

**CAROLINA PANTHERS (11-5)****VS.****NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (11-5)****NFC WILD CARD PLAYOFF****SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 – 3:40 PM (CST)****MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME – NEW ORLEANS, LA.***TV: FOX (WVUE-FOX 8 locally) – Joe Buck (play-by-play), Troy Aikman (color analyst) and Erin Andrews and Chris Myers (sideline)**LOCAL RADIO: WWL (870 AM and 105.3 FM) – Jim Henderson (play-by-play), Deuce McAllister (color analyst) and Kristian Garic (sideline)**NATIONAL RADIO: Westwood One – Kevin Kugler (play-by-play), Dan Fouts (color analyst) and Laura Okmin (sideline)**SPANISH LANGUAGE RADIO: Louisiana Spanish Network (990 AM and 97.9 FM) – Marco Garcia (play-by-play), Juan Carlos Ramos (color analyst) and Victor Quinonez (sideline)***THE MATCHUP**

The NFC South champion Saints (11-5), who hold the fourth seed in the playoffs will host the fifth-seeded Panthers (11-5) Sunday. It will mark the first time that the Saints and Panthers have faced off against each other in the postseason and also the first time that two NFC South teams have played each other in the playoffs since the establishment of the division in realignment in 2002. The Saints are coming off a 31-24 defeat at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday at Raymond James Stadium. However, coupled with a 22-10 loss by Carolina at Atlanta, New Orleans held on to the division title and hosting rights.

QB **Drew Brees** finished 22-of-30 passing for 245 yards, tossed one TD and had a 108.3 rating, as he wrapped up a regular season where he established a new NFL single-season record for completion percentage (72.0%), by completing 386-of-536 passes. Rookie RB **Alvin Kamara** enjoyed a standout day with a game-high 283 all purpose yards, leading the Saints in rushing, tying for the team lead in receiving and bringing a kickoff back 106 yards for a TD, the longest play in club history. **Mark Ingram II** (1,540) and Kamara (1,554) combined to become the first running back duo in NFL history to each have 1,500 total yards from scrimmage. WR **Michael Thomas** chipped in with six receptions for a team-high 94 yards, as he finished the regular season with 104 grabs for 1,245 yards, becoming the first Saint to ever reach the century mark and setting

an NFL record for receptions in a player's first two seasons, wrapping up with 192 total grabs in 31 games since being selected in the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft.

With the Buccaneers leading 20-17 early in the fourth quarter, Brees led the Saints on a 13-play, 92-yard drive that ended with a three-yard TD pass to FB **Zach Line** to give the Saints a 24-20 lead with 7:07 left. On Tampa Bay's next drive, the Saints held the Buccaneers to a 24-yard field goal. After an unsuccessful Saints drive, P **Thomas Morstead** pinned the Buccaneers at their five yards line with a 47-yard punt. However, Tampa Bay QB **Jameis Winston** led his team on a 11-play, 95-yard drive that ended with a 39-yard TD pass to WR **Chris Godwin** with nine seconds left for the come-from-behind victory.

Three-of-four NFC South teams are now in the postseason with the fourth, fifth and sixth (Atlanta) seeds. While New Orleans swept the season series, a group effort like the Saints' first two wins will be needed for them to advance past this first round. On Sept. 24 at Bank of America Stadium, New Orleans shook of an 0-2 start as Brees tossed three touchdowns, while the defense picked off Newton three times. That victory set the tone for an eight-game winning streak for the Saints. The Saints and Panthers faced off in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in Week 13 with New Orleans coming through with another bounce back performance after a tough loss at the Los Angeles Rams the prior week, earning a 31-21 win.

## THE COACHES

New Orleans Saints Head Coach **Sean Payton** has posted a 105-71 regular season record and a 6-4 postseason mark, guiding the team to the postseason five times, to the NFC Championship game twice and to the Super Bowl XLIV Championship in the 2009 campaign. He's the club's lone head coach to open a season with 13 straight victories and post a 13-game winning streak and has the franchise's top winning percentage (.597). Payton's 58-30 (.659) home record and 47-41 (.534) mark away from the Mercedes-Benz Superdome are the club's top all-time winning percentages in both categories (regular season). He holds the records for most wins by a head coach in team history with 111 total, ranked 40th all-time in National Football League history. In his first season with the club in 2006, he took over a Saints team that had previously posted a 3-13 record in 2005 to the NFC Championship game and was named NFL Coach of the Year by the *Associated Press* and most other major media outlets. The Saints are the only team to finish in the top 10 in net yards per game each season since 2006, including finishing first in 2016, when they averaged 426.0 yards per game. In 2017, Payton has rebounded the Saints from three consecutive 7-9 campaigns by getting them on an eight-game winning streak after an 0-2 start and to a 11-5 record and the NFC South division title. Payton was hired as New Orleans' 14th head coach on January 18, 2006, after serving on the Dallas Cowboys coaching staff from 2003-05 under Pro Football Hall of Fame Head Coach Bill Parcells. Prior to joining the Cowboys in 2003, Payton served on the New York Giants coaching 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 calling plays for New York. Payton's prior NFL coaching experience came as quarterbacks coach for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1997-98. He played quarterback at Eastern Illinois University, where he passed for 10,665 yards, then the third-highest total in NCAA Division 1-AA history. The three-time *Associated Press* All-American selection had professional stints with the Chicago Bruisers of the Arena Football League, Ottawa of the Canadian Football League and the Chicago Bears in 1987. Starting his college coaching career at San Diego State, Payton wrapped two stints as an assistant with the Aztecs (1988-89 and 1992-93) around a stop at Indiana State (1990-91). He moved to Miami (Ohio), where he coached quarterbacks from 1994-95 before doing the same at the University of Illinois in 1996.

**Ron Rivera** became the fourth coach in Panthers history on Jan. 11, 2011. A two-time NFL Coach of the Year, Rivera inherited a 2-14 Carolina team as a rookie head coach in 2011 and guided it back to relevance in 2015 as they won their second NFC Championship in franchise history, third consecutive NFC South division title and appeared in Super Bowl 50. Carolina finished the season with a franchise-best 17-2 record, including home playoff victories over Seattle in the Divisional Round and Arizona in the NFC Championship game. Before joining the Panthers, Rivera worked with the San Diego Chargers from 2007-10, coaching inside linebackers before taking over as defensive coordinator midway through the 2008 season. In 2010, San Diego led the NFL with an average of 271.6 total yards allowed per game and gave up a league-low

177.8 passing yards per game. From 2004-06, Rivera oversaw the Chicago defense, guiding the unit to two top-five finishes in the league. In 2006, the Bears defense led the NFL with 44 takeaways, helping propel Chicago to an appearance in Super Bowl XLI. In 2005, the Bears went 43 consecutive quarters without allowing more than seven points—the longest streak in the NFL since 1969. Rivera was also linebackers coach for the Eagles (1999-2003) and defensive quality control coach for the Bears (1997-98).

## SAINTS-PANTHERS CONNECTIONS

WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** played for the Panthers in 2013 and from 2015-16 and LB **A.J. Klein** was a fifth round (148th overall) draft pick of Carolina in 2013 and played four seasons with the club, playing in 60 games with 23 starts, making 155 tackles, four sacks, an interception, a pass defense, three forced fumbles and 27 special teams stops...TE **Coby Fleener** and Carolina DE **Mario Addison** were teammates with Indianapolis in 2012...Panthers S **Mike Adams** and Quarterbacks Coach **Ken Dorsey** played for Saints linebackers Coach **Mike Nolan**, when he served as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. Carolina Tight Ends Coach **Pete Hoerner** served on Nolan's San Francisco offensive coaching staff from 2005-08...Carolina Special Teams Coordinator **Thomas McGaughey** served as special teams coordinator/defensive assistant at LSU from 2011-13. Senior Defensive Assistant **Peter Giunta** and McGaughey served on the same Kansas City coaching staff in 2002 and with the New York Giants from 2007-10...S **Rafael Bush** prepped at Williston-Elko (Williston, S.C.) HS and played at South Carolina State...Assistant Special Teams Coach **Kevin O'Dea** and Carolina Head Coach **Ron Rivera** and Defensive Coordinator **Steve Wilks** served on the same coaching staff with Chicago...Defensive Line Coach **Ryan Nielsen** served as defensive line/recruiting/run game coordinator at North Carolina State from 2013-16...Assistant Wide Receivers Coach **Ronald Curry** was a four-year starter at quarterback at North Carolina and also was the starting point guard on the school's 1998-99 and 2000-01 basketball teams where he played with Panthers DE **Julius Peppers**. S **Chris Banjo**, FB **John Kuhn** and Peppers were teammates in Green Bay. Curry and McGaughey served on the same staff in San Francisco in 2015...Panthers Defensive Line Coach **Eric Washington** played TE at Grambling State from 1989-90...Panthers Running Backs Coach **Jim Skipper** served in the same position with the Saints from 1986-95 and served on the same New York Giants offensive coaching staff with Saints Head Coach **Sean Payton** from 1999-2000...Saints Director Of Player Engagement **Fred McAfee** also played for Carolina Offensive Coordinator **Mike Shula** when he served as offensive coordinator of Tampa Bay in 1999...Carolina Assistant Defensive Line Coach **Sam Mills III** is the son of former Saints LB **Sam Mills**, who played for New Orleans from 1986-94 and is a member of the Saints Hall of Fame and the club's All-50th Team...Panthers Running Game Coordinator **John Matsko** served in the same position in New Orleans from 1994-96. Matsko and Giunta served on the same St. Louis Rams coaching staff from 1999-2000.

**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS-CAROLINA PANTHERS SERIES HISTORY**

The Panthers initially entered the NFL as an expansion franchise in 1995 and since then, they lead the regular season series 24-22. The clubs were in the NFC West from 1995-2001 and the rivalry's continued in the NFC South since 2002. The Saints have a 11-10 record vs. Carolina in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Of the 45 games in the series, 22 have been decided by eight points or less, with New Orleans winning 10. The Saints' longest winning streak was a five-game stretch from 2000-02.

In the 46 games of the series there has been:

- 1,013 points scored by New Orleans, 1,014 allowed.
- A five-game New Orleans winning streak from 2000-02.
- A four-game New Orleans winning streak in games played at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome from 1998-2001.
- 23 games decided by double-digits.
- Six games decided by 21 or more points.
- 22 games decided by eight points or less.
- One 31-point win by New Orleans.
- A 32-point loss by New Orleans.

**SAINTS-PANTHERS SERIES FAST FACTS**

**Saints' Largest Margin of Victory:** 31 points, Saints won 34-3, 11/7/10 at Bank of America Stadium

**Panthers' Largest Margin of Victory:** 32 points, Panthers won 45-13, 1/2/00 at Ericsson Stadium

**Current Series Streak:** Two-game winning streak for New Orleans, 9/24/17-present

**Saints' Longest Win Streak:** Five games, 10/15/00-11/10/02

**Panthers' Longest Win Streak:** Four games (twice), 12/18/05-10/7/07 (most recent) and 12/29/02-12/5/04

**Most Points by Saints in a Game:** 45 points, Saints won 45-17, 1/1/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome

**Most Points by Panthers in a Game:** 45 points, Panthers won 45-13, 1/2/00 at Ericsson Stadium

**Most Combined Points (Both Teams):** 82 points, Panthers won 44-38, 12/30/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome

**Fewest Points by Saints in a Game:** Zero points, Panthers won 13-0, 10/19/97 at Superdome

**Fewest Points by Panthers in a Game:** Three points, Saints won 34-3, 11/7/10 at Bank of America Stadium

**Fewest Combined Points (Both Teams):** 13 points, Panthers won 13-0, 10/19/97 at Superdome

**INDIVIDUAL**

**Most Rushing Yards (Saints):** RB Ricky Williams, 147 yards on 31 carries (4.7 avg.) with one TD on 10/14/01 at Ericsson Stadium.

**Most Rushing Yards (Panthers):** RB DeAngelo Williams, 210 yards on 21 carries (10.0 avg.) with two TDs on 12/30/12 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Passing Yards (Saints):** QB Drew Brees, 465 yards on 34-of-49 passing (69.4 %) with four touchdowns (118.2 rating) on 10/16/16 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Passing Yards (Panthers):** QB Kerry Collins, 335 yards on 17-of-46 passing (37.0 %) with three touchdowns (48.7 rating) on 11/26/95 at Superdome.

**Most Receptions (Saints):** (Tie) RB Darren Sproles, 13 receptions for 128 yards (9.8 avg.), 9/16/12 at Bank of America Stadium (Most Recent). WR Joe Horn, 13 receptions for 150 yards (11.5 avg.) and one TD, 12/2/01 at Superdome (First).

**Most Receptions (Panthers):** (Tie) TE Greg Olsen, 10 receptions for 72 yards (7.2 avg.) and one TD on 12/7/14 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome (Most Recent). WR Steve Smith, 10 receptions for 87 yards (8.7 avg.) and one TD on 10/1/06 at Bank of America Stadium. WR Muhsin Muhammad, 10 receptions for 179 yards (17.9 avg.) and one TD on 12/5/04 at Superdome (First).

**Most Receiving Yards (Saints):** WR Brandin Cooks, 173 yards on seven receptions (24.7 avg.) with one TD on 10/16/16 at Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

**Most Receiving Yards (Panthers):** WR Muhsin Muhammad, 192 yards on nine receptions (21.3 avg.) with one TD on 9/13/98 at Superdome.

**2017 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS-CAROLINA PANTHERS REGULAR SEASON STATISTICAL COMPARISON**

**League Rankings**

	<u>Saints</u>	<u>Panthers</u>
Record	11-5	11-5
Scoring Avg. (NFL Rank)	28.0 (4)	22.7 (12)
Opp. Scoring Avg. (NFL Rank)	20.37 (10)	20.43 (11)
Total Off. (NFL Rank)	391.2 (2)	323.7 (19)
Rushing Off. (NFL Rank)	129.4 (5)	131.4 (4)
Passing Off. (NFL Rank)	261.8 (5)	192.3 (28)
Total Def. (NFL Rank)	336.5 (17)	317.1 (7)
Rushing Def. (NFL Rank)	111.7 (16)	88.1 (3)
Passing Def. (NFL Rank)	224.8 (15)	229.1 (18)
Kickoff Return Avg. (NFL Rank)	22.9 (6)	22.4 (10)
Punt Return Avg. (NFL Rank)	6.4 (25)	8.0 (19)
Turnover Margin (NFL Rank)	+7 (9t)	-1 (16t)
Penalties	105	83
Penalty Yards	962	682
Opp. Penalties	108	101
Opp. Penalty Yards	850	867

## HONORS

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 4: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Saints 20, Miami Dolphins 0 @ Wembley Stadium, Oct. 1, 2017**

Kamara carried five times for 25 yards, added a career-high ten receptions for 71 yards with his first career receiving touchdown and returned a kickoff 23 yards.

### NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 6: DE CAMERON JORDAN

**Saints 52, Detroit Lions 38 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Oct. 15, 2017**

Had five tackles (four solo), two sacks, an interception in the end zone for a touchdown and two passes defended.

### CASTROL CLUTCH PERFORMER OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 6: RB MARK INGRAM II

**Saints 52, Detroit Lions 38 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Oct. 15, 2017**

Carried 25 times for 114 yards with two TDs, including a 51-yard carry and caught team-high five passes for 36 yards, for game-high 150 total yards from scrimmage.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 6: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

**Saints 52, Detroit Lions 38 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Oct. 15, 2017**

Lattimore had five tackles, a 27-yard interception return for a touchdown, two passes defended and one forced fumble.

### NFL DEFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE MONTH

#### OCTOBER: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

Had 16 tackles, two interceptions, one returned for a TD, five passes defended, a forced fumble and a recovery.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 8: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

**Saints 20, Chicago Bears 12 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Oct. 29, 2017**

Lattimore had three tackles, a fourth quarter 25-yard interception return to seal the victory and two passes defended.

### NFC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 9: DB JUSTIN HARDEE

**Saints 30, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 10 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Nov. 5, 2017**

In the first quarter, Hardee blocked a punt and recovered it and returned it seven yards for a touchdown.

### FEDEX GROUND PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 9: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Saints 30, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 10 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Nov. 5, 2017**

Carried ten times for 68 yards with one TD and also had six receptions for 84 yards, including a 33-yard TD for career-high two TDs and 152 total yards from scrimmage.

### FEDEX GROUND PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### CASTROL CLUTCH PERFORMER OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 10: RB MARK INGRAM II

**Saints 47, Buffalo Bills 10 @ New Era Field, Nov. 12, 2017**

Ingram carried 21 times for 131 yards with a career-high three rushing touchdowns.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 10: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Saints 47, Buffalo Bills 10 @ New Era Field, Nov. 12, 2017**

Carried a career-high 12 times for a career-high 106 yards with one touchdown and added five receptions for 32 yards to finish with a team-high 138 total yards from scrimmage.

### NFC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### FEDEX GROUND PLAYER OF THE WEEK

#### WEEK 11: RB MARK INGRAM

**Saints 34, Washington Redskins 31 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Nov. 19, 2017**

Carried 11 times for 134 yards with a 36-yard TD, including 20- and 31-yard runs in overtime to set up the game-winning field goal. He moved into third all-time in club records with 13-100-yard rushing games.

## HONORS

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK WEEK 11: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Saints 34, Washington Redskins 31 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Nov. 19, 2017**

Carried eight times for 42 yards and also had six receptions for 74 yards, including an 18-yard TD grab and a two-point conversion to tie the game.

### CASTROL CLUTCH PERFORMER OF THE WEEK WEEK 11: QB DREW BREES

**Saints 34, Washington Redskins 31 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Nov. 19, 2017**

With New Orleans trailing by 15 points with under six minutes remaining, on New Orleans' final two drives of regulation, Brees completed 11-of-11 passes for 164 yards with both of his touchdown throws.

### FEDEX GROUND PLAYER OF THE WEEK NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK WEEK 12: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Los Angeles Rams 26, Saints 20 @ Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Nov. 26, 2017**

Finished with five carries for 87 yards (17.4 avg.), including a career-long 74-yard TD and six receptions for a career-high 101 yards with one TD for a team season-high and career-high 188 total yards from scrimmage.

### NFC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER: DE CAMERON JORDAN

Jordan finished November with 15 tackles, 4.5 sacks and two passes defended as New Orleans finished 3-1 in the month.

### NFL OFFENSIVE ROOKIE OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER: RB ALVIN KAMARA

In November, carried 35 times for 303 yards with three touchdowns and a successful two-point conversion and posted 23 receptions for 291 yards with three touchdowns.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK WEEK 13: RB ALVIN KAMARA

**Saints 31, Carolina Panthers 21 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Dec. 3, 2017**

Started and carried nine times for 60 yards with a career-high two TDs and also caught five passes for 66 yards. Joined Washington WR Charley Taylor (1963) and Detroit RB Billy Sims as only the third rookie in NFL record books to record 600 yards rushing and 600 yards receiving.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK WEEK 15: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

**Saints 31, New York Jets 19 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Dec. 17, 2017**

Posted five tackles, one interception and team-high three passes defended as New Orleans allowed only 170 net yards passing.

### NFL ROOKIE OF THE WEEK WEEK 16: CB MARSHON LATTIMORE

**Saints 23, Atlanta Falcons 13 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome, Dec. 24, 2017**

Posted six tackles, one interception and team-high and career-high four passes defended as New Orleans allowed only 170 net yards passing.

### SAINTS MAN OF THE YEAR: DE CAMERON JORDAN

2017 team winner and team nominee for Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year for dedication to the community and charitable endeavors and excellent play on the field.

### ED BLOCK COURAGE AWARD: LB MICHAEL MAUTI

In a vote by his teammates, Mauti was honored as the team's 2017 recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award, which is presented to a player from all 32 teams who best exemplifies the principles of sportsmanship and courage. The award is presented to players who conduct themselves as role models in the community and serve as an inspiration to their teammates.

### PRO BOWL: QB DREW BREES, RB MARK INGRAM, DE CAMERON JORDAN, RB ALVIN KAMARA, CB MARSHON LATTIMORE AND WR MICHAEL THOMAS.

## HOW DO YOU SAY IT

### 2017 New Orleans Saints Pronunciation Guide

T	<b>Terron</b> Armstead (ter-RON)
TE	Michael <b>Hoomanawanui</b> (HO-oh-mah-nah-wah-noo-wee)
RB	Alvin <b>Kamara</b> (kuh-Mare-Uh)
G/C	<b>Senio Kelemete</b> (SENN-ee-oh KEL-uh-MET-tay)
DE	<b>Kasim Edebali</b> (Ka-SIM Ed-a-BAHL-ee)
G	Josh <b>LeRibeus</b> (luh-REE-bus)
LB	Michael <b>Mauti</b> (MAW-tee)
DE	<b>Al-Quadin</b> Muhammad (ahl-kwah-DEEN)
DT	David <b>Onyemata</b> (Un-ye-mah-tah)
T/G	<b>Andrus Peat</b> (ANN-druss PEET)
T	Ryan <b>Ramczyk</b> (RAM-check)
LB	Nate <b>Stupar</b> (STEW-par)
LB	<b>Manti Te'o</b> (MAN-tie TAY-oh)

Senior Defensive Asst. Peter **Giunta** (GEN-ta).

## GAME SUMMARIES

**WEEK 1: Minnesota Vikings 29, Saints 19; September 11, 2017 @ US Bank Stadium** – Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Bradford set the National Football League record for completion percentage last season, his accuracy aided by the volume of short passes under heavy pressure. With solid protection from the New Orleans pass rush by a rebuilt Vikings offensive line, he showed he can throw the ball down the field with the best of them. Bradford started his second year with Minnesota in style, passing for 346 yards and three touchdown passes to help the Vikings beat New Orleans 29-19 and spoil running back Adrian Peterson's first regular season game with the Saints and his return to where he played the first ten years of his National Football League career.

"When I've got time to sit back there and kind of evaluate things, I've got all the confidence in the world that our guys outside are going to win," Bradford said.

Minnesota wide receiver Stefon Diggs had seven receptions for 93 yards, two for scores and all in the first half, and wide receiver Adam Thielen racked up 157 yards on nine catches as Bradford had success against a Saints defense that opened the season with the youngest starting lineup in the National Football League since 1991. Minnesota Rookie running back Dalvin Cook rushed for 127 yards on 22 carries in the formal takeover from Peterson. Peterson was limited to 18 yards on six carries, in a time share with fellow running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara with the Saints forced to throw the ball more once they started to fall behind. Quarterback Drew Brees was quiet, too, with 291 yards on 27-for-37 passing.

"We didn't do anything different or try to out-trick them," Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr said. "You know, line up and play, do your job."

Saints tight end Coby Fleener caught their only touchdown toss, after the two-minute warning. Kicker Wil Lutz made four field goals, three under 25 yards.

"The bottom line," Brees said, "is you've got to score touchdowns."

**WEEK 2: New England Patriots 36, Saints 20; September 17, 2017 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome** – If Tom Brady and the New England Patriots were suffering from a Super Bowl hangover, it looks as though a trip to New Orleans pulled the defending champions out of it.

The 40-year-old Brady bounced back with a vengeance from a season-opening loss to the Kansas City Chiefs, throwing three touchdown passes in the first quarter for the first time in his career, eclipsed 300 yards passing in the first half for only the second time, and New England scored 30 first-half points en route to a 36-20 victory over the New Orleans Saints, who dropped their first two games of the season.

Brady's maiden Super Bowl triumph in the Superdome back in February 2002 is bound to be one of his fondest memories, but the 18-year veteran looked like a superior quarterback in his latest visit. He finished 30 of 39 for 447 yards without an interception -- at least not one that counted. Saints defenders caught Brady's passes twice, but both plays were wiped out by New Orleans penalties. Brady joined Warren Moon as the only quarterbacks age 40 or older in National Football League history to pass for at least 400 yards and 3 touchdowns in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski had a 53-yard catch and run to highlight his six-catch, 116-yard performance, but left the game in the second half with a groin injury and did not return.

In Brady and the Saints' Drew Brees, the game featured the NFL's top two active quarterbacks in terms of career passing yards and touchdowns. Their 922 touchdown passes and 128,251 yards passing combined coming in represented the most by starting signal-callers in the same NFL game.

But in this matchup, Brees couldn't keep up with Brady and the Patriots offense. He was 27 of 45 passing for 356 yards and two touchdown throws. The Saints' desperation to stay close was encapsulated by a failed attempt to convert a fourth down -- despite being well within field goal range on the Patriots 25-yard line -- with 2:27 left in the first half and New England up by 13 points. Brady responded by marching New England to the Saints ten-yard line to set up Stephen Gostkowski's field goal, making it 30-13 at halftime.

The Patriots' first three offensive drives ended with a 19-yard touchdown pass to running back Rex Burkhead, Gronkowski's long touchdown reception and a 13-yard scoring pass to wide receiver Chris Hogan. New Orleans briefly rallied with Brees' five-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Brandon Coleman and kicker Wil Lutz's field goals on consecutive drives, pulling them as close as 20-13. But New England responded with running back Mike Gillislee's short scoring run on a drive highlighted by downfield passes from Brady to the skilled Patriots trio of Gronkowski, Hogan and former Saints wideout Brandin Cooks, who was acquired by New England from New Orleans in the offseason.

