



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, December 17, 2001

MEDIA SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Dec. 18

12:15-1:00 Players available in locker room

Wednesday, Dec. 19

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)
11:30 Jay Fiedler Conference Call
12:15 Dave Wannstedt Conference Call
12:30-12:50 Photo Access at Practice

Thursday, Dec. 20

10:30-11:00 Head Coach Bill Belichick's Press Conference (Super Box A)
11:00-11:35 Players available in locker room
11:50-12:20 Photo Access at Practice

Friday, Dec. 21

No coach or player access
11:00-12:00 Patriots Alumni Tour of CMGI Field

PATRIOTS SCHEDULE (9-5)

Sun., Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	L	17-23
Sun., Sept. 23	N.Y. Jets	L	3-10
Sun., Sept. 30	Indianapolis	W	44-13
Sun., Oct. 7	at Miami	L	10-30
Sun., Oct. 14	San Diego	W	ot 29-26
Sun., Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	W	38-17
Sun., Oct. 28	at Denver	L	20-31
Sun., Nov. 4	at Atlanta	W	24-10
Sun., Nov. 11	Buffalo	W	21-11
Sun., Nov. 18	St. Louis	L	17-24
Sun., Nov. 25	New Orleans	W	34-17
Sun., Dec. 2	at N.Y. Jets	W	17-16
Sun., Dec. 9	Cleveland	W	27-16
Sun., Dec. 16	at Buffalo	W	ot 12-9
Sat., Dec. 22	Miami	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	11	2	0	.846	254	165
Oakland	10	3	0	.769	350	267
Miami	9	4	0	.692	276	249
New England	9	5	0	.643	313	253
Baltimore	8	5	0	.667	237	214
NY Jets	8	5	0	.615	246	231
Denver	7	7	0	.500	307	293
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	231	257

REGULAR SEASON WEEK 15

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (9-5) vs MIAMI DOLPHINS (9-4)

DATE: December 22, 2001
SITE: Foxboro Stadium (60,292) - Grass
TIME: 1:30 p.m. EST
TELEVISION: This week's game will be broadcast regionally on CBS (locally on WBZ Channel 4 in Boston). **Greg Gumbel** will provide the play-by-play detail and will be joined by broadcast partner **Phil Simms**. **Armen Keteyian** will report from the sidelines.
RADIO: WBCN's Rock Radio Network 104.1 FM. **Gil Santos**, now in his 25th season as voice of the Patriots, will call the action along with **Gino Cappelletti**. The tandem is enjoying their 18th season together. For a complete listing of all local affiliates, please see page eight.

The New England Patriots (9-5) will play their final regular season game in Foxboro Stadium when they host the division-leading Miami Dolphins (9-4) this Saturday, Dec. 22. It will be a fight for first place in the AFC East and has significant playoff implications for both teams. The game will be televised nationally on CBS beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The Patriots are among the hottest teams in the NFL, having won six of their last seven and eight of their last 10 games. Last week, they extended their current win streak to four games, second longest in the NFL (Steelers own a six-game streak). With two games remaining, the Patriots already enjoy a four-game improvement over last year's record. Only the Chicago Bears have had a greater turnaround (+5 games). A Patriots victory over the Dolphins this week would propel them into sole possession of first place in the division for the first time since they opened the 1999 season 4-0. It would also extend their win streak to five games for the first time since they closed out the 1994 season winning seven straight to claim a wild-card playoff berth.

While the Patriots prepare for their final *regular season game* at Foxboro Stadium, a victory over the Dolphins could very well extend the life of the stadium by putting the Patriots in the position to host a playoff game. The Patriots are 3-1 in home playoff games, having won each of the last three games they have hosted, including both playoff games in 1996.

The Patriots hope to avenge the 30-10 loss suffered in Miami (10/7/01) and to snap the Dolphins' current five-game series win streak. If history is any indicator, expect another close, hard-fought game again this week, as six of the last nine regular season matchups between the Patriots and the Dolphins have been decided by three points or less, including each of the last three Patriots victories in the series.

While the Patriots are riding the momentum of a four-game win streak, the Dolphins are anxious to rebound from a shutout loss in San Francisco. The 21-0 loss snapped a three-game Dolphins win streak.

Last week, the Patriots claimed a 12-9 overtime victory against the Buffalo Bills. It was the first time the Patriots had won without scoring a touchdown since scoring a 12-10 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in 1994 (11/27). It was also the lowest point production for a win for Coach Belichick since his Cleveland Browns defeated the Houston Oilers 11-8 on Oct. 13, 1994. The victory guaranteed the Patriots their first winning season since 1998 and was Coach Belichick's 50th career regular season victory.

