



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, December 31, 2001

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Monday, Dec. 31

11:45 - 12:15 Coach Belichick Press Conference
12:15 - 1:00 Open Locker Room

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Players Day Off - No media availability.

Wednesday, Jan. 2

10:45 - 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Conference
11:15 - 11:55 Open Locker Room
TBD Carolina Player Conference Call
TBD George Seifert Conference Call
12:20 - 1:00 Photo Access at Practice

Thursday, Jan. 3

10:45 - 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Conference
11:15 - 11:55 Open Locker Room
12:20 - 1:00 Photo Access at Practice

Friday, Jan. 4

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

PATRIOTS SCHEDULE (10-5)

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	1:00	WBZ

AFC STANDINGS

Pittsburgh.....	12	3	0	.800	324	205
Oakland	10	5	0	.677	377	303
New England .	10	5	0	.677	333	266
Miami	10	5	0	.677	310	283
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	284	262
NY Jets	9	6	0	.600	284	273
Seattle.....	8	7	0	.533	280	306

REGULAR SEASON WEEK 17

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (10-5) vs. CAROLINA PANTHERS (1-14)

DATE: January 6, 2002
SITE: Ericsson Stadium (73,250) - Grass
TIME: 1:00 p.m. EST
TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast regionally on CBS (locally on WBZ Channel 4 in Boston). **Kevin Harlan** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partner **Craig James**. **Beasley Reece** 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 eleven.

The New England Patriots (10-5) will close out the regular season when they travel to Carolina to play the Panthers on Sunday, Jan. 6. The game, which was originally scheduled for Sept. 16, was postponed along with all the other Week 2 games in the NFL following the tragedies of Sept. 11. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

The Panthers are the only NFL team the Patriots have never defeated. The Panthers won the only game played between the two teams during their expansion season of 1995 with a 20-17 overtime victory. A Patriots victory over the Panthers would not only even the series, but also improve the Patriots record against the NFC to 3-1 after going 0-4 in non-conference games a year ago.

The Patriots, who enjoyed the holidays with a Week 16 bye, enter the final week of the season riding the momentum of a five-game win streak. On Saturday, Dec. 22, the Patriots hosted the Miami Dolphins in their final regular season game at Foxboro Stadium and snapped a five-game series losing streak to the Dolphins with a 20-13 victory. Twenty-four hours later, the Patriots wrapped up a playoff berth for the fifth time in eight seasons when the New York Giants defeated the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, Dec. 23.

The Patriots have won seven of their last eight games and nine of their last 11, but now must adjust their routine to keep their momentum despite having 15 days between games. Bye weeks have historically created obstacles for NFL teams. This year, the 28 teams that have enjoyed bye weeks have a combined 11-17 record (.393). Since bye weeks were initiated in 1990, the Patriots have only won four of their 12 games (.333) following their bye week.

A victory over the Panthers would give the Patriots an 11-5 regular season record, which would tie a franchise record for wins in a season (1996, 1986, 1985, 1978 and 1976). It would also tie Coach Belichick's best season as a head coach when he led the Cleveland Browns to an 11-5 record in 1994. The Patriots will need a victory to earn a division title and guarantee a home playoff game. A victory could also potentially earn the Patriots a second-place seeding in the conference, which would provide the Patriots with a bye week prior to hosting a divisional playoff game (playoff scenarios are listed on page eight of this release)

MUST SEE TV

For the past six weeks, New England Patriot games have been the top rated program in the Boston market. Last week, the Patriots-Dolphins game earned a 28.4 rating and a 60 share. They earned a season-high 29.8 rating vs. Cleveland (12/9).

BOSTON TELEVISION PROGRAMS FOR THE WEEK 12/17 - 12/23

- 1 Miami @ New England (CBS)..... 28.4/60**
- 2 Raymond (CBS)..... 17.4/25
- 3 CSI (CBS) 17.3/26



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

This week's game will be just the second time the Patriots have met the Panthers in the regular season. The only time they played in the regular season, Carolina edged the Patriots 20-17 in overtime in the Panthers' inaugural year of 1995. The Panthers are the only team the Patriots have never defeated in the regular season. The two teams have met in the preseason for the past three seasons and the Patriots have won the last two, including this year's meeting, 23-8.

REGULAR SEASON – Carolina 1, New England 0

DATE	RESULT	+/-	SITE
10/29/95	Panthers 20, Patriots 17 (OT)	-3	Foxboro

THE LAST MEETING – Oct. 29, 1995

The Panthers became the first expansion team in NFL history to win three consecutive games with a 20-17 overtime victory over the Patriots. The Panthers gained 434 yards of total offense, including 309 yards passing by Kerry Collins.

