



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, January 14, 2002

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Jan. 15

10:45 - 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Conference
11:15 - 11:55 Open Locker Room
12:30 - 12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Wednesday, Jan. 16

10:45 - 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Conference
11:15 - 11:55 Open Locker Room
TBD Opp. Player Conference Call
TBD Opp. HeadCoach Conference Call
12:30 - 12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Thursday, Jan. 17

10:30 - 11:00 Coach Belichick Press Conference
11:00 - 11:35 Open Locker Room
12:00 - 12:20 Photo Access at Practice

Friday, Jan. 18

No Media Availability

PATRIOTS SCHEDULE (11-5)

Sun., Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	L	17-23
Sun., Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets	L	3-10
Sun., Sept. 30	Indianapolis	W	44-13
Sun., Oct. 7	at Miami	L	10-30
Sun., Oct. 14	San Diego	W	ot 29-26
Sun., Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	W	38-17
Sun., Oct. 28	at Denver	L	20-31
Sun., Nov. 4	at Atlanta	W	24-10
Sun., Nov. 11	Buffalo	W	21-11
Sun., Nov. 18	St. Louis	L	17-24
Sun., Nov. 25	New Orleans	W	34-17
Sun., Dec. 2	at N.Y. Jets	W	17-16
Sun., Dec. 9	Cleveland	W	27-16
Sun., Dec. 16	at Buffalo	W	ot 12-9
Sat., Dec. 22	Miami	W	20-13
Sun., Dec. 28	Bye		
Sun., Jan 6	at Carolina	W	38-6

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Jan. 19

Philadelphia at Chicago 4:30 p.m.
Oakland at New England 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Baltimore at Pittsburgh 12:30 p.m.
Green Bay at St. Louis 4:00 p.m.

POSTSEASON WEEK 19 – DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (11-5) vs. OAKLAND RAIDERS (11-6)

DATE: Saturday, January 19, 2002
SITE: Foxboro Stadium (60,292) - Grass
TIME: 8:00 p.m. EST
TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast nationally on **CBS** (locally on WBZ Channel 4 in Boston). **Greg Gumbel** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partner **Phil Simms**. **Armen Keteyian** will report from the sidelines.

RADIO: WBCN's Rock Radio Network 104.1 FM. **Gil Santos**, now in his 25th season as voice of the Patriots, will call the action along with **Gino Cappelletti**. The tandem is enjoying their 18th season together. For a complete listing of all local affiliates, please see page 23. The game will also be broadcast nationally on CBS/Westwood One Radio. **Brad Sham** and **Bob Trumpy** will broadcast the game along with **John Dockery**, who will report from the sidelines.

The AFC East Division Champion New England Patriots (11-5) will host the AFC West Division Champion Oakland Raiders (11-6) in a divisional playoff game this Saturday, Jan. 19 at Foxboro Stadium. The game will be broadcast nationally beginning at 8:00 p.m. EST. It will be the Patriots' fifth home playoff game in franchise history and the fourth in their last five years. The Patriots are 3-0 in their last three home playoff games. Their only home playoff loss was in 1978.

The Patriots enter the playoffs as one of the hottest teams in the NFL, winning eight of their last nine games, including six in a row. Their current six-game win streak is the longest in the AFC, tying the streak of the NFC's St. Louis Rams. The Rams, coincidentally, were the last team to defeat the Patriots over two months ago (Nov. 18).

The Patriots will be well rested after earning a first-round playoff bye just one week after enjoying their regular season bye. When the Patriots host the Raiders this weekend, it will be just their second game in 27 days. The Raiders, on the other hand, snapped a three-game losing streak by defeating the New York Jets, 38-24, to advance to this week's divisional playoff game.

It will be the third time the Patriots and the Raiders have met during the playoffs. Coincidentally, both of their previous games were also played in the divisional playoff round. If history is any indicator, fans can expect another close game. In 1976, the Patriots led 21-17 in Oakland with just 40 seconds remaining, but lost 24-17 when quarterback Ken Stabler scored from a yard out with just 10 seconds to play. Patriots fans will always remember referee Ben Dreith as the Stabler enabler who called an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Ray Hamilton to give the Raiders a first-and-goal opportunity at the 1-yard line. That year, the Raiders advanced to Super Bowl XI and defeated the Minnesota Vikings.

In 1985, it was the Patriots who defeated the Jets to advance to play the Raiders in the divisional playoff game. After trailing 20-17 at the half, the Patriots scored 10 points in four seconds (elapsed time). After the Patriots converted a 32-yard field goal, the ensuing kickoff was fumbled and Jim Bowman recovered it in the end zone for a touchdown to give the Patriots a 27-20 victory. The Patriots then defeated the Dolphins to claim their first conference title in franchise history and advanced to Super Bowl XX in New Orleans.

This week's game will be the first playoff game for 21 Patriots players, including 14 veterans and five drafted rookies and two first-year free agents. The most notable among the veteran first-timers is 11-year veteran Roman Phifer, who is about to be replaced as the NFL's senior-most member without playoff experience (168 games). Also making his playoff debut will be second-year quarterback Tom Brady, who enters the postseason with an 11-3 record as a starter.

HOME SWEET HOME

New England enters this week's game with a consecutive sellout streak at Foxboro Stadium of 81 games. The streak began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 53-28 in those games, including six wins in their last seven at Foxboro. The Patriots currently have a three-game winning streak at Foxboro in the postseason and have not lost a home playoff game since 1978.



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

The Patriots and Raiders were two of the eight charter teams of the AFL in 1960 and have met 28 times over the past 42 years. While the two teams clashed 22 times in the 1960s and '70s, they have only met six times since 1981 and once since 1994. The Raiders hold a slim 14-13-1 advantage over the Patriots.

This will be the third time they have met in the playoffs, each occurring in the divisional playoff round. In the past two meetings, the team that has won, has advanced to the Super Bowl. The Raiders won the first meeting, 24-21 in 1976 on a last second touchdown run by quarterback Ken Stabler and advanced to Super Bowl XI against Minnesota. The Patriots evened the score in 1985, forcing six turnovers and defeating the Raiders 27-20. The Patriots advanced to Super Bowl XX against Chicago.

SERIES RECORD—New England 13, Oakland 14, 1 tie

DATE	RESULT	+/-	SITE
10/16/60	at Raiders 27, Patriots 14	-13	Kezar Stad.
11/4/60	at Patriots 34, Raiders 28	+6	B.U.
11/17/61	at Patriots 20, Raiders 17	+3	B.U.
12/9/61	Patriots 35, at Raiders 21	+14	Candlestick
10/26/62	at Patriots 26, Raiders 16	+10	B.U.
12/16/62	at Raiders 20, Patriots 0	-20	Frank Youell Field
9/22/63	Patriots 20, at Raiders 14	+6	Frank Youell Field
10/11/63	at Patriots 20, Raiders 14	+6	Fenway
9/13/64	Patriots 17, at Raiders 14	+3	Frank Youell Field
10/16/64	at Patriots 43, Raiders 43	0	Fenway
10/8/65	Raiders 24, at Patriots 10	-14	Fenway
10/24/65	at Raiders 30, Patriots 21	-9	Frank Youell Field
10/30/66	at Patriots 24, Raiders 21	+3	Fenway
9/17/67	at Raiders 35, Patriots 7	-28	Oakland Coliseum
10/22/67	Raiders 48, at Patriots 14	-34	Fenway
10/6/68	at Raiders 41, Patriots 10	-31	Oakland Coliseum
9/28/69	Raiders 38, at Patriots 23	-15	B.C. Alumni
9/19/71	at Patriots 20, Raiders 6	+14	Schaefer
12/1/74	at Raiders 41, Patriots 26	-15	Oakland Coliseum
10/3/76	at Patriots 48, Raiders 17	+31	Schaefer
12/18/76	at Raiders 24, Patriots 21*	-3	Oakland Coliseum
9/24/78	Patriots 21, at Raiders 14	+7	Oakland Coliseum
11/1/81	at Raiders 27, Patriots 17	-10	Oakland Coliseum
9/29/85	Raiders 35, at Patriots 20	-15	Sullivan
1/5/86	Patriots 27, at Raiders 20*	+7	LA Coliseum
11/1/87	at Patriots 26, Raiders 23	+3	Sullivan
11/26/89	at Raiders 24, Patriots 21	-3	LA Coliseum
10/9/94	Raiders 21, at Patriots 17	-4	Foxboro