PLAYOFF SCENARIOS

New England can clinch a playoff spot with a win AND either a NY Jets loss OR a Baltimore loss OR a Seattle loss or tie; OR a tie AND a Seattle loss

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) NE win + NYJ loss | (3) NE win + SEA loss or tie |
| (2) NE win + BAL loss | (4) NE tie + SEA loss |



Series Information

SERIES HISTORY

This week's game will be the 73rd encounter between the two teams, dating back to the 1966 season. The Patriots trail the Dolphins in the series, with a 26-43 record (2-1 in the playoffs). The Dolphins currently hold the advantage in recent meetings, having won the last five games. They will try for their 14th seasonal sweep in the series this weekend.

The teams have met three times in the playoffs and the Patriots were victorious in two of the three games, including a 17-3 wild-card victory in 1997. A game-by-game look at the series history is listed below:

NEW ENGLAND 26-43

YR	RESULT	YR	RESULT
1966	NE 20, at Miami 14+6	1984	at Miami 28, NE 7-21
1967	at NE 41, Miami 10+31		Miami 44, at NE 24-20
	at Miami 41, NE 32-9	1985	at NE 17, Miami 13+4
1968	Miami 34, at NE 10-24		at Miami 30, NE 27-3
	at Miami 38, NE 7-31	1986	at NE 34, Miami 7+27
1969	Miami 17, at NE 16-1		NE 34, at Miami 27+7
	NE 38, Miami 23(at Tampa)+15	1987	at NE 28, Miami 21+7
1970	at NE 27, Miami 14+13		NE 24, at Miami 10+14
	at Miami 37, NE 20-17	1988	at NE 21, Miami 10+11
1971	at Miami 41, NE 3-38		NE 6, at Miami 3+3
	at NE 34, Miami 13+21	1989	Miami 24, at NE 10.....-14
1972	at Miami 52, NE 0-52		at Miami 31, NE 10.....-21
	Miami 37, at NE 21-16	1990	Miami 27, at NE 24.....-3
1973	at Miami 44, NE 23-21		at Miami 17, NE 10.....-7
	Miami 30, at NE 14-16	1991	Miami 20, at NE 10.....-10
1974	at NE 34, Miami 24+10		at Miami 30, NE 20.....-10
	at Miami 34, NE 27-7	1992	at Miami 38, NE 17.....-21
1975	Miami 22, at NE 14-8		Miami 16, at NE 13 (OT) -3
	at Miami 20, NE 7-13	1993	at Miami 17, NE 13-4
1976	at NE 30, Miami 14+16		at NE 33, Miami 27 (OT) +6
	at Miami 10, NE 3-7	1994	at Miami 39, NE 35-4
1977	at Miami 17, NE 5-12		Miami 23, at NE 3-20
	at NE 14, Miami 10+4	1995	Miami 20, at NE 3.....-17
1978	at NE 33, Miami 24+9		NE 34, at Miami 17.....+17
	at Miami 23, NE 3-20	1996	at Miami 24, NE 10.....-14
1979	at NE 28, Miami 13+15		at NE 42, Miami 23.....+19
	at Miami 39, NE 24-15	1997	at NE 27, Miami 23.....+3
1980	at NE 34, Miami 0+34		NE 14, at Miami 12.....+2
	at Miami 16, NE 13 (OT) -3	1998	at Miami 12, NE 9.....-3
1981	Miami 30, at NE 27 (OT) -3		at NE 26, Miami 23.....+3
	at Miami 24, NE 14-10	1999	Miami 31, at NE 30.....-1
1982	at NE 3, Miami 0+3		at Miami 27, NE 17.....-10
1983	at Miami 34, NE 24-10	2000	at Miami 10, NE 3.....-7
	at NE 17, Miami 6+11		Miami 27, at NE 24.....-3
		2001	at Miami 30, NE 10.....-20

SERIES TRENDS

Record in New England	19 wins - 16 losses (1-0 in playoffs)
Record in Miami.....	7 wins - 27 losses (1-1 in playoffs)
Total Points in the Series.....	Patriots 1,390, Dolphins 1,632
Patriots Largest Margin of Victory	34 pts (10/12/80)
Patriots Largest Margin of Defeat.	52 pts (11/12/72)
Highest Combined Point Total.....	74 pts (9/4/94)
Lowest Combined Point Total.....	3 pts (12/12/82)
Shutouts in the Series	NE 2, Miami 1
Longest Win Streak.....	6 games (10/5/86 - 11/20/88)
Longest Losing Streak	9 games (9/17/89 - 1/2/94)
Seasonal Sweeps	Patriots 4, Dolphins 13
Current Streak.....	Miami, five game winning streak

VERSUS THE AFC EAST

The Patriots improved to 5-2 against the AFC East with a 12-9 overtime victory over the Buffalo Bills last weekend. The last time they finished a season with a winning record against the AFC East was in 1997 (7-1). Their remaining division game is this weekend against the Miami Dolphins (12/22).

