



DENVER BRONCOS VS. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016 • MERCEDES-BENZ SUPERDOME
SAINTS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening Statement: “Obviously, it's a tough loss, a tough way to lose at the end like that. I thought there were a number of things that were encouraging defensively where we did a really good job, considering some of the short field positions (they were handed). The turnovers in a game like that are significant, especially when you end up with four like we had. We were fortunate to be in the game in the end.”

On if he thinks Will Parks stepped out of bounds on the blocked PAT return: “It's hard to tell. I think those guys (officials) are doing their best to look at it. He has white shoes on and sidelines are white so there is not a really good picture, at least I did not see one.”

On if there was anything illegal about Justin Simmons' blocked PAT: “No, you're allowed to jump. It's a strategy that most teams have. At a certain point, in order to make it illegal, the center has to rise up a little bit and catch some contact with the player that is jumping. We should have been able to see it. It is one of those situations where you either change up your snap count, but the timing by him (Simmons) was good and we weren't able to recognize the look. We should have.”

On Michael Thomas' fourth quarter fumbles: “Ball security is poor, especially the first one.”

On what you say to a rookie like Michael Thomas so that the fumbles don't become an issue or even a mental issue: “It won't become a mental thing. Some lessons in our league are learned the hard way. You hope that ball security is not one of them, but that doesn't just happen to rookies either so we have to get that corrected or it will continue to repeat itself.”

On what you tell your team in a loss like this: “It's disappointing but we've had tough losses and the sky is not falling today. I think the key is we have a quick turnaround, a quick week, so it is important that it does not affect the next game.”

On if he thinks the result of the game would be different if the defense could get off the field on more third and long situations: “You mean stay on the field offensively, I thought the defense played well. I think we, offensively, early in the game struggled on third down. They made some plays, but it seemed like a lot of the game was spent on our side of the 50 and that is a result of the turnovers.”

On making adjustments at halftime: “One of the challenges is they do a good job playing their man-to-man scheme and you really have to get into some tight looks, formationally, to create some leverage. When we were able to do that, we had some success. If you spread out it is a little bit more challenging.”

On Cam Jordan's impact: “It appeared to be, based on watching the game, that he was doing well. But we will have a chance to see it quickly and then move on.”

On if he is encouraged by the pass rush today: “I thought it was important. We were able to disrupt the quarterback some. In a lot of areas, when we watch the tape (we'll see) we did enough good things to give us a chance to win and yet, enough things that kept us from winning.”



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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

Opening comments: “I am very proud of our team. We fought. We fought all day long. That was our message last night in our team meeting. I just want to see everybody fight; coaches, players, and everybody laid it on the line. It was a great football game. We made a big play at the end. Obviously, (Justin) Simmons (made the block) and a great call by (Special Teams Coach) Joe (DeCamillas) and us executing and getting it done (was big). (It was) a really big win for our football team.”

On if the team worked on the extra point block “It’s something you work on all of the time. It’s risky to do because if you touch somebody, you know that it’s a penalty. There are certain situations in games where you say that it’s worth the risk. That was one of them. I’m sitting there thinking about us having to go kick a field goal. I hear everybody go crazy and I look up and there goes Will (Parks). It definitely worked and panned out. I give Joe (DeCamillis) credit for always keeping grinding on it, making the guys work, and getting it done.”

On what he was thinking about when he was looking down as the extra point attempt was being blocked “I’m sitting there thinking about what we’ve got to do next with the possession. I knew what Joe (DeCamillas) was doing, but I was talking on the headset, trying to think about where we go and try to get ourselves in field goal range.”

On winning time of possession and the running game “We got off to a good start as a team. We got ahead. The turnover right before the half hurt. What it boils down to is (production on) third downs. I think that we were 11 or 12 for 19, so that gives you plays. We didn’t run the ball well, but we ran the ball. It gives you a chance to run the ball. We’ve got to protect our quarterback better. That’s where the (extra) snaps came from. Obviously, defensively, we stopped the run.”

On his thoughts on the extra point return official review “They said upstairs, ‘Coach, he has got a white shoe on. It’s really, really close. The fact that they called it one way, I think that it’ll stand.’ They felt that way. I don’t know. I haven’t seen a replay, but that’s what they told me.”

