



# NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, January 28, 2002

## MEDIA SCHEDULE

### Monday, Jan. 28

- 4:00 p.m. xxxx charter arrives in New Orleans.
- 4:30 p.m. xxxx charter arrives in New Orleans.
- 5:30 p.m. Patriots Media Session with Head Coach Bill Belichick and players at the team hotel.
- 7:15 p.m. NFC Media Session with Head Coach and players at Hilton Riverside Hotel.

### Tuesday, Jan. 29

- 10:00 a.m. AFC Team photo day and player interviews at Louisiana Superdome.
- 1:00 p.m. AFC Team photo day and player interviews at Louisiana Superdome.

### Wednesday, Jan. 30

- 8:15-9:30 Patriots Media Session with Head Coach Bill Belichick and players at the team hotel.
- 10:15-11:30 NFC Media Session with Head Coach and players at Hilton Riverside Hotel.

### Thursday, Jan. 31

- 8:15-9:30 Patriots Media Session with Head Coach Bill Belichick and players at the team hotel.
- 10:15-11:30 NFC Media Session with Head Coach and players at Hilton Riverside Hotel.

### Friday, Jan. 31

- 8:30 a.m. AFC Head Coach Press Conference in Morial Convention Center

## PATRIOTS SCHEDULE (12-5)

Center

**Note:** Home team = color. Visiting team color.

## POSTSEASON WEEK 21 – SUPER BOWL XXXVI NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (-5) vs. (X-X)

**DATE:** Sunday, January 3, 2002  
**SITE:** Superdome (72,000) - Turf  
**TIME:** p.m. EST  
**TELEVISION:** This week's game will be broadcast nationally on **FOX** (locally on WFXT Channel 25 in Boston). **Pat Summerall** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partner **John Madden**. **Pam Oliver** will report from the sidelines.  
**RADIO:** WBCN's Rock Radio Network 104.1 FM. **Gil Santos**, now in his 25<sup>th</sup> season as voice of the Patriots, will call the action along with **Gino Cappelletti**. The tandem is enjoying their 18<sup>th</sup> 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. **xxxxxx** and **xxxxxx** will broadcast the game along with **xxxxxx**, who will report from the sidelines.

The AFC's second-seeded New England Patriots (12-5) will travel to Pittsburgh to battle the conference's top-seeded Steelers (14-3) in the AFC Championship Game this Sunday at 12:30 p.m. It is the first time the AFC's top two seeded teams have met in the conference finals in three years, when the New York Jets traveled to Denver to play the Broncos. In the past seven years, only one top seeded team has won the AFC Championship (Denver in 1998). The last time the Steelers entered the playoffs as the top seeded team was in 1994. That year, Pittsburgh was defeated in the AFC Championship game by the San Diego Chargers. The last time the Patriots entered the playoffs as a number two seed, they hosted the AFC Championship game against Jacksonville and won to advance to the Super Bowl.

This will be the Patriots' third appearance in an AFC Championship game. In 1985, the Patriots traveled to Miami and claimed a 31-14 victory. In 1996, the Patriots hosted the Jacksonville Jaguars and won 20-6. After both games, the Patriots advanced to play in the Super Bowl in New Orleans (Super Bowl XX and Super Bowl XXXI).

This week's game will be the playoff rubber match between the Patriots and the Steelers. It is the second time the Patriots have played a playoff game in Pittsburgh in the past four years and the third time these two teams have met in the playoffs in the past five years. The two previous meetings were both divisional playoff games, with the home team claiming the victory. The last time the Patriots advanced to the AFC Championship Game was in 1996, after defeating the Steelers, 28-3, in the divisional playoff game. The following year, the Patriots traveled to Pittsburgh for a divisional playoff game and suffered a heartbreaking 7-6 loss.

Last week, the Patriots defeated the Oakland Raiders in overtime, 16-13, avenging a 25-year old loss suffered in Oakland in 1976. This week, the Patriots have the opportunity to avenge another painful playoff loss, the 7-6 loss at Pittsburgh on Jan. 3, 1998. In that game, Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel played a critical role as a member of the Steelers when he forced a fumble after hitting Drew Bledsoe from behind with just 1:50 remaining in the game. The turnover came at the Patriots own 42-yard line, ending a drive that started at the 1.

