



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, September 3, 2001

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Sept. 4

10:45-11:15 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:15-11:55 Players available in locker room
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Wednesday, Sept. 5

10:45-11:15 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:15 Drew Bledsoe Press Availability
11:15-11:55 Players available in locker room
11:45 Dick LeBeau Conference Calls
12:10 Peter Warrick Conference Calls
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Thursday, Sept. 6

10:45-11:15 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:15-11:55 Players available in locker room
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Friday, Sept. 7

10:30-11:00 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:00-11:35 Players available in locker room
12:00-12:20 Photo Access at Practice

PATRIOTS SCHEDULE

PRESEASON (3-1)

Fri., Aug. 10	N.Y. Giants	W	14-0
Sat., Aug. 18	at Carolina	W	23-8
Sat., Aug. 25	at Tampa Bay	L	3-20
Thur., Aug. 30	Washington	W	33-13

REGULAR SEASON

Sun., Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Sept. 16	at Carolina	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets	4:05	WBZ
Sun., Sept. 30	Indianapolis	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Oct. 7	at Miami	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Oct. 14	San Diego	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Oct. 28	at Denver	4:15	WBZ
Sun., Nov. 4	at Atlanta	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Nov. 11	Buffalo	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Nov. 18	St. Louis	8:30	ESPN
Sun., Nov. 25	New Orleans	4:05	WFXT
Sun., Dec. 2	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Dec. 9	Cleveland	1:00	WBZ
Sun., Dec. 16	at Buffalo	1:00	WBZ
Sat., Dec. 22	Miami Dolphins	1:30	WBZ

REGULAR SEASON OPENER

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (0-0) AT CINCINNATI BENGALS (0-0)

DATE: September 9, 2001

SITE: Paul Brown Stadium (65,393) - Grass

TIME: 1:02 p.m. EDT

TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast regionally on CBS (locally on WBZ Channel 4 in Boston). **Gus Johson** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partners **Brent Jones** and **Sam Wyche**.

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 two are enjoying their 18th season together.

The New England Patriots travel to Cincinnati this week to kickoff its 2001 regular season against the Bengals at Paul Brown Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:02 p.m.

It will be the 18th meeting in the series, a series in which the Patriots own a 10-7 advantage and a current three-game win streak. The two teams last squared off last season in Foxboro, where the Patriots claimed a 16-13 victory. The last time the two teams met in Cincinnati was in 1994. That year, the Patriots scored their first victory of the season, 31-28, in Week Three. The victory sparked a three-game win streak, propelling the Patriots toward their first playoff season in eight years. The last Bengals victory in the series was in 1992 in Cincinnati. The Patriots and the Bengals have only met once in a regular season opener, back in 1972, a game the Bengals won 31-7.

In season openers, the Patriots have fared just below .500, with 19 wins in 41 attempts. For the third time in the last four years the team will open the season on the road. This year, the Patriots won't host their home opener until Week Three, Sept. 23 vs. the New York Jets. It will be the latest regular season home opener the team has hosted since 1968 when the Boston Patriots played at Fenway Park and did not host a game until Oct. 13.

The last time the Patriots opened the season with consecutive road games was in 1996 when they traveled to Miami and Buffalo before returning to Foxboro to host Arizona. The Patriots lost each of their first two games that year, but rebounded to win 11 of their next 14 games to win the AFC East division title en route to an AFC Championship.

Oddly, if recent history is any indicator, the Patriots should hold an advantage in this year's opener. Since 1985, the Patriots are 7-1 in season openers in odd-numbered years and 2-6 in even-numbered years.

The Patriots closed out the 2001 preseason with a convincing 33-13 victory over the Washington Redskins to improve to 3-1. It was just the 10th time in the franchise's history that the Patriots won at least 75 percent of their preseason contests. While the offense showed great improvement in the preseason finale, the defense was noticeably consistent throughout the preseason, finishing first in the NFL in pass defense (112.5 ypg) and second in the NFL in overall defense (202.8 ypg). In their three wins, the Patriots allowed just 449 total yards (149.7 ypg) and only 29 first downs (9.7 pg).

FORECAST FOR SUCCESS?

The Patriots won three of four games this past preseason, earning a .750 winning percentage. New England has finished with at least a .750 winning percentage in nine previous preseasons. Following seven of those preseasons they earned a winning record and qualified for the playoffs five times.

