healthy last year and I still had 50 receptions – no touchdowns but a ton of first downs. This year is going to be a lot different and I feel it's going to be a lot more satisfying.

Cole: So do you have a goal, some numbers in mind?

Shockey: I always have a goal, always have goals and numbers, but I don't share them with anyone except Drew Brees. That's it. It's a different feeling when you're healthy and can do things. When I was living in New York my first two or three years, you realize you're always going to have a strain or a bruise or something that's wrong with you, a cut on your knee or whatever. But to be truly hurt like I have been the past two [seasons] is really a hard feeling to describe. I was probably only getting like two or three hours of sleep a night.

Cole: Do you feel almost as if you're chained up?

Shockey: I was just really depressed. It was a very depressing year, a very black, dark time in my life. That's why, when you're healthy, you have to take it and come out and work every day. There are very few guys like Michael Strahan who get to go 14 or 15 years and only go on IR twice in his whole career. Granted, I only went on IR once in my career, but I have yet to play a full season. I've always missed one game here, one game there, two games here. Maybe if I made some business decisions like Plaxico – slid on this play or that play – I would have. I just don't think that way.

END'S NEW BEGINNING

Jeremy Shockey left New York with a bitter taste, but he's sweet on New Orleans and making a difference this season

By Nakia Hogan
The Times-Picayune
Monday, October 2, 2009

Jeremy Shockey takes a deep breath, holds it for a second, then rakes his fingers through his shaggy blond locks. His lips curl into a smile as he gathers his thoughts. He knows he is at peace now.

Sitting on a black couch in the Saints' locker room with his legs crossed, not a worry in his football-playing world, the fiery tight end begins to gush about his move to New Orleans.

He talks about his love for the people of New Orleans, about how nice and kind they've been. He goes on and on about his admiration for General Manager Mickey Loomis and Coach Sean Payton. He praises quarterback Drew Brees and the offense and the surging defense.

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"It's been very open arms ever since I got here," Shockey said. "Everyone in the locker room greeted me with open arms. Everyone has been great ever since I got here."

Indeed, everything does appear kosher in Shockey's world now that he's healthy and catching passes and the Saints are off to a 4-0 start.

Since being traded to the Saints from the New York Giants, Sunday's opponent at the Superdome, Shockey has gradually become one of the centerpieces of the Saints' juggernaut offense.

He has become a threat down the seams of the defense and the perfect check-down receiver for Brees, who has connected with Shockey for a team-leading 18 receptions for 162 yards and two touchdowns, both in Week 1 vs. the Lions.

That's exactly what the Saints envisioned when they shipped second- and fifth-round draft picks to the Giants on the eve of training camp last year for Shockey.

But that impact didn't come so quickly.

Shockey suffered a sports hernia injury early on, and although he caught 50 passes (with no touchdowns) last season, he didn't provide the type of consistent play that warranted parting with two draft picks.

Until now.

"It's come a long way," Brees said of the pass-catching combination. "Last year we really didn't get any time to work together prior to him getting thrown in there to begin the season because he was hurt for the majority of training camp.

"So we really didn't get the time to build that trust and rapport. This offseason, preseason and training camp, we've gotten a lot of time, and I think that's shown."

When discussing his improvement from a year ago, Shockey's smile grows brighter. It's obvious he is happy not only with the team but also the city and his surroundings.

"It was a blessing in disguise last year getting hurt, actually, because I was able to get healthy and get to pick up the offense," he said. "The offense is very complex. We do a lot of different things.

"I'm very fortunate to come to an organization that's on the up-rise, and that's very encouraging. The New Orleans people have been nothing but awesome."

For Shockey, times certainly have changed.

--- Bitter taste ---

Jeremy Shockey holds grudges, he'll admit.

He doesn't forget about the people who've betrayed him, the general managers, the coaches, the teammates, the media, the friends.

He remembers all of them.

And though he tries to hide his disdain for certain people and certain situations, Shockey can't always hold back.

"Bitter taste in my mouth" is how Shockey described it. "Things that happened between some people and myself, that bitter taste will always be in my mouth. It's just something that if you cross me once -- it's hard enough to gain my trust as it is -- and if you lie to me and if you say something behind closed doors between that person and myself . . .

"I needed change in my life. I needed change in the situation and scenario I was in because they were making a big deal out of nothing."

It still eats at him how he departed the Giants, where he at times served as a bombastic emotional barometer for the team.

Giants General Manager Jerry Reese, who verbally sparred with Shockey during the months leading to the trade, is not a favorite of Shockey's.

It's upsetting to Shockey that after breaking his leg while playing for the Giants in 2007, he said the team did n't fly him to Tempe, Ariz., for the Super Bowl.

Instead, he footed the bill. And when he arrived, he wasn't allowed to stay at the same hotel with his teammates or even watch from the sideline (he viewed the game from the press box).

Shockey said none of this would have happened if former Giants owner Wellington Mara, whom Shockey had developed a bond with, was still living.

"I was very close with the owner," Shockey said. "He passed, and I was at the funeral. I believe, and I know in my heart, if those guys were there some of this stuff would have never happened. And I would probably still be playing there. But everything happens for a reason. It happened, and I've moved on. I know they've moved on, and I've moved on, and I feel great about the situation.

"I thought I had a successful six years there, and I did some things to help the organization, marketing-wise -- I know they made a lot of money off of jersey sales and the things I've done for them. Going to the Pro Bowl four out of six years is a very big accomplishment, and I was expecting a little more respect than I was receiving."

In Shockey's eyes, he could do no right when it came to the media in New York, who chronicled nearly every move of the breakup between Shockey and the organization.

"If you look back at all the articles ever written and all the hoopla and all the media people, I never really commented," Shockey said. "They kind of speculated. And that's the thing I didn't like.