On Jan. 5, 1997, the Patriots defeated the Steelers in a divisional playoff game, 28-3, in one of the most memorable games played at Foxboro Stadium. Thick fog blanketed the field throughout the game, but the Patriots emerged with a convincing 28-3 victory.

## MUST SEE TV

Last Saturday night, millions of television viewers saw snow on their screens, but it was not because of poor reception. The Patriots thrilling 16-13 overtime win over the Raiders last Saturday in prime time earned a 40.6 rating in the Boston television market and took a 61 percent share of the total television audience. Nationally, the match-up had a rating of 19.0 and was seen by a 31 percent audience share, making it the highest-rated Saturday AFC playoff game since 1997 and the highest-rated Patriots game in over three seasons.

Over the final seven weeks of the regular season Patriots telecasts were the highest rated program in the Boston market.



# Series Information

## SERIES HISTORY

The Patriots and Rams will square off for the second time in just over two months. The Patriots will look to even the score with the Rams who defeated them 24-17 on Nov. 18, 2001. New England fell to St. Louis 24-17 on Nov. 18, 2001. Despite being outgained in total offensive yards, 482 to 230, the Patriots held the Rams to their fourth lowest scoring total of the season, 24 points. The Rams finished the 2001 season as the top scoring team in the NFL, averaging 31.4 points per game

This will only be the ninth time since the AFL/NFL merger in 1970 that they have met, including their meeting earlier this year. This will be their first meeting in the Super Bowl. The Rams hold an advantage in the series, winning five of eight games, including the last four in a row. The results of the series are listed below:

## REGULAR SEASON RESULTS (Rams 5, Patriots 3)

Date	Result	+/-	Site
09/29/74	at NE 20, Los Angeles 14.....	+6	Schaefer
11/16/80	Los Angeles 17, at NE 14.....	-3	Schaefer
12/11/83	NE 21, at Los Angeles 7.....	+14	Anaheim
11/16/86	NE 30, at Los Angeles 28.....	+2	Anaheim
12/24/89	Los Angeles 24, at NE 20.....	+4	Sullivan
09/13/92	at Los Angeles 14, NE 0.....	-14	Anaheim
12/13/98	at St. Louis 32, NE 18.....	-14	TWA Dome
11/18/01	St. Louis 24, at NE 17.....	-7	Foxboro

## SERIES TRENDS

Record in New England .....	1-3
Record in Los Angeles.....	2-1
Record in St. Louis.....	0-1
Total Points in Regular Season Series.....	Rams 160, Patriots 140
Current Streak.....	Rams, four game winning streak

## CONNECTIONS

Patriots linebacker **Roman Phifer** was drafted in the second round of the 1991 NFL draft by the Rams and played in both Los Angeles (1991-95) and St. Louis (1996-98) ... Patriots linebacker **Bryan Cox** was born in St. Louis and attended East St. Louis (Ill.) High ... Patriots cornerback **Otis Smith** attended the University of Missouri ... Rams General Manager **Charlie Armey** spent 1991-97 with the Patriots as the Director of College Scouting ... Rams offensive assistant **Henry Ellard** played in five games with the Patriots during the 1998 season and caught five passes for 86 yards.

## SERIES SUPERLATIVES

There have been numerous outstanding individual performances in the series between the Patriots and the Rams. Below is a list of the top individual efforts based on yards gained:

<b>Patriots Rushing</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Robert Edwards		24	196	8.2	0	12/13/98	
<b>Patriots Receiving</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Stanley Morgan		5	158	31.6	2	11/4/79	
<b>Patriots Passing</b>		<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>Date</b>
Tony Eason		52	36	375	2	2	11/16/86
Steve Grogan		46	25	313	1	2	12/24/89
<b>Rams Rushing</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Greg Bell		26	210	8.1	1	12/24/89	
Eric Dickerson		24	102	4.3	0	11/16/86	
<b>Rams Receiving</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>Avg.</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Date</b>	
Isaac Bruce		7	130	18.6	0	11/18/01	
Henry Ellard		8	129	16.1	2	11/16/86	
George Farmer		6	122	20.3	1	12/11/83	
<b>Rams Passing</b>		<b>Att</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Yds</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kurt Warner		42	30	401	3	2	11/18/01

