POSTGAME NOTES & QUOTES

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, OCT. 12, 2025 ● CAESARS SUPERDOME
SAINTS HEAD COACH KELLEN MOORE

Opening comments

“Great battle of a football game. New England made more plays than we did. I thought our playstyle, I thought our guys played fast, played physical. At the end of the day, we didn’t take advantage of opportunities that were presented to us. Every game is going to have those opportunities, and we have to take advantage of them. They won the turnover ratio. They won some situational stuff, and that’s how this game was decided. We didn’t make enough plays. I have to find a way for myself to coach better and put ourselves in better situations to be more successful as a football team. There’s too much good and not enough in those little margins. Medically, I think we are OK. Nothing really drastic coming out of the game. We just have to get better and keep moving.”

(On the roadblocks offensively)

“That’s on me. We’re not doing a good enough job. We’re extending some drives. We’re not getting the ultimate points that we need out of that drive. Whether it be settling for a field goal from the red zone or getting stalled out across the 50-yard line, we are not doing enough good stuff. It seems like there are always a bunch of little things that come up between penalties, missed opportunities. We have to find a way to get that because I thought we moved it at a decent rate. We just did not take advantage of the opportunities.”

(On defending against New England’s wide receivers)

“New England made plays. They had one-on-one opportunities, and they made plays. Those were contested, those were challenging situations, but we have to find a way to come up with more of those on our end. That’s what this game is all about. It’s one-on-one opportunities throughout this game, and we have to find a way to get it done.”

(On the defense’s slow start)

“We’re not starting fast enough from a defensive perspective. We have to play better. We have to have a sense of urgency out there and be ready to roll. That’s a couple of weeks in a row in that scenario, and that’s not the formula we want to be feeling, like we are playing behind for a little while. Again, we have to take advantage of opportunities. They come in all four quarters, and every moment is the same value from the first quarter on to the fourth quarter.”

(On the margins of victory being so slim)

“That’s what this game is. It’s the NFL. The margins are really, really small, really tight. They have good players; we have good players. It’s a matter of taking advantage of the opportunities that are presented. We’re not getting it done. We are not getting it done in those situations when we have opportunities. For myself, I have to figure out a way to get us there. We’re close, knocking on the door, but we’re not opening it. I have to find a way to get better.”

(On WR Chris Olave’s drops)

“Obviously, we’ll look at the film to evaluate all the details of it, but we had some opportunities in the passing game. We didn’t get it done. Those are challenging plays. I get it. We just have to find a way collectively as a group to come up with more success.”

(On QB Spencer Rattler’s performance)

“I thought Spencer had some good football out there. He used his legs again. He had some completions to put ourselves in some situations. We finished a couple of drives in the red zone. We had some third-down [opportunities] that we did not get. He had one turnover-worthy play in the middle. Fortunately for us, it wasn’t a turnover. We all have to keep getting better because, obviously, we haven’t met the standard yet. We are not there yet as a group. Specifically, your question as an offense, we have to get better. We have to put our head down and go.”

(On the last possession at the end of the first half)

Obviously, if we could get some positives out there, we had three timeouts. We could play that thing through a four or five-play sequence. We got sacked. We were behind the chains there, so we just let it bleed out.”

(On facing New England QB Drake Maye)

“He did some really good things. I thought he extended plays. He used his feet in a timely manner. He sits in there. I thought he played well, and we were not able to get to him. We were not able to get to him and create some sacks and rush opportunities on him. We were not able to impact him enough in the pocket.”

(On miscommunication in the secondary)

“We will look at the film. Obviously, there will be some great opportunities to grow from. They were able to make some explosive plays in the passing game.”

(On LB Danny Stutsman coming into the game)

“We just put him in there to get him going. He obviously is a good player. He’s done some good football. I think it’s important that he has some exposure to the league. As far as putting him in there, he’s played some good football.”

(On LB Isaiah Stalbird)

“He’s obviously one of those guys that’s kind of had a package in various games in the last two weeks. He’s a good player. He’s earned those opportunities.”

