

DALLAS DOME



**SIR SAINT WILL LEAD US TO VICTORY
OVER THE EVIL TEAMS OF THE NFC SOUTH**

OFFICIAL 2009 SEASON NEWSLETTER – CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

THE GREATEST SEASON EVER!!



In what will go down in NFL lore as the greatest QB match-up battle of all-time it was a defensive play that made the difference in determining the winner on Sunday, and with that, a championship for a once-cursed team in a beleaguered city now on the rise. Looking back now, we can all see what it really took to overcome the bad-luck of Saints teams past, which ended up being a 13 win season, a QB putting up HOF numbers, a revamped defense and a team that finished the season losing their last 3 games and thereby becoming the first team to win a Super Bowl after entering the Playoffs on such a streak. But that wasn't enough. They also had to defeat three future HOF quarterbacks to claim the title "Super Bowl Champions". It was the hardest road that any team in the history of sports has had to travel down to finally win it all for the first time....and they made it.

(Be sure to watch the video links as your reading by right-clicking on them)

*F*rom the start of the franchise it seemed like they would be winners. The very first Saints play ever was a kick-return for a touchdown! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCmREK-GsAg> Then three years later it was a Saints Kicker named Tom Dempsey who nailed (what ended up being the league's longest record) 63yrd FG against Detroit. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrxTjgFYU8> But somewhere in that euphoria the magic stopped and for 38 years the New Orleans Saints would be known as the "lovable losers". And in 1980, during a 1-15 record season it got even worse. They would become the "Aints"....bcuz "they just aint gonna win ever again" as Louisianians would say.

*T*o end this season-after-season of mediocrity and lousy play; new Ownership hired Jim Mora as the new Head Coach to come in and turn everything around and fans were thrilled at the possibility things might began to change for the club. But then, something else began to happen. Instead of not playing decent at all, they played good, but not good enough to overcome the intervention of divine circumstance and mere chance. This included an 18 year span that involved one head-coach quitting after 10 yrs, another being fired after 3 awful seasons (which had the return of the paper-bag Aints), and another who just really over stayed his welcome and just 5 playoff appearances. All of which saw the Saints getting knocked out in the 1st-Round usually by other teams that didn't do as good during the regular season.

*I*t was an 18yr span of never ending bad-luck which culminated with the "Greatest Play in Saints History-Followed by the Worst Play in Saints History". <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGco82JKHo> And that's just one play out of many in that span of time all of which ended with a similar result, that being, some fluke play that never seemed to go in the Saints' favor. But how could it get any worse for a team that had never reached any pinnacle of success or any source of pride for its fan-base? Well, on the night of August 29, 2005, we found out how bad.

*T*he Louisiana Superdome, while never being known for any great achievements by the team that had played there for so long, had in some way, become a symbol of hope (and literally a shelter) for the local masses when the city was virtually destroyed by the hand of God in the form of a hurricane. Someone once said that the waters of the storm washed away all of the bad-luck and karma that had surrounded the city. Perhaps that's what it took.

*O*n January 18, 2006, Sean Payton was hired and became the 14th Head Coach in team history. That decision (now quite monumental in retrospect) began a series of events that led up to one moment in time which altered the course of the franchise forever. And it is this moment that I believe was to be the sign of the things that were to come. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSsfA7W7Y8A>

*I*t was the first great play after 18 yrs of nothing but mostly bad plays, and just like it was an offensive play that scored the first touchdown in team history, now it was a defensive touchdown that helped turn it around. The Saints would go on to finish the season with a 10-6 record. Win their first Divisional Round playoff game ever, and then play in their first NFC Championship Game ever. They were the 2006 "Cinderella Saints".

*A*lthough it was an amazing season; Cinderella missed her ride to the ball when the pumpkin carriage was hijacked by Bears in the snow. And Payton's Saints weren't going to let that happen again. So after back-to-back seasons with the #1 Offense in the league but a bottom ranked defense, Coach Payton made the call that would help get the Saints back to the Playoffs, and this time the ball would be held at their house and it would take more than the league's 29th ranked defense to see to it that they would get it held there.

In came Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams and the 2009 SUPER-SAINTS were born.

Just like the “great moment” that started the rise of the Saints to the top; the 2009 season was full of great plays that would ensure the Saints’ date with destiny on February 7th. Week after week; Saints players were making the highlight reels on ESPN’s SportsCenter. Just look at some of these plays and this one too which I think must be tagged as the new “Greatest Play in Saints History” so please watch this....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJxE1RAgVyl>

All of this seasons great plays led to one unforgettable moment in time for Saints fans...one I’ll never forget.

