



# NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

# PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Stacey James, Director of Media Relations ★ Michelle L. Murphy ★ Casey O'Connell  
Gillette Stadium ★ One Patriot Place ★ Foxborough, MA 02035 ★ 508-384-9105 ★ fax: 508-543-9053  
[staceyj@patriots.com](mailto:staceyj@patriots.com) ★ [michellel@patriots.com](mailto:michellel@patriots.com) ★ [caseyo@patriots.com](mailto:caseyo@patriots.com)

## TOP-SEEDED PATRIOTS FACE COLTS FOR AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

### MEDIA SCHEDULE

#### Monday, Jan. 12

No Media Availability

#### Tuesday, Jan. 13

No Media Availability

#### Wednesday, Jan. 14

10:45 – 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Availability  
in Media Workroom

11:15 – 11:55 Open Locker Room

12:45 – 1:05 Access to Practice (Photographers  
and camera operators only)

National Conference Calls—

11:45 Colts WR Brandon Stokley

4:00 Patriots CB Ty Law

#### Thursday, Jan. 15

10:45 – 11:15 Coach Belichick Press Availability  
in Media Workroom

11:15 – 11:55 Open Locker Room

12:45 – 1:05 Access to Practice (Photographers  
and camera operators only)

#### Friday, Jan. 16

3:00 p.m. Patriots Press Conference at  
Hyatt Harborside in Boston

5:00 p.m. Colts Press Conference at  
Hyatt Harborside in Boston

#### Saturday, Jan. 17

Team Walkthrough – No Media Availability

#### Sunday, Jan. 18

3:00 **AFC Championship Game**  
**New England vs. Indianapolis**

### 2003 NFL STANDINGS

Teams	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
<b>New England .....</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.875</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>238</b>
Kansas City .....	13	3	0	.813	484	332
Indianapolis .....	12	4	0	.750	447	336
Philadelphia .....	12	4	0	.750	374	287
St. Louis .....	12	4	0	.750	447	328
Tennessee .....	12	4	0	.750	435	324
Carolina .....	11	5	0	.688	325	304
Baltimore .....	10	6	0	.625	391	281
Dallas .....	10	6	0	.625	289	260
Denver .....	10	6	0	.625	381	301
Green Bay .....	10	6	0	.625	442	307
Miami .....	10	6	0	.625	311	261
Seattle .....	10	6	0	.625	404	327
Minnesota .....	9	7	0	.563	416	353
Cincinnati .....	8	8	0	.500	346	384
New Orleans .....	8	8	0	.500	340	326
Chicago .....	7	9	0	.438	283	346



### AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

#### NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (15-2) vs. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (14-4)

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2004 ★ Gillette Stadium (68,436) ★ 3:00 p.m.

With a trip to Houston and Super Bowl XXXVIII on the line, the Patriots and Colts will square off in the AFC Championship Game at Gillette Stadium this Sunday. The game will be a rematch of a thrilling Week 13 battle in which the Patriots prevailed in a 38-34 shootout at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. With the right to play for the ultimate prize in pro football at stake, this Sunday's game promises to be a hard-fought matchup to decide which team is the cream of the AFC crop.

New England enters the contest with a five-game winning streak at home in the playoffs and is 7-3 in postseason play since 1996. The Patriots have won 13 games in a row, dating back to the first week in October, and have set a club record with 15 victories this season, besting the 14-5 mark set by the Super Bowl XXXVI Championship team in 2001.

The Patriots are playing in their third AFC Championship Game in the past eight seasons and are the only AFC team to have played in as many as three of the last eight championship contests. With a win this week, New England would advance to the Super Bowl for the second time in three seasons and become the only team in the NFL to own three conference championships since 1996.

**TELEVISION:** This week's game will be broadcast nationwide on CBS. The game can be seen locally on WBZ-TV Channel 4 in Boston. **Greg Gumbel** will handle the play-by-play duties and **Phil Simms** will provide analysis. **Armen Keteyian** will provide reports from the sidelines throughout the game.

**RADIO:** WBCN 104.1 FM is the flagship station for the Patriots Rock Radio Network. Play-by-play broadcaster **Gil Santos** is in his 27th season as the voice of the Patriots and calls the action along with Patriots Hall of Famer **Gino Cappelletti**. In 2003, Santos and Cappelletti celebrate their 20th season as a broadcast tandem.

