



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS VS. MIAMI DOLPHINS

WEMBLEY STADIUM

Oct. 1, 2017 | 2:30 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Saints vs. Dolphins Transcripts (transcribed by the NFL)

Miami Dolphins

Head Coach Adam Gase

COACH GASE: That's what we're going to have to figure out. Just seems like we're having just too many, every time we get something fixed, something else pops up. So gotta kind of figure out what's going on. We gotta do it quick.

Q. How do you shake this offense out of what they are in?

COACH GASE: We're just going to have to watch this and kind of put these three games together and figure out where our issues are coming from. We're trying to figure out, just talking after the game, we're all just trying to figure out is it one thing that we're kind of slowing us up or is it multiple guys? Is it play calls? Is it the scheme?

You know, we're going to have to really kind of look back at these first three games and kind of see what's going on. We're at a point right now where three games in we felt like we would have had some better results. They did a good job with what they were doing against us, certainly, outside zone is kind of what they were doing. I just know we're better than what we've done the last two games.

Q. It is just one thing or multiple issues?

COACH GASE: That's what we need to take a look at. That's what I'm saying, I wish I could say it's just this, and that's why -- we've got to figure this out quick. I know there's too many good players there. And for us to kind of put the performances we put up the last two weeks is -- we've gotta get it cleaned up.

Q. Your thoughts on the first drive?

COACH GASE: The quarterback had to run 60 yards, 30 to me and 30 back. First call I had.

Q. When you're looking at so many different breakdowns, are you thinking a more widespread reconstruction?

COACH GASE: I have no idea. I have nine hours to think about it.

Q. Talk about only putting up six points in two games





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COACH GASE: Everybody wants to point at the quarterback all the time. I heard that last time I got here, and Ryan is not here to blame this time.

Q. Were there any communication issues on the sideline?

COACH GASE: Yeah, we had communications before this. We had, like, a makeshift wristband, and he was running over to me to get the play call.

Q. (Have you been around an offense in this situation in your career?)

COACH GASE: No.

Q. Was travel an issue for you and the team?

COACH GASE: Haven't moved for me. I haven't heard anybody say anything about fatigue or anything like that. I thought our defense doesn't seem to have a problem. I feel like they're playing well. It's just, we're not coming off on our end of the stick on offense. It's not clicking right now.

Q. Running game-wise, is the offensive line a concern for you now?

COACH GASE: I can't say it's just one thing right now. And whether or not we're too predictable or we're giving something away or we're getting beat, like, that's what we've got to figure out.

Q. Is Jay Ajayi ok?

COACH GASE: He's fine. We are not going to -- the position we're in right there, I just don't need him taking any more hits.

Q. Did the pressure of playing in London get to him?

COACH GASE: He wanted to perform well. That's the kind of passion you want from players. And things weren't going the way we wanted them to. And I think he's in the same boat. A lot of guys on offense are trying to figure out what's going on. Why are we struggling? So sometimes you get towards that part of the game it's just frustration, you get angry.

Q. Still have a shot early in the fourth quarter. There's a big fumble, Ja'Wuan recovered. Immediately after that delay of game, why did that happen?

COACH GASE: Nick thought he got it off. He said he had a second left.

Q. What happened in the huddle?

COACH GASE: I don't know, I wasn't in the huddle.





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Q. Three games into the season, how do you stress to them it's not time to panic? Or is it time to panic?

COACH GASE: It's not time to panic. We've been in way worse than this. We just want to get -- we want to figure out what's going on and then fix the problem. That's really the only thing we're concerned about. 1-4, that was close.

Q. Are there similarities?

COACH GASE: No, last year we had different issues. This year it's just kind of, we've got the guys here, just gotta figure out what's going on. Why are we stumbling?

Q. Last year, they didn't know the system. This year, they do and it's still going wrong?

COACH GASE: But I don't see it as like we're busting all over the place. We're just not making the plays when we get the opportunity to make them. We're not always getting our guys covered up to give Jay a little bit of a crease.

We're not protecting the quarterback consistently all the time. And then it's just a different guy every time. And it's not necessarily a mental bust or anything. It's just sometimes I have to call the right play at the right time and sometimes you've got to make a play. And sometimes you've got to make a throw. Sometimes you've got to make a guy miss.