## TALE OF THE TAPE

### Final Regular Season

Categories	Patriots	St. Louis
Record .....	11-5.....	.....
Divisional Standings.....	1 <sup>st</sup> .....	1 <sup>st</sup> .....
Total Yards Gained .....	4,882.....	.....
Total Offense (Rank).....	305.1 (19).....	( )
Rush Offense .....	112.2 (12).....	111.1 ( )
Pass Offense .....	193.1 (22).....	( )
Point Per Game .....	23.1 (6).....	( )
Total Yards Allowed .....	5,352.....	.....
Total Defense.....	334.5 (24).....	( )
Rush Defense .....	115.9 (19).....	( )
Pass Defense.....	218.6 (24).....	( )
Points Allowed/Game .....	17.0 (5).....	( )
Possession Avg. ....	30:48.....	.....
Sacks Allowed/Yards Lost .....	46/237.....	.....
Sacks Made/Yards .....	41/239.....	.....
Interceptions/Yards .....	22/422.....	.....
Penalties/Yards.....	92/802.....	.....
Fumbles/Lost.....	29/13.....	.....
Fumbles Forced/Recovered .....	23/13.....	.....
Takeaways/Giveaways .....	+7.....	.....

## LAST TIME

The New England Patriots fell to the St. Louis Rams 24-17 at a sold-out Foxboro Stadium on Nov. 18, 2001. Despite being outgained in total offensive yards, 482 to 230, the Patriots held the Rams to their fourth lowest scoring total of the season, 24 points. The Rams finished the 2001 season as the top scoring team in the NFL, averaging 31.4 points per game.

The turning point of the game came late in the second quarter, when New England drove to the Rams 4-yard line and running back Antowain Smith was ruled to have fumbled the football. The play was upheld following an instant relay review. The officials ruled there was no conclusive evidence that Smith was down.

The Rams capitalized on the turnover, driving 97 yards on eight plays and took the lead before the half, 14-10, on a Warner to Marshall Faulk touchdown pass. Warner completed eight of nine passes on the drive, including the 9-yard scoring pass.

All 24 points scored in the first half were the result of turnovers.

New England responded to a Rams fourth quarter touchdown with a 10-yard touchdown pass from Tom Brady to David Patten and cut the Rams lead to 24-17 with 7:46 remaining in the game. Brady completed all of his five pass attempts on the drive for 65 yards, including the score.

St. Louis was able to hold onto the ball for the final 7:46 of the game and clung on to their 24-17 victory.

## PATRIOTS VERSUS NFC WEST

New England faced off against the NFC West this season and won three of four, with their only loss coming at the hands of the Rams. They defeated the Atlanta Falcons 24-10 (11/4), New Orleans Saints 34-17 (11/25) and Carolina 38-6 (1/6). They lost to St. Louis Rams 24-17 (11/18).

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The last time the Patriots lost (11/18) was to the Rams. They have won eight straight games since they lost 24-17 against the Rams.
- This will be the third time the Patriots will face off against the top seed from the NFC in the Super Bowl (Chicago, Super Bowl XX and Green Bay, Super Bowl XXXI).

## SERIES HISTORY

This will be the ninth meeting all-time between the Patriots and Eagles (first ever in postseason), with Philadelphia holding a 6-2 advantage in the series. The first meeting took place in 1973 and the last in 1999. The home team has won seven of the eight previous meetings, with the only road win being earned by the Eagles in the series only overtime contest in 1987. The last two meetings were the only two decided by more than ten points. New England's record at home against Philadelphia is 2-1 and they have a 0-5 record in Philadelphia. The two teams have never met at a neutral site.

## REGULAR SEASON – New England 2, Philadelphia 6

Date	Results	+/-	Stadium
1973	at Philadelphia 24, NE 23	-1	Veterans
1977	at NE 14, Philadelphia 6	+8	Schaefer
1978	at NE 24, Philadelphia 14	+10	Schaefer
1981	at Philadelphia 13, NE 3	-10	Veterans
1984	at Philadelphia 27, NE 17	-10	Veterans
1987	Philadelphia 34, at NE 31 (OT)	-3	Sullivan
1990	at Philadelphia 48, NE 20	-28	Veterans
1999	at Philadelphia 24, NE 9	-15	Veterans