## GAME SUMMARIES

**WEEK 3: Saints 34, Panthers 13; September 24, 2017 @ Bank of America Stadium** – New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees shredded the league's top-ranked defense, throwing for 220 yards and three touchdown passes as the Saints defeated the previously unbeaten Carolina Panthers 34-13 as the Black and Gold would then embark on a six-day trip to London to prepare for a contest against the Miami Dolphins to be played at Wembley Stadium the following Sunday.

Brees led six scoring drives and threw touchdown passes to wide receivers Michael Thomas, Brandon Coleman and ex-Panthers wideout Ted Ginn Jr. as the Saints avoided a third consecutive 0-3 start. Rookie running back Alvin Kamara put the game away with a 25-yard touchdown run with 4:42 left in the contest, the first score of his short career. Carolina had only allowed six points in its previous two games.

The Saints' defense, which came in ranked 32nd in the league, intercepted Panthers quarterback Cam Newton three times and sacked him four times before he was replaced late in the fourth quarter by his backup, Derek Anderson.

The Panthers, who were already without injured Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen, lost wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin in the first quarter to a knee injury. Carolina's only real offense came from rookie running back Christian McCaffrey, who had 101 yards receiving on nine catches. The Saints led 17-6 when Ginn beat cornerback James Bradberry down the middle of the field for a 40-yard touchdown reception to break it open. It was the same type of big play Ginn provided for the Panthers in three previous seasons. Brees was sharp all day, completing 22 of 29 passes (75.8%).

**WEEK 4: Saints 20, Dolphins 0; October 1, 2017 @ Wembley Stadium**– It took Drew Brees and the Saints six days and a first half before they finally found their footing in soggy Great Britain in their first trip back since 2008. Brees threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns and the Saints scored all but three of their points in the second half as they defeated the Miami Dolphins 20-0 on a rainy Sunday afternoon at Wembley Stadium.

Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas had a touchdown reception in the third quarter, running back Alvin Kamara added one in the fourth and kicker Wil Lutz made two of his three field-goal attempts for New Orleans, which arrived for the game on Monday and won the lowest-scoring game ever held in London.

"The defense got a shutout," Brees said. "Offensively, we sustained drives, we did all the things you need to do for winning football."

It was expected to be a big homecoming for the Dolphins' Jay Ajayi, who was born in the city, but the running back finished with 46 yards on 12 carries.

Lutz missed his first try, a 41-yarder, wide right on the second play of the second quarter, and the teams threatened to have the first scoreless opening half since Week 14 of 2011, until Lutz connected from 43 yards with no time left. Brees found Thomas, who had eight catches for 89 yards, on a four-yarder to push the score to 10-0 in the third quarter, and Kamara took a shovel pass from Brees 12 yards

into the end zone with 3:57 left in the game to wrap up the win. Kamara finished with 96 yards from scrimmage, including 71 receiving.

Dolphins quarterback Jay Cutler completed 20 of 28 passes for Miami (1-2), which finished with 185 total net yards, its fewest since its last shutout, a 19-0 loss at Buffalo on Dec. 22, 2013. New Orleans last shut out an opponent on Dec. 16, 2012, a 41-0 win vs. Tampa Bay.

"Obviously those first two weeks weren't what we aspired to be, we played two real good teams, the Vikings and Patriots," Brees said. "Basically now, two road wins ... I felt we had a great plan coming out here, obviously it's a tough trip coming across the pond."

**WEEK 6: Saints 52, Lions 38; October 15, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Superdome** – Running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara combined for 237 yards from scrimmage, the Saints defense forced five turnovers and scored a team-record three times, and New Orleans took a 52-38 win over Detroit.

New Orleans built a five-touchdown lead, only to wind up gutting out a remarkable comeback bid by Detroit. Detroit scored four straight touchdowns, including one on a punt return by rookie cornerback/return specialist Jamal Agnew and another on defensive tackle A'Shawn Robinson's close-range interception near the Saints goal line, in less than 15 minutes off the game clock to pull as close as 45-38 with 6:41 to go. But after Agnew muffed a punt and barely got it out of the end zone, Saints defensive end Cam Jordan scored on virtually the same type of play as Robinson when he got his hand on Matt Stafford's pass from the end zone.

The Saints' defense produced its first points on Detroit's first possession, when Alex Okafor sacked and stripped Stafford in the end zone and safety Kenny Vaccaro recovered.

In the third quarter, rookie cornerback Marshon Lattimore, New Orleans' top draft choice last spring, made his first interception and returned it 27 yards for a touchdown. Stafford was sacked five times and turned the ball over five times -- twice on fumbles and three times on interceptions, two which were tipped. New Orleans also batted down 13 of his throws.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees completed 20 of 30 passes for 186 yards and touchdowns of 20 yards to wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and two yards to tight end Michael Hoomanawanui. However, he was also intercepted for the first and second time this season. The first interception -- also the Saints' first turnover this season -- came when cornerback Darius Slay wrestled the ball away from Thomas before the receiver could secure it.

Ingram scored two touchdowns on short runs and rushed for 114 yards on 25 carries.

**WEEK 7: Saints 26, Packers 17; October 22, 2017 @ Lambeau Field** – The way the Saints won on the road might serve as a valuable lesson in their quest to return to the playoffs.

The defense gave up a long touchdown run on the first series to Green Bay. Quarterback Drew Brees had two interceptions -- and the Saints weren't even out of the first quarter yet at Lambeau Field.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## GAME SUMMARIES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE—WEEK 7 AT GREEN BAY

But Brees bounced back to throw for a touchdown, the 500th of his career both regular season and postseason combined and run for another, running back Mark Ingram rushed for a score and the Saints recovered for a 26-17 victory.

Green Bay lost its first game with Brett Hundley starting at quarterback for the injured Aaron Rodgers.

Kicker Wil Lutz kicked two second-half field goals, including a 44-yarder to put New Orleans up for good 19-17 with 10:26 remaining in the game. Brees' one-yard quarterback sneak gave the Saints a two-score lead with 4:55 remaining.

The Saints were fortunate to get their fourth straight victory. But after taking the first three wins by at least 14 points, they'll savor a victory earned following several early mistakes in addition to Brees picks.

The defense gave up a 46-yard touchdown run to rookie running back Aaron Jones on the opening drive. Lutz had a blocked extra point and New Orleans was penalized seven times for 80 yards.

Still, the Saints pulled away late at overcast Lambeau Field, scoring on four second-half drives before running out the clock.

After holding the Packers to a three-and-out inside the 20, New Orleans drove 55 yards in eight plays to seal the game with Brees' sneak over the goal line. Brees finished 27 of 38 for 331 yards, while Ingram ran for 105 yards on 22 carries.

Jones had 131 yards on 17 carries. Hundley showed toughness in running for a 14-yard score to give Green Bay a 14-7 lead with 8:37 left in the first half. But the Packers managed just a 46-yard field goal from kicker Mason Crosby in the second half, which gave them a brief 17-16 lead. The Saints took over from there, and the Packers couldn't keep up. Hundley finished 12 of 25 for 87 yards. He was intercepted by safety Kenny Vaccaro on a deep ball down the middle of the field with 4:20 left, ending the Packers' comeback bid.

**WEEK 8: Saints 20, Bears 12; October 9, 2017 @ Mercedes-Benz Superdome** – New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees completed 23 of 28 passes for 299 yards with a 111.2 passer rating against a Bears defense that ranked sixth against the pass, and the Saints beat Chicago 20-12 for their fifth straight victory after starting the season 0-2.

Running backs Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara each ran for touchdowns for New Orleans. Ingram finished with 99 total yards from scrimmage, including 75 on the ground, but his two late fumbles kept the Bears in the game into the final minutes. Kamara had 76 yards from scrimmage – 48 receiving.

The Saints were threatening to score twice in the fourth quarter when the Bears stripped the ball from Ingram. Chicago converted the first fumble into its only touchdown with 3:43 to go on rookie running back Tarik Cohen's short dive over a pile of players at the goal line. The second turnover occurred with a little more than two minutes left on the Bears 30-yard line, but Chicago was unable to get a first

down as rookie quarterback Mitchell Trubisky's fourth-and-one pass fell incomplete, with it being batted down by strong safety Kenny Vaccaro, who led the team with nine tackles and split a sack with defensive end Cameron Jordan.

Chicago had one more chance to tie the contest after kicker Wil Lutz's 49-yard field goal with 1:35 left to go in the game, but an interception by Saints rookie cornerback Marshon Lattimore ended that threat and sealed New Orleans' fifth straight victory.

Trubisky completed 14 of 32 passes for 164 yards in his fourth start for the Bears (3-5). Chicago running back Jordan Howard had 102 yards rushing on 23 carries.

Chicago had a touchdown overturned on video review after Zach Miller's 25-yard catch, during which the tight end's left leg bent unnaturally as he landed. As Miller was carted off the field with an apparently serious knee injury, officials ruled that replayed showed the ground caused the ball to loosen in Miller's grasp as his upper body crashed to the turf – after his knee had given out, a serious injury which would force him to stay several days in a New Orleans hospital.

### WEEK 9: Saints 30, Buccaneers 10; November 5, 2017

**@ Mercedes-Benz Superdome** – The Saints extended their win streak to six when Drew Brees completed 81.2 percent of his passes for 263 yards and two touchdowns in a 30-10 win over reeling Tampa Bay.

The Buccaneers came in hoping to stem a four-game skid, but instead were not just beaten, but beaten up. Quarterback Jameis Winston left with shoulder soreness after the first half. Defensive end William Gholston was carted off the field with a neck injury.

Brees' two touchdown passes went for 33 yards to rookie running back Alvin Kamara and 36 to wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr.. Kamara, who also scored on a six-yard run, did most of the work on his touchdown reception, thrilling the Mercedes-Benz Superdome crowd with a waving, tackle-slipping run after his short catch. The Saints also scored early in the contest on rookie defensive back Justin Hardee's blocked punt, which he recovered in stride and returned for a touchdown. Kamara finished the afternoon with 152 total yards from scrimmage, including six catches for 84 yards.

The New Orleans' defense limited Tampa Bay's receiving tandem of wide receivers Mike Evans and DeSean Jackson to only three catches for 38 yards. Saints rookie cornerback Marshon Lattimore blanketed Evans much of the game. New Orleans also got pressure in the backfield, finishing with four sacks. DE Cameron Jordan had 1.5 sacks. Hardee's touchdown came on the first of two blocks on consecutive snaps. First, he came in clean up the middle for a smothering block on P Bryan Anger. The ball then bounced high and behind Anger, allowing Hardee to run under it practically in stride and glide into the end zone. Then the Buccaneers' Ryan Smith blocked K Wil Lutz's PAT, leaving New Orleans with a 9-0 first quarter lead.

**WEEK 10: Saints 47, Bills 10; November 12, 2017 @ New Era Field** – Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara are so in sync, the Saints running back duo are now finishing sentences for one another.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



## GAME SUMMARIES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE—WEEK 10 AT BUFFALO

"It's fun whenever we're scoring at will," Ingram said, before sounding like Oprah on a giveaway episode following a 47-10 win over Buffalo. "Drew (Brees) got a touchdown. AK (Kamara) got a touchdown. Trey (Edmunds) got a touchdown. That's what we work for, so everybody eats." That's when Kamara interjected by noting to Ingram, "You don't want to say you got three touchdowns," before the two broke into a fit of laughter.

Ingram had 131 yards rushing and scored three times, and the Saints won their seventh straight in producing one of the most prolific running performances in team history. The six touchdowns rushing set a club record, and New Orleans' 298 yards rushing were third-highest in team history. "We came out and wanted to impose our will," said Kamara, who scored once and added 106 yards rushing. "We were in the locker room and said, 'We've got to put pressure on them to break their neck.'"

Ingram set a career high by scoring twice from three yards and another from one. Kamara scored on a five-yard run, while Brees scrambled in from seven yards. Edmunds capped the run of rushing touchdowns with a 41-yard scamper.

The Saints never punted by scoring on eight of their nine possessions, not including two drives to close both halves in a game they finished with 482 total net yards and 32 first downs.

The Saints became the second team in the Super Bowl era to win seven straight after starting 0-2, joining the 1993 Dallas Cowboys, who went on to beat Buffalo in the Super Bowl.

Buffalo managed only 198 total net yards, and ten first downs. And five of those first downs came on Buffalo's meaningless final drive that ended with backup quarterback Nathan Peterman hitting tight end Nick O'Leary on a seven-yard touchdown pass. After kicker Stephen Hauschka capped a nine-play, 57-yard opening drive with a 37-yard field goal, the Bills never crossed midfield over their next eight possessions.

The most notable cheer came with 4:53 left in the contest when Peterman replaced Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor and immediately hit wide receiver Deonte Thompson for a 10-yard reception along the right sideline.

### WEEK 11: Saints 34, Washington Redskins 31; November 19, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Superdome

— Saints rookie running back Alvin Kamara climbed into the Superdome stands, stood in the first row with his arms folded and soaked in the adulation of fans who were relishing their decision to stick around after all had looked lost.

Kamara's celebration of his 18-yard touchdown reception had an air of presumption, given New Orleans still needed a two-point conversion to erase what had been a 15-point deficit when Washington scored with 5:58 left in regulation. Then again, the Saints' confidence was understandable; they haven't lost in more than two months. Kamara climbed back down in time to take a pitch into the left side of the end zone for the needed two-point conversion, and the Saints won their eighth straight when kicker Wil Lutz's 28-yard field goal capped a 34-31 New Orleans triumph in

overtime.

"We just kind of hung in there. Guys believed," said New Orleans Coach Sean Payton, whose mind seemed to be racing as he labored to recall details of the frenzied final stretch. "There were a lot of things happening in a short period of time."

Quarterback Drew Brees passed for 385 yards and two touchdowns, going 11 of 11 for 164 yards and his two touchdown passes on New Orleans' final two possessions of regulation. His first touchdown throw went to tight end Josh Hill from three yards out with 2:53 to go in regulation and the last to Kamara with 1:05 remaining prior to overtime.

"I tip my hat to Brees. That's what he does. That's what great quarterbacks do. But at the end of the day, we've got to make plays," said Redskins S D.J. Swearinger, whose first-quarter interception was Brees' first turnover in four games. "We didn't do our job. We beat ourselves for sure." The unlikely comeback made New Orleans the first team since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger to win eight straight after starting 0-2.

"We haven't encountered a game like this in a while, and it was great to watch the team rally," said Brees, whose team won its previous seven more convincingly. "We have the confidence to win in a lot of different ways. We have the personnel to do it and the right attitude to do it."

The Saints set up their final drive by stopping Washington running back Samaje Perine on third-and-one at the two-minute warning when a first down would have allowed Washington to run out the clock.

Washington moved into field-goal range in the last minute of regulation, only to be pushed back by a grounding penalty that appeared to result from Kirk Cousins' miscommunication with wide receiver Jamison Crowder, followed by a sack.

The Redskins received the ball first in overtime, but the Saints' hobbled defense, which gave up more yards than in any contest during its eight-game winning streak, forced a quick punt thanks in part to defensive end Cameron Jordan's sack.

"We had a surplus of emotion and a surplus of confidence," Jordan said. "That was the difference-maker." New Orleans running back Mark Ingram capped a 134-yard rushing performance with gains of 20 and 31 yards on back-to-back carries to set up Lutz's clinching kick.

Cousins passed for 322 yards and three touchdowns, finishing 22 of 32 with zero interceptions. His touchdowns went for 40 yards to wide receiver Ryan Grant, 16 to running back Chris Thompson and seven to rookie tight end Jeremy Sprinkle. Grant's touchdown, which made it 24-13 in the third quarter, capped a drive extended by a successful fake punt on fourth-and-one from the Redskins 15-yard line.

### WEEK 12: Los Angeles Rams 26, Saints 20; November 26, 2017 @ Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum

— Quarterback Jared Goff passed for 354 yards and hit wide receiver Sammy Watkins and rookie wideout Josh Reynolds for touchdowns, and the Los Angeles Rams snapped the New Orleans Saints' eight-game winning streak with a 26-20 victory on Sunday in a meeting of NFC division leaders. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## GAME SUMMARIES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE—WEEK 12 AT LOS ANGELES RAMS

NFL scoring leader kicker Greg Zuerlein kicked four field goals for the Rams, who earned their fifth victory in six games.

For the first time since the 2006 campaign, this revitalized Rams franchise is guaranteed not to finish the regular season with a losing record.

Los Angeles turned in a gritty defensive effort against the high-scoring Saints offense, holding New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees to only 246 yards passing – just 96 yards in the first three quarters – and sacking him three times.

New Orleans Rookie running Back Alvin Kamara made an early 74-yard touchdown run and a late touchdown reception for the Saints, who finally lost for the first time since Sept. 17.

One week after rallying from 15 points down late in the fourth quarter to beat Washington in overtime, the Saints fell behind on the opening drive and never caught up. New Orleans struggled to stop Goff's passing game with its top two cornerbacks sidelined by injuries, and the Rams methodically moved the ball to win a meeting between two of the NFL's top three highest-scoring teams at the time.

Goff went 28 of 43, patiently picking at the Saints' defense in his fourth 300-yard game of the season despite the absence of top wide receiver Robert Woods. Rookie wide receiver Cooper Kupp, the son of former Saints offensive lineman Jake Kupp set career highs with eight catches for 116 yards, and Reynolds made his first career touchdown catch in the second quarter.

The Rams made two lengthy drives ending in fourth-quarter field goals, and Watkins recovered the onside kick after the Saints finally trimmed Los Angeles' lead to one score on Kamara's touchdown catch with 1:45 to play.

The Rams scored on their opening drive for the second straight week, with Watkins catching a slant for a five-yard touchdown. Los Angeles also sacked Brees twice early, but the Saints adjusted and got back in it with that brilliant run by Kamara.

Reynolds' touchdown catch capped an 86-yard drive for Los Angeles in the second quarter. The methodical Rams outgained New Orleans 250-166 in the first half and held the ball for 18:35.

**WEEK 13: Saints 31, Carolina Panthers 21; December 3, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Superdome** – Rookie sensation Alvin Kamara took the brunt of a hard collision near the goal line with Carolina linebacker Shaq Thompson, who is two inches taller and 15 pounds heavier than runner he was trying to prevent from scoring on fourth down. Kamara bounced backward but remained upright, then slithered out of defensive end Wes Horton's ankle grab and dived under linebacker Luke Kuechly's lunge to find the end zone.

"That was just: I've got to get in there by any means," Kamara said. "I got hit and got it on in."

Kamara added a second tackle-shedding touchdown from 20 yards, New Orleans took advantage of two Carolina

special teams gaffes, and the Saints reclaimed sole possession of first place in the NFC South with a 31-21 victory over the Panthers.

Carolina coach Ron Rivera seemed at a loss to pinpoint what his defense could have done better to stop Kamara, whose production as a runner and receiver as a rookie are placing him in distinguished company.

"You prepare for everything you want, but he has got some elite ability," Rivera said.

Kamara finished with 126 yards from scrimmage, capping his day with a serpentine, 22-yard gain on a third-and-10 screen pass at the two-minute warning. The first-down gain allowed New Orleans to run out the clock.

"He's a monster," fellow Saints running back Mark Ingram said. "He's always balling, doing his thing, running and catching. He's definitely the rookie of the year. He's savage. Cold-blooded."

Carolina entered the game ranked second defensively overall and third against the run, allowing 83.2 yards per game. The Saints rushed for 148 yards, with Ingram gaining 85.

Ingram gained 122 yards from scrimmage, highlighting his day with a 72-yard that set up his 3-yard touchdown. Saints Quarterback Drew Brees passed for 269 yards, including a 10-yard touchdown to wide receiver Michael Thomas a few plays after Panthers punter Michael Palardy lost his handle on the ball as he was about to kick it away. Palardy aborted the punt and threw incomplete, giving New Orleans the ball on the Carolina 31.

In the fourth quarter, a fumble by Panthers punt returner Kaelin Clay near midfield set up kicker Wil Lutz's 31-yard field goal to give New Orleans a 31-14 lead.

Carolina quarterback Cam Newton passed for 183 yards and touchdowns of 21 yards to running back Christian McCaffrey and 24 yards to wide receiver Devin Funchess. Newton also ran for 51 yards. Running back Jonathan Stewart added a short TD run for Carolina, which had its four-game winning streak ended.

The Panthers' comeback attempt was hindered by their inability to convert a fourth-and-6 play deep in Saints territory in the fourth quarter. Newton connected with Funchess, who was stopped a yard short by cornerback Ken Crawley.

"That's a good team," Newton said of the Saints, who allowed Carolina to convert only three of 10 third-down plays. "We just have to move forward, be optimistic of our opportunities knowing that the world just doesn't stop because the Panthers lost today. We have to learn from this."

### MAKING HISTORY

Kamara has touchdowns in six straight games, the first time a Saints rookie has done so in the team's 51-year history. Kamara needs three touchdowns to break George Rogers' rookie franchise record of 13.

Meanwhile, Kamara's 614 yards receiving and 606 yards rushing this season make him one of only three rookies in NFL history to have at least 600 yards as both a runner and receiver, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer Charley Taylor and Billy Sims.

Brees, who completed 25 of 34 passes, reached 6,127 career completions, surpassing Peyton Manning (6,125) for the second-most all-time. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre has more with 6,300.

## GAME SUMMARIES

**WEEK 14: Atlanta Falcons 20 Saints 17; December 7, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Stadium** – The New Orleans Saints were defeated 20-17 by the Atlanta Falcons in their first trip to Mercedes-Benz Stadium in their first of a two-game set against their division rivals in 2017. New Orleans compiled their lowest point total of the season, however they held a 17-10 lead going into the fourth quarter, but ten straight Atlanta points, highlighted by a Matt Ryan to Mohamed Sanu touchdown pass and a 52-yard Matt Bryant field goal put the Falcons in the lead. When Drew Brees' pass into the end zone with 1:25 remaining in the contest was intercepted by Falcons linebacker Deion Jones, Atlanta was all but guaranteed of holding serve in their home division contest. Brees completed 26-of-35 passes (74.3%) for 271 yards and two touchdowns. Wide receiver Michael Thomas turned in his second 100-yard receiving day of the season and added a receiving touchdown as did wide receiver Tommy Lee Lewis, registering the first TD reception of his two-year career. The Saints defense intercepted Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan three times and defensive end Hau'oli Kikaha sacked him once on the day, while linebacker Manti Te'o had a season-high and team-high ten tackles (eight solo) for the Saints.

**WEEK 15: Saints 31, New York Jets 19; December 17, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Superdome** – Mark Ingram gave the Saints much more than the first-down run they needed to wind down the clock on the Jets. His determined burst across the line of scrimmage thrust him into New York's defensive backfield with too much speed and vigor for anyone to catch him — a fitting finish to one of his better days in a memorable season. Ingram ran for two touchdowns and gained 151 yards from scrimmage, capped by his late 50-yard TD run, and New Orleans overcame three turnovers to defeat the reeling Jets 31-19 on Sunday. "Getting the ball into his hands is obviously what we want to do," Saints center Max Unger said of Ingram, who has eclipsed 1,000 yards rushing for a second straight season. "We've got to get him going because when he has a chance to make plays like that — you can see it — he's explosive." Ingram's 54-yard gain on a screen, which set up a field goal, was the longer of his two 50-yard plays. "He's making people miss. He's creating," said fellow running back Alvin Kamara, who added a 10-yard touchdown catch. The Saints (10-4) needed to beat the Jets (5-9) to maintain a tenuous hold on first place in the NFC South. New Orleans leads Carolina (10-4) on head-to-head results. Atlanta (8-5) can pull one game behind by beating Tampa Bay on Monday night. The Jets, who were eliminated from the playoffs, kept it close until Saints receiver Michael Thomas' fourth-quarter touchdown on a four-yard slant made it 24-13. Bryce Petty made his first start at quarterback for New York this season, completing 19 of 39 passes for 179 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted twice — once by Craig Robertson on a tipped pass and once by Marshon

Lattimore on a long, inconsequential throw as the game ended.

Petty's two-yard touchdown pass to running back Elijah McGuire cut New Orleans' lead to 24-19 with 1:51 left. But the Jets' onside kick failed.

Drew Brees completed 26 of 36 passes for 285 yards and two touchdowns, but also was intercepted deep in New Orleans territory to set up a Jets field goal at the end of the first half.

### MATURE MIKE

Thomas made nine catches for 93 yards, giving him 94 receptions this season and making him just the second NFL player with at least 90 receptions in each of his first two seasons — the other being the New York Giants' Odell Beckham.

Thomas made first-down grabs of 17, 20 and nine yards to sustain the drive that ended with his four-yard TD.

"They need you to be the man and they need you to make plays," Thomas said. "That's what I signed up for and that's I like to do. When the ball is the air, I want to make a play."

### FAST START

New Orleans scored 17 points on its first three drives. Ingram had four catches for 80 yards on the first two series and scored the game's first touchdown on a one-yard run that made it 10-0.

Bilal Powell briefly pulled New York to 10-7 with his two-yard run before New Orleans quickly answered with Kamara's TD.