### HOME COOKING

The Patriots are 9-0 at Gillette Stadium this season and recorded the first undefeated regular season at home in team history. New England is 18-3 in its last 21 home games, including regular-season and playoff games. The Patriots have a 5-1 all-time record at home in the playoffs.

### RECORD STREAK

The Patriots ended the 2003 regular season with a 12-game winning streak to finish the regular season at 14-2. The streak is tied for the third longest season-ending winning streak in NFL history. Every other NFL team to end a season with 12 or more consecutive wins has advanced to play for the league championship. Only three teams in league history have ended a season with more consecutive wins than the Patriots, and only one team has done so in the last 30 years (Denver, 1998). The first 11 wins in the Patriots' streak were all by 14 points or fewer, making them the first team in league history to win so many games by such a narrow margin.

### MOST CONSECUTIVE WINS, SINGLE SEASON

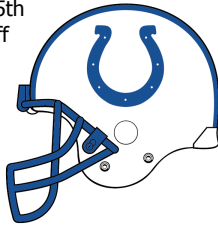
Wins	Team, Year	Playoff Result
14 .....	Miami, 1972 .....	Won Super Bowl VII
13 .....	Chicago, 1934 .....	Lost in NFL Championship Game
	Denver, 1998 .....	Won Super Bowl XXXIII
<b>12 .....</b>	<b>New England, 2003</b>	
	Minnesota, 1969 .....	Lost Super Bowl IV
	Chicago, 1985 .....	Won Super Bowl XX



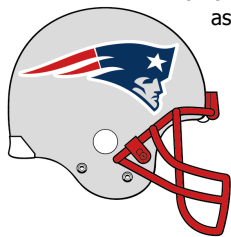
# THIS WEEK: PATRIOTS VS. COLTS

## SERIES HISTORY

The Patriots and Colts will meet for the 65th time, as the former AFC East rivals square off in the playoffs for the first time. The Patriots and Baltimore/Indianapolis Colts played twice a year from 1970 to 2001 as members of the AFC East, with the exception of the 1982 strike year. New England has had more success against the Colts than any other team in the NFL,



with the Patriots' .625 winning percentage ranking as their highest against any team they have played more than 10 times. New England is 14-4 against Indianapolis since 1993, and has won 11 of the series' last 13 games. New England's offense scored a total of 120 points in the last three meetings between the teams, and the Patriots have scored 20 or more points against the Colts in 12 of their last 13 meetings.



## PATRIOTS 40, COLTS 24

Date	Result	+/-	Date	Result	+/-
1970—Baltimore 14, at NE 6	.....-8		1987—at Indianapolis 30, NE 16	-14	
at Baltimore 27, NE 3	.....-24		at NE 24, Indianapolis 0	+24	
1971—Baltimore 23, at NE 3	.....-20		1988—at NE 21, Indianapolis 17	+4	
NE 21, at Baltimore 17	.....+4		at Indianapolis 24, NE 21	-3	
1972—Baltimore 24, at NE 17	.....-7		1989—NE 23, at Ind. 20 (OT)	....+3	
at Baltimore 31, NE 0	.....-31		at NE 22, Indianapolis 16	+6	
1973—at NE 24, Baltimore 16	....+8		1990—NE 16, at Indianapolis 14	+2	
at Baltimore 18, NE 13	.....-5		Indianapolis 13, at NE 10	...-3	
1974—at NE 42, Baltimore 3	....+39		1991—NE 16, at Indianapolis 7	....+9	
NE 27, at Baltimore 17	....+10		at NE 23, Ind. 17 (OT)	....+6	
1975—at NE 21, Baltimore 10	....+11		1992—NE 37, at Ind. 34 (OT)	....+3	
at Baltimore 34, NE 21	....-13		Indianapolis 6, at NE 0	.....-6	
1976—Baltimore 27, at NE 13	....-14		1993—at Indianapolis 9, NE 6	.....-3	
NE 21, at Baltimore 14	....+7		at NE 38, Indianapolis 0	+38	
1977—at NE 17, Baltimore 3	....+14		1994—NE 12, at Indianapolis 10	+2	
at Baltimore 30, NE 24	....-6		at NE 28, Indianapolis 18	+10	
1978—Baltimore 34, at NE 27	....-7		1995—Indianapolis 24, at NE 10	-14	
NE 35, at Baltimore 14	....+21		at Indianapolis 10, NE 7	....-3	
1979—at Baltimore 31, NE 26	....-5		1996—NE 27, at Indianapolis 9	+18	
at NE 50, Baltimore 21	....+29		at NE 27, Indianapolis 13	+14	
1980—NE 37, at Baltimore 21	....+16		1997—at NE 31, Indianapolis 6	+25	
at NE 47, Baltimore 21	....+26		NE 20, at Indianapolis 17	+3	
1981—Baltimore 29, at NE 28	.....-1		1998—at NE 29, Indianapolis 6	+23	
at Baltimore 23, NE 21	.....-2		NE 21, at Indianapolis 16	+5	
1982—NE 24, at Baltimore 13	....+11		1999—at NE 31, Indianapolis 28	+3	
1983—Balt. 29, at NE 23 (OT)	....-6		at Indianapolis 20, NE 15	...-5	
at Baltimore 12, NE 7	.....-5		2000—at NE 24, Indianapolis 16	+8	
1984—NE 50, at Indianapolis 17	+33		at Indianapolis 30, NE 23	...-7	
at NE 16, Indianapolis 10	....+6		2001—at NE 44, Indianapolis 13	+31	
1985—at NE 34, Indianapolis 15	+19		NE 38, at Indianapolis 17	+21	
NE 38, at Indianapolis 31	....+7		2003—NE 38, at Indianapolis 34	+4	
1986—at NE 33, Indianapolis 3	+30				
NE 30, at Indianapolis 21	....+9				