"It was all this speculation, and people were always writing articles about me, but the guy who the article was about never commented. I just never commented."

--- Happy times ---

Shockey has no problem with his tough-guy image.

He revels in it.

He's the Saint you'd probably least want to pick a fight with, a 6-foot-5, 250-pound bouncer look-alike with bulging-muscle-filled-tattooed arms.

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He's the Saint that fans have begun to gravitate to in a way they haven't since Kyle Turley left in 2002. He's the Saint most likely to be seen sitting courtside at Hornets games, giving the referees a hard time and leaping onto the court after a big play from Chris Paul. He's the Saint most likely to throw a postgame tantrum, the free spirit who doesn't mind telling a reporter to shove his recorder where the sun doesn't shine. He's the Saint that was supposed to be the difference maker for an already-potent offense. So far, so good.

"Everybody thinks of Jeremy as a bad boy, bad teammate, always doing things on his own," said Saints injured TE Billy Miller, whose locker is next to Shockey's. "But I've found him to be the complete opposite. He's a great teammate who both shares his knowledge and accepts insight from other players. He's a great team guy."

Payton, who was the Giants' offensive coordinator in 2002, Shockey's rookie season and his most productive (74 catches, 894 yards), agreed.

"I'd rather have a player that's passionate about what he's doing," Payton said. "He comes here in the morning, and it's all football. Bring me a bunch of those guys."

That's precisely why Shockey, when it was time for a trade to be made from the Giants, told his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, that New Orleans was the place he wanted to be.

He knew Payton would give him an opportunity to flourish. He knew he could return to his Pro Bowl days. He said he also knew this team had championship potential.

"It's been a blessing," he said.

But all hasn't been rosy in New Orleans. Shockey has had a hiccup, or two, along the way.

There was the animated discussion on the sideline between Brees and Shockey last year against Atlanta, which both players downplayed.

There were the missed voluntary offseason workouts that Shockey said he had his coach's blessing for.

"I know I missed a couple days in voluntary minicamp because of some permit things for my condo in Miami," he said. "That would have gotten blown overboard in New York. They would have been saying, 'He's not attending voluntary minicamp again. He's off doing his own thing.'"

"Well, no, I talked to Sean, and I missed three or four days of work, and it was no big deal."

And there was the infamous "dehydration" incident in Las Vegas that sent Shockey to the hospital. But that too, Shockey said, was no big deal.

"My agent and Mickey talked two minutes after it happened," Shockey said of the Las Vegas tryst. "It was not a big deal. That was another big media in L.A. thing that blew something up that wasn't that bad."

"Just because of who I am and what I've done over the past couple of years, I'm always going to be the guy that if two people get in trouble and two people do the exact same thing, I'm going to be the one that's going to be the headline just because that sells."

Recently, though, there have been no negative headlines.

And Shockey even laughs at the notion.

"Knock on wood," he said.

Healthy DE Smith sacking his naysayers

By Nakia Hogan
The Times-Picayune
Friday, November 13, 2009

No one is certain if Will Smith was oblivious to all the negative talk surrounding him last season or if the Saints defensive end was simply playing deaf.

Whatever it was he has silenced some of his staunchest critics with his play this season, while helping the Saints to their best start in franchise history.

After an injury-plagued 2008 season, Smith, a former first-round draft pick who was awarded a new contract in 2008 worth \$64.5 million over seven years, has re-established himself as one of the top defensive ends in the NFL.

And along the way, he has quieted the naysayers -- even if he claims he didn't know they existed.

"Like I said before, I never heard that," Smith said. "I don't listen to the news, read the paper, go on the internet, I don't do any of that. I just come to work everyday and do my job. If anybody ever did say (Smith wasn't living up to the contract) it really at the end of the day doesn't mean anything to me because they don't really know what is going on behind the scenes."

"Coach (Sean) Payton, (General Manager) Mickey Loomis, (owner) Mr. (Tom) Benson, we were all on the same page. They knew what was going on. They knew that what I was doing was the best I could do at that particular time because of the injury I had."

There's no injury now.

Smith, who had a career-low three sacks last season, has healed from the sports hernia that limited his acceleration and sent a throbbing pain shooting through his midsection.

Halfway through this season, Smith has 23 tackles, and his 6 1/2 sacks are tied for fourth most in the NFC. Smith also has two forced fumbles and an interception.

With two sacks in each of the Saints' past two games, Smith is on pace to have more sacks than the career-high 10 1/2 he posted in 2006, when he earned his lone Pro Bowl berth.

"He's healthy, he's in real good shape and he's having an excellent year," Payton said. "He's been consistent each week. He's a player that can play with speed but also has real good power, and those are two good

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attributes to have at the end position when you can convert your speed rushes into power and have a pretty good one-two punch there. He's playing pretty well."

Saints first-year defensive coordinator Gregg Williams said he isn't certain if Smith is playing at different level now than he did in the past, but he knows Smith has provided the defense with a definite spark and the kind of disruptive play defensive coaches covet.

"This is my first experience with him," Williams said. "He's playing pretty well. That's the only thing I could say about it. He's playing well. He's an excellent tone setter.

"Not only as you see them as the fans see them in those three hours, you see them work in practice and you see them work in the meeting rooms and the classroom and the weight room. He's a good mentor for a bunch of those guys on that defensive line, too."

Saints defensive tackle Remi Ayodele agreed, crediting Smith with the improved play of some of the Saints other defensive linemen.

"He is playing at another level," Ayodele said. "I think he has cranked it up a notch. He sees what we have and he's playing better and making us play better."

Three months ago, though, it would have been hard to predict Smith would have gotten off to this type of start.

Smith and fellow Saints defensive end Charles Grant, who has four sacks and had an even bigger impact against the run, were expected to serve a four-game suspensions at the start of the season for violating the NFL anti-doping policy after testing positive for bumetanide, a banned diuretic that was an unlisted ingredient in an over-the-counter weight loss product StarCaps.