Preseason				Regular Season			
Year	Record	%	Season	Year	Record	%	Season
2001	3-1	.750	??	1981	4-0	1.000	2-14
1997	3-1	.750	10-6*	1978	4-0	1.000	11-5*
1996	3-1	.750	11-5*	1977	5-1	.833	9-5
1994	3-1	.750	10-6*	1961	3-1	.750	9-4-1
1986	4-1	.800	11-5*	1960	4-1	.800	5-9



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

This week's game will mark the 18th time these two teams have met in the regular season. New England owns a 10-7 advantage in the series, including a three-game winning streak. The Patriots could tie their longest winning streak of the series, four, with a win this week. This will also be just the second time they've met on opening day, the first meeting coming in 1972. The Bengals traveled to Foxboro and defeated the Patriots 31-7. Current Bengals quarterbacks coach Ken Anderson completed 10-of-15 pass for 102 yards and threw a touchdown pass in the contest.

This will be the first time the Patriots have visited Cincinnati since 1994 and the first time they will play in Paul Brown Stadium. The stadium was completed in 2000 and has already hosted the five largest crowds to see a sporting event in Cincinnati.

PATRIOTS 10, CINCINNATI 7

DATE	RESULT	+/-	SITE
1968	at NE 33, Cincinnati 14.....	+19.....	Fenway
1969	NE 25, at Cincinnati 14.....	+11.....	Riverfront
1970	at Cincinnati 45, NE 7.....	-38.....	Riverfront
1972	Cincinnati 31, at NE 7.....	-24.....	Schaefer
1975	at Cincinnati 27, NE 10.....	-17.....	Riverfront
1978	NE 10, at Cincinnati 3.....	+7.....	Riverfront
1979	NE 20, at Cincinnati 14.....	+6.....	Riverfront
1984	at NE 20, Cincinnati 14.....	+6.....	Sullivan
1985	at NE 34, Cincinnati 23.....	+11.....	Sullivan
1986	Cincinnati 31, at NE 7.....	-24.....	Sullivan
1988	at NE 27, Cincinnati 21.....	+6.....	Sullivan
1990	at Cincinnati 41, NE 7.....	-34.....	Riverfront
1991	at Cincinnati 29, NE 7.....	-22.....	Riverfront
1992	at Cincinnati 20, NE 10.....	-10.....	Riverfront
1993	at NE 7, Cincinnati 2.....	+5.....	Foxboro
1994	NE 31, at Cincinnati 28.....	+3.....	Riverfront
2000	at NE 16, Cincinnati 13.....	+3.....	Foxboro
(Points—Cincinnati 370, Patriots 278)			

CONNECTIONS

- Patriots punter **Lee Johnson** played with the Cincinnati Bengals from 1988-98.
- Bengals safety **Chris Carter** (1997-99) and guard **Scott Rehberg** (1998) both played with the Patriots.
- Patriots safety **Lawyer Milloy** (1993-95) and Bengals running back **Corey Dillon** (1996) both played at the University of Washington.
- Bengals defensive coordinator/linebacker coach **Mark Duffner** was the head coach of Holy Cross from 1986-91.

JUST FOR KICKS

Lee Johnson, who spent 11 seasons with the Bengals, enters his 17th NFL season as the league's all-time leading punter with 1,163 career punts. His first regular season punt could place him first among the all-time punting leaders in career yards, too. He enters the season trailing Rohn Stark by just 43 yards. The career punting leaders are listed below:

Name	Years	No.	Yards
1. Lee Johnson	1985-00	1,163	49,428
2. Dave Jennings	1974-87	1,154	47,567
3. Rohn Stark	1982-97	1,141	49,471

TALE OF THE TAPE

Final 2001 Preseason

Categories	New England	Cincinnati
Record	3-1.....	1-3
Divisional Standings	1 st	6 th
Total Yards Gained	1,184.....	1,579
Total Offense (Rank).....	296.0 (13).....	394.8 (1)
Rush Offense	98.8 (14).....	204.3 (1)
Pass Offense	197.3 (11).....	190.5 (14)
Points Per Game	18.3 (10).....	16.8 (15t)
Total Yards Allowed	811.....	1,074
Total Defense	202.8 (2).....	268.5 (8)
Rush Defense	90.3 (10).....	112.0 (18)
Pass Defense.....	112.5 (1).....	156.5 (5)
Points Allowed/Game	10.3 (2).....	20.8 (25)
Possession Avg.	29:48.....	30:49
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss.....	9/72.....	15/81
Sacks Made/Yards.....	10/93.....	15/77
Interceptions By	6.....	4
Penalties Against/Yards	19/160.....	23/179
Fumbles/Lost.....	5/1.....	12/6
Fumbles Forced/Recovered.....	6/2.....	5/2
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio.....	+5.....	-5

SERIES SUPERLATIVES

The Patriots and Bengals have played 17 times during the regular season. Below is a listing of the top Patriot individual game performances in the series.