## SERIES TRENDS

Patriots record at Home	2-1
Patriots record on the Road	0-5
Total Points in the Series	NE 141, Philadelphia 190
Patriots Largest Margin of Victory	+10 (10/08/78)
Patriots Largest Margin of Defeat	-28 (11/04/90)
Highest Combined Point Total	68 (11/04/90)
Lowest Combined Point Total	16 (9/13/81)

## SERIES SUPERLATIVES

There have been numerous outstanding individual performances in the series between the Patriots and the Eagles. Below is a list of the top individual efforts based on yards gained:

Patriots Receiving	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date
Irving Fryar	4	115			11/04/90
Troy Brown	5	105	21.0	0	12/19/99
Stanley Morgan	3	104			10/8/78
Stanley Morgan	5	101			12/9/84
Tony Collins	11	100			11/29/87

Patriots Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int	Date
Drew Bledsoe	49	23	331	0	4	12/19/99
Tom Ramsey	53	34	402	3	2	11/29/87

Eagles Rushing	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date
Wilbert Montgomery	18	137			09/13/81
Randall Cunningham	8	124			11/04/90
Anthony Toney	24	123			11/29/87
Heath Sherman	24	113			11/04/90
Wilbert Montgomery	19	100			12/09/84

Eagles Receiving	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date
Mike Quick	5	121			
Charlie Young	8	108			

Eagles Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int	Date
Randall Cunningham	31	18	314	2	1	11/29/87

## DID YOU KNOW?

- This will be the first time in the Patriots three Super Bowl appearances that their opponent will not be from the NFC Central. (Chicago, Super Bowl XX and Green Bay, Super Bowl XXXI).

## TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Patriots	Eagles
Record	11-5	11-5
Divisional Standings	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Total Yards Gained	4,882	4,923
Total Offense (Rank)	305.1 (19)	307.7 (17)
Rush Offense	112.2 (12)	111.1 (14)
Pass Offense	193.1 (22)	196.6 (20)
Point Per Game	23.1 (6)	21.4 (9)
Total Yards Allowed	5,352	4,701
Total Defense	334.5 (24)	293.8 (7)
Rush Defense	115.9 (19)	114.8 (18)
Pass Defense	218.6 (24)	179.0 (2)
Points Allowed/Game	17.0 (5)	13.0 (2)
Possession Avg.	30:48	28:39
Sacks Allowed/Yards Lost	46/237	40/282
Sacks Made/Yards	41/239	45/283
Interceptions/Yards	22/422	14/152
Penalties/Yards	92/802	100/768
Fumbles/Lost	29/13	20/10
Fumbles Forced/Recovered	23/13	39/19
Takeaways/Giveaways	+7	+9

## CONNECTIONS

- Patriots cornerback **Otis Smith** originally signed with the Eagles as a rookie free agent in 1990. He spent five seasons in Philadelphia and played in 62 games.
- Patriots wide receiver **Charles Johnson** spent the 1999 and 2000 seasons with Philadelphia. He played in 27 games and caught 90 passes for 1,056 yards and eight touchdowns.
- Patriots safety **Tebucky Jones** was a teammate **Donovan McNabb** at Syracuse (1995-96).
- Patriots center **Damien Woody** attended Boston College with Eagles offensive lineman **Doug Brzezinski**.
- Patriots defensive coordinator **Romeo Crennel** was the NY Giants special teams coach from 1985-89 while the Eagles punter **Sean Landeta** kicked for the Giants.
- Eagles wide receiver **Sean Morey** was originally a seventh round (241<sup>st</sup> overall) pick of the New England Patriots in 1999. He played in two game during the 1999 season and spent the 2000 season on the Patriots practice squad. Morey grew up in Marshfield, Mass. and then matriculated to Brown University.
- Eagles center **Jim Pyne** attended Milford (Mass.) High School and is part of the only three-generation AFL/NFL family in history. His father, George III played for the AFL's Boston Patriots in 1965 and his grandfather George II played for the Providence Steam Rollers in 1931-32.
- Eagles Tight End/ Long Snapper **Mike Bartrum** earned a trip to the Super Bow as a member of the 1996 Patriots. He played for Patriots from 1996-1999, catching one pass for a one-yard score.
- Eagles defensive line coach **Tommy Brasher** held the same position with the Patriots from 1982-84.
- Patriots linebacker **Bryan Cox** and Eagles CB **Troy Vincent** were teammates in Miami from 1992-95.