But the Saints were given a major reprieve when the NFL decided to let both players play while Minnesota Vikings defensive tackles Kevin Williams and Pat Williams continue to appeal their suspensions in state court after testing positive for the same drug.

"It definitely was a relief not to have to worry about later on in the season if we were going to get suspended," Smith said. "We just felt better knowing that we could just go out and play football and not worry about the media asking us questions about it all the time. We could put it behind us and focus on football."

Meanwhile, the opposition has turned much of its attention to Smith, who typically beats left tackles with a bull rush before getting to unsuspecting quarterbacks.

In recent weeks, Smith is seeing more and more double-team blocks and he has faced an assortment of chips by running backs and tight ends, trying to keep the defensive end from making a big play.

Williams said Smith should just get used to such tactics.

"If you don't see those things it's because they don't worry about you," Williams said. "The good ones should get a lot of it. We have to have answers to help them if they get a lot of it. We play so many packages, it's hard for teams to decide when they can and can't on him, because we play so many different things. It's a compliment to him because he's getting it, yes."

Smith also is getting plenty of rave reviews from some of the same observers who doubted him last season. But that, too, is falling on deaf ears.

Saints' O-line in synch both on and off the field

By BRETT MARTEL

The Associated Press

Thursday, October 22, 2009 3:43 AM

METAIRIE, La. -- New Orleans lineman Zach Strief and Jon Stinchcomb stood side-by-side, feet shoulder-width apart.

With nimble synchronicity, the lumbering duo tapped away in tandem on fake electric guitars while playing the video game Rock Band in the middle of the locker room.

It's the kind of teamwork that has helped the Saints' offensive line make Drew Brees one of the least sacked quarterbacks in the NFL.

"We're not all alike, but we get along well," Stinchcomb said after he'd put down the plastic guitar following Wednesday's practice. "That's not only on the field, but off, and I know for a fact it carries over because there are times when it's a heated situation and you've got to be able to work with the guys across the O-line.

"There's always midstream adjustments you have to make. If you don't work well together, it's going to bite you," the right tackle added.

In last weekend's 48-27 victory over the New York Giants, one of the better defensive teams in the league, Brees was not sacked once and had ample time to find receivers for 369 yards and four TDs.

During the Saints' 53 games since 2006, when Sean Payton took over as head coach and Brees as quarterback, the Saints have allowed 56 sacks, second fewest in the NFL during that span.

The 2006 season was their worst as they allowed 23 sacks, still the fourth-lowest total in the NFL. In 2007, they allowed a league-low 16 sacks. Last season they set a franchise low with 13 sacks allowed, which ranked third.

Brees has been sacked four times this season, currently the third-lowest total.

If there was one weakness, it was run blocking, but not any more. The Saints are fourth in the NFL in rushing, averaging 159.6 yards per game.

Stinchcomb said run blocking was "a commitment this entire offseason, training camp, across the board from management on down. We just made a commitment that that's not going to be a weakness on this offense."

Brees said continuity has played a big role in the line's effectiveness. Stinchcomb and right guard Jahri Evans have started every game since 2006. Center Jonathan Goodwin, who took over as a starter in 2008, has been learning the system since 2006, when he joined the club as a reserve. Jermon Bushrod, who has been pressed into the starting left tackle spot because of Jammal Brown's season-ending hip injury, was drafted by New Orleans in 2007. Zach Strief, who fills in at both tackle slots and sometimes as a blocking tight end, was drafted by the Saints in 2006.

Starting left guard Carl Nicks is the newest member of the group, having replaced veteran Jamar Nesbit as a starter last season. Nesbit remains as a key reserve.

"Those guys have been together for a while. They know and have a great feel for one another. They have great trust for one another," Brees said. "Typically that's the position that takes the longest to develop as a unit because it's the largest number of guys on the field as a unit. Plus, what I see with our guys is they don't just come in the facility and are buddy-buddy and then leave and everybody goes their separate ways. These guys are hanging out all the time."

The offensive linemen found themselves together at so many charity events that they formed an official foundation called OL4NO (Offensive line for New Orleans). They've done bike giveaways at Christmas, youth camps and Feed the Children events, to name a few.

They also eat out together every Thursday night.

"It's never about football, which is nice," Strief said. "It's probably unusual a little bit for no one (among the linemen) to be an outsider - and the coaches have done a good job of making sure that, you know, 'Do these guys get along?'"

"We've just been together a long time," Strief continued. "We've been in the same meeting room, in the same seats, for three and four years now, and I think we're all comfortable with each other and that makes it a lot easier to work together."

N.O. TE Thomas proving to be valuable commodity

By Sheldon Mickles
The Advocate
Thursday, November 5, 2009

After seven weeks of the 2009 NFL season, it's business as usual for New Orleans Saints tight end David Thomas.

Thomas is again playing for an undefeated team and is working every day with one of the game's premier quarterbacks — just as he did when he was with the 2007 New England Patriots before landing on injured reserve.

Other than wearing new colors, the only difference is Thomas, a four-year veteran from Texas, is catching passes from Drew Brees rather than Tom Brady.

That's not a bad tradeoff, which is how Thomas came to the Saints — in exchange for a 2011 seventh-round draft pick.

While many players might have had some misgivings about being traded away by the Patriots, especially if they go to a losing team, Thomas doesn't think his deal ended up so bad.

"It all happened really fast, but I'm happy to be here," Thomas said. "I'm excited to be a part of this team. These guys have really embraced me and helped me fit in. I'm just trying to work hard and get better every day."

"I'm just happy to be part of a team that's winning games," Thomas said of the 7-0 Saints, who are just one of two remaining undefeated teams going into Sunday's game with the Carolina Panthers.

