



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Denver Broncos—January 25, 2026

TEAM NOTES

- Patriots advance to 12th Super Bowl; 11th under Robert Kraft
- Patriots now have the most postseason wins in NFL history with 40.
- Patriots win first postseason game at Denver.
- Patriots win an NFL record five times on the road in a Conference Championship.
- Mike Vrabel is seventh to lead the team he played for to a Super Bowl berth

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS ADVANCE TO 12TH SUPER BOWL; 11TH SUPER BOWL OF THE KRAFT ERA

The Patriots advanced to their 12th Super Bowl and their 11th Super Bowl in the Robert Kraft era with the win at Denver.

MOST SUPER BOWL APPEARANCES

Team	Super Bowls
New England	12
Dallas	8
Denver	8
Pittsburgh	8
San Francisco	8
Kansas City	7

PATRIOTS IN THE SUPER BOWL (6-5)

Date	Game	Opponent	W/L	Score
01/26/86	XX	Chicago	L	10-46
01/26/97	XXXI	Green Bay	L	21-35
02/03/02	XXXVI	St. Louis	W	20-17
02/01/04	XXXVIII	Carolina	W	32-29
02/06/05	XXXIX	Philadelphia	W	24-21
02/03/08	XLII	New York Giants	L	14-17
02/05/12	XLVI	New York Giants	L	17-21-
02/01/15	XLIX	Seattle	W	28-24
02/05/17	LI	Atlanta	W	34-28 (OT)
02/04/18	LII	Philadelphia	L	33-41
02/03/19	LIII	L.A. Rams	W	13-3

THE PATRIOTS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO BREAK A TIE AND CLAIM THE MOST SUPER BOWL WINS

The Patriots will have a chance to break a tie with Pittsburgh for the most Super Bowl wins. The Patriots and Steelers both have six Super Bowl wins.

<u>Teams</u>	<u>Super Bowl Wins</u>
New England	6
Pittsburgh	6
Dallas	5
San Francisco	5

PATRIOTS NOW HAVE MOST POSTSEASON WINS ALL-TIME

The Patriots now have 40 postseason wins, moving out of a tie with San Francisco for the most postseason wins in NFL history.

MOST POSTSEASON WINS ALL-TIME

<u>Team</u>	<u>Wins</u>
New England	40
San Francisco	39
Green Bay	37
Dallas	36
Pittsburgh	36
L.A. Rams	29
Philadelphia	29

PATRIOTS REACH SUPER BOWL A YEAR AFTER A LOSING SEASON FOR THIRD TIME

The 2025 Patriots improved from a 4-13 record in 2024 to a 14-3 record in 2025. The Patriots became the 15th team to reach the Super Bowl a year after finishing with a losing season. The Patriots have done that two other times in their history, reaching the Super Bowl in 1996 after a 6-10 finish the year before and reaching the Super Bowl in 2001 a year after finishing with a 5-11 record.

NFL Teams That Reached the Super Bowl a Year After a Losing Record

<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Improvement</u>
1981	San Francisco	6-10 to 13-3*
1981	Cincinnati	6-10 to 12-4
1988	Cincinnati	4-11 to 12-4
1996	New England	6-10 to 11-5
1998	Atlanta	7-9 to 14-2
1999	St. Louis	4-12 to 13-3*
2000	N.Y. Giants	7-9 to 12-4
2001	New England	5-11 to 11-5*
2003	Carolina	7-9 to 11-5
2015	Carolina	7-8-1 to 15-1
2017	Philadelphia	7-9 to 13-3*
2019	San Francisco	4-12 to 13-3
2020	Tampa Bay	7-9 to 11-5*
2021	Cincinnati	4-11-1 to 10-7
2025	New England	4-14 to 14-3

*Won Super Bowl

2025 PATRIOTS ARE NINTH TEAM TO GO FROM LAST PLACE TO THE SUPER BOWL

This season, New England became the ninth team to go from “worst to first” and make the Super Bowl in the same season, joining the 1981 Cincinnati Bengals, 1988 Cincinnati Bengals, 1999 St. Louis Rams, 2001 New England Patriots, 2003 Carolina Panthers, 2021 Cincinnati Bengals, 2017 Philadelphia Eagles, 2009 New Orleans Saints. Of that group, the Rams, Patriots, Eagles and Saints won the Super Bowl.

