



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, December 11, 2001

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Dec. 12

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 Availability (Super Box A)
11:15 Alex Van Pelt Player Conference Call
11:30 Gregg Williams Conference Call
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Thursday, Dec. 13

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, Dec. 14

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 (8-5)

Sun., Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	L	17-23
Sun., Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets	L	3-10
Sun., Sept. 30	Indianapolis	W	44-13
Sun., Oct. 7	at Miami	L	10-30
Sun., Oct. 14	San Diego	W	ot 29-26
Sun., Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	W	38-17
Sun., Oct. 28	at Denver	L	20-31
Sun., Nov. 4	at Atlanta	W	24-10
Sun., Nov. 11	Buffalo	W	21-11
Sun., Nov. 18	St. Louis	L	17-24
Sun., Nov. 25	New Orleans	W	34-17
Sun., Dec. 2	at N.Y. Jets	W	17-16
Sun., Dec. 9	Cleveland	W	27-16
Sun., Dec. 16	at Buffalo	1:00	WBZ
Sat., Dec. 22	Miami Dolphins	1:30	WBZ
Sun., Dec. 28	Bye		
Sun., Jan 6	at Carolina	1:00	WBZ

AFC STANDINGS

AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	10	2	0	.833	228	144
Oakland	9	3	0	.750	337	261
Miami	9	3	0	.750	276	228
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	237	214
New England	8	5	0	.615	301	244
NY Jets	7	5	0	.583	231	217
Denver	7	6	0	.538	284	267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	220	208
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	202	254

REGULAR SEASON WEEK 14

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (8-5) at BUFFALO BILLS (2-10)

DATE: December 16, 2001
SITE: Ralph Wilson Stadium (73,967) - Grass
TIME: 1:00 p.m. EST
TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast regionally on CBS (locally on WBZ Channel 4 in Boston). **Don Criqui** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partner **Steve Tasker**.
RADIO: WBCN's Rock Radio Network 104.1 FM. **Gil Santos**, now in his 25th season as voice of the Patriots, will call the action along with **Gino Cappelletti**. The tandem is enjoying their 18th season together. For a complete listing of all local affiliates, please see page 13.

The New England Patriots (8-5) will shuffle off to Buffalo this week with hopes of extending their current win streak to four games. The Patriots have not won four straight since the start of the 1999 season and will have to defeat a resilient Bills team (2-10) to accomplish the feat. Last week, the Bills rebounded from a 24-6 deficit late in the second quarter to score 19 unanswered points and claimed a 25-24 victory over the Carolina Panthers.

If history is any indicator, fans can expect a close game against the Bills. Three of the last four games between the Patriots and the Bills have been decided by a field goal and the Bills won two of those games. In their 83 previous games, nearly a quarter were decided by three points. A Patriots victory this week would also give them their first series sweep since 1997.

The Patriots enter Week 14 as one of the hottest teams in the NFL. Last week's victory over the Browns was the Patriots fifth in six weeks and extended their current win streak to three games. Pittsburgh is the only team with a longer active win streak than the Patriots. The Patriots are also 2-0 in December. It is their best start in December since 1996.

With the victory over the Browns, Tom Brady improved to 8-3 as a starter. His only losses have been at Miami (10/7), at Denver (10/28) and vs. St. Louis (11/18). With three games to play, Brady continues to be among the NFL's most efficient passers, completing 65.8 percent of his passes (third in the NFL). His 90.7 passer rating is second only to Rich Gannon (101.5) in the AFC and is fourth overall. His favorite target continues to be Troy Brown, who eclipsed single-season career highs last week. With three games remaining, he already has 85 receptions (third in AFC) for 1,033 yards (4th) and remains on pace to become the first Patriot to ever record 100 receptions in a season. In addition, Brown is also having a career year as a punt returner, averaging 14.0 yards per return. Last week's 85-yard punt return for a touchdown was the second longest in franchise history and propelled Brown into the lead among AFC punt returners. While boasting one of the league's best punt return averages, the Patriots are also ranked first in the league in their punt coverage, both in gross punting (39.0) and net punting (31.4) averages.

Antowain Smith, a former first-round choice of the Buffalo Bills, has powered the Patriots running game this season, scoring 11 touchdowns this season. He is third among NFL running backs (Marshall Faulk, 13; Shaun Alexander, 12). He has scored seven touchdowns in the last five games and his 10 rushing touchdowns is the most by a Patriot since Curtis Martin rushed for 14 touchdowns in 1996. Smith currently leads the team with 825 yards rushing and must average just over 58 yards per game over the last three games to become the first Patriot to rush for over 1,000 yards since Robert Edwards rushed for 1,115 yards in 1998.