We're not doing that consistently enough to where we can kind of get some momentum going.





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Jay Cutler

Q. How frustrating is it, the offense, first drive, you're moving down the field, you have penalties. Seemed like you got penalties offensively in the first half (inaudible)?

JAY CUTLER: Yeah, the penalties didn't really slow down throughout the game. That was one constant for us. First drive was clean. Like you said, overcome some penalties. We didn't have a headset, so we're working off the sidelines. That was something different.

Listen to Adam speaking in here and it's frustrating. I think we're all, on offense a little humbled, a little embarrassed. Two games like that. And we feel like we're better. There's a lot of individual talent on that side of the ball, but offensive football is tough.

We've got to figure out how to work as a unit and as a team. And I think you can ask a lot of people in the NFL there's no real magic bullet for that. There's no magic recipe, but the clock's ticking and we have to figure it out.

Q. Is it just about getting together and watching the tape, regrouping, trying to find it, or are you seeing similar things that happened last week happen again this week?

JAY CUTLER: You know, it's just one thing after another. If it's not a penalty, it's a bust. If I'm not getting the ball out on time, we're not ready on the outside. I think it's just one thing after another. And third-and-long in this league is hard enough. Getting 15 is about impossible especially when you have multiple of those throughout the game.

Like I said, it's hard on offensive football. We've got to figure it out. I don't know the answer. There's a lot of guys in there searching for the answer.

So it's important to them. It's important to me. Which I think is a good thing. So these guys are going to bust their tail, and we'll watch it on the way home and we'll go back to work.

Q. When you look around the locker room, do you feel you have the talent to be better than you are?

JAY CUTLER: Yeah, we've got all kinds of individual talent. But individual talent doesn't really mean a whole lot on offense if you're not working together. You've got 11 guys, a common goal doing exactly what you need to do. It's orchestrated chaos out there, and we're trying to figure out how to do a better job.





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Q. How do you assess your throwing accuracy?

JAY CUTLER: There's a lot that goes into that.

Q. Do you think it is disruptive coming to London?

JAY CUTLER: Do I think it's disruptive? Yeah, I do. It's not the -- not the best circumstance for us. But we go to LA. We go to New York. It's a life. It is what it is.

Q. How do you get to the point where you're not panicking on offense?

JAY CUTLER: I don't think we're panicking now. I'm sure there's some people in this room that are panicking, but we're not panicking. We've played three games, two have been poor, one has been okay offensively.

I don't think there's any panic. If anything there's some frustration and there's a will to go back to work and try to figure out what's wrong and how we can remedy it.

Q. Given that you're relatively new to this group, you sense that there's a lot of trust in you, even when things don't go well (inaudible)?

JAY CUTLER: (Inaudible).





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Ndamukong Suh

Q. 74 plays, pretty similar to last week, I know it's a team game, is it tough to keep going like that when your offense is struggling the way this offense is?

NDAMUKONG SUH: It's on us to get off the field. We've got to find ways to get off the field, get three-and-outs, get them more opportunities at the end of the day. So that's our own fault, and we let them drive the ball too much on us at particular positions.

Q. One of the things you guys talk about is defensive takeaways. You've had one takeaway in the three games. Is that something you guys talk about, is that something that is discouraging?

NDAMUKONG SUH: It's definitely a point of emphasis. We've obviously struggled in that certain area. It helped us in the past. We've got to find a way to get back there. We definitely had opportunities. I had an opportunity on one particular screen. There was one late in the second quarter, I don't know if it was a fumble or what, but we had an opportunity to get some there. It's an opportunity we have to capitalize on.

Q. As a defensive player, can you lift the offense?

NDAMUKONG SUH: No, I think that's definitely possible. I think we do it, but I think the best way to do it is give them more opportunities with the ball. We've got to get off the football field, plain and simple.

We've been on the football field way too long, we've allowed them to score points. So especially when we can hold them to field goals in certain situations, or really get off the field. Because I think it was especially the second to last drive of the game, drive down the field and score points.

