

## When The Saints Come Marching In.....Again

With the coming and going of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita there are few things in south Louisiana that remain the same. But let us not forget that change is not always bad. Much like the never-ending argument of “Is the glass half empty or half full,” we now have the opportunity, no more like the necessity to change.

Unlike any professional sports franchise in history, The New Orleans Saints have endured a year that has been full of change. But now comes the opportunity and necessity to make a real change.

By all indications the Super Dome will be “Super” again and in time for the first kickoff in September. New larger video screens, a halo board and new seating are just a few of the renovations to a grand venue. In fact, the hurricane certainly helped with many of the problems facing the Dome. Many repairs and upgrades that would have been paid for by state taxpayers are now being paid for by the federal government.

That leaves one somewhat important area of the Saints organization in need of repair. The ability to win.

And what will they do? How will they do it? And will it work?

The hurricanes have provided south Louisiana with the opportunity to correct past mistakes, to take pause and reflect on a better way to do things, to build anew, to build better. The Saints have all these opportunities also, a somewhat renovated and updated dome, a new head coach, a very early draft pick with some of the best talent available in years.

Like an artist beginning work with a fresh palette, Tom Benson and Mickey Loomis have been given a clean slate, an opportunity to start over and correct all of the ills of the past, player selection, player relations, marketing, merchandising and the building of a fan base.

Musicians will tell you that Jazz is an uplifting, colorful and inspirational form of music, for example look at a jazz funeral march. In September when we here “When The Saints Come Marching In” in the Superdome all eyes of the nation, the NFL and Louisiana will be watching to see in the Saints staff have developed a hit or a miss. I for one will stay hopeful for a hit, for a winning team, for a playoff contender.

Let’s only hope that history does not repeat itself.

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