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

The Patriots have shown marked improvement in numerous categories through 13 games this season. They are averaging six more points per game this year and have already won eight games compared to five last year. Listed below are six different categories they have improved in this season, along with their NFL ranking.

Year	Games	Wins	PPG NE	PPG Opp.	3 rd Down Efficiency	Red Zone TD Pct.	Sacks
2001	13	8	23.2 (8)	18.8 (11)	41.7 (6)	54.8 (7)	35 (6)
2000	16	5	17.2 (25)	21.1 (17)	35.0 (24)	43.4 (24)	29 (25)



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

This week's game will be the 84th encounter between the two AFC East rivals, dating back to the inception of the AFL in 1960. The Patriots have recorded 43 wins against the Bills, the most against any opponent. They currently hold a two-game winning streak against the Bills, their longest since they won three from 1996-97.

The last time the Patriots faced the Bills in Buffalo, Dec. 17, 2000, the Patriots won 13-10 in overtime amidst a snowstorm. Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri nailed a 24-yard field goal in overtime for the victory. The game-time temperature was 35 degrees, with a wind chill of 6 and 40 mile-per-hour winds created blizzard-like conditions throughout the second half. The results of the series are listed below:

NEW ENGLAND 43-39-1

YR	RESULT	YR	RESULT
1960	—Buffalo 13, at NE 0-13	1980	—at Buffalo 31, NE 13-18
	at Buffalo 38, NE 14-24		at NE 24, Buffalo 2+22
1961	—NE 23, at Buffalo 21.....+2	1981	—at Buffalo, 20, NE 17-3
	at NE 52, Buffalo 21+31		Buffalo 19, at NE 10-9
1962	—at Buffalo 28, NE 28tie	1982	—at NE 30, Buffalo 19.....+11
	at NE 21, Buffalo 10+11	1983	—NE 31, at Buffalo 0+31
1963	—at Buffalo 28, NE 21-7		at NE 21, Buffalo 7+14
	at NE 17, Buffalo 7+10	1984	—NE 21, at Buffalo 17+4
	*NE 26, at Buffalo 8 +18		at NE 38, Buffalo 10 ...+28
1964	—NE 36, at Buffalo 28+8	1985	— NE 17, at Buffalo 14+3
	Buffalo 24, at NE 14-10		at NE 14, Buffalo 3+11
1965	—at Buffalo 24, NE 7-17	1986	—NE 23, at Buffalo 3+20
	Buffalo 23, at NE 7-16		at NE 22, Buffalo 19+3
1966	—NE 20, at Buffalo 10+10	1987	—at NE 14, Buffalo 7+7
	at NE 14, Buffalo 3+11		NE 13, at Buffalo 7+6
1967	—NE 23, at Buffalo 0+23	1988	—Buffalo 16, at NE 14-2
	Buffalo 44, at NE 16-28		at Buffalo 23, NE 20+3
1968	—NE 16, at Buffalo 7+9	1989	—at Buffalo 31, NE 10.....-21
	at NE 23, Buffalo 6+17		at NE 33, Buffalo 24+9
1969	—at Buffalo 23, NE 16-7	1990	— Buffalo 27, at NE 10-17
	at NE 35, Buffalo 21+14		at Buffalo 14, NE 0-14
1970	—Buffalo 45, at NE 10-35	1991	— at Buffalo 22, NE 17.....-5
	NE 14, at Buffalo 10+4		at NE 16, Buffalo 13+3
1971	—at NE 38, Buffalo 33+5	1992	— Buffalo 41, at NE 7-34
	at Buffalo 27, NE 20-7		at Buffalo 16, NE 7-9
1972	—at Buffalo 38, NE 14-24	1993	—at Buffalo 38, NE 14.....-24
	Buffalo 27, at NE 24-3		Buffalo 13, at NE 10 (OT)-3
1973	—Buffalo 31, at NE 13-18	1994	—Buffalo 38, at NE 35.....-3
	at Buffalo 37, NE 13-24		NE 41, at Buffalo 17+24
1974	—at Buffalo 30, NE 28-2	1995	—at NE 27, Buffalo 14.....+13
	Buffalo 29, at NE 28-1		NE 35, at Buffalo 25+10
1975	—at Buffalo 45, NE 31-14	1996	—at Buffalo 17, NE 10.....-7
	Buffalo 34, at NE 14-20		at NE 28, Buffalo 25+3
1976	—NE 26, at Buffalo 22+4	1997	—at NE 33, Buffalo 6+27
	at NE 20, Buffalo 10+10		NE 31, at Buffalo 10+21
1977	—Buffalo 24, at NE 14-10	1998	—at Buffalo 13, NE 10.....-3
	NE 20, at Buffalo 7+13		at NE 25, Buffalo 21+4
1978	—NE 14, at Buffalo 10+4	1999	—at Buffalo 17, NE 7-10
	at NE 26, Buffalo 24+2		Buffalo 13, at NE 10 ot...-3
1979	—NE 26, at Buffalo 6+20	2000	—Buffalo 16, at NE 13 ot.....-3
	Buffalo 16, at NE 13(OT) -3		NE 13, at Buffalo 10 ot...+3
	*Divisional Playoff	2001	—at NE 21, Buffalo 11.....+10