(On Stutsman coming in for LB Demario Davis)

“I think it’s just trying to find a series that works best for us. Somewhere in the middle of the game, we anticipated trying to create that opportunity. I think it was good for him to get out there.”

(On where the team needs to improve to secure wins)

“We just have to win in the margins, which is all the situational football. We have to convert in the red zone, convert third downs. Those are hard downs. Those are tough downs. We have to do a better job in those situations.”

(On the New England passing game)

“They made the plays. They made the plays in those contested situations. Their receivers were physical and were attacking the football, and they made the plays when they had to.”

(On determining when to capitalize on those margins)

“Potentially. We have to calculate it in every possible way. We have to understand there are numbers we certainly are very cautious of. Then, there’s the element of making sure we got what we need to have an opportunity to compete. I look into every little margin and see if I have to do better from being more aggressive or calling some fourth downs.”

(On the mood in the locker room)

“Just frustration. There are opportunities. I think everyone can feel that. We had our opportunities in this game, and we just didn’t get it done.”

(On K Blake Grupe’s performance)

“Blake kicked the ball really well. He gave us an opportunity, and he was able to execute in the field goal game. I thought there were some positives there.”

(On Taysom Hill’s touchdown)

“Awesome for Taysom. He’s a phenomenal player. Down in that red zone, he’s a really valuable piece.”

(On the explanation he received on the fumble)

“You guys can ask Replay Assist or New York for all of that stuff, whatever their media deal is. We just were told there was some movement on the ball, and that’s all I get.”

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PATRIOTS HEAD COACH MIKE VRABEL

(On what impressed him with Drake Maye's performance)

"He kept battling. Not all of it was perfect today, but I give them a lot of credit. They competed and they answered. We extended plays and made huge plays down the field and had some glimpses of good football. We'll have to clean up a lot of things, but it's great to go on the road and get a win."

(On his understanding of the offensive pass interference call)

"I don't really have much explanation. They see something, and we'll continue to play aggressive. We'll have to clean some of the penalties up, those live ball fouls that we talked about. In that situation, we want to be really aggressive and we're taking a shot, long yardage. And, we had a great punt from Bryce (Baringer) after that. So, we'll remain aggressive, and our players will be competitive. That was what they felt like they saw."

(On his thoughts on how Kayshon Boutte played)

"I think he factored and certainly came up huge in the end. I think he's gotten better, and I like his demeanor as well. Never too up, and never too down. Sometimes the ball finds him, and he makes plays, and when it doesn't, he understands that it just wasn't his snap. To be there at the end, take a good hit, and score? He came up with a huge play there and went in there and won the game for us on a third down. You see the confidence that Drake (Maye) has with him, his play strength, and his ability to go frame the football in a big situation. I hope he can enjoy this for a few minutes with his family, and anybody else that came out here. That was a big play for him."

(On the call challenges and replay reviews)

"I don't think you ever really know nowadays. John Streicher does a fantastic job trying to figure out how they're going to see it. Sometimes they see it the way that we do, and sometimes they don't. We just try to be as smart as we possibly can, and we felt like those were plays that could help us."

(On why the running game didn't pick up momentum)

"Probably one guy away, like always. But we had some positive runs, and we'll keep practicing it and working on it."

(On his confidence in Drake Maye when the game was on the line)

“You know, being in protection and operation, and him knowing where he wants to go with it, and that timing and putting it in a spot where KB (Kayshon Boutte) could make a play.”

(On this being a teachable win for his young team)

“Better than an old team getting out of here with a loss I would say. We will never not enjoy and embrace winning in this league. But I do think that the guys are very aware of the fact that it can be better, and that it will have to be better the more that we go along here and play. I think that is a good sign that they know there are some plays that we left out, and that we could have played better. To do that on the road, and to be able to end it with the ball offensively and in victory formation is fun.”