# Game Review – Patriots ,

## RECORD BREAKERS

Patriots tight end **Jermaine Wiggins** established a Patriots postseason record with 10 catches against the Raiders. The previous mark of nine catches was held by Shawn Jefferson (1/3/98, at Pittsburgh). Wiggins' previous career-high was five catches vs. Kansas City (12/4/00).

Kicker **Adam Vinatieri** increased his career postseason point total to 40 on his game-winning overtime kick and surpassed Tony Franklin (39) for first on the Patriots list. Vinatieri nailed all three of his field goal attempts, including a 45-yard kick that tied the game at the end of regulation and a 23-yard, game-winning kick in overtime.

Quarterback **Tom Brady** set single-game Patriots postseason passing records with 52 attempts, 32 completions and 312 yards. In the second half alone, Brady completed 26 of 39 passes for 238 yards. He also became the first Patriots quarterback to rush for touchdown in the postseason.

Wide receiver **David Patten** totaled 107 receiving yards against the Raiders, which was the third-highest single-game total in Patriots postseason history. He trails only Larry Garron (120, at Buffalo, Dec. 28, 1963) and Gino Cappelletti (109, at Buffalo Dec. 28, 1963).

## WINNING WAYS

The Patriots extended their winning streak to seven games, equaling their longest win streak (including postseason games) since they closed the 1994 season with seven consecutive wins. They have also won nine of their last 10 and 11 of their last 13.

## 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 81.3 percent of their games in the divisional playoffs (39-9), including a 3-1 record last weekend. Prior to this year, 18 of the 22 teams who have appeared in the Super Bowl have been bye-week teams.

## HOME SWEET HOME

New England closed out Foxboro Stadium in dramatic fashion with a 16-13 come-from-behind victory in overtime against the Oakland Raiders. The Patriots will bring a consecutive sellout streak of 82 games at Foxboro Stadium with them over to CMGI Field next season. The streak began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 54-28 in those games, including seven wins in their last eight at Foxboro. The Patriots also have a four-game winning streak at Foxboro in the postseason and have not lost a home playoff game since 1978.

## GREAT POINT

During the Patriots current seven-game winning streak, they have only allowed an average of 12.9 points per game. In fact, in those seven wins their defense yielded only five touchdowns.

The Patriots finished the regular 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)	<b>17.0 .....</b>	<b>2001</b>
257 .....	1963 (14)	17.8 .....	1999, 1988
<b>272.....</b>	<b>2001 (16)</b>	17.9 .....	1993, 1978
283 .....	1966 (14)	18.1 .....	1991, 1985, 1983

## OVERTIME IN THE PLAYOFFS

There have been only 16 overtime postseason games dating back to 1958, including last week's 16-13 Patriots victory. The Patriots are only one of two teams (Los Angeles Rams) to win the game on the opening drive in overtime. The Rams defeated the N.Y. Giants, 19-13 on Jan. 7, 1990, when Jim Everett connected with Flipper Anderson on a 30-yard touchdown pass 1:06 into overtime. They are also only the seventh home team to win in the 16 overtime wins. They are listed below:

Date	Result	Score	Round
<b>1/19/02</b>	<b>Patriots defeated Raiders</b>	<b>16-13</b>	<b>Divisional</b>
12/30/00	Dolphins defeated Colts	23-17	Wild Card
1/8/94	Chiefs defeated Steelers	27-24	Wild Card
1/3/93	Bills defeated Oilers	41-38	Wild Card
1/3/88	Oilers defeated Seahawks	23-20	Wild Card
1/3/87	Browns defeated Jets	23-20	Divisional
12/26/65	Packers defeated Baltimore	13-10	Divisional

## LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW

When the weather outside is frightful, the Patriots have been delightful. They have played four games at Foxboro Stadium when snow has been a factor, and have won all four. Prior to last week's overtime victory over the Raiders, their last snow game was in 1983 against the Saints. Their complete four-game history in the snow is listed below:

### SNOW GAMES AT FOXBORO STADIUM (4-0)

DATE	OPPONENT	TEMP	RESULT
1/19/02	Oakland	25	W, 16-13 ot
12/4/83	New Orleans	35	W, 7-0
12/12/82	Miami	22	W, 3-0
12/10/78	Buffalo	28	W, 26-24

## FOR THE RECORD

The Patriots are now 4-0 in games decided by three points or less this season, including a 3-0 record in overtime ... They won for just the second time in seven games (2-5) when they trailed after three quarters. Conversely, the Patriots are 10-0 when they are leading after three quarters ... They improved to 7-2 at home this season.