Carolina scored 17 points in the third quarter and jumped out to a 17-3 lead. The Patriots came back with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to tie the game at 17. Panther kicker John Kasay attempted a 39-yard field goal to win the game at the end of regulation but it hit the upright and bounced away, sending the game into overtime. Kasay capitalized on his second chance to win the game, nailing a 29-yard field goal for the victory.

CONNECTIONS

- Patriots punter **Ken Walter** kicked for the Panthers from 1997-2000.
- Patriots special teams coach **Brad Seely** served in the same capacity with the Panthers from 1995-98. While with the Panthers, Seely was named Special Teams Coach of the Year in 1996.
- Carolina linebacker **Chris Slade** played with the Patriots from 1993-2000.
- Panthers strength and conditioning coach **Jerry Simmons** was on Belichick's staff in Cleveland from 1991-95.
- Carolina cornerback **Jimmy Hitchcock** played for New England from 1995-97.
- Patriots rookie cornerback **Leonard Myers** and Panthers rookie linebacker **Dan Morgan** both played their college football at Miami (Fla.).
- Numerous Patriots attended high school in the Carolinas: **WR Troy Brown** (Blackville, S.C.); **S Antwan Harris** (Raleigh, N.C.); **WR David Patten** (Hopkins, S.C.); **LB Roman Phifer** (Pineville, N.C.); **NT Richard Seymour** (Gadsden, S.C.) and **S Matt Stevens** (Chapel Hill, N.C.).
- Carolina fullback **Chris Hetherington** was a three-year letterman at Yale from 1993-95.

PATRIOTS VERSUS NFC WEST

New England will face their fourth and final opponent from the NFC West this weekend when they travel to Carolina to play the Panthers. They have a 2-1 record against the NFC West this year, defeating the Atlanta Falcons 24-10 (11/4) and the New Orleans Saints 34-17 (11/25), and losing to the St. Louis Rams 24-17 (11/18).

This will be the Panthers fourth game versus the AFC East. They have lost their three prior games, 13-12 vs. New York Jets (10/28); 23-6 at Miami (11/4); and 25-24 at Buffalo (12/9).

TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Through Week 16	
	Patriots	Carolina
Record	10-5	1-14
Divisional Standings	1 st	5 th
Total Yards Gained	4,584	3,932
Total Offense (Rank).....	305.6 (21)	262.1 (31)
Rush Offense	112.7 (12)	78.6 (31)
Pass Offense	192.9 (22)	183.5 (25)
Points Per Game	22.2 (6t)	16.5 (28)
Total Yards Allowed	5,030	5,645
Total Defense	335.3 (24)	376.3 (31)
Rush Defense	110.8 (17)	146.6 (31)
Pass Defense.....	224.5 (24)	229.7 (27)
Points Allowed/Game	17.7 (9)	24.8 (28)
Possession Avg.	30:38	27:33
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss.....	45/235	29/201
Sacks Made/Yards.....	38/219	25/165
Interceptions By/Yards.....	19/219	22/317
Penalties Against/Yards.....	86/732	83/710
Fumbles/Lost.....	27/12	29/10
Fumbles Forced/Recovered.....	19/10	25/11
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio.....	+4	+4

A LOOK AHEAD

Earlier this season the NFL announced its regular season scheduling rotation for the next eight seasons under the new realignment plan. Under the new scheduling formula, which will be enacted next season, every team within a division will play home and away against its three division opponents (Bills, Dolphins and Jets); face four teams from another division within its conference on a rotating three-year cycle; challenge four teams from a division in the other conference on a rotating four-year cycle; and play two intraconference games based on the prior year's standings.

2002 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Broncos, Chiefs, Packers, Vikings, AFCN

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Raiders, Chargers, Bears, Lions, AFCS

2003 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Jaguars, Titans, Cowboys Giants, AFCN

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Texans, Colts, Eagles, Redskins, AFCW

2004 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Ravens, Bengals, 49ers, Seahawks, AFCS

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Browns, Steelers, Cardinals, Rams, AFCW

2005 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Raiders, Chargers, Saints, Buccaneers, AFCS

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Broncos, Chiefs, Falcons, Panthers, AFCN

2006 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Texans, Colts, Bears, Lions, AFCW

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Jaguars, Titans, Packers, Vikings, AFCN

2007 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Browns, Steelers, Eagles, Redskins, AFCW

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Ravens, Bengals, Cowboys, Giants, AFCS

