



Superdome power outage halts Super Bowl XLVII

CNN Staff - Sun February 3, 2013

Super Bowl XLVII ground to a halt early in the third quarter Sunday night, when about half of the lights in the Superdome went out.

Lights in the New Orleans stadium's upper tier went dark with the Baltimore Ravens leading the San Francisco 49ers 28-6, minutes after the Ravens' Jacoby Jones ran back the kickoff that opened the second half a record 108 yards for a touchdown.

About 10 minutes later, an announcement inside the Superdome indicated that the lights would be restored "momentarily." A short time later, lights began coming back on incrementally.

Morgan Cox of the Baltimore Ravens lies on the field while celebrating after defeating the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 in Super Bowl XLVII at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Sunday, February 3, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During the outage and the slow restoration of lights, players stayed on the field, talking to one another and stretching, waiting for play to resume. Spectators largely followed requests to remain in their seats.

Jeff Darlington, a reporter for the league-funded NFL Network, tweeted out a picture showing "the outside lights ... completely out. Very, very eerie."

A spokesman for Entergy, the utility that powers the Superdome and much of the area, said the problem was confined to the stadium itself.

"We are providing power to the dome," said Entergy spokesman Philip Allison. "Power in (the rest of) New Orleans is fine."

Play finally resumed at 8:10 p.m. (9:10 p.m. ET), about 34 minutes after the last play according to CBS, which broadcast the game.

The NFL subsequently issued a brief statement that acknowledged the problem but did not say what happened: "Stadium authorities are investigating the cause of the power outage."

Superdome spokesman Eric Eagan, meanwhile, was even more succinct, saying, “We sincerely apologize for the incident.”

Whatever the reason, the restoration of the lights seemed to energize the 49ers.

In about 10 minutes on the play clock, the 49ers notched three scores – a 31-yard touchdown reception by Michael Crabtree, a 6-yard touchdown run by Frank Gore and a 34-yard field goal by David Akers – to tighten a once-daunting gap and make the score 28-23 at the end of the third quarter.

Twice in the fourth quarter, San Francisco had chances to pull even or go-ahead. The first was a 2-point conversion attempt that could have tied the score 31-31, but failed. Then, with about two minutes to go, the 49ers had four chances to score a go-ahead touchdown from inside the 10-yard line.

That didn’t happen either. And when the final whistle sounded, the Ravens were basking in the Superdome limelight – all of them, by then – after their 34-31 Super Bowl win.

CNN’s Jeff Kepnes, Greg Botelho, Jillian Martin and Chandler Friedman contributed to this report.