* Divisional Playoff

SERIES TRENDS

Patriots record at Home	8-5-1
Patriots record on the Road	5-9 (1-1 in playoffs)
Total Points in the Series.....	NE 554, Oakland 659
Total Points in Postseason	NE 48, Oakland 44
Patriots Largest Margin of Victory	+31 (10/3/76)
Patriots Largest Margin of Defeat.....	-34 (10/22/67)
Highest Combined Point Total.....	86 (10/16/64)
Lowest Combined Point Total.....	20 (12/16/62)
Longest Win Streak.....	4, twice
Longest Losing Streak	4

BYE THE BYE

Since 1990, when the NFL went to three wild-card teams with just two teams in each conference getting byes, those bye teams have won 81.8 percent of their games in the divisional playoffs (36-8). During that 11-year period, 18 of the 22 teams who have appeared in the Super Bowl have been bye week teams.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Patriots	Raiders
Record	11-5.....	10-6
Divisional Standings	1 st	1 st
Total Yards Gained	4,882.....	5,361
Total Offense (Rank).....	305.1 (19).....	335.1 (7)
Rush Offense	112.2 (12).....	103.4 (24)
Pass Offense	193.1 (22).....	231.7 (4)
Points Per Game	23.1 (6).....	24.9 (4)
Total Yards Allowed	5,352.....	5,071
Total Defense	334.5 (24).....	316.9 (18)
Rush Defense	115.9 (19).....	124.3 (22)
Pass Defense.....	218.6 (24).....	192.7 (9)
Points Allowed/Game	17.0 (5).....	20.4 (19)
Possession Avg.	30:48.....	30:56
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss.....	46/237.....	27/155
Sacks Made/Yards.....	41/239.....	41/204
Interceptions By/Yards.....	22/422.....	17/306
Penalties Against/Yards	92/802.....	107/897
Fumbles/Lost.....	29/13.....	27/16
Fumbles Forced/Recovered.....	23/13.....	18/7
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio.....	+7.....	-1

CONNECTIONS

- Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** grew up in San Mateo, Calif. and attended Serra High School.
- Patriots safety **Je'Rod Cherry** was raised in Berkeley, Calif. and matriculated to the University of California at Berkeley.
- Patriots safety **Tebucky Jones** (1994-97) and Raiders tight end **Roland Williams** (1994-97) were teammates at Syracuse.
- Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** (1996-99), cornerback **Ty Law** (1992-94) and Raiders running back **Tyrone Wheatley** (1991-94) and cornerback **Rod Woodson** (1995-97) all attended the University of Michigan.
- Raiders quarterback **Rich Gannon** was originally drafted by the Patriots in the fourth round (98th overall) of the 1987 draft. He was later traded to the Minnesota Vikings for their fourth round (97th overall – WR Sammy Martin) pick in the 1988 draft.
- Raiders defensive end **Josh Taves** grew up in Yarmouth, Mass. and matriculated to Northeastern (1991-94). Taves also spent the 1996 on the Patriots practice squad.
- Raiders defensive coordinator **Chuck Bresnahan** served as Patriots Head Coach **Bill Belichick's** linebacker coach with the Cleveland Browns from 1994-95.
- Raiders defensive back coach **Ron Lynn** coached with the Patriots from 1997-99.

SERIES SUPERLATIVES

Below is a list of the top individual efforts during the Patriots and Raiders postseason series, based on yards gained:

Rushing Yards	Yds	Att	Avg	LG	Td
Patriots: Craig James (1/5/86)	104	23	4.5	16	1
Raiders: Marcus Allen (1/5/86)	121	22	5.5	17	1

Receiving Yards	Yds	No	Avg	LG	Td
Patriots: Russ Francis (12/18/76)	96	4	24.0	40	1
Raiders: Fred Biletnikoff (12/18/76)	137	9	15.2	31t	1

Passing Yards	Yds	Att	Comp	TD	Int
Patriots: Steve Grogan (12/18/76)...	167	23	12	1	1
Raiders: Ken Stabler (12/18/76)	233	32	19	1	0

LAST TIME IN THE PLAYOFFS

When the Patriots face off against the Raiders this weekend, they will have only 10 players, including six starters who were on the roster the last time they participated in the playoffs (at Jacksonville, Jan. 3, 1999).



Last Game Review – Patriots 38, Panthers 6

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots defeated the Carolina Panthers 38-6 last week to finish the 2001 season 11-5 and clinch their sixth AFC East title in franchise history.

The Patriots forced six Panthers turnovers, three of which resulted in touchdowns. Two of those touchdowns were interception returns for scores (46 yards by Ty Law and 76 yards by Otis Smith). The last time they recorded six takeaways in one game was 12/1/96 at San Diego.

The Patriots opened the scoring on the first drive of the game with a 19-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri. They drove 52 yards on 11 plays, using seven passes and three rushes to jump out to a 3-0 lead. It was the 13th time this season they have scored first and they improved to 9-4 in those games.

The Patriots defense followed with a score of their own, when Law snared a Chris Weinke pass and returned it 46 yards for a score, improving their lead to 10-0. It was Law's second interception return for a touchdown this season and the fifth of his career, a franchise record.

In the second quarter the Panthers threatened to score, moving inside the red zone. On third and goal from the three, Weinke was sacked by Willie McGinest and the Panthers settled for a field goal, cutting the Patriots lead to 10-3.

The Patriots were forced to punt on their first drive of the second half and punter Ken Walter pinned the Panthers on the 1-yard line. The Patriots defense did not allow the Panthers to gain a first down and forced them to punt from their 7-yard line. Patriots punt returner Troy Brown returned the punt 68 yards for a score, increasing their lead to 17-3. It was his second punt return for a touchdown of the season and the third of his career, tying a franchise record.

Following a Panther field goal, Patriots running back Antowain Smith rushed for a 32-yard touchdown and the Patriots increased their lead to 24-6. Smith's score marked the first time since Nov. 9, 1997 that the Patriots scored a touchdown on offense, defense and special teams in one game.

The Patriots put the pedal to the metal in the fourth quarter, getting two more scores. Quarterback Tom Brady completed a five-yard touchdown pass to Jermaine Wiggins and then cornerback Otis Smith picked off a Weinke pass, his second of the game, and he returned it 76 yards for a touchdown, his second of the season and the seventh of his career.

The last time the Patriots recorded two interception returns for touchdowns was when both Law and Smith returned interceptions for scores vs. Indianapolis (9/30).

PATRIOTS MILLER LITE PLAYER OF THE GAME

Patriots wide receiver Troy Brown was named Miller Lite Player of the Game against the Panthers. He broke the game open in the third quarter with a 68-yard punt return for a touchdown. He also led all receivers with six catches for 45 yards. It was his fifth Miller Lite Player of the Game award this season.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Patriots scored first against the Panthers on a 19-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri, marking the 13th time this season they have done so. They also extended their streak of not allowing a point in the first quarter to three games.

They outscored the Panthers 10-3 in the first half and this season they have outscored their opponents 207-105 in the first half and 133-51 in the second quarter.

GREAT POINT

The Patriots defense yielded just six points to the Panthers in their season finale, their lowest total of the season and the lowest since they allowed the Baltimore Ravens to score only three points (1/2/00). The Patriots finished the season allowing only 272 points (17.0 per game). It's the fifth lowest total in franchise history and the lowest total since the NFL went to a 16-game schedule in 1978. Their 17.0 average per game is the third lowest in team history (see below).

POINTS	YEAR	AVG	YEAR
157	.....1982 (9 games)	15.5	.....1977
217	.....1977 (14)	16.9	.....1976
236	.....1976 (14)	17.0	.....2001
257	.....1963 (14)	17.8	.....1999, 1988
272	.....2001 (16)	17.9	.....1993, 1978
283	.....1966 (14)	18.1	.....1991, 1985, 1983

FOR THE RECORD

The Patriots finished the season 3-1 against the NFC West, their best record versus the NFC since they went 3-1 in 1999 ... The Patriots were 9-4 this season when they scored first, 10-1 when they led at the half and 10-0 when they led after three quarters.

THREE TIMES A CHARM

The Patriots scored touchdowns on offense (A. Smith run, J. Wiggins pass), defense (O. Smith and T. Law interception returns) and special teams (T. Brown punt return) against the Panthers. It was the first time since Nov. 9, 1997 at Buffalo they had scored in all three phases of the game (B. Coates pass, C. Martin run, offense; C. Slade, interception return, defense; and D. Cullors, kickoff return, special teams).