TALE OF THE TAPE

Categories	Through Week 14 New England	Miami
Record	9-5.....	9-4
Divisional Standings	2 nd	1 st
Total Yards Gained	4,271.....	3,938
Total Offense (Rank).....	305.1 (19).....	302.9 (20t)
Rush Offense	106.8 (17).....	104.2 (20)
Pass Offense	198.3 (18).....	198.8 (17)
Points Per Game	22.4 (8).....	21.2 (10)
Total Yards Allowed	4,662.....	3,657
Total Defense	333.0 (24).....	281.3 (3)
Rush Defense	114.6 (18).....	107.8 (14)
Pass Defense.....	218.4 (21).....	173.5 (1)
Points Allowed/Game	18.1 (10).....	19.2 (13t)
Possession Avg.	30:12.....	30:41
Sacks Allowed/Yards Loss.....	42/221.....	19/130
Sacks Made/Yards.....	36/209.....	29/187
Interceptions By/Yards.....	19/291.....	11/241
Penalties Against/Yards	79/657.....	86/743
Fumbles/Lost.....	26/12.....	20/14
Fumbles Forced/Recovered.....	16/7.....	23/10
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio.....	+1.....	-11

PATRIOTS – DOLPHINS GAME NOTES

Seven of the past nine meetings have been decided by seven points or less ... **S Lawyer Milloy** has averaged 11.2 tackles in the last five games against the Dolphins ... Kicker **Adam Vinatieri** increased his streak of consecutive kicks against the Dolphins to 15 ... **CB Terrell Buckley** (1995-99), **LB Bryan Cox** (1991-95), **QB Damon Huard** (1997-2000), **LB Larry Izzo** (1996-2000) **Grey Ruegamer** (1999) all played with the Dolphins ... **RB Antowain Smith** has notched a 100-yard rushing game against the Dolphins, gaining 126 yards on 29 carries (4.3 avg.) while with Buffalo (11/14/99) ... Dolphins fullback **Rob Konrad** grew up in Andover, Mass. and attended St. Johns Prep ... Dolphins quarterback **Jay Fiedler** attended Dartmouth (1990-93) in Hanover, New Hampshire and still holds numerous passing records at the school ... Back-up quarterback **Ray Lucas** played with the Patriots during the 1996 season.

DID YOU KNOW...

In the last meeting between these two teams (10/7/01), the Patriots finished with 69 yards passing and the Dolphins totaled 87. The last time two NFL teams both passed for fewer than 100 yards in the same game was Oct. 4, 1998 when the Giants had 83 in a 20-3 victory against the Buccaneers, who had 85 ... It was the lowest passing production by the Patriots since passing for just 67 net yards vs. Buffalo on Dec. 26, 1999 ... The last time the Dolphins were held to fewer than 100 yards passing was Dec. 12, 1982 at Foxboro Stadium, in the "Snow Plow Game" when they had 59.

SERIES SUPERLATIVES

Below is a list of the top individual efforts during the Patriots and Dolphins series, based on yards gained:

Rushing Yards

Patriots:	Jim Nance 24 att- 164 yds- 2 td (12/17/67)
Dolphins:	Mercury Morris 15 att- 197 yds- 3 td (9/30/73)

Passing Yards

Patriots:	Drew Bledsoe 54-28-423-2 td-2 int (11/23/98)
Dolphins:	Dan Marino 42-23-473- 5 td-1 int (9/4/94)

Receiving Yards

Patriots:	Stanley Morgan 5-182-1 td (11/8/81)
Dolphins:	Irving Fryar 5-211-3 td (9/4/94)



Game Review – Patriots 12, Bills 9 OT

GAME REVIEW

The New England Patriots (9-5) won their fourth consecutive game, edging the Buffalo Bills (2-11) 12-9 in overtime. Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri sealed the victory with a 23-yard field goal 6:42 into overtime. It was his third game-winning field goal of the year and the 11th of his career.

The game was the fourth time in the last five meetings between these division rivals that the outcome was decided in overtime. The Patriots have won the last two, both on Vinatieri field goals.

The Patriots opened the scoring with a 40-yard field goal by Vinatieri with 4:02 remaining in the first quarter. They used six runs, including a 9-yard gain by wide receiver Troy Brown on a busted play, to move them into field goal position.