## SERIES TRENDS

Overall Record.....	40-24
Record in New England .....	21-10
Record in Indianapolis .....	13-6
Record in Baltimore .....	6-8
Total Points in the Series.....	Patriots 1,497, Colts 1,147
Patriots' Largest Margin of Victory.....	39 points (10/6/74)
Patriots' Largest Margin of Defeat.....	-31 points (11/26/72)
Highest Combined Point Total.....	72 points (11/30/03)
Lowest Combined Point Total.....	6 points (12/06/92)
Longest Patriots Win Streak.....	7 (1996-99)
Longest Colts Win Streak.....	3 (1970-1971)
Seasonal Sweeps .....	Patriots 13, Colts 5
Current Streak.....	Patriots, 14-4 since 1993

## TALE OF THE TAPE

2003 Regular Season	New England	Indianapolis
Record	14-2	12-4
Divisional Standings	1st	1st
Total Yards Gained	5,039	5,874
Total Offense (Rank)	314.9 (17)	367.1 (3)
Rush Offense	100.4 (27)	105.9 (19)
Pass Offense	214.5 (9)	261.2 (1)
Points Per Game	21.8	27.9
Total Yards Allowed	4,666	4,789
Total Defense	291.6 (7)	299.3 (11)
Rush Defense	89.6 (4)	123.8 (T-20)
Pass Defense	202.0 (15)	175.6 (5)
Points Allowed/Game	14.9	21.0
Possession Avg.	30:50	30:54
Sacks Allowed/Yards Lost	32/219	19/110
Sacks Made/Yards	41/253	31/225
Interceptions By	29	15
Penalties Against/Yards	111/998	92/662
Punts/Avg.	88/37.1	64/41.3
Takeaway/Giveaway Ratio	+17	+10

## SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

The Patriots have an all-time record of 64-41-1 (.608) against the teams that make up the AFC South. It is the only division in the NFL where the Patriots own a winning record against each team. New England owns winning marks against Tennessee (20-16-1), Indianapolis (40-24) Jacksonville (4-1) and Houston (1-0). In 2003, the Patriots are 5-0 against AFC South teams, sweeping the division in the regular season and defeating Tennessee last week in an AFC Divisional Playoff Game.

## WITH A WIN THIS WEEK...

If the Patriots win this week, they would...

- Advance to their third Super Bowl since 1996, becoming the only team in the NFL to have won three conference championships in the last eight seasons.
- Advance to the Super Bowl for the fourth time in team history (XX, 1985; XXI, 1996; XXVI, 2001).
- Improve to 4-0 in AFC Championship Games. They would own the most championship game wins without a loss of any NFL team in the Super Bowl Era.

## CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCES

The Patriots are 3-0 in AFC Championship Games since the Super Bowl Era began following the 1966 season. The Boston Patriots played in the 1963 AFL Championship Game, played on Jan. 5, 1964. The Patriots dropped that game to the Chargers in San Diego, 51-10.

## PATRIOTS IN THE AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (3-0)

Date	Opponent	Site	W/L	Score
01/18/04	Indianapolis	Gillette Stadium		
01/27/02	at Pittsburgh	Heinz Field	W	24-17
01/12/97	Jacksonville	Foxboro Stadium	W	20-6
01/12/86	at Miami	Orange Bowl	W	31-14





# THIS WEEK: PATRIOTS VS. COLTS

## CONNECTIONS

- Patriots quarterbacks coach **John Hufnagel** was the Colts' quarterbacks coach in 2001.
- Patriots special teams coach **Brad Seely** got his first NFL coaching job as the special teams and tight ends coach of the Colts. He spent five years with the organization.
- Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** made his first NFL start against the Colts and completed 13 of 23 passes for 168 yards in a 44-13 victory on Sept. 30, 2001.
- Patriots tackle **Brandon Gorin** was born on July 17, 1978, in Muncie, Ind., and earned first-team all-state honors as a defensive tackle at Southside High in Muncie. Gorin was a three-year starter at right tackle for the Purdue Boilermakers.
- Patriots defensive back **Antwan Harris** was credited with his first defensive tackle in the NFL at Indianapolis (10/08/00). Four passes later, he had his first NFL interception, which he returned for 11 yards.
- Patriots quarterback **Damon Huard's** brother, **Brock Huard**, is a quarterback for the Colts. While playing for Miami, Damon Huard's start against the Indianapolis Colts coupled with Brock Huard's start for Seattle vs. Denver marked the first time in NFL history that two brothers had started at quarterback on the same weekend (11/26/00).
- In 13 games played against the Colts, Patriots cornerback **Ty Law** has had 71 tackles and four interceptions, two of which were run back for touchdowns.
- Patriots tackle **Matt Light** earned four letters at Purdue University (1996, 1998-2000), earning All-Big Ten conference first-team honors in 2000.
- Patriots cornerback **Tyrone Poole** spent three seasons with the Colts (1998-2000), starting in 41 of the 45 games he appeared in and notching 150 tackles and four interceptions.
- Patriots rookie cornerback **Eugene Wilson** was born on Aug. 17, 1980 in Merrillville, Ind., and attended Merrillville High. He earned an All-Duneland Athletic Conference selection, Conference MVP, two all-Indiana selections and Defensive Player of the Year.
- Colts strength and conditioning coach **Jon Torine** played football at Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he received his bachelor's degree in exercise science.
- Colts defensive end **Dwight Freeney** was born in Hartford, Conn., and attended Bloomfield High School, where he was a SuperPrep, Prep Football Report, *USA Today*, *New Haven Register*, *Hartford Courant* and *Blue Chip Illustrated* All-American selection.

## PUTTING UP POINTS

The Patriots have scored 38 or more points against Indianapolis in each of the last three times the teams have played. New England has also scored 20 or more points against the Colts in 12 of its last 13 meetings with Indy.

## SERIES SUPERLATIVES

Below is a list of the top individual performances in the series between the Patriots and the Colts:

### Rushing Yards

Patriots: Curtis Martin 35-141-1 TD (11/24/96)  
Colts: Randy McMillan 16-146-2 TDs (9/6/81)

### Passing Yards

Patriots: Steve Grogan 28-46-355, 1 TD, 2 INTs (10/29/89)  
Colts: Bert Jones 19-30-340, 3 TDs, 0 INTs (12/18/77)

### Receiving Yards

Patriots: Stanley Morgan 5-170-1 TD (11/26/78)  
Colts: Roger Carr 6-187-2 TDs (9/18/78)

## HOME SWEET HOME

The Patriots will host their seventh home playoff game in club history this week against the Colts. It is the second time the Patriots have hosted the AFC Championship Game (1996). New England has won five consecutive home playoff games and has not lost at home in the playoffs in more than 25 years, dating back to Dec. 31, 1978. This week's game will mark New England's sixth home playoff game since the 1996 season. Including this week, six of the franchise's seven home playoff games have taken place since Robert Kraft purchased the team 10 years ago.