2008 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Broncos, Chiefs, Cardinals, Rams, AFCN

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Raiders, Chargers, 49ers, Seahawks, AFCS

2009 Schedule

Home: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Jaguars, Titans, Falcons, Panthers, AFCN

Away: Bills, Dolphins, Jets, Texans, Colts, Saints, Buccaneers, AFCW



Game Review – Patriots 20, Dolphins 13

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots (10-5) won their fifth straight game, defeating the Miami Dolphins (9-5) 20-13 at Foxboro Stadium. The game was the 237th and final regular season home game at Foxboro Stadium, where the Patriots have accumulated a 133-104 record since it opened in 1971. The Patriots have played before 81 consecutive home sellouts and are 53-28 in those games.

The Patriots offense accrued 196 yards rushing on 44 carries (4.5 avg.) against the Dolphins, which was the highest total they have yielded all season. Running back Antowain Smith led the way, gaining a career-high 156 yards rushing on 26 carries (6.0 avg.) including one touchdown.

For the 12th time in their 15 games, the Patriots scored first, this time with a 2-yard run by Smith. The scoring drive was set up by a Dolphin turnover, when Patriot safety Tebucky Jones hit Dolphin tight end Jed Weaver and forced him to fumble following his 19-yard catch in the first quarter. Cornerback Otis Smith recovered the loose ball, giving the Patriots possession on their 48-yard line. Their scoring drive was highlighted by a "quarterback throwback" play when running back Kevin Faulk took the direct snap, rolled right and threw back to a wide-open quarterback Tom Brady for a 23-yard completion. The play occurred on third-and-one, extending the drive.

New England's defense held on the next drive, forcing the Dolphins to punt after running three offensive plays and then their offense heated up. On the first play of the drive, Smith broke free for a 44-yard run, his longest of the season, giving the Patriots the ball on the Dolphins 29-yard line. Three plays later, Brady hit fullback Patrick Pass on a swing pass out of the backfield and he ran untouched for a 23-yard touchdown.

Once again, the Patriots defense forced the Dolphins to punt after three offensive plays. They took advantage of the change of possession, driving 53 yards on 10 plays and adding a 32-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri to increase their lead to 17-0.

On the ensuing kickoff, Dolphins returner Ed Perry muffed the football and Patriots wide receiver Fred Coleman recovered the loose ball giving the Patriots possession on the Miami 42-yard line. The Patriots again moved down the field, advancing to the 5-yard line before Vinatieri nailed a 23-yard field goal, increasing their lead to 20-0.

The Dolphins closed out the half with a field goal, cutting the Patriots lead to 20-3. In the first half of games this season, the Patriots have outscored their opponents 197-102 including a 133-48 advantage in the second quarter.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, but the Dolphins opened the fourth quarter with a 36-yard field goal. They drove to the eight-yard line, but the Patriots defense held them out of the end zone and forced the kick. The Dolphins moved inside the 20 on their next drive, but running back Lamar Smith was hit by Jones and fumbled the football. Linebacker Roman Phifer recovered the loose ball, giving the Patriots possession on the 2-yard line.

Miami added a late touchdown, cutting their deficit to 20-13. They attempted an onside kick, but Coleman recovered the ball and the Patriots were able to run out the clock.

VERSUS MIAMI

The Patriots snapped a five-game losing streak against the Dolphins with their 20-13 victory last week ... The Patriots improved their record to 20-16 at Foxboro Stadium against the Dolphins, compared to 7-27 at Miami.

VERSUS THE AFC EAST

The Patriots improved to 6-2 against the AFC East with a 20-13 victory over the Miami Dolphins last week. The last time they finished a season with a winning record against the AFC East was in 1997 (7-1).

PATRIOTS MILLER LITE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Patriots running back Antowain Smith was voted Miller Lite Player of the Game last week following his 156 yard rushing performance against Miami. It was his second Miller Lite Player of the Game award this season.

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

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

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Patriots scored first again last week, marking the 12th time in 15 games they have done so. They outscored the Dolphins 20-0 in the first half and through 15 games this season they have outscored their opponents 197-102 in the first half and 133-48 in the second quarter.

'TIS THE SEASON

The Patriots finished the month of December with a 4-0 record. The last time they were undefeated during December was in 1994 (4-0).

FREEZE TEAM

The Patriots have heated up when the temperatures have cooled, improving to 10-4 since 1993 when it's 36 degrees or colder. The game-time temperature of last week's game against the Dolphins was 36 degrees. The wind chill was 16 degrees.