Rushing Yards Att. Yds Avg Date – Site

Craig James	25	142	5.7	12/22/85 - vs. Cincinnati
Jim Nance	24	125	5.2	11/16/69 - at Cincinnati
Mack Herron	13	119	9.2	10/12/75 - at Cincinnati

Passing Yards Att C Yds Td I Date

Drew Bledsoe	50	30	365	1	2	9/18/94
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Receiving Yards Yds No. Date – Site

Michael Timpson	150	7	12/22/92 – at Cincinnati
Terry Glenn	129	11	11/19/00 – at Foxboro
Michael Timpson	125	10	9/18/94 – at Cincinnati
Stanley Morgan	121	4	12/22/85 – at Foxboro
Troy Brown	110	8	11/19/00 – at Foxboro
Ben Coates	108	8	9/18/94 – at Cincinnati
Stanley Morgan	107	5	12/7/86 – at Foboro
Stanley Morgan	102	3	10/14/84 – at Foxboro

THE LAST MEETING – Nov. 19, 2000

The New England Patriots defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 16-13 at Foxboro Stadium. Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri connected on a 22-yard field goal with three seconds remaining to give the Patriots the victory. The game was one of 13 games that were decided by eight points or less during the 2000 season, establishing a franchise record.

Drew Bledsoe led the offense on a 12-play, 81-yard game-winning drive late in the fourth quarter. He completed four of his first six passes for 65 yards as the Patriots offense moved the ball to the Cincinnati 19-yard line with 39 seconds remaining. Bledsoe and Terry Glenn tried for the end zone and drew a pass interference call that gave them the ball on the 1-yard-line. Vinatieri then hit a 22-yarder with three seconds remaining. The kick was one of eight game winning kicks he has made during his career.



Game Review –Patriots 33, Redskins 13

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots defeated the Washington Redskins 33-13 and finished the 2001 preseason 3-1. The Patriots gained 381 yards of total offense, while the Redskins accumulated 192. The Patriots also forced three turnovers in the second quarter, enabling them to gain an early advantage, which they did not relinquish.

The Redskins scored first, on a 47-yard field goal by Brett Conway with 4:23 remaining in the quarter, but it would be the last time they lead all night.

In the second quarter cornerback Terrell Buckley intercepted a Jeff George pass at the 4-yardline and returned it 30 yards. The Patriots offense moved quickly up the field and jumped out in front of the Redskins 7-3 on a 22-yard pass from Drew Bledsoe to David Patten. It was Bledsoe's first touchdown pass of the preseason and Patten's second scoring reception.

On the next Redskins drive, the defense went back to work, this time forcing a fumble on the first play from scrimmage. Linebacker Roman Phifer rushed George and sacked him from behind and in the process, stripped and recovered the football.

Bledsoe went back to work, driving the Patriots into the end zone again. Running back Antowain Smith carried four times on the drive, including his 4-yard touchdown run, increasing the lead to 14-3.

Four plays later, Phifer sacked George again and forced him to fumble, again. Linebacker Mike Vrabel recovered the loose ball in mid-air, setting up the offense on the 24-yard-line. The Patriots were able to get a field goal and take a 17-3 lead.

New England took over in the second half, scoring on all four of its possessions, kicking three field goals and scoring one touchdown. Adam Vinatieri, nailed kicks from 50, 52 and 46 yards, while quarterback Tom Brady connected with running back Kevin Faulk on a 54-yard touchdown pass.

The Patriots are 20-22 in preseason finales, including wins in five of the last six seasons.

PATRIOTS IN THE PRESEASON

New England finished the 2001 preseason with a 3-1 mark and now hold an 80-110-1 (.421) all-time preseason record. The Patriots have had winning records in five of the last six preseasons, totaling a record of 16-10 (.615). Prior to 2000, the Patriots had qualified for the playoffs in every year that they had a winning record in the preseason, dating back to the 1986 season.