Before the first half ended, the Patriots struck again with a 32-yard field goal by Vinatieri with 53 seconds remaining. Quarterback Tom Brady completed a 40-yard pass to wide receiver David Patten on 3rd-and-3 to extend the scoring drive.

The Bills came to life in the second half, forcing a Patriots fumble on the opening drive. They turned the fumble into a field goal, cutting their deficit to 6-3.

Buffalo moved into the red zone on their next drive but safety Lawyer Milloy intercepted an Alex Van Pelt pass at the 8-yard line, thwarting their attempt to score. On their subsequent drive the Bills trekked 76-yards on 15 plays into the red zone and the Patriots defense kept them out of the end zone again. They were held to a field goal and tied the game at 6-6.

Buffalo came right back and scored another field goal, their third in four drives, and took the lead 9-6.

The Patriots opened their next drive with consecutive completions of 19-yards to Terry Glenn, 8-yards to Brown and 25-yards to Jermaine Wiggins moving the football to the 11-yard line. Vinatieri tied the game at 9-9 with a 25-yard field goal with 2:45 remaining in the game.

In overtime, the Bills won the toss, but the Patriots defense forced them to punt on their first possession. New England started their drive on the 20-yard line and gained 13 yards on a pass from Brady to running back J.R. Redmond. Brady then completed a pass in the flat to Brown for 8-yards. They used consecutive runs by running back Antowain Smith to gain a first down.

On first down, Brady connected with Patten on a 13-yard pass along the sidelines and he was hit instantly, fumbling the football and the Bills recovered. However, the play was reviewed and it was found that while Patten's head was out of bounds he was in contact with the ball, making it out of bounds. The Patriots regained possession and on the subsequent play Smith ran for a 38-yard gain to the Bills 3-yard line. Two plays later, Vinatieri sealed the victory with a 23-yard field goal.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Patriots began the scoring last week against the Bills with a 40-yard field goal by Adam Vinatieri. It was the 11th time in 14 games this year that they scored first. They improved to 7-4 in those games.

'TIS THE SEASON

The Patriots have opened the month of December with three consecutive wins over the Jets (17-16), Browns (27-16) and Bills (12-9). The last time the Patriots opened with three consecutive wins in December was in 1994 (4-0). The last time they won three games in December was 1996 (3-1), the same year they advanced to Super Bowl XXXI.

PATRIOTS MILLER LITE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri was named Miller Lite Player of the Game. Vinatieri accounted for all 12 of the Patriots points on four field goals, including a 23-yard kick in overtime. It was his first Miller Lite Player of the Game award this season.

PATRIOTS WEEKLY PLAYER OF THE GAME RECIPIENTS

Opponent	Player	Stats
Cincinnati	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 106 yds and 1 td
NY Jets	WR Troy Brown	5 rec., 82 yds; 4 pr, 44 yds
Indianapolis	LB Bryan Cox	11 tackles
Miami	LB Mike Vrabel	3 tackles, 1 interception
San Diego	QB Tom Brady	33-54, 364 yds, 2 tds
Indianapolis	WR David Patten	4 rec.-117 yds-2 tds; 1 rush-29 yds-1td; 1-1 passing-60yds-1td
Denver	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Atlanta	DE Willie McGinest	5 tackles, 2 sacks
Buffalo	RB Antowain Smith	20 att., 100 yds, 2 tds
St. Louis	WR Troy Brown	8 rec.-91 yds
New Orleans	QB Tom Brady	19-26, 258 yds, 4 tds
NY Jets	LB Roman Phifer	9 tackles
Cleveland	WR Troy Brown	7 rec., 89 yds; 4 punt ret., 125 yds, incl. 85 yd TD
Buffalo	K Adam Vinatieri	4 FG's, incl. 23-yd gm-winner

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

PATRIOTS IN OVERTIME

The Patriots have won their last three overtime games, including two wins against Buffalo. It's their longest streak since they won five from 1988-1992. The victory improves their overall record in overtime to 12-18.

The game was also the fourth in five meetings between the two teams that was decided in overtime. The four games are listed below:

DATE	RESULT	DATE	RESULT
12/26/99	Bills 13, at Patriots 10	12/17/00	Patriots 13, at Bills 10
11/05/00	Bills 16, at Patriots 13	12/16/01	Patriots 12, at Bills 9

ADAM VINATIERI

Vinatieri's game-winning 23-yard field goal in overtime last week was the 11th game-winning kick of his career and his third this season. It was also his fifth in overtime. His three game-winning kicks this season are listed below:

Date	Opponent	Yds	Time	Final Score
10/14/01	San Diego	44	10:55 (OT)	29-26
12/02/01	at NY Jets	28	6:29	17-16
12/16/01	at Buffalo Bills	23	9:15 (OT)	12-9

CENTURY MARK

Vinatieri has totaled 97 points this season and needs three points to become only the second player in NFL history to record 100 points in each of his first six years along with Jason Elam.

