



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, November 20, 2001

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Nov. 21

10:45-11:15 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:15-11:55 Players available in locker room
11:15 Tom Brady Available (Super Box A)
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice
1:15 Saints Player Conference Call
1:30 Jim Haslett Conference Call

Thursday, Nov. 22

Thanksgiving – No Media Access

Friday, Nov. 22

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

REGULAR SEASON (5-5)

Sun., Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	L	17-23
Sun., Sept. 16	Postponed		
Sun., Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets	L	3-10
Sun., Sept. 30	Indianapolis	W	44-13
Sun., Oct. 7	at Miami	L	10-30
Sun., Oct. 14	San Diego	W	ot 29-26
Sun., Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	W	38-17
Sun., Oct. 28	at Denver	L	20-31
Sun., Nov. 4	at Atlanta	W	24-10
Sun., Nov. 11	Buffalo	W	21-11
Sun., Nov. 18	St. Louis	L	24-17
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
Sun., Jan 6	at Carolina	1:00	WBZ

AFC EAST STANDINGS

AFC EAST	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	7	3	0	.700	208	182
Miami	6	3	0	.666	180	185
New England	5	5	0	.500	223	195
Indianapolis	4	5	0	.444	244	258
Buffalo	1	8	0	.111	153	239

REGULAR SEASON WEEK 11

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (5-5) vs. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (5-4)

DATE: November 25, 2001

SITE: Foxboro Stadium (60,292) - Grass

TIME: 4:05 p.m. EST

TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast nationally on FOX (locally on WFXT Channel 25 in Boston). **Sam Rosen** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partners **Bill Maas**.

RADIO: WBCN's Rock Radio Network 104.1 FM. **Gil Santos**, now in his 25th season as voice of the Patriots, will call the action along with **Gino Cappelletti**. The tandem is enjoying their 18th season together.

The New Orleans Saints (5-4) will march in to Foxboro this week to battle the New England Patriots (5-5). It will be the Patriots' only appearance on FOX this season and FOX's farewell to Foxboro Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 4:05 p.m. The Patriots are 3-2 at home this year, while the Saints are 3-2 on the road.

Through 10 games, the Patriots are .500 and in third place in the AFC East division race with just six games to play. Of their final six opponents, four currently have winning records, including the two division rivals who are ahead of them in the standings, New York (7-3) and Miami (6-3).

Last week, the Saints celebrated a 34-20 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. The victory snapped a two-game losing streak. Conversely, the Patriots lost to the St. Louis Rams, 24-17, snapping a two game win streak. The Saints are the only team to defeat the Rams this season, a 34-31 triumph at St. Louis on Oct. 28.

This week's game will be just the 10th in the series with the Saints and the Patriots own a 6-3 overall record. The Patriots won the first five games in the series before dropping three straight. The Patriots defeated the Saints in their last meeting, 30-27, in 1998.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, now 5-3 as a starter, has completed 159 of 248 attempts this season, for a completion percentage of 64.1 percent. He has the potential to finish the season as the most accurate passer in franchise history. The Patriots single-season record is held by Tony Eason, who completed 61.6 percent of his attempts (276 of 448) in 1986. The last quarterback to finish a season completing over 60 percent of his passes was Drew Bledsoe in 1997 (.602). In each of the last two games, Brady completed over 70 percent of his attempts. The last time that was accomplished by a Patriots quarterback was in 1996 when Bledsoe completed over 70 percent of his passes in three consecutive games.

Brady's favorite target this season has been Troy Brown, who continues to post Pro Bowl-type numbers. Through 10 games, he has 63 receptions for 794 yards and four touchdowns. If he continues at that pace, he will finish the season with 100 receptions for 1,270 yards and six touchdowns. The Patriots single-season reception record is currently held by former tight end Ben Coates, who had 96 reception in 1994. Terry Glenn holds the team record for the most receptions in a single season by a wide receiver, which he set as a rookie in 1996 with 90 receptions.

WHAT THEY WERE WATCHING

The New England Patriots Sunday night game against the St. Louis Rams earned a 25.7 rating and was the highest rated program in the Boston television market (along with ER). This season, seven of their 10 games have been rated among the top three programs in Boston, including three number one finishes.