SERIES TRENDS

Record in New England 23 wins - 18 losses
 Record in Buffalo 20 wins - 21 losses - 1 tie
 Total Points in Regular Season Series.... Patriots 1,604, Bills 1,577
 Total Points in Postseason SeriesPatriots 26, Bills 8
 Patriots Largest Margin of Victory..... 31 pts (1961 and 1983)
 Patriots Largest Margin of Defeat..... -35 points (1970)
 Highest Combined Point Total 76 pts (Bills 45-31 in '75)
 Lowest Combined Point Total.....14 pts (Bills 14-0 in '90)
 Longest Patriots Win Streak..... 11 games (1982-1987)
 Longest Patriots Losing Streak 9 games (1971-1975)
 Current Streak Patriots, two game winning streak

TALE OF THE TAPE

Through Week 13

Categories	New England	Buffalo
Record	8-5.....	2-10
Divisional Standings	2 nd	5 th
Total Yards Gained	3,936.....	3,811
Total Offense (Rank).....	302.8 (21).....	317.6 (14)
Rush Offense	105.1 (21).....	97.3 (25)
Pass Offense	197.7 (19).....	220.3 (13)
Points Per Game	23.2 (8).....	17.1 (24)
Total Yards Allowed	4,352.....	3,804
Total Defense	334.8 (24).....	317.0 (14)
Rush Defense	115.8 (20).....	132.3 (26)
Pass Defense.....	218.9 (22).....	184.8 (7t)
Points Allowed/Game	18.8 (11).....	27.7 (30)
Possession Avg.	30:14.....	29:15
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss.....	37/190.....	42/246
Sacks Made/Yards.....	35/202.....	25/156
Interceptions By/Yards.....	18/270.....	6/92
Penalties Against/Yards.....	72/597.....	93/740
Fumbles/Lost.....	24/11.....	20/12
Fumbles Forced/Recovered.....	14/7.....	20/6
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio.....	+2.....	-16

PATRIOTS – BILLS GAME NOTES

PATRIOTS: The Patriots have 43 wins against the Bills, which is their most against any opponent ... **RB Antowain Smith** spent four seasons with the Bills (1997-2000) and gained 2,932 yards on 760 carries and scored 26 touchdowns ... In their first meeting this year, Smith gained 100 yards on 20 carries (5.0 avg.) and scored two touchdowns ... Fifteen of this 36 career rushing touchdowns have been in Ralph Wilson Stadium. **BILLS: QB Alex Van Pelt** will start his eighth career game and his second against the Patriots during his six-year career ... In his last start against the Patriots (11/9/97), Van Pelt completed 3-of-12 passes for 38 yards and three interceptions. **BOTH TEAMS:** Five of the last seven games in the series have been decided by four points or less ... During their last meeting in Buffalo (12/7/00) weather played a factor with snow and a wind chill of 6 degrees.

SERIES SUPERLATIVES

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

Rushing Yards

Patriots: Jim Nance 34-185-1 td (9/24/67)
 Bills: O.J. Simpson 29-250-2 tds (9/16/73)

Passing Yards

Patriots: Drew Bledsoe 42-36-2-380-3 tds-2 ints (9/11/94)
 Bills: Jim Kelly 41-21-356-1 td-2 ints (11/19/89)

Receiving Yards

Patriots: Stanley Morgan 5-158-2 tds (11/4/79)
 Bills: Andre Reed 9-168-1 td (9/27/92)

VERSUS THE AFC EAST

The Patriots are currently 4-2 against the AFC East. The last time they finished a season with a winning record against the AFC East was in 1997, 7-1. Their two remaining division games are against the Buffalo Bills (12/16) and Miami Dolphins (12/22).



Game Review – Patriots 27, Browns 16

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots (8-5) defeated the Cleveland Browns (6-6) 27-16 at a sold-out Foxboro Stadium. New England extended their winning streak to three games, their longest since they won four in a row to open the 1999 season. The Patriots fell behind early, 10-3, but used a 17-point second quarter to jump ahead of the Browns, 20-10, and held on for the victory.