On if he was worried that the call would be reversed “Oh yeah, you are always worried. There are defining moments in your season. That’s a big one.”

On the timing of the bye week “We need it. That’s 14 in a row for us if you count the preseason. That’s about 19 weeks of straight football for us. I need to freshen this organization up, the players, the coaches. We will get some of these guys back after the bye. We will work our young guys here. We’ll be smart. I have to get this team fresh for the last six because we are really going to play in six playoff games. We are going to play in a lot of big games here down at the end of the season. I think that the first 10 weeks worked. Obviously, we’ve got to get better. I am really proud of how hard we fought and where we are at right now. We just have to freshen up and get ready to go.”



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SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES

S Kenny Vaccaro

(On if they were trying different schemes on defense today) “Yeah, things were a little bit different today, but the plan of attack has been different every game.”

(On his overall reaction to the loss) “It has happened before to other teams, but hey, that is why you praise defense, offense and special teams. It all works together. You need the perfect snap, the perfect protection and the perfect kick every time, and it works the same way on offense and defense. That is why Coach Payton works so hard. When we take a special teams rep, we take it very seriously.”

(On the personal foul penalty for hitting Trevor Siemian out of bounds) “We held them to a field goal that drive, so it didn’t bother me that much to have that penalty. He didn’t step out of bounds, and I launched before he had reached the sideline. We’re taught to not let quarterbacks just run out of bounds. I don’t think I’m a dirty player. I rarely get any personal foul penalties; you can check my track record. We are taught that if the guy is on the sideline, but not out of bounds, to launch. It was a bang bang play, and one that ended up not determining the outcome of the game.”

(On his interception) “They [Denver] lined Demaryius [Thomas] up in the slot. I have watched tape, and I know they like the inside cuts with him, so I kind of baited the quarterback a little bit and stepped right into the hole. Fortunately, [Trevor] Siemian threw it right to where I was standing. That was just film study, and Sterling [Moore] did a good job by playing outside leverage, knowing that I was going to cut under that defense.”

DE Cameron Jordan

(On taking over the game today in the run game and pass rush) “At some point, your job’s to disrupt the quarterback and make him uncomfortable. I really took that to heart this game. We knew that we weren’t dealing with a quarterback who was going to blaze us with his feet, so that makes your rushing job (defending the run) a little bit easier. That being said, we clearly didn’t do enough to get the win and that’s what we have to focus on.”

(On having short turnaround before playing Carolina) “That’s a great thing. It’s a blessing, so we can get this bad taste out of our mouth, go to Carolina, and hopefully get a win.”

(On confidence of the defense) “It’s all about the team. We may have played well today, but the team wants a win and that team needs a win. We have to find that resolve.”

LB Craig Robertson

(On whether he thought Will Parks stepped out of bounds on the run back) “That’s above my pay grade. I let the people in New York decide that.”

(On a tough loss after things seem to finally be clicking for the team) “It’s the league. You aren’t going to win every game, but it’s how you come back the next week that shows who you are as a team. It’s rare when a team goes undefeated; it’s special, it’s history, but the way a team battles after a loss is the definition of a team.”

(On if it helps to have a short week after a game like this) “No matter whether this one was a win or a loss, we know going in that we were playing Carolina next. The chips fell, we got a loss, and now we have to go back and earn ourselves a win to get back on track on the route that we were going.”

CB Sterling Moore

(On his interception before the end of the half) “It was a three-step drop. He ran a slant route right into the second window of the coverage that we were in. I tried to show like I was in man coverage, and when he looked out, I knew what was coming. I saw the receiver go in, read his eyes, and jumped it.”

(On if that interception led to a momentum shift) “Definitely. That was huge for us. They were definitely in field goal range at that time. It was big to make it 10-3 and make it a one score game was huge for us. The fans

were definitely into it at that point, and the offense goes out there and does their job. That's a big momentum shift, especially when, as a defense, we have to go out there to start the second half. That was big for us."

(On improvement of defense reflecting today) "We are so resilient. Everyone is out there for each other right now. Everyone on the defensive group is back and healthy, and it just shows what we can do. Obviously, we have to eliminate some mistakes, as we do in every game, but I think we are all coming together and we are playing as the defense that we are supposed to be."