WINNING WAYS

The Patriots extended their winning streak to six games, their longest since they closed the 1994 season with seven consecutive wins. They have also won eight of their last nine and 10 of their last 12.

HOT AND COLD

When the game time temperatures have cooled down in recent years, the Patriots have heated up. Since 1993, the Patriots are 12-4 when it's 36 degrees or colder, including a 2-1 record in the playoffs. In the Patriots final two games of the 2001 season, both victories, the game-time temperature was 36 degrees.

Date	Opp.	W/L	Result	Temp	Notes
1/6/02	@ Car.	W	38-6	36	drizzle
12/22/01	vs. Mia	W	20-13	36	w.c. 16
12/10/00	at Chi.	L	17-24	36	w.c. 17
12/27/98	@ NYJ	L	10-31	36	
12/3/95	vs. NO	L	17-31	36	
12/17/00	at Buf	W	16-13 ot	35	w.c. 6
11/23/97	vs. Mia	W	27-24	35	flurries/drizzle
12/28/97	vs. Mia*	W	17-3	35	w.c. 22
1/1/95	@ Cle*	L	13-20	35	w.c. 20
12/16/01	@ Buf	W	12-9 ot	34	
12/12/93	vs. Cin	W	7-2	34	
11/26/95	@ Buf	W	35-25	33	flurries/drizzle
1/12/97	vs. Jax*	W	20-6	27	w.c. 0
12/10/95	vs. NYJ	W	31-28	26	w.c. -4
12/21/96	@ NYG	W	23-22	24	w.c. 18
12/26/93	vs. Ind	W	38-0	19	
12-4=36 or lower			*-playoffs		



Team News and Notes

FREE AGENT FLURRY

The Patriots have added 17 new veterans to their roster since the end of the 2000 season. Since Head Coach Bill Belichick arrived in 2000, the Patriots have added 38 new players to the current 53-man roster, including 21 free agents. The list of Patriots additions this season are listed below in alphabetical order:

NAME, POS	EXP	CAREER		FORMER TEAM
		GP	GP/GS	
Terrell Buckley, CB	10	157	15/1	Denver
Je'Rod Cherry, DB	6	89	16/0	Philadelphia
Mike Compton, G/C	9	120	16/16	Detroit
Bryan Cox, LB	11	156	11/7	N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards, FB	5	80	16/13	Cleveland
Damon Huard, QB	5	34	0/0	Miami
Larry Izzo, LB	6	77	16/0	Miami
Charles Johnson, WR	8	117	14/2	Philadelphia
Riddick Parker, DL	5	64	13/0	Seattle
David Patten, WR	5	74	16/14	Cleveland
Roman Phifer, LB	11	166	16/16	N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant, DE	12	180	16/16	San Francisco
Terrance Shaw, CB	7	93	13/3	Miami
Antowain Smith, RB	5	73	16/15	Buffalo
Chris Sullivan, DE	6	78	0/0	Pittsburgh
Mike Vrabel, LB	5	66	16/12	Pittsburgh
Ken Walter, P	5	75	11/0	Carolina
17 Players	121	1,699	221/115	

TEAM TURNAROUND

The Patriots won six straight games and eight of their last nine, improving their record to 11-5 on the season. They recorded the second-best turnaround in the NFL in 2001, second only to the Chicago Bears, who increased their win total by eight games (see below).

Team	2000	2001	+/-
Chicago	5-11	13-3	+8
New England	5-11	11-5	+6
San Francisco	6-10	12-4	+6
Arizona	3-13	7-9	+4
Cleveland	3-13	7-9	+4
San Diego	1-15	5-11	+4
Atlanta	4-12	7-9	+3

The Patriots also completed the second-best turnaround in team history with six more wins in 2001 than in 2000. Only the 1976 Patriots (11-3) turned in a greater improvement, winning eight more games than they did in 1975 (3-11).

Year	Record	Year	Record	+/-
1975	3-11	1976	11-3	+8
2000	5-11	2001	11-5	+6
1995	6-10	1996	11-5	+5
1993	5-11	1994	10-6	+5
1990	1-15	1991	6-10	+5

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

While the Patriots have won six more games than they did last year and earned their sixth division title in franchise history, they have also shown marked improvement in numerous categories. For example, they are averaging nearly six more points per game this year and have averaged more than 25 yards rushing per game than last year. Listed below are six different categories where they have showed the greatest improvement this season, along with their NFL rankings.

Year	PPG NE	PPG Opp.	Rushing Offense	3 rd Down Efficiency
2001	23.1 (6)	17.0 (5)	112.2 (12)	41.2 (8)
2000	17.2 (25)	21.1 (17)	86.9 (26)	35.0 (24)

Year	Games	Turnover Ratio	Red Zone TD Pct. All.	Sacks
2001	16	+7 (9)	38.8 (3)	41 (12)
2000	16	-2 (18)	51.9 (18)	29 (25)

TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Patriots ('01)	Patriots ('00)
Record	11-5	5-11
Divisional Standings	1 st	5 th
Total Yards Gained	4,882	4,571
Total Offense (Rank)	305.1 (19)	285.7 (22)
Rush Offense	112.2 (12)	86.9 (26)
Pass Offense	193.1 (22)	198.8 (19)
Points Per Game	23.1 (6)	17.3 (25)
Total Yards Allowed	5,352	5,353
Total Defense	334.5 (24)	334.6 (20)
Rush Defense	115.9 (19)	114.4 (21)
Pass Defense	218.6 (24)	220.1 (21)
Points Allowed/Game	17.0 (5)	21.1 (17)
Possession Avg.	30:48	28:56
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss	46/237	48/280
Sacks Made/Yards	41/239	29/172
Interceptions By/Yards	22/422	10/161
Penalties Against/Yards	92/802	99/815
Fumbles/Lost	29/13	23/10
Fumbles Forced/Recovered	23/13	27/13
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio	+7	-2

TURN, TURN, TURN

The Patriots recorded a +3 turnover ratio in their season finale against the Panthers and improved to 7-1 when they record a positive ratio this season (34-10 since 1996). During their six-game winning streak to end the regular season, the Patriots had a +11 turnover ratio and improved their season ratio to +7. The Patriots have finished 17 seasons with a positive turnover ratio and in 16 of those seasons they had a winning record.

New England finished the 2001 season tied for sixth in the NFL and second in the AFC with 22 interceptions. They also finished fourth in the AFC with 35 takeaways (see below). It's their highest totals since they recorded 24 interceptions in 1998 and 40 takeaways in 1994.

RK Int.	Team	RK Takeaways	Team
1 ... 33	Cleveland	1	42 Cleveland
2 ... 22	New England	2	39 NY Jets
2 ... 22	Denver	3	37 Denver
4 ... 20	NY Jets	4	35 New England
5 ... 19	San Diego	5	31 San Diego

DEAD ZONE

The Patriots defense is in a zone. In their last five games, they have allowed their opponents just 10 drives in the red zone and their opponents have converted just one of those into a touchdown. Opponents have scored seven field goals, one touchdown and have turned the ball over twice (fumble, interception).

In 2001, they allowed their opponents to score 19 touchdowns on 49 trips inside the red zone. They rank first in the AFC and third in the NFL with a touchdown percentage of 38.8.

OPPONENTS DRIVES INSIDE PATRIOTS 20

Drives	Date	Opponent	Scrimmage	Result
1	12/2	at NY Jets	2	Field Goal
2	12/9	Cleveland	10	Field Goal
3	12/9	Cleveland	4	Field Goal
4	12/16	at Buffalo	26	Interception
5	12/16	at Buffalo	7	Field Goal
6	12/22	Miami	18	Field Goal
7	12/22	Miami	18	Field Goal
8	12/22	Miami	10	Fumble
9	12/22	Miami	10	Touchdown
10	1/5	Carolina	12	Field Goal



Team News and Notes

DIVISION CHAMPS

The Patriots claimed their sixth division title in franchise history and third in the past six seasons with their 38-6 win over the Panthers in the 2001 season finale. They joined the Pittsburgh Steelers as the only teams in the NFL to win three division crowns in the past six seasons. Coincidentally, the Patriots and Steelers were both champions in 1996, 1997 and 2001.

PAST PATRIOT DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963	7-6-1	1996.....	11-5
1978	11-5	1997.....	10-6
1986	11-5	2001.....	11-5

REBOUND

The Patriots became the 10th team in NFL history and the first since the 1996 Patriots to overcome an 0-2 start to win a division crown. The last two teams, Dallas in 1993 and New England in 1996 each advanced to the Super Bowl.