SUPER BOWL REMATCH GUARANTEED

The Patriots are guaranteed to face a Super Bowl rematch with the winner of the NFC Championship game between the Seattle Seahawks and the L.A. Rams. The Patriots and Rams have met in two Super Bowls - Super Bowl XXVI and Super Bowl LIII. The Patriots and Seahawks met in Super Bowl XLIX. There have been nine Super Bowl rematches. The Patriots have been involved in three Super Bowl rematches, after facing the N.Y. Giants, St. Louis/L.A. Rams and the Philadelphia Eagles twice. Dallas and Pittsburgh have played in three Super Bowls.

SUPER BOWL REMATCHES

Miami vs. Washington – Super Bowl VII and Super Bowl XVII
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas – Super Bowl X, Super Bowl XIII, Super Bowl XXX
San Francisco vs. Cincinnati – Super Bowl XVI, Super Bowl XXIII
Dallas vs. Buffalo - Super Bowl XXVII, Super Bowl XXVIII
New England vs. N.Y. Giants – Super Bowl XLII, Super Bowl XLVI
New England vs. Philadelphia - Super Bowl XXXIX, Super Bowl LII
New England vs. STL/L.A. Rams – Super Bowl XXXVI, Super Bowl LIII
Kansas City vs. San Francisco – Super Bowl LIV, Super Bowl LVIII
Kansas City vs. Philadelphia – Super Bowl LVII, Super Bowl LIX

PATRIOTS WIN FIRST POSTSEASON GAME IN DENVER

The Patriots beat the Broncos in Denver in the postseason for the first time after losing four straight games, with two other AFC Championship Games in Denver. The Broncos' four postseason wins are the most playoff wins by any team against the Patriots all-time (no other team has more than two).

POSTSEASON - BRONCOS 4, PATRIOTS 2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>H/A</u>	<u>Stadium</u>
01/04/87	L	17-22	A	Mile High Stadium
01/14/06	L	13-27	A	Invesco Field
01/14/12	W	45-10	H	Gillette Stadium
*01/19/14	L	16-26	A	Sports Authority Field
*01/24/16	L	18-20	A	Sports Authority Field
*01/25/26	W	10-7	A	Empower Field at Mile High

***AFC Championship Game**

PATRIOTS HAVE FIVE CURRENT PLAYERS ON THEIR TEAM WITH SUPER BOWL EXPERIENCE

The Patriots have five current players with Super Bowl experience.

PATRIOTS WHO HAVE PLAYED IN A SUPER BOWL (4)

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Exp.</u>	<u>Game(s)</u>
Carlton Davis III (Tampa Bay)	CB	8	Super Bowl LV - W
Christian Elliss (Philadelphia)	LB	4	Super Bowl LVII - L
Mack Hollins (Philadelphia)	WR	9	Super Bowl LII - W
Austin Hooper (Atlanta)	TE	10	Super Bowl LI - L
Milton Williams (Philadelphia)	DL	5	Super Bowl LVII- L and Super Bowl LIX - W

PATRIOTS WIN ON THE ROAD IN A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME FOR A RECORD FIVE TIMES

The Patriots are now 12-4 in Conference Championship games and have now won on the road five times in the Conference Championship game, the most in NFL history. Dallas is second with four road wins in Championship games.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RESULTS (12-4)

Date	Round	Opponent	W/L	Score
01/25/26	AFC Championship	at Denver	W	10-7
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

MOST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NFL HISTORY

Team	Conference Championship Wins
New England	12
Dallas	8
Denver	8
Pittsburgh	8
San Francisco	8

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

KRAFT ADVANCES TO 11th SUPER BOWL; MOST AMONG ALL OWNERSHIP GROUPS

Robert Kraft earned his 11th conference championship victory. His 11 conference championships are most by any owner in the Super Bowl era.