# 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 GP	2001 GP/GS	FORMER TEAM
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
<b>17 Players</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>221/115</b>	

## TEAM TURNAROUND

The Patriots won six straight games and eight of their last nine and finished the 2001 regular season 11-5. 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
<b>New England</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>11-5</b>	<b>+6</b>
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
<b>2000</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>11-5</b>	<b>+6</b>
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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
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 regular 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
<b>2 ... 22</b>	<b>New England</b>	2	39 NY Jets
2 ... 22	Denver	3	37 Denver
4 ... 20	NY Jets	<b>4</b>	<b>35 New England</b>
5 ... 19	San Diego	5	31 San Diego

## DEAD ZONE

The Patriots defense is in a zone. In their last five regular season games, they allowed their opponents just 10 drives in the red zone and their opponents 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 closed out Foxboro Stadium with a 16-13 overtime victory over the Oakland Raiders in the Divisional round of the 2001 NFL playoffs. It was their 82<sup>nd</sup> consecutive sellout at Foxboro Stadium and they were 54-28 in those games. The streak began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games.

Last week's game was also the Patriots 171<sup>st</sup> consecutive game that was televised locally. The streak, which began with the 1993 season-finale, includes preseason, postseason and regular season games.

## FAREWELL TO FOXBORO

Last weekend's game was the 242<sup>nd</sup> game played at Foxboro since it opened in 1971, including the fifth postseason game. The Patriots finished with a 137-105 record at Foxboro Stadium, including a 4-1 record in the playoffs. They closed out their Foxboro Stadium stay by winning their last four games.

## NO SOUP FOR YOU

Over each team's last seven games of the season (including postseason) New England ranks second only to Philadelphia in points surrendered. The Patriots have given up 90 points in their last seven games, averaging 12.9 a contest. During their seven-game winning streak, the Patriots only allowed opposing offenses to score five touchdowns. The Eagles gave up 89 points for an average of 12.7 per game. Chicago finished third with an average of 13.0 (91 points) and last week's opponent, the Steelers ranked fourth with an average of 14.4 (101 points).

Week	Opponent	Offensive Touchdowns	Total Points
11	New Orleans .....	2 .....	17
12	New York Jets .....	1 .....	16
13	Cleveland.....	0 .....	16
14	Buffalo .....	0 .....	9
15	Miami .....	1 .....	13
17	Carolina .....	0 .....	6
19	Oakland.....	1 .....	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>90 (12.9 avg.)</b>

## YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

The Patriots defense has not been a very good samaritan this season. When opposing teams have tried to find the end zone, the Patriots have not obliged them with directions. In the regular season they only allowed 26 touchdowns, tying them with the Steelers for the top mark in the AFC and the second-highest total in the NFL (see below).

1 ... 21 ....	Chicago	4 .... 28 ....	Green Bay
2... 26.....	New England	5 .... 29 ....	Tampa Bay
26 ....	Pittsburgh		

## WINNING WAYS

With their xxxx-xxxx win over the Steelers last week in the AFC Championship game, the Patriots increased their current winning streak to eight games. Including postseason games, it is the longest streak in franchise history. Their streak started with a 34-17 win against the New Orleans Saints on Nov. 25.

Wins	Dates
8	Nov. 27, 2001 - ?
7	Nov. 3, 1994 – Dec. 24, 1994
	Oct. 19, 1986 – Nov. 30, 1986
	Sept. 24, 1978 – Nov. 5, 1978

## HOT AND COLD

When the game-time temperatures have cooled down in recent years, the Patriots have heated up. Since 1993, the Patriots are 13-4 when it's 36 degrees or colder, including a 3-1 record in the playoffs. The Patriots won all four games they were involved in this season in which the game-time temperature was 36 degrees or lower.