**WEEK 16: Saints 23, Atlanta Falcons 13; December 24, 2017 @ Mercedes Benz Superdome** – The Saints punched their playoff ticket and posted an impressive Christmas Eve win behind timely plays in the passing and running game, a stingy run defense and in forcing a pair of key turnovers in a contest that wasn't decided until late in the contest. With the win, New Orleans clinched their first playoff berth since 2013 and remained in pursuit of their first NFC South title since 2011, needing a win at Tampa Bay the following week.

After forcing a punt on Atlanta's first possession, the Saints got on board first on a 40-yard field goal by kicker Wil Lutz. Early in the second quarter, the New Orleans defense took advantage of a possession where Atlanta was assessed three consecutive penalties, setting up a first and 40 situation, where a punt was eventually forced when defensive end Cameron Jordan had his first of two sacks. On New Orleans' next possession, wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. rushed for two first downs on a drive where Lutz drilled a 29-yard field goal. When Atlanta got the ball back, rookie cornerback Marshon Lattimore had a spectacular interception with 50 seconds left and three plays later, quarterback Drew Brees completed a 54-yard touchdown to wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. to give them a 13-0 halftime lead. Throughout the day, New Orleans kept Atlanta's run game in check, allowing on 67 yards on 20 attempts (3.4 avg.) and only allowed Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan to complete 22 of 36 passes with Lattimore's interception and also sacking him five times.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## GAME SUMMARIES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE—WEEK 16 VS. ATLANTA

The Falcons finally threatened early in the third quarter when LB Deion Jones picked off Brees and returned it 41 yards to the New Orleans two-yard line, but two plays later DT Tyeler Davison forced a fumble by Atlanta RB Devonta Freeman at the one that was picked up by LB Manti Te'o at the Saints four-yard line. Atlanta finally scored their first points with 9:39 remaining in the third quarter on a 37-yard field goal by K Matt Bryant. New Orleans upped their lead to 20-3 in the third quarter on a 26-yard touchdown run by RB Mark Ingram.

Things looked grim once again for the Saints after the Falcons got to the New Orleans six-yard line late in the third quarter, but on the final play of the period on a reception by Falcons WR Julio Jones, Lattimore kept him at the New Orleans one-yard line. One play later CB Ken Crawley and DE Hau'Oli Kkiahia stopped Freeman on fourth-and-goal at the New Orleans one-yard line in the first play of the fourth quarter.

Atlanta early in the fourth quarter, marched as close as the their 30 and kicked a 48-yard field goal, but their hopes ended when the Saints forced them to punt on their next possession and Lutz drilled a 45-yard field goal to extend New Orleans' lead to 23-6 with 3:38 left.

Brees completed 21 of 28 passes for 239 yards with one touchdown as Ginn finished with 90 total yards from scrimmage. Rookie RB Alvin Kamara finished with 162 all-purpose yards.

**WEEK 17: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31, Saints 24; December 31, 2017 @ Raymond James Stadium** – New Orleans scored a special teams touchdown and recorded three interceptions. However a fumble on a fielded punt that resulted in a Tampa Bay touchdown and a 95-yard game-winning touchdown drive at the end of the contest resulted in a loss in New Orleans' regular season finale. However, coupled with a 22-10 loss by Carolina at Atlanta, New Orleans held on to the division title and hosting rights. QB Drew Brees finished 22-of-30 passing for 245 yards, tossed one TD and had a 108.3 rating, as he wrapped up a regular season campaign where he established a new NFL single-season record for completion percentage (72.0%), by completing 386-of-536 passes. Rookie RB Alvin Kamara enjoyed a standout day with a team-high and game-high 283 all purpose yards, leading the Saints with 44 rushing yards on nine carries with one touchdown, tying for the team lead in receiving with six receptions for 84 yards and returning four kickoffs for 155 yards, including a 106-yard runback for a TD, the longest play in franchise history. Both Mark Ingram II (1,540) and Kamara (1,554) combined to become the first running back duo in NFL history to each have 1,500 total yards from scrimmage. WR Michael Thomas also chipped in with six receptions for a team-high 94 yards, as he finished the regular season with 104 grabs for 1,245 yards, becoming the first Saint to ever reach the century mark and also setting an NFL record for receptions in a player's first two seasons, wrapping up with 192 total grabs in 31 games since being selected in the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft.

In a game which featured one special teams touchdown apiece by both the Saints and Buccaneers, including a re-

covered fumble off a punt return for a touchdown by Tampa Bay early in the fourth quarter that resulted in a 20-17 Buccaneers lead, Brees led the Saints on a 13-play, 92-yard drive that ended with a three-yard touchdown pass to FB Zach Line to give the Black and Gold a 24-20 lead with 7:07 left in the game. On Tampa Bay's next drive, the Saints held the Buccaneers to a 24-yard field goal. After an unsuccessful Saints drive, P Thomas Morstead pinned the Buccaneers at their five yards line with a 47-yard punt downed by DB Justin Hardee. However, Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston led his team on a 11-play, 95-yard drive that ended with a 39-yard touchdown pass to WR Chris Godwin with nine seconds left for the come-from-behind victory.

## 2017 SAINTS SCHEDULE

### REGULAR SEASON

Date	Opponent	Time/Network
Sept. 11	@Minnesota Vikings	L, 19-29
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<b>NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS</b>	<b>L, 20-36</b>
Sept. 24	@Carolina Panthers	W, 34-13
Oct. 1	@Miami Dolphins (London)	W, 20-0
-----BYE-----		
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>DETROIT LIONS</b>	<b>W, 52-38</b>
Oct. 22	@Green Bay Packers	W, 26-17
<b>Oct. 29</b>	<b>CHICAGO BEARS</b>	<b>W, 20-12</b>
<b>Nov. 5</b>	<b>TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS</b>	<b>W, 30-10</b>
Nov. 12	@Buffalo Bills	W, 47-10
<b>Nov. 19</b>	<b>WASHINGTON REDSKINS</b>	<b>W, 34-31 OT</b>
Nov. 26	@Los Angeles Rams	L, 20-26
<b>Dec. 3</b>	<b>CAROLINA PANTHERS</b>	<b>W, 31-21</b>
Dec. 7	@Atlanta Falcons	L, 17-20
<b>Dec. 17</b>	<b>NEW YORK JETS</b>	<b>W, 31-19</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>ATLANTA FALCONS</b>	<b>W, 23-13</b>
Dec. 31	@Tampa Bay Buccaneers	L, 24-31

### POSTSEASON

Jan. 7	<b>CAROLINA PANTHERS</b>	<b>3:40PM/FOX</b>
Jan. 13-14	NFC Divisional Playoff	TBD
Jan. 21	NFC Championship	TBD
Feb. 4	Super Bowl LII	TBD

**TRANSACTIONS** (July 26 — Sept. 28)**JULY**

**26** – Re-signed LB **Michael Mauti**. Signed DB **DeJaun Butler**, OLs **Kristjan Sokoli** and **Martin Wallace**. Placed LB **Dannell Ellerbe** on Injured Reserve. Waived RB/RS **Marcus Murphy**. Placed C **Chris Watt** on reserve/retired.

**29** – Signed OL **Orlando Franklin**. Waived WR **Justin Thomas**.

**AUGUST**

**2** – Signed RB **Darius Victor** and LB **Jonathan Walton**, terminated contract of OL **Orlando Franklin**. Waived/injured LB **Sae Tautu**.

**3** – Placed LB **Sae Tautu** on Injured Reserve.

**4** – Claimed T **Jerry Ugokwe** off waivers from Indianapolis and placed OL **Martin Wallace** on injured reserve.

**6** – Re-signed L **Justin Drescher**, signed K **Patrick Murray**, waived LS **Chase Dominguez**. Terminated contract of LS **Thomas Gafford**.

**10** – Signed WR **De’Quan Hampton**. Placed WR **Jordan Williams Lambert** on Injured Reserve.

**11** – Reached injury settlement with WR **Jordan Williams Lambert**.

**12** – Signed TE/LS **Braedon Bowman**, DB **Malik Foreman**, DT **John Hughes III**, DE **Jason Jones** and WR **Xavier Rush**. Waived DB **Dejaun Butler**, WR **Rashad Lawrence**, K **Patrick Murray** and S **Robenson Therezie**. Waived/NFI DT **Devaroe Lawrence**. Reached an injury settlement with LB **Sae Tautu**.

**13** – Placed DT **Devaroe Lawrence** on Reserve/NFI.

**23** – Signed CB **Elijah Mitchell**. Waived/injured OL **Jack Allen**.

**24** – Waived FB **John Robinson-Woodgett** and WR **Xavier Rush** and placed OL **Jack Allen** on Injured Reserve. Signed OLB **Bryan Braman** and FB **Zach Line**.

**25** – Released LB **Dannell Ellerbe** from Injured Reserve.

**28** – Signed LB **Audie Cole**. Placed TE **Clay Harbor** on injured reserve.

**29** – Acquired LS **Jon Dorenbos** from the Philadelphia Eagles for future considerations. Terminated the contract of DE **Jason Jones**.

**30** – Reached an injury settlement with LS **Justin Drescher**.

**SEPTEMBER**

**2** – Waived LB **Adam Bighill**, TE/LS **Braedon Bowman**, CB **Taveze Calhoun**, WR **Travin Dural**, CB **Malik Foreman**, OL **John Fullington**, QB **Garrett Grayson**, TE **Garrett Griffin**, DE **Obum Gwacham**, WR **De’Quan Hampton**, DB **Erik Harris**, DE **Alex Jenkins**, WR **Jake Lampman**, DT **Ashaad Mabry**, CBs **Arthur Maulet** and **Elijah Mitchell**, OL **Kristjan Sokoli**, CB **Damian Swann**, C **Cameron Tom**,

OL **Landon Turner**, T **Jerry Ugokwe**, RB **Darius Victor**, LB **Jonathan Walton** and DT **Justin Zimmer**. Terminated contracts of T **Khalif Barnes**, RB **Travaris Cadet**, LB **Audie Cole**, T **Bryce Harris**, DT **John Hughes III**, FB **Zach Line**, LB **Michael Mauti**, DT **Tony McDaniel** and QB **Ryan Nassib**. Placed OLB **Bryan Braman**, WR **Corey Fuller** and TE **John Phillips** on injured reserve. WR **Willie Snead IV** placed on Reserve/Suspended by Commissioner.

**3** – Claimed WR **Austin Carr** off waivers from the New England Patriots and QB **Taysom Hill** from the Green Bay Packers. Terminated FB **John Kuhn** and DE **Darryl Tapp**. Signed LB **Adam Bighill**, WR **Travin Dural**, OL **John Fullington**, TE **Garrett Griffin**, DE **Alex Jenkins**, CB **Arthur Maulet**, OL **Kristjan Sokoli**, C **Cameron Tom** and OL **Landon Turner** to the practice squad.

**4** – Placed CB **Delvin Breaux** on Injured Reserve. Re-signed T **Bryce Harris**. Signed WR **Max McCaffrey** and DT **David Parry** to the practice squad.

**6** – Re-signed FB **John Kuhn**. Terminated contract of T **Bryce Harris**.

**7** – Signed DB **Justin Hardee** to the practice squad and terminated the practice squad contract of OL **Kristjan Sokoli**.

**8** – Released TE **John Phillips** from Injured Reserve, re-signed T **Bryce Harris** and waived RB **Daniel Lasco**.

**9** – Terminated/NFI LS **Jon Dorenbos**. Signed LS **Zach Wood**.

**11** – Terminated contract of T **Bryce Harris** and signed LB **Adam Bighill** to the active roster from the practice squad.

**12** – Re-signed T **Bryce Harris**. Waived LB **Adam Bighill**. Signed RB **Daniel Lasco** to the practice squad.

**14** – Re-signed LB **Adam Bighill** to the practice squad.

**19** – Acquired an undisclosed draft pick from the Miami Dolphins in exchange for LB **Stephone Anthony**.

**21**– Terminated the contract of FB **John Kuhn** and signed DL **Kendall Langford**. Activated DT **David Parry** from the practice squad. Placed DL **Mitchell Loewen** on Injured Reserve.

**23** – Terminated the contracts of DL **Kendall Langford** and DE **Darryl Tapp**. Activated DB **Justin Hardee** and CB **Arthur Maulet** from the practice squad. Signed LB **Ben Heeney** to the practice squad.

**25**– Re-signed FB **John Kuhn** and DL **Kendall Langford**. Terminated contract of T **Bryce Harris** and waived CB **Arthur Maulet**.

**27**– Signed LB **Ben Heeney** to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed DT **David Parry** on injured reserve. Re-signed CB **Arthur Maulet** to the practice squad.

**28**– Placed FB **John Kuhn** on injured reserve. Activated WR **Willie Snead IV**.

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**TRANSACTIONS** (Oct. 3 — Dec. 29)**OCTOBER**

**3** – Waived LB **Ben Heeney**, Terminated contract of DL **Kendall Langford**. Placed T **Zach Strief** on Injured Reserve.

**4** – Signed G **John Greco**, DT **John Hughes III**, FB **Zach Line** and LB **Gabe Martin**. Placed LB **Alex Anzalone** on Injured Reserve.

**10** – Traded RB **Adrian Peterson** to the Arizona Cardinals in exchange for an undisclosed draft pick in 2018.

**11**– Signed LB **Gerald Hodges**. Waived LB **Gabe Martin**. Signed DT **Woodrow Hamilton** and LB **Shayne Skov** to practice squad. Terminated practice squad contract of **CB Bradley Sylve**.

**12**– Signed LB **Adam Bighill** to the active roster from practice squad. Signed LB **Gabe Martin** to the practice squad.

**13**– Re-signed T **Bryce Harris** and terminated contract of DT **John Hughes III** .

**18**– Re-signed DT **John Hughes III** and LB **Michael Mauti**, activated RB **Daniel Lasco** from the practice squad, placed LB **Nate Stupar** on Injured Reserve, waived LB **Adam Bighill** and terminated contract of DT **John Hughes III** .

**19**– Re-signed LB **Adam Bighill** to the practice squad.

**25**– Terminated the contract of CB **Sterling Moore**, signed C **Cameron Tom** to the active roster from the practice squad and Signed G **Nate Theaker** to the practice squad.

**NOVEMBER**

**6** – Waived DT **John Hughes III** and claimed T **Bryce Harris** off of waivers from San Francisco. Reached injury settlements with WR **Corey Fuller** and OL **Martin Wallace**.

**8**– Re-signed DT **John Hughes III**. Waived G **John Greco**.

**15**– Signed RB **Jonathan Williams** to the 53-man roster off of the Denver practice squad and placed RB **Daniel Lasco** on injured reserve.

**18**– Signed LB **Adam Bighill** to active roster from the practice squad. Waived T **Bryce Harris**.

**20**– Waived LB **Adam Bighill**.

**22**– Re-signed LB **Adam Bighill** to the practice squad. Signed CB **Dexter McDougle** and Re-signed CB **Sterling Moore**. Placed DE **Alex Okafor** on Injured Reserve.

**28** – Waived CB **Dexter McDougle** and LB **Gabe Martin** terminated practice squad contract (signed to Arizona Cardinals 53-man roster).

**29** – Re-signed T **Bryce Harris**, signed TE **Alex Ellis** to the practice squad.

**DECEMBER**

**2** – Waived CB **De’Vante Harris** and placed TE **Coby Fleener** on Injured Reserve. Signed TE **Garrett Griff** and CB **Arthur Maulet** to active roster from practice squad.

**4**– Signed T **Justin Murray** to the practice squad.

**13** – Waived T **Bryce Harris**. Signed DE **George Johnson**.

**15** – Claimed LB **Jonathan Freeny** off of waivers from New England. Waived CB **Sterling Moore**.

**20** – Placed LB **A.J. Klein** on Injured Reserve. Re-signed TE **John Phillips**. T **Justin Murray** terminated practice squad contract and signed C **Gabe Ikard** to practice squad.

**21** – Placed S **Kenny Vaccaro** on Injured Reserve. Re-signed CB **Sterling Moore**.

**27** – Placed DT **John Hughes III** on Injured Reserve. Re-signed DT **Tony McDaniel**.

**28** – Placed DE **Hau’oli Kikaha** on Injured Reserve. Claimed DE **Kasim Edebali** off waivers from the Los Angeles Rams.

**29** – Waived TE **John Phillips**. Signed OL **John Fullington** to active roster from practice squad contract and signed S **Mykkele Thompson** to practice squad.

## COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

### 2017 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

**Greg Bensel**-Senior Vice President of Communications

**Email:** greg.bensel@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1794

**Doug Miller**-Executive Director of Football Communications

**Email:** doug.miller@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1895

**Justin Macione**-Director of Football Communications/  
Publications Director

**Email:** justin.macione@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1848

**Evan Meyers**-Football Communications Manager

**Email:** evan.meyers@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1844

**Jordy Spitale**-Football Communications/Legends Program  
Coordinator

**Email:** jordy.spitale@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1894

**Courtney Funchess**-Communications Intern

**Email:** courtney.funchess@saints.nfl.com

**Phone:** (504) 731-1843

## POSTSEASON NOTES

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS POSTSEASON SUMMARY

The Saints earned their first championship with a 31-17 win over Indianapolis in Super Bowl XLIV and have a 7-9 overall record in the postseason. The 2017 season marks the 11th time overall and sixth time under Head Coach **Sean Payton** that the Saints have qualified for the postseason. The Saints have enjoyed their greatest post-season success in the Payton era with a 6-4 record (.600).

Below is a list of New Orleans' all-time playoff results, with Sean Payton's postseason appearances in bold. Overall, the Saints have faced ten different teams in the postseason and have a winning record against five of those opponents and have a losing record versus five teams:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Result</u>
1/3/88	Minnesota	NFC Wild Card	L, 10-44
1/6/91	at Chicago	NFC Wild Card	L, 6-16
12/28/91	Atlanta	NFC Wild Card	L, 20-27
1/3/93	Phil.	NFC Wild Card	L, 20-36
12/30/00	St. Louis	NFC Wild Card	W, 31-28
1/6/01	at Minn.	NFC Divisional	L, 16-34
<b>1/13/07</b>	<b>Phil.</b>	<b>NFC Divisional</b>	<b>W, 27-24</b>
<b>1/21/07</b>	<b>at Chicago</b>	<b>NFC Champ.</b>	<b>L, 14-39</b>
<b>1/16/10</b>	<b>Arizona</b>	<b>NFC Divisional</b>	<b>W, 45-14</b>
<b>1/24/10</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>NFC Champ.</b>	<b>W, 31-28</b>
<b>2/7/10</b>	<b>Indianapolis</b>	<b>SB XLIV</b>	<b>W, 31-17</b>
1/8/11	at Seattle	NFC Wild Card	L, 36-41
1/7/12	Detroit	NFC Wild Card	W, 45-28
1/14/12	at SF	NFC Divisional	L, 32-36
1/4/14	at Phil.	NFC Wild Card	W, 26-24
1/11/14	at Seattle	NFC Divisional	L, 15-23

### 2017 SAINTS EXPERIENCE IN THE PLAYOFFS

Below is a rundown of the playoff experience by the 53-man roster of the 2017 New Orleans Saints. Only eight players have appeared in a Saints playoff game while 15 have also appeared in playoff games with other teams:

### POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE AS SAINTS (8)

**10 games (1)** - QB Drew Brees.

**8 games (1)** - P Thomas Morstead.

**4 games (1)** - DE Cameron Jordan.

**3 games (1)** - QB Chase Daniel.

**2 games (4)** - T Terron Armstead, S Rafael Bush, TE Josh Hill, RB Mark Ingram II.

## POSTSEASON NOTES

### SAINTS WITH POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE ON OTHER TEAMS (15)

**10 games (1)** - WR Ted Ginn Jr. (Mia, SF, Car., Ari.)

**8 games (1)** - C Max Unger (Sea.)

**7 games (2)** - TE Michael Hoomanawanui (NE), DT Tony McDaniel (Sea.)

**5 games (2)** - S Chris Banjo (GB), CB Sterling Moore (NE, Dal.)

**4 games (1)** - S Rafael Bush (Atl., Den., Det.)

**2 games (3)** - LB Jonathan Freeny (NE), G Josh LeRibeus (Was.), LB Manti Te'o (SD)

**1 game (5)** - QB Drew Brees (SD), QB Chase Daniel (KC), DE George Johnson (Det.), FB Zach Line (Min.), G Larry Warford (Det.)

### SAINTS WITH NO POSTSEASON EXPERIENCE (33)

S Vonn Bell, WR Austin Carr, WR Brandon Coleman, CB Ken Crawley, DT Tyeler Davison, DE Kasim Edebali, RB Trey Edmunds, OL John Fullington, TE Garrett Griffin, DB Justin Hard-ee, DE Trey Hendrickson, QB Taysom Hill, LB Gerald Hodges, RB Alvin Kamara, G/C Senio Kelemete, CB Marshon Latimore, WR Tommylee Lewis, K Wil Lutz, CB Arthur Maulet, LB Michael Mauti, DE Al-Quadin Muhammad, DT David Onyemata, G/T Andrus Peat, T Ryan Ramczyk, DT Sheldon Rankins, WR Willie Snead IV, WR Michael Thomas, C Cameron Tom, RB Jonathan Williams, S Marcus Williams, CB P.J. Williams, LS Zach Wood.

## TEAM NOTES

### SAINTS 2017 ROSTER FACTS AND FIGURES

**Oldest Saints player:** QB Drew Brees, 38, 1/15/79

**Youngest Saints player:** S Marcus Williams, 21, 9/8/96

**Most Seasons as a Saint:** QB Drew Brees - 12

**Most NFL seasons:** QB Drew Brees, 17

**Most consecutive starts:** DE Cameron Jordan, 97 (longest active streak by an NFL defensive end)

**Most consecutive games played:** DE Cameron Jordan, 112

**Most playoff experience:** QB Drew Brees, 11 games.

**Heaviest Saint:** G Larry Warford, 317

**Tallest Saints:** DT Tony McDaniel and T/G Andrus

Peat, 6-7

**Shortest Saint:** WR Tommylee Lewis, 5-7

**Former 1st round draft picks:** 7 - WR Ted Ginn Jr., RB Mark Ingram II, DE Cameron Jordan, CB Marshon Latimore, T/G Andrus Peat, T Ryan Ramczyk, DT Sheldon Rankins.

**Pro Bowlers:** 8 - QB Drew Brees, RB Mark Ingram II, DE Cameron Jordan, RB Alvin Kamara, CB Marshon Latimore, P Thomas Morstead, WR Michael Thomas and C Max Unger

**Coaches who played in the NFL:** 7 - Sean Payton, Bradford Banta, Dan Campbell, Ronald Curry, Aaron Glenn, Leigh Torrence, Brian Young

**College with the most Saints:** Southern Methodist - 6

### DOUBLE DIGIT WINS

The New Orleans Saints reached double-digit wins for the sixth time since Head Coach Sean Payton joined the team in 2006. Two of their four seasons of at least 12 wins and five of their seven campaigns with at least 11 victories including this season have occurred since 2006, with the team tying the club mark for victories in 2011 originally set in 2009. The club's two 13-victory seasons occurred in 2009 and 2011.

### WIN STREAKS

Since 2006, the Saints have put together 12 win streaks of at least three games, including an eight-game run in 2017, tied for third-longest since Payton became coach with one to close out 2011. Below's a list of the 12 win streaks of at least three games since 2006 with the 2017 one in bold.

Sept. 13-Dec. 13, 2009 - 13 games

Nov. 6, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012 - 8 games

**Sept. 24-Nov. 19, 2017 - 8 games**

Oct. 21-Dec. 12, 2010 - 6 games

Sept. 8-Oct. 6, 2013- 5 games

Oct. 14-Nov. 4, 2007 - 4 games

Sept. 18-Oct. 9, 2011 - 4 games

Sept. 10-Sept. 25, 2006 - 3 games

Nov. 26-Dec. 10, 2006 - 3 games

Nov. 5-Nov. 18, 2012 - 3 games

Nov. 10-Nov. 21, 2013 - 3 games

Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 2015 - 3 games

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## TEAM NOTES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-WIN STREAKS

Below is a list of the longest winning streaks in New Orleans Saints history with the 2017 one in bold:

Sept. 13-Dec. 13, 2009 - 13 games

Nov. 1-Dec. 27, 1987 - 9 games

Dec. 23, 1990-Oct. 20, 1991 - 9 games

Nov. 6, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012-8 games

**Sept. 24-Nov. 19, 2017- 8 games**

### COACHES IN THE NFL

Several members of the Saints coaching staff have prior playing experience in the National Football League

Head Coach **Sean Payton** - Played for the Chicago Bears in 1987.

Special Teams Coordinator **Bradford Banta** - A fourth round (106th overall) draft pick of the Colts in 1994 out of the USC and played in 156 career games, primarily as both a long snapper and tight end with Indianapolis, the New York Jets, the Detroit Lions and Buffalo Bills.

Asst. Head Coach/Tight Ends **Dan Campbell** - A third round draft pick (79th overall) of the Giants in 1999 out of Texas A&M, who went on to appear in 114 games with 75 starts for New York, Dallas and Detroit, where he caught 91 passes for 934 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Asst. Wide Receivers Coach **Ronald Curry** - Curry was a seventh round draft pick (235th overall) of Oakland in 2002 out of North Carolina and played for the Raiders for seven seasons, appearing in 76 games with 32 starts and registering 193 receptions for 2,347 yards with 13 TDs.