That he's part of it is more than he can say about the 2007 season when the Patriots went 16-0 in the regular season and won two playoff games before falling to the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLII.

Thomas played in only two games that season before ending up on injured reserve with a foot injury, which meant he had to watch the Patriots' historic march through the regular season from the sideline.

Thomas has played a key role as a receiver and run blocker since the Saints got him from the Patriots on Sept. 5. He didn't participate in his first practice with his new team until Sept. 7, then started the season opener six days later in a double tight end set with Jeremy Shockey.

While Shockey is one of Brees' primary targets, Thomas has quickly and quietly settled into his role as the

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No. 2 tight end. He has seven catches for 78 yards and has helped the Saints' running game, which ranks fourth in the NFL with 153.3 yards per game, as an extra blocker.

In his first three seasons, Thomas, a third-round draft pick of the Patriots in 2006, caught 21 passes for 261 yards and a TD while starting 13 games. His rookie season was his best when he had 11 receptions for 159 yards.

"Yeah, I've gotten more opportunities," he said of his brief time with the Saints, "and I'm happy that I've been able to step in and gain some confidence with Drew and the coaches that put me out there."

The Saints desperately needed another tight end after Billy Miller tore his Achilles' tendon in the final exhibition game against the Miami Dolphins. Two days later, they made the deal with the Patriots.

Thomas said he had no inclination the Patriots were willing to part with him, which made the trade a complete shock to him. During training camp and the preseason, he had gotten his normal allotment of reps alternating with Ben Watson and Chris Baker.

"I was a little surprised when it all went down," Thomas said, "but I'm real happy to be here. It's nice to be with another great quarterback going from Tom to Drew, so it's been a great transition for me."

The transition was more like a blur, however, because of the need to get into his new playbook quickly.

"Every offense is complicated and every offense has things that are more complicated than others," Thomas said. "This is definitely a tough system, but the guys have helped me learn it. (Tight ends) Coach (Terry) Malone did a great job with the way he taught it to me."

"All of those guys — Jeremy and Darnell (Dinkins) and Billy — they were all there giving me tips and pointers, so they get a lot of credit with that. Drew and those guys helped me a lot, too."

Thomas' role expanded last week, however, when fullback Heath Evans was lost for the season with a torn ACL. Thomas started in Monday night's game with the Atlanta Falcons because Kyle Eckel, who was signed to take Evans' roster spot, had only been with the team for four days.

"That's something I've always learned, the more you can do the more you can help your team," Thomas said.

"I try to pay attention to the whole offensive scheme and not just the small area that I live in."

"Dave is smart and versatile, and I think he's athletic," Saints coach Sean Payton said of plugging Thomas in at fullback. "He's been versatile — that would be a good way to describe his skill set in both the passing game, in (pass) protections and in the running game."

"He has been an important acquisition. He sure has been."

Vilma wants to repay Saints

New Orleans, meanwhile, wants him to be a leader

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Jonathan Vilma needed one season in New Orleans to resurrect his career.

Coming back from major knee surgery, he played every snap at middle linebacker in 2008, leading the team with 151 tackles to go with two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and a game-sealing interception.

Vilma understands he'll be challenged to top those numbers in his second season with the Saints, but said he's trying not to worry about his own statistics.

His play-making ability is no longer in question at this point. What the Saints need him to do now is become the "quarterback" of a defensive unit that struggled last season, even while Vilma thrived individually.

"The personal goals, I try not to really worry about," Vilma said. "It's really about the team goals and trying to be a better leader, trying to be a better communicator, trying to make sure that the defense is in the top tier and people start mentioning the Saints defense — and doing things bigger than just myself."

The Saints' defense ranked 23rd in yards allowed last season and 26th in points allowed. So head coach Sean Payton went in search of a new defensive coordinator and decided on Gregg Williams, who said the opportunity to work with Vilma was a major part of what drew him to the Saints.

"I wanted to draft him when I was at Buffalo, almost traded for him when we were in Washington and then the next year he was traded here," recalled Williams, who was the Bills' head coach from 2001-03 and the defensive coordinator for the Redskins from 2004-2007.

"We need players that are going to rise up and help the other people rise up," Williams continued. "Jonathan is good enough that he'll play at a high level, but the way he can help everyone else out with the cues, the little fast-thinking things, the tips, he can raise the people around him."

Though it's early, Vilma appears to be thriving in Williams' new scheme. During the Saints' preseason opener against Cincinnati last Friday, Vilma recovered a fumble and returned it 47 yards. A couple series later, he nearly ran an interception of Carson Palmer back for a touchdown, though he regretted getting caught from behind and fumbling inside the Cincinnati 5-yard line at the end of the play.

Still, his 112 combined return yards were a good sign.

Vilma feeling at home in second year with Saints

By Nakia Hogan

The Times-Picayune

Thursday, August 13, 2009

Jonathan Vilma was just trying to fit in.

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After arriving from the New York Jets via a trade last offseason, he spent much of the 2008 season tackling ball-carriers and securing the Saints' middle linebacker spot.

But 16 games without missing a play and 151 tackles later, Vilma said he's finally feeling like a Saint.

"It's a lot different," Vilma said. "This time last year I was still battling my knee and a couple nicks and injuries. I really didn't have a spot on the team. I had a spot because I was traded here, but not necessarily a voice. That was kind of frustrating.

"But this year the players know me. The coaches know me. The city, I'm used to. I'm getting a great grasp of this defense."

Vilma, 27, is expected to lead a revamped defense under new coordinator Gregg Williams, who brings an attacking scheme. Williams' scheme will place a larger burden on Vilma to get the defense aligned properly. Vilma has proven to be more than capable. Throughout training camp and his five-year career, he has displayed great ball instincts, showing off his aggressive athletic skills/

His 151 tackles last season were the second most of his career and the most by a Saint since 1997.