Year	Team	Record	Result
1966	Buffalo	9-4-1	Lost AFL Champ.
1967	Cleveland	9-5	Lost Divisional Playoff
1970	Oakland	8-4-2	Lost AFC Champ.
1980	Cleveland	11-5	Lost Divisional Playoff
1984	Washington	11-5	Lost Divisional Playoff
1987	Indianapolis	9-6	Lost Divisional Playoff
1992	San Diego	11-5	Lost Divisional Playoff
1993	Dallas	12-4	Won Super Bowl
1996	New England	11-5	Lost Super Bowl
2001	New England	11-5	?

WORST TO FIRST

This season, the New England Patriots finished as the AFC Eastern Division champions, rebounding from a 5-11 last-place finish in 2000. It was the 15th worst-to-first season in the NFL since the 1970 NFL merger. Three of those teams reached the Super Bowl (St. Louis Rams, 1998; Cincinnati Bengals, 1987; Cincinnati Bengals, 1980).

VERSUS THE AFC EAST

The Patriots finished with a 6-2 record against the AFC East during the 2001 season. The last time they finished a season with a winning record against the AFC East was in 1997 (7-1).

HOME SWEET HOME

The Patriots enter the postseason with a consecutive sellout streak of 81 games at Foxboro Stadium. The streak began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 53-29 in those games.

Their first playoff game will be the 171st consecutive game the Patriots have played that will be televised locally. The streak, which began with the 1993 season-finale, includes preseason, postseason and regular season games.

FAREWELL TO FOXBORO?

This weekend's game will be the 242nd game played at Foxboro, including the fifth postseason game played. The Patriots hold a 136-105 record at Foxboro Stadium since it opened in 1971, including a 3-1 record in the playoffs. The Patriots won their final regular season home game at Foxboro Stadium, 20-13, against the Miami Dolphins.

HONORS AND AWARDS

PATRIOTS WEEKLY PLAYER OF THE GAME RECIPIENTS

Opponent	Player	Stats
Cincinnati	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 106 yds and 1 td
NY Jets	WR Troy Brown	5 rec., 82 yds; 4 pr, 44 yds
Indianapolis	LB Bryan Cox	11 tackles
Miami	LB Mike Vrabel	3 tackles, 1 interception
San Diego	QB Tom Brady.....	33-54, 364 yds, 2 tds
Indianapolis	WR David Patten	4 rec.-117 yds-2 tds; 1 rush-29 yds-1td; 1-1 passing-60yds-1td
Denver	DE Willie McGinest.....	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Atlanta	DE Willie McGinest.....	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Buffalo	RB Antowain Smith	20 att., 100 yds, 2 tds
St. Louis	WR Troy Brown	8 rec.-91 yds
New Orleans	QB Tom Brady.....	19-26, 258 yds, 4 tds
NY Jets	LB Roman Phifer.....	9 tackles
Cleveland	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 89 yds; 4 punt ret., 125 yds, incl. 85 yd TD
Buffalo	K Adam Vinatieri.....	4 FG's, incl. 23-yd gm-winner
Miami	RB Antowain Smith	26 att., 156 yds, 1 td
Carolina	WR Troy Brown	6 rec., 45 yds; 2 punt ret., 70 yds, incl. 68 yd TD

Note – Bold denotes NFL Miller Lite Player of the Week Winner

AFC PLAYER OF THE MONTH

PR Troy Brown (Dec./Jan.)

AFC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

QB Tom Brady (Wk 5 & Wk 11)
WR David Patten (Wk 6)
K Adam Vinatieri (Wk 14)
P Ken Walter (Wk 15)

2001 PRO BOWL

- QB Tom Brady
- S Lawyer Milloy

SHAW'S 12-PLAYER AWARD

- QB Tom Brady

ALL TERRY TEAM (FOX'S TERRY BRADSHAW)

- Patriots owner Robert Kraft
- QB Tom Brady

CBS' PHIL SIMMS' ALL-IRON TEAM

- WR Troy Brown

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED'S DR. Z'S ALL-PRO TEAM

- Coach of the Year – Bill Belichick
- Center Damien Woody
- Defensive Rookie of the Year – Richard Seymour

DALLAS MORNING NEWS' RICK GOSSELIN'S NFL AWARDS

- Coach of the Year – Bill Belichick
- Executive of the Year – Scott Pioli

ESPN'S DAN PATRICK'S NFL AWARDS

- Coach of the Year – Bill Belichick

CNN'S PETER KING'S ALL-PRO TEAM

- Co-Head Coach Bill Belichick
- Safety Lawyer Milloy
- Punt Returner Troy Brown

USA TODAY'S ALL-JOE TEAM

- Head Coach Bill Belichick
- WR Troy Brown
- FB Marc Edwards
- RB Antowain Smith





RB Antowain Smith – The A-train



A-TRAIN

Antowain Smith gained 81 yards on 21 carries in the season-finale against the Panthers and finished the 2001 season with 1,157 yards rushing on 287 attempts (4.0 avg.) and 12 rushing touchdowns. Smith became the first Patriots running back to average 4.0 yards or better per carry since Curtis Martin in 1997 (4.2). "(Smith) runs hard, he's tough, and he can carry the mail," said Head Coach Bill Belichick.

Rushing							Receiving					
Date	Opp.	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
09/09	at Cin.	11	33	3.0	11	0	-	-	-	-	-	
09/23	NYJ	10	20	2.0	5	0	-	-	-	-	-	
09/30	Ind.	22	94	4.3	39	2	3	58	19.3	38	0	
10/07	at Mia.....	14	47	3.4	9	1	1	1	1.0	1	0	
10/14	S.D.....	15	36	2.4	9	1	2	9	4.5	6	0	
10/21	at Ind.	21	71	3.4	19	0	-	-	-	-	-	
10/28	at Den.	12	56	4.7	15	0	2	11	5.5	7	0	
11/04	at Atl.	23	117	5.1	22	0	3	28	9.3	18	0	
11/11	Buf.	20	100	5.0	42	2	-	-	-	-	-	
11/18	St.L.	15	36	2.4	6	0	1	5	5.0	5	0	
11/25	N.O.	24	111	4.6	15t	1	3	42	14.0	41t	1	
12/02	at NYJ	12	28	2.3	5	1	3	43	14.3	40	0	
12/09	Cle.	21	76	3.6	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	
12/16	at Buf.	20	95	4.8	38	0	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0	
12/22	Mia.....	26	156	6.0	44	1	-	-	-	-	-	
01/06	at Car.	21	81	3.9	32t	1	-	-	-	-	-	
2001 Totals.....		287	1,157	4.0	44	12	19	192	10.1	41t	1	

CENTURY MARK

Smith eclipsed the 100-yard mark in four games this past season (11th of his career), including a career-high 156 yards vs. Miami (12/22). It's the most by a Patriots running back since Robert Edwards recorded four 100-yard games in 1998. The Patriots had a 4-0 record when he rushed for over 100 yards this season and his teams are now 10-1 in those games during his career.

Yards	Att	Avg	TD	W/L	Versus
156	26	6.0	1	W	vs. Miami, 12/22/01
147	17	8.7	3	W	at Seattle, 12/23/00
130	31	4.2	2	W	at Indianapolis, 10/11/98
129	12	10.7	3	W	vs. Indianapolis, 9/21/97
126	29	4.3	0	W	vs. Miami, 11/14/99
118	22	5.4	0	L	vs. St. Louis, 9/20/98
117	23	5.1	0	W	at Atlanta, 11/4/01
113	30	3.9	1	W	vs. NY Jets, 9/19/99
111	24	4.6	1	W	vs. New Orleans, 11/25/01
107	23	4.7	2	W	vs. Indianapolis, 11/22/98
100	20	5.0	2	W	vs. Buffalo, 11/11/01

Smith established a new career-high with 1,157 yards rushing during the 2001 season (1,124 yards, 1998). It was his second 1,000-yard rushing season during his five-year career. Smith also became just the ninth Patriot to gain 1,000 yards rushing in a single season and the first since Robert Edwards gained 1,115 yards on 291 carries (3.8 avg.) in 1998. His 1,157 yards was seventh in franchise history (see below).