Secondary Coach **Aaron Glenn** - Glenn was the 12th overall pick of the Jets in 1994 out of Texas A&M and started 176 of 205 games with New York, Houston, Dallas, Jacksonville and New Orleans and was a three-time Pro Bowl selection. Glenn recorded 41 interceptions with six brought back for TDs, adding a score on a kick return.

Defensive Asst. **Leigh Torrence**—Torrence enjoyed a seven-year career with Atlanta, Washington and New Orleans for his final four seasons, where he played in 73 games.

Pass Rush Specialist **Brian Young** - Young played in the NFL from 2000-08 with the St. Louis Rams for his first four seasons, who originally selected him in the fifth round of the 2000 NFL Draft (139th overall) out of UTEP and for his final five with the Saints, appearing in 124 career games and recording 22.5 sacks and eight fumble recoveries.

### FAMILY TIES

Numerous Saints players, coaches and administrators are not the only members of their families to make a name for themselves in pro football. No fewer than 15 of these people have relatives who have played, coached or served in the front office in the National Football League.

**Defensive Coordinator Dennis Allen** - Father, Grady, played linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons from 1968-72.

**Offensive Coordinator Pete Carmichael** - Father, Pete, served as an assistant coach in the National Football League from 1994-2003 with the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Chicago Bears.

**Quarterbacks Coach Joe Lombardi** - The grandson of legendary National Football League head coach Vince Lombardi, who led both the Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins and also had a long distinguished career as an assistant.

**Secondary Coach Aaron Glenn** - Younger brother, Jason, was a linebacker and sixth-round draft pick of the Detroit Lions in the 2001 NFL Draft, playing six seasons in the NFL with the New York Jets, Miami Dolphins and Minnesota Vikings.

**Linebackers Coach Mike Nolan** - Father, Dick, played safety in the National Football League for nine years before becoming a coach. He led San Francisco from 1968 to 1975 and was the head coach of the New Orleans Saints from 1978 to 1980.

**Assistant General Manager/College Scouting Director Jeff Ireland**— Stepson of Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame linebacker/center E.J. Holub and the grandson of former Eagles player and Bears personnel executive Jim Parmer.

**National Scout Terry Wooden** - Brother, JoJo, is director of player personnel for the Los Angeles Chargers.

**Area Scout Joey Vitt** - Father, Joe Vitt is a longtime NFL coach who served as assistant head coach/linebackers of the Saints for 11 seasons.

**CB Ken Crawley** - Cousin, Stephon Morris, spent the 2012 season with the New England Patriots.

**RB Trey Edmunds** - Father, Ferrell Jr., enjoyed a seven-year career as a tight end with Miami and Seattle and was selected to two Pro Bowls.

**RB Mark Ingram II** - Father, Mark Ingram Sr., was a ten-year NFL veteran who played wide receiver for the New York Giants, Miami Dolphins, Green Bay Packers and Philadelphia Eagles.

**DE Cameron Jordan** - Father, Steve, had a 13-year career as a tight end with Minnesota, with six Pro Bowl selections.

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## TEAM NOTES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-FAMILY TIES

**LB Michael Mauti** - Father, Rich, had a six-year career as a wide receiver and special teams contributor with New Orleans and Washington.

**T/G Andrus Peat** - Father, Todd, played six NFL seasons as an offensive lineman with the Phoenix Cardinals and the Los Angeles Raiders.

**WR Michael Thomas** - Uncle, Keyshawn Johnson's a former wideout, spending 11 NFL seasons with the New York Jets, for whom he was the first overall pick in 1996, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Dallas Cowboys and Carolina Panthers, earning three Pro Bowls.

### TURNOVER RATIO TURNAROUND

After finished 23rd in the National Football League at -3 in 2016, New Orleans finished the 2017 regular season tied for ninth in turnover ratio at +7. Without a turnover through the first four games, New Orleans joined the 1995 St. Louis Rams and 2013 Tennessee Titans as only the third team to do so. This week's opponent, the Carolina Panthers, finished the regular season tied for 16th in the NFL in turnover ratio at -1.

### 2017 NFL TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL LEADERS

Team	Takeaways			Giveaways			Diff
	Ints	Fum	Total	Ints	Fum	Total	
1. Bal.	22	12	34	13	4	17	+17
2. KC	16	10	26	8	3	11	+15
3. LA Char.	18	9	27	11	4	15	+12
4. Phi.	19	12	31	9	11	20	+11
5t. Jax.	21	12	33	13	10	23	+10
5t. Det.	19	13	32	11	11	22	+10
7. Buf.	18	7	25	10	6	17	+9
8. Sea.	14	11	25	12	5	17	+8
<b>9t. NO</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>+7</b>
9t. LA Rams	18	10	28	7	14	21	+7

### IN THE NFC SOUTH

The Saints have the best record among NFC South teams since 2006, a period where they've won four division titles, tied with Sunday's NFC Wild Card playoff opponent Carolina (four) for the most during that time. They've posted a 42-30 mark in the NFC South since 2006.

### REGULAR SEASON RECORDS OF NFC SOUTH TEAMS SINCE 2006

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
<b>New Orleans Saints</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.583</b>
Atlanta Falcons	105	87	0	.547
Carolina Panthers	102	89	1	.534
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	72	120	0	.375

### ROAD WARRIORS

Since 2006, the New Orleans Saints have the seventh-best road record in the NFL at 50-46 (.521). Since 2009, with a 38-34 (.528) regular season road mark, the Saints have the fifth-best road winning percentage after finishing 4-4 on the road in 2017, including a four-game winning streak.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON ROAD RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	Record
1. New England	70-26
2. Dallas	57-39
3. Pittsburgh	54-42
4t. Green Bay	52-44
4t. Philadelphia	52-44
6. Indianapolis	51-45
<b>7. New Orleans</b>	<b>50-46</b>

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON ROAD RECORDS SINCE 2009

Team	Record
1. New England	49-23
2. Pittsburgh	42-30
3. Dallas	42-30
4. Green Bay	39-33
<b>5. New Orleans</b>	<b>38-34</b>
6. Denver	37-35

# TEAM NOTES

## DOMEFIELD ADVANTAGE

Since 2008, the Saints have posted a 56-24 home record, fifth in the NFL, including a 7-1 mark in 2017.

## NFL REGULAR SEASON HOME RECORDS SINCE 2008

Team	Record
1. New England	68-12
2. Green Bay	59-20-1
3. Baltimore	59-21
4. Pittsburgh	59-21
<b>5. New Orleans</b>	<b>56-24</b>

## HIGHER EDUCATION

37 colleges and universities are represented on the Saints 53-man roster. Of that total, eight are represented by multiple Saints, led by six from Southern Methodist (S Chris Banjo, G Josh LeRibeus, P Thomas Morstead, FB Zach Line, CB Sterling Moore and LS Zach Wood).

## MY HOMETOWN

Saints players come from 21 different states, Washington D.C., Germany and Nigeria. Of the 53 players on the active roster, the state which claims the most is Texas with eight (S Chris Banjo, QB Drew Brees, QB Chase Daniel, G Josh LeRibeus, P Thomas Morstead, LB Craig Robinson, RB Jonathan Williams and LS Zach Wood).

## PAYTON'S PLACE AMONG HEAD COACHES

Sean Payton has the highest winning percentage (.597) and most wins among the 16 Saints head coaches.

### SEAN PAYTON YEAR-BY-YEAR BREAKDOWN

Year	Reg. Season	Postseason
2006	10-6	NFC Champ Game (1-1)
2007	7-9	-
2008	8-8	-
2009	13-3	SB XLIV Championship (3-0)
2010	11-5	Wild Card Round (0-1)
2011	13-3	Divisional Round (1-1)
2013	11-5	Divisional Round (1-1)
2014	7-9	-
2015	7-9	-
2016	7-9	-
2017	11-5	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105-71</b>	<b>6-4</b>

## SEAN PAYTON'S REGULAR SEASON RECORD WHEN (2006-11, 2013-)

Leading After First Quarter.....	61-16
Leading at Halftime.....	87-13
Leading After Third Quarter.....	86-11
Saints Score First.....	61-21
Saints 200+ Yards Passing.....	94-64
Opponent Under 200 Yards Passing.....	44-19
Saints Have 100+ Yards Rushing.....	71-23
Forcing 3+ Turnovers.....	29-6
Defense Has 3+ Sacks.....	48-19
Indoors.....	68-44
Outdoors.....	36-28
At Home.....	58-30
On The Road.....	47-41
On Artificial Turf.....	74-46
Scoring 20 Or More Points.....	99-41
Allowing 20 Or Fewer Points.....	64-7
Committing Zero Turnovers.....	35-5

## THE SAINTS IN 2017 WHEN?

Leading After First Quarter.....	7-1
Tied After First Quarter.....	2-2
Leading at Halftime.....	9-1
Leading After Third Quarter.....	10-2
Saints Score First.....	7-2
Saints 200+ Yards Passing.....	9-5
Opponent Under 200 Yards Passing.....	8-0
Saints Have 100+ Yards Rushing.....	9-1
Forcing 3+ Turnovers.....	2-2
Defense Has 3+ Sacks.....	5-1
Indoors.....	7-3
Outdoors.....	4-2
At Home.....	7-1
On The Road.....	4-4
On Artificial Turf.....	9-3
On Natural Grass.....	2-2
Scoring 20 Or More Points.....	11-3
Allowing 20 Or Fewer Points.....	8-1
Committing Zero Turnovers.....	2-3

## SEAN PAYTON'S POSTSEASON RECORD WHEN (2006, 2009-11, 2013)

Leading After First Quarter.....	2-1
Leading at Halftime.....	1-0
Tied at Halftime.....	1-0
Leading After Third Quarter.....	4-0
Tied After Third Quarter.....	1-0
Saints Score First.....	2-1
Saints 200+ Yards Passing.....	5-4
Opponent Under 200 Yards Passing.....	1-2
Saints Have 100+ Yards Rushing.....	4-1
Forcing 3+ Turnovers.....	1-0
Defense Has 3+ Sacks.....	0-2
Indoors.....	4-0
Outdoors.....	2-4
At Home.....	4-0
On The Road.....	1-3
On Artificial Turf.....	4-0
Scoring 20 Or More Points.....	6-2
Allowing 20 Or Fewer Points.....	2-0
Committing Zero Turnovers.....	2-0

**TEAM NOTES****TOP THREE WINNINGEST NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HEAD COACHES IN THE REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON COMBINED**

Coach	W	L	Pct.
<b>Sean Payton</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>.597</b>
Jim Mora	93	78	.544
Jim Haslett	46	52	.469

Payton's 111 career wins ranks eighth among active NFL coaches and his winning percentage sixth.

**WINNINGEST ACTIVE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE COACHES SINCE 2006****(REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON)****(Min. 50 games)**

Coach	W	L	T	Pct.
Bill Belichick	165	48	0	.775
Mike Tomlin	123	66	0	.651
Pete Carroll	88	53	1	.623
Mike McCarthy	131	79	1	.623
Bruce Arians	50	32	1	.608
<b>Sean Payton</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.597</b>
John Harbaugh	104	74	0	.584

**NFC SOUTH COACHES RECORDS IN DIVISION PLAY**

Sean Payton currently has the most divisional wins by NFC South coaches in division play since being hired by New Orleans in 2006.

Coach	W	L	Pct.
<b>Sean Payton</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>.591</b>
Ron Rivera	23	19	.548
Dan Quinn	11	7	.611
Dirk Koetter	5	7	.417

**SEAN PAYTON'S RECORD VS. NFC SOUTH TEAMS**

Below is a breakdown of Payton's record against the NFC South since 2006 when he was hired. Payton has an 11-11 record against this week's opponent, Carolina

Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	15	7	.682
Tampa Bay	13	9	.591
Carolina	11	11	.500

**PRO BOWL PLAYERS COACHED BY SEAN PAYTON**

Payton's coached 22 players who've earned 44 Pro Bowl selections as a head coach and assistant coach with the Saints, Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants, including six selections in 2017 (quarterback Drew Brees, running back Mark Ingram II, defensive end Cameron Jordan, running back Alvin Kamara, cornerback Marshon Lattimore and wide receiver Michael Thomas), tied for the second most in team history to 2009 when seven were selected.

**PRO BOWL PLAYERS COACHED BY SEAN PAYTON AS A HEAD COACH AND ASSISTANT**

Pos.	Player	Pro Bowls	Years
G	Larry Allen	1	2005
<b>QB</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2006, 08--14, 16-17</b>
T	Jammal Brown	2	2006, 08
T	Jermon Bushrod	1	2011
G	Jahri Evans	5	2009-11, 13-14
C	Jonathan Goodwin	1	2009
TE	Jimmy Graham	3	2011, 13-14
G	Ben Grubbs	1	2013
S	Roman Harper	2	2009-10
<b>RB</b>	<b>Mark Ingram II</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2014, 2017</b>
<b>DE</b>	<b>Cameron Jordan</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2013, 2015, 2017</b>
<b>RB</b>	<b>Alvin Kamara</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>CB</b>	<b>Marshon Lattimore</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2017</b>
G	Carl Nicks	2	2010-11
S	Darren Sharper	1	2009
TE	Jeremy Shockey	1	2002
DE	Will Smith	1	2006
T	Jon Stinchcomb	1	2009
G	Ron Stone	2	2000-01
<b>WR</b>	<b>Michael Thomas</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2017</b>
LB	Jonathan Vilma	2	2009-10
TE	Jason Witten	1	2005

**COACH/QB DUO**

Under Payton, Drew Brees has started 172 regular season games, third-most starts among championship head coach/QB duos:

**CHAMPIONSHIP HEAD COACH/QUARTERBACK DUO****MOST STARTS TOGETHER IN NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE HISTORY**

Rk.	HC/QB, Team	Starts
1.	Bill Belichick/Tom Brady, NE	249
2.	Tom Coughlin/Eli Manning, NYG	181
3.	<b>Sean Payton/Drew Brees, NO</b>	<b>172</b>

## TEAM NOTES

### IN THE NFL

The Saints have the second-best regular season record in the NFC and are tied for the fifth-best mark in the NFL since 2006. Since 2009, their 87-57 record's ranked fourth.

### REGULAR SEASON RECORDS SINCE 2006

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
New England Patriots	151	41	0	.786
Pittsburgh Steelers	124	68	0	.646
Green Bay Packers	121	70	1	.633
Indianapolis Colts	116	76	0	.604
<b>New Orleans Saints</b>	112	80	0	.583
Baltimore Ravens	112	80	0	.583

### REGULAR SEASON RECORDS OF TEAMS SINCE 2009

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
New England Patriots	112	32	0	.778
Green Bay Packers	94	49	1	.656
Pittsburgh Steelers	94	50	0	.653
<b>New Orleans Saints</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.604</b>
Seattle Seahawks	84	58	1	.587

### ROSTER ROLL CALL

Of the 53 Saints, 29 were on the active roster, a reserve list or the practice squad at the end of 2016. Among newcomers, the roster has three unrestricted free agents, nine veteran free agents, seven draft picks, three rookie free agents and two waiver claims. Of the 53, 24 have less than four years of previous NFL experience, including ten who were in their first NFL training camp. The roster by years of experience (year entering): 17 years-1, 12 years-1, 11 years-1, 9 years-3, 8 years-1, 7 years-4, 6 years-3, 5 years-10, 4 years-2, 3 years-5, 2 years-10, 1 year-2, rookies-12.

### POINTS PER GAME

Since 2006, the New Orleans Saints have averaged 27.6 points per game (5,297 points) in 192 games, second in the NFL. Since 2006, they've scored 20 or more points in 152 contests (79.2%) and 30 or more in 84 (43.8%). Four of the team's top six single-game point totals have occurred since 2006. In 2017, the Saints finished fourth in the National Football League in scoring, averaging 28.0 points per game.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE POINTS PER GAME LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. New England	5,675	29.6
<b>2. New Orleans</b>	<b>5,297</b>	<b>27.6</b>
3. Green Bay	5,020	26.1

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE POINTS PER GAME LEADERS IN 2017

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. LA Rams	479	29.9
2. New England	458	28.6
3. Philadelphia	457	28.6
<b>4. New Orleans</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>28.0</b>
5. Jacksonville	417	26.1

### SINGLE-GAME POINTS SCORED IN NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HISTORY

Rk.	Opponent	Pts.	Date
1.	vs. Indianapolis	62	10/23/11
<b>2t.</b>	<b>vs. Detroit</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>10/15/17</b>
2t.	vs. NYG	52	11/1/15
3t.	vs. Green Bay	51	11/24/08
3t.	at St. Louis	51	11/2/69
3t.	at Seattle	51	11/21/76

### SECOND HALF SCORING

With both the offense and defense contributing, the New Orleans Saints rank third in the National Football League in second half/overtime scoring.

### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEADERS, SECOND HALF/OT SCORING

Team	Pts.	Pts./Gm.
1. Seattle	241	15.1
2. Philadelphia	233	14.6
<b>3. New Orleans</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>14.1</b>
4t. Detroit	220	13.8
4t. Jacksonville	220	13.8

## TEAM NOTES

### SCORING MARGIN

In 2017, New Orleans is ranked sixth in the National Football League in scoring margin, scoring 129 more points than their opponents.

#### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEADERS, SCORING MARGIN

Team	G	Pts.	Opp.	Diff.
Philadelphia Eagles	16	457	295	162
New England Patriots	16	458	296	162
Jacksonville Jaguars	16	417	268	149
Los Angeles Rams	16	478	329	149
Minnesota Vikings	16	382	252	130
<b>New Orleans Saints</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>122</b>

### SECOND HALF SCORING MARGIN

In 2017, New Orleans has jumped even further ahead in the second half of contests while stopping opponents, ranked second in the NFL in second half/overtime point differential.

#### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE LEADERS, SECOND HALF/OVERTIME SCORING MARGIN

Team	G	Pts.	Opp.	Diff.
Seattle Seahawks	16	241	154	87
<b>New Orleans Saints</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>66</b>
Jacksonville Jaguars	16	220	157	63
Los Angeles Rams	16	198	141	57
Philadelphia Eagles	16	233	166	57

### PASSER RATING DIFFERENTIAL

Combining outstanding quarterback play from Drew Brees and improved defensive play, the Saints rank second in the NFL in passer rating differential

#### 2017 NFL LEADERS, PASSER RATING DIFFERENTIAL

Team	Rtg.	Opp.	Diff.
1. Minnesota	99.1	73.0	26.1
<b>2. New Orleans</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>79.0</b>	<b>24.9</b>
3. LA Rams	98.3	78.4	19.9
4. Kansas City	100.8	81.5	19.3
5. Philadelphia	97.6	79.5	18.1

### BUILDING THROUGH THE DRAFT

The philosophy of New Orleans Saints Executive Vice President/General Manager **Mickey Loomis**, Head Coach **Sean Payton** and the player personnel staff has been to use the NFL Draft as the major building block to the club, while augmenting needs through free agency. This effort has played a major role in the club's success since 2006.

13 of the current 22 starters on the club's depth chart were originally drafted by the Saints or signed by the club following the draft as college free agent, as well as punter **Thomas Morstead** and running back **Alvin Kamara**, who has shared time at tailback with **Mark Ingram** and handled kick-off return duties in the last two regular season games.

#### 2017 STARTERS DRAFTED BY THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

##### OFFENSE

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>How Acq.</u>
WR	Michael Thomas	'16 Draft
LT	Terron Armstead	'13 Draft
LG	Andrus Peat	'15 Draft
RT	Ryan Ramczyk	'17 Draft
RB	Mark Ingram	'11 Draft

##### DEFENSE

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>How Acq.</u>
LDE	Cameron Jordan	'11 Draft
DT	Tyeler Davison	'15 Draft
DT	David Onyemata	'16 Draft
DT	Sheldon Rankins	'16 Draft
CB	Marshon Lattimore	'17 Draft
CB	Ken Crawley	UDFA
S	Vonn Bell	'16 Draft
S	Marcus Williams	'17 Draft

##### SPECIAL TEAMS

<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>How Acq.</u>
P	Thomas Morstead	'09 Draft
KR	Alvin Kamara	'17 Draft

## TEAM NOTES

### SAINTS BY THE NUMBERS

- 1 – Super Bowl appearances and Championships
- 2 – NFC Championship appearances
- 6 – Division Championships
- 356 – Franchise wins including Postseason
- 10 – Pro Football Hall of Famers
- 4 – Ring of Honor members
- 49 – Saints Hall of Famers
- 51 – The club is in its 51st year of existence.
- 84, 728 – Largest crowd in franchise history.
- 73,373 – Largest crowd at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.
- 111 – Games won by Head Coach Sean Payton.
- 6,222 – Number of completions by QB Drew Brees.
- 70,445 – Number of passing yards by Brees.
- 488 – Number of touchdown passes by Brees.
- 5,362 – Number of rushing yards by RB Mark Ingram II.
- 1,540 – Total yards from scrimmage by Ingram in 2017.
- 59.5 – Number of sacks by DE Cameron Jordan
- 86 – Team-high number of points scored by rookie RB Alvin Kamara in 2017.
- 1,554 – Team-high number of total yards from scrimmage by Kamara in 2017.
- 196 – Number of receptions in two seasons by WR Michael Thomas, an NFL Record.
- 512 – Number of career tackles by LB Craig Robertson.
- 43 – Seasons at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.

### DOMINATING OFFENSE

## OFFENSIVE NOTES

Since 2006 the Saints have been the NFL's top ranked offense (404.1 ypg.).

#### NFL TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS SINCE 2006

(NET YARDS PER GAME)

Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. New Orleans	77,593	404.1
2. New England	74,145	386.2
3. Philadelphia	71,551	372.7

The Saints finished 2017 ranked second in the NFL in net yards per game (391.2).

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TOTAL OFFENSE LEADERS IN 2017

(NET YARDS PER GAME)

Team	Yds.	Yds./Gm.
1. New England	6,307	394.2
2. New Orleans	6,259	391.2
3. Pittsburgh	6,047	377.9

#### YARDAGE RAMPAGE

Since 2006, the New Orleans Saints have racked up the team's eight highest single-game net yardage totals. Prior to Payton's hiring, New Orleans had only reached 500 yards in seven games. Since then they've met the mark in 24 games.

#### TOP EIGHT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TOTAL NET YARDAGE GAMES

Rk.	Opponent	Yds.	Rush	Pass	Date
1.	vs. Dallas	625	242	383	11/10/13
2.	vs. Carolina	617	208	409	1/1/12
3.	vs. NYG	608	103	505	11/1/15
4.	vs. Cincinnati	595	91	504	11/19/06
5.	vs. NYG	577	205	372	11/28/11
6.	vs. Minnesota	573	161	412	12/18/11
7.	vs. SF	571	248	323	11/6/16
8.	vs. Dallas	562	116	446	12/23/12

#### KEEPING DRIVES GOING

The Saints have converted an NFL-best 46.7 of their third down attempts since Sean Payton became head coach in 2006.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE THIRD DOWN CONVERSION LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Made	Att.	Pct.
1. New Orleans	1,183	2,533	46.7
2. New England	1,123	2,548	44.1
3. Indianapolis	1,101	2,526	43.6
4. LA Chargers	1,089	2,502	43.5
5. Atlanta	1,106	2,579	42.9

## OFFENSIVE NOTES

### FIRST DOWNS

The New Orleans Saints rank first in the NFC and second in the NFL with 4,359 first downs since 2006, including a league-best 2,884 first downs passing. The Saints led the NFL with 395 first downs in 2016 and their 314 in 2017 are ranked sixth.

#### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DOWN LEADERS SINCE 2006

Team	Tot.	Rush	Pass	Pen
1. New England	4,456	1,390	2,663	403
<b>2. New Orleans</b>	<b>4,359</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>288</b>
3. Indianapolis	3,995	1,078	2,550	367

### HOLDING THE LINE

Since 2006, the Saints have allowed the fewest sacks in the NFL, surrendering only 294 quarterback takedowns in 192 games and 20 in 2017, the second-lowest total in the league.

#### SACKS ALLOWED BY NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAMS FROM 2006-

Rk. Team	Sacks
<b>1. New Orleans</b>	<b>294</b>
2. New York Giants	330
3. Indianapolis	355

#### FEWEST SACKS ALLOWED BY NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAMS IN 2017

Rk. Team	Sacks
1. LA Chargers	18
<b>2. New Orleans</b>	<b>20</b>
3t. Pittsburgh	21
3t. Atlanta	24
3t. Jacksonville	24
3t. Oakland	24

Below is a synopsis of several returning players and newcomers through the draft, free agency and trade to the 2017 Saints offensive line:

**LT Terron Armstead** - The club's first third round draft choice in 2013 out of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Armstead impressed scouts by running the fastest 40-yard dash time

(4.71) by an offensive lineman in the history of the NFL Scouting Combine. He has opened 46 regular season games for New Orleans, returning to action in week six after missing the first four contests with a shoulder injury.