Date	Opp.	W/L	Result	Temp	Notes
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
12/12/93	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	

10-4=36 or lower

*-playoffs



Team News and Notes

FREE AGENT FLURY

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 GP	2001 GP/GS	FORMER TEAM
Terrell Buckley, CB	10	156	14/1	Denver
Je'Rod Cherry, DB	6	88	15/0	Philadelphia
Mike Compton, G/C	9	119	15/15	Detroit
Bryan Cox, LB	11	155	10/7	N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards, FB	5	79	15/12	Cleveland
Damon Huard, QB	5	34	0/0	Miami
Larry Izzo, LB	6	76	15/0	Miami
Charles Johnson, WR	8	116	13/2	Philadelphia
Riddick Parker, DL	5	63	12/0	Seattle
David Patten, WR	5	73	15/13	Cleveland
Roman Phifer, LB	11	165	15/15	N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant, DE	12	179	15/15	San Francisco
Terrance Shaw, CB	7	92	12/3	Miami
Antowain Smith, RB	5	72	15/14	Buffalo
Chris Sullivan, DE	6	78	0/0	Pittsburgh
Mike Vrabel, LB	5	65	15/11	Pittsburgh
Ken Walter, P	5	74	10/0	Carolina
17 Players	121	1,684	206/103	

TEAM TURNAROUND

The Patriots have won five straight games and seven of their last eight, improving their record to 10-5 on the season. They have recorded the second-best turnaround in the NFL this season, second only to the Chicago Bears, who have increased their win total by seven games (see below).

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

The Patriots are currently tied for the second-best turnaround in team history with five more wins in 2001 than in 2000. If they win their season-finale against Carolina, they will gain sole possession of the second-best turnaround in franchise history with six more wins this year than in 2000.

Year	Record	Year	Record	+/-
1975	3-11	1976	11-3	+8
2000	5-11	2001	10-5	+5
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 five more games than they did last year and earned their first playoff berth since 1998, they have also shown marked improvement in numerous categories through 15 games this season. For example, they are averaging six more points per game this year and have already recorded 38 sacks compared to 29 last year. Listed below are six different categories they have improved in this season, along with their NFL rankings.

Year	Games	PPG NE	PPG Opp.	3 rd Down Efficiency
2001	15	22.2 (6 th)	17.7 (9)	41.3 (9)
2000	16	17.2 (25)	21.1 (17)	35.0 (24)

Year	Games	Red Zone TD Pct.	Red Zone TD Pct. All.	Sacks
2001	15	49.0 (14)	39.6 (4)	38 (14 th)
2000	16	43.4 (24)	51.9 (18)	29 (25)

TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Through Week 15 Patriots ('01)	Patriots ('00)
Record	10-5	5-11
Divisional Standings	1 st	5 th
Total Yards Gained	4,584	4,571
Total Offense (Rank)	305.6 (20)	285.7 (22)
Rush Offense	112.7 (12)	86.9 (26)
Pass Offense	192.9 (22)	198.8 (19)
Points Per Game	22.2 (6 th)	17.3 (25)
Total Yards Allowed	5,030	5,353
Total Defense	335.3 (24)	334.6 (20)
Rush Defense	110.8 (17)	114.4 (21)
Pass Defense	224.5 (24)	220.1 (21)
Points Allowed/Game	17.7 (9)	21.1 (17)
Possession Avg.	30:38	28:56
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss	45/235	48/280
Sacks Made/Yards	38/219	29/172
Interceptions By/Yards	19/219	10/161
Penalties Against/Yards	86/732	99/815
Fumbles/Lost	27/12	23/10
Fumbles Forced/Recovered	19/10	27/13
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio	+4	-2

TURN, TURN, TURN

The Patriots recorded +3 turnover ratio last week against the Dolphins and improved to 6-1 when they record a positive ratio this season (33-10 since 1996). During their current five-game winning streak the Patriots have a +8 turnover ratio, improving their season ratio to +4. The Patriots have finished 16 seasons with a positive turnover ratio and in 15 of those seasons they had a winning record.

New England ranks fifth in the AFC with 29 turnovers and fourth with 19 interceptions (see below). They have already eclipsed their 2000 interception (13) and takeaway totals (23) with one game remaining in the season.

RK	Int.	Team	RK	Takeaways	Team
1	30	Cleveland	1	39	NY Jets
2	21	Denver	2	39	Cleveland
3	20	NY Jets	3	36	Denver
4	19	New England	4	31	San Diego
	19	San Diego	5	29	New England

DEAD ZONE

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

This season, they have allowed their opponents to score 19 touchdowns on 48 trips inside the red zone. They rank first in the AFC and fourth in the NFL with a touchdown percentage of 39.6.