Troy Brown was voted Miller Lite Player of the Game following his performance against the Browns. He returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter to give the Patriots a 17-10 lead, one they would not relinquish. He also caught seven passes for 89 yards and set single-season career-highs with 85 catches and 1,033 receiving yards.

The Patriots opened the game with a 54-yard field goal on their first drive. The scoring drive began following a Tebucky Jones interception on the second play of the game. Browns quarterback Tim Couch was pressured by defensive end Anthony Pleasant and his pass fell short of Kevin Johnson.

Cleveland responded by putting together a 16-play, 59 yard drive that resulted in a 27-yard field goal to tied the game at three.

On the first play from scrimmage following the field goal, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was intercepted by Browns cornerback Corey Fuller, who returned it 49 yards for a touchdown. It was Brady's first interception in 10 quarters and 62 attempts (London Fletcher in the third quarter, vs. St. Louis 11/18/01).

The Patriots responded to the turnover by driving 66 yards on 11 plays and scored a touchdown of their own on a 1-yard run by Antowain Smith that tied the game at 10.

With 3:45 remaining in the half, Browns punter Chris Gardocki boomed a 43-yard punt that Brown returned 85 yards for a touchdown to give the Patriots a 17-10 lead. Safety Lawyer Milloy and defensive tackle Richard Seymour made key blocks on the drive, allowing Brown to run untouched for the score. It was his second punt return for a score in his career (66 yards, vs. Tampa Bay 9/3/00).

As the Browns were trying to get a score before the half, Couch was intercepted by Terrell Buckley, who returned the ball to the Patriots 29-yard line. As the half was ending, Brady completed five-of-seven passes for 65 yards and moved the offense in place for an Adam Vinatieri 38-yard field goal to take a 20-10 lead at the half.

In the second half, the Browns managed two field goals to cut the Patriots lead to 20-16. The second half was a battle for field position, with each team kicking six times, compared to only three in the first half. The last punt of the day was a 33-yard "pooch" punt by Vinatieri, that was downed on the 2-yard line.

The Patriots forced the Browns to punt on only three plays and took possession at the Browns 36-yard line. Six plays later, Smith rushed in from 5 yards out for his second score of the day and gave the Patriots a 27-16 win. It was the third time this season he has rushed for two scores in a game.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Patriots began the scoring last week against Browns with a 54-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri. It was the 10th time in 13 games this year they scored first. They improved to 6-4 in those games.

PATRIOTS MILLER LITE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Patriots wide receiver/punt returner Troy Brown was named Miller Lite Player of the Game. Brown recorded an electrifying 85-yard punt return for a touchdown, the second of his career. He also caught seven passes for 89 yards against the Browns.

PATRIOTS WEEKLY PLAYER OF THE GAME RECIPIENTS

Opponent	Player	Stats
Cincinnati	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 106 yds and 1 td
NY Jets	WR Troy Brown	5 rec., 82 yds; 4 pr, 44 yds
Indianapolis	LB Bryan Cox	11 tackles
Miami	LB Mike Vrabel	3 tackles, 1 interception
San Diego	QB Tom Brady	33-54, 364 yds, 2 tds
Indianapolis	WR David Patten	4 rec.-117 yds-2 tds; 1 rush-29 yds-1td; 1-1 passing-60yds-1td
Denver	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Atlanta	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Buffalo	RB Antowain Smith	20 att., 100 yds, 2 tds
St. Louis	WR Troy Brown	8 rec.-91 yds
New Orleans	QB Tom Brady	19-26, 258 yds, 4 tds
NY Jets	LB Roman Phifer	9 tackles
Cleveland	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 89 yds; 4 punt ret., 125 yds, incl. 85 yd TD

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

TEBUCKY JONES

Jones intercepted his first pass of the season and the third of his career on the second play of the game last week. The takeaway resulted in a Patriots field goal.

ANTHONY PLEASANT

Pleasant intercepted the second pass of his career against the Browns. After playing 175 games without an interception, he now has two in the last three weeks.

PATRIOTS INTERCEPTIONS

- The Patriots defenders recorded three interceptions against the Browns, increasing their total to 18 on the season. It's their highest total since they recorded 24 in 1998.
- The Patriots are tied with Denver for second in the AFC with 18 interceptions. Cleveland leads the conference with 27.
- It's the fifth consecutive game and the sixth time in the last seven games the Patriots recorded multiple interceptions in a game.
- Fourteen of the Patriots last 16 takeaways have been interceptions.