"He's a guy that works extremely hard at his position," Coach Sean Payton said. "He's a quick study. He's one of the leaders on defense. He's been an important acquisition for us."

His teammates agree.

"It means a lot (having Vilma)," strong safety Roman Harper said. "You'll see the way he leads our defense with all the checks he makes. He's the quarterback of our defense. He leads us by example. With a guy like that in the front, it makes everything on the back a lot easier."

The Saints made sure they kept Vilma, signing him to a five-year, \$34 million contract just at the start of free agency.

"Those are tough decisions you have to make," Payton said. "Sometimes they don't always favor the player. But certainly with his age and where we thought he was in his career, he was a priority guy for us to re-sign.

"When you make a trade for a player with one year left on his contract, you are hopeful he is able to play and have success. And if that was the case, and in his situation it was, then we felt pretty good about re-signing him."

The financial commitment came on the heels of some legal trouble. Vilma was arrested Jan. 16 in Miami for reckless driving and two counts of resisting arrest, one a misdemeanor and one a felony. But after his arraignment was postponed twice, prosecutors with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's office dropped the charges.

The re-signing also came before a double murder was committed in a vacant condominium owned by Vilma in Long Island, N.Y.

Vilma, who was not a suspect in the case, said it meant a lot to him to have the Saints stick with him. It also served as a real-life lesson to watch the company he keeps.

"That actually helped me realize outside of football, like the old cliché, 'who your friends are, who aren't your friends,'" Vilma said. "There were people who were truly concerned about what happened. And there were people who just wanted to find out and didn't care. But I always told everyone that as long as my family believed in me, as long as my coaches believed in me, the GM Mickey (Loomis), my players, my fans, I'm cool with that."

Vilma, who said he is still trying to sell the condo where the murders were committed, said he has been given little information by police in New York about the case.

"I was just as confused as anyone else," he said. "I got a phone call the night before they were going to put the story out and didn't know anything about what was going on. That was a little disturbing, of course, to hear that, and a little frustrating because I didn't have all the facts. People were asking me what was going on, and I didn't even know what was going on."

What Vilma does know is how happy he is to be with the Saints and how much he is anticipating the upcoming season.

"I'm very excited," he said. "I'm even more excited because of what I've seen in OTAs and since Gregg has gotten here. I've seen the personal battles that guys are taking it upon themselves to get better and really trying to improve and become better players, and in turn make us a better defense. I'm excited about that."

Vilma adjusts very well to Williams' defense

By Mike Triplett

The Times-Picayune

Friday, October 2, 2009

When Jonathan Vilma was traded by the Jets to the Saints in 2008, the common perception was that he didn't fit in the 3-4 defense New York was using under Coach Eric Mangini -- or that he just didn't like it.

Vilma clarified that notion this week.

"I never said I didn't like it," said Vilma, who will face his former team for the first time in the Superdome on Sunday. "My problem is that we were losing, and I like to be winning."

That's why Vilma was perfectly happy spending last Sunday afternoon in the middle of another 3-4 defense, which the Saints used to shut down Buffalo in a 27-7 victory that upped their record to 3-0.

The Saints threw a variety of defensive looks at the Bills, some that included four linebackers and four defensive backs, some that included three linebackers and five defensive backs and some that included end Bobby McCray in a roving "elephant" linebacker role.

All of those packages, however, included just three linemen -- a formation the Saints had tinkered with in the first two weeks and throughout the offseason, but never to this extent.

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Defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, the mad scientist behind New Orleans' elaborate defensive playbook, said the strategy was something the team had been planning to throw at Buffalo for months.

"That was something back in the spring we had ready to roll, and we worked all spring long on that kind of a package vs. that style of offense," said Williams, though he added that the Saints were prepared to switch things up if the Bills had made more adjustments.

"I don't call the game from a piece of paper," said Williams, repeating one of his favorite mantras. "You have to take a look out there and try to be the quarterback too. That's what we do on defense.

"We've got 27 ways to add up to 11 (players on the field). I came up with another one last night."

The 3-4 alignment, once favored by the Saints under Jim Mora in their "Dome Patrol" days, has been around for years, but it's as popular as ever today.

Thanks to the recent success of 3-4 defenses in New England, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Dallas, among others, nearly half the league is making heavy use of 3-4 schemes.

"With the success of Pittsburgh and Baltimore, I think a lot of teams are trying to do that," said first-year Jets Coach Rex Ryan, who ran a 3-4 as the Ravens' defensive coordinator and now runs it in New York. "All they have to do is play those teams, and then they realize that it's a pain to prepare for."

Ryan said one of the greatest benefits of the 3-4 is that you can pressure the quarterback from a number of defensive positions. In a standard 4-3 alignment, "you can see who the four rushers are."

Ryan is particularly creative with how he uses that deception. Among other wrinkles, he has lined up defensive tackle Kris Jenkins at middle linebacker.

In that sense, he and Williams are kindred spirits, which isn't surprising considering they both learned at the foot of defensive guru Buddy Ryan, Rex's father.

Saints Coach Sean Payton can attest to how much of a pain guys like Williams and Ryan are to prepare for. He said the sheer volume of schemes and formations he has seen of them on tape forces opposing offenses to prepare for anything and everything during a game week.

"We're talking about a lot of different looks, and you only get so many practice snaps, and you know that there will be something different that you haven't seen that you have to get coached up on the sideline," Payton said. "All those things become tedious, and it forces you offensively to spend time and devote time to all those different looks. Regardless of whether you're going to see them all in a game, you have to prepare for them."

Buffalo offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt said he was prepared for the Saints' 3-4, but he blamed himself for not adjusting to the heavy amount of zone blitzes the Saints threw at him.

Williams said the Saints blitzed two or more defensive backs on 25 snaps in that game. According to ESPN's research department, New Orleans has blitzed 45.67 percent of the time this year, which ranks third in the NFL. Ryan's Jets rank first at 62.6 percent.