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



News and Notes

A-TRAIN

Antowain Smith finished last week's with 156 yards rushing on 26 attempts (6.0 avg.) and one touchdown. His 156 yards rushing was a career-high and his fourth 100-yard game of the season (11th of his career). It's the most by a Patriots running back since Robert Edwards recorded four 100-yard games in 1998. The Patriots have a 4-0 record when he rushes 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 eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing mark last week on a 44-yard run in the second quarter versus the Dolphins. He currently has 1,026 yards rushing on 266 carries (3.9 avg.) and ranks sixth in the AFC. Smith 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. It is Smith's second career 1,000-yard rushing season during his five-year career (1,124 yards, 1998).

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
Curtis Martin, 1996	316	1,152	3.6	57	14
Robert Edwards, 1998.....	291	1,115	3.8	53	9
Leonard Russell, 1993	300	1,088	3.6	21	7
Antowain Smith, 2001	266	1,076	4.0	44	11
Tony Collins, 1983	219	1,049	4.8	50t	10

Smith scored on a 2-yard run last week against the Dolphins. It was his 12th touchdown of the season (11 rushing, 1 receiving), which ranks fifth in franchise history. His 11 rushing touchdowns are the most since Curtis Martin scored 14 in 1996. New England has a 7-1 record in games when Smith has scored a touchdown this year. He has scored 8 of his 12 touchdowns in his last seven games.

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
Stanley Morgan, 1979.....	13	0	12	1	78
Steve Grogan, 1976.....	13	12	0	1	78
Antowain Smith, 2001..	12	11	1	0	72
Robert Edwards, 1998	12	9	3	0	72
Mack Herron, 1974	12	7	5	0	72

Smith ranks 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
Faulk, St.L	20	11	9	0	1	122
S. Alexander, Sea.....	15	13	2	0	0	90
Owens, S.F.....	14	0	14	0	0	84
M. Harrison, Ind.....	13	0	13	0	0	78
A. Smith, N.E.	12	11	1	0	0	72

Three tied at 11

KICKIN' IT

Vinatieri has totaled 105 points this season 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	105	680

Vinatieri has established himself as the most reliable kicker in team history, with an 79.5 field goal percentage (159 of 200).

Field Goal % (at least 100 att.)

Rank	Kicker	%	FGM-FGA
1.	Adam Vinatieri.....	80.5	159-200
2.	Tony Franklin	74.4	93-125
3.	John Smith.....	67.0	128-191
4.	Gino Cappelletti	52.7	176-334

MAKING GOOD POINTS

Vinatieri has increased his career point total to 680 and needs only 13 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	201/206	1	159/200	680

JUST FOR KICKS

Patriots punter Ken Walter was named the AFC special teams player of the week after averaging 42.2 yards on five punts, including two inside the 20, against the Dolphins in Week 15. Walter, who was signed by the Patriots on Oct. 16, leads the AFC and ranks second in the NFL with a net punting average of 38.3. Walter has been equally deft in placing punts inside the 20-yard line this season. He has boomed almost half of his punts, 20 of 43 (46.5%), inside the 20. It's the highest ratio in the NFL. He has not punted into the end zone in seven weeks (34 consecutive punts).

THE SPECIALIST

Patriots linebacker Larry Izzo has been a special teams standout during his six-year career and has continued his exceptional play this season with the Patriots. Izzo, who was voted to the Pro Bowl last season, has recorded an NFL-high 22 special teams tackles during the 2001 season. Izzo set a career-high with 33 special teams tackles in 1999.



News and Notes

HERE'S A STORY...

Quarterback Tom Brady became the only quarterback in franchise history to win 10 of his first 13 starts as a Patriot last week. Vito "Babe" Parilli ranks second in Patriots annals with nine wins his first 13 starts.