BILL BELICHICK IN THE PRESEASON

Bill Belichick has compiled an overall record of 15-10 (.600) in the preseason, including a 6-3 mark as Patriots head coach. Belichick's teams have been .500 or above in all seven of his preseasons as a head coach in the NFL.

HOME SWEET HOME

Since 1994, the Patriots have compiled a 47-26 (.644) record in Foxboro, including a 12-4 (.750) preseason record at home. The fans have responded, too – every one of those 73 games has been a sellout. The Patriots also extended their streak of locally televised games to 155 consecutive games. The streak includes preseason, regular season and postseason games.

BRADY BUNCH

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady completed 11 of 19 passes for 166 yards, including a 54-yard screen pass for a touchdown to running back Kevin Faulk. Brady's quarterback rating of 104.3 pushed his preseason rating to a team-high 91.9. After replacing Bledsoe late in the first half, Brady directed the offense on five drives, all of which ended with scores. He threw one touchdown pass to Faulk and put Adam Vinatieri in position for four field goals.

ROMAN CONQUER

Patriots linebacker Roman Phifer finished the game with five tackles, including a pair of sacks in the second quarter. On each sack, he forced Jeff George to fumble. He recovered the first miscue and linebacker Mike Vrabel recovered the second. The Patriots offense capitalized on both turnovers, scoring a touchdown and a field goal.

CONTINUING TO SEE MORE

Defensive lineman Richard Seymour, the Patriots first-round pick of the 2001 NFL draft, continued his disruptive play this preseason with a half sack in the first quarter. It came on third-and-13, ending the Redskins first drive. Later in the quarter, he pressured George, forcing him to get rid of the ball and drew an intentional grounding call.

"Richard had a good camp for us," said Head Coach Bill Belichick. "There were some people who thought he couldn't pass rush. I wouldn't be one of those. I think he's a powerful guy, and he's got a good future in front of him if he keeps working hard and stays focused."

COACH BELICHICK'S POSTGAME COMMENTS

Re: The Redskin game:

"I was pretty pleased with the overall effort of the team tonight. I thought that we came out with a lot more enthusiasm and effort than we had last week. We started off the game better and sustained it through the game other than the little lapse there on defense at the end of the half."

Re: The area of play he is most pleased with:

"I was most pleased with just the way the team approached the game. We played with a lot more energy and I think that's the way we need to play. We can't just go out there and go through the motions. We need to bring a little bit more than that and I thought we had a good week of practice and I thought it carried over into the game."

DREW BLEDSOE'S POSTGAME COMMENTS

Re: The preseason:

"It's the preseason and nobody ever looks at those records, but at the same time, for a team that hasn't been particularly successful the last couple of years, to go out and win regardless of whether it is a preseason game or whatever it is, it's a good thing for us. It all disappears and it doesn't mean anything starting now, but at the same time it is good to come off the field with that winning feeling."



Drew Bledsoe – The Patriot

BLEDSOE TOPPING THE CHARTS

During the 2000 season, Drew Bledsoe became the Patriots all-time leading passer, surpassing Steve Grogan's total of 26,886 yards. He currently has 29,257 career passing yards and needs only 743 yards to reach 30,000. Bledsoe broke the record in his 111th career game, while Grogan established his record over 16 seasons (1975-90) in 149 games.

In 1998, he became the Patriots all-time completion leader, moving past Grogan (1,879) in the 1998 season finale. Against the Dolphins on Oct. 17, 1999, Bledsoe moved ahead of Grogan (3,593) as the team's all-time passing attempts leader. Grogan still hold the franchise record for touchdowns with 182. Bledsoe will need 19 scoring throws to claim the touchdown title. See below:

Yards			Touchdowns		
29,257	Drew Bledsoe	1993-00	182	Steve Grogan	1975-90
26,886	Steve Grogan	1975-90	164	Drew Bledsoe	1993-00
16,747	Vito Parilli	1961-67	132	Vito Parilli	1961-67
Attempts			Completions		
4,452	Drew Bledsoe	1993-00	2,504	Drew Bledsoe	1993-00
3,593	Steve Grogan	1975-90	1,879	Steve Grogan	1975-90
2,413	Vito Parilli	1961-67	1,140	Vito Parilli	1961-67

BLEDSOE AMONG ACTIVE PASSING LEADERS

Bledsoe enters the 2001 season ranked fourth among the NFL's leading active passers with 29,257 yards. He is 3,686 yards shy of moving into the NFL's all-time top 20. His 2,504 career completions already ranks 20th on the NFL's all-time list and he needs just 47 attempts to move into the NFL's top 20 for career attempts.

