



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots vs. Houston Texans– January 18, 2026

TEAM NOTES

- Patriots tie San Francisco for the most postseason wins all-time.
- Patriots advance to 16th AFC Championship Game
- Patriots win 9th straight Divisional Playoff Game.
- Patriots improve to a 3-0 postseason record against Houston.
- Patriots forced five turnovers and tied team postseason record with four interceptions.
- CB Marcus Jones returns an interception for a touchdown.
- CB Carlton Davis III registers two interceptions.
- QB Drake Maye throws three touchdown passes.

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS TIE FOR THE MOST POSTSEASON WINS IN NFL HISTORY

The Patriots earned their 39th postseason win overall, tied with San Francisco for the most postseason wins in NFL history.

MOST POSTSEASON WINS ALL-TIME

<u>Team</u>	<u>Wins</u>
New England	39
San Francisco	39
Green Bay	37
Dallas	36
Pittsburgh	36
L.A. Rams	29
Philadelphia	29

KRAFT EARNS 35TH POSTSEASON VICTORY

The New England Patriots have won 35 playoff games since Robert Kraft bought the franchise in 1994. The 35 wins rank third among ownership groups in NFL history and are the most by any team since he entered the NFL.

PLAYOFF VICTORIES SINCE 1994

<u>Team</u>	<u>Victories</u>
New England	34
Green Bay	23
Philadelphia	21
San Francisco	21
Pittsburgh	20

Robert Kraft has 35 career postseason wins, which are the third-most in NFL history.

ALL-TIME POSTSEASON WINS

OWNERSHIP	YEARS	WINS
Green Bay Packers (1919-present)	107	37
The Rooney Family, Pittsburgh (1933-present)	93	36
Robert Kraft, New England (1994-present)	32	35
The Mara Family, N.Y. Giants (1925-present)	101	25
Eddie DeBartolo, Jr., San Francisco (1977-1999)	23	22

PATRIOTS PLAY IN 61st POSTSEASON GAME

The Patriots played in their 61st postseason game, the fifth-most in NFL history behind Dallas (67), Pittsburgh (66), Green Bay (65) and San Francisco (64). In the Patriots first 34 seasons (1960-93), the Patriots played in 10 postseason games and had a 4-6 overall record. In the 32 years of Robert Kraft's ownership, the Patriots have played in 51 playoff games and have a 35-16 record in those games.

Most Postseason Games Played

Team	Games Played
Dallas	67
Pittsburgh	66
Green Bay	65
San Francisco	64
New England	61
Los Angeles Rams	58
Philadelphia Eagles	56

PATRIOTS EXTEND BEST WINNING PERCENTAGE IN HOME GAMES

In the franchise's first 34 years, the Patriots hosted one playoff game and lost. Since 1994, the Patriots have won 25 of the 29 postseason games they have hosted. Their 25-5 all-time record in home playoff games gives them an .833 winning percentage at home in the postseason, which ranks first among teams with at least 15 home playoff games. The Patriots are one of six teams with at least 20 playoff wins at home, joining San Francisco (26), Pittsburgh (21), Dallas (21), Green Bay (20) and Philadelphia (20). Only San Francisco has more home wins.

BEST HOME PLAYOFF RECORDS

Team	Record	Win Pct.
New England	25-5	.833
Seattle	13-3	.813
Las Vegas	19-5	.792
Denver	18-5	.783
Buffalo	17-5	.773
San Francisco	26-9	.743
Green Bay	20-7	.741

PATRIOTS IMPROVE IN THE DIVISIONAL ROUND

Since 1970, the Patriots 16 Divisional Round wins are tied with Pittsburgh for the second-most wins, behind the 19 wins in the Divisional round by San Francisco. The Patriots have won nine consecutive Divisional playoff games, the longest such streak in NFL history. Kansas City and San Francisco are second with seven straight Divisional round wins.