**G/C Senio Kelemete** - A fifth round selection of Arizona (151st overall) in the 2012 NFL Draft, since first joining the Saints practice squad at the start of the 2013 season, this fifth-year lineman has displayed the versatility to play every position on the line. The 6-foot-3, 300-pounder saw action in 47-of-48 games over the past three seasons with 22 starts and has become an invaluable piece of the line. In 2017, Kelemete's already played at right tackle in the opener and played at left guard in nine games with three starts and at right guard in week seven, starting in week eight.

**T/G Andrus Peat** - A first round selection (13th overall) in the 2015 NFL Draft out of Stanford, Peat was considered one of the top college linemen. In 2016, Peat took a big step forward from his rookie season, starting 15 contests at left guard, left tackle and as an extra tight end, blocking for the most productive offense in the NFL (426.0 ypg.). Headed into his third season, Peat's a key to the Saints' future success, starting at both left guard and left tackle in 2017.

**T Ryan Ramczyk** - The Black and Gold used their second first round selection in 2017 to snag Ramczyk, viewed by many as one of the best linemen in the entire draft. The 6-6, 314 lb. tackle moved from Division III Wisconsin-Stevens Point to Wisconsin, and in just one season with the Badgers, he flourished. Ramczyk started all 14 games in 2016 and was a consensus All-American, blocking for an offense that gained 203.1 rushing yards per game and allowing just one sack. Ramczyk had an immediate impact for the Black and Gold, taking every snap, starting two games at left tackle and 14 contests at right tackle.

**C Max Unger** - Since being acquired by the Saints via trade at the start of the 2015 offseason, Max Unger has anchored the middle of the Saints offensive line, opening 47-of-48 contests, missing only one game in 2016 due to a foot injury. Originally a second round draft pick of the Seahawks in 2009, Unger has been named a first-team All-Pro by the AP in 2012 and is a two-time Pro Bowler, helping the Seahawks to two Super Bowl appearances and a victory in Super Bowl XLVIII. Unger has opened all 114 games he's played in since 2009. Sidelined in the offseason and some of the preseason by a foot injury, Unger took every snap.

**RG Larry Warford** - A third-round pick by Detroit in 2013, Warford has been one of the best offensive linemen in the NFL since his arrival. In 2013, he was named *Pro Football Focus* Rookie of the Year after starting all 16 games without surrendering a sack. This offseason, the 6-3, 317 lb. guard joined the Saints, and he will play a critical role for one of the NFL's top offense manning right guard.



## DEFENSIVE NOTES

### DEFENSIVE DRAFT

Over the last three NFL Drafts, New Orleans has shown a commitment to improving the defense, spending 14-of-21 picks on that side of the ball. With nine picks in the 2015 NFL Draft, the Saints picked six defensive players, the most taken since New Orleans chose nine defensive players in a 12-round selection meeting in 1990. Below is an overview of the the players selected by New Orleans since 2015 on the 53-man roster:

**S Vonn Bell, Ohio State (D2b-16)** - Selected by New Orleans in the second round (61st overall) of the 2016 NFL Draft, Bell was a consensus All-American and one of the top rated defensive backs in the NFL Draft. As a senior, the Rossville, Ga. native was a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist after recording 65 tackles and adding two interceptions, one brought back for a touchdown, one fumble recovery and 11 passes defensed. During his 2016 rookie season, Bell translated that collegiate success to the NFL with ease, starting 14 games and finishing second on the team with 98 tackles (59 solo) and first on the team with two forced fumbles. In 2017, Bell played in all 16 games with ten starts and had a team-high 78 tackles (57 solo), 4.5 sacks, to tie for second on the team, two passes defensed, two forced fumbles and five special teams tackles.

**DT Tyeler Davison, Fresno State (D5b-15)** - This run-stopping widebody defensive lineman played in 53 career games at Fresno State and made 28.5 stops for a loss and 14.5 sacks. After moving into the starting lineup in 2016, Davison has continued to improve, with his 31 tackles (21 solo), one pass defensed and two forced fumbles, showing his true value as a run-stopper.

**DE Trey Hendrickson, Florida Atlantic (D3c-17)** - A product of Florida Atlantic University, Trey Hendrickson joins the Black and Gold in 2017, adding depth to the defensive line. The four-year letterman for the Owls dominated in his final two seasons; as a senior, he was named Conference-USA Defensive Most Valuable Player and led the nation with four blocked kicks. As a junior in 2015, Hendrickson recorded 13 sacks, second-best in the nation, and five forced fumbles. Powerful, agile, and with an eye for getting to the football, Hendrickson will be a welcome addition to the defensive front. He made an impact with two sacks to lead the team's rookies.

**CB Marshon Lattimore, Ohio State (D1a-17)** - The 11th pick in the 2017 draft and the first cornerback taken, Lattimore possesses all the traits of a lockdown defender. In 2016 at Ohio State, he was named first team All-Big Ten after recording four interceptions during the year. With his agile, fluid style of play, Lattimore has the ability to shut

down even the best wide receivers. He's played a critical role in the Black and Gold pass defense in 2017, as he moved into the starting lineup in week one. In October, he became the first Saints rookie since 2000 to capture the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Month award, when he had 16 tackles, two interceptions, one returned for a touchdown, five passes defensed and one fumble recovery. For the season, he has 53 stops, five picks, to lead NFL rookies and lead the Saints, tying a team rookie record, a club-best 18 passes defensed, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery. Lattimore was the first Saints cornerback selected to the Pro Bowl since 1995.

**DE Al-Quadin Muhammad, Miami (Fla.) (D6-17)** - Muhammad joined the Saints in 2017 after showing potential as a pass rusher at the University of Miami. In 2015 he notched 54 tackles, third on the squad, while leading the team in tackles for loss and sacks with 8.5 and 5, respectively. He also forced a fumble and broke up one pass.

**DT David Onyemata, Manitoba (D4-16)** - Possessing a unique combination of size and speed, this Lagos, Nigeria native had an impressive rookie year after becoming the first player from the University of Manitoba to be drafted into the NFL. Despite being extraordinarily new to football, the fourth round pick appeared in all 16 games in 2016, notching 32 tackles on the year. Now with experience under his belt, Onyemata has become a critical member on the interior of the Saints defensive front as an important member of its defensive tackle rotation, making 40 tackles and two sacks.

**DT Sheldon Rankins, Louisville (D1-16)** - Selected by New Orleans 12th overall in the first round of the 2016 NFL Draft, the Covington, Ga. native played in 46 games along the defensive line at Louisville from 2012-15, producing 133 total tackles (72 solo), 31.5 tackles for loss and 18 sacks during his collegiate career. A broken leg delayed his National Football League debut last season until Week Nine, but he made the most of his limited action, still finishing tied for third on the club with four sacks. In the week 15 win vs. Atlanta, he closed out the contest with a sack.

**S Marcus Williams, Utah (D2-17)** - A three-year starter at Utah, Williams was twice named All-Pac 12 and earned second-team All-American honors as a junior before declaring for the NFL Draft. In 2016, he tied for second in the conference with five interceptions, even after missing two games due to injury. The defender boasts a dangerous mix of speed, fluidity, and instinct that allows him to read the offense and make breaks on the ball. His athleticism has been on display as he's made 70 tackles, four interceptions and six passes defensed.

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## DEFENSIVE NOTES

### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**CB P.J. Williams, Florida State (D3b-15)** - One of the most gifted athletes among the Black and Gold, Williams' career was limited in the beginning by missing all but two games in his first two seasons with injuries, but has come on in 2017. An experienced starter from Florida State University who developed into one of the nation's top cover corners as a junior in 2014, Williams finished his college career with 123 tackles (82 solo), four interceptions and 18 passes defended. Williams has 47 tackles, two picks and nine passes defended.

### SACK ATTACK

In 2017, while the improvement in the New Orleans defense can be credited to all three levels, the Saints finished the regular season tied for seventh in the NFL with 42 sacks

#### SACKS BY TEAMS IN 2017

Team	Sacks
1. Pit.	56
2. Jax.	55
3. Car.	50
4. LA Rams	48
5t. LA Chargers	43
5t. Ten.	43
<b>7t. NO</b>	<b>42</b>
7t. NE	42
7t. Chi.	42
7t. Was.	42

### PICK CITY

In 2017, an opportunistic defense snared 20 interceptions in the regular season, two for touchdowns led by rookie CB and Pro Bowl selection Marshon Lattimore's five picks with one for a score. It was the third most picks in 2017 in the NFL after recording only nine in 2016.

#### INTERCEPTIONS BY NFL TEAMS IN 2017

Rk. Team	Interceptions
1. Baltimore	22
2. Jacksonville	21
<b>3. New Orleans</b>	<b>20</b>

### SCORING DEFENSE

After ranking 31st in the NFL in 2016, giving up 28.4 points per game, New Orleans rose in the rankings to rank tenth in 2017, they have given up an average of 20.4 points per game.

#### OPPONENT POINTS PER GAME BY NFL TEAMS IN 2017

Team	Points/Game
1. Min.	15.8
2. Jax.	16.8
3. LA Chargers	17.0
4. Phi.	18.5
5. NE	18.5
6. Bal.	18.9
7. Pit.	19.3
8. Atl.	19.7
<b>10. NO</b>	<b>20.4</b>
11. Car.	20.4

## QUARTERBACK

- Since signing with the Saints as an unrestricted free agent in 2006 from San Diego, QB Drew Brees has thrown for 4,000 or more yards each season, became the only NFL signal-caller to throw for 5,000 yards five different times and ranked at or near the top in every passing category, both in single-seasons and over the 12-year period, breaking virtually every club passing record.

- Brees has kept up the pace in 2017, leading New Orleans to an 11-5 record and the NFC South title, completing 386-of-536 passes (72.0%) for 4,334 yards with 23 touchdown passes, eight interceptions and a 103.9 passer rating, adding two rushing touchdowns. He set an NFL record in completion percentage, ranked first in completions, second in passer rating, third in fourth quarter passer rating (117.6) and fourth in passing yardage.

- Since signing with New Orleans in 2006 and playing in 190 games for the Black and Gold, ranked third in club record books, Brees leads the NFL with 58,097 passing yards, 408 touchdown passes, 7,485 attempts, 5,097 completions, a 68.1% completion percentage, 102 games with at least 300 yards passing, 15 with at least 400 yards passing, 444 completions of 25 yards or more and stands at third in the league with a 99.6 passer rating. He did not throw an interception through the first four games of the season for the first time.

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## QUARTERBACK

### DREW BREES

- Brees has been selected to play in a franchise-record ten Pro Bowls as a member of the Saints, with 11 overall berths in the National Football League's all-star game, twice as a starter, including a selection in 2017. His seven consecutive selections as a Saint is tied for first in franchise history with Pro Football Hall of Fame tackle William Roaf.
- Brees has posted a 112-78 regular season record in contests he has started since signing with the Saints in 2006. In Week 15 of the 2016 campaign, Brees earned his 100th regular season victory in a Saints uniform. Including his six playoff victories, his 118 total wins as a member of the Saints make him the winningest quarterback in franchise history.
- In his 17-year NFL career during which he has appeared in 249 games, ranked sixth in NFL record books for signal-callers, with 248 starts, Brees has completed 6,222-of-9,294 passes (66.9%) for 70,445 yards, 488 touchdown passes and a 96.7 passer rating. He's stands as the NFL's all-time most accurate passer, is ranked second in completions, third in passing yardage, tied for third in touchdowns and sixth in rating.
- The Saints will enter postseason play behind the arm of Brees, who in the playoffs, has started all 11 games he has appeared in and has completed 306-of-464 passes (65.8 pct.) for 3,539 yards, 24 touchdowns, six interceptions and a 100.7 passer rating.

## BREES BY THE NUMBERS

**3** – NFC Offensive Player of the Month awards won by Brees in his 11-year career in Black and Gold, the most monthly awards won by a Saints player in team history.

**4** – Brees, Dan Marino (Miami in 1984 and 1986) Peyton Manning (Denver in 2013 and Indianapolis in 2014), and Aaron Rodgers (Green Bay in 2011 and 2016) are the only four players to throw for 40 or more touchdowns twice. Also, the NFL-record number of consecutive games that Brees threw for 350 yards in 2011. In 2017, Brees didn't throw an interception through the first four games of the season, the first time that he had done so in his 17-year NFL career.

**5** – NFL-record number of seasons (2008, 2011-13, 2016) that Brees has thrown for over 5,000 yards.

**7** – The NFL-record number of regular season contests where Brees has thrown five touchdowns and zero interceptions. Also the league-record number of times Brees

has led the league in passing, including in 2016 (5,208).

**8** – The National Football League-record number of times Brees reached the 350-yard passing mark in 2011.

**9** – NFL-record stretch of consecutive games with at least 300 yards passing, which he's accomplished twice. Brees' nine-game winning streak (11/24/08-9/30/13) as a starter on Monday Night Football is tied for second all-time. Also, the franchise record number of seasons that Brees has been selected to the Pro Bowl. Also, the number of seasons overall and NFL-record consecutive campaigns (2008-16) that Brees has thrown for at least 30 touchdowns.

**11** – The number of consecutive seasons Brees threw 25 touchdown passes from 2006-16, making him only the second player in history to do so, joining Manning (13, 1998-2010). Including once in San Diego in 2004, the number of times Brees has been selected to the Pro Bowl. He was selected for the team-record tenth time as a Saint in 2017.

**12** – Number of seasons Brees thrown 25 or more touchdowns, third in National Football League record books behind Tom Brady (13) and the recordholder Manning (16). Also the number of seasons, all consecutive that Brees has tossed for at least 4,000 yards.

**14** – After tossing for 246 yards on Nov. 26 at the Los Angeles Rams, 2017 became Brees' 14th consecutive season with 3,000 yards passing, a feat surpassed only by Brett Favre (18). Also, with 13 300-yard games in 2011, Brees set the National Football League single-season record, surpassing the one he previously tied with 10 in 2008.

**15** – In 2017, Brees became only the fourth player in NFL record books to have 15 3,000-yard passing seasons, joining Brett Favre (18), Peyton Manning (16), and currently tied with Brady (15). 15 is also the NFL-record number of regular season contests where Brees has thrown for at least 400 yards.

**18** – On November 12 at Buffalo, Brees scored on a seven-yard rush, recording the 18th rushing touchdown of his career.

**20** – Club-record NFC Player of the Week awards won by Brees as a member of the Saints and the most conference Player of the Week honors since 2006. Including his five-year tenure with San Diego, his 22 conference Player of the Week awards rank third all-time in National Football League record books behind Brady (28) and Manning (27).

**31** – Number of successful drives in the fourth quarter or overtime engineered by Brees for a touchdown or field goal in the regular season to lead the Saints to victory since joining the club in 2006, including two in 2017. Also the number regular season contests by Brees with at least four touchdown passes, ranked second all-time behind Manning (35).

## BREES BY THE NUMBERS

**45** – Consecutive regular season contests between 2012-15 with at least one touchdown pass, fifth-best in league history. The streak ended on Nov. 29, 2015 at Houston.

**54** – Consecutive regular season contests between 2009-12 with at least one touchdown pass, the longest streak in NFL history, surpassing the record previously held by Johnny Unitas (47). It was set on Oct. 7, 2012 vs. San Diego. It ended on Nov. 29, 2012 after a TD-free outing at Atlanta.

**56** – NFL-record number of games with at least 30 completions, ahead of Manning (38).

**57** – Also, the NFL-record number of consecutive regular season contests where Brees threw at least 20 completions until Oct. 13, 2013 at New England.

**61** – Players that Brees' 488 career touchdown passes have gone to with the Saints (2006-present) and San Diego Chargers (2001-05). On Dec. 31, at Tampa Bay, FB Zach Line became the 61st player and the 46th Saint to catch a touchdown from Brees.

**66.9** – Career completion percentage, ranked first in National Football League record books.

**67.8** – Team-record completion percentage as a Saint, ranked first in the NFL during this 12-season period.

**72.0** – Completion percentage in the 2017 season by Brees that set an NFL record.

**99** – Games by Brees as a Saint where he's posted a rating of 100 or more (min. 10 attempts) owning a 77-22 record in these contests. Overall, in his 17-year career, he's reached the milestone 114 times.

**102** – Club-record regular season contests by Brees with 300 yards or more passing as a Saint, the highest total since 2006. Brees has reached the 300-yard mark 109 times, ahead of Manning (93) for the most all-time.

**112** – Club-record regular season wins as a starter since signing with the club in 2006, making him the second-winningest signal-caller in the NFL and most in the NFC over that period. Including the playoffs, Brees has compiled a 118-82 record as the Saints' starter.

**148** – Regular season games Brees has with two or more touchdown passes in his 17-year career, the second-most by an active player behind Brady (156). Since signing with the Saints in 2006, Brees has 123 contests with multiple touchdown passes, first in the NFL.

**205** – Oct. 4, 2015 vs. Dallas, with an 80-yard TD pass to RB C.J. Spiller, Brees reached 400 touchdowns in his 205th career game, the quickest a player's reached 400

TDs, eclipsing the record previously held by Manning (209).

**231** – Regular season TD passes at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome, the most by a player at a specific stadium.

**240** – Games it took Brees to reach 6,000 career completions, which occurred, Oct. 29 vs. Chicago, doing so 19 games sooner than Manning.

**408** – Touchdown passes as a Saint, ranked first in club records and in the NFL during this time period. With 488 career touchdowns, he's tied for third all-time with Brady behind Favre and Manning.

**5,097** – Completions since 2006, the NFL's highest total over this 12-season period.

**58,097** – In the October 15 win over Detroit, Brees eclipsed 55,000 passing yards as a Saint and is now at 57,613.

**70,445** – On Dec. 24 vs. Atlanta, Brees eclipsed 70,000 career passing yards on a 12-yard completion to Mark Ingram, becoming just the third player to reach the mark and the fastest. Brees now has 70,445 career passing yards.

## WINNING QB

Brees has posted a 112-78 regular season record since 2006, second among quarterbacks and first in the NFC. On his 17-year NFL career, he has 142 wins as a starter.

### WINS BY STARTING QBS SINCE 2006 (REGULAR SEASON)

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Tom Brady	138
2. <b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>112</b>
3. Peyton Manning	107

## BREES COMEBACKS

Since 2006, Brees has engineered 31 regular season drives in the fourth quarter or overtime for a touchdown or a field goal to lead the Saints to victory from a deficit or tie, third in the NFL since 2006. Brees has engineered three more in the playoffs. Overall, Brees has 37 career regular season game-winning drives to his credit.

### FOURTH QUARTER/OT GAME-WINNING DRIVES SINCE 2006

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Matt Ryan, Atl.	35
2. Eli Manning, NYG	32
3. <b>Drew Brees, NO</b>	<b>31</b>

## RATING SUCCESS

With 99 regular season contests (min. 10 attempts) of a rating of at least 100 since 2006, including seven times in 2017, Brees is first in the NFL over this period. The Saints have a 77-22 (.778) mark in these games.

### GAMES WITH A 100+ PASSER RATING SINCE 2006 (min. 10 att.)

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Drew Brees, NO	99
2. Tom Brady, NE	89
3. Aaron Rodgers, GB	80

With a 96.7 career passer rating, Drew Brees has the sixth-best rating all-time in NFL record books.

### TOP TEN CAREER PASSER RATINGS (Min. 1,500 Att.)

#### Rating QB

103.8	Aaron Rodgers
98.8	Russell Wilson
97.6	Tom Brady
97.1	Tony Romo
96.8	Steve Young
<b>96.7</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>
96.5	Peyton Manning
94.8	Philip Rivers
94.0	Ben Roethlisberger
93.7	Kurt Warner

## COMPLETIONS LEADER

With 6,222 career completions, Brees is ranked second all-time in NFL records. With 79 completions in 2018, he will become the league's all-time leader

### ALL-TIME NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE COMPLETIONS LEADERS

Completions	Quarterback
6,300	Brett Favre
<b>6,200</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>
6,125	Peyton Manning

Brees has the top three and six of the top eight marks for completions in a season.

### MOST COMPLETIONS IN A NFL SEASON

Quarterback	Year	Comp.
1. Drew Brees, NO	2016	471
2. Drew Brees, NO	2011	468
3. Drew Brees, NO	2014	456
4t. Peyton Manning, IND	2010	450
4t. Peyton Manning, DEN	2013	450
6. Drew Brees, NO	2010	448
7. Drew Brees, NO	2013	446
8. Drew Brees, NO	2007	440

With 70,200 career passing yards, Drew Brees is currently ranked first among active passers and third all-time.

### ALL-TIME NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PASSING YARDAGE TOTALS

Yards	Quarterback
71,940	Peyton Manning
71,838	Brett Favre
<b>70,445</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>
66,159	Tom Brady
61,361	Dan Marino

## YARDAGE LEADER

Brees is the first player to throw for 5,000 yards five times. He has five of the top eight passing yardage figures to his name:

### 5,000 PASSING YARD SEASONS

Rk. Quarterback	Year	Yards
1. Peyton Manning, Den.	2013	5,477
2. Drew Brees, NO	2011	5,476
3. Tom Brady, NE	2011	5,235
4. Drew Brees, NO	2016	5,208
5. Drew Brees, NO	2012	5,177
6. Drew Brees, NO	2013	5,162
7. Dan Marino, Mia.	1984	5,084
8. Drew Brees, NO	2008	5,069
9. Matthew Stafford, Det.	2011	5,038

**YARDAGE LEADER**

Throwing for 5,208 yards in 2016, Brees led or tied for the league lead in passing yardage for a record seventh time.

**ALL-TIME PASSING YARDAGE TITLE LEADERS**

Seasons	Quarterback
7	Drew Brees
5	Sonny Jurgensen
5	Dan Marino

New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees is the only signal-caller in NFL record books to throw for 4,000 yards in 12 consecutive seasons after he reached the mark on Sunday vs. Atlanta

**FIVE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE 4,000-YARD PASSING SEASONS**

Rk. QB	No.	Years
1. Drew Brees	12	2006-17
2. Peyton Manning	6	1999-2004
3t. Peyton Manning	5	2006-10
3t. Tom Brady	5	2011-15

**70,445 BY THE NUMBERS**

**11** – The first completion of Brees' career, for a seven-yard gain to RB Terrell Fletcher, as a member of the Chargers in his NFL debut on Nov. 4, 2001 vs. Kansas City.

**80** – The number of players who have caught a pass from Brees, including himself off of deflections after TE Garrett Griffin caught a pass for a four-year gain in the regular season finale at Tampa bay.

**30,000** – Brees reached 30,000 yards on a 12-yard completion to Devery Henderson at Atlanta, Dec. 13, 2009.

**40,000** – Brees reached 40,000 yards on a 16-yard throw to Marques Colston at Minnesota, Dec. 18, 2011.

**50,000** – Reached 50,000 yards on a 22-yard completion to Jimmy Graham vs. Carolina, Dec. 8, 2013.

**52,349** – With an eight-yard completion to Travaris Cadet in his 132nd game as a Saint, vs. Tampa Bay, Oct. 5, 2014, Brees reached 40,000 passing yards with a single team in the fewest contests in NFL history.

**70,000** – On a first quarter 12-yard completion thrown to Mark Ingram vs. Atlanta, Dec. 24, 2017, Brees eclipsed 70,000 career passing yards.

**PINPOINT PASSER**

Brees' 66.9 percent career completion percentage is first in NFL records. His 72.0 completion percentage in 2017 shattered the NFL record. It was the eighth time he's finished with a completion percentage of at least 68 percent, with 2017 marking the fifth consecutive one he did so.

**ALL-TIME NFL COMPLETION PERCENTAGE LEADERS**

(Min. 1,500 att.)

Rk. Quarterback	Years	Comp %
1. Drew Brees	2001-	66.9 (6,222-9,294)
2. Chad Pennington	2000-10	66.0 (1,632-2,471)
3. Kurt Warner	1998-2009	65.5 (2,666-4,070)

**NFL SINGLE SEASON COMPLETION PERCENTAGE LEADERS**

Rk. Quarterback, Year	Comp %
1. Drew Brees, 2017	72.0 (386-536)
2. Sam Bradford, 2016	71.6 (395-552)
3. Drew Brees, 2011	71.2 (468-657)

**12 STRAIGHT OF 4,000**

Brees is the only signal-caller in NFL record books to throw for 4,000 yards in 12 consecutive seasons.

**FIVE OR MORE CONSECUTIVE 4,000-YARD PASSING SEASONS**

Rk. QB	No.	Years
1. Drew Brees	12	2006-17
2. Peyton Manning	6	1999-2004
3t. Peyton Manning	5	2006-10
3t. Tom Brady	5	2011-15

**35 TDS IN THREE STRAIGHT**

Drew Brees is only the third player in NFL history to pass for 35 or more touchdowns in three consecutive seasons:

**NFL QUARTERBACKS WITH 3 OR MORE STRAIGHT 35 TOUCHDOWN PASS SEASONS**

Rk. Quarterback	No.	Yrs.
1t. Drew Brees	3	2011-13
1t. Brett Favre	3	1995-97
1t. Peyton Manning	3	2012-14

## BREES' RECORD WHEN

Through his 12-year career with New Orleans, Brees has posted a 112-78 regular season record in 190 starts. Below is a look at his record under different circumstances:

Passes for more than 250 yards.....	91-59
Passes for less than 250 yards.....	21-19
Passes for more than 300 yards.....	61-31
Throws three or more TD passes.....	51-20
Completes more than 60% of passes.....	104-55
Posts a passer rating of 90.0 or more.....	91-33
Posts a passer rating of 100.0 or more.....	77-22
Posts a passer rating of 140.0 or more.....	12-0
Home Games.....	62-34
Road Games.....	50-44
Indoors.....	72-49
Outdoors.....	40-20
Artificial Turf.....	80-52
Natural Grass.....	32-26
Day Games.....	86-62
Night Games.....	26-16
vs. NFC teams.....	86-56
vs. AFC teams.....	26-22

## 15 OF 400

Brees has thrown for 400 yards 15 times, all as a Saint, the best mark in league history.