K Wil Lutz

(On what he saw on the last extra point) "I'm not really sure. I know there was a jumper. It was a blocked kick that got returned back for two points."

(On if he has seen a game decided like that) "I don't really know. I'm just trying to take it all in right now."

(On if it's a tough loss) "It's tough."

LS Justin Drescher

(On the blocked extra point late in the fourth quarter) "I will have to watch it on film, but we have a jumper call. I don't really know what happened. I know we had a good snap, hold and kick. He just timed that perfect and got up on top of me. It is what it is. More power to them. They had a good scheme in tying me up. I should have tried to knock him down, flip him or whatever I could do."

(On if they held him down) "I'm going to have to watch it on film, but it felt like their defensive tackles kind of pulled me forward and down, so I really couldn't pop up as fast. That is what I felt in the time and the moment. I do not know what exactly happened, but I will watch it on film tomorrow and understand better so I can get that guy."

(On if he saw him coming) "I didn't. When I first looked up I didn't see him line up over the snapper. He must have moved over when I got my target line in my snap and I put my head between my legs. More power to them. They had a great scheme. It's frustrating because it is a hard way to lose."

WR Brandin Cooks

(On his catches during the final drive) "It's one of those things where you have to keep your head in the game. You never know when it is going to come your way. You need to take advantage of opportunities. Drew (Brees) threw two great balls at the end. It's frustrating to get into that position and see the way things happen. We just have to come back to work now."

(On the game's emotions) "It's one of those things that happened so fast. I didn't even get to see it from the standpoint of seeing it live. It just shows you that we all need to be on point. We all have to connect."

(On advice to Michael Thomas) "The great ones put it behind them. Michael Jordan says that he missed way more shots than he made. That's something that I talked to him about. I'm his big brother. I'll probably have him over today to chill out and get his mind right. He's a great player."

WR Willie Snead

(On how having a short week coming up affects the team's mindset after the loss today) "It depends upon what kind of guys we have in the locker room. We need to have a strong mindset to where we have to be able to look past this. We need to answer the questions and move on. It's going to hurt for 24 hours, but I think once Tuesday comes, then we'll be ready to go."

(On the difficult emotions of the game)

"Absolutely, most of the games have been like that this season. We are battle-tested for sure. We hate to lose like this, but I know that it is going to make us stronger. We are going to come out Thursday ready to go."

RB Mark Ingram

(On his thoughts after the last turnover) "I thought the defense would stop them. They would get a field goal. Then, we were going to go down the field and score a touchdown. I didn't get the extra point right."

(On combatting their pass rush) "We've known all along that they have two elite pass rushers. We wanted to make sure that we protected and helped out these tackles. They did a great job. It's just great to drop back and

have some added protection when you have elite rushers like that.

(On their second half adjustments) “We just had to stop shooting ourselves in the foot. We had to get some drives going. We had to get some first downs. We had to get some momentum.”

(On Michael Thomas’s two fumbles and how he will help him as a teammate move beyond it) “I will tell him to keep his head up and don’t worry about it. It sucks. It sucks bad. He is a great player. He’s a great, great player. We need him. He just has to bounce back and work hard at it. It just sucks. When you play offense in this league and you carry the ball enough times, it’s bound to happen eventually. It sucks. It’s the worst. You never want to put the ball on the ground because you feel bad and you feel bad that you let your teammates down. That dude is a young talent. He is mentally strong. We got his back. Despite the two fumbles, we had a chance to win the game. It’s not on him. This is a team game. We overcame that and had a chance to win the game.”

T Zach Strief

(On if he thought they had the win) “Yes.”

(On how hard it will be to bounce back) “We’ll be fine. We’ll get back in there tomorrow. We’ll get back on it.”

(On Michael Thomas) “Guys make mistakes. Mike will come back. We have a lot of faith in Mike.”