Player	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6	Total
Jason Elam	119	119	132	109	124	127	730
Adam Vinatieri	120	115	127	107	106	97	672

TOTAL POINTS

Vinatieri has increased his career point total to 672 and needs only 21 points to move past John Smith into second place on the Patriots all-time scoring list.

#	SCORING	TD	PAT/PATA	2-Pt	FG /FGA	TP
1	Gino Cappelletti	42	346 358	2	176 334	1,130
2	John Smith	0	308 323	0	128 191	692
3	Adam Vinatieri	0	199 204	1	157 198	672



News and Notes

FREE AGENT FLURY

The Patriots have added 17 new veterans to their roster since the end of the 2000 season. Since Head Coach Bill Belichick arrived in 2000, the Patriots have added 38 new players to the current 53-man roster, including 21 free agents. The list of Patriots additions this season are listed below in alphabetical order:

NAME, POS	EXP	CAREER		FORMER TEAM
		GP	GP/GS	
Terrell Buckley, CB.....	10	155	13/1	Denver
Je'Rod Cherry, DB.....	6	87	14/0	Philadelphia
Mike Compton, G/C.....	9	118	14/14	Detroit
Bryan Cox, LB.....	11	154	9/7	N.Y. Jets
Marc Edwards, FB.....	5	78	14/12	Cleveland
Damon Huard, QB.....	5	34	0/0	Miami
Larry Izzo, LB.....	6	75	14/0	Miami
Charles Johnson, WR.....	8	116	13/2	Philadelphia
Riddick Parker, DL.....	5	63	12/0	Seattle
David Patten, WR.....	5	72	14/12	Cleveland
Roman Phifer, LB.....	11	164	14/14	N.Y. Jets
Anthony Pleasant, DE... 12.....	12	178	14/14	San Francisco
Terrance Shaw, CB.....	7	91	11/3	Miami
Antowain Smith, RB.....	5	71	14/14	Buffalo
Chris Sullivan, DE.....	6	78	0/0	Pittsburgh
Mike Vrabel, LB.....	5	64	14/10	Pittsburgh
Ken Walter, P.....	5	73	9/0	Carolina
17 Players.....	121	1,671	193/103	

HERE'S A STORY...

Quarterback Tom Brady became only the second quarterback in franchise history to win nine of his first 12 starts as a Patriot last week, joining Babe Parilli. Brady will try this week against the Dolphins to become the only quarterback in team history to record 10 wins in his first 13 starts.

Quarterback	12 th	13 th	Quarterback	12 th	13 th
Tom Brady	9-3	?	Butch Songin	5-7	5-8
Babe Parilli	9-3	9-4	Matt Cavanaugh	4-8	5-8
Doug Flutie	8-4	8-5	Jim Plunkett	4-8	5-8
Tony Eason	7-5	8-5	Steve Grogan	4-8	5-8

COMPLETING THE PICTURE

Brady has completed 64.7% (365-236) of his passes this season and ranks second in the AFC and third in the NFL (see below). Through 14 games this season, Brady has achieved the highest completion percentage in the 41-year history of the franchise, 64.7. The Patriots single-season record was established by Tony Eason in 1986 with a 61.6 mark (448-276). The top five completion percentages in franchise history are listed below.

NFL, 2001 Season				Patriots History	
Quarterback	Att	Comp	%	Quarterback, Year	Comp%
K. Warner.....	463	309	66.7	Tom Brady, 2001.....	64.7
R. Gannon.....	412	274	66.5	Tony Eason, 1986.....	61.6
T. Brady.....	365	236	64.7	Hugh Millen, 1992.....	61.1
D. Culpepper...	366	235	64.2	Steve Grogan, 1986.....	60.8
P. Manning.....	454	287	63.2	Drew Bledsoe, 1997.....	60.2

RATINGS GAME

Brady ranks third in the AFC and seventh in the NFL with a quarterback rating of 88.1 while starting in 12 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.	412	274	66.5	3,042	23	6	100.8
S. McNair, Ten.	361	222	61.5	2,725	17	10	88.9
T. Brady, NE	365	236	64.7	2,537	16	10	88.1
M. Brunell, Jax.	376	231	61.4	2,620	15	9	85.6

A-TRAIN

Antowain Smith gained 95 yards on 20 attempts (4.8 avg.) against the Bills last week. It marked the fifth game this season he has gained 94 or more yards, all Patriots victories.

