



# Denver Broncos Postgame Quotes

Denver Broncos at New Orleans Saints • Louisiana Superdome • Sunday, Nov. 21, 2004

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## DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH MIKE SHANAHAN

(on the win) "You feel good any time you can go on the road and find a way to win. Obviously, we started the game out and made some big time plays on both sides of the football. Defensively, we had a few three plays and out. Offensively, we get a couple of touchdown drives early...The mindset going in was that it (a win today) was something that we had to have. I was really proud of the team and the way that they fought and the way that they found a way to win."

(on if the team lost focus after having a large lead early) "I think we did. We missed a couple of third downs by a yard, a half yard, two yards. When you do that it stops the momentum. You have to be able to get those first downs. We weren't as good as we would like on third downs. I don't know what it was, if we lost a little bit mentally and became a little complacent. You get up 20 to nothing and I think you have a tendency to do that sometimes. We had to come up with some plays in that fourth quarter. We had that second drive, I felt that we had to find a way to get the ball in the end zone and find a way to get the touchdown there. The guys picked it up and did what they had to do."

(on the four-wide receiver and two-tight end sets) "It just spreads the defense out a little bit. Sometimes we will throw passes from it and other times we will motion our tight end or H-back different directions. Sometimes, it puts a little pressure on the linebacker."

(on the play of the Denver defense) "I thought we did some good things. We didn't want to blitz them every down. We probably could have put a little more pressure on them. The game was a little bit out of control there. When you're up by three touchdowns, you probably aren't as aggressive as you are sometimes. We kept them out of the end zone and the guys really played consistent and hard for each other."

(on limiting the production of Deuce McAllister) "He's a great running back and their offensive line is very good as well. I felt very fortunate that we got them behind early where they really couldn't utilize him. I'm sure they would have utilized him more if we wouldn't have got a big lead like we did. We felt very fortunate that we were able to do that early and probably take them a little bit out of their game plan."

(on getting turnovers) "We keep talking about it. We get them in practice and are never sure when they're going to happen in a game. But (we had) some big time plays today. Offensively, I don't believe we had a turnover. Defensively, did we come up with four? Four big-time plays. If you get four turnovers, usually good things happen."

## BRONCOS PLAYER QUOTES

### QB #16 JAKE PLUMMER

(on the game) "We started fast and that's what we wanted to do, to set the tone. We dictated the action, because we didn't want to come here and get into a shootout with them. You can see they move the ball. But Reuben (Droughns) came out and got us going and we took it from there."

"When you fall behind like that, you kind of abandon the running game, and that's what the Saints had to do. We know that, because for us in some games that's what we had to do. When you are down like that, you tend to get away from Deuce (McAllister) a little bit, and I think (Aaron) Brooks threw almost 60 times, and anytime you get a team to do that, you're going to create some turnovers and we did."

"We haven't scored a lot of offensive touchdowns, and I told Reuben before the game to get two or three and that's what happened. It was a great start for us and I'm glad he took the rock home for us. He took it for 50-plus yards, I think, and with Rod Smith laying a great block, he did the rest and took it in."

### RB #34 REUBEN DROUGHNS

(on the first play from scrimmage that he ran for a TD) "It kind of set the tone for us and it didn't. They (New Orleans) started to step it up defensively in the second half, as they really stacked it up against the run. But that's what happens when defenses do, because after I broke the line I was free to the end zone."

(on rushing for 166 yards) "My biggest run in the second half I think was only nine yards, so you have to give them credit. Even after the big first quarter, we felt as a team not to let up and we did that."

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## **LB #56 AL WILSON**

(on his interception for TD) "Our defensive line got some pressure on (Aaron) Brooks, and the next thing I knew I saw him trying to throw it away, and all I knew I was in the right place at the right time. I was really shocked. I didn't think he was going to throw it right at me. It was like practice, but being there at the right time counts sometimes and that's what happened."

"Although we got a lot of turnovers out there, sometimes the three-and-outs turn out to be the same thing, and that's what happened today and that's what we have to keep on doing."

## **CB #24 CHAMP BAILEY**

(on the game) "We've got a good team and we came out and played like it today. We came out ready and prepared after the bye week, so this is a good win for us, especially on the road."

## **SAINTS COACH JIM HASLETT**

(on the game) "We started slow again. On the defensive side of the ball, we had two bad series and got behind. On offense, we just turned the ball over too many times - we turned it over three times and we had too many penalties. When you play good teams like that, you can't do the things we did today."

(on getting behind early) "It's disappointing because we talked about getting a lead and starting fast. We didn't do either one. Once we settled in and started playing better, it was too late. We gave away 10 points on the offensive side. You can't give away points to this team; they are a good football team."

(on the game plan) "Well, we went into the game wanting to run the football. We ended up throwing it 60 times and that's something you don't want to do. When you get down by three scores, you have to throw it to catch up."

(on pass protection) "When you're down by three scores, they are just teeing off on you. That's something we've stressed the last couple weeks - pass protection."

(on what he said to the team after the game) "I told them that it's a good football team that beat us and you can't spot them 10 points and expect to beat them."

(on what happened with the interception that was returned for a TD) "Well, he (Aaron Brooks) was just trying to dump it to Deuce (McAllister)."

## **SAINTS PLAYER QUOTES**

### **QB #2 AARON BROOKS**

(on his first interception that was returned for a TD) "The protection broke down and basically I tried to throw the ball away and I gave it away. It was very uncharacteristic of myself. The guy (Al Wilson) made a great play, I guess he was there at the right time. Deuce (McAllister) was right in the area. If I couldn't get the ball to him, I was really just trying to get the ball in the area because I know they (the officials) call intentional grounding very tight."

(on slow starts) "We just can't run the ball like we want to. We have a great back but we can't utilize him due to other reasons."

(on his play) "I didn't play too well. There were some things I'd like to change or have back, a couple of throws. But I gave it my best shot, I gave it my all out there. I'm looking forward to next week and playing a little better."

### **RB #26 DEUCE McALLISTER**

(on the offense's slow starts) "How frustrating. That's probably the only way I can describe it. When you can't move the ball, get a first down, and you go three-and-out; you're basically putting yourself in a hole from the get-go."

(on the team's inconsistency) "Right now I'm at a loss for words. It's frustrating. I'm tired of losing. I'm tired of losing; I don't even know what else I can tell you. We can't win one week, we come out flat the next and not play well. We expect to gain some confidence or some momentum but you've got to sustain it and come out to play each week. We haven't done it yet."

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**DE #94 CHARLES GRANT**

(on the early deficit) "They came out and scored 14 points real fast. They had more chances to win than we had chances to lose, I think. We've just got to capitalize. They just beat us today. We can't hold our heads, the only thing we've got to do is win our division; we've got a chance."

(on the game) "They won, you can't really say too much. They won the game."

**DL #98 WILLIE WHITEHEAD**

(on the loss) "It feels bad. We're a team, we've got to stick together and stay together regardless. We just got beat by a good football team today. We've got to clean up all the little things and rally together and get ready for next week. We made a lot of mistakes today; things we can't do against a good football team."

**LB #57 COLBY BOCKWOLDT**

(on how he felt about his play) "It's tough. We'll watch film before I start saying good or bad things about what I did on a personal note. To lose in this league is not fun, to win is excellent and we need to get some more wins here. I know that this team is going to come to work tomorrow, show up and we're going to try to win out; that's all we can do."

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