(On the mindset that the ball will find his offensive players)

“We’ve talked about it; some days it’s well this guy only played this or he didn’t have any snaps. There’s a lot of things that go into offense that a lot of us don’t see or aren’t going to show up, like some of the dirty work, the clear out routes, or guys finishing third level to help guys gain some extra yards. I think it’s just a testament to these guys that understand that they have an opportunity and are going to make the most of it. We need as many of those guys as we can possibly get, in all three phases.”

(On the importance of Marcus Jones on defense)

“He’s one of our captains, and he’s a team leader. I’m very comfortable with him back there. He’s challenged, given that most of the time those matchups are a bigger player. Him being able to go up there, contest the catches, and get some PBUs. Also being able to hammer a ball out, whether that was Christian (Gonzalez) or (Charles) Woods there at the end. That was another one that was probably close to being challenged. Looking at that where the distance we were going to gain getting the ball back, they did us a favor there with that punt. That was probably another close one. Disappointed in getting three points on the goal line. Those are the types of things that will have to improve. We’ll have to make sure that we are not beating ourselves down there, and that we score when we do that and get the ball on the one-yard line.”

(On potentially missing a named game captain)

“Yeah, he didn’t go out. Khyiris Tonga was nervous to go out there maybe, I’m not sure. You can only take six out there, and I’m not sure. I don’t know how many guys are going to go, I usually just talk to Hunter (Henry) and one or two guys that I know are going to go out there. But yeah, it was Khyiris. He does a lot of the dirty work for us on defense, and I really enjoy being around him since the time we signed him.”

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SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

TE JUWAN JOHNSON

(On the loss and needing to move forward after today towards Chicago)

“We have another game ahead of us. We (need to) take full advantage of the opportunity that we have before us. We go against the Bears. We have a great opportunity to bounce back. That is really all that you can do. You can’t harp on what it is or whatever the situation is. It’s like, this is what we’ve (been) dealt, you deal with it and you keep moving forward and make plays.”

(On his fumble today)

“It is what it is. I thought that I had it, but I didn’t. The refs officiated and said it’s a fumble, so it’s a fumble. The only thing that I can do is go into this week and focus on holding the ball properly. I feel like I should’ve went in holding it a little tighter going in with two hands and we wouldn’t be having this conversation right now, but that’s what it is. If there is something that I need to improve on and something that I need to work on, that is my intention for this week, carrying the ball like this organization depends on it, because it does, and go forward.”

DE CHASE YOUNG

(On a close loss today)

“Yeah, we would love to get those. We’ve just got to finish. That is something that we always talk about. In games like this, we’ve just got to execute.”

(On how he feels physically after today’s game)

“I feel great. I feel good.”

(On the keys to New England converting on several third downs)

“We’ve just got to execute. Everybody do your job (and) when the play comes your way, you’ve just got to make sure that you make it. They made more plays than we did.”

K BLAKE GRUPE

(On making field goals today)

“Just have to go out there every time you take the field and execute your job. There’s been a lot of guys in this locker room, coaches, and everybody that is part of this (team) that will say it is only one game. We have to do it every week. Whether it is backing me, having faith in me, and helping to build me up throughout the week, I am thankful that when it’s time to go out there and prove to the people that support me.”

S JUSTIN REID

(On the Patriots' 1st TD to DeMario Douglas)

“Just a barrier in communication. Things that we can just get better at and things that we will have to get better at.”

(On the frustration of close losses)

“Yeah, we do not live in a league that we get moral victories for being close. That is not what the NFL is. The NFL is not about points; it is about W's and L's. We only have one W so far, so it is a bit frustrating. Every man in the building knows what it takes to win. We just have to go out there and execute better. I see myself as a leader. I won't let this start breaking the team down, though. We are not going to allow this to turn into something where we're going to start pointing fingers at each other. And I know that the internet and everything are going to want to tear us apart. But the most important thing is that the team stays as a team on the inside of the building. And that's what I'm going to continue to push. Because as long as we stay together, we'll always have a chance. And if we eliminate the mistakes, we have a chance against anybody, seriously. But we don't stand a chance if we're shooting ourselves in the foot. There are just too many mistakes across the board. And if we clean those up then we play a lot better ball than what we did today.”