MOST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS BY AN OWNER IN SUPER BOWL ERA

Owner	Team(s)	Super Bowl Appearances
Robert Kraft	New England	11
Pat Bowlen	Denver	7
Jack Kent Cooke	Washington	5
Al Davis	Oakland/L.A. Raiders	5
Eddie DeBartolo	San Francisco	5
Clint Murchison	Dallas	5
Packers Stockholders	Green Bay	5
Joe Robbie	Miami	5

KRAFT LEADS PATRIOTS TO 36TH POSTSEASON WIN TO TIE PITTSBURGH FOR SECOND-MOST

The New England Patriots have won 36 playoff games since Robert Kraft bought the franchise in 1994. The 36 wins are the most since Kraft purchased the team in 1994 and are tied for the second most postseason wins among all ownership groups.

CHAIRMAN AND CEO ROBERT KRAFT PLAYOFF VICTORIES SINCE 1994

New England Patriots	36
Green Bay Packers	23
Philadelphia	21
San Francisco	21
Pittsburgh Steelers	20

*Robert Kraft has 36 career postseason wins to join the Rooney family for the second-most postseason wins, behind the 37 by the Green Bay Packers.

PLAYOFF VICTORIES ALL TIME

Green Bay Packers (1919-present)	37
Robert Kraft, New England Patriots (1994-present)	36
Rooney Family, Pittsburgh (1933-present)	36

ALL-TIME POSTSEASON WINS

OWNERSHIP	YEARS	WINS
Green Bay Packers (1919-present)	107	37
Robert Kraft, New England (1994-present)	32	36
The Rooney Family, Pittsburgh (1933-present)	93	36
The Mara Family, N.Y. Giants (1925-present)	101	25
Eddie DeBartolo, Jr., San Francisco (1977-1999)	23	22
Al Davis, Oakland/Los Angeles (1972-2011)	40	21
Pat Bowlen, Denver (1984-2018)	35	21
Jeffrey Lurie, Philadelphia (1994-present)	32	21

VRABEL BECOMES SEVENTH TO LEAD THE TEAM THEY PLAYED FOR TO THE SUPER BOWL

Head coach Mike Vrabel is the seventh head coach to lead the team he played for to a Super Bowl berth, joining Don Shula (Super Bowl III with Baltimore), Tom Flores (Super Bowl XV and Super Bowl XVIII with the Raiders), Mike Ditka (Super Bowl XX with Chicago), Sam Wyche (Super Bowl XXIII with Cincinnati), Gary Kubiak (Super Bowl 50 with Denver) and Doug Pederson (Super Bowl LII with Philadelphia).

VRABEL TIES FOR MOST TOTAL WINS BY A COACH IN THEIR FIRST SEASON WITH A TEAM

Vrabel tied George Seifert (17 wins in 1989 with San Francisco) for the most wins by an NFL head coach in his first season with a team, including the postseason.

Most Wins by a Coach in his First Season with a Team

Head Coach	Team	Season	Wins
Mike Vrabel	New England	2025	17
George Seifert	San Francisco	1989	17
Jim Caldwell	Indianapolis	2009	16

VRABEL IS THE EIGHTH HEAD COACH TO LEAD HIS TEAM TO THE SUPER BOWL IN HIS FIRST SEASON

Vrabel is the eighth head coach to lead his team to the Super Bowl in his first season with the team. Don McCaffrey, George Seifert, Jon Gruden and Gary Kubiak were the only head coaches to win a Super Bowl in their first season as a head coach for that specific team.