Player, Year	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Curtis Martin, 1995	368	1,487	4.0	49	14
Jim Nance, 1966	299	1,458	4.9	65t	11
Craig James, 1985	263	1,227	4.7	65t	5
Jim Nance, 1967	269	1,216	4.5	53	7
John Stephens, 1988	297	1,168	3.9	52	4
Curtis Martin, 1997	274	1,160	4.2	70t	4
Antowain Smith, 2001	287	1,157	4.0	44	12
Curtis Martin, 1996	316	1,152	3.6	57	14

MR. SMITH GOES TO FOXBORO

Smith scored on a 32-yard run in the season-finale against Carolina. It was his 13th touchdown of the season (12 rushing, 1 receiving), which was tied for third in franchise history. His 12 rushing touchdowns are the most since Curtis Martin scored 14 in 1996. New England had a 8-1 record in games when Smith scored a touchdown this year.

PATRIOTS TOP TD SEASONS

Player, Year	TD	RU	REC	RET	PTS
Curtis Martin, 1996	17	14	3	0	102
Curtis Martin, 1995	15	14	1	0	90
Antowain Smith, 2001	13	12	1	0	78
Stanley Morgan, 1979	13	0	12	1	78
Steve Grogan, 1976	13	12	0	1	78

Smith ranked third in the AFC and fifth in the NFL with 12 total touchdowns (see below).

TOP SCORERS IN THE AFC

PLAYER, TEAM	TD	RU	REC	RET	X2	POINTS
M. Faulk, St.L.	21	12	9	0	1	128
S. Alexander, Sea.	16	14	2	0	0	96
T. Owens, S.F.	16	0	16	0	0	96
M. Harrison, Ind.	15	0	15	0	0	90
A. Smith, N.E.	13	12	1	0	0	78
C. Dillon, Cin.	13	10	3	0	0	78

TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME

Smith's 32-yard touchdown run at Carolina was his second touchdown run of 32 yards or more this season and was his fifth run of at least 32 yards this season. It's the most since Robert Edwards had five in 1998.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Smith kept the chains moving for the Patriots this season, gaining 64 first downs. He ranked seventh among AFC running backs with 58 rushes and six receptions for first downs.



Offensive/Special Teams News and Notes

FLY PATTEN

Patriots wide receiver David Patten set career-highs in 2001 with 51 catches, 749 yards and four touchdowns, but it was his performance against the Colts (10/21) that thrust him into NFL lore.

Patten led an offensive assault, which included two touchdown receptions, a run for a touchdown and a touchdown pass in the Patriots 38-17 victory over the Colts. He became the first player in franchise history to accomplish the touchdown trifecta in a game and the first player to do so in the NFL in 22 years (to the date). Hall of Fame RB Walter Payton was the last player to accomplish the feat on Oct. 21, 1979 vs. Minnesota. Four players scored the TD trifecta in the 1960s, but Patten is the first since Keith Lincoln in 1965 to score four total touchdowns while achieving the feat.

TD Trifecta						
Date	Player, Team	Opp.	Run	Rec	Pass	Total
10/21/01	David Patten, N.E.	Ind.	29	91	60	186 yds
10/21/79	Walter Payton, Chi.	Min.	2	2	54	58 yds
12/7/69	Harmon Wages, Atl.	N.O.	66	88	16	170 yds
12/10/67	Dan Reeves, Dal.	Phi.	1	5	45	51 yds
11/7/65	Keith Lincoln, S.D.	Den.	1	66	34	108 yds
12/11/60	J.H. Johnson, Pit.	Phi.	87	7	15	109 yds

Patten's performance earned him **NFL Miller Lite Player of the Week** honors and **AFC Offensive Player of the Week** honors. In addition, three of his touchdowns were noteworthy accomplishments on their own merit. **Patten's 29-yard touchdown run on the team's first play from scrimmage was ...**

- his first touchdown of the season.
- his second rushing attempt of the season (11-yard gain vs. Indianapolis, 9/30/01).
- the first rushing touchdown by a Patriots wide receiver since Irving Fryar ran 8-yards for a score at Seattle (11/17/85).
- the longest rushing touchdown since Curtis Martin's 70-yard touchdown vs. Chicago on 9/21/97.

Patten's 91-yard pass from Tom Brady in the second quarter was ...

- the longest play from scrimmage in Patriots history. The previous long was a 90-yard reception by Craig James from Tony Eason (9/15/85).
- the longest reception of his career (65, at Cincinnati, 9/10/00).

Patten's 60-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Troy Brown in the second quarter was ...

- the first pass attempt of his 5-year career.
- the first touchdown pass by a Patriots player other than a quarterback since running back David Meggett threw a 35-yard pass to Troy Brown vs. the Dolphins 11/23/97.
- the second-longest touchdown pass by a Patriots player other than a quarterback (RB Andy Johnson, 66-yard pass in 1981).
- the first touchdown pass by a Patriots wide receiver in franchise history.

FOLLOWING A PATTERN

During the course of the 2001 season, David Patten developed a pattern of drawing pass interference penalties, drawing a total of five. They all extended drives that resulted in scores. Against the Saints (11/25) he drew two pass interference penalties and the Patriots scored touchdowns on both drives. Also, in overtime against the Chargers on Oct. 24, his 37-yard pass interference penalty began their drive that resulted in the game-winning field goal.

OPPONENT, DATE	YARDS	RESULT OF DRIVE
Indianapolis, 9/30	26	47-yard field goal
San Diego, 10/14	37	44-yard field goal
Buffalo, 11/10	25	1-yard touchdown run
New Orleans, 11/25	42	8-yard touchdown pass
New Orleans, 11/25	24	2-yard touchdown pass

KICKIN' IT

Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri finished the 2001 regular season with 113 points and became only the second player in NFL history to record 100 points in each of his first six years along with Jason Elam.

Player	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
Jason Elam	119	119	132	109	124	127	730
Adam Vinatieri	120	115	127	107	106	113	688

CLUTCH KICKER

Vinatieri kicked three game-winning field goals during the 2001 season, increasing his career total to 11. Five of his kicks have come in overtime, including two this season. His game-winning kicks are listed below:

Date	Opponent	Yds	Time	Final Score
9/22/96	Jacksonville	40	12:24 (OT)	28-25
9/14/97	NY Jets	34	6:57 (OT)	27-24
10/04/98	at New Orleans	27	0:03	30-27
12/20/98	San Francisco	35	0:03	24-21
9/12/99	at NY Jets	23	0:03	30-28
9/19/99	Indianapolis	26	0:35	31-28
11/19/00	Cincinnati	22	0:03	16-13
12/17/00	at Buffalo	24	0:19 (OT)	13-10
10/14/01	San Diego	44	10:55 (OT)	29-26
12/02/01	at NY Jets	28	6:29	17-16
12/16/01	at Buffalo Bills	23	9:15 (OT)	12-9

JUST FOR KICKS

Vinatieri has established himself as the most reliable kicker in team history, with a 80.0 field goal percentage (160 of 199).

Field Goal % (at least 100 att.)			
Rank	Kicker	%	FGM-FGA
1.	Adam Vinatieri	80.0	160-199
2.	Tony Franklin	74.4	93-125
3.	John Smith	67.0	128-191

MAKING GOOD POINTS

Vinatieri has increased his career point total to 688 and needs only five points to move past John Smith into second place on the Patriots all-time scoring list.

#	SCORING	TD	PAT/PATA	2-Pt	FG /FGA	TP
1	Gino Cappelletti	42	346/ 358	2	176/ 334	1,130
2	John Smith	0	308/ 323	0	128/ 191	692
3	Adam Vinatieri	0	206/211	1	160 199	688

JUST FOR KICKS

Patriots punter Ken Walter, who was signed by the Patriots on Oct. 16, led the AFC and ranked second in the NFL with a net punting average of 38.1 during the 2001 season. Walter was equally deft in placing punts inside the 20-yard line in 2001. He boomed almost half of his punts, 24 of 49 (49.0%), inside the 20. It's the highest ratio in the NFL. He has not punted into the end zone in eight weeks (40 consecutive punts). Walter earned AFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors after averaging 42.2 yards on five punts, including two inside the 20, against the Dolphins in Week 15.

THE SPECIALIST

Patriots linebacker Larry Izzo has been a special teams standout during his six-year career and continued his exceptional play this season with the Patriots. Izzo, who has earned one trip to the Pro Bowl (2000), finished the 2001 season tied with Tampa Bay's Dwight Smith for the NFL lead with 22 special teams tackles. Izzo set a career-high with 33 special teams tackles in 1999.



Defensive News and Notes

GOING BOWLING



Patriots safety Lawyer Milloy was named to the Pro Bowl for the third time in his career this season. He trails only Hall of Fame cornerback Mike Haynes (six) for most Pro Bowl appearances by a defensive back.

