New Orleans Saints Qb History

New Orleans Saints QB History: From Inception to Super Bowl Glory

The New Orleans Saints, founded in 1967, have seen a dynamic evolution in their quarterback corps. From the early days of rookie struggles to the modern era's polished playmaking, the Saints' QBs have shaped the team's identity and defined its legacy. This article explores the key quarterbacks who have worn the Saints' iconic blue and gold, highlighting pivotal moments, statistical milestones, and the impact each player had on the franchise.

Early Years: Building a Foundation (1967-1980)

The First Quarterback: Tom Fears

While Tom Fears was primarily known for

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his receiving prowess, he briefly stepped into the quarterback role during the Saints' inaugural season. His experience helped the fledgling team navigate its first few years, but the franchise soon realized the need for a dedicated signal-caller.

John Hadl and the Quest for Stability

John Hadl, acquired in 1969, became the first quarterback to lead the Saints to a winning record. Though his tenure was short, Hadl's leadership and dual-threat ability set a precedent for future Saints QBs who would blend passing precision with mobility.

The 1990s: The Rise of a Franchise (1991-1999)

Jimmy Garoppolo: A Brief Stint

Jimmy Garoppolo, though more famously associated with the 49ers, had a brief tenure with the Saints in the early 1990s. His time was limited but showcased the organization's willingness to experiment with young talent.

Steve DeBerg and the Road to the NFC

Steve DeBerg's arrival in 1993 brought veteran experience. He guided the Saints to their first NFC playoff appearance in 1995, earning the

franchise's first playoff victory against the Chicago Bears. DeBerg's composure under pressure was instrumental in establishing a competitive culture.

Turn of the Century: The Emergence of a Star (2000-2009)

Chris Chandler: The Veteran's Touch

Chris Chandler, signed in 2000, provided a seasoned presence that helped the Saints maintain consistency. His ability to read defenses and deliver accurate throws kept the offense balanced during a transitional period.

Jared Goff and the Early 2000s

Although Jared Goff's tenure with the Saints was brief, he contributed to the team's developmental pipeline, setting the stage for future quarterback acquisitions.

Modern Era: From Aaron Brooks to Drew Brees (2010-2019)

Aaron Brooks: The First Modern QB

Aaron Brooks, drafted in 2009, was the first quarterback to lead the Saints into the 2010s. His work ethic and leadership helped the team secure a playoff berth

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in 2010, marking the beginning of a new era.

Drew Brees: The Franchise's Hall of Famer

Acquired in 2006, Drew Brees became the cornerstone of the Saints' success. His tenure is highlighted by:

- Leading the team to a 13-3 record in 2009, the best in franchise history at the time.
- Guiding the Saints to a 27-3 season in 2010, culminating in a Super Bowl XLIV victory.
- Setting numerous NFL passing records, including career touchdown passes and completion percentage.

Brees' consistency, accuracy, and football IQ cemented his legacy as the most iconic quarterback in Saints history.

Recent Years: The Transition and New Challenges (2020-Present)

Jameis Winston: A Short-Lived Experiment

Jameis Winston's stint with the Saints in 2020 was brief, but it underscored the franchise's willingness to explore high-risks, high-rewards options in pursuit of a franchise quarterback.

Jared Goff Returns: A New Era Begins

Jared Goff's return to the Saints in 2021 marked a new chapter. Known for his strong arm and decision-making, Goff is expected to rebuild the offense around his skill set, aiming to restore the team's competitive edge.

Statistical Highlights and Milestones

1. Super Bowl XLIV MVP: Drew Brees
2. All-Pro selections: Drew Brees (2009-2013)
3. Most career passing yards: Drew Brees (77,014)
4. Highest career completion percentage: Drew Brees (69.6%)

Conclusion

The New Orleans Saints' quarterback history is a tapestry of resilience, innovation, and triumph. From the early days of John Hadl to Drew Brees' record-setting reign, each quarterback has contributed uniquely to the franchise's narrative. As the Saints continue to evolve, the legacy of their quarterbacks remains a testament to the team's enduring spirit and the city's unwavering support.

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