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SAINTS QB DREW BREES

(On the loss) “Still in disbelief, a little bit. Especially when you score at the end, you think that’s, I don’t want to say the game-winner, but listen, it puts you up by a point, then, ‘Hey let’s see what happens.’ The minute the guy jumped over and it got blocked and the other guy got it there was nobody to catch him so at that point I was like, OK we’re going to get the ball back (on an onside kick), 1:22, we got time. Go down get a field goal and win it again, but yes, it’s tough. To play a game like that on both sides of the ball and fight the way that we all did and then for it come down to something like that. Listen, great individual play by 31 (Justin Simmons) and 34 (Will Parks), their safety, who jumped over and blocked it and then, obviously, the caravan to the end zone. Hate to see a game like that come down to just a simple play.”

(On the replay of the run down the field after the blocked extra-point) “It doesn’t matter. It doesn’t matter. Let’s not even get to that point.”

(On what was said to Michael Thomas after the second turnover) “First off, I was just making sure he was alright because he took a big hit so I was just making sure he was OK. Just saying keep his head up. He’s a young guy. Made a bunch of big plays for us this year and unfortunately had two that the guy coughed up today. He’s such a competitive guy. Such a conscientious guy. Taking it hard. But I just tell him to keep his head up, we’re going to need to make some plays down the stretch. And we will. Those guys that care so much. I think that’s the reason why you tell them, ‘Hey, just let it go. Let’s move on.’”

(On how he thinks Michael Thomas felt about his performance) “He’s hard on himself. Just like I’m hard on myself. (Brandin) Cooks (is hard on himself) and everybody else (is hard on themselves). We take a lot of pride in what we do so if there’s a mistake made, especially a costly one, we’re going to be hard on ourselves and yet, we also know that we’re going to have another opportunity and we did. I knew we would. I felt like the defense was going to come out, stop them, kick a field goal and now we’ve got to go down and score a touchdown which doesn’t really change anything because that’s what we were planning on doing anyway when we had the ball except instead of three minutes left and two timeouts, we had two minutes left and no timeouts, but that’s what we do.”

(On the offensive line) “I thought they did a great job. Those guys were geeked up to start the game. Got a few hits early, but then it was solid there for a long time. At the end, listen, that’s what pass rushers live for, guaranteed passing situations where they just pin their ears back and go. I thought all our guys, all across the board, did a phenomenal job today.

(On difficulty to win when your team commits four turnovers) “If we win this game, then we sit there and go, we’re lucky. The four turnovers, they cost us the game. It made it a lot closer than it probably should have been. Obviously, had we not, but listen, our defense did a great job and got two from them. I think they got thirteen points off of turnovers and we got ten so it was almost a wash, but obviously, you want to eliminate those because it really reduces your chances of winning.”

(On strong personal performance at the end of the game) “I think we just got into a rhythm. I think we just started clicking a little bit. Made some big plays. Kind of had a read on them a little bit. The balance was good. We got some big plays in the passing game which was good. Guys just making plays and then you just grab hold of that momentum and you don’t want to let it go.”

(On throwing to Brandin Cooks today for some completions for big gains today) “It felt we got some good looks for what we’re trying to do and he got by all those guys so at that point, you are wanting a completion. (I) was not wanting to overthrow any of those. Let’s get the completion and make sure we secure the big play. Brandin (Cooks) came up with three huge catches today.”

(On completing twelve passes in a row and his feelings on his own performance) “Well, the two turnovers bug me. The first one was just a great play by that safety, screaming over the top and listen, that’s on me. I’ve got to hold it or if he’s playing over the top fast enough. Can’t let that happen in the red zone, we got points. The other one is unfortunate because put the ball exactly where we wanted it, but that’s one of those where it kind of gets looped up in the air as opposed to getting knocked down. It looked like Mike (Michael Thomas) had it in his

hands and he was going to tuck it and then there was a little movement, balls up in the air. That's going to happen sometimes."

(On if he has ever experienced other games like this in his career that he did today with emotional swings and crazy plays) "Yes, unfortunately, I've probably had two or three moments just like that. Listen, it's unfortunate, but life goes on. We've got a short week here so we've got to bounce back and find a way to win this week at Carolina (Panthers)."

(On if the short week is a good thing or a bad thing after a tough loss like today) "I think it is a good thing because all you want to do is get back on the field as fast as you can. Obviously, we've got four days here so it's a quick turnaround. We'll have a good (game)plan together, but we've got to lose this one and move on to the next one."