ADAM VINATIERI

Vinatieri kicked a 54-yard field goal on the Patriots first drive of the game. The field goal was the longest by a Patriot at home in the history of the franchise (53, Vinatieri vs. K.C. 12/4/00; Jason Staurovsky, vs. Sea. 10/7/90). It was the second-longest of his career (55, at St. Louis, 12/13/98) and the third longest in Patriots history (see below).

YARDS KICKER, OPPONENT, DATE

55	Adam Vinatieri, at St. Louis, 12/13/98
	Matt Bahr, at Miami, 11/12/95
54	Adam Vinatieri, vs. Cleveland, 12/9/01

'TIS THE SEASON

The Patriots have opened the month of December with consecutive wins over the Jets (17-16) and Browns (27-16). The last time the Patriots opened with consecutive wins in December was in 1996, the same year they advanced to Super Bowl XXXI.



News and Notes

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	CAREER		2001	FORMER TEAM
		GP	GP/GS		
Terrell Buckley, CB.....	10	154	12/1		Denver
Je'Rod Cherry, DB.....	6	86	13/0		Philadelphia
Mike Compton, G/C.....	9	117	13/13		Detroit
Bryan Cox, LB.....	11	153	8/7		N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards, FB.....	5	77	13/11		Cleveland
Damon Huard, QB.....	5	34	0/0		Miami
Larry Izzo, LB.....	6	74	13/0		Miami
Charles Johnson, WR....	8	116	13/2		Philadelphia
Riddick Parker, DL.....	5	62	11/0		Seattle
David Patten, WR.....	5	71	13/11		Cleveland
Roman Phifer, LB.....	11	164	13/13		N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant, DE....	12	178	13/13		San Francisco
Terrance Shaw, CB.....	7	90	10/3		Miami
Antowain Smith, RB.....	5	70	13/13		Buffalo
Mike Vrabel, LB.....	5	63	13/9		Pittsburgh
Ken Walter, P.....	5	72	8/0		Carolina
16 Players.....	115	1,581	179/96		

TERRELL BUCKLEY

Buckley intercepted his third pass of the season and the 41st of his career late in the second quarter last week against the Browns. The turnover resulted in a 38-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri. Buckley is currently tied with Ray Buchanan among active defenders with 41 career interceptions (see below).

Rk	Player	Yrs.	Int.	Yds	TD
1	Rod Woodson	14	61	1,240	10
2	Eric Allen	13	53	807	8
	Darrell Green	18	53	621	6
4	Aeneas Williams	10	48	711	8
5	Terrell Buckley	9	41	638	5
	Ray Buchanan.....	8	41	744	4
7	LeRoy Butler	11	38	533	1

ROMAN CONQUER

Linebacker Roman Phifer led the Patriots with 11 tackles (9 solos) for the second consecutive week. He also sacked Browns quarterback Tim Couch in the second quarter for his second sack of the season. Phifer is currently ranked second on the team with 80 tackles (60 solos).

"I'll tell you Roman is having a terrific year, he really is," said head coach Bill Belichick. "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."

TAKEAWAYS

The Patriots recorded +2 turnover ratio last week against the Browns and improved to 5-1 when they record a positive ratio this season (32-10 since 1996). They recorded four takeaways last week, tying their highest total of the season, vs. Indianapolis, 9/30. Over the past three weeks, the Patriots have had a +6 turnover ratio, improving their season ratio to +2. The Patriots have finished 16 seasons with a positive turnover ratio and in 15 of those seasons they had a winning record.

HERE'S A STORY...

Quarterback Tom Brady became only the second quarterback in franchise history to win eight of his first 11 starts as a Patriot last week, joining Babe Parilli. Brady will try this week against the Bills to become only the second quarterback in team history (along with Parilli) to record nine wins in his first 12 starts.

Quarterback	11 th	12 th	Quarterback	11 th	12 th
Tom Brady	8-3	?	Butch Songin	5-6	5-7
Babe Parilli	8-3	9-3	Matt Cavanaugh	4-7	4-8
Doug Flutie	7-4	8-4	Jim Plunkett	4-7	4-8
Tony Eason	6-5	7-5	Steve Grogan	4-7	4-8

COMPLETING THE PICTURE

Brady completed 67.8% of his passes last weekend against the Browns and increased his completion percentage to 65.8 on the season. He is second behind Oakland's Rich Gannon (66.1) for the highest completion percentage in the AFC. They both trail St. Louis Kurt Warner who leads the NFL with a 66.4 completion percentage.

The Patriots single-season record was established by Tony Eason in 1986 with a 61.6 mark (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.