"It would be safe for you guys to say there might be pressure from both of us at some time in the ballgame," Williams deadpanned.

Linebacker Scott Fujita called it a "player-friendly defense," which is tailored to individual strengths.

Will Smith said the defense's attitude has been perhaps its greatest asset.

"I don't think it's that they don't know what's coming; I think they just know they can't stop it," said Smith, who had a sack, a key third-down run stuff and his first career interception Sunday. "I think it's more about the attitude. You can put up any defensive scheme, but the guys don't have good attitudes, the guys aren't healthy, it won't make any difference."

Vilma is thriving in the system, just as he thrived in former defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs' more traditional 4-3 last season. He ranks fourth on the team with 16 tackles, he is tied for the team lead with four quarterback hurries, and he has one sack and two pass break-ups.

"I think I'm doing well in there right now," said Vilma, who receives play-calls from Williams through a communication device in his helmet. "I think Gregg has a lot of confidence in me to call the plays, call the defenses, and he puts us in a lot of different positions. Not only myself, but (outside linebacker) Scott Shanle's out there covering wide receivers, we've got corners blitzing, safeties blitzing. So it's really to everyone's strengths right now, and we feed off that."

Williams scoffed at the notion that Vilma is less effective in a 3-4.

"He's a football player," Williams said. "If I had to worry about that, I'd never play him because I play him in a 3-4, 3-3-3-2, 4-1, 4-2, 4-3. What he needs to worry about is when I don't play with any linebackers. That's what he needs to worry about."

Yes, Williams does have such a package in his playbook.

"We call it dollar, where it's four down linemen and seven DBs," Williams said. "We just haven't had to use that right now because (Vilma) is a pretty versatile football player."

Vilma makes obvious impact as leader of Saints' defense

By Peter Finney

The Times-Picayune

Friday, October 2, 2009

It didn't take long to reduce the obvious storyline of Sunday's New Orleans Saints-New York Jets war to capsule form.

"Drew's O vs. Ryan's D a Must-See," said one Manhattan headline.

Welcome to a chess game between the Mad Bomber and the Mad Scientist. You'll be hearing all about the Xs and Os right down to kickoff time.

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You'll be hearing how Rex Ryan, the beefy, free-spirited coach who has made the Jets defense the talk of the NFL, is planning to make life miserable for bomb-throwing Drew Brees, a quarterback wearing jersey No. 9. You'll be hearing the story of the Saints 35-22 loss to Baltimore in 2006, when Ryan was the Ravens defensive coordinator, the day Brees was pressured into three interceptions, the day the Ravens scored 28 points off five turnovers.

Ryan vs. Brees is a big story all right. But not the whole story.

That's because the Saints have two quarterbacks.

Jonathan Vilma will be wearing jersey No. 51.

Some of the defensive calls, some of the last-second, on-field adjustments Vilma will be making from his inside linebacker position, could have as much of an impact on who wins as a Brees audible.

Coach Sean Payton doesn't mince words. He calls Vilma the "quarterback of the defense."

Defensive coordinator Gregg Williams calls Vilma, "a rare gem, the kind of player whose smarts, whose fast-thinking, lifts the level of play of those around him."

In Sunday's showdown between two 3-0 ballclubs, Vilma will be matching wits against a team that made him its first-round pick in 2004, then watched him live up to his press clippings as Defensive Rookie of the Year. That was followed by three years of quality play, until the Saints made him their top free-agent acquisition in 2008.

To get an idea of what makes Vilma "a special teammate," just pose the question to Jeremy Shockey, who shared a roster spot with Vilma in college at Miami.

"When I think of Jonathan," said Shockey, placing a finger to his temple, "I think of smarts. He's the same guy now he was in college. No one knows the game any better.

"I'm a tight end, we're going against one another in practice, and he's telling me, in a nice way, about running routes. 'Don't give your route away,' he'd say. 'Do this, don't do that.' Jonathan was into all the little things that make you a better player. He not only had the talent, he had the drive to keep getting better and help his teammates."

Ask defensive tackle Sedrick Ellis, last year's first-round pick.

"Jonathan helped make my rookie year a happy memory," said Ellis. "Little tips. It was like he knew all positions, what to look for. He gets so much from watching film. A real student of the game."

Ask Scott Shanle, who plays alongside Vilma.

"Last week in Buffalo," Shanle said, "he's coming up with all kinds of hand signals to overcome the crowd noise, to make sure everyone's on the same page, linebackers, corners, safeties. A real coach on the field."

Outside linebacker Scott Fujita got a quick read on Vilma.

"From Day One, I was blown away by his work ethic, his passion. Jonathan wants to become recognized as the best at his position. He plays like he's on a mission."

Less than a month after undergoing arthroscopic abdominal surgery in the offseason, Vilma was on the practice field the first day of training camp, thanks to 100-percent attendance at voluntary workouts.

"Stuff like that tells you a lot about someone's qualities as a team leader," Payton said.

So how will it be playing the role of a leader against a bunch of former teammates?

"I have some great friends on the Jets," Vilma said. "Am I surprised they're 3-0? Not at all. I'm happy for them. I look at that offense, and I see more than a rookie quarterback (Mark Sanchez) who has done a fine job managing the game. I see an excellent offensive line and a dynamic duo at running back (Thomas Jones and Leon Washington). They have balance on offense, and they have an outstanding defense. The Jets are the real deal."

So far, so are the Saints.

And keep this in mind: Whoever loses will still be in Super Bowl contention.

Saints see Usama Young maturing quickly at safety

By Brett Martel

The Associated Press

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Usama Young might be better known for his Super Bowl commercial last winter than anything he's done on a football field in his first two seasons with the New Orleans Saints.