Milloy led the defense with 113 tackles this season, marking the fifth consecutive season he has surpassed 100 tackles. It was also the fourth consecutive season he led the defense in tackles. His year-by-year career totals are listed below. Milloy has been a constant on the Patriots defense since he was drafted in 1996, playing in all 96 games, including 80 consecutive starts.

"He's there dependably week in and week out, year in and year out," said Head Coach Bill Belichick. "I think he has as much respect probably for the way he plays his position as anybody in the league. I mean he's just tough, consistent, dependable and he's a warrior."

Year	TT	Solo	Asst.	Int.	FF	FR
1997#	112	82	30	3	2	2
1998*	151	100	51	6	1	1
1999*	173	112	61	4	3	2
2000#	121	90	31	2	4	0
2001#	113	77	36	2	0	1

*-used coaches film # -used press box stats

LAW AND ORDER

Patriots cornerback Ty Law snared three interceptions during the 2001 season and moved into seventh place on the Patriots all-time interception list with 25 career interceptions (see below). He returned two of the three interceptions for touchdowns, 46 yards at Carolina (1/6/02) and 23 yards vs. Indianapolis (9/30), and increased his franchise-record to five. Law also added 70 tackles in 2001, the fourth-highest total of his seven-year career.

Rk	Player	Int.	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
6	Maurice Hurst.....	27	263	9.7	36	1
7	Ty Law	25	438	16.3	59t	5
8	Ronnie Lippett.....	24	420	17.5	73	2
	Nick Buoniconti	24	223	9.3	41	0

OTIS, MY MAN

Patriots cornerback Otis Smith led the Patriots and finished tied for fourth in the AFC with five interceptions during the 2001 season. "Otis is a savvy ball hawk and if the ball is thrown inaccurately around him most of the time he is going to come up with it," said Head Coach Bill Belichick.

Smith returned two of his interceptions for touchdowns, 78 and 76 yards, increasing his career total to seven. He became just the fifth player in franchise history to record two interception returns for scores in the same season. He also accumulated 181 return yards in 2001, the fourth highest single-season total in franchise history.

His 78-yard return versus the Colts (9/30) was the longest return of his career and the longest by a Patriot since Jimmy Hitchcock returned an interception 100-yards for a score vs. Miami (11/23/97). His previous long was 74 yards vs. Washington (12/22/91).

SACK ATTACK

Willie McGinest was credited with six sacks this season, increasing his career total to 51.5 (5th in franchise history). Earlier this season, he notched multiple sacks in back-to-back games and became the first Patriot player to do so since Patriot linebacker Chris Slade notched three sacks versus Detroit (9/12/93) and two versus Seattle (9/19/93).

Rk.	Player	Years	Sacks
4.	Ray Hamilton.....	1973-81	54.0
5.	Willie McGinest ...	1994-01.....	51.5
6.	Chris Slade.....	1993-00	51.0

TONS OF TACKLES

Patriots linebacker Bryan Cox totaled 49 tackles while playing in 11 games this season. Cox has accumulated 1,076 total tackles during his 11-year career, the fifth highest total among active AFC linebackers (see below).

Cox was named Miller Lite Player of the Game following his 11 tackle performance versus the Colts (9/30). A crushing hit on Colts wide receiver Jerome Pathon, was a defining moment of the season. "I think that set a tone and a physicalness for that game," said Head Coach Bill Belichick.

Rk	Player	Years	Tackles	Sacks	FF	FR
1	H. Nickerson*	1987-	1,741	19.5	23	12
2	B. Romanowski+	1988-	1,312	33.5	16	17
3	J. Seau*	1990-	1,389	45.5	11	16
4	M. Lewis*	1991-	1,182	52	15	13
5	B. Cox	1991-	1,076	52	21	13
6	L. Kirkland+	1992-	989	19.5	13	9

*-as of Dec. 30 +-as of Dec. 10

ROMAN CONQUER

Linebacker Roman Phifer finished the season as the second-leading tackler on the Patriots with 92 stops (71 solos). It was the seventh time in his 11-year career he has recorded 92 or more tackles and the first time since 1998 when he logged 99 with the St. Louis Rams. He also totaled two sacks, one interception, two forced fumbles and recovered two fumbles.

"I'll tell you Roman is having a terrific year, he really is," said head coach Bill Belichick during the season. "This is the best I have seen him play in the last three or four years. His pass rush has really improved and he has always been a good coverage linebacker."

Phifer will play in the first postseason game of his 11-year career during the divisional round of the playoffs. He will be able to drop the distinction of being the player who has played in the most regular season games with no postseason action, see below:

Player, Team	Games	Player, Team	Games
Roman Phifer, Patriots ...	168	Sean Gilbert, Carolina	132
Marty Carter, Atl./Det.....	161	Dean Wells, Carolina	129
Tony McGee, Cincinnati.....	136		

THE BUCK(LEY) STOPS HERE

Terrell Buckley intercepted three passes this season, increasing his career total to 41. Buckley ranks sixth among active defenders with 41 career interceptions (see below). Buckley, who has played in more playoff games than any other Patriot (11), has never played on a team with a losing record during his 10-year career. The closest he came was during the 1996 season when the Dolphins were 8-8.

Rk	Player	Yrs.	Int.	Yds	TD
1	Rod Woodson	14	61	1,240	10
2	Eric Allen	13	54	826	8
	Darrell Green	18	54	621	6
4	Aeneas Williams.....	10	48	711	10
5	Ray Buchanan.....	9	43	789	4
6	Terrell Buckley.....	10	41	638	5
7	LeRoy Butler	11	38	533	1

PAPER OR PLASTIC

New England's defensive ends Bobby Hamilton and Anthony Pleasant combined for 13 sacks (seven and six, respectively). It's the highest sack total by a Patriots defensive line tandem since defensive ends Brent Williams (8.0) and Gary Jeter (7.0) totaled 15 in 1989. The Patriots defense recorded 41 sacks, compared to 29 last season.



Here's a Story ... QB Tom Brady

GOING BOWLING



Tom Brady was voted to represent the New England Patriots at the Pro Bowl this year, becoming just the second Patriots quarterback to receive the honor (Drew Bledsoe). He became just the fifth quarterback to get voted to the Pro Bowl in his first year as a starter since 1970, joining Dan Marino (1983), Brett Favre (1992), Kurt Warner (1999) and Dante Culpepper (2000). Both Vito 'Babe' Parilli and Mike Taliaferro earned AFL all-star recognition in the 1960's.

HERE'S A STORY...

Tom Brady became the only quarterback in franchise history to win 11 of his first 14 starts as a Patriot. Vito "Babe" Parilli ranks second in Patriots annals with 10 wins his first 14 starts.

Quarterback	14 th	Quarterback	14 th
Tom Brady	11-3	Butch Songin.....	5-9
Babe Parilli	10-4	Matt Cavanaugh	5-9
Doug Flutie	8-5*	Jim Plunkett	5-9
Tony Eason	8-6	Steve Grogan	6-8

*-Flutie only started 13 games in his Patriots career.

GAME-BY-GAME

Brady's helped lead the Patriots on a season-ending six-game win streak, their longest win streak since 1994 when they won the final seven games of the season. In addition, they won eight of their last nine and 10 of their last 12 games. Brady's game-by-game performances this season are listed below:

Date	Opp	W/L	Att	Cmp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int	Rat.
09/09	at Cin.				did not play				
09/23	NYJ	L	10	5	46	.500	0	0	62.9
09/30	Ind.	W	23	13	168	.565	0	0	79.6
10/07	at Mia.	L	24	12	86	.500	0	0	58.7
10/14	SD	W	54	33	364	.611	2	0	93.4
10/21	at Ind.	W	20	16	202	.800	3	0	148.3
10/28	at Den.	L	38	25	203	.658	2	4	57.1
11/04	at Atl.	W	31	21	250	.677	3	0	124.4
11/11	Buf.	W	21	15	107	.714	1	1	78.9
11/18	St. L.	L	27	19	185	.704	1	2	70.8
11/25	N.O.	W	26	19	258	.731	4	0	143.9
12/02	at NYJ	W	28	20	213	.714	0	0	93.3
12/09	Cle.	W	28	19	218	.679	0	2	61.3
12/16	at Buf.	W	35	19	237	.543	0	1	63.6
12/22	Mia.	W	19	11	108	.579	1	0	91.6
1/6	at Car.	W	29	17	198	.586	1	2	62.1
2001 Totals	11-3		413	264	2843	.639	18	12	86.5

ON TARGET

Brady threw just 12 interceptions during the 2001 season, which was the third lowest single-season total (min. 300 attempts) in Patriots history. He also recorded an interception percentage of 2.9 (12 interceptions on 413 attempts) which was the sixth-best in franchise history (see below).