Q. You're 1-2 now. You were 1-4 last year. If you can draw on last year, how was it that the team didn't splinter and get worse?

NDAMUKONG SUH: I think it's as simple as this: We understand what we have as a group. And obviously we're not playing our best football in any offense, defense or special teams, we're not playing our best football at all.

At the end of the day, we've got to just find a way to get it clicking, get our offense the ball, prepare our defense, and special teams make plays like we have in the past. And then go from there. We make turnovers. We can score on defense ourselves, and we've done it before. And, like I said, we've got to





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get the ball and capitalize on the opportunities.

Q. Any sense that your schedule going forward will get easier?

NDAMUKONG SUH: I don't think it's easy at all in the NFL. I think at the end of the day we're going against elite players. And, yes, we'll be at home the next week. And we'll be, particularly, on the East Coast, even though Kansas City is in the middle of the country.

But, like I said, we've got to go out there, compete as well as make plays on defense and go from there.

Q. What did you say to Thierry Henry before the game?

NDAMUKONG SUH: Just said hello. Good friend, met him in 2011, and just wanted to catch up quickly before the game.

Q. How disruptive to your routine is it to be playing a game like this?

NDAMUKONG SUH: I wouldn't say it's disruptive. This is my third time over here. So I'm used to it. I know how to get prepared for the games. And there's really no excuses on my part or really anybody's part. I think everybody on this team has been over here before.





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Reshad Jones

Q. What was the key to keeping the offense under control?

RESHAD JONES: Lose a guy (phonetic) out there today. We had a good game plan coming in. And we followed the game plan, I guess.

Q. What are your thoughts on turning this around?

RESHAD JONES: We'll definitely turn it around, man. I don't think it's the time to hit the panic button right now. Just gotta find a way. We've got to finish. It's a game of inches, and that's what it comes down to.

We got a couple of close calls at the end, like the measurement, the fourth down play, the first down, couple of close calls. We've just got to find a way to finish.

Q. Did you think that was a first down?

RESHAD JONES: I can't be a player and a referee. The referee said it wasn't a first down.

Q. Takeaways, something I know you guys have been working on. How do you get to that point where you keep working on them when they keep getting away?

RESHAD JONES: Gotta keep working at it throughout the week, during practice. I think that's when you work those kind of things as far as takeaways and turnovers, or fumble, fumble recovery. We've just got to keep working.

Q. Do you think the defense is doing enough to win games?

RESHAD JONES: No, we're moving. So I think we've gotta do more on our side of the ball also. All three phases of the game, really. But definitely defense, we have to step it up, too. When the offense is not doing good, I think we have to raise our play. When we're not doing good, I think the offense has to raise their play also.

Q. You guys turned around last season, 1-4 now you're 1-2. Do you draw on that now?

RESHAD JONES: Definitely. Like I said, we've got resilient guys in this locker room. We've got a great coaching staff. We've got a great leader in Coach Adam Gase.

I think he'll find a way to get this offense going and this whole team. So, like I said, I don't think it's time to hit the panic button right now. We'll find a way to bounce back.





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Jay Ajayi

Q. How frustrating was the game for you?

JAY AJAYI: Didn't put any points on the board. Frustrating.

Q. Seems like over the last two weeks, by the time you got the ball, there was somebody in your way, had to make things happen. Had the hole not been there for you, that you had a chance to see on a pretty consistent basis last year?

JAY AJAYI: I just know that we have a standard of running the ball. We know how it's supposed to look when we're playing up to that standard. And for the past couple of weeks we haven't been doing that. And so whatever we need to do to get back to that standard of what we believe we can do on the ground, we need to get there.

Q. How frustrated are the guys in that offensive room right now -- how frustrating is it for you?

JAY AJAYI: I think everyone's frustrated. Two games, really -- I mean, to put it, three games. And even in Los Angeles, we didn't, like, score in the red zone. We're not putting points up. It's frustrating.

It doesn't make sense, because we have the talent. So we have to figure out ways to put points on the board. Our defense is playing well and they're keeping them not scoring, and we're not helping them out.

And I know that sucks for the D, because we're supposed to play together as a team. And we're not helping them out.