Quarterback	13 th	14 th	Quarterback	13 th	14 th
Tom Brady	10-3	?	Butch Songin	5-8	5-9
Babe Parilli	9-4	na	Matt Cavanaugh	5-8	5-9
Doug Flutie	8-5	na*	Jim Plunkett	5-8	5-9
Tony Eason	8-5	8-6	Steve Grogan	5-8	6-8

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

GAME-BY-GAME

Brady's performances this season have helped the team record their longest win streak, five games, since 1994 when they won the final seven games of the season. In addition, they have won seven of their last eight and nine of their last 11 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
2001 Totals	10-5		384	247	2645	.643	17	10	88.3

RATINGS GAME

Brady ranks second in the AFC and sixth in the NFL with a quarterback rating of 88.3 while starting in 13 games this season. He has 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 passers in the NFL are listed below:

PLAYER	ATT	CMP	PCT.	YDS	TD	INT	RATING
K. Warner, StL	516	350	67.8	4,550	33	19	101.3
R. Gannon, Oak.	511	338	66.1	3,604	26	9	96.2
B. Favre, GB	480	299	62.3	3,606	30	15	93.1
J. Garcia, SF	483	302	62.5	3,275	28	12	91.4
S. McNair, Ten.	413	253	61.3	3,177	20	12	89.2
T. Brady, NE	384	247	64.3	2,645	17	10	88.3
M. Brunell, Jax.	437	270	61.8	3,120	17	10	86.8

COMPLETING THE PICTURE

Brady has completed 64.3% (384-247) of his passes this season and ranks second in the AFC and third in the NFL. Through 15 games this season, Brady has achieved the highest completion percentage in the 41-year history of the franchise, 64.3. The Patriots single-season record was established by Tony Eason in 1986 with a 61.6 mark (448-276). The top five completion percentages in franchise history are to follow.

NFL, 2001 Season

Quarterback	Att	Comp	%
K. Warner	516	350	67.8
R. Gannon.....	511	253	66.1
T. Brady.....	384	247	64.3
D. Culpepper...	366	235	64.2
P. Manning.....	517	327	63.2

Patriots History

Quarterback, Year	Comp%
Tom Brady, 2001	64.3
Tony Eason, 1986.....	61.6
Hugh Millen, 1992.....	61.1
Steve Grogan, 1986	60.8
Drew Bledsoe, 1997	60.2

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

ON TARGET

Brady has only thrown three interceptions in his last five games and 10 during the entire season. He has an interception percentage of 2.6 (10 interceptions on 384 attempts) which is the sixth-best in franchise history (see below).

Quarterback, Year	Int.	Att.	Int. %
Tony Eason, 1984.....	8	431	1.8
Tony Eason, 1986.....	10	448	2.2
Drew Bledsoe, 2000.....	13	531	2.4
Drew Bledsoe, 1996.....	15	623	2.4
Drew Bledsoe, 1995.....	16	636	2.5
Tom Brady, 2001.....	10	384	2.6
Drew Bledsoe, 1998.....	14	481	2.9
Drew Bledsoe, 1997.....	15	522	2.9

TACKLE MACHINE

Patriots safety Lawyer Milloy recorded seven tackles against the Dolphins last week and eclipsed the 100-tackle mark for the fifth consecutive season. Milloy has been a constant on the Patriots defense since he was drafted in 1996, playing in all 95 games, including 79 consecutive starts.

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#	106	71	35	2	0	1

*-used coaches film # -used press box stats

PAPER OR PLASTIC

New England's defensive ends Bobby Hamilton and Anthony Pleasant have 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 has already recorded 38 sacks compared to 29 last season.



WR Troy Brown – Jack of All Trades

BROWN OUT

Last week against the Dolphins, Troy Brown led all Patriot receivers with five catches for 59 yards. It was the 14th time in 15 games he has led the team in receptions this season. He increased his 2001 season totals to 95 catches for 1,154 yards (12.1 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
2001 Totals.....		95	1,154	12.1	60t	5

Brown is tied for sixth in the NFL (4th in AFC) with 95 receptions and tenth in the NFL (4th in AFC) with 1,154 yards receiving.

Receiver, NFL	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
K. Johnson, TB	106	1,266	11.9	47	1
R. Smith, Den.....	106	1,251	11.8	65t	11
J. Smith, Jax	105	1,310	12.5	35t	7
M. Harrison, Ind.	100	1,396	14.0	68	13
D. Boston, Ari.....	96	1,540	16.0	61t	8
Troy Brown, N.E.....	95	1,154	12.1	60t	5
Booker, Chi.	94	1,034	11.0	66t	8

Receiver, AFC	Yds	No	Avg.	LG	Td
M. Harrison, Ind.	1,396	100	14.0	68	13
J. Smith, Jax	1,310	105	12.5	35t	7
R. Smith, Den.....	1,251	106	11.8	65t	11
Troy Brown, N.E.....	1,154	95	12.2	60t	5
C. Conway, SD	1,125	71	15.8	72t	6

SINGLE SEASON HIGHS

Troy Brown increased his single-season career-high totals in both receptions (95) and receiving yards (1,154) last weekend. He surpassed his previous highs set in 2000 (83 receptions and 944 yards) against the Browns (12/9) and became just the sixth Patriot to surpass the 1,000-yard receiving mark. The last Patriots wide receiver to reach 1,000 yards was Terry Glenn with 1,147 yards in 1999.

