

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson
©2023

Here in south Louisiana
We all know Papa Noel
Is undeniably a Saints fan
And he loves the NFL
But we also know that Christmas
Happens to be the reason
He can only attend the games
That they play in the post season.

Now I know that there are fans
Who will tell you they have seen
Papa Noel in the stands
Cheering for their favorite team
In the middle of December
But you can rest assured
They're official helpers like
In the big department stores,

But they're not Papa Noel himself.
Now everyone should know
When he's in public Papa Noel
Always goes around incognito.
He's been known to shave his beard
And at times to dye his hair
So they could not recognize him
Even if he had been there.

But on the rare occasion
When he's able to attend
A regular season game
I can guarantee you then
It would have to be a game
Close to Papa Noel's home
Which means it would be a Saints game
Down here in the Superdome.

Now I know without a doubt
What some of you are thinking
You are wondering is there something
In the egg nog he is drinking.
Or is he really that ignorant
That he doesn't have an inkling
That the team closest to the North Pole
Are the Minnesota Vikings.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson
©2023

Well, if you read the Cajun Christmas Tales
I wouldn't have to tell you
Papa Noel has a second home
Somewhere on a lost bayou
Down by Barataria Bay in south Louisiana.
And there above his camp
Flies a black and gold Saints banner.

Now to those of you who think
This is just a clever fabrication
And it's really nothing more than
A figment of my imagination
There is a real good reason
Why he needs a home down here,
He can't travel through these bayous
In some sleigh pulled by reindeer.

No! They all rest up at the camp
Until he returns later,
Down here he travels in a skiff
That's pulled by alligators
And since alligators cannot
Tolerate the bitter cold
There's no way that they can train
Much less live at the North Pole.

So that is why Papa Noel
Has a second home down here
And I can guarantee he's there
At least six months out of every year.
Now in his bayou cabin closet
By his Santa suit I'm told
There hang almost forty jerseys
And they all are black and gold.

Half of them are home jerseys
And the other half away
And almost every one of them
Is worn on Thanksgiving Day.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson ©2023

Though no one really knows
Exactly where this place is
We do know that Papa Noel holds
His annual gator races
Early on Thanksgiving Day.
Then the learners and the winners
Celebrate together with
A big Thanksgiving dinner
Prepared by Mama Noel herself.
She's a cook second to none.
And that may be because
Mama Noel is Cajun.

Which, if you didn't know
Then that's because you failed
To take the time to read
"The Cajun Christmas Tales"
Yes, Mama and Papa Noel
The gators and the reindeer
Celebrate Thanksgiving
In the bayous every year.

Now later on that afternoon
I am sure you've never seen
An NFL football game
That is nearly as extreme
As the one that Papa Noel hosts
Every Thanksgiving Day between
His Northern Polar Reindeer
And his Southern Gator team.

When you answer this question
You will know the reason why.
Have you ever seen a football game
Where all the players fly?
Now I told you all those jerseys
Were worn on Thanksgiving Day.
Well, the gators wear the home jerseys
And the reindeer the away.

The type of turf on the field
Matters not because they fly
But the field that they play on
Is the standard shape and size.
One hundred yards between goal lines
And fifty-three yards wide.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson ©2023

But because all of the players
In this football game can fly
There is one other boundary
Set at sixty-five yards high.

Now in order to ensure
They respect all the boundaries
Papa Noel has installed
The latest in laser technology
On the back corners of each end zone
Stand two-hundred-foot-high poles
They're candy striped, not red and white
No, these are black and gold.

Lined with green and red laser lights
That define the boundaries
Which, when broken set off
The Jingle Bell alarms automatically
Should the ball exceed the boundary height
They wait till it comes down
Before they touch it otherwise
They're considered out of bounds.

Now since their feet seldom
If ever, touch the ground
The ball and not their feet
Determine if they're out of bounds.
The football used in this game
Is quite a different matter.
Though the size and shape are the same
The inflatable rubber bladder

Had to be replaced with
A steel belted one because
The rubber bladder could not withstand
All the antlers, hooves and claws
Or being pounced upon
When fumbled to the ground,
By a player who weighs more than
Eleven hundred pounds.

So I guess by now you understand
Exactly what I mean
When I say you've never seen a football game
That is nearly this extreme.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson
©2023

The NFL All Stars, the elite
The very best
Of the NFL would find themselves
Extremely hard pressed
To compete with either of these teams
In a head-to-head contest.
That would be like checker champions
Trying to upset
The masters at their own game
Of three-dimensional chess.

Not to mention both these teams,
The gators and reindeer
Have been playing together as a team
For more than fifty years.
Only twice in all those years
Did Papa Noel cancel the game
And on both those occasions
The reason was the same.