RATINGS GAME

Brady ranks second in the AFC and fourth in the NFL with a quarterback rating of 90.7 while starting in 11 games this season. He has recorded five games with a rating of 93.3 or better and three of 124.4 or more, including a season-high of 148.3 at Indianapolis (10/21). The top AFC passers are listed below:

PLAYER	ATT	CMP	PCT.	Yds	TD	INT	RATING
R. Gannon, Oak.	384	254	66.1	2,821	22	5	101.5
T. Brady, NE	330	217	65.8	2,300	16	9	90.7
M. Brunell, Jax.	341	211	61.9	2,418	14	7	88.3

A-TRAIN

Antowain Smith recorded his fourth multiple touchdown game of the season last week versus the Browns, running for scores of 1 and 5-yards. He increased his touchdown total this season to 11 (10 rushing, 1 receiving). His 10 rushing touchdowns are the most since Curtis Martin scored 14 in 1996. He is currently tied for seventh on the Patriots single season touchdown list (see below). New England has a 6-1 record in games when Smith has scored a touchdown this year. He has scored 7 of his 11 touchdowns this year in his last five games.

PATRIOTS TOP TD SEASONS

Player, Year	TD	RU	REC	RET	PTS
Curtis Martin, 1996	17	14	3	0	102
Curtis Martin, 1995	15	14	1	0	90
Stanley Morgan, 1979	13	0	12	1	78
Steve Grogan, 1976	13	12	0	1	78
Robert Edwards, 1998.....	12	9	3	0	72
Mack Herron, 1974	12	7	5	0	72
Antowain Smith, 2001	11	10	1	0	66

Four others tied at 11

Smith ranks third in the AFC with 11 total touchdowns behind Shaun Alexander (12) and Marvin Harrison (12).

TOP SCORERS IN THE AFC

Player, Team	TD	RU	REC	RET	X2	Points
S. Alexander, Sea.	12	11	1	0	0	72
M. Harrison, Ind.	12	0	12	0	0	72
A. Smith, N.E.	11	10	1	0	0	66

Three tied at 10



News and Notes

TROY BROWN

Last week against the Browns, Troy Brown led all Patriot receivers with seven catches for 89 yards. It was the 12th time in 13 games he has led the team in receptions and the 10th time he has led the team in receiving yards this season. He increased his 2001 season totals to 85 catches for 1,033 yards (12.2 avg.) and five touchdowns. Brown is fourth in the NFL with 85 receptions and third in the AFC with 1,033 yards receiving.

"Troy means a lot to this team," said Head Coach Bill Belichick. "I think one thing that is underrated is just his overall value which is blocking in the running game, the combination of playing receiver and returning kicks. He gets some significant yards for us carrying the ball and he brings an element of leadership."

Receiver, NFL	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
K. Johnson, TB	93	1,077	11.6	34	1
R. Smith, Den.....	90	1,095	12.2	65t	9
J. Smith, Jax.....	87	1,085	12.5	60t	5
Troy Brown, N.E.....	85	1,033	12.2	60t	5
H. Ward, Pit	79	855	10.8	34	3

Receiver, AFC	Yds	No	Avg.	LG	Td
R. Smith, Den.....	1,095	90	12.2	65t	9
J. Smith, Jax.....	1,085	87	12.5	35t	6
Troy Brown, N.E.....	1,033	85	12.2	60t	5
M. Harrison, Ind.	1,023	71	14.4	68	12

SINGLE SEASON HIGHS

Troy Brown set single-season career-highs in both receptions (85) and receiving yards (1,033) last week surpassing his previous highs set in 2000 (83 receptions and 944 yards). He also became just the sixth Patriot to surpass the 1,000-yard receiving mark and currently ranks third in receptions. The last Patriots wide receiver to reach 1,000 yards was Terry Glenn with 1,147 yards in 1999. Brown needs six catches to surpass Terry Glenn (90) and 12 receptions to move ahead of Ben Coates (96) to become the franchise's single-season record holder. Brown is on pace to catch 105 passes for 1,271 yards through 13 games this season. The Patriots single-season receiving highs along with his totals from this season are listed below.

Rec	Player	Year	Yards	Player	Year
96 ..	Ben Coates	1994	1,491....	Stanley Morgan	1986
90 ..	Terry Glenn.....	1996	1,174....	Ben Coates.....	1994
85..	Troy Brown ...	2001	1,147....	Terry Glenn	1999
84 ..	Ben Coates	1995	1,132....	Terry Glenn	1996
84 ..	Stanley Morgan ..	1986	1,033 ..	Troy Brown ...	2001
83..	Troy Brown ...	2000	1,029....	Stanley Morgan	1981
82 ..	Marv Cook	1991	1,014....	Irving Fryar	1991

MOVING ON UP

Brown became just the fifth player in franchise history to catch over 300 passes last week. He ranks fifth in Patriots annals with 305 career catches behind Terry Glenn (326 catches).