### CAREER REGULAR SEASON GAMES WITH 400-PLUS YARDS PASSING

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Drew Brees	15
2. Peyton Manning	14
3. Dan Marino	13

## 15 3,000 YARD SEASONS

Drew Brees is one of just four players with 15 3,000 yard passing seasons, tied for third in National Football League record books.

### MOST 3,000 YARD PASSING SEASONS

Rk. QB	No.
1. Brett Favre	18
2. Peyton Manning	16
3t. Drew Brees	15
3t. Tom Brady	15
5. Dan Marino	13

## PRO BOWL LEADER

With ten Pro Bowl selections as a Saint since joining the club in 2006, no Saint has been selected to the league's all-star game more than Brees in franchise record books. No quarterback has been selected to the Pro Bowl more often during this 12-year period than Brees, who is tied with Tom Brady with ten selections.

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-TIME PRO BOWL SELECTIONS

Rk. Saint	Pro Bowl Selections
1. Drew Brees	9
2. William Roaf	7
3t. Morten Andersen	6
3t. Jahri Evans	6
3t. Rickey Jackson	6

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE QUARTERBACK PRO BOWL SELECTIONS SINCE 2006

Rk. Saint	Pro Bowl Selections
1t. Drew Brees	10
1t. Tom Brady	10

## TOP OF THE CHARTS

Drew Brees has posted the nine of the top ten regular season passing yardage totals in team history. He has also put up two of the top four postseason yardage totals in NFL record books.

### TOP TEN NEW ORLEANS SAINTS PASSING YARDAGE DAYS

Yds.	Quarterback	Att.	Cmp.	Opp.	Date
510	Drew Brees	52	30	vs. Cin.	11/19/06
505	Drew Brees	50	39	vs. NYG	11/1/15
465	Drew Brees	49	34	vs. Car	10/16/16
446	Drew Brees	53	37	@ Dal.	12/23/12
446	Drew Brees	54	35	@ GB	9/30/12
445	Drew Brees	49	35	vs. Jac	11/4/07
441	Aaron Brooks	48	30	vs. Den.	12/3/00
423	Drew Brees	42	28	vs. Oak.	9/11/16
422	Drew Brees	58	31	@Atl.	11/9/08
421	Drew Brees	48	31	@Den.	9/21/08

**TOP FOUR NFL POSTSEASON PASSING YARDAGE DAYS**

Yds.	Quarterback	Att.	Cmp.	Opp.	Date
489	Bernie Kosar	64	33	vs. NYJ	1/3/87
<b>466</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>vs. Det.</b>	<b>1/7/12</b>
466	Tom Brady	62	43	vs. Atl.	2/5/17
<b>462</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>@ SF</b>	<b>1/14/12</b>

**54 STRAIGHT WITH A TD**

Brees owns the NFL's longest streak of consecutive games with a TD pass in a streak that ran from 2009-12. He also owns the fifth-longest streak in league history, a 45-game streak that ended in 2015 at Houston.

**MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A TD PASS**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Drew Brees (2009-12)</b>	<b>54</b>
2.	Tom Brady	52
3.	Peyton Manning	51
4.	Johnny Unitas	47
<b>5.</b>	<b>Drew Brees (2012-15)</b>	<b>45</b>

**MULTIPLE TD GAMES**

Drew Brees' 123 contests with more than one touchdown pass since 2006 leads the National Football League during that period.

**GAMES WITH MULTIPLE TOUCHDOWN PASSES SINCE 2006**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>123</b>
2.	Tom Brady	115
3.	Philip Rivers	113

Brees' 148 career games with at least two touchdown passes is fourth in NFL record books all-time.

**MOST GAMES WITH MULTIPLE TOUCHDOWN PASSES ALL-TIME**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
1.	Peyton Manning	164
2.	Brett Favre	159
3.	Tom Brady	157
<b>4.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>148</b>

**FIVE TD GAMES**

Brees' 10 five-TD pass games ranks first in the National Football League all-time.

**GAMES IN NFL HISTORY WITH FIVE-PLUS TD PASSES**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
<b>1.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>10</b>
2.	Peyton Manning	9
3.	Dan Marino	6

**4+ TD GAMES**

Brees' 32 games with at least four scoring throws are ranked second all-time.

**GAMES WITH FOUR-PLUS TOUCHDOWN PASSES**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
1.	Peyton Manning	35
<b>2.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>32</b>
3.	Tom Brady	28

**11 STRAIGHT OF 25**

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees is only the second signal-caller in National Football League record books to have thrown for at least 25 touchdown passes in 11 straight seasons.

**TEN OR MORE STRAIGHT 25 TOUCHDOWN PASS SEASONS**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.	Yrs.
1.	Peyton Manning	13	1998-2010
<b>2.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2006-2016</b>

**12 OF 25 OR MORE**

New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees is ranked third in National Football League record books for the most seasons of 25 or more touchdown passes (12), needing three in the season finale to tie Tom Brady for second.

**MOST SEASONS WITH 25 OR MORE TOUCHDOWN PASSES**

Rk.	Quarterback	No.
1.	Peyton Manning	16
2.	Tom Brady	13
<b>3.</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>	<b>12</b>



**NINE STRAIGHT OF 30**

Drew Brees is the first quarterback in NFL record books to throw for 30 touchdowns in eight straight seasons.

**FIVE OR MORE STRAIGHT 30 TD PASS SEASONS**

Rk. Quarterback	No.	Yrs.
1. Drew Brees	9	2008-16
2. Brett Favre	5	1994-98

**NINE OF 30+**

Drew Brees is tied for first in league record books for the most seasons of 30 or more touchdown passes.

**MOST SEASONS WITH 30 OR MORE TD PASSES**

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1t. Drew Brees	9
1t. Brett Favre	9
1t. Peyton Manning	9

**109 OF 300**

Brees' 109 300-yard passing games in the regular season ranks first all-time.

**300-YARD PASSING GAMES ALL-TIME**

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Drew Brees	109
2. Peyton Manning	93
3. Tom Brady	81

**57 OF 350**

New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees' 56 games of 350-yards or more passing ranks first in the National Football League all-time.

**MOST GAMES WITH 350 OR MORE PASSING YARDS ALL-TIME**

Rk. Quarterback	No.
1. Drew Brees	57
2. Tom Brady	42
3. Peyton Manning	35

**TOUCHDOWN LEADER**

With 488 career touchdowns, Drew Brees is tied for third all-time in the National Football League.

**ALL-TIME NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PASSING TOUCHDOWN TOTALS**

Touchdowns	Quarterback
539	Peyton Manning
508	Brett Favre
<b>488</b>	<b>Drew Brees</b>
488	Tom Brady
420	Dan Marino

**TOUCHDOWN TARGETS**

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees' 488 career touchdown passes have gone to 61 different players, 46 of them Saints teammates, ten currently on the 53-man roster after he hit fullback Zach Line for a score in the fourth quarter of the regular season finale on Sunday at Tampa Bay. Ahead is a list of the top ten recipients of touchdowns by Brees:

**DREW Brees' TOP TEN ALL-TIME TOUCHDOWN PASS TARGETS**

Rk. Player	No.
1. Marques Colston (2006-15)	72
2. Jimmy Graham (2010-14)	51
3. Lance Moore (2006-13)	38
4. Robert Meachem (2007-11, 13-14)	25
5. Antonio Gates (2003-05)	23
6. Brandin Cooks (2014-2016)	20
7. Devery Henderson (2006-12)	17
8. Darren Sproles (2011-13)	16
<b>9. Michael Thomas (2016-)</b>	<b>14</b>
10t. Reggie Bush (2006-10)	12
10t. Pierre Thomas (2007-14)	12

# RUNNING BACKS

## Saints at vs. Panthers: NFC Wild Card

### MARK INGRAM II

• One of the club's two first round draft picks in 2011, the 2009 Heisman Trophy winner has been an integral part of the rushing attack since his arrival in New Orleans. In 2016, Ingram had the most productive season of his seven-year NFL career to date, rushing for 1,089 yards on 205 carries (5.1 yards per attempt) and six touchdowns. This was the first time Ingram had broken the 1,000 yard barrier in his career. He became the first Black and Gold back to hit the mark since Deuce McAllister ran for 1,057 in 2006 and the seventh back to do so in franchise history. For his career, he ranks second in club record books with 5,362 yards rushing, second with 44 rushing touchdowns and eighth with 48 total touchdowns.

• In 2017, Ingram has picked back up where he left off in 2016, playing in all 16 games with 12 starts and leading the team in rushing with 230 carries for a career-best 1,124 yards (4.9 avg.) with 12 touchdowns and adding a career-best 58 receptions for a 416 yards for 1,540 total yards from scrimmage. Ingram's finished the regular season seventh in the NFL in total yards from scrimmage, fifth in rushing yards and second in rushing touchdowns. Ingram has had four 100-yard rushing performances in 2017

## INGRAM'S BIG DAYS

New Orleans Saints RB Mark Ingram has reached 100 rushing yards 13 times over his Saints career, including for the fourth in 2017 on Nov. 19 vs. Washington. New Orleans has posted a 11-2 record in those games.

- **November 10, 2013 vs. Dallas** - Carried 14 times for 145 yards (10.4 avg.) with one touchdown and two receptions for 15 yards for 160 yards of total offense.
- **October 26, 2014 vs. Green Bay** - Rushed for a career-high 172 yards on 24 carries (7.2 avg.) with one TD
- **October 30, 2014 at Carolina** - Rushed 30 times for 100 yards with two touchdowns and added a 10-yard grab.
- **November 9, 2014 vs. San Francisco** - Became the first Saint to have 100 yards rushing in three consecutive games since 2003 with 27 carries for 120 yards.
- **November 30, 2014 at Pittsburgh** - Rushed 23 times for 122 yards (5.3 avg.) with a season-long 31-yard carry.
- **October 25, 2015 at Indianapolis** - Carried 14 times for 143 yards (10.2 avg.) with one touchdown.

- **November 6, 2016 at San Francisco** - Carried 15 times for 158 yards (10.5 avg.) with one touchdown.
- **November 27, 2016 vs. Los Angeles Rams** - Carried 14 times for 146 yards (10.4 avg.) with one touchdown.

**January 1, 2017 at Atlanta** - Carried 20 times for 103 yards (5.2 avg.) with one touchdown.

**October 15, 2017 vs. Detroit** - Carried 25 times for 114 yards (4.6 avg.) with two touchdowns.

**October 22, 2017 at Green Bay** - Carried 22 times for 105 yards (4.8 avg.) with one touchdown.

**November 12, 2017 at Buffalo** - Carried 21 times for 131 yards (4.7 avg.) with a career-high three touchdowns.

**November 19, 2017 vs. Washington** - Carried 11 times for 134 yards (12.2 avg.) with a 36-yard touchdown.

## CLIMBING THE CHARTS

Following back-to-back seasons of 1,000 rushing yards, including a career-high 1,089 in 2017, Ingram is currently ranked second on the club's all-time rushing yardage list.

### ALL-TIME NEW ORLEANS SAINTS RUSHING LIST

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Deuce McAllister	1,429	6,096	4.3	49
<b>2. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>44</b>
3. George Rogers	995	4,267	4.3	23

In Ingram's seven NFL seasons, he's averaged 4.5 yards per carry, which ranks sixth in the league over that time span and second in franchise history.

### ALL-TIME SAINTS RUSHING AVG. LEADERS

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Pierre Thomas	818	3,745	4.58	28
<b>2. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>1,183</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>44</b>
3. Chuck Muncie	788	3,393	4.3	28

Ingram's 266 rushing first downs is second in club records with his 50 rushing first downs in 2017 ranked ninth in the NFL.

### SAINTS ALL-TIME RUSHING FIRST DOWNS LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Deuce McAllister (2001-09)	292
<b>2.</b>	<b>Mark Ingram (2011-)</b>	<b>266</b>
3.	Pierre Thomas (2007-14)	201

## CLIMBING THE CHARTS

Ingram's 1,601 yards after the catch ranks fifth among Saints running backs in club record books

### SAINTS RBs YARDS AFTER THE CATCH LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Pierre Thomas (2007-14)	3,084
2.	Reggie Bush (2006-10)	2,027
3.	Darren Sproles (2011-13)	1,949
5.	Deuce McAllister (2001-09)	1,856
<b>6.</b>	<b>Mark Ingram (2011-)</b>	<b>1,601</b>

Ingram's career-high 1540 total yards from scrimmage in 2017, ranked seventh in the NFL, have moved him into fifth place in club record books with 6,790 for his career.

### ALL-TIME SAINTS YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE

Player	Total Yds.	Rush	Receive
1. Marques Colston	9,766	7	9,759
2. Eric Martin	7,865	11	7,854
3. Deuce McAllister	7,816	6,096	1,720
4. Joe Horn	7,653	31	7,622
<b>5. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>6,790</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>1,428</b>

Ingram's yards rushing ranks fifth in the NFL, while he is ranked second in the league in rushing touchdowns.

### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE RUSHING YARD-AGE LEADERS

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Kareem Hunt	272	1,327	4.9	8
2. Todd Gurley	279	1,305	4.7	13
3. Le'Veon Bell	321	1,291	4.0	9
4. LeSean McCoy	287	1,138	4.0	6
<b>5. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>12</b>
6. Jordan Howard	276	1,122	4.2	9

### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE RUSHING TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk.	Player	No.
1.	Todd Gurley, LA Rams	13
<b>2.</b>	<b>Mark Ingram, NO</b>	<b>12</b>

Ingram's rushing totals over the past two seasons ranks seventh in the NFL.

### NFL RUSHING YARDAGE LEADERS SINCE 2016

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Ezekiel Elliott	564	2,614	4.6	22
1. Le'Veon Bell	582	2,559	4.4	16
3. Jordan Howard	528	2,435	4.6	15
4. LeSean McCoy	521	2,405	4.6	19
5. Todd Gurley	557	2,190	3.9	19
<b>6. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>18</b>
7. Jay Ajayi	468	2,145	4.6	9

Since 2015, Ingram ranks first in rushing average among NFL players with a minimum of 300 attempts over that period.

### NFL RUSHING AVG. LEADERS SINCE 2015 (Min. 300 att.)

Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
<b>1. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>24</b>
2. Cam Newton	361	1,749	4.84	21
3. Bilal Powell	379	1,807	4.77	9

### ALVIN KAMARA

• A talented runner and receiver with a 5-10, 215-pound frame who was selected by the Saints in the third round of the 2016 NFL Draft out of Tennessee, Alvin Kamara is enjoying an outstanding rookie campaign. He ranks first on the club and sixth in the NFL in total yards from scrimmage (1,554), second on the team in rushing and receiving, carrying 120 times for 728 yards (6.1 avg.) with eight TDs and a two-point conversion, while catching 81 passes for 826 yards (10.2 avg.) with five TDs and a kickoff return for a TD for a club rookie record 14 total scores, tied for second in the NFL with Ingram. Kamara is ranked first in the NFL in yards per carry.

## FAMOUS COMPANY

With eight rushing touchdowns and five receiving touchdowns, Kamara is one of only four rookies in NFL record books to have at least five rushing touchdowns and five receiving touchdowns, joining three Pro Football Hall of Famers in Doak Walker (1950), Charley Taylor (1964) and Gale Sayers (1964).

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

Not only did Kamara lead the NFL in yards per carry in 2017, after ranking third in 2016, Ingram's fourth in 2017, giving New Orleans two players ranked in the top five.

### 2017 NFL LEAGUE YARDS PER CARRY LEADERS

Player, Team	Att.	Yards	YPC.
<b>1. Alvin Kamara, NO</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>6.1</b>
2. Cam Newton, Car.	139	754	5.4
3. Dion Lewis, NE	180	896	5.0
<b>4. Mark Ingram, NO</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>4.9</b>

The duo of Ingram and Kamara also give the Saints the only team with two running backs in the top 10 in total yards from scrimmage.

### 2017 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE LEADERS

Player	Total Yds.	Rush	Receive
1. Todd Gurley	2,093	1,305	788
2. Le'Veon Bell	1,946	1,291	655
3. Kareem Hunt	1,782	1,327	455
4. LeSean McCoy	1,586	1,138	448
5. Melvin Gordon	1,581	1,105	476
<b>7. Alvin Kamara</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>826</b>
<b>8. Mark Ingram</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>416</b>
9. Antonio Brown	1,533	0	1,533

Ingram and Kamara's combined 2,912 total yards from scrimmage give them the second-most prolific combined total for a running back duo (minimum 1,200 yards per running back), since the 16-game era began in 1978. Ingram and Kamara are the only duo in NFL history where both running backs each had at least 1,500 total yards from scrimmage.

### TOP FIVE RUNNING BACK DUO TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE TOTALS SINCE 1978

Rk. Duo	No.
1. Harper/Payton, Chi.-1978	3,207
<b>2. Ingram/Kamara, NO-2017</b>	<b>3,094</b>
3. Byner/Mack, Cle.-1985	2,863
4. Craig/Tyler, SF-1984	2,816
5. Collins/James, NE-1985	2,793

The dynamic duo are also both ranked in the top five in touchdowns.

### 2017 NFL TOUCHDOWN LEADERS

Rk. Player	No.
1. Todd Gurley, LA Rams	19
<b>2. Alvin Kamara, NO</b>	<b>14</b>
3. DeAndre Hopkins, Hou.	13
<b>4t. Mark Ingram, NO</b>	<b>12</b>
4t. Melvin Gordon, LA Chargers	12

## THE TRIPLETS

Ingram (1,540), Kamara (1,554) and WR Michael Thomas (1,245) were the only trio from a team in 2017 to each be over 1,100 total yards from scrimmage. In fact it is only the third time in franchise history that three Saints have at least 1,000 total yards from scrimmage in the same season.

### SAINTS TRIOS WITH 1,000 TOTAL YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE (Ranked in total Yards)

- 4,339 - 2017, RB Mark Ingram (1,540), RB Alvin Kamara (1,554) and WR Michael Thomas (1,245)**
- 4,071 - 2001, WR Joe Horn (1,269), WR Willie Jackson (1,046) and RB Ricky Williams (1,756)
- 3,600 - 2006, RB Reggie Bush (1,307), WR Marques Colston (1,038) and RB Deuce McAllister (1,255)

The trio of Ingram, Kamara and Thomas are all in the top 10 in the NFL for first downs.

### 2017 NFL FIRST DOWN LEADERS

	Rush	Rec.	Tot.
1. Le'Veon Bell, Pit.	74	31	105
2. Todd Gurley, LA Rams	66	32	98
3. Melvin Gordon, LAC	58	22	80
<b>4t. Alvin Kamara, NO</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>78</b>
4t. Kareem Hunt, KC	60	18	78
4t. LeSean McCoy, Buf.	55	23	78
7. Keenan Allen, LAC	0	74	74
8. Antonio Brown, Pit.	0	71	71
<b>9. Michael Thomas, NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>10t. Mark Ingram, NO</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>69</b>
10t. DeAndre Hopkins, Hou.	0	69	69

## WIDE RECEIVERS

### MICHAEL THOMAS

• A talented wideout with a large 6-3, 212-pound frame who was selected by the Saints in the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft out of Ohio State, Michael Thomas had an outstanding rookie campaign. He led the team in receptions with 92, going for 1,137 yards and a team-leading nine receiving touchdowns. He became the first Saints rookie to break 1,000 yards in a season since Marques Colston went for 1,038 in 2006. He was named to the *Pro Football Writers Association* All-Rookie Team for his efforts. In 2017, Thomas is New Orleans' receiving leader in both catches and yardage, making a club-record 104 receptions for 1,245 yards with five touchdowns to rank third in the National Football League in receiving and making him only the second player in NFL record books, joining Odell Beckham Jr. to have 90 catches in each of his first two seasons and his 196 grabs being the most by a player in NFL history in his first two seasons.

## RECEIVING LEADER

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE RECEIVING LEADERS IN 2017

Player	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TD
1. Jarvis Landry, Mia.	112	987	8.8	9
2. Larry Fitzgerald, Ariz.	109	1,156	10.6	6
<b>3. Michael Thomas, NO</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>5</b>
4. Keenan Allen, LAC.	102	1,393	13.7	6
5. Antonio Brown, Pit.	101	1,533	15.2	9

With 194 receptions in less than two full seasons, Thomas has surpassed Miami's Jarvis Landry to become the National Football League player with the most receptions after his first two seasons.

### RECEIVING LEADERS THROUGH TWO SEASONS

#### AMONG NFL PLAYERS

Player	Years	Rec.	Yds.	TDs
<b>Michael Thomas 2016-17</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>14</b>	
Jarvis Landry	2014-15	194	1,915	9

### TED GINN JR.

• Ginn joined the Saints in the 2017 offseason as an unrestricted free agent in his 11th National Football League season. He has been a member of five teams since being selected with the ninth overall pick in the 2007 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins out of Ohio State, and has appeared in 166 games with 71 starts over that period. In his long career marked by big play ability, he has accumulated 5,072 receiving yards off 362 catches (14.0 avg.), recording 29 touchdowns. In his first season in New Orleans, Ginn has played in 15 games with ten starts and has recorded 53 grabs for 787 yards with four touchdown receptions, has carried nten times for 39 yards and has brought back 19 punts for 103 yards and five kickoffs for 56 yards. Ginn is ranked second on the Saints in receiving yardage among the team's wideouts.

## DEFENSIVE ENDS

### CAMERON JORDAN

• New Orleans' first choice in the 2011 National Football League Draft (24th overall) out of California, Jordan is enjoying another standout season in 2017, recording 62 tackles, a career-high 13 sacks, one interception return for a touchdown, a career-high 11 passes defensed and two forced fumbles. With 59.5 career sacks in seven seasons with the Black and Gold, Jordan is fifth on the Saints career sack list. Jordan has also proven to be one of the NFL's best run defenders, as well as being known for generating pressure on quarterbacks that doesn't always show up on the stat sheet.

## JORDAN SACK NOTES

After recording 1.5 quarterback takedowns in the Nov. 5 win vs. Tampa Bay, Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan inched to fifth place in club record books.

### NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ALL-TIME SACK LEADERS

(Since 1982)

Rk.	Player, Years	No.
1.	Rickey Jackson, 1982-93	115.0
2.	Wayne Martin, 1989-99	82.5
3.	Pat Swilling, 1986-92	76.5
4.	Will Smith, 2004-12	67.5
<b>5.</b>	<b>Cameron Jordan, 2011-</b>	<b>59.5</b>

**JORDAN SACK NOTES**

Since week eight of the 2014 season, Jordan's played among the NFL's elite defensive ends. He's ranked tenth in the National Football League since October 26, 2014 with 37 sacks. In 2017, he finished the regular season tied for fourth in the league with 13 quarterback takedowns. Jordan is the only Saint to have at least 7.5 quarterback takedowns in six consecutive seasons, surpassing LB Ricky Jackson, who did so in five consecutive seasons from 1983-87.

**MOST SACKS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SINCE OCTOBER 26, 2014**

Rk. Player, Team	No.
1. Chandler Jones, NE-Ari.	42.0
2t. Khalil Mack, Oak.	40.5
2t. Ryan Kerrigan, Was.	40.5
4. Von Miller, Den.	39.5
<b>5t. Cameron Jordan, NO</b>	<b>37.0</b>
5t. Aaron Donald, LA Rams	37.0
7. Everson Griffin, Min.	36.5
8t. Justin Houston, KC	36.0
8t. Cameron Wake, Mia.	36.0
10. J.J. Watt, Hou.	34.5

**MOST SACKS IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IN 2017**

Rk. Player, Team	No.
1. Chandler Jones, Ari.	17.0
2t. Calais Campbell, Jax.	14.5
2t. Demarcus Lawrence, Dal.	14.5
<b>4t. Cameron Jordan, NO</b>	<b>13.0</b>
4t. Everson Griffen, Min.	13.0
4t. Ryan Kerrigan, Was.	13.0

Jordan's posted 59.5 sacks since he entered the NFL as a first round draft pick in 2011 and over the past seven seasons is only the second player, joining Houston's J.J. Watt to have 55 takedowns and 35 passes defended. During this time, the Saints own a 29-14 record when he corrals a signal-caller, and they boast a 11-1 mark in a multi-sack performance, including a career-high four multi-takedown games in 2017.