Coaches Who Reached the Super Bowl in Their First Season with a Team

Don McCaffrey – Baltimore Colts in 1970 – Super Bowl V

Red Miller – Denver Broncos in 1977 – Super XII

George Seifert – San Francisco 49ers in 1989 – Super Bowl XXIV

Jon Gruden – Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2002 – Super Bowl XXXVII

Bill Callahan – Oakland Raiders in 2002 – Super Bowl XXXVII

Jim Caldwell – Indianapolis in 2009 – Super Bowl XLIV

Gary Kubiak – Denver Broncos in 2015 – Super Bowl 50

Mike Vrabel- New England in 2025 – Super Bowl LX

ONE OF EIGHT HEAD COACHES TO PLAY IN A SUPER BOWL AND THEN REACH ONE AS A HEAD COACH

Vrabel is now one of eight head coaches that played in a Super Bowl and then reached a Super Bowl as a head coach.

Player	Super Bowl as a player	Head Coach
Mike Vrabel (Patriots)	XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLII	Patriots – LX
Gary Kubiak (Broncos)	XXI, XXII, XXIV	Broncos – 50
Ron Rivera (Bears)	XX	Panthers - 50
Tony Dungy (Steelers)	XXIII	Colts – XLI
Dan Reeves (Cowboys)	V, VI,	Broncos – XXI, XXII, XXIV
		Falcons – XXXIII
Sam Wyche (Redskins)	VII	Bengals – XXIII
Mike Ditka (Cowboys)	V, VI	Bears - XX
Forrest Gregg (Packers)	I, II	Bengals - XVI

DIGGS BECOMES 11TH PLAYER TO REACH 80 POSTSEASON RECEPTIONS

WR Stefon Diggs became the 11th NFL player with at least 80 postseason receptions. He entered the game with 75 and added 5 receptions to reach 80. He is also the ninth player to do so in 11 seasons or less.

SCHOOLER COMES UP BIG ON SPECIAL TEAMS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT GAME

S Brenden Schooler followed a 3-tackle game on special teams vs. Houston (1/18) with 2 special teams tackles against Denver.

MAYE HAS 28TH CONSECUTIVE GAME WITHOUT MULTIPLE INT.

Drake Maye has gone 28 consecutive starts without throwing multiple interceptions, the longest active streak in the NFL and the longest streak ever by a Patriots quarterback (Tom Brady – 21 straight from 2013-14).

MAYE IS THIRD QB TO REACH SUPER BOWL BEFORE 24TH BIRTHDAY

Maye joined Dan Marino (1984) and Ben Roethlisberger (2005) as the only quarterbacks to reach the Super Bowl before their 24th birthday.

MAYE BECOMES FOURTH QB SINCE 2000 TO WIN EACH OF HIS FIRST THREE POSTSEASON GAMES

Maye is the fourth quarterback since 2000 to win each of his first three career playoff starts, joining Tom Brady (won first 10 starts), Joe Burrow (three) and Jake Delhomme (three).

MAYE GOES AGAINST TOP DEFENSES

Maye is the first quarterback in history to win three games against top-five defenses in a single playoff. The Chargers had the No. 5 defense, the Texans No. 1, and the Broncos No. 2.

MAYE HAS LONG RUN AGAIN

Maye had a 28-yard run in the third quarter. It is the second-longest postseason run after his 37-yard run vs. the LA Chargers in the Wild Card round (1/11). Maye finished with 65 yards rushing against Denver, the second-most by a Patriots quarterback in the postseason to the 66 yards rushing by Maye vs. the Chargers.

LINEUP NOTES

- **WR Mack Hollins** returned to action after being activated from the injured reserve list after missing the final two games of the season and the first two postseason games. He was in the starting lineup.
- **LB Anfernee Jennings** started at linebacker in place of LB Harold Landry III, who was out due to injury. Jennings started three games in the regular season and the Divisional playoff game vs. Houston (1/18).
- **Rookie LB Bradyn Swinson** played in his first postseason game after being inactive for the first two postseason games.
- **DL Khyiris Tonga** saw some plays at fullback for the second straight postseason game.
- **DT Milton Williams** saw his first ever action on offense on a fourth-and-1 situation in the third quarter.