

STARS & STRIPES

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST AMERICAN BANK

Volume 17 Issue 4

December 2013

JIM HENDERSON: ON DECK

Awhile back in this space I talked about the adverse reaction the hiring of Rob Ryan as Saints defensive coordinator had engendered amongst Saints fans. It was a reaction I shared. I don't know if they're ready to admit that they were wrong. But I know I am.

Under his predecessor Steve Spagnuolo the Saints suffered with the worst defense in NFL history. The Saints never seemed to buy into his rigid philosophy and his unwillingness to take any of the players' suggestions to improve their performance.

They saw nothing in early results to build confidence and so lost trust in the scheme and it's architect.

Rob Ryan's arrival changed the scheme, some key personnel, and subsequently the results.

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Under Ryan the defense is happier, looser, more aggressive, and more unpredictable.

There was a reason why Sean Payton made the first order of business upon his return to the team from his suspension the firing of Steve Spagnuolo...the defensive coordinator Payton had personally hired who had never served under him due to the suspension. Payton had seen the problems that hire had evidenced in the games and apparently had been told of the problems it had created in the locker room.

He acted quickly, decisively, and to this point wildly successfully. I have been wrong before but never as happily as in this instance.



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IN RECOGNITION

In observance of the upcoming holidays, all offices will be closed on: 

Christmas Holiday
Tuesday, December 24th
Close at Noon

Wednesday, December 25th
Closed

New Year's Holiday
Tuesday, December 31st
Close at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1st
Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 20th

Mardi Gras Day
Tuesday, March 4th

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**Congratulations to the winners of the
Quarterly Stars and Stripes Drawing!**

Alvin J. Bartholomew, Sr. of Vacherie
Beth F. Becnel of Vacherie
Velma D. Dillon of Vacherie

Each won a \$50 Visa Gift Card by entering last issue's contest drawing.

Thank you for reading this publication of Stars and Stripes!

To register for a Visa Gift Card from First American Bank, please complete the information below and return to any First American Bank office or mail to:

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Please return by January 31, 2014 to be eligible for this drawing.
Winners will be announced in the next quarterly publication of Stars and Stripes.