Rk	Player, Pos.	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
1	Stanley Morgan, WR.....	534	10,352	19.4	76t	67
2	Ben Coates, TE	490	5,471	11.2	84t	50
3	Irving Fryar, WR	363	5,726	15.8	80t	38
4	Terry Glenn, WR	326	4,642	14.2	86t	22
5	Troy Brown, WR	305	3,804	12.5	67	17
6	Gino Cappelletti, WR	292	4,589	15.7	63t	42

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Over half of Brown's 85 receptions this season (50) have resulted in first downs. He also has rushed for three first downs, increasing his total to 53, which ranks third among AFC wide receivers.

CATCHING ON

Brown has been a dominant presence for the Patriots offense over the past two seasons, catching 168 passes. It's the second highest two-year total in Patriots history, behind Ben Coates' 180 in 1994-95. With three games remaining, Brown needs 13 catches to surpass Coates' total.

Player	Catches, Year	Catches, Year	Total
Ben Coates	96, 1994.....	84, 1995.....	180
Troy Brown.....	83, 2000.....	85, 2001.....	168
Ben Coates	53, 1993.....	96, 1994.....	149

HAPPY RETURNS

Last week, Troy Brown broke the game open in the second quarter with an 85-yard punt return for a touchdown. The score gave the Patriots a 17-10 lead, one they would not relinquish on their way to a 27-16 victory.

It was Brown's second punt return for a touchdown in his career (66 yards, vs. Tampa Bay 9/3/00). He joins Hall of Fame CB-PR Mike Haynes in second place in franchise history with two punt returns for a touchdown. WR-PR Irving Fryar leads the list with three.

Brown's 85-yard punt return for a score ties Irving Fryar for the second longest in franchise history. Mike Haynes holds the record with an 89-yard return vs. Buffalo, 11/7/76.

ABOVE AVERAGE

Brown leads the AFC and is tied for second in the NFL with a 14.0 yard punt return average. Brown's career-high punt return average was in 1998 when he returned 17 punts for 225 yards for a 13.2 yard average. The top punt returners in the NFL are listed below.

Returner	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
Swinton, Dal.	23	336	14.6	65t	1
T. Brown, N.E.	21	293	14.0	85t	1
E. Metcalf, Wash.	23	323	14.0	89t	1
D. O'Neal, Den.....	26	346	13.3	86t	1
Je. Lewis, Bal.....	29	359	12.4	37	0

THIRD DOWN IS A CHARM

One of the many categories the Patriots have improved in this year is third down efficiency. Through the first 13 weeks of the season the Patriots rank third in the AFC with a third down conversion rate of 41.7. Last year, they ranked 24th in the NFL and 12th in the AFC with a conversion rate of 35.0.

SEEING RED

The Patriots have scored in nine of their last 10 trips inside the opponents red zone, including eight touchdowns. Last week against the Browns the Patriots converted two goal-to-go situations with two Antowain Smith touchdown runs (1-yard and 5-yards).

This season, New England has converted 32 of their 42 opportunities in the red zone, including 23 touchdowns. They rank fourth in the AFC and seventh in the NFL with a 54.8 percentage of touchdowns in the red zone. Last season they converted only 23 of 53 opportunities into touchdowns (43.4).



Playoff Picture

AFC STANDINGS – REMAINING SCHEDULE

Team	W	L	T	PCT	HOME	ROAD	DIV	NFC	AFC	Stk	Wk 14	Wk 15	Wk 16	Wk 17
Pittsburgh	10	2	0	.833	5-1	5-1	8-2	2-0	5-2	W5	@Bal	DET	@Cin	CLE
Miami	9	3	0	.750	5-1	4-2	8-2	1-1	4-2	W3	@SF	@NE	ATL	BUF
Oakland	9	3	0	.750	5-1	4-2	6-2	3-1	5-1	W1	@SD	TEN	@Den	NYJ
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	4-1	4-3	7-3	1-1	5-3	W2	PIT	CIN	@TB	MIN
New England ..	8	5	0	.615	5-2	3-3	6-4	2-1	4-2	W3	@Buf	Mia	Bye	@Car
NY Jets	7	5	0	.583	2-4	5-1	5-3	2-2	4-2	L2	CIN	@Ind	BUF	@Oak
Denver	7	6	0	.538	5-2	2-4	4-5	3-1	3-3	W1	@KC	Bye	OAK	@Ind
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	4-3	2-3	5-5	1-1	4-3	L2	JAX	@GB	@Ten	@Pit
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	4-2	2-4	6-4	0-2	3-3	L1	DAL	@NYG	@SD	KAN

PLAYOFF TIE BREAKERS

Selection of Clubs

1. Three division champions from each conference.
2. Three "Wild Card" clubs (non-champions with three best records) from each conference. All Wild Cards may come from the same division. Clubs eliminated in divisional champion tiebreakers are eligible if their records qualify them.