It was Garrett “Southlake” Hartley’s game-winning NFC Championship 40yard field-goal....

And on February 7, 2010, the SAINTS made their first Super Bowl appearance and captured their first Super Bowl victory while having to defy all odds to make it happen with another great play. But that’s destiny isn’t it? When something is supposed to happen and nothing can stop it? When nothing can interfere? When nothing can change the outcome? Not even a game tying drive by the leagues 4-time MVP and future Hall of Famer with over 3 minutes left to play....



apparently not.



“This is for the best fans in the entire league!!” - Drew Brees



“That’ll teach’em to underestimate me. I am the greatest play-caller ever!” - Coach Payton



“Reggie can I hold it now?” - Tracy Porter



“Sure, I’m gonna go say hi to the Who-Dats!” - Reggie

Did you know: The 31-17 victory over the Colts on Sunday night continued the streak of Playoff victories while scoring ‘31’pts in each of the Playoff Rounds by the Saints? Look at this!

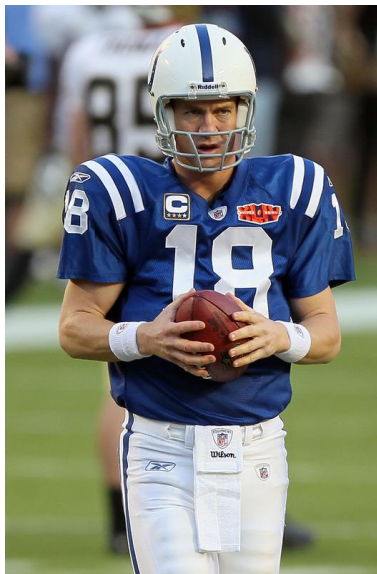
First Playoff win in the Wild-Card Round: December 30, 2000 New Orleans 31 St. Louis Rams 28

First NFC Championship Game win: January 24, 2010 New Orleans 31 Minnesota Vikings 28

First Super Bowl win: February 7, 2010 New Orleans 31 Indianapolis Colts 17

So, what is the significance of the #31, you ask? I have no idea. But if I figure it out....I’ll let you know.

On a side note: The Super Bowl was watched by more than 106 million people, surpassing the 1983 finale of "M*A*S*H" to become the most-watched program in television history!!



“It’s not fair! Everyone wanted to see me win again!!” - Manning

Betch-ya didn’t know this either: The matchup between Brees & Manning took place on the 25th Anniversary of Super Bowl XIV between Joe Montana and the 49ers and Marino and the Dolphins. Both games mark the only two times that the league’s QB’s with the top passer ratings have dueled in the “Big Game” and the first time that the team wearing its “road jerseys” has won, and the fourth time that a winner of the NFL’s MVP award has lost the Super Bowl.



“I didn’t need to hear that Saintsguy.” – Manning

How 'bout this twist: The NFC has won the opening coin-flip for 13 consecutive Super Bowls including the one just played. Of those 13 coin-flip winners, only 4 actually went on to win the “Big Game”. The AFC won the opening coin-toss for the last time in 1997, when Brett Favre and The Pack defeated the New England Patriots. That’s crazy!!



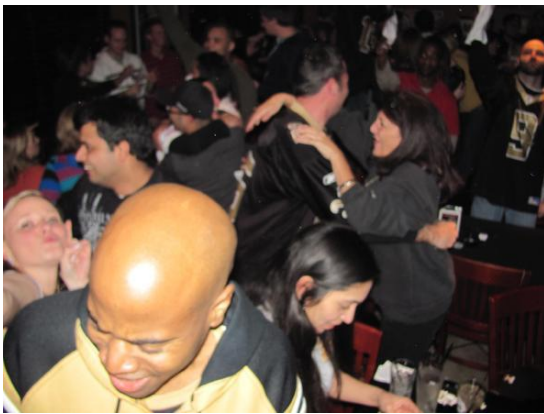




**“Thanks for coming up to *The Quarter* & making it the best watching party season yet....
...and I can’t wait to see everybody so we can do it all over again!!” – The Saintsguy**

'16' Second-Lines for Sixteen Victories!!







The 2009 DALLAS DOME WHO-DATS

You know....the Championship Fans of the metroplex.

If any of you have ANY suggestions or questions just send an email back to this address (thesaintsguy@yahoo.com) and I'll get back with you ASAP! And if you haven't already; check out these cool links:

neworleanssaints.com

www.myspace.com/saintsnewsonline

YOU CAN ALSO FIND ME ON MYSPACE UNDER "THE SAINTSGUY"!