And on offense we need to have some pride in ourselves, have some respect for ourselves, put points on the board. We're not doing it. We need to get back to what we know how to do.

Q. You looked upset on the sidelines.

JAY AJAYI: From the part of us not scoring, obviously I'm frustrated. Unless you're talking about a certain incident, maybe on the Saints sideline, where I got hit, or out and got hit when the play wasn't even around. Other than that, just frustrated at the game, period.

Q. Does it hurt more that it was a special game and you were coming home?

JAY AJAYI: Definitely. I mean, I would have loved to have a great game for my family, have a great game to be able to come back here. Even all of that being said, this is our next game. This is our next





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opportunity to get a win.

Whether it was here in London, Miami. We lost last week. We needed to bounce back this week. And we didn't. And that's frustrating. And we didn't score any points. So that sucks even more.

Q. Will it be good to get back home and back to a conventional routine?

JAY AJAYI: Regardless of whatever the routine has been, we shouldn't -- it shouldn't have mattered that we should have zero points on the board.

Wherever we're playing, whoever we're playing, we still need to put points on the board. It's going to be good to get back to Miami and get a home game in. But what happens if we go to Miami and don't score points? So we need to do whatever it takes to do our job on offense.

Q. No rest in this league. You've got Tennessee next week. A very good football team. Is there some way you guys can go from where you are today to be a better offense next week when you need to put points on the board against another very good football team?

JAY AJAYI: Sure.

Q. Can you do that in that week's time?

JAY AJAYI: We figure it out. We look at the film. We figure out what is inhibiting us from doing what we need to do. And we figure out what those issues are and we fix them.

Like you said, we're playing against a good Tennessee team. But even last year we were 1-4 going into a couple of weeks. And we figured it out. We finally got it to click.

Whatever we need to do during this week to get our offense to get going, that's what we need to figure out. And we need to get that done on Sunday.

Q. Is everything ok with your knee?

JAY AJAYI: Coach's decision.

Q. Can you give us thoughts on this trip as a whole?

JAY AJAYI: I mean, yeah, it was a good trip, got to see my family and all that stuff. This was the main objective of the trip, this was all that mattered for the trip, was this game on Sunday.

Regardless of anything else I did these past couple of days, this was the primary objective. Get a win





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today. We didn't get that done.

Q. Is there a little feeling of helplessness that the things that you know need to be fixed from last week aren't necessarily fixed?

JAY AJAYI: we need to figure it out. Someone has to make a play. Number gets called on at any given time, we need to make the play. We need those moment of truth blocks where you just need to hold on just a second longer so we can spring to the second level.

Or if it's a guy that needs to get off of a defender and make that big play, or if I need to do better and make sure I get the first down when it's a third and one, whatever it is, however the play is blocked up, I need to get the first down, keep our drives running.

Everyone needs to be held accountable on our offense, because we're not doing what we need to do. It's very frustrating because we're very talented. We have the skills but we're not putting it up there. So we need to figure that out.





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Cameron Wake

Q. Cam, trying to evaluate this before looking at tape, how does this team turn things around?

CAMERON WAKE: There's only one solution that I know of: That's hard work, perseverance and dedication. You gotta be honest with yourself, be honest with the men around you, take a good, long look at what's going on. Film doesn't lie.

So all three phases, you gotta do that. And be a man about what's going on and address it, fix it.

Q. Is there a situation with your offense struggling out there, I would imagine your mindset going, saying we've got to pitch a shutout, we've got to pitch a shutout, that's what's going to take to win.

CAMERON WAKE: Obviously it's the Miami Dolphins, not offense/defense. We've got to make sure they score less points than we've been giving up.

And at the end of the day, whoever has more points wins. So if we've got to keep them to zero, we've got to keep them to zero. And that's just the way it is.

If the offense isn't having a great day, we have to turn it up on defense. If things are switched, they go and score 40, we've got to score 40. That's just the way it is. We have each other's backs and that's the way it's going to be.

Q. How do you keep them uplifted when they've been struggling so much in the past?

CAMERON WAKE: I think it's been times where we've had games where they've done the same for us and gotta go out and say, listen, get me one play, get the ball rolling, get me a spark somewhere, whoever it may be. If that's what it takes, that's what it takes. And so I'm not panicking.