Rank	Show	Rating / Share
1	St. Louis @ New England (ESPN & WCVB)	25.7/39
	ER (NBC)	25.7/41
3	Law & Order (NBC)	17.8/29



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

The Patriots and Saints will meet this weekend for the 10th time since the AFL/NFL merger in 1970. New England holds the advantage in the series, winning six of the nine meetings. Oddly, the Patriots have won all four games in the Superdome in New Orleans, while the Saints have a 3-2 record in Foxboro. This will be the ninth time in 10 games, they have played in either November or December. The results of the series are listed below:

REGULAR SEASON RESULTS (Patriots 6, Saints 3)

Date	Result	+/-	Stadium
12/10/72	Patriots 17, at Saints 10	+7	Tulane
12/05/76	at Patriots 27, Saints 6	+21	Schaefer
12/21/80	Patriots 38, at Saints 27	+11	Superdome
12/04/83	at Patriots 7, Saints 0	+7	Sullivan
11/30/86	Patriots 21, at Saints 20	+1	Superdome
11/12/89	Saints 28, at Patriots 24	-4	Sullivan
11/08/92	Saints 31, at Patriots 14	-17	Foxboro
12/03/95	Saints 31, at Patriots 17	-14	Foxboro
10/04/98	Patriots 30, at Saints 27	+3	Superdome

SERIES TRENDS

Record in New England	2-3
Record in New Orleans	4-0
Total Points in Season Series	Patriots 195, Saints 180
Current Streak	Patriots, one game winning streak

CONNECTIONS

Patriots offensive line assistant **Jeff Davidson** played for the Saints in 1994 and served on their coaching staff from 1995-96 ... Patriots strength and conditioning coach **Mike Woicik** (1997-99) and assistant strength and conditioning coach **Markus Paul** (1998-99) both served in similar roles with the Saints ... Patriots running back **Kevin Faulk** was born in Lafayette, La. and attended Carencro (La.) High. He was named Class 5A Offensive Most Valuable Player two years in a row, making him the first player to capture that honor in back-to-back seasons in 20 years. Faulk also graduated from LSU and finished his collegiate career ranked fifth in NCAA history with 6,833 career all-purpose yards and 53 total touchdowns ... Defensive tackle **Brandon Mitchell** was born and raised in Abbeville, La. ... Patriots cornerback **Otis Smith** was born in New Orleans, La. ... Patriots tackle **Grant Williams** attended Louisiana Tech from 1995-96 ... Saints assistant head coach/secondary **Rick Venturi** spent two years (1994-95) on Patriots head coach **Bill Belichick's** Cleveland Browns staff ... Saints running backs coach **Dave Atkins** coached the same position with the Patriots in 1993 ... Cornerback **Steve Israel** played in 29 games with the Patriots from 1997-99.

PATRIOTS VERSUS NFC WEST

New England will face their second consecutive NFC West opponent this weekend when they welcome the Saints to Foxboro. The Patriots have a 1-1 record against the NFC West this year, defeating the Atlanta Falcons 24-10 (11/4) and losing to the Rams 24-17 (11/18).

This will be the Saints second consecutive game versus the AFC East. They defeated the Colts last week 34-20 in the Superdome. New Orleans is 2-1 this season against the AFC East.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Through Week 10

Categories	New England	New Orleans
Record	5-5	5-4
Divisional Standings	3 rd	3 rd T
Total Yards Gained	2,950	3,067
Total Offense (Rank)	295.0 (24)	340.8 (7)
Rush Offense	102.1 (21)	122.6 (9)
Pass Offense	192.9 (22)	218.2 (12)
Points Per Game	22.3 (11)	23.2 (7)
Total Yards Allowed	3,359	2,859
Total Defense	335.9 (24)	317.7 (16)
Rush Defense	120.4 (20)	100.1 (12)
Pass Defense	215.5 (21)	217.6 (23)
Points Allowed/Game	19.5 (12)	20.2 (13)
Possession Avg.	29:47	30:43
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss	27/142	28/189
Sacks Made/Yards	28/170	24/145
Interceptions By/Yards	11/238	12/177
Penalties Against/Yards	57/474	64/534
Fumbles/Lost	20/11	23/7
Fumbles Forced/Recovered	11/6	18/11
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio	-4	+10