Date	Opp.	W/L	Result	Temp	Notes
12/16/01	@ Buf	W	12-9 ot	34	
12/22/01	vs. Mia	W	20-13	36	w.c. 16
01/06/02	@ Car.	W	38-6	36	drizzle
01/19/02	vs Oak*	W	16-13 ot	25	snow

13-4=36 or lower since 1993      \*-playoffs



# Honors And Awards



QB Tom Brady

## 2001 PRO BOWL

WR Troy Brown

S Lawyer Milloy



### AFC PLAYER OF THE MONTH

PR Troy Brown (Dec./Jan.)

### AFC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

QB Tom Brady (Wk 5 & Wk 11)

K Adam Vinatieri (Wk 14 & Divisional Playoffs)

WR David Patten (Wk 6)

P Ken Walter (Wk 15)

### ALL TERRY TEAM (FOX's TERRY BRADSHAW)

Patriots owner Robert Kraft

QB Tom Brady

### USA TODAY's ALL-JOE TEAM

Head Coach Bill Belichick

WR Troy Brown

FB Marc Edwards

RB Antowain Smith

### CBS' PHIL SIMMS' ALL-IRON TEAM

WR Troy Brown

### ESPN's DAN PATRICK's NFL AWARDS

Coach of the Year – Bill Belichick

### 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

### CNN's PETER KING's ALL-PRO TEAM

Co-Head Coach Bill Belichick

Safety Lawyer Milloy

Punt Returner Troy Brown

### PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY/PFWA ALL-AFC TEAM

Punt returner Troy Brown

### PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY/PFWA ALL-AFC TEAM

Safety Lawyer Milloy

Punt returner Troy Brown

### PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY/PFWA ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

Defensive tackle Richard Seymour

### PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY/PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL WRITERS OF AMERICA ALL-NFL TEAM

PR Troy Brown

### DALLAS MORNING NEWS' RICK GOSSELIN's NFL AWARDS

Coach of the Year – Bill Belichick

Executive of the Year – Scott Pioli

### SHAW'S 12-PLAYER AWARD

QB Tom Brady

### FOOTBALL DIGEST'S 2001 ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

Offensive lineman Matt Light

## 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
<b>Indianapolis</b>	<b>WR David Patten .....</b>	<b>4 rec.-117 yds-2 tds; 1 ru-29 yds-1td; 1-1 pa-60yds-1td</b>
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
<b>New Orleans</b>	<b>QB Tom Brady .....</b>	<b>19-26, 258 yds, 4 tds</b>
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 FGs, 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**





# 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.

Date	Opp.	No	Rushing				Receiving				
			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 for his career), including a career-high 156 yards vs. Miami (12/22/01). 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
<b>156</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>vs. Miami, 12/22/01</b>
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
<b>117</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>at Atlanta, 11/4/01</b>
113	30	3.9	1	W	vs. NY Jets, 9/19/99
<b>111</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>vs. New Orleans, 11/25/01</b>
107	23	4.7	2	W	vs. Indianapolis, 11/22/98
<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>vs. Buffalo, 11/11/01</b>

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
<b>Antowain Smith, 2001</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>
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
<b>Antowain Smith, 2001</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>
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
<b>A. Smith, N.E.</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>
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 rushing and six receiving 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 record 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 Denver's Jason Elam.

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

## CLUTCH KICKER

Vinatieri kicked four game-winning field goals during the 2001 season, increasing his career total to 12. Last week against the Raiders, Vinatieri boomed a 45-yard kick with 27 seconds remaining in the game to tie the game at 13 and send it into overtime. In the extra session he nailed a 23-yard field goal, giving the Patriots a 16-13 victory. Half of his game-winning kicks, six, have come in overtime, including three 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
<b>10/14/01</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10:55 (OT)</b>	<b>29-26</b>
<b>12/02/01</b>	<b>at NY Jets</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6:29</b>	<b>17-16</b>
<b>12/16/01</b>	<b>at Buffalo Bills</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9:15 (OT)</b>	<b>12-9</b>
<b>1/19/02</b>	<b>Oakland</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6:31 (OT)</b>	<b>16-13</b>

## 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	<b>Adam Vinatieri</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>206/211</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>160 199</b>	<b>688</b>