Date	Opponent	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	W/L
09/30	Indianapolis	22	94	4.3	39	2	W, 44-13
11/04	at Atlanta	23	117	5.1	22	0	W, 24-10
11/11	Buffalo	20	100	5.0	42	2	W, 21-11
11/25	New Orleans	24	111	4.6	15t	1	W, 34-17
12/16	at Buffalo	20	95	4.8	38	0	W, 12-9

RUSHING TOTALS

Smith increased his rushing total this season to 920 yards, which ranks seventh in the AFC. It's the highest rushing total since Robert Edwards gained 1,115 yards on 291 carries (3.8 avg.) in 1998. He needs 80 yards to become the ninth player to gain 1,000 yards rushing in a single season. Smith's established his career-high with 1,124 yards rushing during the 1998 season.

SCORING IS SOARING

Smith has totaled 11 (10 rushing, 1 receiving) touchdowns this season. 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 six 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 (13) and Marvin Harrison (12).

TOP SCORERS IN THE AFC

Player, Team	TD	RU	REC	RET	X2	Points
S. Alexander, Sea.....	13	12	1	0	0	78
M. Harrison, Ind.....	12	0	12	0	0	72
A. Smith, N.E.....	11	10	1	0	0	66
C. Dillon, Cin.....	11	8	3	0	0	66

Four tied at 10



Team News and Notes

TEAM IMPROVMENT

The Patriots have won four straight games and six of their last seven, improving their record to 9-5 on the season. While it has been well documented that the Patriots have improved in numerous categories this season, they have recorded the second best turnaround in the NFL this season. Only the Chicago Bears have increased their win total by more games than the Patriots (see below).

Team	2000	2001	+/-
Chicago.....	5-11	10-3.....	+5
New England.....	5-11.....	9-5	+4
San Francisco	6-10	10-3.....	+4
San Diego	1-15	5-9.....	+4
Cleveland	3-13	6-7.....	+3

SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

While, the Patriots have won four more games than they did last year, they have also shown marked improvement in numerous categories through 14 games this season. For example, they are averaging six more points per game this year and have already recorded 36 sacks compared to 29 last year. Listed below are six different categories they have improved in this season, along with their NFL ranking.

Year	Games	PPG NE	PPG Opp.	3 rd Down Efficiency
2001	14	22.4 (8)	18.1 (10)	41.7 (7)
2000	16	17.2 (25)	21.1 (17)	35.0 (24)

Year	Games	Red Zone TD Pct.	Red Zone TD Pct. All.	Sacks
2001	14	51.1 (14)	40.9 (6)	36 (10)
2000	16	43.4 (24)	51.9 (18)	29 (25)

TAKEAWAYS

- The Patriots have already recorded 26 takeaways this season (19 int. – 7 fumbles), compared to 23 (10-13) last season.
- The Patriots recorded one interception last week, increasing their total to 19 on the season. It's their highest total since they recorded 24 in 1998.
- The Patriots are tied with Denver for third in the AFC with 19 interceptions and with Washington for fifth in the NFL. Cleveland leads the conference with 29.
- Fifteen of the Patriots last 17 takeaways have been interceptions.

HOME SWEET HOME

This week's game will be the 81st consecutive sellout at Foxboro Stadium. The streak began the year Robert Kraft purchased the team (1994) and includes preseason, regular season and postseason games. The Patriots are 52-28 in those games (not including this week's game). It will also be the 237th and final regular season home game at Foxboro Stadium. The Patriots have accumulated a 132-104 record at Foxboro Stadium since it opened in 1971.

THIRD DOWN IS A CHARM

One of the many categories the Patriots have improved in this year is third down efficiency. Through the first 14 weeks of the season the Patriots rank fourth in the AFC and seventh in the NFL 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. In their nine wins this season, the Patriots have converted 44.8 percent of their third downs (56-128) compared to 35.8 in their five losses (24-67).

SEEING RED

The Patriots have scored in 12 of their last 13 trips inside the opponents red zone, including eight touchdowns. Last week, the Patriots converted all three of their trips inside the 20 with Adam Vinatieri field goals, including the game-winner in overtime.

This season, New England has converted 35 of their 45 opportunities in the red zone, including 23 touchdowns. They rank sixth in the AFC and 14th in the NFL with a 51.1 percentage of touchdowns in the red zone. Last season they converted only 23 of 53 opportunities into touchdowns (43.4).