SERIES SUPERLATIVES

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

Patriots Rushing	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date	
Don Calhoun	22	177	8.0	0	12/5/76	
Mosi Tatupu	21	128	6.1	0	12/4/83	
Don Calhoun	16	113	7.1	1	12/21/80	
Curtis Martin	31	112	3.6	2	12/3/95	
Patriots Receiving	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date	
Hart Lee Dykes	5	105	21.0	1	11/12/89	
Terry Glenn	4	105	26.3	0	10/4/98	
Patriots Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int	Date
Drew Bledsoe	35	21	317	1	3	10/4/98
Saints Rushing	No	Yds	Avg.	TD	Date	
Ruben Mayes	33	157	4.8	1	11/30/86	
Mario Bates	15	123	8.2	2	12/3/95	
Dalton Hilliard	28	106	3.8	2	11/12/89	
Saints Passing	Att	Comp	Yds	TD	Int	Date
Archie Manning	39	24	301	1	0	12/21/80

LAST GAME (10/4/98)

The Patriots traveled down to the bayou and defeated the Saints on a last second 27-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri, 30-27. With 1:21 remaining in the game, Drew Bledsoe led the team 70 yards on eight plays, setting up Vinatieri for the game-winning kick. He completed all four of his passes for 62 yards on the game-winning drive. Bledsoe passed for 317 yards on 21 of 35 attempts against the Saints. Terry Glenn led all receivers with 105 receiving yards on four catches. The game had its share of "wacky" plays, featuring six turnovers, two interception returns for scores and a 76-yard punt return.



Game Review – Rams 24, Patriots 17

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots fell to the St. Louis Rams 24-17 at a sold-out Foxboro Stadium last week on ESPN. The loss snapped the Patriots three-game winning streak at home and they fell to 5-5 on the season.

Despite being outgained in total offensive yards, 482 to 230, the Patriots held the Rams to their third lowest scoring total of the season, 24 points. The Rams entered last week's game as the top scoring team in the NFL, averaging 31.9 points per game, including a 37.6 average in their last three games.

The Rams opened the scoring on a 16-yard pass from Kurt Warner to Torry Holt at 9:44 in the first quarter. The score was set up following a St. Louis interception of Tom Brady. Ram Dexter McCleon hauled in the pass after it deflected off of Kevin Faulk.

Later in the quarter, Patriots cornerback Terrell Buckley snared a Warner pass and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown and evened the score at seven. It was the Patriots third interception return for a touchdown this season.

Warner was intercepted again two plays later by Tedy Bruschi, who returned it four yards to the Rams 40-yard line. The takeaway led to the Patriots second score, a 33-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri and propelled them into the lead, 10-7.

Following a missed field goal by the Rams, New England drove to the Rams 4-yard line. However, running back Antowain Smith was ruled to have fumbled the football by the officials and play was upheld following an instant relay review. They 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.

The Rams increased their lead to 17-10 when Rams kicker Jeff Wilkins nailed a 35-yard field goal in the third quarter and they added another touchdown on their next drive. Warner connected with running back James Hodgins on an 11-yard touchdown pass, his third of the game, and they held a 24-10 lead with 10:39 remaining in the game.

New England responded 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.

MAGIC NUMBER IS 21

The Patriots are now 5-0 when they score 21 points or more and are 0-5 when they don't.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

- The Rams scored first, taking a 7-0 lead. It was just the second time this season that the Patriots were not the first to score. The Falcons took a 7-0 lead (11/4/01), but the Patriots won 24-10.
- The Patriots were outscored 14-10 in the first half by the Rams. It was only the second time this season that the Patriots trailed at the half (10/7/01, at Miami).

MILLER LITE PLAYER OF THE GAME

Patriots wide receiver Troy Brown caught eight passes for 91 yards and was named Patriots Miller Lite Player of the Game against the Rams. It was the fourth time this season he has recorded eight catches or more and the fifth time he had 91 or more yards receiving in a game this season.

WEEKLY PLAYER OF THE GAME RECIPIENTS

Opponent	Player	Stats
Cincinnati	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 106 yds and 1 td
NY Jets	WR Troy Brown	5 rec., 82 yds; 4 pr, 44 yds
Indianapolis	LB Bryan Cox	11 tackles
Miami	LB Mike Vrabel	3 tackles, 1 interception
San Diego	QB Tom Brady	33-54, 364 yds, 2 tds
Indianapolis	WR David Patten	4 rec.-117 yds-2 tds; 1 rush-29 yds-1td; 1-1 passing-60yds-1td
Denver	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Atlanta	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Buffalo	RB Antowain Smith	20 att., 100 yds, 2 tds
St. Louis	WR Troy Brown	8 rec.-91 yds

PATRIOTS ON ESPN

The Patriots had their six-game winning streak snapped on Sunday Night Football last week against the Rams. The streak had included four in row on ESPN. Their record on Sunday night is now 9-9, including a 6-5 record on ESPN.