Player	Int	Year	Player, Yr.	Int.-Att.	%
T. Eason	8	1984	T. Eason, 1984	8-431	1.8
T. Eason	10	1986	T. Eason, 1986	10-448	2.2
T. Brady ...	12	2001	D. Bledsoe, 2000.....	13-531	2.4
S. Grogan.....	12	1983	D. Bledsoe, 1996.....	15-623	2.4
D. Bledsoe ..	13	2000	D. Bledsoe, 1995.....	16-636	2.5
D. Bledsoe ..	14	1998	T. Brady, 2001	12-413	2.9
			D. Bledsoe, 1998.....	14-481	2.9
			D. Bledsoe, 1997.....	15-522	2.9



COMPLETING THE PICTURE

Brady completed 63.9% (413-264) of his passes this season and achieved the highest completion percentage in the 42-year history of the franchise. The Patriots single-season record was held by Tony Eason in 1986 with a 61.6 mark (448-276). Brady finished the season ranked second in the AFC and fourth in the NFL. The top five completion percentages in the NFL

during the 2001 season and in Patriots franchise history are listed below.

NFL, 2001 Season				Patriots History	
Quarterback	Att	Cmp	%	Quarterback, Year	Comp%
K. Warner	546	375	68.7	Tom Brady, 2001	63.9
R. Gannon.....	549	361	65.8	Tony Eason, 1986.....	61.6
D. Culpepper ...	366	235	64.2	Hugh Millen, 1992.....	61.1
T. Brady.....	384..	247...	63.9	Steve Grogan, 1986	60.8
P. Manning.....	547	343	62.7	Drew Bledsoe, 1997	60.2
J. Garcia	504	316	62.7		

RATINGS GAME

Brady finished the 2001 season ranked third in the AFC and sixth in the NFL with a quarterback rating of 86.5 while starting in 14 games this season. His 86.5 rating was the fifth-highest in the 42-year history of the Patriots franchise. Tony Eason (93.4, 1985), Babe Parilli (91.8, 1962), Eason (89.2, 1986) and Drew Bledsoe (87.7, 1997) are the only Patriot quarterbacks to record higher passer ratings during a season.

Brady recorded six games with a rating of 91.6 or better (all wins) and three of 124.4 or more, including a season-high of 148.3 at Indianapolis (10/21). The top-rated passers in 2001 are listed below:

PLAYER	ATT	CMP	PCT.	Yds	TD	INT	RATING
K. Warner, StL	546	375	68.7	4,830	36	22	101.4
R. Gannon, Oak.	549	361	65.8	3,828	27	9	95.5
J. Garcia, SF	504	316	62.7	3,538	32	12	94.8
B. Favre, GB	510	314	61.6	3,921	32	15	94.1
S. McNair, Ten.	431	264	61.3	3,350	21	12	90.2
T. Brady, NE	413	264	63.9	2,843	18	12	86.5
D. McNabb, Phi.	493	285	57.8	3,233	25	12	84.3

PRECISION PASSER

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady entered an exclusive club during the 2001 season, when he became only the fifth player in NFL history to complete over 70 percent of his passes in four consecutive games in the same season (minimum 10 passes). He ranks with legends Slingin' Sammy Baugh, Troy Aikman, Joe Montana and Steve Young (see below).

CONSECUTIVE GAMES IN SEASON 70% OR HIGHER COMPLETION PCT.

Joe Montana, 1989	8
Tom Brady, 2001.....	4
Troy Aikman, 1995	4
Steve Young, 1993	4
Sammy Baugh, 1945.....	4



WR Troy Brown – Jack of All Trades



RECORD BREAKER

Patriots wide receiver Troy Brown caught back-to-back passes on the Patriots first drive of the game against the Panthers (his 96th and 97th) to become the Patriots all-time leading receiver, surpassing Ben Coates (96, 1994). Brown also caught his 100th pass of the season in the third quarter and became the first Patriot to ever record 100 receptions in a single-season.

Brown also moved into second place with 1,199 yards receiving, moving ahead of Coates (1,174, 1994). Brown is only the sixth Patriots receiver to eclipse the 1,000-yard receiving mark in a season. The last Patriots wide receiver to reach 1,000 yards was Terry Glenn who had 1,147 yards in 1999. The Patriots single-season receiving highs, along with Brown's totals from this season, are listed below.

Rec	Player	Year	Yards	Player	Year
101	Troy Brown	2001	1,491	Stanley Morgan	1986
96	Ben Coates	1994	1,199	Troy Brown	2001
90	Terry Glenn	1996	1,174	Ben Coates	1994

BROWN OUT

Against the Panthers in the Patriots regular-season finale, Troy Brown led all receivers with five catches for 45 yards. It was the 15th time in 16 games he led the team in receptions this season. He completed the 2001 season with a franchise-record 101 catches for 1,199 yards (11.9 avg.) and five touchdowns. Brown's game-by-game reception totals this season are listed below:

Date	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
09/09	at Cincinnati	7	106	15.1	31	1
09/23	NY Jets	5	82	16.4	58	0
09/30	Indianapolis	3	21	7.0	9	0
10/07	at Miami	5	47	9.4	15	0
10/14	San Diego	11	117	10.6	23	0
10/21	at Indianapolis	8	120	15.0	60t	1
10/28	at Denver	9	86	9.6	18	1
11/04	at Atlanta	5	99	19.8	44t	1
11/11	Buffalo	2	25	12.5	16	0
11/18	St. Louis	8	91	11.4	23	0
11/25	New Orleans	7	91	13.0	19	1
12/02	at NY Jets	8	59	7.4	18	0
12/09	Cleveland	7	89	12.7	18	0
12/16	at Buffalo	5	62	12.4	26	0
12/22	Miami	5	59	11.8	18	0
1/6	at Carolina	6	45	7.5	17	0
2001 Totals		101	1,199	11.9	60t	5

Brown ranked fifth in the NFL (4th in AFC) with 101 receptions and 10th in the NFL (4th in AFC) with 1,199 yards receiving.

Receiver, NFL	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
R. Smith, Den.	113	1,343	11.9	65t	11
J. Smith, Jax	112	1,373	12.3	35t	8
M. Harrison, Ind.	109	1,524	14.0	68	15
K. Johnson, TB	106	1,266	11.9	47	1
Troy Brown, N.E.	101	1,199	11.9	60t	5
M. Booker, Chi.	100	1,071	10.7	66t	8

Receiver, AFC	Yds	No	Avg.	LG	Td
M. Harrison, Ind.	1,524	109	14.0	68	15
J. Smith, Jax	1,373	112	12.3	35t	8
R. Smith, Den.	1,343	113	11.9	65t	11
Troy Brown, N.E.	1,199	101	11.9	60t	5
Tim Brown, Oak	1,165	91	12.8	46t	9

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Over half of Brown's 101 receptions this season (59) resulted in first downs. He also rushed for four first downs, increasing his total to 64, which tied for fourth among AFC wide receivers. Four of his six receptions against the Panthers resulted in first downs.

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Brown ranked fifth among receivers in the NFL with 184 catches over the past two seasons. He established a Patriots franchise record with 101 catches this season, eclipsing Ben Coates' total of 96 (1994).

Player	Catches, 2000	Catches, 2001	Total
Rod Smith	100	113	213
Marvin Harrison	102	109	211
Jimmy Smith	91	112	203
Terrell Owens	97	93	190
Troy Brown	83	101	184
Keyshawn Johnson	71	106	177

CATCHING ON

Brown's 184 receptions over the last two seasons are the highest two-year total in Patriots history. He moved past Ben Coates two-year total of 180 (1994-95) during the season finale against the Panthers.

Player	Catches, Year	Catches, Year	Total
Troy Brown	83, 2000	101, 2001	184
Ben Coates	96, 1994	84, 1995	180

MOVING ON UP

Brown ranks fifth in Patriots annals with 321 career catches and trails Terry Glenn (329 catches) by just eight receptions.