Listed below is the Patriots all-time record in the Divisional Round of the playoffs, including the 1963 divisional playoff in the AFL playoff field.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF RESULTS (16-6) OVERALL

<u>Date</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
01/18/26	AFC Divisional	Houston	W	28-16
01/13/19	AFC Divisional	L.A. Chargers	W	41-28
01/13/18	AFC Divisional	Tennessee	W	35-14
01/14/17	AFC Divisional	Houston	W	34-16
01/16/16	AFC Divisional	Kansas City	W	27-20
01/10/15	AFC Divisional	Baltimore	W	35-31
01/11/14	AFC Divisional	Indianapolis	W	43-22
01/13/13	AFC Divisional	Houston	W	41-28
01/14/12	AFC Divisional	Denver	W	45-10
01/16/11	AFC Divisional	N.Y. Jets	L	21-28
01/12/08	AFC Divisional	Jacksonville	W	31-20
01/14/07	AFC Divisional	at San Diego	W	24-21
01/14/06	AFC Divisional	at Denver	L	13-27
01/16/05	AFC Divisional	Indianapolis	W	20-3
01/10/04	AFC Divisional	Tennessee	W	17-14
01/19/02	AFC Divisional	Oakland	W	16-13 (OT)
01/03/98	AFC Divisional	at Pittsburgh	L	6-7
01/05/97	AFC Divisional	Pittsburgh	W	28-3
01/04/87	AFC Divisional	at Denver	L	17-22
01/05/86	AFC Divisional	at L.A. Raiders	W	27-20
12/31/78	AFC Divisional	Houston	L	14-31
12/18/76	AFC Divisional	at Oakland	L	21-24
12/28/63	AFC Divisional	at Buffalo	W	26-8

MOST DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME APPEARANCES SINCE 1970

<u>Team</u>	<u>Games</u>
San Francisco	27
Dallas	25
Pittsburgh	25
New England	22
Minnesota	21
Green Bay	20

PATRIOTS ADVANCE TO 16TH AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The Patriots now advance to their 16th AFC Championship Game and first since appearing in eight straight AFC Championship Games from 2011 through 2018.

Most Conference Championship Games since 1970

<u>Team</u>	<u>Conference Championship Games</u>
San Francisco	19
New England	16
Pittsburgh	16
Dallas	14
L.A. Rams	12
Denver	11
Las Vegas	11

PATRIOTS IN THE AFC TITLE GAME

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RESULTS (11-4)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Round</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
01/20/19	AFC Championship	at Kansas City	W	37-31 (OT)
01/21/18	AFC Championship	Jacksonville	W	24-20
01/22/17	AFC Championship	Pittsburgh	W	36-17
01/24/16	AFC Championship	at Denver	L	18-20
01/18/15	AFC Championship	Indianapolis	W	45-7
01/19/14	AFC Championship	at Denver	L	16-26
01/20/13	AFC Championship	Baltimore	L	13-28
01/22/12	AFC Championship	Baltimore	W	23-20
01/20/08	AFC Championship	San Diego	W	21-12
01/21/07	AFC Championship	at Indianapolis	L	34-38
01/23/05	AFC Championship	at Pittsburgh	W	41-27
01/18/04	AFC Championship	Indianapolis	W	24-14
01/27/02	AFC Championship	at Pittsburgh	W	24-17
01/12/97	AFC Championship	Jacksonville	W	20-6
01/12/86	AFC Championship	at Miami	W	31-14

EIGHT PATRIOTS PLAYERS HAVE PLAYED IN A CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

There are seven Patriots on the active roster who have played in Conference Championship Games:

- **CB Carlton Davis III** played in the 2020 NFC Championship game at Green Bay with the Buccaneers.
- **WR Stefon Diggs** played in the 2017 NFC Championship game at Philadelphia with the Vikings, and in the 2020 AFC Championship game at Kansas City with the Bills.
- **LB Christian Elliss** played in the 2022 NFC Championship game vs. San Francisco with the Eagles.
- **TE Austin Hooper** played in the 2016 NFC Championship game vs. Green Bay with the Falcons.
- **LB Harold Landry III** played in the 2019 AFC Championship game at Kansas City with the Titans.
- **T Morgan Moses** played in the 2023 AFC Championship game vs. Kansas City with the Ravens.
- **DT Milton Williams** played in the 2022 NFC Championship game vs. San Francisco and in the 2024 NFC Championship game vs. Washington with the Eagles.
- **WR Mack Hollins (IR)** also played in the 2017 NFC Championship game vs. Minnesota with the Eagles, and the 2024 AFC Championship game with the Bills vs. Kansas City

PATRIOTS IMPROVE TO A 3-0 RECORD AGAINST HOUSTON IN THE POSTSEASON

The Patriots improved to a 3-0 record against Houston in the postseason.

POSTSEASON - PATRIOTS 2, TEXANS 0

<u>Date</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>H/A</u>	<u>Stadium</u>
01/13/13	W	41-28		Gillette Stadium in AFC Divisional Playoffs
01/14/17	W	34-16		Gillette Stadium in AFC Divisional Playoffs
01/18/26	W	28-16		Gillette Stadium in AFC Divisional Playoffs

PATRIOTS DEFENSE TIES TEAM POSTSEASON RECORD WITH FOUR INTERCEPTIONS

The Patriots defense recorded four interceptions with two picks by CB Carlton Davis III, and one by CB Marcus Jones and S Craig Woodson. The Patriots four interceptions tie the team's postseason mark. The Patriots also had four interceptions vs. Indianapolis on Jan. 11, 2014, vs. Indianapolis on Jan. 18, 2004 and at Buffalo on Dec. 28, 1964. The last time the Patriots had four interceptions in a regular season game was on Nov. 18, 2021 at Atlanta.

PATRIOTS DEFENSE FORCED FIVE TURNOVERS

The Patriots defense forced five total turnovers with four interceptions and one fumble recovery. It is tied for the second-most turnovers in a postseason game with the five the team had vs. Indianapolis on Jan 18, 2004 (4 interceptions and 1 fumble). The Patriots forced six turnovers in a postseason game three times, with the last coming at Miami on Jan. 12, 1986, in the AFC Championship Game. The last time the Patriots forced at least five turnovers in a regular season game was Dec. 15, 2019 at Cincinnati with four interceptions and one fumble recovery.

PATRIOTS SCORE 21 OFFENSIVE POINTS AGAINST HOUSTON'S TOP RANKED DEFENSE

The Patriots scored 21 offensive points against Houston's top-ranked defense. Houston allowed just 17.4 points per game during the regular season.

PATRIOTS DEFENSE HOLDS HOUSTON TO 48 YARDS RUSHING

The Patriots defense held Houston to just 48 yards rushing for a 2.2-yard average. It is the seventh time that the New England defense has held its opponent under 50 yards rushing in a postseason game and first since holding the Chargers to just 19 yards rushing on Jan. 13, 2019. It is the third lowest average by New England in the postseason.

Lowest Rushing Average in a Postseason Game

0.6 at Buffalo on Dec. 28, 1963

1.9 vs L.A. Chargers on Jan. 13, 2019

2.2 vs. Houston on Jan. 18, 2026

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

VRABEL HEADS TO SECOND CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AS A HEAD COACH

Mike Vrabel is heading to his second Conference Championship Game as a head coach. In 2019, he led the Tennessee Titans to the AFC Championship Game, a 35-24 loss at the Kansas City Chiefs.

VRABEL GOES OVER .500 IN POSTSEASON AS A HEAD COACH

Vrabel improved to 4-3 in the postseason as a head coach, with a 2-1 record in the Wild Card Round, a 2-1 record in the Divisional Round and a 0-1 record in the Conference Championship Game.