Urgency is there, of course, but we have good players. We have hard, tough, mentally strong individuals on that side of the ball as well. And I think those guys know what's going on and what's needed.

And I wouldn't expect that all of us as a group wouldn't be able to attack the problem and fix it.

Q. What did Alvin Kamara do to allow him to be so effective?





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CAMERON WAKE: I don't know if it was anything that he was able to do. I think on defense, we've got to play more consistent. I think they say more games are lost than won. Some things that we might have done to ourselves that allowed certain players to have certain plays, but I wouldn't say it was anything spectacular.

Q. Is there any sense that it's easier now that you have a more conventional schedule going forward?

CAMERON WAKE: Anywhere, anytime, that's the mentality. Put the ball down. Play. London, the moon, LA, New York, doesn't matter. That's the mindset we have. So the situation doesn't matter. Time doesn't matter, the time zone, country. Put the ball down.

Q. Is this disruptive to you at all, your routine and preparation, traveling to get here?

CAMERON WAKE: No, just another day. Another day at the office. I put the ball down anywhere. We can do it right now. Doesn't matter to me.

If you were allowing that to affect your game, you've already lost. So for me, and I think I speak for most of the guys, it's just another day at work.

Q. Is there still great trust in the locker room?

CAMERON WAKE: I believe so. I hate to bring up old stuff, but last year, it was situations where people wrote us off, panicked. It was: The sky's falling, oh, no. And obviously things went differently, because the group of guys we had. The guys who believe in one another and continue to work and continue to work. And make sure at the end of the day you get your job done.

So I don't think this situation is any more different. A lot of guys are the same guys who we've been counting on from years ago. And we've been in tough spots and we fought our way out. I wouldn't expect anything different this year.





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New Orleans Saints

Head Coach Sean Payton

SEAN PAYTON: A couple observations: I thought defensively we did a lot of good things today; getting a shutout, of course, is significant. I thought the first half was fairly sloppy, and yet there were a number of good things. I thought in the second half we were able to take advantage of a couple possessions and make it a two-score game.

It was obvious the game was being played a certain way. I'm sure we're going to look at the film and have a lot of things to correct, but it was a good one to get. A long way to come to get it, but it was worth it.

Any questions?

Q. Talk about Ken Crawley's play today.

SEAN PAYTON: Played very well. He's just done -- he's done a real good job. The interception in that first quarter, it's a big play. He's really -- from year 1 to year 2, he played a lot last year. We've seen him in training camp, you guys have seen him really locate the ball, and I was proud of him.

Q. How important was it to get the win going into the bye week?

SEAN PAYTON: Look, they're all important games. I think it's important going into the bye having won a couple games in a row. Certainly, to be at this position starting off the way we did is encouraging. We still have a number of things we've got to clean up.

Q. You guys were using four safeties on some of those third downs. What's the advantages to getting those four guys in?

SEAN PAYTON: We were in a lot of three-safety looks, you know, Buffalo look. They get you in no-huddle, and if you end up getting caught with small guys on the field, sometimes it can be tough against their run game. Dennis' staff did a great job just looking real closely at how we can hold up against the three-receiver sets with maybe a little bit more size.

Kenny, the other safeties, obviously, Vonn and Marcus and those guys, Rafael, they all did a good job.

Q. How about Alvin Kamara's performance?





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SEAN PAYTON: Yeah, that would be an easier one to answer. Look, he's an explosive player. You don't know how these touches are going to come. I mean, the shovel pass was kind of a third-down play inside the 7. We decided to use it there. It was a good run defense. I was just pleased with the team when -- you know, we did enough to win a game that was important for us, and we'll make the corrections.

Q. How about getting back-to-back wins, how important was that?

SEAN PAYTON: I think I just said it. You know, it was important -- the two-game schedule for us after New England was going to be important - at Carolina and then off to England. Really this month was challenging, and yet we felt like it was important for us to come out here like we did right away after the Carolina game. I thought our operations people did a great job, hotel and everyone. That was a plus.

