



NFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

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NFC-N-5 9/19/06

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THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN!

Hey, New Orleans, it's finally here!

After a season of unparalleled challenges, the 2-0 Saints return to the Big Easy and the Louisiana Superdome for a *Monday Night Football* matchup with first place up for grabs against the 2-0 division-rival Atlanta Falcons in what promises to be one of the most memorable events in Saints history.

"We can do great things for the morale of this region and I think we're all excited about Monday night," says Saints running back **DEUCE MC ALLISTER**, a native of Lena, Mississippi. "It's about pulling together, setting goals and striving to reach them. It's about taking care of each other and focusing on the collective good of everyone."

A sellout crowd, an ESPN national telecast, top entertainment including **U2**, **GREEN DAY** and the **GOO GOO DOLLS**, former president **GEORGE BUSH** tossing the coin, and a pair of undefeated teams vying for the top spot in the NFC South are just part of the storyline as the city of New Orleans reopens one of its signature landmarks little more than a year after it suffered significant damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

And the people of the city and region are ready! Saints fans have responded enthusiastically to the return of their team, as the organization nears selling out the dome for the entire season. And through two weeks, the team on the field has given its supporters a lot to get excited about, winning the first two games of the season on the road for the first time in franchise history.

The running back duo of **DEUCE MC ALLISTER** and **REGGIE BUSH** have played a large part in that success. Bush has made his presence felt rushing, receiving and returning, as the Saints seek to capitalize on the big-play ability that captivated fans throughout his stellar collegiate career at Southern California. McAllister meanwhile has returned to action following an injury-plagued 2005 season, rushing for 137 yards and two touchdowns through two games.

McAllister and Bush might be forming the NFL's next great running-back duo. McAllister has topped 1,000 rushing yards in three of his first five seasons, earning two Pro Bowl honors. He is in the same backfield as Bush, who in two career games has rushed for 72 yards while adding 15 receptions for 120 yards and averaging 8.3 yards per punt return.

"We're two different styles of backs," McAllister says. "Reggie can line up in the slot or at receiver or at tailback, so he's definitely going to help us. In fact, he already has. Winning is what it's all about at the end of the day."

Adds new Saints quarterback **DREW BREES**, "we have a lot of weapons and our problem is going to be not enough balls to go around, which is a good problem to have."

A look at the NFL teammates to rush for 1,000 yards in the same season:

Year	Team	Rusher	Yards	Rusher	Yards
1972	Miami Dolphins	Larry Csonka	1,117	Mercury Morris	1,000
1976	Pittsburgh Steelers	Franco Harris	1,128	Rocky Bleier	1,036
1985	Cleveland Browns	Kevin Mack	1,104	Earnest Byner	1,002

The 2006 campaign marks the 40th season for the Saints in New Orleans, and from the time the Fleur-de-Lis emblem first adorned the helmets of the city's professional football entry in the club's 1967 debut through today, fans have loved their hometown team.

On the occasion of this special season, the Saints Hall of Fame Museum in Kenner, Louisiana has selected the Saints All-40th Anniversary Team:

Pos.	Players		Pos.	Players
QB	Archie Manning		DL	Derland Moore, Joe Johnson, Wayne Martin, Jim Wilks
RB	Dalton Hilliard, George Rogers		LB	Rickey Jackson, Vaughan Johnson, Sam Mills, Pat Swilling
WR	Joe Horn, Eric Martin		CB	Johnnie Poe, Dave Waymer
TE	Hoby Brenner		S	Sammy Knight, Tommy Myers
T	Stan Brock, William Roaf		K	Morten Andersen
G	Jim Dombrowski, Jake Kupp		P	Tommy Barnhardt
C	John Hill		ST	Fred McAfee
Athlete	Wes Chandler		KR/PR	Michael Lewis
Coach	Jim Mora			

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