Quarterback	G	Att	Cmp	Yards	TD	Int
Vinny Testaverde	173	5203	2897	36,307	226	216
Brett Favre	145	4932	2997	34,706	255	157
Randall Cunningham	156	4200	2375	29,406	204	132
Drew Bledsoe	122	4452	2504	29,257	164	136

BLEDSOE'S 300-YARD GAMES

Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe has recorded 26 300-yard games during his career and is second to only Brett Favre (28) among active quarterbacks. Bledsoe's record in 300-yard games is 17-9.

Player	Team	300 Yard Games
Brett Favre	Green Bay.....	28
Drew Bledsoe.....	New England	26
Vinny Testaverde.....	New York Jets	26
Mark Brunell	Jacksonville.....	19

3,000 AND COUNTING

Bledsoe enters the 2001 season as only the fourth player in NFL history who has thrown for over 3,000 yards in seven consecutive seasons (1994-2000). This season he looks to join Dan Marino (nine from 1984-92) and Brett Favre (nine from 1992-2000) as the only quarterbacks who have passed for over 3,000 yards in eight or more seasons.

He already owns seven of the top nine single-season passing performances in team history. In the first 33 seasons of franchise history, the Patriots only had *five* 3,000-yard passing performances by four different quarterbacks. Bledsoe's top passing performances are listed below:

Yards	Year	Att	Comp	Pct	TD	Int
4,555	1994	691	400	57.9	25	27
4,086	1996	623	373	59.9	27	15
3,985	1999	539	305	56.6	19	21
3,706	1997	522	314	60.2	28	15
3,633	1998	481	263	54.7	20	14
3,507	1995	636	323	50.8	13	16
3,291	2000	531	312	58.8	17	13

NFL IRONMEN

Quarterback Drew Bledsoe has been incredibly durable during his eight-year career with the Patriots, having played in 122 of 128 possible games since entering the league in 1993. Only Packers quarterback Brett Favre, who hasn't missed a game since then, has played in more games during that time.

MOST GAMES PLAYED BY A QB SINCE 1993

Player	Games
Brett Favre	128
Drew Bledsoe	122
Troy Aikman*	111
Vinny Testaverde	97

*=Aikman retired this past offseason.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE QUARTERBACK

While playing in 122 career games during his eight-year career, Bledsoe has totaled 29,257 passing yards, an average of 239.8 yards per game, which is the best among active passers with at least 75 games played. He edges out Green Bay's Brett Favre who has passed for 34,706 in 145 games (239.4 avg.).

(Minimum 75 games played)			
Player	Yds/Game	Yards	G
Drew Bledsoe	239.8	29,257	122
Brett Favre	239.4	34,706	145
Mark Brunell	215.9	19,212	89

BLEDSOE IN SEASON OPENERS

Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe has played in eight season openers during his career and has accumulated a 3-5 record. His three wins have all come in odd years (1995, '97 and '99). His performances are listed below: (**bold=high**)

Date	Opponent	Att	Cmp	Yards	Pct	TD	Lg	Int	S	Yds	Rating	W/L	Score
09/05/93	at Buffalo	30	14	148	46.7	2	54t	1	3	13	69.9	L	14-38
09/04/94	at Miami	51	32	421	62.7	4	62t	2	1	3	98.6	L	35-39
09/03/95	Cleveland	47	30	302	63.8	0	32	0	0	0	82.0	W	17-14
09/01/96	at Miami	38	19	221	50.0	1	29	2	4	21	54.8	L	10-24
08/31/97	San Diego	39	26	340	66.7	4	40	0	0	0	128.2	W	41-7
09/07/98	at Denver	32	20	289	62.5	2	55	0	3	31	112.6	L	21-27
09/12/99	at New York Jets	30	21	340	70.0	1	58t	1	2	14	104.9	W	30-28
09/03/00	Tampa Bay	39	26	216	66.7	1	39t	0	6	26	89.3	L	16-21



News and Notes

FREE AGENT FLURRY

The Patriots will begin the 2001 season with 18 new veterans on their roster (17 free agents and one via waivers). 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 are listed below in alphabetical order:

NAME	POS	EXP	GP	FORMER TEAM
Terrell Buckley	CB	10	142	Denver
Je'Rod Cherry	DB	6	73	Philadelphia
Mike Compton	G/C	9	104	Detroit
Bryan Cox	LB	11	145	N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards	FB	5	64	Cleveland
Bert Emanuel	WR	8	95	Miami
Damon Huard	QB	5	34	Miami
Larry Izzo	LB	6	61	Miami
Charles Johnson	WR	8	103	Philadelphia
Riddick Parker	DL	5	51	Seattle
David Patten	WR	5	58	Cleveland
Roman Phifer	LB	11	151	N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant	DE	12	165	San Francisco
Terrance Shaw	CB	7	80	Miami
Torrance Small	WR	10	130	Philadelphia
Antowain Smith	RB	5	57	Buffalo
Matt Stevens*	S	6	65	Washington
Mike Vrabel	LB	5	51	Pittsburgh
18 Players		134	1,629	

*-originally claimed off waivers in 2000.

TERRELL BUCKLEY

Cornerback Terrell Buckley, who signed with the Patriots this offseason, closed out the preseason with an interception against the Redskins. Buckley has recorded 38 career interceptions and ranks fifth among active defenders (see below). Over the past three seasons, Buckley has intercepted 21 passes, second to only Ray Buchanan (22) of the Atlanta Falcons.

Rk	Player	Yrs.	Int.	Yds	TD
1	Rod Woodson	14	58	1,183	9
2	Eric Allen.....	13	53	807	8
	Darrell Green.....	18	53	621	6
4	Aeneas Williams.....	10	46	653	6
5	Terrell Buckey	9	38	562	4
	Ray Buchanan	8	38	704	4
	LeRoy Butler.....	11	38	533	1

DID YOU KNOW?

- There have been 21 different division winners (out of 24) during the last four years in the NFL. Only the New York Giants, Jacksonville Jaguars and Minnesota Vikings won multiple titles during that time span.
- The combined record of the last four Super Bowl teams (Baltimore, N.Y. Giants, St. Louis and Tennessee) was 26-38 the season before they qualified for the championship game.

TONS OF TACKLES

The Patriots added 22 years of NFL experience when they signed linebackers Bryan Cox and Roman Phifer during the preseason. They both finished among the team's leaders during the preseason with 10 tackles. Cox added an interception, while Phifer recorded two sacks and forced two fumbles.

The pair are proven defenders (they've combined for 1,942 career tackles and 75.5 sacks) and both have the experience of playing for Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick in New York (Cox, 1998-99 and Phifer, 1999).

Bryan Cox and Roman Phifer's Career Statistics

Player	Exp	TT	UT	A	Sacks
Bryan Cox	11	1,027	702	325	52.0
Roman Phifer	11	915	661	254	23.5

CATCHING ON

The New England Patriots will enter the 2001 season with five wide receivers on their roster. Four of the five were signed by the team this past offseason and Troy Brown is the only Patriot wide receiver remaining from the 2000 squad. The group of current receivers combined for 224 receptions during the 2000 season.

With the addition of Bert Emanuel, Charles Johnson, David Patten and Torrance Small, the Patriots have added 27 years of experience and 1,080 career receptions. The list of Patriots receivers and their career reception totals are listed below:

Receiver	No	Receiver	No
Torrance Small	342	Troy Brown	220
Charles Johnson.....	337	David Patten.....	71
Bert Emanuel.....	330	Total.....	1,300

DE – FENCE!!

The Patriots defense closed out the preseason against the Redskins by allowing only 192 total yards of offense and forcing three turnovers. In their three wins of the preseason, the Patriots only allowed an average of 149.7 yards per game, including 69.3 yards rushing and 80.3 yards passing. New England finished the preseason ranked second in the league, yielding only 202.8 total yards per game. They also led the entire NFL by allowing just 112.5 passing yards per game.

KICKIN' IT

Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri enters the 2001 season with 575 career points, the third highest in franchise history behind Gino Cappelletti (1,130) and John Smith (692). He has scored at least 100 points in each of his five seasons in the NFL and if he makes it six, he would become only the second player in NFL history to record at least 100 points in his first six seasons, joining Jason Elam (1993-98). Hall of Fame kicker Jan Stenerud, who was the first kicker to score over 100 points in his first five seasons, scored 95 points in his sixth season.