Brown needs just two catches to surpass Ben Coates (96) and become the franchise's single-season record holder. The Patriots single-season receiving highs, along with his totals from this season, are listed below.

Rec Player	Year	Yards	Player	Year
96 .. Ben Coates	1994	1,491 ..	Stanley Morgan...	1986
95.. Troy Brown ...	2001	1,174 ..	Ben Coates	1994
90 .. Terry Glenn.....	1996	1,154 .	Troy Brown	2001
84 .. Ben Coates	1995	1,147 ..	Terry Glenn	1999
84 .. Stanley Morgan ..	1986	1,132 ..	Terry Glenn	1996

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Brown ranks fifth among receivers in the NFL with 178 catches over the past two seasons. He has already set a career-high with 95 catches this season and needs only five catches in the final game of the season to become the first Patriot to record 100 catches in a season.

Player	Catches, 2000	Catches, 2001	Total
Rod Smith	100	106	206
Marvin Harrison	102	100	202
Jimmy Smith	91	105	196
Terrell Owens.....	97	91	188
Troy Brown	83	95	178
Keyshawn Johnson	71	106	177

CATCHING ON

Brown's 178 receptions the last two seasons is the second highest two-year total in Patriots history, behind Ben Coates' 180 in 1994-95. With one game remaining, Brown needs three catches to surpass Coates' total.

Player	Catches, Year	Catches, Year	Total
Ben Coates.....	96, 1994	84, 1995	180
Troy Brown	83, 2000	95, 2001	178
Ben Coates.....	53, 1993	96, 1994	149

MOVING ON UP

Brown is just the fifth player in franchise history to catch over 300 passes during his career. He ranks fifth in Patriots annals with 315 career catches behind Terry Glenn (329 catches).

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	315	3,925	12.5	67	17
6	Gino Cappelletti, WR	292	4,589	15.7	63t	42

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Over half of Brown's 95 receptions this season (55) have resulted in first downs. He also has rushed for four first downs, increasing his total to 59, which ranks fourth among AFC wide receivers. Three of his five receptions last week against the Dolphins resulted in first downs.

ABOVE AVERAGE

Brown is tied for second in the AFC and fifth in the NFL with a 12.7-yard punt return average. Brown's career-high punt return 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 are listed below.

Returner	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
D. Gordon, Atl.	31	437	14.1	74	0
Swinton, Dal.....	29	405	14.0	65t	1
D. O'Neal, Den.	29	391	13.5	86t	1
E. Metcalf, Wash.....	30	393	13.1	89t	1
T. Brown, N.E.	27	343	12.7	85t	1
Je. Lewis, Bal.	39	496	12.7	62	0



Playoff Picture

NFL STANDINGS – REMAINING SCHEDULE

AFC	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	Hm	Rd	AFC	NFC	DIV	Streak	Wk17
*yz-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	324	205	6-1	6-2	9-3	3-0	6-3	L1	CLE
y-Oakland	10	5	0	.667	377	303	5-2	5-3	7-4	3-1	6-2	L2	NYJ
x-New England	10	5	0	.667	333	266	6-2	4-3	8-4	2-1	6-2	W5	@Car
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	310	283	6-1	4-4	8-3	2-2	4-3	W1	BUF
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	284	262	5-2	4-4	8-4	1-2	6-4	L1	MIN
NY Jets	9	6	0	.600	284	273	3-5	6-1	7-4	2-2	5-3	L1	@Oak
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	280	306	5-2	3-5	7-4	1-3	4-3	W1	KAN
NFC	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	Hm	Rd	AFC	NFC	DIV	Streak	Wk 17
yz-St. Louis	13	2	0	.867	472	260	5-2	8-0	4-0	9-2	6-1	W5	ATL
x-Chicago	12	3	0	.800	305	190	6-1	6-2	2-1	10-2	6-2	W3	JAX
y-Philadelphia	10	5	0	.667	326	195	4-4	6-1	3-1	7-4	6-2	W1	@TB
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	356	241	7-1	4-3	3-1	8-3	6-2	W2	@NYG
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	371	282	7-1	4-3	4-0	7-4	5-2	L1	@NO
x-Tampa Bay	9	6	0	.600	311	263	5-2	4-4	2-2	7-4	4-4	W2	PHI

x-clinched playoff berth y-clinched division title z-clinched first-round bye *-clinched homefield advantage

AFC EASTERN DIVISION

New England has clinched playoff berth.