MARCUS JONES RETURNS A PICK 26 YARDS FOR A SCORE

CB Marcus Jones returned a second quarter interception 26 yards for a touchdown. It is the seventh interception returned for a touchdown in New England postseason history and the first since CB Asante Samuel returned a pick 39 yards for a touchdown at Indianapolis in the 2026 AFC Championship Game on Jan. 21, 2007. Jones has returned 2 interceptions for a touchdown in the regular season, including 33-yard return at Cincinnati this season on Nov. 23, 2025.

PATRIOTS INTERCEPTIONS RETURNED FOR A TD IN THE POSTSEASON

CB Marcus Jones returned a pick 26 yards for a TD vs. Houston on Jan. 18, 2026

CB Asante Samuel returned a pick 39 yards for a TD at Indianapolis on Jan. 21, 2007

CB Asante Samuel returned a pick 36 yards for a TD vs. N.Y. Jets on Jan. 7, 2007

CB Asante Samuel returned a pick 73 yards for a TD vs. Jacksonville on Jan. 7, 2006

S Rodney Harris returned a pick 87 yards for a TD at Pittsburgh on Jan. 24, 2005

CB Ty Law returned a pick 47 yards for a TD vs. St. Louis Feb. 3, 2002

LB Todd Collins returned a pick 40 yards for a TD vs. Miami on Dec. 28, 1997

JONES MAKES HISTORY

Jones is the second player in NFL history to have two interceptions returned for touchdowns and two punt returns for touchdowns in a season, including the playoffs. Jones returned two punts for a touchdown in the regular season. He joins CB Phillip Buchanon (2003 with Oakland).

DAVIS HAS FIRST TWO INTERCEPTIONS AS A PATRIOT

CB Carlton Davis III intercepted QB C.J. Stroud two times with picks in the first and second quarter. It is his first postseason interceptions and first picks of the 2025 season. It is the second game of his career with at least two interceptions. He had two picks at Houston on Nov. 10, 2024, when he played for Detroit. The last time the Patriots had a player with two interceptions in a postseason game was CB Alfonzo Dennard vs. Indianapolis on Jan. 11, 2014. It is the eighth time a Patriots player has had at least two interceptions in a postseason game.

MAYE THROWS THREE TD PASSES

QB Drake Maye had three touchdown passes with a 28-yard touchdown pass to WR DeMario Douglas, a 7-yard touchdown pass to WR Stefon Diggs and a 32-yard touchdown pass to WR Kayshon Boutte. He has thrown three or more touchdown passes in a game five times in his career, including three times in 2025 with 5 touchdowns at the NY Jets (12/28), and 3 vs. Cleveland (10/26) and at New Orleans (10/12). The first time he threw three touchdowns in a game was in his first career start when he completed three touchdown passes vs. Houston on Oct. 13, 2024. It is the 13th time in team history that a Patriots quarterback has thrown at least three touchdown passes in a postseason game and the most since Tom Brady had three in Super Bowl LII vs. Philadelphia.

CHAISSON HAS THIRD SACK OF THE POSTSEASON

LB K'Lavon Chaisson had 2 sacks in the Wild Card win vs. the LA Chargers and then added an 8-yard sack in the third quarter.

TONGA RETURNS TO ACTION AND RECORDS FIRST SACK OF THE SEASON

DT Khyiris Tonga returned to action after missing the final two games of the regular season and the postseason game against the Chargers and recorded his first sack of the season on a 8-yard sack of QB C.J. Stroud in the fourth quarter.

SCHOOLER REGISTERS 3 SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES.

S Brenden Schooler had 3 special teams tackles against Houston. He has four games in his career with 3 special teams tackles.

LINEUP NOTES

- **DT Khyiris Tonga** returned to action after missing the final two games of the regular season and the Wild Card Playoff game against the Los Angeles Chargers.
- **CB Alex Austin** returned to action after being placed on injured reserve after the game at Cincinnati on Nov. 30.