**CAMERON JORDAN'S MULTI-SACK GAMES**

Date	Opp.	Tackles	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Yards
11/5/12	vs. Phi.	3	3	3	3	21
9/22/13	vs. Arz.	7	3	4	2	14
11/21/13	@ Atl.	7	3	4	2.5	10.5
12/8/13	vs. Car.	5	3	2	2	19
10/26/14	vs. GB	4	3	1	2	15
12/28/14	@ TB	6	4	2	1.5	9
10/15/15	vs. Atl.	7	6	1	3	12
10/25/15	@ Ind.	3	2	1	2	12
10/15/17	vs. Det.	5	4	1	2	12
11/5/17	vs. TB	7	5	2	1.5	9
11/26/17	@ LAR	4	4	0	2	20
12/24/17	vs. Atl.	3	3	0	2	10

**DURABLE DEFENDER**

With 112 consecutive games played and 97 consecutive starts, Jordan's one of the NFL's most durable defensive ends.

**MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED AMONG ACTIVE NFL DEFENSIVE ENDS**

Rk. Defensive End	Team	No.
1. Julius Peppers	Car.	160
<b>2. Cameron Jordan</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>112</b>
3. Jerry Hughes	Buf.	99

**CONSECUTIVE GAMES STARTED AMONG ACTIVE NFL DEFENSIVE ENDS**

Rk. Defensive End	Team	No.
<b>1. Cameron Jordan</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>97</b>
2. Carlos Dunlap	Cin.	68
3. Khalil Mack	Oak.	64

**GEORGE JOHNSON**

• Johnson, is a six-year NFL veteran who was added in week 15 to add depth to the Saints defensive line. The six-year veteran has played in 44 games with four clubs, totaling 63 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 8.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, one pass defended and three special teams tackles. In his first three games as a Saint, he has posted 2.5 sacks.

## DEFENSIVE TACKLES

### TYELER DAVISON

- The Fresno State product followed up a solid rookie season with an even better season in 2016, helping to improve the 31st ranked run defense in 2015 to the 14th best in the league in 2016. Starting 15 games, the disruptive defensive tackle finished the 2016 campaign with 29 tackles (14 solo) and two pass deflections. In 2015, Davison became a key Saints defender while still a rookie, appearing in all 16 games with five starts and attacking for 18 tackles (10 solo) and 1.5 sacks. In 2017, the New Orleans run defense has continued to improve and this defender has played a key role in this improvement, starting all 16 games and recording 30 tackles (21 solo), two passes defended and two forced fumbles.

### SHELDON RANKINS

- Rankins was limited by injury in 2016, yet he nonetheless produced an impressive campaign. After a broken fibula delayed his National Football League debut, the rookie exploded for 20 tackles (15 solo) in nine games, adding four sacks and a forced fumble. The third defensive lineman selected in the 2016 NFL Draft (12th overall), Rankins played in 46 games along the defensive line at Louisville, producing 133 tackles (72 solo), 31.5 tackles for loss and 18 sacks during his collegiate career. In his senior campaign, the former Cardinals standout racked up a single-season career-high 58 tackles (28 solo), 13 stops for loss, six sacks, one pass defended and a fumble recovery returned 46 yards for a touchdown. Rankins was named second-team All-Atlantic Coast Conference following his efforts. In 2017, he has posted 15 tackles (nine solo), one sack, one interception, one pass defended and one forced fumble. On Nov. 12, at Buffalo, Rankins had a breakout performance with a 27-yard interception return and a sack.

### DAVID ONYEMATA

- David Onyemata was chosen with the team's fourth round pick (120th overall) in 2016 after a stellar college career at the University of Manitoba of the CIS, becoming the first member of the Bisons program to be drafted. Over the course of his rookie campaign, Onyemata shined, appearing in all 16 games and recording 32 tackles (15 solo). On Oct. 1, against Miami in London, Onyemata recorded his first career sack and through 13 games with two starts, as an integral part of the club's defensive line rotation, he has recorded 40 tackles (20 solo), two takedowns for losses of ten yards and one pass defended.

## LINEBACKERS

### CRAIG ROBERTSON

- In just his first year with the Saints, Robertson quickly became one of the most important members of the young defense. After four seasons with Cleveland, Robertson joined the Saints looking to contribute on defense and special teams, yet his production outpaced even the highest expectations. Starting 15 games, Robertson led the Saints with 131 tackles (100 solo), while adding a sack, four passes defended, and interception, and two fumble recoveries. Robertson will continue to be a leader Saints defenders look to during the upcoming campaign, as he has returned to the starting lineup. In his first start of the season vs. Detroit, Oct. 15, he led the team with 11 tackles and had the sack, forced fumble and recovery all on the same play. In 2017 in 16 games with starts in the last 12 contests, he has 77 stops (50 solo) to rank second on the team, two sacks to lead the linebackers, two interceptions to also lead his position group, six passes defended, the forced fumble/fumble recovery and a special teams fumble recovery. Robertson will play in his first postseason contest since he was a high school junior on Sunday.

### A.J. KLEIN

- Signed as an unrestricted free agent from Carolina, where he spent his first four NFL seasons, Klein has taken over play-calling duties on defense for New Orleans. Opening 11 games on the strongside for the Saints, Klein had 54 tackles (37 solo), two sacks, five passes defended and one forced fumble before going on Injured Reserve in week 16.

### MICHAEL MAUTI

- Mauti, a Mandeville native who was originally selected by the Minnesota Vikings in the seventh round (213th overall) of the 2013 NFL Draft, returned to join his hometown team and made solid contributions on both defense and special teams when he was acquired off of waivers from Minnesota at the conclusion of the 2015 preseason. The son of former Saints wideout and special teams ace Rich Mauti, Michael Mauti has appeared in 58 career games with four starts in six NFL seasons, including his second start of the season on Dec. 17 vs. the New York Jets and has tallied 48 career tackles (31 solo), one sack, one forced fumble, 39 special teams stops and one blocked punt he recovered for a touchdown. The club's Ed Block Courage Award winner in recognition of an incredible comeback after needing three surgeries to combat Ulcerative Colitis in the past year, Mauti has played in 11 games with two starts and has posted eight tackles (five solo), one pass defended, one forced fumble and three special teams stops.

## LINEBACKERS

### MANTI TE'O

• Coming to New Orleans as a free agent, Te'o used his four seasons in San Diego to become a talented, linebacker. A second round pick in 2013 out of Notre Dame where he finished second in the voting for the 2012 Heisman Trophy, In 2015, his third season in San Diego, he started all 12 games he appeared in, recording a career-high 83 tackles (63 solo), a half-sack, an interception, and a forced fumble. Last year, he started the first three games of the season, before an Achilles injury ended his campaign. In 2017, he ranks among team leaders with 61 tackles (43 solo), three passes defended and one fumble recovery.

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

### KEN CRAWLEY

• Crawley came to the Saints as an undrafted free agent in 2016 from Colorado. During his rookie year, he appeared in 15 games with five starts, recording 50 stops (41 solo), 10 passes defended, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery. A corner who played in all 47 games at Colorado, Crawley made a big jump in his development in 2017. He saw his first action of 2017 in a contest in which he started, Sept. 24 at Carolina, and recorded a team-high nine tackles (eight solo) and two passes defended. he followed that standout performance with another in the Saints' win at Miami at London's Wembley Stadium, Oct. 1, when he recorded his first career interception and also added four stops and two more passes defended. Overall in 2017, he has 54 tackles (47 solo), one interception and 17 passes defended

### MARSHON LATTIMORE

• Taken 11th overall in the 2017 NFL Draft from Ohio State, Lattimore possesses the physicality, speed, and intelligence to impact the Saints secondary. Despite appearing in just 20 games during his college career, Lattimore wowed NFL scouts. As a redshirt sophomore in 2016, he started all 13 games and was named first-team All-Big Ten. He notched four interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown. Lattimore figures to become a critical component of the Saints secondary. In 13 games, all starts, Lattimore finished the regular season with 53 stops (44 solo), five interceptions to lead the team all NFL rookies, one returned for a TD and a team-best 18 passes defended in establishing himself as a leading candidate for NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year after being selected to the Pro Bowl.

## NFL LEADERS IN INTERCEPTIONS IN 2017

Rookie	No.
1t. Darius Slay, Det.	8
1t. Kevin Byard, Ten.	8
3t. A.J. Bouye	6
3t. Eric Weddle, Bal.	6
<b>5t. Marshon Lattimore, NO</b>	<b>5</b>
5t. Antoine Bethea, Ari.	5
5t. Micah Hyde, Buf.	5
5t. Marcus Peters, KC	5
5t. Harrison Smith, Min.	5
5t. Tre Boston, LAC	5
5t. Jordan Poyer, Buf.	5

### MARCUS WILLIAMS

• Drafted in the second round of the 2017 NFL Draft, Williams is coming off a brilliant career at Utah, where he was a three-year starter. In 2016, he was named a second-team All-American by *Pro Football Focus* after starting all 11 games he played. He came in second in the Pac-12 in interceptions (five). The year prior, he started all 13 games as a free safety, again taking in five picks. His freshman year, he started six of 13 contests, notching an interception and two forced fumbles. During his sophomore and junior years, he was named a first-team Pac-12 All-Academic selection. In the regular season, Williams posted four interceptions and also ranked among team leaders with 70 tackles (56 solo) and six passes defended, in starting all 15 contests he has appeared in. In Sunday's regular season finale at Tampa Bay, he became the first Saints rookie since S Sammy Knight in 1997 to record two picks in a contest.

## DEFENSIVE ROOKIE DUO

With five and four interceptions respectively as rookies in 2017, Lattimore and Williams are ranked first and tied for second respectively in picks, setting the stage for a promising Saints secondary in the future.

## NFL ROOKIE LEADERS IN INTERCEPTIONS IN 2017

Rookie	No.
<b>1. Marshon Lattimore, NO</b>	<b>5</b>
2t. Tredavious White, Buf.	4
<b>2t. Marcus Williams, NO</b>	<b>4</b>



**P.J. WILLIAMS**

• This third-season defender is primed for a jump. An experienced starter from Florida State, who developed into one of the nation’s top cover corners in 2014, Williams finished his college career with 123 tackles (82 solo), four interceptions and 18 passes defended. In 2017, as he appeared in 16 games for the first time in his career with six starts, Williams finished the regular season with 47 tackles (34 solo), two interceptions and nine passes defended.

**VONN BELL**

• Bell left onlookers impressed with his 2016 rookie campaign, alerting the NFL to his arrival through his hard-hitting play. Appearing in every game with 14 starts, he totaled 98 tackles (59 solo) both of which were second on the team. He also added four passes defended, a sack, two forced fumbles, and a fumble recovery. Drafted by New Orleans in the second round of the 2016 NFL Draft (61st overall), Bell was a consensus first-team All-American, was voted First-team All-Big Ten and was also a Jim Thorpe Award semifinalist following his junior season at Ohio State. In 2017, he appeared in all 16 games with ten starts in the regular season posted a team-high 78 tackles (57 solo), 4.5 sacks, to tie for second on the club and lead defensive backs two passes defended, two forced fumbles and five stops on special teams.

**RAFAEL BUSH**

• A Saint from 2012 to 2015, Bush returns to New Orleans after spending 2016 with Detroit. Last season, he appeared in all 16 games with four starts, recording 53 tackles (34 solo), a sack, three passes defended, and two interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown vs. Jacksonville in Week 11. Over his first four seasons with the Saints, Bush appeared in 40 games with 14 starts, totaling 118 tackles (90 solo), eight passes defended, an interception, a forced fumble, and three fumble recoveries. In 2017, he’s appeared in 14 regular season games and has posted 19 tackles (16 solo), one sack for a 12-yard loss, one pass defended and one special teams tackle.

**SPECIAL TEAMS**

**P THOMAS MORSTEAD**

• Morstead has established himself as one of the National Football League’s top punters, where he’s posted career club-best 47.0 gross and 41.3 net punting averages. In 2017 over 16 regular season games, he punted 60 times for 2,822 yards, putting 26 of his punts inside the 20-yard line, with two touchbacks. He has posted a 47.0 gross av-

erage, ranked eighth in the NFL with a net average of 42.2, ranked sixth in the league.

**FOLLOW THE LEADER**

Morstead is the team’s all-time leader in both gross and net punting averages. His career 41.3 net ranks second in NFL records since the statistic was first compiled in 1976.

**HIGHEST CAREER NET PUNTING AVERAGE IN NFL HISTORY**

(Min. 250 punts, recorded since 1976)

Rk. Player, Team	Net Avg.
1. Johnny Hekker, StL (2012-)	43.5
<b>2. Thomas Morstead, NO (2009-)</b>	<b>41.3</b>
3. Sam Martin, Det. (2013-)	41.1

**HIGHEST GROSS PUNTING AVG., NEW ORLEANS SAINTS HISTORY**

Rk. Player	Avg.
<b>1. Thomas Morstead, 2009-</b>	<b>47.0</b>
2. Mark Royals, 1997-98	45.8
3. Mitch Berger, 2003-05	43.7

**WIL LUTZ**

• Lutz made an immediate impact in his rookie season in 2016. He was named NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Weeks Six and Eight, twice. Lutz was 28-of-34 on field goals and 49-of-50 on PATs in 2016, and was named to the PFWA All-Rookie team for his efforts.

• Lutz has followed up his rookie season with an even stronger sophomore campaign. He has drilled 31-of-35 kicks, including making four-of-five from 50 yards out, and with 47 PATs, finished the regular season ranked seventh in the NFL in scoring among nonkickers with 140 points. Lutz’s 31 field goals tied a club record previously shared by Morten Andersen (1985) and John Carney (2002). A threat on kickoffs, his career-high 58 touchbacks were ranked fifth in the league. Lutz took over kickoff duties from Morstead in 2016 and has been successful in that area as well. On 180 kickoffs, Lutz has forced touchbacks on 107 of them, allowing only 72 returns.

**STRONG LEG**

In a Week Three loss to the Atlanta Falcons in the 2016 season, Lutz lined up for and converted a 57-yard field goal with no time remaining in the first half; that successful effort tied him for the third longest field goal in franchise history, behind only legends Tom Dempsey and Morten Andersen.

**LONGEST FIELD GOAL, SAINTS HISTORY**

Rk.	Player	Date	Long
1.	Tom Dempsey	11/8/70	63
2.	Morten Andersen	10/27/91	60
<b>3t.</b>	<b>Wil Lutz</b>	<b>9/26/16</b>	<b>57</b>
3t.	Kai Forbath	11/29/15	57
5t.	Morten Andersen	12/26/93	56
5t.	Doug Brien	9/13/98	56

**MR. CONSISTENT**

On Sunday, September 17 vs. New England, Lutz's streak of 20 consecutive field goals, tied for second in club history ended. To close out the 2017 regular season, Lutz finished with a flourish making his final ten attempts.

**MOST CONSECUTIVE FIELD GOALS MADE IN TEAM HISTORY**

Rk.	Player	Date	Cons.
1.	John Carney	10/6/02-11/16/03	22
<b>2t.</b>	<b>Wil Lutz</b>	<b>11/27/16-9/17/17</b>	<b>20</b>
2t.	Morten Andersen	10/25/87-11/6/88	20

## HOW THE SAINTS WERE BUILT

### • 2006

#### FREE AGENTS

QB **Drew Brees** (UFA-SD)

### • 2009

#### DRAFT

P **Thomas Morstead** (5)

### • 2011

#### DRAFT

DE **Cameron Jordan** (1a)

RB **Mark Ingram II** (1b)

### • 2013

#### DRAFT

S **Kenny Vaccaro** (1)

T **Terron Armstead** (3a)

#### FREE AGENTS

TE **Josh Hill** (Rookie FA)

C/G **Senio Kelemete** (FA)

### • 2014

#### FREE AGENTS

WR **Brandon Coleman** (Rookie FA)

### • 2015

#### DRAFT

T **Andrus Peat** (1a)

CB **P.J. Williams** (3b)

DT **Tyler Davison** (5b)

#### TRADES

TE **Michael Hoomanawanui** (NE)

C **Max Unger** (Sea.)

#### WAIVERS

LB **Michael Mauti** (MIN)

### • 2016

#### DRAFT

DT **Sheldon Rankins** (1)

WR **Michael Thomas** (2a)

S **Vonn Bell** (2b)

DL **David Onyemata** (4)

#### FREE AGENTS

S **Chris Banjo** (FA)

CB **Ken Crawley** (Rookie FA)

OL **John Fullington** (FA)

TE **Garrett Griffin** (Rookie FA)

WR **Tommy Lee Lewis** (Rookie FA)

CB **Sterling Moore** (FA)

LB **Craig Robertson** (UFA-Cle.)

### • 2017

#### DRAFT

CB **Marshon Lattimore** (1a)

T **Ryan Ramczyk** (1b)

S **Marcus Williams** (2)

RB **Alvin Kamara** (3a)

DE **Trey Hendrickson** (3c)

DE **Al-Quadin Muhammad** (6)

#### FREE AGENTS

S **Rafael Bush** (UFA-Det.)

QB **Chase Daniel** (FA)

RB **Trey Edmunds** (Rookie FA)

WR **Ted Ginn Jr.** (UFA-Car)

DB **Justin Hardee** (FA)

LB **Gerald Hodges** (FA)

DE **George Johnson** (FA)

G **Josh LeRibeus** (FA)

FB **Zach Line** (UFA-Min.)

CB **Arthur Maulet** (Rookie FA)

DT **Tony McDaniel** (FA)

LB **Manti Te'o** (UFA-SD)

C **Cameron Tom** (Rookie FA)

G **Larry Warford** (UFA-Det.)

RB **Jonathan Williams** (FA)

LS **Zach Wood** (FA)

#### WAIVERS

WR **Austin Carr** (NE)

DE **Kasim Edehali** (LAR)

LB **Jonathan Freeny** (NE)

QB **Taysom Hill** (GB)

## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

**80 AUSTIN CARR WR**

**HEIGHT: 6-1 WEIGHT: 195**

**COLLEGE: NORTHWESTERN**

**JOINED SAINTS: WAI-17 (NE)**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: R**

**BORN: 12/25/93**

Claimed off waivers from Patriots by Saints, 9/3/17...Waived by Patriots, 9/2/17...Signed by Patriots as an undrafted free agent, 5/5/17...In preseason, led Patriots in receiving with 14 receptions for 153 yards with two TDs...Played in 36 career games at Northwestern and totaled 113 receptions for 1,649 yards and 14 TDs...Set single-season school record as senior with 1,247 receiving yards and finished tied for second with 90 receptions...Tied school record with 12 TD grabs...Named Richter-Howard Big Ten Receiver of the Year and was consensus first-team All-Big Ten...Set school record with a TD reception in six straight games...Majored in philosophy, which he received his bachelor's in and graduated from the Kellogg School of Management with a Masters in management studies...Racked up 1,481 rushing yards and 19 TDs as well as 844 receiving yards and 11 TD receptions as senior in 2011 at Benicia (Calif.) HS...Earned first-team All-Solano County Athletic Conference honors as well as SCAC and team MVP in 2011...Finished career as all-time rushing and scoring leader at Benicia...Finalist in California State Poetry Out Loud Competition and was a school and county champion...Born Dec. 25, 1993 in Santa Monica, Calif.

**58 KASIM EDEBALI DE**

**HEIGHT: 6-2 WEIGHT: 253**

**COLLEGE: BOSTON COLLEGE**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 4**

**JOINED SAINTS: WAI-17 (LAR)**

**BORN: 8/17/89**

**NFL CAREER** – A Hamburg, Germany native who started playing football in middle school prior to further developing his skills in prep school in New Hampshire, Edebali was originally signed by the Saints following the 2014 NFL Draft out of Boston College and in four seasons has evolved into a seasoned veteran along the defensive line and on special teams. He has played in 61 games with two starts, posting 51 tackles (34 solo), eight sacks, seven passes defended, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and 27 special teams stops. Edebali returned to the Saints late in the 2017 season after spending the campaign with three other clubs.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Claimed off waivers by Saints from Rams, 12/28/17; Waived by Rams, 12/27/17; Signed by Los Angeles Rams, 12/20/17; Waived by Detroit, 12/13/17; Claimed off waivers by Detroit from Denver, 11/15/17; Waived by Denver, 11/14/17; Signed by Denver to one-year contract, 3/14/17; Agreed to terms with Saints as an undrafted free agent, 5/12/14.

**2017** – Appeared in 13 games for Denver and Detroit and totaled one assisted tackle. Also inactive for one contest for the Los Angeles. **2016** – Was a valuable rotational piece along the Saints defensive line in all 16 games with one start, as well as on special teams. Finished the season with 14 tackles (nine solo), a sack, a career-high four passes defended and nine coverage tackles...Started vs. Carolina, Oct. 16 and posted a season-high five tackles, his only sack of the season and one coverage stop...Registered three coverage stops to tie a career-high in finale at Atlanta, 1/1/17, in addition to one assisted defensive tackle.

**2015** – Played in all 16 games with one start, totaling 18 tackles (14 solo), a career-high five takedowns for a total loss of 16 yards, three passes defended, one fumble recovery and six special teams stops...Played on both defense and special teams in the season opener at Arizona, Sept. 13, recording a special teams stop...Played on both defense and on special teams, registering one solo tackle, one sack, two special teams stops, one batted ball and his first career fumble recovery vs. Tampa Bay, Sept. 20... Played extensively on defense vs. Atlanta, Oct. 15, recording a sack, three tackles (one solo) and a pass defended... Played on defense and saw time on special teams vs. N.Y. Giants, Nov. 1 and recorded three solo defensive tackles to tie career-high, a sack and a special teams stop...Made his first career start and played on special teams on Monday Night Football vs. Detroit, Dec. 21, and recorded career-high six tackles (career-high five solo) and two sacks to tie career-high...Played on defense and special teams and recorded a solo stop vs. Jacksonville, Dec. 27...Played on both defense and special teams in finale at Atlanta, 1/3/16, posting an assisted tackle. **2014** – Played in all 16 games and contributed 18 tackles (11 solo), two sacks, one forced fumble and 12 special teams stops...Made his first career defensive tackle and one special teams stop at Dallas, Sept. 28...Posted career-highs in both tackles and sacks when he finished with four stops, dropped Aaron Rodgers twice and added one forced fumble vs. Green Bay, Oct. 26...Recorded three special teams tackles at Chicago, Dec. 15, and at Tampa Bay, Dec. 28.

**COLLEGE** – Played in 49 games at Boston College, recording career totals of 166 tackles (88 solo), 11 sacks, 24.5 tackles for a loss, 15 passes defended, four forced fumbles, and three fumble recoveries...As a senior, started all 13 games, recording 67 tackles (36 solo), 9.5 sacks, 15 tackles for a loss, three forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and five passes defended and was named All-ACC second-team by the league's coaches as well as All-ACC third-team from the media...Earned bachelor's degree in Communications with a concentration in Germanic Studies.

**PERSONAL** – Played football for two years at Kimball Union Academy (Meriden, N.H.) as a part of the USA Football International Student Program...Gained All-New England honors at TE/DE as senior...Two-time All-Evergreen League selection...Named 2008 Evergreen League Most Valuable Lineman...Played club football in Hamburg (Hamburg Young Huskies), Germany...Gained MVP as a quarterback in 2004 German All-State Tournament...Played TE for the German Under 19 National Team at the 2006 European Championship...Hamburg native is fluent in German...Born August 17, 1989.

## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

**55 JONATHAN FREENY LB**

**HEIGHT: 6-2 WEIGHT: 255**

**COLLEGE: RUTGERS**

**JOINED SAINTS: WAI-17 (NE)**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 6**

**BORN: 6/15/1989**

**NFL CAREER** – Originally signed by Miami as a college free agent out of Rutgers in 2011, Freeny joined the Saints in week 15, providing a veteran presence at linebacker and special teams. The Margate, Fla.. native's played in 66 career games with 11 starts and has recorded 70 tackles (44 solo), a sack, two passes defensed, a forced fumble, two fumble recoveries and 31 special teams stops over six seasons, with stints with four clubs. The seasoned veteran's also appeared in two career postseason contests and has posted three solo tackles and a fumble recovery.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Claimed by Saints off waivers from Patriots, 12/14/17; Waived by Patriots, 12/13/16; Re-signed by Patriots, 12/6/17; Released by Jaguars, 10/28/17; Signed by Jaguars, 10/24/17; Released by Ravens, 10/17/17; Signed by Ravens, 9/27/17; Waived by Patriots, 9/2/17; Placed on Injured Reserve by Patriots, 10/15/16; Signed by Patriots, 3/12/15; Re-signed by Dolphins to one-year contract (RFA), 4/10/14; Signed to active roster by Dolphins, 9/8/12; Signed to practice squad by Dolphins, 9/2/12; Waived by Dolphins, 9/1/12; Signed by Dolphins to reserve/future contract, 1/30/12; Signed by Dolphins to practice squad, 12/7/11; Released by Dolphins, 9/3/11; Signed by Dolphins as college free agent, 7/28/11.