(On his method for keeping the team together and morale up)

“First of all, every play that was a quote-unquote bad play is all 11 guys' fault. Every one of them. It is not pointing the finger at one guy here or one guy there. Because there isn't any one of us who played a perfect game today. So it is just about cleaning it up. And it is like, hey, as long as we look out for each other, and we have each other's back, we communicate better. We slow the game down faster. We do not take two drives to slow the game down and start executing. We start executing from the jump. We want to have a better shot.”

(On what the challenge Drake Maye was today)

“Drake is just a consistent guy. Coach (Mike) Vrabel does a great job. You can tell that they are well-coached. It's a fundamental game plan. They didn't do a whole lot. It's about fundamentals, eye control, discipline, and gap integrity. And he managed the game well. They had some long

drives there that ate up a lot of clock. And then a couple of times in the game, he made plays with his feet when he needed to. But for the most part, he stayed calm and collected. So I think he did a good job."

(On Alvin Kamara's desire to remain in New Orleans despite the trade rumors and what culture that sets for the team)

"Yeah, your veterans set the culture of the team. And that is one thing that I do think that we have right. Our veterans here set the culture of the team in the right way. We have just got to execute better. Alvin, the way that he carries himself as a leader, especially through his play. I think that Spence (Rattler) has been doing more than enough. There are things that we can all do to get better, but I thought our offense played well and kept us in the game, especially in the first half. They did a lot to help us out defensively. But as long as your leaders stick together and your leaders remain tight, it doesn't turn toxic or the locker room (doesn't) start falling apart. Because we've all seen those teams. I've been on teams like that before in my career. So, we don't let it get to that point. There's always time to turn it around. We haven't played a single divisional game yet, right? So everything that we want going to the playoffs and beyond, everything that we want is still in front of us. So, we're going to continue to attack that next."

(On what was troublesome about his matchup against Kayshon Boutte)

"He is just a talented kid. We knew coming into the game that he wins a lot of 50-50 balls. That is how I view him. It is like, hey, if we want to take a 50-50 shot, the ball is going to go to number nine. And he won a couple of them. And, yeah, that's what happened."

QB SPENCER RATTLER

(On the offense today)

"I thought it was a game where we moved the ball really well in the first half. We had some great plays. We had some big plays. We could have been a little better on third down. I think we were third and long on a couple of those. We could have finished in the red zone a little more. There were a few plays here and there. It didn't feel like we played poorly. That's the thing. We were a few plays away. We just have to figure out a way to make those plays."

(On the frustration of losing a few games by a few plays)

"It's tough, but that's football especially at this level. You change a few plays and win the game. We have to take advantage of the opportunities. We have to make more plays than them. They made more plays than us and we have to figure out how to make more plays than them."

(On the missed wheel route to Chris Olave near the end zone)

"It was a well-executed play. It is a tough one. We worked on that all week and felt great about it. We had the right look and almost made the play."

(On Olave's dropped passes)

"I'm not worried about him. He is one of our best guys and we are going to keep getting him the ball. We rely on him, and our confidence is high on him."

(On missing on the red zone on the opening drive)

"We got down there and ran a keeper. Then we were at second and five or second and six. We ran the ball and then I think it was third and four. We had man coverage on third and four. We had the look. They brought safety pressure. It was hot. I had to get the ball out. They covered it well. We got a field goal from there. It's just little plays like that. You just have to find a way to make them. It's a collective thing for sure. We know that."

(On the mood in the locker room)

"It is similar to the other games when we came up short. We are right there playing against really good teams. We are right there. We are not happy about the loss. We know that we are a better team than our record says."

(On if it is more frustrating to lose when you have a shot in the fourth quarter)

"Yes, for sure. We have to figure out a way to finish in those fourth quarters. It's as simple as that."

(On the frustration of losing close games)

"Like I said earlier, we know that we are a better team than our record says. We have to find a way to win these one-score games. We have opportunities and it is a collective thing. We have to work on executing during the game."