## 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 did not punt into the end zone in final eight weeks of the regular season (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
<b>7</b>	<b>Ty Law .....</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>59t</b>	<b>5</b>
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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>5.</b>	<b>Willie McGinest ...</b>	<b>1994-01.....</b>	<b>51.5</b>
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
<b>5</b>	<b>B. Cox</b>	<b>1991-</b>	<b>1,076</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>
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 played in the first postseason game of his 11-year career last week against the Raiders. He will no longer hold the distinction of being the player who has played in the most regular season games with no postseason action. The list prior to last week's game is listed below:

Player, Team	Games	Player, Team	Games
<b>Roman Phifer, Patriots ...</b>	<b>168</b>	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 during the 2001 regular 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
<b>6</b>	<b>Terrell Buckley.....</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>5</b>
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 regular season starts as a Patriot. Vito "Babe" Parilli ranks second in Patriots annals with 10 wins his first 14 starts.

Quarterback	14 <sup>th</sup>	Quarterback	14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Tom Brady</b> .....	<b>11-3</b>	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
01/06	at Car.	W	29	17	198	.586	1	2	62.1
<b>2001 Totals</b>			<b>11-3</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>.639</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>86.5</b>

## 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
<b>T. Brady ...</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2001</b>	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	<b>T. Brady, 2001 ....</b>	<b>12-413</b>	<b>2.9</b>
			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	<b>Tom Brady, 2001</b> .....	<b>63.9</b>
R. Gannon.....	549	361	65.8	Tony Eason, 1986.....	61.6
D. Culpepper...	366	235	64.2	Hugh Millen, 1992.....	61.1
<b>T. Brady.....</b>	<b>384..</b>	<b>247...</b>	<b>63.9</b>	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
<b>T. Brady, NE</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>2,843</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>86.5</b>
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 legend's '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
<b>Tom Brady, 2001.....</b>	<b>4</b>
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 96<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup>) to become the Patriots all-time leading receiver for a single season, surpassing Ben Coates (96, 1994). Brown also caught his 100<sup>th</sup> pass of the season in the third quarter and became the first Patriot to ever record 100 receptions in a 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
01/06	at Carolina	6	45	7.5	17	0
<b>2001 Totals</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>60t</b>	<b>5</b>

Brown ranked fifth in the NFL (4<sup>th</sup> in AFC) with 101 receptions and 10<sup>th</sup> in the NFL (4<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Troy Brown, N.E.</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>60t</b>	<b>5</b>
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
<b>Troy Brown, N.E.</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>60t</b>	<b>5</b>
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.

## GOING BOWLING



Brown became the third Patriot selected to the Pro Bowl when he was added to the roster on Jan. 17, 2002. He became just the third Patriots wide receiver to be selected to the Pro Bowl since 1970 (Stanley Morgan, 4 and Terry Glenn, 1).

## 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
<b>Troy Brown</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>184</b>
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
<b>Troy Brown</b>	<b>83, 2000</b>	<b>101, 2001</b>	<b>184</b>
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
<b>5</b>	<b>Troy Brown, WR</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>3,970</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17</b>
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
<b>T. Brown, N.E.*</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>85t</b>	<b>2</b>
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
<b>Troy Brown, 2001*</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>2</b>
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 exceeded 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.

<b>Veteran Players</b>	<b>Career-High</b>
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 Coleman .....8 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

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**18**

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

**8**

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.

**4**

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.

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**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 improved by during the 2001 season. It was the second highest in the league and in franchise history.

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**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.

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**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 54-28 in those games.

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**12-3**

Tom Brady's record as a starter (including the postseason), which is the best start through 15 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 former single-season completion percentage record set by Tony Eason (448-276) in 1986.

**10**

The number of catches tight end Jermaine Wiggins recorded in the Divisional playoff game against the Raiders. It was the highest single-game total in Patriots postseason history.

**4**

The number of touchdowns Wiggins caught during the 2001 season. It was the highest total by a Patriots tight end since Ben Coates caught six in 1998.

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**12**

The number of game-winning kicks Adam Vinatieri has made during his six-year career.

**6**

The number of his game-winning kicks that have come in overtime.

**4**

The number of his game-winning kicks that have come this season.

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

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**+7**

The Patriots turnover ratio during the regular 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.

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**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.

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**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 allowed this season. They ranked sixth in the NFL and third in the AFC.