**2017-** Played in three games for Ravens and one for Patriots. Posted two special teams stops for Ravens and two solo stops for Patriots at Miami, Dec. 11. **2016** – Appeared in five regular-season games for Patriots before being placed on Injured Reserve, Oct. 15 (shoulder). Started first four games and totaled 10 tackles (six solo) and forced a fumble...Totalled three tackles and forced a fumble that led to TD in win vs. Miami, Sept. 18...Finished second on team with seven tackles in win vs. Houston, Sept. 22. **2015** – Played in 13 regular-season games with seven starts and registered 43 tackles, a sack, a pass breakup, a forced fumble, two fumble recoveries and two special teams stops. Appeared in both playoff games and made three tackles and recovered a fumble. Inactive for final three regular-season games due to injury...Made first NFL start and recorded career-high tying eight tackles in win at Colts, Oct. 18...Started and posted three tackles vs. Redskins, Nov. 8. Also recovered an onside kick and forced a fumble...Started and recorded career-high tying eight tackles and a pass defensed in win at Giants, Nov. 15...Started at LB and had seven tackles and his first NFL sack when he brought down Brock Osweiler for a 13-yard loss at Denver, Nov. 29...Made postseason debut and recorded three tackles in the Divisional Playoff win vs. Chiefs, 1/16/16...Saw action at LB in AFC Championship at Denver, 1/24/16 and recovered a fumble that led to first quarter Patriots TD.

**2014** – Played in 12 games as reserve LB and on special teams for Miami and made five tackles, a sack and 10 coverage stops...Posted season-high three tackles at Jaguars,

Oct. 26. **2013** – Played in all 16 games for Miami and posted three tackles and ranked second on team with 10 special teams stops. **2012** – Played in all 16 games for Miami and recorded seven tackles and tied for second on team with seven special teams stops...Made NFL debut at Texans, Sept. 9...Registered five tackles at Patriots, Dec. 30. **2011** – Released by Miami at the end of preseason and spent part of season on Dolphins practice squad.

**COLLEGE** – Four-year letterman and two-year starter at Rutgers. Played in 46 games with 13 starts and had 93 tackles, 20 tackles for loss, 11 sacks, a forced fumble, four fumble recoveries and an interception...Started all 12 games at DE as senior in 2010, recorded 38 tackles and tied for team lead with three fumble recoveries...Registered 33 tackles as junior...Recipient of team's Most Improved Scholar Award...Led team with 9.5 sacks and tied for second with 12 stops for loss...Played in all 13 games as sophomore in 2008 and registered 19 tackles...Started first career game in PapaJohns.com Bowl against N.C. State... Played in eight games as true freshman in 2007 and closed out year with three tackles and five quarterback hurries.

**PERSONAL** – Attended Coconut Creek (Fla.) HS, where he was named first-team All-Broward selection as a senior by the *Miami Herald*...Starred at both LB as well as DE... Distant relative of DE Dwight Freeny...Born June 15, 1989.

**34 JUSTIN HARDEE DB**

**HEIGHT: 6-1 WEIGHT: 200**

**COLLEGE: ILLINOIS**

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-17**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: R**

**BORN: 2/7/94**

Signed by Saints to active roster, 9/23/17...Signed by Saints to practice squad, 9/7/17...Waived by Texans, 9/2/17...Signed by Texans, 5/12/17...Played WR at Illinois from 2012-16...Started all 12 games at as a redshirt senior in 2016...Finished second on team with 314 receiving yards and third with 25 receptions as a redshirt senior...Career-highs in receptions (9) and receiving yards (125) in finale at Northwestern...Academic All-Big 10...Played in all 13 games in 2014, starting eight and tallied 19 catches for 240 yards...Caught six passes for 110 yards, including a go-ahead 62-yard TD pass with 12:27 left vs. Western Kentucky...In 2013, played in all 12 games with a start...Had 11 catches for 95 yards...In 2012, played in all 12 games, making one start, first of career, vs. Louisiana Tech...Had 17 catches for 192 yards...Earned bachelor's degree in communication and has master's degrees in education and sport management...Attended Glenville (Cleveland, Ohio) HS, where he was a teammate of fellow rookie Saints CB Marshon Lattimore...2011 Third-team Northeast Lakes All-District selection...Played in Next Level Northeast Ohio All-Star Game...Member of 2009 team that played in Division 1 state title game...Also ran track at Glenville, winning a 2011 OHSAA State Championship in the 4x400m relay... High school coach was Ted Ginn Sr., the father of current Saints WR Ted Ginn Jr.

## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

### 7 TAYSOM HILL QB

HEIGHT: 6-2 WEIGHT: 221

COLLEGE: BRIGHAM YOUNG

JOINED SAINTS: WAI-17 (GB)

NFL EXPERIENCE: R

BORN: 8/23/90

Claimed by the New Orleans Saints off waivers from the Green Bay Packers, 9/3/17...Waived by the Packers, 9/2/17...Signed by the Packers as an undrafted free agent, 5/5/17...Started 33 of 37 games played in five seasons at Brigham Young, finishing with 23 wins as starting quarterback...Finished his college career with 6,929 yards and 43 TDs on 609-of-1,047 passing...Added 2,815 rushing yards and 32 touchdowns on 534 attempts...Finished fifth in school annals and first among signal-callers in rushing yards and posted nine 100-yard games...Started all 12 games he played in as senior, finishing with 222 completions on 372 attempts for 2,323 yards, 12 touchdowns...Carried 137 times for 603 yards and eight touchdowns...Started one game in 2015 before suffering season-ending foot injury and awarded medical redshirt...Suffered injury on first drive of second quarter at Nebraska (September 5) on a 21-yard touchdown run and missed next three plays, but returned to throw a touchdown and play until early in fourth quarter...Finished the game with 21 completions on 34 attempts (61.8 pct.) for 268 yards and a touchdown, adding 72 rushing yards and two touchdowns on nine carries...Started five games as a junior in 2014, suffering a season-ending leg injury in fifth game...Finished with 975 yards and seven touchdowns on 88-of-132 passing (66.7 pct.)...Contributed on ground with 460 yards and eight touchdowns on 87 attempts (5.3 avg.)...Started all 13 games as sophomore in 2013, throwing for 2,938 yards and 19 touchdowns on 236-of-438 passing (53.9 pct.) with 14 interceptions...Ran for career-high 1,344 yards and 10 touchdowns on 246 attempts (5.5 avg.), including six 100-yard rushing performances...Appeared in six games with two starts as true freshman in 2012 before suffering knee injury...Completed 42 of 71 passes (59.2 pct.) for 425 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions...Ran for 336 yards and four touchdowns on 55 attempts (6.1 avg.)...Earned a bachelor's degree in finance...Attended Highland (Pocatello, Id.) HS, where he played quarterback, punter and kicker...Also lettered three years in basketball and track and field, competing in the 200, 4x100 relay, 4x200 relay and long jump...Did a two-year mission to Australia...Spoke to youth groups and visited hospitals throughout college...Brother-in-law, David Nixon, played LB for the Oakland Raiders (2009), Houston Texans (2010) and St. Louis Rams (2010-11)...Older brother, Jordan, played defensive tackle at Arizona State (2003-06)...Older brother, Dexter, played quarterback at Scottsdale Community College, Northern Iowa and Dixie State...Older sister, Celeste, played basketball at Western Wyoming Community College...Given name Taysom Shawn Hill; born in Pocatello, Idaho.

### 50 GERALD HODGES LB

HEIGHT: 6-2 WEIGHT: 236

COLLEGE: PENN STATE

JOINED SAINTS: FA-17

NFL EXPERIENCE: 5

BORN: 1/17/91

**NFL CAREER** – This five-year NFL veteran joins the Saints after stints with Minnesota, San Francisco and Buffalo. Originally a fourth round selection (120<sup>th</sup> overall) of the Vikings in 2013 NFL Draft out of Penn State, the Woodbury, New Jersey native has appeared in 54 career games with 26 starts and has career totals of 213 tackles (154 solo), 3.5 sacks, three interceptions, nine passes defended, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery and 11 special teams stops.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Signed by Saints, 10/11/17; Contract terminated by Bills, 9/3/17; Signed by Bills (UFA-SF), 5/25/17; Acquired by 49ers from Minnesota Vikings in exchange for C Nick Easton, 10/6/15; Signed by Minnesota to a four-year contract, 5/14/13; Selected by Minnesota in the fourth round (120th overall) of the 2013 NFL Draft.

**2016** – Played in 15 games with 12 starts for 49ers and finished with career-high 80 tackles (52 solo), career-high three sacks, career-best two interceptions, two passes defended, a forced fumble, a fumble recovery and three solo special teams stops...Tied a career-high with 13 tackles at L.A. Rams, Dec. 4...Posted a sack at N.Y. Jets, Dec. 11...Forced a fumble at Carolina, Sept. 18...Recovered a fumble at Seattle, Sept. 25...Picked off a pass at Arizona, Nov. 13. **2015** – Splitting season between Vikings and the 49ers following trade, played in 14 games with seven starts and finished with 69 tackles (53 solo), a pass defended and an assisted special teams tackle...Had career-high 13 tackles vs. Rams, 1/3/16. **2014** – Played in 14 games with seven starts for Vikings and made 64 tackles (49 solo), a split sack, a 27-yard interception return for a TD, a career-high six passes defended and two solo special teams stops. **2013** – Played in 11 games for Vikings and finished with five special teams tackles (four solo)...Had two special teams stops twice, second time at Green Bay, Nov. 24.

**COLLEGE** – Played in 44 career games, including 24 starts, for PSU...As senior in 2012, earned second-team All-Big Ten as he led team with 109 tackles...In 2011, named first-team All-Big Ten after registering a team-high 106 tackles and ranking fourth in conference with 4.5 sacks. In 2010, recorded 31 tackles and two passes defended...In 2009, played in every game and recorded three tackles.

**PERSONAL** – Attended Paulsboro (N.J.) HS, where he was selected first-team all-South Jersey and first-team all-conference after his junior and senior seasons...Born Gerald Davon Hodges (1/17/91) in Woodbury, N.J.

## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

**90 GEORGE JOHNSON DE**

**HEIGHT: 6-4 WEIGHT: 265**

**COLLEGE: RUTGERS**

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-17**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 6**

**BORN: 12/11/1987**

**NFL CAREER** – Johnson was signed in week 15 by New Orleans to add depth to the defensive line. The six-year NFL veteran has played in 42 games with Tampa Bay (2011-12, 15), Minnesota (2012) and Detroit (2014, 17), totaling 58 tackles, 12 tackles for loss, 6.0 sacks, two forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries, one pass defended and three special teams tackles.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Signed by Saints, 12/13/17; Waived by Detroit, 11/15/17; Re-signed by Detroit, 11/14/17; Released by Detroit, 10/18/17; Signed by Detroit, 9/20/17; Released by Buccaneers, 9/1/17; Placed by Tampa Bay on Reserve/Injured (hip), 8/5/16; Acquired by Tampa Bay from Detroit along with a seventh round draft pick in exchange for a fifth round draft choice, 4/15/15; Detroit matched offer sheet from Tampa Bay, 4/15/15; Signed by Tampa Bay to three-year contract offer sheet (RFA), 4/7/15; Signed by Detroit, 4/22/14; Waived by Vikings, 10/9/13; Signed by Minnesota to the active roster from the practice squad, 12/22/12; Signed by Minnesota to the practice squad, 11/9/12; Waived by Tampa Bay, 11/1/12; Placed by Tampa Bay on Reserve/Injured, 11/14/11; Signed by Tampa Bay to the active roster from the practice squad, 10/10/11; Signed by Tampa Bay to the practice squad, 9/8/11; Waived by Tampa Bay, 9/5/11; Signed by Tampa Bay to the active roster from the practice squad, 12/14/10; Signed by Tampa Bay to the practice squad, 9/5/10; Waived by Tampa Bay, 9/4/10; Re-signed by Tampa Bay, 8/24/10; Waived by Tampa Bay, 8/10/10; Originally signed by Tampa Bay as a college free agent, 5/3/10.

**2017** – Played in four contests for Detroit and made two solo tackles...Had a solo stop for a loss vs. Carolina, Oct. 8...Posted a solo tackle in win at Minnesota, Oct. 1. **2016** – Spent season on Reserve/Injured. **2015** – Played in 11 games with six starts for Buccaneers and totaled 23 tackles (12 solo), two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery...Made first career start in first game back with Buccaneers, vs. Tennessee, Sept. 13...Registered first career forced fumble in a Buccaneers win against Jacksonville, Oct. 11, which was recovered and returned for a TD. **2014** – Saw action in all 16 games for the first time and finished with 26 tackles (21 solo), six sacks, a pass defended, a fumble recovery and three special teams stops (two solo) in his first season in Detroit...vs. N.Y. Giants, Sept. 8, created pressure multiple times on QB Eli Manning and had three tackles (two sol) and 1.5 sacks for losses of 14.5 yards...at Carolina, Sept. 14, collected a solo tackle...vs. Green Bay, Sept. 21, had four tackles (three solo)...at N.Y. Jets, Sept. 28, generated a solo tackle...At Minnesota, Oct. 12, collected five tackles (four solo), 1.5 sacks for losses of 9.5 yards and two tackles for loss...At Atlanta, Oct. 26, helped the Lions' line apply pressure as they collected two sacks and five quarterback hurries, recording three solo tackles...Posted a solo tackle and one sack vs. Tampa Bay,

Dec. 7...Made two tackles (one solo) and a sack vs. Minnesota, Dec. 14...Had a solo tackle and first career fumble recovery at Green Bay, Dec. 28...Played in NFC Wild Card Playoff at Dallas, 1/4/15. **2013** – Started season with Vikings before being waived, Oct. 9 and spent the rest of season out of football. **2012** – Totaled five assisted tackles in seven games split between Tampa Bay and Minnesota, all five happening with the Buccaneers. **2011** – After being elevated from practice squad, appeared in four games for Tampa Bay and made two tackles (one solo)...Made NFL debut with Tampa Bay against New Orleans, Oct. 16 after being activated from practice squad...Placed on Reserve/Injured, Nov. 14. **2010** – After spending the first 15 weeks of the season on the practice squad, activated to the 53-man roster for final two games but did not see action. **COLLEGE** – Played in 51 games at Rutgers (2006-09), starting 35, totaling 134 tackles, 31.5 tackles for loss, 13.0 sacks, three fumble recoveries, two interceptions and one forced fumble.

**PERSONAL** – Attended Glassboro (N.J.) HS...Helped his team to an 11-1 record and a berth in South Jersey Group I Championship Game as a senior...Earned South Jersey Touchdown Club Lineman of the Year following senior season...Along with the Buccaneers defensive line, purchased toys and hosted a surprise shopping spree for underprivileged families in the "D-Line Does Christmas" event in 2015...Born George Johnson on December 11, 1987 in Glassboro, New Jersey.

**42 ZACH LINE FB**

**HEIGHT: 6-1 WEIGHT: 233**

**COLLEGE: SOUTHERN METHODIST**

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-17**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 5**

**BORN: 5/4/87**

**CAREER** – First signed as an undrafted free agent by Minnesota, where he spent four seasons, Line will contribute on offense and special teams.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Re-signed by Saints, 10/4/17; Contract Terminated, 9/2/17; Signed with New Orleans, 8/24/17; Re-signed by Minnesota (RFA), 4/18/16; Promoted to Vikings active roster, 10/03/14; Signed to Vikings Practice Squad, 9/16/14; Waived by Vikings, 9/13/14; Placed on Injured Reserve by Minnesota, 9/23/13; Signed as an undrafted free agent by Minnesota 4/30/13.

**2016-** Appeared in 15 games with four starts rushing for 15 yards on seven carries for the Minnesota Vikings and posted one special teams tackle. **2015-** Appeared in all 16 games with five starts having best season, scoring three TDs on 12 touches and paved the way for Adrian Peterson to lead NFL in rushing...Scored first career TD vs. Detroit, Sept. 20. **2014-** Played in one game...Finished with an assisted special teams stop vs. Chicago, Dec. 28. **2013-** Played on offense in NFL debut at Detroit, Sept. 8 and caught a pass for eight yards...Made first career start vs. Cleveland, Sept. 22...Placed on Injured Reserve (ankle), Sept. 23. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

### ZACH LINE—CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**COLLEGE:** Totaled 4,185 career rushing yards, second in SMU history behind Eric Dickerson, and 47 rushing TDs, tied for most in school history with Dickerson, in 50 games, including 41 starts...Only player in SMU history to have 3 seasons of 1,200+ rushing yards...Had 4,784 career all-purpose yards (second at SMU) and 282 career points (third)...Named 2012 Conference USA Offensive Player of the Year after rushing for 1,278 yards and 13 TDs. Added 33 receptions for 229 yards...First-Team All-C-USA from 2010-12...Bachelor's degree in sport management.

**PERSONAL:** Attended Oxford (Mich.) HS where he was All-State, rushing for 1,723 yards and 17 TDs and throwing for three TDs as senior...Made 154 tackles, forced eight fumbles and recovered four fumbles...Wrestled and finished third at State in weight class...Brother, Prescott, played at SMU and was a graduate transfer at Michigan State in 2016.

**56 MICHAEL MAUTI LB**

**HEIGHT: 6-2 WEIGHT: 243**

**COLLEGE: PENN STATE**

**JOINED SAINTS: WAI-15 (MIN)**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 6**

**BORN: 1/19/90**

**NFL CAREER –** This Mandeville native first joined his hometown team in 2015, made solid contributions on defense and special teams in his first two seasons and rejoins the Saints in week seven after recovery from a challenging medical issue. The son of former Saints WR and special teams ace Rich Mauti, Michael's played in 47 career games with two starts in four seasons and has tallied 42 tackles (27 solo), a sack, a forced fumble, 36 special teams stops and a blocked punt he recovered for a TD.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS –** Re-signed by Saints, 10/18/17; Contract terminated by Saints, 9/2/17; Re-signed by Saints, 7/25/17; Placed on Reserve/NFI by Saints, 11/14/16; Claimed by Saints off waivers from Vikings, 9/6/15; Waived by Vikings, 9/5/15; Placed on Injured Reserve by Vikings, 12/10/14; Signed a four-year contract with Vikings, 5/14/13; Selected by Minnesota Vikings in the seventh round of the 2013 NFL Draft (213th overall).

**2016 –** In second season with Saints, voted by teammates as a special teams captain and played in eight games, collecting 14 tackles, a sack, a forced fumble and seven special teams stops...Vs. Oakland, Sept. 11, made five tackles and a special teams stop...Had three solo tackles, his first career sack, dropping QB Eli Manning, both sons of former Saints teammates (Mauti, son of WR Rich Mauti and Manning, son of QB Archie Manning) for a nine-yard loss, a forced fumble on the takedown and a team-leading two coverage stops...Had three assisted tackles and a coverage stop at San Diego, Oct. 2...Recorded a special teams tackle vs. Carolina, Oct. 16...Posted two assisted tackles at Kansas City, Oct. 23...Recorded a solo tackle on defense and on special teams vs. Seattle, Oct. 30...Inactive vs.

Denver, Nov. 13, before being placed on Reserve/NFI.

**2015 –** After being acquired off waivers from Minnesota at end of preseason, saw significant action in the LB rotation and also played an integral role on special teams. Played in all 16 contests with two starts, recording career-high 26 tackles (19 solo), a team-high 12 special teams stops and blocking a punt and recovering it for a TD...Recorded two special teams tackles vs. Tampa Bay, Sept. 20...Vs. Atlanta, Oct. 15, blocked a punt midway through the first quarter and returned it for a TD to put the Saints up 14-0. It was his first career blocked punt, as well as his first career TD. Michael and Rich, became the only Saints father-son combination to score TDs in Black and Gold. Also added two special teams tackles...Saw action on both defense and on special teams vs. N.Y. Giants, Nov. 1 and made four tackles (two solo) and a special teams stop...Made first career start and saw action on special teams vs. Tennessee, Nov. 8 and made career-high eight tackles (career-best six solo) and a special teams stop...Started at SLB and played on special teams at Washington, Nov. 15, finishing with four tackles (three solo)...Played on defense as well as on special teams at Houston, Nov. 29 and tied career-high with eight tackles (six solo)...Vs. Carolina, Dec. 6, and made a solo tackle and a coverage stop...At Tampa Bay, Dec. 13, played on defense and special teams and posted a coverage stop...Vs. Detroit, Dec. 21, made a solo tackle and team-high two coverage stops. **2014 –** Inactive for first two games before playing in next eight. Finished with four special teams tackles (three solo)...Delivered highlight-reel hit on a punt return on Tampa Bay's Trindon Holliday late in fourth quarter, Oct. 26, swinging the momentum back in Minnesota's favor, helping the Vikings earn a 19-13 OT win...Placed on Injured Reserve, Dec. 10 (knee). **2013 –** Made NFL debut vs. Cleveland, Sept. 22, and credited with a special teams tackle...Tallied two special teams tackles at Wembley Stadium vs. Pittsburgh, Sept. 29...Recorded two special teams stops five times...Credited with two tackles at Seattle, Nov. 17, his first NFL defensive stats. Tied for third on team with 13 total special teams tackles in 14 games.

**COLLEGE –** Started 22 of the 39 games he played at Penn State...Part of 8-4 team in 2012 that was ineligible for bowl game. Capped college career by being honored with Big Ten's Butkus-Fitzgerald Linebacker of the Year award as a senior, the Nittany Lions' 2012 Outstanding Senior Player Award, serving as co-captain and earned first-team All-Big Ten honors from both coaches and media, leading the conference with 125 interception return yards and ranking second on the team with 95 tackles...Started all four games he played as a junior in 2011...Granted medical redshirt in 2009...Saw action in 13 games as a true freshman in 2008.

**PERSONAL –** Standout at Mandeville (La.) HS and ended career ranked as the nation's #3 MLB prospect by ESPN and ranked #58 overall on the ESPN Top 150...Played in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl after high school...Earned Louisiana All-Class 5A honors as senior...Father, Rich, played in the NFL from 1977-84, playing as a wide receiver and special teams contributor in his first seven seasons in New Orleans...In 2015, spoke with sixth-through-eighth grade students at Christ Episcopal School...In 2016, was part of the Fuel Up to Play 60 Hometown Grant program, visited students at Garyville Magnet School.



## PLAYER BIOS NOT IN MEDIA GUIDE

**27 JONATHAN WILLIAMS RB**

**HEIGHT: 6-0 WEIGHT: 223**

**COLLEGE: ARKANSAS**

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-17**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 2**

**BORN: 2/2/94**

**NFL CAREER** – Productive as a rookie in Buffalo in spot duty on offense and on special teams, Williams was signed as a free agent by New Orleans in Week 11 of 2017 off of the Denver Broncos practice squad. As a rookie with the Buffalo Bills in 2016, the Texas native played in 11 games and carried 27 times for 94 yards with one touchdown.

**CAREER TRANSACTIONS** – Signed to the New Orleans Saints 53-man roster from the Denver Broncos practice squad, 11/14/17; Signed by Denver to the practice squad, 9/5/17; Waived by Buffalo, 9/3/17; Signed by Buffalo to a four-year contract, 5/13/16; Originally a fifth round (156th overall) draft choice by the Buffalo Bills in 2016.

**2017** – Signed with Saints, Nov. 14, after spending the entire regular season up to that point on the Broncos practice squad. **2016** – Played in 11 games for Buffalo and rushed 27 times for 94 yards (3.5 avg.) with one TD, caught one pass for 0 yards and made a special teams tackle... Scored his only career rushing TD vs. New England, Oct. 30.

**COLLEGE** – Played for the University of Arkansas from 2012-15 and racked up 2,321 yards on the ground in his college career, highlighted by nine 100-yard games, a 5.7 yards per rush average and 16 touchdowns... Had a career-year during his junior season as a Razorback, in which he ran the ball 211 times for 1,190 yards and 12 touchdowns, including a season-long 90-yard run and also hauled in 11 catches for 65 yards and two touchdowns, finishing fourth in the conference with 14 overall touchdowns... Named to the *Associated Press* All-Southeastern Conference second team and an Earl Campbell Award semifinalist... In 2013, played in all 12 games and made 11 starts, finishing the year with 150 rushes for 900 yards and four touchdowns, seven receptions for 72 yards and two touchdowns and also threw a 21-yard touchdown... Suffered a foot injury in 2015 and missed the entire season... Majored in communications.

**PERSONAL** – Attended Allen (Texas) HS, where he collected more than 3,500 rushing yards in his prep career... Father is a New Orleans area native and resident... Born February 2, 1994 in Allen, Texas.

**49 ZACH WOOD LS**

**HEIGHT: 6-3 WEIGHT: 255**

**COLLEGE: SOUTHERN METHODIST**

**JOINED SAINTS: FA-17**

**NFL EXPERIENCE: 1**

**BORN: 1/10/93**

Signed by Saints, 9/9/17... Waived by Dallas, 9/2/17... Signed a future/reserve contract with Dallas, 1/16/17... Waived by Dallas, 9/1/16... Signed by Dallas as an undrafted free agent, 5/24/17... Competed for snapping duties in 2016 and 2017 for Cowboys... Started 33-of-43 games he played over four seasons at SMU, tallying 137 tackles, 22 tackles for loss, 9 sacks, two forced fumbles and three blocked kicks at DE... Played in 10 games, starting nine and recorded 39 tackles with 10 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks, two pass deflections and three blocked kicks in 2015... Appeared in all 12 contests in 2014 and led team with four sacks to go along with 40 tackles... Played and started all 12 games at DE in 2013 and tied for fifth on team with 49 tackles and six tackles for loss, adding a sack and two forced fumbles... Appeared in nine games in 2012, making nine tackles and registering a half sack... Graduated with a bachelor's degree in applied physiology... A 2010 Class 4A All-State honorable mention selection at Rowlett (Texas) HS, totaling 115 tackles and 10 sacks during his senior campaign.