Q. How about the penalties during the game?

SEAN PAYTON: Don't get me going here. I'm in a good mood.

Q. Can you comment on the way you won?

SEAN PAYTON: Listen, you've heard me say it before, and Bill said it to me a number of times, it doesn't have to be aesthetically pleasing to be effective. It's important we understand how the game's being played on offense, no different than how we would want the defense to understand the way the game's being played.

And I thought ball security was going to be key in the game. We won that turnover battle again, the field position, I thought -- it wasn't perfect. There's a number of things we're going to want to clean up, but it was good enough tonight.

Q. On the communication problem in the first quarter:

SEAN PAYTON: Listen, it was a whole quarter. Three minutes before the game starts, that should never happen, not in an NFL game, but it did. We dealt with it.

Q. Is this the start of a winning streak now?

SEAN PAYTON: Hopefully, it's a combination of, you know, the guys paying attention to it generally wins games. Certainly, as that game wore on, every one of those players needed to understand the significance of not giving them an opportunity back in the game. So we took care of it. Again, I was pleased.





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Q. When they have a seven, eight-minute drive to start the game, does that change anything about how you come out? Do you think about the clock more on that first drive?

SEAN PAYTON: No. I mean, you're always wanting -- if you start on defense, you're wanting to get off the field, but it doesn't change. Certainly, you're aware of the time of possession, and you recognize the defense had a lot of snaps to start with.

Q. Can you talk about recognizing how the game's going to be played early. Does it sometimes take 30 minutes to make the right adjustments?

SEAN PAYTON: Well, our challenges at halftime were more personnel with tight end, with Josh -- just a handful of guys that the minute they're down, it really affects your game plan. I feel like there were a handful of injuries tonight, and we had to make adjustments. I felt like we spent a lot of time at the half eliminating plays that we weren't going to run or deciding on ones we wanted to, and then what were the ones we wanted to feature? It's not real long. It's like nine, ten minutes, and you're going.

Q. There's been a strength and awareness that Mike Thomas --

SEAN PAYTON: It's one of his strong suits. It comes up regardless of where you're playing. He's strong off the ball and hard to tackle.

Q. On the pregame National Anthems.

SEAN PAYTON: Look, it's a credit to our leadership on the team, and we just felt like they were going to meet and spend some time on it and come up with a plan, and we were going to be really unified, and I thought -- you know, I thought it went real well. Listen, I was proud of the leadership on the team. I'd forgotten Darius Rucker was in. He's a good friend. I'm running over while they're singing. I felt awful because I thought it was done, and God Save the Queen was coming up next, and I'm halfway across the field. Anyway, it was good to see him.

Q. Why did you hold out P.J. Williams at the start of the game?

SEAN PAYTON: That would be between us and P.J. Any more questions?

Q. Why did you?

SEAN PAYTON: Because I chose to. Any more? All right. Thank you.





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Oct. 1, 2017 | 2:30 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Drew Brees

Q. Is it as simple as just, if you don't turn it over, you certainly got a shot? No turnovers again. I know that's huge for you, right?

DREW BREES: Yeah, that's winning football, and that's complementary football. There's times where it would be easy to get overaggressive, especially in a game that's hard fought and back and forth, but at times you've got to play the field-position game. At the end of the day, if you can get some first downs, pin them down in there, maybe get a short field the next time around because your defense stops them or maybe they feel the pressure and defense is able to get a turnover or something of that nature, that's -- you know, that creates momentum, that creates confidence, that creates points. Again, that's winning football. That's complementary football.

Q. Drew, can you talk about how you guys adapted to the situation week to week offensively, seeing you guys 300 yards, 400 yards, now just not turning it over, playing efficient.

DREW BREES: Whatever it takes to win. Obviously, we love big plays. I would consider us a big-play offense. Yet we know when we get into games where -- I feel like their mindset was to keep it in front of them. You could tell that very early on. So I think we knew we were going to have to be pretty methodical, very efficient in both the run game and the pass game. Completions, two and three-yard runs at times are a good thing to get yourself into third and manageable. Felt like we were really good on third down today. Kept drives alive.