DEAD ZONE

The Patriots defense has kept their opponents out of the end zone on their last five trips inside the red zone. They have forced four field goals and safety Lawyer Milloy recorded an interception on the fifth attempt last week against the Bills. This season, the Patriots defense has allowed their opponents to score 18 touchdowns on 44 trips inside the red zone. They rank second in the AFC and sixth in the NFL with a touchdown percentage of 40.9. Last season they yielded touchdowns on 51.9 percent of their opponents trips inside the 20 (54 trips – 28 touchdowns).

"I think that a lot of work that has gone into it," said Head Coach Bill Belichick regarding the improvement of their red zone defense. "I can't say that there is any magic wand that was waved over the red area, but the work started a long time ago and it has continued all the way through the year. I think the players understand, again, what we are trying to take away and what we are willing to give up and they have done a good job of that and even some of the plays that have come against us still haven't been scoring plays."

THE SPECIALIST

Patriots linebacker Larry Izzo has been a special teams standout during his six-year career and has continued his exceptional play this season with the Patriots. Izzo, who was voted to the Pro Bowl last season, has recorded an NFL-high 21 special teams tackles during the 2001 season. Izzo set a career-high with 33 special teams tackles in 1999. The 2001 special teams tackle leaders are listed below:

Player, Team	TT	Solo	Assists
Larry Izzo, NE	21	14	7
Keith Burns, Den	19	17	2
Isaiah Kacyvenski, Sea.....	19	14	5
Terry Killens, SF	17	17	0
Mike Morton, Ind	17	11	6



WR Troy Brown – Jack of All Trades

BROWN OUT

Last week against the Bills, Troy Brown led all Patriot receivers with five catches for 62 yards. It was the 13th time in 14 games he has led the team in receptions this season. He increased his 2001 season totals to 90 catches for 1,095 yards (12.2 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
2001 Totals.....		90	1095	12.2	60t	5

Brown is fourth in the NFL with 90 receptions and fourth in the AFC with 1,095 yards receiving.

Receiver, NFL	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
K. Johnson, TB	100	1,196	12.0	47	1
R. Smith, Den.....	98	1,195	12.2	65t	10
J. Smith, Jax	92	1,137	12.4	35t	7
Troy Brown, N.E.....	90	1,095	12.2	60t	5
D. Boston, Ari.....	86	1,387	16.1	52	6

Receiver, AFC	Yds	No	Avg.	LG	Td
R. Smith, Den.....	1,195	98	12.2	65t	10
M. Harrison, Ind.	1,173	83	14.1	68	12
J. Smith, Jax	1,137	92	12.4	35t	7
Troy Brown, N.E.....	1,095	90	12.2	60t	5
T. Brown, Oak.	1,007	73	13.8	46t	9

SINGLE SEASON HIGHS

Troy Brown increased his single-season career-high totals in both receptions (90) and receiving yards (1,095) last weekend. He surpassed his previous highs set in 2000 (83 receptions and 944 yards) against the Browns (12/9) and became just the sixth Patriot to surpass the 1,000-yard receiving mark. The last Patriots wide receiver to reach 1,000 yards was Terry Glenn with 1,147 yards in 1999.

Brown needs seven catches to surpass Ben Coates (96) and become the franchise's single-season record holder. Brown is on pace to catch 103 passes for 1,251 yards through 14 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.. Troy Brown ...	2001	1,174 ..Ben Coates	1994
90 .. Terry Glenn.....	1996	1,147 ..Terry Glenn	1999
84 .. Ben Coates	1995	1,132 ..Terry Glenn	1996
84 .. Stanley Morgan	1986	1,095 . Troy Brown	2001
83 .. Troy Brown	2000	1,029 ..Stanley Morgan...	1981
82 .. Marv Cook	1991	1,014 ..Irving Fryar	1991

CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Brown ranks fifth among receivers in the NFL with 173 catches over the past two seasons. He has already set a career-high with 90 catches this season and needs only 10 catches in the final two games to become the first Patriot to record 100 catches in a season.

Player	Catches, 2000	Catches, 2001	Total
Rod Smith	100	98	198
Marvin Harrison	102	83	185
Jimmy Smith	91	92	183
Terrell Owens.....	82	97	179
Troy Brown	83	90	173
Keyshawn Johnson	71	100	171

CATCHING ON

Brown has not only been a dominant presence in the NFL over the past two seasons, but he has recorded prolific numbers for the Patriots offense over the past two seasons catching 173 passes. It's the second highest two-year total in Patriots history, behind Ben Coates' 180 in 1994-95. With two games remaining, Brown needs eight catches to surpass Coates' total.

Player	Catches, Year	Catches, Year	Total
Ben Coates.....	96, 1994	84, 1995	180
Troy Brown	83, 2000	90, 2001	173
Ben Coates.....	53, 1993	96, 1994	149

MOVING ON UP

Brown is just the fifth player in franchise history to catch over 300 passes during his career. He ranks fifth in Patriots annals with 310 career catches behind Terry Glenn (329 catches).

