

**COMMISSIONER TAGLIABUE REMARKS WITH Q & A**  
**SUPERDOME RENOVATIONS**  
**July 25, 2006**

I want to thank Governor Blanco, Mr. Benson, Rita LeBlanc, the entire New Orleans Saints staff, Doug Thornton and his Superdome people, and most of all, the men and women who have been out there in their hard hats getting all the work done.

I told Tom Keller, who was wearing a Saints/Green Bay Packers construction helmet, I was going to bring it with me in two weeks to Canton, Ohio, and figure out how we're going to get an exhibit in the Pro Football Hall of Fame featuring these working men and women who got all this work done on the Superdome which is such an incredible thing.

Overall, there are some really terrific features in the renovations that have been done from the standpoint of the fans that'll be enjoying Saints games this season not only in the general admission, but in the concession and suite areas. There is a feeling of openness and freshness that have been put in under very, very difficult circumstances. The fan support has been terrific with season ticket sales exceeding 55,000. I would say that the main reason I'm here in addition to seeing the building with the governor and seeing the work that's been done, is to encourage everybody, especially in the corporate community, to take advantage of the final two months as we're leading up to the opening game on September 25<sup>th</sup> which is exactly two months from today to rally around and support the Saints and support the fans who have already committed to support the Saints.

**Q & A**

**On a single factor which will determine the Saints future....**

"No, I don't think there is any single factor. I think it's a lot of different factors. As I said before, we feel the fan support is reflective in the season ticket sales and the interest in youth football and other community activities the Saints are engaged in and planning is extremely important. My focus today and over the next two months will be working with Mr. Benson on those large businesses that have a national presence. We feel they can get a great product with the "New" New Orleans Saints with Coach Payton, Drew Brees and Reggie Bush. As the governor said, the contrast from the nightmare of last August-September until now is a great opportunity for large business in particular, and other business, to associate with this miracle as the Governor called it.

I told Mr. Benson this morning, I'm here because it's two months until kickoff and sixth months until the NFC title game here at the Superdome.

**Inaudible....**

I really haven't had enough time to absorb everything that's going on. It would be premature for me to comment on that. We're working extremely hard with the business community that is here, and that includes many national companies in the hospitality industry and the financial services and energy sectors. We recognize that when we've spoken to the Governor in the past that local businesses that depend on a local customer base, they have their issues, but national business that have a presence in Louisiana, that's going to be our focus, because we think they have a great, great product in the New Orleans Saints to associate with. Not just for the long-term, but this upcoming season.

**On whether you were surprised about the progress made the Superdome...**

Yes, because on my prior visits there was concern about availability of materials, concern about availability of a skilled labor force, there were disputes frankly on funding, including FEMA funding. It seems like all those of things have been worked out with common sense and in positive ways. The new features to the Superdome that build upon the existing features like eliminating the glass in the suite area, and getting the fans in those areas feeling much more a part of the game. I think it's going to be a better fan experience. Of course, for this year, some of it's going to be incomplete, but that's being part of the recovery, and having a little of that frontier spirit in you.

**On will this be your last trip to New Orleans as commissioner...**

I'll be here for the game on the 25th.

**On your best memories of why were you so intent on keeping the club here in New Orleans...**

I've been working for the NFL in one way or another since 1969, and one of my first experiences was being involved in the Tulane Super Bowl in 1970. All of those Super Bowls games here, those playoff teams Mr. Benson has had. Images of Mr. Benson and his umbrella dance. I don't know what they call it. I'm a Cajun music fan, he's not. He's a Bourbon Street fan. There have been so many great memories of Saints people, players and Super Bowls, and that's why I'm going to be here September 25<sup>th</sup>,

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