His switch in positions this year from cornerback to free safety could change that, based on reviews he's getting from coaches and teammates.

"He's got a bright future at the safety position," Saints secondary coach Dennis Allen said. "He was a fast corner, but I don't know that he had the speed and the agility that you need at this level - but he's been outstanding and everything we hoped he'd be at the safety position."

Taken in the third round of the 2007 draft, Young spent much of his first two seasons playing primarily on special teams. Most of his snaps at cornerback came in passing situations, when formations called for five or six defensive backs, though he did start twice last season because of teammates' injuries.

His 19 special teams tackles ranked second on the club in 2008, when he also made his first two career interceptions and had a career-high 27 defensive stops.

In part because of his long dreadlocks, Young was recognizable by Saints fans ever since he arrived in New Orleans. His good-natured smile and childhood story of selling snow cones at Washington Redskins games elevated his national profile when the NFL ran its "Super Ad" contest on the league's Web site.

Young's story, in which he admitted to being distracted from his vending job by games, and to sometimes running on the field when the stadium was empty, was among the most popular with fans whose votes helped

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decide which player would be featured in the Super Bowl spot.

"I'm not used to getting recognized back in Maryland and the D.C. area," Young said of his rising fame after the ad ran. "And a few times people came up to me like, 'Hold on. You were in the Super Bowl commercial?'" The ad also was a hit at Kent State, where Young played in college and then returned last winter to finish work on his degree in education.

"The teachers knew who I was," Young said. "My professors were asking me about the season, asking me about our defense. ... It was kind of funny."

Young walked in a graduation ceremony in May with his parents in attendance - a moment he called the highlight of his offseason. He then returned to New Orleans to learn his new job, expecting to be pressed into service quickly.

The Saints let go of their top two free safeties from 2008, Kevin Kaesviharn and Josh Bullocks, before adding veteran safety Darren Sharper, the likely starter when the regular season begins.

Young welcomed the chance to learn from Sharper, a four-time Pro Bowler who leads all active NFL players with 54 interceptions.

"I'm trying to get all that he has to offer because I know that he knows so much," Young said. "I try to ask him what he's gone through, what type of stuff I should look for to help me get better or help me play fast and he's constantly helped me out."

QB Drew Brees observed Young's progress from across the line of scrimmage throughout training camp.

"Learning all those things has been an adjustment for him, but he's picked it up very well," Brees said. "I love the guy. He's intelligent and a hard worker - a great player. He wants to be a guy who contributes to this team. He's on his way to being that guy."

Young started the Saints' third preseason game at Oakland last weekend, hurting his shoulder while nearly making an interception. He's expected to recover by Week 1 of the regular season, but was unlikely to play in Thursday night's preseason finale against Miami.

Saints coaches say they've already seen enough to leave them hopeful Young will thrive in his new role.

"He's pushing hard for that position," head coach Sean Payton said. "He's handled that transition well and has gotten better ... and we're encouraged by what we see now."

Benson broadens N.O. investments beyond Saints

By Greg LaRose
New Orleans CityBusiness
Monday, August 10, 2009

It wasn't exactly the news Dennis Lauscha was hoping to hear when state Treasurer John Kennedy pronounced the Hyatt renovation all but dead in the water in a news story. Lack of interest in bond investment in the current economic climate will sideline the overhaul of the 1,184-room hotel next to the Superdome, Kennedy said.

But Lauscha, CFO for the Saints, said developers' inability to secure financing will not deter Tom Benson from closing on his purchase of the adjoining New Orleans Centre and Dominion Tower next month. The acquisition is part of a deal involving the state, property owner Judah Hertz and Benson to keep the Saints in New Orleans for the next 15 years.

"We'll probably use a variety of methods to finance the purchase ... New Markets tax credits, GO Zone tax credits, private market investment," Lauscha said. "We anticipate using the best aspects of each to make sure this deal happens."

The deadline to close the sale is Sept. 15. The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, which meets Friday, must approve the deal before Benson and Hertz can complete the purchase.

Once it is finalized, Lauscha said construction will begin to convert the former New Orleans Centre into an entertainment venue that should be ready for the 2010 season.

"Don't be surprised to see scaffolding around there immediately. You'll see cranes," he said, sheepishly grinning with the instant realization that he had accidentally echoed former city recovery director Ed Blakely's infamous prediction.

The transaction is the latest Lauscha's overseen, following Benson's purchase of television station WVUE and Horizon Entertainment last year. That's work on top of his responsibilities managing the finances of an NFL franchise.

According to Fox Sports, the Saints were No. 1 in the league in 2008 with \$144 million in combined salaries. Add to that another \$15 million to \$20 million each year on employee benefits, insurance and pensions. The bulk of the team's spending money comes from its revenue sharing arrangement with other NFL teams. The league's television contracts provide \$102 million to each team. A supplemental plan team owners approved in 2007 created a pool into which the top 15 revenue-producing teams contribute to support teams on the lower end of the scale.

The revenue-sharing strategy is key to the survival of teams in small markets, Lauscha said.

"If that wasn't the case, you wouldn't have teams in New Orleans, Green Bay, Jacksonville and other small cities," he said.

But that doesn't mean professional sports have been immune to the effects of the recession. The Women's Professional Golf Association has been in search of replacement sponsors for tour events, and some events on the men's PGA Tour are reporting lower attendance and revenues.

Companies that own racetracks on the NASCAR circuit, which arguably has the most brand-loyal, fervent following for its 200-mph billboard convoy, reported revenue and income declines through mid-year.

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The NFL, however, expects to weather the struggling economy better thanks to television ratings that are the envy of the entertainment world.

Also bolstering the Saints' fiscal standing is that since 2006, season tickets have completely sold out. Renewal rates are in the high 90th percentile, Lauscha said, and the waiting list for season tickets continues to grow.