Rk	Player, Pos.	No	Yds	Avg.	LG	Td
1	Stanley Morgan, WR.....	534	10,352	19.4	76t	67
2	Ben Coates, TE	490	5,471	11.2	84t	50
3	Irving Fryar, WR	363	5,726	15.8	80t	38
4	Terry Glenn, WR	329	4,669	14.2	86t	22
5	Troy Brown, WR	310	3,866	12.5	67	17
6	Gino Cappelletti, WR	292	4,589	15.7	63t	42

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Over half of Brown's 90 receptions this season (52) have resulted in first downs. He also has rushed for three first downs, increasing his total to 55, which ranks third among AFC wide receivers. Two of his five receptions last week resulted in first downs.

ABOVE AVERAGE

Brown ranks third in the AFC and sixth in the NFL with a 13.0-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
D. Gordon, Atl.	26	393	15.1	74	0
Je. Lewis, Bal.	30	421	14.0	62	0
D. O'Neal, Den.	27	372	13.8	86t	1
Swinton, Dal.....	25	338	13.5	65t	1
E. Metcalf, Wash.....	29	388	13.4	89t	1
T. Brown, N.E.	25	326	13.0	85t	1



Playoff Picture

AFC STANDINGS – REMAINING SCHEDULE

Team	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA	Hm	Rd	AFC	NFC	DIV	Stk	Wk 15	Wk 16	Wk17
z-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.833	254	165	5-1	6-1	9-2	2-0	6-2	W6	DET	@Cin	CLE
z-Oakland	10	3	0	.769	350	267	5-1	5-2	7-2	3-1	6-1	W2	TEN	@Den	NYJ
Miami	9	4	0	.692	276	249	5-1	4-3	8-2	1-2	4-2	L1	@NE	ATL	BUF
New England	9	5	0	.643	313	253	5-2	4-3	7-4	2-1	5-2	W4	MIA	Bye	@Car
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	258	240	4-2	4-3	7-4	1-1	5-4	L1	CIN	@TB	MIN
NY Jets	8	5	0	.615	246	231	3-4	5-1	6-3	2-2	4-2	W1	@Ind	BUF	@Oak
Seattle	7	6	0	.538	231	257	5-2	2-4	6-4	1-2	3-3	W1	@NYG	@SD	KAN
Denver	7	7	0	.500	307	293	5-2	2-5	4-6	3-1	3-4	L1	Bye	OAK	@Ind
Cleveland	6	7	0	.462	230	223	4-4	2-3	5-6	1-1	4-4	L3	@GB	@Ten	@Pit
Tennessee	6	7	0	.462	264	314	3-3	3-4	3-6	3-1	3-5	W1	@Oak	CLE	CIN
Jacksonville	5	8	0	.385	222	220	3-4	2-4	5-7	0-1	5-5	W2	@Min	KC	@Chi
Indianapolis	5	8	0	.385	339	405	2-4	3-4	4-6	1-2	3-4	W1	NYJ	@Stl	DEN

z-Clinched Division Title

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

237

The number of regular season home games the New England Patriots have played at Foxboro Stadium, including this week's game versus the Dolphins.

132-104

The Patriots record at Foxboro Stadium since it was opened in 1971.

81

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 52-28 in those games.

169

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

64.7

Brady's completion percentage this season (365-236), which is second in the AFC and third in the NFL.

88.1

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

90

The number of passes Troy Brown has caught through 14 games this season. He is tied with Terry Glenn for the second-highest single season reception total (1996).

103

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.

1,095

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

1,251

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.

19

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

5-2

The Patriots record this season against the AFC East.

7-1

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

51.1

The Patriots touchdown percentage inside the red zone this season. They have been inside the red zone 45 times this season and have scored 23 touchdowns and kicked 12 field goals. They rank 14th in the league.

43.3

The Patriots touchdown percentage inside the red zone during the 2000 season.

36

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

29

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

99

The number of tackles safety Lawyer Milloy has recorded through 14 games this season.

1

The number of tackles Milloy needs to record his fifth consecutive 100 tackle season.

88

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

22.4

The average number of points the Patriots have scored per game this season. They rank third in the AFC behind Oakland, 26.9 and Indianapolis 26.1.

18.1

The number of points per game the Patriots defense has allowed this season. They rank 10th in the NFL and fifth in the AFC.

97

The number of points Adam Vinatieri has scored this season.

3

The number of points Vinatieri needs to reach the 100-point threshold this season. It would be his sixth consecutive season with at least 100 points.