(On his thoughts on opening the game with a big play)

"We knew that we were going to call that play the last few days. They brought an unscouted look and blitzed the corner. They had a safety on Chris (Olave). I created a little time and put it out there for him. After that play, we were like we are going to roll now. Let's roll. I hate to end up with three on that drive. I thought for sure it would be a touchdown. We have to figure out a way no matter what it is to get seven points up on the board especially after a big play like that."

(On Drake Maye's performance)

"He's a good quarterback. He has a great feel for the pocket. He can use his legs. He can see the field well. He had some nice designed plays today. He had some open stuff and he hit it. It is as simple as that. They executed. They executed more than us. He had a good day. He made some great plays. They had a good game plan and just made some more plays than us. "

(On if he had to prove anything today)

"I want to put my best foot forward every game. I do not want to go out there and look back. I want to go there and be sharp, play clean and make some plays. I want to keep us in the game.

Ultimately, we did not win the game. It is a team thing. We have a lot of playmakers on this team. We have a lot of great players. Like I said earlier, we are not playing like our record says. We have to figure out a way to finish these games out."

(On setting a career-high on yards per attempt and taking more shots down the field)

"I think it is the confidence in our group. We have playmakers. I'm seeing the field well right now. We are getting in good calls. They didn't do much to stop us early on. We moved the ball really well throwing the ball. I thought we could have ran the ball better today. We have to figure out a way to execute if we are throwing it or running it in the third down or red zone. You name it. It is a group thing. We have to clean it up."

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PATRIOTS PLAYER QUOTES

WR DeMARIO DOUGLAS

(On his reaction to today's game)

"It's a blessing. I know this team when we play for 60 minutes, and I got nothing but faith with this team. This is how close we are, I feel like we play on the field for each other. It's not a selfish anything, we are on the field playing for each other."

(On offense spreading the wealth and not getting the ball every game)

"I think it's been good for me, just for, I say (in) chapel and things like that. God's been speaking to me, and I feel like that's what been helping me, go in and keeping my injury right. Last couple chapels have been like stay patient and like the mountain, to get to the top of the mountain you need to go through obstacles. It's definitely different for me, not getting as much play time or stuff like that. But man, I felt like this is what I needed. It helps me play for the team, it takes all that selfish stuff out, it's not me, it's not a me game. It feels good, it feels good to win and play for the team.

(On what he saw for his first touchdown)

"I didn't not see that ball over there, I was excited man. Coach told me, 'I'm going to call it', I'm going to call it early. In practice it was hitting, and then you know my boy School (Brenden Schooler) told me, 'I am not going to lie that play is going to work', and I got in the end zone, bless it."

(On Drake Maye's play right now)

"I don't even think, it's not a surprise man. I know what he can do, he's been balling and doing his thing. And that confidence is growing, confidence growing and I'm proud of him."

(On having a QB that can make plays that aren't drawn up that way)

"The highest that confidence can go, that's where my confidence is at. The team is behind him, and you can see it, how we play for him, get open for him, and make life easier for him."

(On reaction to the pass interference call on Stefon Diggs that nullified a touchdown reception of his)

"Yeah, I did not even know at first, I went to the sideline. And they were like there is a flag and I was like man. But it's like that next play mentality, we got to go get another touchdown then, Kayshon [Boutte] went to score. It stayed in our room, so I'm happy about that."

T WILL CAMPBELL

(On returning to New Orleans)

"It was pretty special, I grew up coming to games here, I played my first college game ever here, so to play here is pretty cool."

(On amount of family at the game)

"People that are somewhat close to me, I probably had about, 60, and then the rest of the town where I grew up, had a bunch so I had a lot of support, a lot of New England fans."

(On how the line's protection was today)

"I think we did fine, you know there is a lot to clean up. One didn't go how we wanted it to, in the second half but we were still able to get the win so that's what matters. Kind of just like Coach (Vrabel) says it's a good feeling when you feel like you can correct a lot, you still get a win. Because you know that means we're not scratching the surface yet. So we just got to go in, make the corrections, get better, fix what we did wrong."