The Saints have also followed the NFL trend of bringing their pre-season training camp back home after holding it at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., for the past three years.

Although there are cost savings, the move was not recession-driven, Lauscha said.

"Imagine taking 60 percent to 70 percent of your company, relocating it and expecting to run full speed without any hiccups in a month," he said. "Here, it makes more logistical sense. We have our indoor facility, our training room, our cafeteria, video room ... that's not something you find at just any college campus."

Saints fans are embracing the decision, lining up outside the Airline Drive facility in sweltering August heat to get an early glimpse at the team in action. And the franchise is making the most of the marketing and sponsorship opportunity, pitching items ranging from Smart Cars to Smoothie King.

These are all signs of a robust NFL market, Lauscha said, one in which Benson sees growing opportunity.

"We're bullish on this city," he said. "I think our investments show that."

Benson family buys property around Superdome, will rename building Benson Tower

By Rebecca Mowbray

The Times-Picayune

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The family of Saints owner Tom Benson completed its purchase of a trio of largely idle commercial properties adjacent to the Louisiana Superdome Tuesday, the first milestone in the new agreement between the football team and the state and a deal that should quickly deliver benefits to fans.

Through their company Zelia LLC, Benson's daughter and grandchildren paid the California real estate investment firm Hertz Investment Group \$42.1 million for the 26-story Dominion Tower office building, the 400,000-square-foot New Orleans Centre mall and 2,000-space parking garage in one of the largest downtown real estate transactions since Hurricane Katrina.

The Benson family, in partnership with the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, plans to begin work immediately on redeveloping the area around the Superdome into a sports entertainment district. In doing so, they hope not only to lure future Super Bowls to town, but they aim to breathe life into the upper Poydras corridor and spur other New Orleanians to invest in downtown.

"We're hoping that this will inspire other people to see the opportunity we see and invest in downtown," said Saints Executive Vice President Rita Benson LeBlanc, who will own the property with her brother, Ryan LeBlanc, and their mother, Renee Benson, through a family trust.

Benson himself is a manager, but not an owner, of Zelia. He said the fact that his family has chosen to invest in New Orleans independently of the Saints through a company named for his great-grandmother is symbolic of their long-term commitment to the city.

"We believe in New Orleans, the family and I," Benson said. "This will start to really get something going, not only for downtown, but in the whole community."

In keeping with that symbolic commitment to revitalizing their corner of the city, Zelia LLC has chosen to rename the 485,000-square-foot office tower it purchased as Benson Tower.

And in partnership with Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, it plans to demolish a chunk of the mall to create a giant pre-game entertainment zone in the latter half of next year.

The Bensons have pledged \$10.5 million -- the remaining three years of \$3.5 million in payments from the state under the old deal -- to create the 92,000-square-foot party zone in the mall atrium area across the bridge from the Superdome concourse. The Superdome Commission, as the LSED is better known, is taking the lead on plans.

Meanwhile, the mall parking garage is expected to reopen immediately for game-day and contract parking.

The Benson family's purchases of the downtown office-retail complex adjacent to the city's most famous building was a key component of the new long-term deal reached between the Saints and the state in the spring.

"It is a partnership that we feel is critical to the state of Louisiana," said Ron Forman, chairman of the Superdome Commission. "The closing of the Dominion Tower and the mall was not the environment that we wanted."

With the Benson family working in partnership with the Superdome Commission in managing the surrounding property, they are expected to be able generate more revenue for the team, improve the experience of fans, and present a more lively picture of New Orleans when national television cameras survey the area around the Dome.

"It's not 'come back.' We are back," Benson said, dismissing post-Katrina pleas for people to return. "That's going to show the rest of the country -- the rest of the world -- that this is a great place. We're here."

Judah Hertz, who is both founder and chairman of Hertz Investment Group, which owns four other office buildings in New Orleans, bought the then-occupied office-mall complex in 2003 for \$36 million. After Katrina, he put in new windows, fixed roof leaks and got the elevators working, but did not set about renovating the office space. Save for the LSU Clinic in the old Lord & Taylor department store space, the buildings have been empty.

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Hertz said Zelia LLC's purchase of the former Dominion Tower should benefit all of downtown, because it will return Class A office space to use and will immediately be rented.

"I feel that this is a benefit to us on our other properties, as well as the other property owners, because it takes care of 485,000 square feet on the market that couldn't be rented. It's very good for overall occupancy," said Hertz, who remains the city's largest owner of downtown office space.

With the buildings under new ownership, the Bensons and the Superdome Commission now turn their attention to a long-term revitalization project.

The first order of business for the family is to refurbish Benson Tower to fulfill a key piece of the deal with the state and get some cash-flow going to help finance the rest of the project.

Some 800 to 900 state office workers are expected to move into Benson Tower on July 1, 2010, occupying about 320,000 square feet of the building. Jerry Jones, director of the state Office of Facility Planning and Control, said the state is still figuring out which offices will move to Dominion.

The Benson family plans to spend about \$12.5 million building out the office space for the state, plus another \$21.7 million making other repairs on the storm-damaged property, according to testimony at an Industrial Development Board hearing on Monday. The local commercial real estate brokerage Corporate Realty will manage the property.

Meanwhile, the Bensons and the Superdome Commission are searching for a master planner for the sports entertainment district with national sports and commercial development experience to work in partnership with local firms.

LeBlanc said it is very important to the family to have local firms working on the properties around the Superdome, because she feels it will help integrate them into the rest of the city.

The partners are looking at other sports district models around the country. LeBlanc said they are determined to turn the properties into places that are integrated into the fabric of life in New Orleans, and not just places for game day. And unlike many other sports districts around the country, the facilities must be profitable, she said.

While Benson Tower and the fan zone should open next year, LeBlanc noted that creating the full sports entertainment district won't happen overnight. "The priority is to get it right."