Rk	Player	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
1	Jason Elam	119	119	132	109	124	127	730
2	Jan Stenerud	108	129	119	116	110	95	677
3	Adam Vinatieri	120	115	127	107	106	?	575



Opening Day – News and Notes

PATRIOTS HEAD COACHES ON OPENING DAY

Coach	Gm.	Years	W	L	T	Pct.
Lou Saban	2	1960-61	0	2	0	.000
Mike Holovak	7	1962-68	3	4	0	.429
Clive Rush	2	1969-70	1	1	0	.500
John Mazur	2	1971-72	1	1	0	.500
Chuck Fairbanks	6	1973-78	2	4	0	.333
Ron Erhardt	3	1979-81	1	2	0	.333
Ron Meyer	3	1982-84	2	1	0	.667
Raymond Berry	5	1985-89	5	0	0	1.000
Rod Rust	1	1990	0	1	0	.000
Dick MacPherson	2	1991-92	1	1	0	.500
Bill Parcells	4	1993-96	1	3	0	.250
Pete Carroll	3	1997-99	2	1	0	.667
Bill Belichick	1	2000	0	1	0	.000
Opening Day Totals	41	1960-00	19	22	0	.463

OPENING DAY RECORDS	W	L	T	Pct.	Current Streak
New England.....	19	22	0	.463	L-1
Cincinnati.....	15	18	0	.455	L-3
Bill Belichick.....	2	4	0	.333	L-2
Dick LeBeau.....	0	0	0	.000	--

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1978, when the NFL went to the 16-game schedule, and excluding the abbreviated season of 1982, teams that are victorious on Kickoff Weekend are more than twice as likely to reach the playoffs than losers of an opening game:

- Of the 314 teams which won openers, 169 went on to the playoffs (93 won division titles).
- Of the 314 teams which lost openers, 71 went on to the playoffs (38 won division titles).

In 2000, nine of the 12 playoff teams – Baltimore, Indianapolis, Miami, Minnesota, N.Y. Giants, Oakland, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Tampa Bay – were victorious on opening day.

PATRIOTS SEASON-OPENING SUPERLATIVES

Rushing Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	LG TD
1982	Tony Collins	Baltimore	21	137	6.5	54 0
1977	Sam Cunningham	Kansas City	23	105	4.6	11 0
1995	Curtis Martin	Cleveland	19	102	5.4	30 1
1983	Robert Weathers	Baltimore	6	100	16.7	77 1

Receiving Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	LG TD
1994	Ben Coates	Miami	8	161	20.1	62 2
1989	Cedric Jones	N.Y. Jets	8	148	18.5	36 0
1978	Harold Jackson	Washington	7	124	17.7	45 1
1999	Terry Glenn	N.Y. Jets	7	113	16.1	45 0

Passing Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	Att	Com	Yds	TD Int
1994	Drew Bledsoe	Miami	51	32	421	4 2
1999	Drew Bledsoe	N.Y. Jets	30	21	340	1 1
1997	Drew Bledsoe	San Diego	39	26	340	4 0
1995	Drew Bledsoe	Cleveland	47	30	302	0 0

PATRIOTS OPPONENTS' SEASON-OPENING SUPERLATIVES

Rushing Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	LG TD
1973	O.J. Simpson	Buffalo	29	250	8.6	80t 2
1990	Sammie Smith	Miami	23	159	6.9	27 1
1981	Randy McMillan	Baltimore	16	146	9.1	42 2
1962	Abner Haynes	Dallas	19	122	6.4	30 3

Receiving Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	LG TD
1994	Irving Fryar	Miami	5	211	42.2	54t 3
1999	Keyshawn Johnson	N.Y. Jets	8	194	24.3	65 1
1995	Michael Jackson	Cleveland	7	157	22.4	70t 2
1964	Art Powell	Oakland	7	135	19.3	33 1

Passing Yards						
Year	Name	Opponent	Att	Com	Yds	TD Int
1994	Dan Marino	Miami	42	23	473	5 1
1991	Jeff George	Indianapolis	42	27	301	1 2

START ME UP

Below is a comparison listing of the starting line-ups from the beginning of the 2000 season, the Patriots final game of 2000 (vs. Miami 12/24) and this year's season opener. The Patriots will return 15 starters from last year's roster.