TEDY BRUSCHI

Bruschi intercepted Kurt Warner in the first quarter of last week's game. It was his second this season and the third of his career.

His two interceptions mark the first time since 1997 that a Patriots linebacker recorded multiple interceptions in a season (Marty Moore, 2).

OTIS SMITH

Smith tied a career-high with 10 tackles last week against the Rams. His set his career-high at Buffalo (12/17/00). This season, Smith has recorded 34 tackles (30 solos).

BRANDON MITCHELL

Mitchell recorded his first sack of the season and the sixth of his career against the Rams.

ROD RUTLEDGE

Rutledge caught two passes for 16 yards. It equaled his season-high for catches this season vs. NY Jets (9/23/01). His career-high is four catches at Detroit (11/23/00).

THIRD TIME WAS NOT A CHARM

The Rams were able to convert 57% of their third down attempts last week against the Patriots. It was the highest total yielded this season by the Patriots defense. In their five losses this season, the Patriots opponents have converted 43.5% of their third downs, compared to 32.8 in their five wins.

BILL BELICHICK'S COMMENTS

RE: The 24-17 loss to the St. Louis Rams:

BB: "We just missed too many opportunities tonight. The game went about really the way we expected it to go. It was tough, hard fought game, both sides made some plays, but in the end we just couldn't quite make enough of them. Obviously that is really disappointing and that is really about the end of it."



News and Notes

TERRELL BUCKLEY

Buckley intercepted a Kurt Warner pass in the first quarter and returned it 52 yards for a touchdown. It was his 39th career interception and the fifth he returned for a score. His last interception return for a touchdown was at St. Louis (9/4/00) while he was with the Denver Broncos. He returned the interception 32 yards for a score. It's the Patriots third interception return for a touchdown this season. Otis Smith (78 yards) and Ty Law (23 yards) both returned interceptions for touchdowns vs. Indianapolis (9/30/01). Buckley ranks sixth among active defenders with 39 interceptions (see below).

Rk	Player	Yrs.	Int.	Yds	TD
1	Rod Woodson	14	60	1,193	9
2	Eric Allen	13	53	807	8
	Darrell Green	18	53	621	6
4	Aeneas Williams	10	48	711	8
5	Ray Buchanan	8	41	744	4
6	Terrell Buckley	9	39	614	5
7	LeRoy Butler	11	38	533	1

PICK PARTY

The Patriots defense has recorded 11 interceptions this season, including two last week against the Rams. Through 10 games this season, they have already eclipsed last season's total of 10 interceptions.

In the past four games, the Patriots have recorded seven interceptions, compared to four in their first six games of the season.

TROY BROWN

Brown led all receivers with eight catches for 91 yards (11.4 avg.) last week against the Rams. It was the fourth time this season he has recorded eight catches or more and the fifth time he had 91 or more yards receiving in a game this season.

Through 10 games, Brown is tied for third in the NFL with 63 catches and third in the AFC with 794 receiving yards (see below).

Receptions, NFL	Rec	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
R. Smith, Den.	75	948	12.6	65t	9
K. Johnson, TB	71	834	11.7	32	0
T. Brown, N.E.	63	794	12.6	60t	4
T. Owens, SF	63	867	13.8	52t	11
Ji. Smith, Jax	63	790	12.5	35t	4

Yards, AFC	Yds	Rec	Avg.	Lg	TD
R. Smith, Den.	948	75	12.6	65t	9
M. Harrison, Ind.	806	58	13.9	68	10
T. Brown, N.E.	794	63	12.6	60t	4
Ji. Smith, Jax	790	63	12.5	35t	4

Over half of Brown's receptions this season (37) have resulted in first downs. He also has rushed for three first downs, increasing his total to 40 and is tied for second with Marvin Harrison among AFC wide receivers.

A-TRAIN

Patriots running back Antowain Smith has gained 610 rushing yards on 163 attempts through 10 games this season. He has already surpassed last year's rushing leader Kevin Faulk's total of 570 yards. Smith has also scored six rushing touchdowns this season, the fourth highest total in the AFC.