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#13 QB TREVOR SIEMIAN

“This game had a lot of ups and downs. Our defense really bailed us out a couple of times and played real well by turning the ball over. I think overall the group played really hard and there’s something to be said about that. We just made one more play than they did it seems.”

“When the game got tied, we started to talk about two-minute (offense) plays at that point. It was kind of a crazy deal there. But then we were kind of in disbelief just like everybody else when he blocked it first and then he was running it all the way back; I didn’t have any idea who had the ball; but it was a pretty cool deal.”

“It was huge, for us to come back the way we did. Our team really knows how to bounce back, and that’s something that’s been a staple of this team ever since I’ve been here the last two years. We have a great knack for overcoming negative plays. It wasn’t perfect – I mean we screwed up a few times no doubt; I’ve had my fair share of those – but the group really responded well and turned the negatives into points.”

#87 TE JORDAN TAYLOR

(responding to question about his touchdown in the first quarter that was reviewed) “I thought I was in for sure, definitely I thought my feet were in. And that is what the video showed, so it is all good. For us to score on the very first drive was huge. Just to know we went down and executed and took the lead early; that was big because we knew with the lead we can rely on our defense to hold them (Saints). Hopefully we can continue that after the bye.”

“Obviously we have a lot of things to work on. But to come out here and win on the road in a tough environment – it’s huge. It was a big win for us and shows the fight this team has.”

#31 S JUSTIN SIMMONS

(on blocking extra point at end of game) “I was inching into near where the center was as I was trying to get as close as I could to the center as possible before they snapped it. I hope I had enough room; obviously I did as they didn’t call anything. My adrenaline was going so fast and all I was trying to do was to clear him (center) and block the kick. Like I said, it all worked out.”

“When the game is on the line, and I am the guy responsible for trying to block the kick, I’m just trying to rush in there and make a play regardless of the ball is low or high or whatever; it doesn’t really matter. We just picked up on a few things from them (Saints) by watching film during the week and executed the play.”

#34 S WILL PARKS

(On the defensive two-point conversion after block in the fourth quarter) “It’s something we work on in practice all of time. Usually he (Justin Simmons) goes about 42 inches in the air but this time he jumped about 45 inches to get the block! And I was just sitting there and grabbed the ball and all of my teammates just told me to run and I did. I was just running so fast I couldn’t control my feet so I don’t know how close I was (to the sideline); I was just moving.”

“I don’t know, I must be living right. This team must be living right. Words cannot describe how I am feeling right now. I mean when we are out there and we have to score and the number one thing is to do that knowing we are down? It was amazing how this game ended.”

#26 S DARIAN STEWART

“The Saints offense is real tough and we knew that coming in. And then we had a lot of guys out injured which only made the challenge more difficult. But we had a lot of guys who stepped in and made contributions. That was huge and led us to victory.”

(on his two interceptions): “I just tried to make a play after the deflection on the first one. And then the second one I just went after the ball. I said after that, ‘keep them coming,’ as hey why not get three! But I was just out there trying to make plays to help the team win.”

“That play right there, at the end, what you saw were two rookies stepping up and making a big play for our team to win this game. It was huge. I’m just glad he had the right cleats on.”

#94 OLB DeMARCUS WARE

“I’ve never had an ending like that; especially on special teams. It was just big, a big victory. I mean usually a game ends from the defense because of a forced fumble or interception or something like that. But seeing it happen from special teams, you never see that.”

“This was a huge victory for us, especially coming off a bad loss last week to the Raiders. First of all, we addressed all week defensively to stop the run, and I thought we did that out there today. But there is always room for improvement. But the thing is this was one of those games where we needed the win. And now we go into the bye and get some of our banged up guys back and we should be ready to go the rest of the season.”

#29 CB BRADLEY ROBY

(comment about forcing fumble on Saints WR Michael Thomas in the fourth quarter): “That’s a play we work on as a defense all of the time. The receiver caught the ball and it’s just he and I and we got tangled up and I stripped the ball out. In that situation you have to say to yourself, you’ve got to go for the ball. And luckily for us, the ball just punched out and we got a turnover.”