(On Kayshon Boutte's performance)

"I'm super happy for him. Being able, my first game ever in college, like I said, I was out there with him. And he is the same now, so just being able to watch him grow, and live and make explosive plays, like I know he can, and (that) has been his life since high school. It is really cool, and I am super happy for him."

(On the winning pattern of the team the past few games)

"We just do a good job of finding ways to win. We got to work for each other, offense and defense. So, we got a lot to correct, we just got back to work and get ready for Tennessee."

(On not having a letdown from a win)

"You know it doesn't really matter who we play, you have to have the 24-hour rule. Celebrate the win, can't take wins for granted in the league. But at the same time its only Week Six, we got a lot more season left to go. So, we can't rest on our rule about that game."

QB DRAKE MAYE

(On how good was it to leave with a win)

"Anytime coach has said 'You guys celebrate winning this league' no matter how it is or how much we could have played better and how much we left out on the plate. The Saints are a good team and have some good players, and they played hard. It was tough here playing at their place , so I'm just proud of the guys for leaving here with a win."

(On what does it mean for the team to trust you)

"I think it's trying to prove over and over again that you'll be consistent, and doing that you'll know to be smart with the football. The biggest thing in that situation is to try to get first down, safely throw into the sideline; what a play by (Kayshon) Boutte! It felt right being back home for him."

(On what does it feel like to be leading)

"We have more work to do, I think that's the big thing. It feels good getting a win consistently; three in a row and we have to keep going. It feels good to win again and to win on the road, it's always nice to win on the road. I'm just trying to step up leadership wise. The defense played and covered us in the second half. "

(On the drive that had an OPI penalty but that ended with a touchdown)

"It was huge and it was a really late call, we were almost on the sideline and I was about to sit down. I think just coming back, battling and picking up a couple consistent drives in the first half and then Boutte with a great play in the back of the end zone. I was trying to give him a chance one-on-one. One-on-one opens this league and you get to know that. It left some out there coming out of the half, in the second half first drive and that was a bummer but we have to keep going."

(On the opinion on the team's early progress compared to last year)

"Go to get win number five is my only thought. Last year is in the past and we are trying to keep building from that and hopefully keep showing up every week and be a tough team to play on the road. Winning at home is what we're trying to build, so I think we're on the way to that. It was a great team win with all the guys brought in."

WR KAYSHON BOUTTE

(On how much trust Drake Maye has in him)

“We work on it every day at practice, before practice and after practice. As long as we’re trusting each other, anything is possible.”

(On the fourth quarter game-sealing play on third-and-11)

“Press coverage; had an out route averted to a fade. It was a big play in a big moment.”

(On how he stays engaged and doesn’t get frustrated when not getting the ball regularly)

“I think you can only control what you can control. I think if you whine too much about not getting opportunities, sometimes when the ball comes your way you’re not going to make the play. I think it's really about being dialed in throughout the whole game because at any given moment the ball is yours.”

(On making contested catches)

“I think I'm good at contested catches honestly. It’s something I've been doing since college at LSU and it just transferred over to the NFL.”

(On playing with Will Campbell)

“It means a lot, we played together when I was there (Louisiana State University), so we already have that bond and chemistry. Even throughout last year he was texting me, telling them to please draft me here, so he wanted to be here. So now that he’s here its great; great guy great energy i love it.”

(On how it feels to be about to prove you’re a developing NFL player)

“I would say three-four years ago I wasn't in the best position, a lot of off the field stuff. I look at myself like I have been through a lot, and I feel like I am finally getting back together and everything is becoming good. I feel like it’s good to beat the adversity and just keep working.”

(On Drake Maye’s improvement)

“I think Drake trusts all of us. I think that's the biggest thing and efficient offense with the quarterback trusting his receivers to make plays. Sometimes we’re not open, and when coverage is clouded, he plays himself. We trust that he can run with the ball and get the first, and he did get a couple firsts in critical situations. Trusting each other go a long way.”

(**On how the two of them built trust over the past two years)**

“It started offseason and then it went on to training camp, and then the season. Just making plays when the ball came, and then we work on it every day.”