

# Katrina's effects still rumbling through the NFL

Chris Friende

Staff Writer

Hurricane Katrina has greatly affected the United States and its people. Americans from all over the country are trying to do what they can to help the victims. This impact has affected the country socially, economically, and politically. Even though Katrina has passed, the effects are still being felt.

In the world of sports, Katrina put the National Football League's schedule in disarray. The New Orleans Saints played their first home game at Giant Stadium in New York on Monday. The Giants have promised to make the team and their fans feel at home by putting the Saint's team colors along the walls of the Stadium.

The NFL dealt with Katrina's disruption by finding other places for the Saints to play. Other than Giant Stadium, the Saints are scheduled to play at the Alamodome in Texas and Tiger Stadium in Louisiana.

"I think when you have thousands of people living in the Superdome, I think that's more important than football," says Jason Dillard, a resident of Colfax, N.C., who believes that football is less important than the problems Katrina has made for residents of New Orleans.

In order to highlight this, the NFL held a telethon during both of Monday night's games in order to raise money for Katrina victims and to get more volunteers to help with the relief effort.

The Saints and the Giants

were scheduled to play on Sunday; but the game was moved to Monday night at 7:30 p.m. because of special circumstances. When the originally-scheduled Cowboys vs. Redskins game started at 9 p.m., the Saints' game was moved to ESPN.

The games became a part of George Bush and Bill Clinton's "Hurricane Relief Weekend: Recover and Rebuild," and included football players answering the phone calls of those fans who wanted to help.

The telethon was hosted by ABC News reporter Robin Roberts and featured a special half-time performance by the rock band Three Doors Down.

The situation that Katrina caused for the Saints has many NFL pundits talking

about the team moving to San Antonio in the near future.

"The league already has the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Texans playing in Texas, and the move could be more difficult than the owners imagine," said Chris Neilson, a Philadelphia Eagles fan who feels that the impact of the hurricane will negatively affect the league. "The thought of a move possibly could have been out of desperation because of the hurricane."

"It's a shame that it had to happen this way, but when it's going to take about \$2 billion to rebuild the city, there's not much you can do," said long-time football fan Jeremy Dudley.

The Saints' stadium, the Superdome, will have to be rebuilt because of the damage

Katrina caused, and this will be something that the team will have to deal with in the future.

"Since the superdome sustained a lot of damage, some estimate that it will cost over \$100 million to repair the dome," said senior and New Orleans native Savanna Turner. "It would be horrible if the team was moved because of the hurricane. Something would be missing from New Orleans."

The NFL's schedule alterations and location changes have been stressful but necessary. The league may be going through some changes and things may not be the same for the Saints for a long while; but the games are still being played, the season will continue, and fans will still be able to enjoy the games. ❧



A post-Katrina view of the Superdome