A ton of long drives. You come off to the sideline, and looking at the tablet, and it's a 13-play drive or a 14-play drive. When you can do that and it results in points, you just kept your defense off the field for six minutes, as well. So those are good things.

Q. How about Alvin Kamara and the job he did today?

DREW BREES: His maturation process is going well. He's got two veteran running backs in AP and Mark to learn from. He continues to find an even broader role in this offense. Obviously there's a lot things he can do - run the football, catches the ball. Ten catches today on ten targets. That's pretty efficient.

So we're not going to complain about that, and continue to broaden the scope of what he can do for this offense.





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Q. You have confidence in Mike Thomas. A bunch of times when you threw to him, he had a guy all over him, and you threw to him.

DREW BREES: Yeah, I do have a lot of confidence in him. He's a big, physical guy who expects to make the big plays, and you want to give him the opportunities.

Q. Drew, what pleased you the most about the decision in the pregame to kneel.

DREW BREES: Yeah, the decision to kneel on the white prior to the anthem and then everyone stand up together, number one, it shows solidarity and unity for us as a team. Listen, it pays respect to all. It pays respect to the cause of social injustice and inequality, and it pays respect to the flag of the United States of America. I hope that's the way it came across today, was paying respect for all.

Q. You talked about the communication issues:

DREW BREES: So the headsets were out. When headsets are out for one side, then the other side can't use it either. We adjusted. We adjusted. You're having to kind of run to the sideline from time to time to get communications, but I feel like we do a pretty good job of that.

RE: Playing well three straight weeks:

DREW BREES: Listen, go back to two weeks ago, and obviously we were in a tough spot, starting the season 0-2. Obviously not the start that we all wanted or expected. But we played two good football teams, at Minnesota and then New England, two playoff-caliber teams, obviously.

So we were starting to play better, though. We felt like we were closer than maybe everyone was trying to make us believe. I think we felt like we just keep plugging away, and it's going to begin to happen. The formula is there. We've just got to keep trusting that formula and that process. On the road, get a big win at Carolina, and then come on the road here and get a big win in London.

We'll get that much-needed bye week to get this jet lag out of our system and refocus and get ready for Detroit.

Q. Drew, Ramczyk played left and right and we've seen him play both in the same game. How difficult is that for a rookie to adjust the way he has?

DREW BREES: It's really impressive, his ability to do that. That's tough, especially midstream and especially against those pass rushers. But credit to him, credit to that whole offensive line because, when Strief went down, there was the shuffle that went left tackle to right tackle, left guard to left tackle, and then off the bench to left guard. But those guys didn't miss a beat. That's what they prepare for.





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RE: The defense today:

DREW BREES: It's huge. It's huge. Again, we talk complementary football. There's a winning formula on defense. There's a winning formula on offense. If you can put that together -- at times, it may not be the most fancy looking performance, and yet it's winning football.

Defense did a great job of getting that turnover. They drive down the length of the field, and then we get the pick, and then unfortunately, we drive the length of the field and missed the field goal. So there's very few possessions in the first half just because of those long drives.

But for them to stop Miami and give us a two-minute drive opportunity, we get a field goal, we come in with momentum 3-0, and then we take the opening drive down the field and score a touchdown. Those are huge momentum shifts in the game, and that's complementary football. Defense getting off the field, getting us the ball, getting us good field position, and getting turnovers at times, and then offensively us being methodical and marching the ball down the field and scoring points.

Q. I'm sure the food is going to taste better the next few weeks. How good does it feel going into a bye week on a win streak, and in the middle of the fight for the playoffs?

DREW BREES: Playoffs are a long way away. We're not thinking about that. The next opponent Detroit, is a team that's playing extremely well. We get the bye week. They're going to play, and we'll see them the week after that.

That's an explosive team, one we're going to have to be ready for. To get to 3-2, to get on the winning side of things would be great.

RE: Going into the bye week:

DREW BREES: In a way, you want to keep that momentum going. I think it's a good opportunity for guys to get healthy, for us to recharge, especially coming off a trip like this, where you spend a week here and just being away from our home facility and our fans and our family. It would be nice to get a week just to kind of recharge. We'll be ready to roll after that.