Rk	Player, Pos.	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
1	Stanley Morgan, WR	534	10,352	19.4	76t	67
2	Ben Coates, TE	490	5,471	11.2	84t	50
3	Irving Fryar, WR	363	5,726	15.8	80t	38
4	Terry Glenn, WR	329	4,669	14.2	86t	22
5	Troy Brown, WR	321	3,970	12.4	67	17
6	Gino Cappelletti, WR	292	4,589	15.7	63t	42

THE RETURNS ARE IN

Brown finished the season as the top punt returner in the NFL, averaging a career-high 14.2 yards per return. He is just the second Patriot to accomplish the feat, joining Irving Fryar (14.1, 1985). Brown's 14.2 average is the second-highest in franchise history, behind Mack Herron's 14.8 average in 1974. His previous career-high average was in 1998 when he returned 17 punts for 225 yards for a 13.2-yard average. The top punt returners in the NFL this season and in Patriots history are listed below.

Returner	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
T. Brown, N.E.	29	413	14.2	85T	2
D. Gordon, Atl.	31	437	14.1	74	0
Swinton, Dal.	31	414	13.4	65t	1

Returner, Year	Avg.	No	Yds	Td
Mack Herron, 1974	14.8	35	517	0
Troy Brown, 2001*	14.2	29	413	2
Irving Fryar, 1985*	14.1	37	520	2

*-led the NFL

Brown returned two punts for touchdowns this season, an 85-yard return vs. Cleveland (12/9) and a 68-yard return against Carolina (1/6/02). They were the second and third of his career, tying Irving Fryar (1984-91) for the most career punt returns touchdowns (three). He also tied Fryar (1985) and Hall of Famer Mike Haynes (1976) for the most punt returns for touchdowns in a season (two).



How Do You Spell Patriots? – T, E, A, M

Team (team) n. 1. Set of people working together. **Team** v. 1. To combine into a team or set or for a common purpose.

If the New England Patriots can be summed up in one word, it would have to be “team”. They have received career-best performances from numerous players this season, each contributing to the team’s success. Veteran starters like wide receiver Troy Brown, running back Antowain Smith and safety Lawyer Milloy have all established new career-highs in multiple statistical categories, while young players have exceed expectations to contribute to the team’s success in 2001. Whether it’s quarterback Tom Brady, tackle Greg Robinson-Randall, tight end Jermaine Wiggins, or wide receiver Fred Coleman, they’ve all been dependable players who have had a positive impact on the team this year.

“There is an old saying about the strength of the wolf is the pack and I think there is a lot of truth to that. On a football team it’s not the strength of the individual players, but it is the strength of the unit and how they all function together.” – **Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick.**

“I think our team definitely improved from December to July both in terms of personnel and also in terms of the team’s attitude and it’s work ethic and it’s commitment to the offseason program that started (last) March. That improvement has manifested itself to where we are today and that is mainly due to a lot of hard work by the players and the chemistry that they have developed themselves.” – **Belichick.**

“When you look at them individually, they may not be impressive, but this is a team game, not an individual game.” – **Buffalo Bills President/General Manager Tom Donahoe.**

The players who have registered career-highs this year are listed below in alphabetical order.

Veteran Players

Career-High

G	Joe Andruzzi.....	16 games played, 16 games started
QB	Tom Brady	15 games played, 14 games started; 413 attempts, 264 completions, 2,843 yards, 18 touchdowns, 12 interceptions, 86.5 rating.
WR	Troy Brown	101 receptions, 1,199 yards; 11 rushes, 91 yards; 14.2 punt return avg., 2 punt returns returned for touchdowns.
LB	Tedy Bruschi	2 interceptions, 3 forced fumbles*.
LB	Matt Chatham.....	11 games played, 12 special teams tackles.
FB	Marc Edwards.....	51 rushes, 141 yards, 1 touchdown*.
DE	Bobby Hamilton	7 sacks.
CB	Antwan Harris.....	3 special teams tackles*.
CB	Tebucky Jones.....	12 starts, 57 total tackles, 1 sack.
CB	Ty Law.....	2 interception returns for touchdowns, 1 sack*.
S	Lawyer Milloy.....	3 sacks, fourth consecutive year leading team in tackles, fifth consecutive year with 100+ tackles.
DT	David Nugent	9 games played, 1 start; 4 tackles.
FB	Patrick Pass.....	6 receptions, 66 receiving yards, 1 touchdown; 10 kickoff returns, 222 kickoff return yards, 22.2 avg., 11 special teams tackles.
WR	David Patten.....	51 receptions, 749 receiving yards, 4 receiving touchdowns; 5 rushes, 67 rushing yards, 1 touchdown; two passing attempts, one completion, 60 passing yards, 1 touchdown.
DE	Anthony Pleasant.....	2 interceptions; 4 passes defended*.
RB	J.R. Redmond.....	12 games played*; 2 kickoff returns, 57 yards; 3 special teams.
T	Greg Robinson-Randall...	16 games played, 16 games started.
OL	Grey Ruegamer	14 games played, 1 games started.
TE	Rod Rutledge.....	14 games started.
RB	Antowain Smith	15 games started, 1,157 rushing yards; 12 rushing touchdowns, 192 receiving yards, 1 receiving touchdowns.
CB	Otis Smith	2 sacks; 19 passes defended.
LB	Mike Vrabel	16 games played, 12 games started; 60 total tackles, 37 unassisted tackles, 23 assisted tackles; 3 sacks, 2 interceptions, 9 passes defended.
TE	Jermaine Wiggins.....	16 games played, 6 starts; 4 touchdowns.

First Year Players

WR Fred Coleman8 games played; 2 receptions, 50 yards; two special teams tackles.

Rookie Players

T	Matt Light.....	14 games played, 12 games started.
CB	Leonard Myers.....	7 games played; 5 defensive tackles; 2 special teams tackles.
DT	Richard Seymour	13 games started, 10 starts; 44 tackles, 25 solo tackles, 19 assisted tackles; three sacks; one pass defended; one fumble recovery.

*-tied career-high



BY THE NUMBERS

17

The number of playoff games the Patriots have played during their 41-year history.

7

The number of those playoff games that have been played since 1994.

6

The number of seasons the Patriots qualified for the playoffs in the franchise's first 34 seasons.

5

The number of seasons the Patriots have qualified for the playoffs in their last eight seasons, since Robert Kraft purchased the team in 1994.

3

The number of playoff games hosted by the Patriots since 1996. The Patriots are undefeated in those games.

1

The number of playoff games hosted by the Patriots prior to 1996. The Patriots lost that game 31-14 in 1978.

11-5

The Patriots record during the 2001 season.

5-11

The Patriots record during the 2000 season.

+6

The number of wins the Patriots were improved by during the 2001 season. It was the second highest in the league and in franchise history.

6

The number of division championships the Patriots have won in their 42-year history.

3

The number of titles they have won over the past six seasons (1996-2001). Only the Pittsburgh Steelers have won as many during the same time span.

82

The number of consecutive sellouts at Foxboro Stadium, a streak that began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 53-29 in those games.

11-3

Tom Brady's record as a starter, which is the best start through 14 games in franchise history, eclipsing the mark set by Vito "Babe" Parilli who started his career 10-4.

63.9

Brady's completion percentage this season (413-264), which was second in the AFC and fourth in the NFL.

61.6

The Patriots single season completion percentage record set by Tony Eason (448-276) in 1986.

101

The number of passes Troy Brown caught during the 2001 season. It's the highest single season reception total in team history.

96

The previous Patriot's record for most catches in a season, set by Ben Coates in 1994.

167

The number of games Patriots linebacker Roman Phifer has played in during his 11-year career.

0

The number of playoff games he has played in during his 11-year NFL career.

+7

The Patriots turnover ratio this season

7-1

The Patriots record when they have a positive turnover ratio this season.

34-10

The Patriots record when they have a positive turnover ratio since 1996.

10

The number of drives Patriots opponents had inside the red zone during the final five games of the season.

1

The number of touchdowns the Patriots defense allowed in those 10 trips.

38.8

The percentage of touchdowns the Patriots defense allowed in the red zone this season. They ranked first in the AFC and third in the NFL.

113

The number of tackles safety Lawyer Milloy recorded during the 2001 season. It was his fifth consecutive 100-tackle season.

90

The number of consecutive games Milloy has started at safety for the Patriots. It's the longest active streak on the team.

23.1

The average number of points the Patriots scored per game this season. They ranked third in the AFC behind Indianapolis (25.8) and Oakland (24.9)

17.0

The number of points per game the Patriots defense has allowed this season. They ranked sixth in the NFL and third in the AFC.