Projected 2001 Starting Line Up			Versus Miami (12/24/00) Starting Line Up			2000 Opening Day Starting Line Up		
OFFENSE			OFFENSE			OFFENSE		
WR	80	Troy Brown	WR	80	Troy Brown	WR	80	Troy Brown
LT	72	Matt Light	LT	78	Bruce Armstrong	LT	78	Bruce Armstrong
LG	77	Mike Tompton	LG	70	Adrian Klemm	LG	64	Derrick Fletcher
C	65	Damien Woody	C	65	Damien Woody	C	65	Damien Woody
RG	63	Joe Andruzzi	RG	72	Sale Isaia	RG	68	Max Lane
RT	64	Greg Robinson-Randall	RT	77	G. Robinson-Randall	RT	76	Grant Williams
TE	83	Rod Rutledge	TE	83	Rod Rutledge	TE	86	Eric Bjornson
WR	87	Bert Emanuel	WR	88	Terry Glenn	WR	88	Terry Glenn
QB	11	Drew Bledsoe	QB	11	Drew Bledsoe	WR	81	Tony Simmons
RB	21	J.R. Redmond	RB	21	J.R. Redmond	QB	11	Drew Bledsoe
FB	44	Marc Edwards	TE	85	Jermaine Wiggins	RB	33	Kevin Faulk
DEFENSE			DEFENSE			DEFENSE		
DE	55	Willie McGinest	DE	55	Willie McGinest	LDE	55	Willie McGinest
DL	98	Anthony Pleasant	NT	95	Henry Thomas	DT	98	Brandon Mitchell
NT	93	Richard Seymour	DL	90	Chad Eaton	NT	90	Chad Eaton
DE	91	Bobby Hamilton	DE	91	Bobby Hamilton	RDE	91	Bobby Hamilton
SLB	51	Mike Vrabel	WLB	53	Chris Slade	WLB	53	Chris Slade
MLB	52	Ted Johnson	MLB	52	Ted Johnson	MLB	59	Andy Katzenmoyer
WLB	54	Tedy Bruschi	SLB	54	Tedy Bruschi	SLB	54	Tedy Bruschi
LCB	24	Ty Law	LCB	38	Antonio Langham	LCB	24	Ty Law
RCB	45	Otis Smith	RCB	45	Otis Smith	RCB	38	Antonio Langham
SS	36	Lawyer Milloy	SS	36	Lawyer Milloy	SS	36	Lawyer Milloy
FS	34	Tebucky Jones	FS	25	Larry Whigham	FS	34	Tebucky Jones



BY THE NUMBERS

112.5

The average number of passing yards allowed per game by the Patriots defense during the preseason.

1

The NFL ranking of the Patriots pass defense during the preseason.

202.8

The average yards per game the Patriots yielded in the preseason.

2

The overall ranking of the Patriots defense.

+5

The Patriots turnover ratio during the 2001 preseason (8 takeaways, 3 giveaways). It was tied for second in the NFL.

6

The number of interceptions the Patriots have recorded during the preseason. They recorded 10 interceptions during the entire 2000 season. It was the fourth-highest total in the NFL this preseason.

53

The NFL roster limit.

38

The number of players who have joined the Patriots since January 2000.

17

The number of veteran free agents added by the Patriots since January 2001.

80-110-1

The Patriots record in the preseason during their 42-year history.

6-3

The Patriots preseason record under head coach Bill Belichick.

15-10

Belichick's career record in the preseason.

21

The number of different division winners (out of 24) during the last four years in the NFL.

26-38

The combined record of the last four Super Bowl teams, the year before they qualified for the championship game.

19-22

The Patriots record in regular season openers.

7-1

The Patriots record in season openers in odd years since 1985.

2-6

The Patriots record in regular season openers in even years since 1985.

26

The number of Drew Bledsoe's 300-yard games

4

The number of Bledsoe's 300-yard games in eight regular season openers.

3

The Patriots have won three of those four openers.

1,942

The number of combined career tackles by linebackers Bryan Cox (1,027) and Roman Phifer (915).

1,569

The combined total of career tackles of the seven other linebackers and defensive ends on the current roster; Ted Johnson (585), Willie McGinest (404), Tedy Bruschi (365), Brandon Mitchell (120), Greg Spires (47), Mike Vrabel (43) and Larry Izzo (5).

8

The combined number of 100-tackle seasons between Cox (5) and Phifer (3).

22

The combined years of NFL experience between Cox (11) and Phifer (11).

38

The number of career interceptions by cornerback Terrell Buckley. He is tied for fifth place among active defenders.

1,163

The number of career punts by Patriots punter Lee Johnson, which is tops among all-time NFL punters.

49,428

The number of yards Johnson has accumulated during his 16-year NFL career.

43

The number of punting yards Johnson needs to pass Rohn Stark (49,471) and become the NFL's all-time leader in punting yardage.