GROWING UP BRADY

- Brady completed a 10-yard touchdown pass to David Patten in the fourth quarter and extended his streak of games with a touchdown pass to six. It was his 12th touchdown pass of the season.
- He has completed 154 of 238 passes (64.7%) for 1,565 yards and 12 touchdowns in the first eight starts of his career. Below is a comparison of Brady with other Patriots quarterbacks in their first eight starts of their career:

Quarterback	Att	Comp	%	Yds	TD	Int	W/L
Tom Brady	238	154	64.7	1,565	12	7	5-3
Drew Bledsoe	290	140	48.3	1,610	7	13	1-7
Tony Eason	196	112	57.1	1,438	6	4	5-3
Steve Grogan	257	131	51.0	1,896	8	20	1-7
Jim Plunkett	187	82	43.9	1,064	9	7	3-5

COMPLETING THE PICTURE

Brady has completed 64.7 percent of his passes this season (238-154) and ranks third in the AFC behind Rich Gannon and Peyton Manning. Patriots quarterback Tony Eason established the Patriots record for completion percentage with 61.6 in 1986 (448-276). At his current pace, Brady would jump into first place in team history. Hugh Millen (61.1, 1992), Steve Grogan (60.8, 1986) and Drew Bledsoe (60.2, 1997) round out the top five.

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

The Patriots will conclude their three-game homestand this weekend against the New Orleans Saints. It will be the 78th consecutive sellout at Foxboro Stadium. The Patriots have won three of their last four home games and have a 50-27 record in Foxboro during that streak.

NOVEMBER NOTES

The Patriots have won two of their three games in November. They will try for their third win this weekend against New Orleans. The last time they won three of four games in November was 1996.

FREE AGENT FLURY

The Patriots have added 16 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 20 free agents. The list of Patriots additions this season are listed below in alphabetical order:

NAME	POS	EXP	GP	FORMER TEAM
Terrell Buckley	CB	10	151	Denver
Je'Rod Cherry	DB	6	83	Philadelphia
Mike Compton	G/C	9	114	Detroit
Bryan Cox	LB	11	152	N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards	FB	5	74	Cleveland
Damon Huard	QB	5	34	Miami
Larry Izzo	LB	6	71	Miami
Charles Johnson	WR	8	113	Philadelphia
Riddick Parker	DL	5	59	Seattle
David Patten	WR	5	68	Cleveland
Roman Phifer	LB	11	161	N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant	DE	12	175	San Francisco
Terrance Shaw	CB	7	87	Miami
Antowain Smith	RB	5	67	Buffalo
Mike Vrabel	LB	5	60	Pittsburgh
Ken Walter	P	5	69	Carolina
16 Players		115	1,538	



BY THE NUMBERS

4

The number of interceptions the Patriots had in their first six games this season.

7

The number of interceptions the Patriots have had in their last four games.

11

The number of interceptions the Patriots have through 10 games this season.

10

The number of interceptions the Patriots recorded during the *entire* 2000 season.

3

The number of interceptions the Patriots have returned for touchdowns this season. The last time they recorded that many was in 1998 when they also returned three for scores.

39

The number of career interceptions Patriots cornerback Terrell Buckley has recorded during his career. He currently ranks sixth among active interceptors.

5

The number of interceptions he has returned for touchdowns including a 52-yard return last week.

63

The number of passes Troy Brown has caught through 10 games this season.

101

The number of receptions Brown is projected to record this season.

83

Brown's career-high for receptions, which he set last season.

37

The number of Brown's 63 receptions that have resulted in first downs. It's tied for the second-highest total among AFC receivers.

-4

The Patriots turnover ratio through the first 10 weeks of the season.

+44

The combined turnover ratio of the Patriots next three opponents. (New Orleans, +10; NY Jets, +22; Cleveland, +12)

22.3

The number of points the Patriots are averaging this season. It's their highest scoring average since they scored an average of 23.1 points in 1997.

3-2

The Patriots record at home this season.

3-2

The Saints record on the road this season.

21

The Patriots magic number this year is 21. When they score 21 points or more, they are 5-0. When they don't, they are 0-5.

64.1

Tom Brady's completion percentage through 10 games this season (248 attempts – 159 completions).

61.6

The Patriots franchise record for completion percentage, set by Tony Eason in 1986 (448-276).

2-1

The Patriots record during the month of November. The last time they won three of four games in November was in 1996.

21-20

The Patriots record on Thanksgiving weekend. They currently hold a two-game losing streak including last year's loss on Thanksgiving day.

5-0

The Patriots record when they lead after three quarters.

0-5

The Patriots record when they don't lead after three quarters.

79

The number of consecutive sellouts at Foxboro Stadium (including this week's game), a streak that began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 50-28 in those games.

165

The number of consecutive Patriots games that have been televised locally, including preseason, regular season and postseason games (including this weekend's game).