Tie-Breaking Procedures

The following procedures will be used to break standings ties for postseason playoffs and to determine regular-season schedules.

To Break a Tie Within a Division

If, at the end of the regular season, two or more clubs in the same division finish with identical won-lost-tied percentages, the following steps will be taken until a champion is determined.

Three or More Clubs

(Note: If two clubs remain tied after a third club is eliminated during any step, the tiebreaker reverts back to step 1 of the two-club format).

(Note: If one team wins multiple-team tiebreaker to advance to playoff round, remaining teams revert to step 1 of applicable two-club format, i.e., either in division tiebreaker or Wild Card tiebreaker. If two teams in a multiple-team tie possess superior marks in a tiebreaking step, this pair of teams revert to top of applicable two-club format to break tie. One team advances to playoff round, while other returns to original group and step 1 of applicable tiebreaker).

Three or More Clubs (cont.)

1. Head-to-head (best won-lost-tied percentage in games among the clubs).
2. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the division.
3. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the conference.
4. Best won-lost-tied percentage in common games.
5. Best net points in division games.
6. Best net points in all games.
7. Strength of schedule.
8. Best net touchdowns in all games.
9. Coin toss.

To Break a Tie for the Wild Card Team

If it is necessary to break ties to determine the three Wild Card clubs from each conference, the following steps will be taken.

1. If the tied clubs are from the same division, apply division tiebreaker.
2. If the tied clubs are from different divisions, apply the following steps.

Two Clubs

1. Head-to-head, if applicable.
2. Best won-lost-tied percentage in games played within the conference.
3. Best won-lost-tied percentage in common games, minimum of four.
4. Best average net points in conference games.
5. Best net points in all games.
6. Strength of schedule.
7. Best net touchdowns in all games.
8. Coin toss.



BY THE NUMBERS

65.8

Brady's completion percentage this season (330-217), which is second in the AFC and third in the NFL.

90.7

Brady's quarterback rating this season. He ranks second in the AFC and fourth in the NFL.

85

The number of passes Troy Brown has caught through 13 games this season.

83

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

105

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

96

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

1,033

The number of receiving yards Troy Brown has totaled this season, setting a career-high.

1,271

The number of receiving yards Brown is projected to accumulate this season.

1,491

The Patriots record for receiving yards in a season, set by Stanley Morgan in 1986.

14.0

Troy Brown's punt return average this season (21-293), which ranks first in the AFC and second in the NFL.

85

The number of yards Brown returned a punt for a touchdown last week against the Browns. It is tied for the second-longest punt return in team history (along with Irving Fryar).

4-2

The Patriots record this season against the AFC East.

7-1

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

35

The number of sacks the Patriots defense has recorded this season. They are tied for third in the AFC and sixth in the NFL.

29

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

11

The number of touchdowns Antowain Smith has scored this season with the Patriots (10 rushing, 1 receiving).

6-1

The Patriots record in games that Smith has scored a touchdown this year.

3

The number of 100-yard rushing games Smith has this season with the Patriots

3-0

The Patriots record in those games.

36

The number of career touchdowns Antowain Smith has recorded during his five-year career.

15

The number of Smith's 36 career touchdowns he has scored at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

41

The number of interceptions Terrell Buckley has recorded during his 9-year career. He is currently tied with Atlanta's Ray Buchanan for fifth among active players.

3

The number of interceptions Buckley has recorded this season. He is tied for the team lead with Otis Smith.

5

The number of seasons Buckley has led his team in interceptions (Green Bay, '94; Miami, '96, '97, '98; Denver '00)

18

The number of interceptions the Patriots have recorded this year. It's their highest total since they recorded 24 in 1998.

+45

The turnover ratio of the Patriots last three opponents prior to their games with the Patriots (New Orleans, +10; NY Jets, +22; Cleveland, +13).

-6

The turnover ratio of those two teams against the Patriots (New Orleans, -2; NY Jets -2; Cleveland).

5-1

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

23.2

The average number of points the Patriots have scored per game this season. They rank third in the AFC behind Oakland, 28.1 and Indianapolis 26.5.