



## Article Side

Brees 5 TDs and long passing yards , get closer for record by [Dean](#)

Article published on December 21st 2011 | [Sports](#)

•The New Orleans Saints are steamrolling towards a different playoff appearance and eyeing a 2nd Super Bowl trophy in three years. The Minnesota Vikings are plummeting head-long in to the NFL abyss again, with their look within the NFC title game against the Saints less than two many years ago a distant memory. Sometimes it's too straightforward when analyzing NFL teams to look exclusively at the quarterbacks. But within this case, that is the obvious purpose for the existing disparity among teams that slugged it out having a trip for the Super Bowl on the line in January 2010. Drew Brees threw for 412 yards and five touchdowns to lead the surging Saints to their sixth win in a row, 42-20 over the free-falling Vikings on Sunday. Brees completed 32 of 40 passes to assist the Saints (11-3) conquer a slow and sloppy start off to stay two games ahead of Atlanta in the NFC South.

"I'm as comfy now in this offense as I've ever been," said Brees, who credited the team's stability within the front office, the coaching staff as well as the roster with his good results this season. His latest masterpiece has him breathing down Dan Marino's neck in the record books, just 304 yards away from the Hall of Famer's single-season passing record set in 1984. "I'm mindful that we're close," Brees said. "I just know if we keep performing what we're performing all of that stuff will take care of itself." All the Vikings could do though acquiring dissected by Brees foremost in the afternoon was hope that a single day rookie Christian Ponder will establish himself as a playmaker even inside the very same solar system as Brees. The Vikings drafted Ponder 12th total and gave him the starting career in Week 7. Following some promising indicators early in his tenure, Ponder has taken some actions back within the last 3 weeks. He was 14 of 31 for 120 yards and two touchdowns to Toby Gerhart, but almost all of that production came while in the final six minutes. The lackluster functionality had coach Leslie Frazier being peppered with issues about Ponder's long-term viability at the position. "I don't want to measure purely on the last two weeks," said Frazier, whose Vikings (2-12) will probably have one particular of the prime picks in the draft in April. "I wish to see what occurs these subsequent two weeks.

"If Ponder was watching closely, he saw quarterbacking at its highest level on the other side of your area. The Saints struggled to have going early, turning the ball over twice deep in their own territory, failing to recover a surprise onside kick and committing a holding penalty to negate a 40-yard touchdown pass to Robert Meachem, all in the 1st half. But an incredible quarterback can cover up a whole lot of imperfections, and that's what Brees did from the end of the day. He threw two touchdown passes to Lance Moore and one every single to Darren Sproles, John Gilmore and Jimmy Graham in just over 3 quarters of function to blow out an overmatched opponent. "For me, it's determination," Ponder said. "I always want to be the finest guy on the area. Definitely Drew is really a heck of a quarterback, and one of the best quarterbacks while in the league. I want to be better than him a single day, honestly.

"It's clear that Ponder, plus the Vikings, possess a great distance to get to reach that level. The Saints outgained the Vikings 573-207, had 36 1st downs to Minnesota's 4 and held a 17-minute advantage in time of possession. The Saints' much-maligned secondary held the Vikings to 102 net yards passing and sacked Ponder four occasions. Adrian Peterson rushed for 60 yards in his return from a three-game absence, however the Vikings dropped their sixth straight game. Their depleted secondary lost cornerback Asher Allen to a concussion within the initial half and they had no opportunity the moment Brees and the Saints got rolling. The Saints stumbled out with the gates, with Graham fumbling a first-down catch, Sproles dropping what would have already been another first

down and Meachem's 40-yard touchdown catch wiped out because of a holding call on fullback Jed Collins. Minnesota Wild Jerseys Gear

Soon after Brees hit Moore for any 5-yard touchdown pass, the Saints turned the ball over once again when Brees wasn't prepared for any shotgun snap from Brian De La Puente that squirted proper past him. Everson Griffen scooped the ball up and gave the Vikings fantastic field position at the 21. Thanks to stout play in the Saints' defense, the Vikings had to settle for two field goals. Then Brees put his foot on the gas, and it was all over. He threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Spikes toward the end of the very first half, then began the 3rd quarter using a 2-yard TD to Gilmore and hooked up with Moore on a 47-yard score to produce a 35-13. "Experienced teams, veteran teams, winning teams will obtain away to push as a result of the challenges and adversities every single game will bring on you," Brees stated. "You just really need to recognize it's not always going to be best." Brees and also the Saints are just what makes it look that way. Notes: Brees went over 40,000 yards passing for his career and became the first to top 350 yards passing in a game seven occasions in a season. ... Moore had five catches for 91 yards, Marques Colston had eight catches for 91 yards, and Graham had seven catches for 70 yards. ... Saints CB Patrick Robinson intercepted Ponder's pass on the last play of the game. ... Vikings CB Benny Sapp was benched for the primary two plays on the game for disciplinary causes.

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Article Keywords:

New Orleans Saints Gear , Minnesota Vikings Gear

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