More than they love playing football
They love watching the Saints play
And only twice have the Saints played
On Thanksgiving Day.
What Papa Noel enjoys even more
Then watching the Saints play
Is to be there at the stadium
Cheering for them on game day

Which is why he has season tickets.
Though you may question the reason
Since he can only attend the games
That they play in post season.
But if you really think about it
That precisely is the reason
He is able to purchase tickets
When they play in the post season.

He was cheering for the Saints
With all the other fans
When they won their first post season game
By defeating the Rams
There is not a single Saints fan
Who cannot recall
Hearing the announcer yell
“Hakim has dropped the ball.”
“Hakim has dropped the ball.”

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson
©2023

At the NFC title game
In the Superdome I'm told
Papa Noel showed up with his face
Painted black and gold
He cheered so loud he lost his voice
And then he lost control
When in overtime, Garrett Hartley
Kicked the game winning field goal.

Still wanting to celebrate
Although his voice was gone
He was down there on the field
With Tom and Gayle Benson
Doing the Benson Boogie
Though I'm sure they didn't know
That he was there
Because he was there incognito.

When Papa Noel got the news
At his home at the North Pole
That he had won the lottery
To purchase tickets to the Super Bowl
He rushed here by reindeer express
Then raced back to the North Pole
To have the elves decorate his sleigh
And paint it black and gold
In preparation for
That very special trip
To Miami to see the Saints
Play for the championship.

Now we all know that Papa Noel
Can be lively and be quick
But when the Saints started the second half
With an onside kick
That they quickly recovered
He was jumping up and down
In and out of every isle
He was dancing all around.

Even though the game
Was somewhat still in doubt
Until Terry picked off Manning's pass
And took it to the house.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson

©2023

He immediately called Mama Noel
On his mobile phone
Asking her to meet him
Down at their bayou home
So both of them could be there
At the Superdome
When the Saints finally brought
The Vince Lombardi trophy home.

Both of them were there
For the victory celebration
As honorary members
Of the worldwide WHO DAT nation.
As great as all of these games were
The single greatest one
Was a game that the Saints played
During the regular season.

It was on the 25th of September
In the year two thousand six
There never was nor ever will be
Another game like this.
The year before Katrina
Had destroyed the Superdome
And for more than a year
The Saints couldn't play at home.

There were rumors they were moving
But no one really knew.
Were they leaving for San Antonio
And were the rumors true?
When they had finally finished
Repairing the Superdome
Tom settled all the rumors
When he brought the Saints back home.

It really did not matter
What team the Saints would play.
There wasn't any team
Who could defeat the Saints that day.
On the 25th of September
In the year two thousand six
Papa Noel put Tom Benson
On his permanent nice list.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson ©2023

Now I have one more thing to share
Before I rest my case.

As they say, "to seal the deal
And put the icing on the cake",
For centuries, on Christmas Eve,
In order to stay warm,
Papa Noel use to wear a pair
Of red and white long Johns
Underneath his Santa suit.
Papa Noel still wears long Johns
But now a days I'm told
They're no longer red and white
Now they're black and gold.

So in light of what I've shared
I'm sure you can understand
Why we can say there is no doubt
Papa Noel's a Saints fan.
But to the few of you
Who absolutely refuse to be convinced,
Saying these stories are all hearsay
And I have no hard evidence,

I will present you with a witness
Who can testify
To the truth of what I've said
And I am certain, you cannot deny
The testimony of this witness
For you know them very well.
The witness that I speak of
Is none other than ?????.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

This is the surprise ending.

PAPA NOEL IS A SAINTS FAN

By Warren Swenson
©2023

By the way, there is one part of this story
That I almost forgot
Both the reindeer and the gator team
Each have their own mascot.
Neither of them is a gator or reindeer
You may be surprised to find
That both of them have chosen
For their mascot a canine.

The one the reindeer chose
Is someone you should already know.
That's because he's also the Saints mascot
And his name is Gumbo.
Understanding why they chose him
As a mascot isn't all that hard
When you consider that Gumbo
Is a Saint Bernard.
That means he is quite comfortable
Even when it's really cold.
In fact, many times he's been
Papa Noel's guest at the North Pole.

Now Christmas in Louisiana
Is unique to say the least
So, the gators felt their mascot
Needed to be equally unique
That is why from Catahoula Parish,
Well known for the Indian mounds,
They choose a local hero named Jaybeau.
Who is a Catahoula hound.
He is Louisiana born and breed
And very proud is he to be so.
At some other time, I will tell you
How it was he became a local hero.

So, Papa and Mama Noel
Jaybeau and Gumbo
The Reindeer and the Gator team
A bright red crawfish named Boudreaux
Nicapopolis, a wise old nutria
And Paulie the pelican
Spend Christmas Day down here
At Papa Noel's hidden cabin
Somewhere on a lost bayou
Here in south Louisiana
Where Papa Noel proudly flies
A black and gold Saints banner.