New England can clinch AFC Eastern Division title with:

- 1) NE win, OR 2) NE tie + MIA loss or tie, OR
- 3) NYJ loss or tie + MIA loss.

New England can clinch first-round bye with:

- 1) NE win + OAK loss, OR 2) NE tie+MIA loss or tie+OAK loss or tie.

Miami has clinched playoff berth.

Miami can clinch AFC Eastern Division title with:

- 1) MIA win + NE loss or tie, OR 2) MIA tie + NE loss.

Miami can clinch first-round bye with:

- 1) MIA win + NE loss or tie, OR 2) MIA tie+NE loss+OAK loss or tie.

New York Jets can clinch playoff spot with:

- 1) NYJ win or tie, OR 2) SEA loss or tie

New York Jets can clinch AFC Eastern Division title AND first-round bye with:

- NYJ win + NE loss + MIA loss

AFC CENTRAL DIVISION

Pittsburgh has clinched AFC Central Division title, first-round bye AND homefield advantage throughout playoffs.

Baltimore can clinch playoff spot with:

- 1) BAL win or tie, OR 2) SEA loss or tie, OR 3) NYJ loss.

AFC WESTERN DIVISION

Oakland has clinched AFC Western Division title.

Oakland can clinch first-round bye with:

- 1) OAK win + MIA loss or tie, OR 2) OAK win + NE win, OR
- 3) OAK tie + MIA loss + NE loss.

Seattle can clinch playoff berth with:

- 1) SEA win + NYJ loss, OR 2) SEA win + BAL loss.

NFC EASTERN DIVISION

Philadelphia has clinched NFC Eastern Division title.

NFC CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago has clinched playoff berth.

Chicago can clinch NFC Central Division title AND first-round bye with:

- 1) CHI win or tie, OR 2) GB loss or tie.

Chicago can clinch homefield advantage throughout NFC playoffs with:

- CHI win + STL loss.

Green Bay has clinched playoff berth.

Green Bay can clinch NFC Central Division title AND first-round bye with:

- GB win + CHI loss.

Tampa Bay has clinched playoff berth.

NFC WESTERN DIVISION

St. Louis has clinched NFC Western Division title AND first round bye.

St. Louis can clinch homefield advantage throughout playoffs with:

- 1) STL win or tie, OR 2) CHI loss or tie.

San Francisco has clinched playoff berth.

--- --

Arizona, Atlanta, Buffalo, Carolina, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Minnesota, New York Giants, New Orleans, San Diego, Tennessee and Washington have been eliminated from playoff contention.



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 franchises 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.

81

The number of consecutive sellouts at Foxboro Stadium (including last week's game), a streak that 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.

10-3

Brady's record as a starter, which is the best start through 13 games in franchise history, eclipsing the mark set by Vito "Babe" Parilli who started his career 9-4.

88.3

Brady's quarterback rating this season. He ranks third in the AFC and sixth in the NFL.

64.3

Brady's completion percentage this season (384-247), which is second in the AFC and third in the NFL.

61.6

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

95

The number of passes Troy Brown has caught through 15 games this season. It's the second-highest single season reception total in team history.

96

The Patriots record for most catches in a season, set by Ben Coates in 1994.

6-2

The Patriots record this season against the AFC East.

7-1

The Patriots last winning record in the AFC East (1997).

+4

The Patriots turnover ratio this season

6-1

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

33-10

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

9

The number of drives Patriots opponents have had inside the red zone over the past four games.

1

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

39.6

The percentage of touchdowns the Patriots defense has allowed in the red zone this season. They rank first in the AFC and fourth in the NFL.

38

The number of sacks the Patriots defense has recorded this season. They are tied for seventh in the AFC.

29

The number of sacks the Patriots defense recorded during the entire 2000 season.

106

The number of tackles safety Lawyer Milloy has recorded through 15 games this season. It's his fifth consecutive 100 tackle season.

88

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

22.2

The average number of points the Patriots have scored per game this season. They rank third in the AFC behind Indianapolis (25.6) and Oakland (25.1)

17.7

The number of points per game the Patriots defense has allowed this season. They rank ninth in the NFL and fourth in the AFC.

105

The number of points Adam Vinatieri has scored this season, his sixth consecutive season with at least 100 points.

680

The number of points Vinatieri has totaled during his six-year career. It's the third highest total in franchise history.

13

The number of points Vinatieri needs to move ahead of John Smith into second place among the franchise's all-time leading scorers.