Juwan Johnson Finishes Saints' Overtime Escape From Cleveland

NFL WEEK 9 · 2026 | GRADES 5–6 | CLE @ NO · NO 23 – CLE 22

NAME _____	DATE _____	SCORE ____ / 11

STORY Read the story, then answer the questions.

The Catch That Waited

With 4:17 left in overtime, Juwan Johnson finally had his big moment. The Saints tight end caught Tyler Shough's 15-yard touchdown pass, putting New Orleans ahead of Cleveland 23-22 in the Superdome. The Saints had started the day 2-5 and needed a spark, while the 5-3 Browns hoped to move past a hard loss to Pittsburgh.

Before Johnson's winning catch, New Orleans took an early 3-0 lead. Audric Estime powered a long drive with tough runs, and Shough's 19-yard pass to Johnson set up a short field goal. The Saints then reached the Cleveland 2-yard line, but rookie receiver Jordyn Tyson lost the ball after making a catch. A Browns defender recovered it at the 1, ending a strong chance to add more points.

The Defense Holds Firm

Cleveland found its rhythm in the second quarter. Shedeur Sanders connected with Dylan Sampson for 16 yards and Harold Fannin Jr. on an important play that kept the drive alive. The Browns tied the game with a field goal, then recovered a fumble on a Saints punt return and drove to the 1-yard line.

New Orleans answered with a huge goal-line stand. The defense stopped two short Cleveland runs and kept the score tied 3-3 at halftime. After the break, Sanders fired a 60-yard pass to Denzel Boston, setting up another Browns field goal. Shough answered by leading a long drive for a field goal of his own, and the teams were tied again, 6-6.

A Wild Final Race

Charlie Smyth's 48-yard field goal gave New Orleans a 9-6 lead with 5:38 left. Cleveland struck back just three plays later when Sanders hit KC Concepcion for a 64-yard touchdown. With time running out, Shough found Chris Olave for 33 yards to the Cleveland 10. Estime then ran in from 2 yards out, putting the Saints ahead 16-13 with 58 seconds remaining.

Sanders was not finished. He found Jerry Jeudy twice, helping Cleveland set up a 51-yard field goal at the buzzer and forcing overtime. In the extra period, Shough used Olave, Alvin Kamara, and Devaughn Vele to move downfield before finding Johnson. Sanders answered with a 39-yard touchdown pass to Fannin, but Cleveland could not complete its tying two-point try. The Saints moved to 3-5 after a win built on persistence when every late play mattered.

WORDS TO KNOW From the story.

persistence (n.): Persistence is the act of continuing to work toward something even when it is difficult.

READING Fill in the bubble for the best answer. Write full sentences.

1 **Which event ended the Saints' strong chance to add points after they reached Cleveland's 2-yard line?**

- (A) Jordyn Tyson lost the ball after making a catch.
- (B) Cleveland made a field goal from close range.
- (C) Audric Estime was stopped on a long run.
- (D) Tyler Shough threw a pass out of bounds.

2 **What does the phrase “found its rhythm” suggest about Cleveland in the second quarter?**

(A) The team lost control of the game clock.

(B) The team changed to a slower style of play.

(C) The team stopped trying to pass the ball.

(D) The team began making plays that moved the ball successfully.

3 **Which statement best expresses a central idea of the article?**

(A) Both teams used field goals more often than touchdowns.

(B) The Saints earned a close win by continuing to respond to Cleveland’s late plays.

(C) New Orleans built its lead mostly through early scoring drives.

(D) Cleveland controlled every quarter until the final overtime play.

4 **Why did the game go into overtime?**

(A) Cleveland made a 51-yard field goal as time expired.

(B) Cleveland recovered a late fumble on a punt return.

(C) The Saints scored a touchdown with 58 seconds left.

(D) New Orleans missed a field goal in the final minute.

5 **How did Cleveland’s failed two-point try affect the final outcome after Fannin’s overtime touchdown?**

(A) It gave New Orleans another field-goal chance.

(B) It ended overtime before Fannin scored.

(C) It left Cleveland one point short of tying the score.

(D) It put Cleveland ahead by one point.

6 **In your own words, explain how the Saints showed persistence throughout the article. Use details from the early scoring chances, the defensive stand, and the late plays to support your response.**

MATH

Math practice. Show your work.

1 PRACTICE

The merchandise stand orders ribbon in bulk to decorate gift bags. Each yard of ribbon costs $8, and the stand orders 7 yards to restock its supply. How much does the stand spend in total? Round to the nearest hundredth.

(A) 8.00
(B) 56.00
(C) 48.00
(D) 15.00

SHOW YOUR WORK

2 PRACTICE

A stadium calculation uses 5 2/3 ÷ 2 1/2. What is the quotient in simplest form?

(A) 2 4/15
(B) 6/85
(C) 15/34
(D) 1 2/15

SHOW YOUR WORK

3 PRACTICE

In the 2024 and 2025 seasons, Dontayvion Wicks scored 0.1282 and 0.0667 receiving touchdowns per reception, respectively. What is the sum of the values? Round to the nearest thousandth.

(A) 1.949
(B) 0.195
(C) 0.097
(D) 0.062

SHOW YOUR WORK

4 PRACTICE

Stadium operations starts with 71 units. A loss removes 37 units. Which integer describes the change?

(A) -71
(B) 71
(C) -108
(D) -37

SHOW YOUR WORK

5 PRACTICE

In the 2024 and 2025 seasons, Drake London's averages for receiving touchdowns per reception were 0.0900 and 0.1029, respectively. What is the difference between the values? Round to the nearest thousandth.

(A) 0.000
(B) 0.875
(C) 0.013
(D) 0.103

SHOW YOUR WORK

6 PRACTICE

A game ticket originally costs $210. After a 30% discount, what is the discounted price?

(A) 210
(B) 273
(C) 180
(D) 147

SHOW YOUR WORK

ANSWER KEY

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About 20 minutes

Separate these pages before giving the worksheet to students.

Standards: RI.6.1 · RI.6.2 · RI.6.4 · 6.NS.A.1 · 6.NS.B.3 · 6.NS.C.5 · 6.RP.A.3.C

READING

Correct answers are filled in.

1 **A** Jordyn Tyson lost the ball after making a catch.

The article says Tyson lost the ball after a catch, and a Cleveland defender recovered it at the 1-yard line. This ended the Saints' scoring opportunity.

2 **D** The team began making plays that moved the ball successfully.

After the phrase appears, Cleveland completes important passes, ties the score, recovers a fumble, and drives near the goal line. These details show that the team began to play more effectively.

3 **B** The Saints earned a close win by continuing to respond to Cleveland's late plays.

The Saints answered Cleveland throughout the game, including tying field goals, a late touchdown run, and Johnson's overtime touchdown. The final paragraph describes the win as one built on persistence.

4 **A** Cleveland made a 51-yard field goal as time expired.

After the Saints took a 16-13 lead, Sanders helped Cleveland reach field-goal range. Cleveland's field goal at the buzzer tied the score and forced overtime.

5 **C** It left Cleveland one point short of tying the score.

Johnson's touchdown had put New Orleans ahead 23-22. When Cleveland scored but could not complete the two-point try, the Browns remained one point behind.

6 What a good answer includes:

A strong response explains that the Saints kept responding after setbacks and changes in the score. It should include details such as the early lost ball, the goal-line defensive stand, field goals that tied the game, Estime's late touchdown, and Johnson's overtime touchdown.

MATH Correct answers are filled in.

1	B	56.00
2	A	2 4/15
3	B	0.195
4	D	-37
5	C	0.013
6	D	147