## PATRIOTS AT HOME IN THE PLAYOFFS (5-1)

Date	Round	Opponent	W/L	Score
01/10/04	AFC Divisional	Tennessee	W	17-14
01/19/02	AFC Divisional	Oakland	W	16-13 ot
12/28/97	AFC Wild Card	Miami	W	17-3
01/12/97	AFC Championship	Jacksonville	W	20-6
01/05/97	AFC Divisional	Pittsburgh	W	28-3
12/31/78	AFC Divisional	Houston	L	14-31

## PASSING PERFORMANCES

Tom Brady and Peyton Manning will lead their offensive teams against each other for the fourth time. Brady has compiled a 3-0 record against the Colts, helping the team put up an average of 40 points per game in games he has started. Brady's first NFL start came against Indianapolis in a 44-13 win on Sept. 30, 2001. Brady recorded the highest passer rating of his career (148.3) against the Colts on Oct. 21, 2001. The Patriots defense has had past success against Peyton Manning and the Colts offense, leading New England to wins in seven of the nine games Manning has started against the Patriots.

### Tom Brady vs. Indianapolis (3-0)

Date	A	C	Yd	%	TD	I	Rating	W/L	Score
09/30/01	23	13	168	.565	0	0	79.6	W	44-13
10/21/01	20	16	202	.800	3	0	148.3	W	38-17
11/30/03	35	26	236	.743	2	2	87.3	W	38-30
<b>Totals</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>.705</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>3-0</b>	

### Peyton Manning vs. New England (2-7)

Date	A	C	Yd	%	TD	I	Rating	W/L	Score
09/13/98	33	21	188	.636	1	3	51.1	L	6-29
11/01/98	52	30	278	.577	2	2	69.5	L	16-21
09/19/99	30	18	223	.600	3	2	88.6	L	28-31
12/12/99	27	15	186	.555	2	0	101.8	W	20-15
10/08/00	54	31	334	.574	1	3	58.7	L	16-24
10/22/00	20	16	268	.800	3	0	158.3	W	30-23
09/30/01	34	20	196	.588	1	3	48.2	L	13-44
10/21/01	34	22	335	.647	1	0	106.9	L	17-38
11/30/03	49	28	278	.571	4	1	92.0	L	30-38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>2286</b>	<b>.604</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>2-7</b>	

## PATRIOTS - COLTS QUICK HITS

- **Patriots RB Antowain Smith** has recorded three 100-yard rushing games against the Colts
- Smith has recorded 10 touchdowns in his 10 career games against the Colts
- **Patriots CB Ty Law** has recorded four interceptions against Peyton Manning and has returned two for touchdowns
- **Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick** is 3-0 against the Colts as the head man in New England and is 5-1 against Indianapolis as a head coach overall.
- Belichick-coached teams are 3-0 against Colts teams led by Peyton Manning.
- **Patriots QB Tom Brady** is 3-0 against the Colts and owns a completion percentage of 70.5 percent in his three games against Indianapolis.



# NOVEMBER 30, 2003: PATRIOTS 38,

## PATRIOTS 38, COLTS 34

November 30, 2003 ★ RCA Dome (Att: 57,102)

	1	2	3	4	Final
New England Patriots	10	14	7	7	— 38
Indianapolis Colts	0	10	14	10	— 34

The Patriots improved to 10-2 on the season with a 38-34 shootout win over the Colts in Indianapolis. In a battle of two 9-2 teams, New England equaled its season-high points output and beat the Colts to claim the lead in the AFC playoffs race. The game was a back-and-forth affair that was decided on a goal-line stand by the New England defense in the contest's final minute.

New England jumped out to a quick start as it used offense, defense and special teams to take a 24-10 halftime lead. Adam Vinatieri got things started with a 43-yard field goal on the Patriots' opening drive to give the Patriots a 3-0 lead 5:56 into the game. The Patriots defense got a turnover on the ensuing Indianapolis possession when Mike Vrabel strip-sacked Peyton Manning and Dan Klecko recovered the loose ball. New England took over at Indianapolis' 36-yard line and promptly drove to the end zone to take a 10-0 lead on a 4-yard run by Michael Cloud. After a three-and-out by the Patriots defense, New England took a 17-0 lead on a 31-yard pass from Tom Brady to Dedric Ward. Indy chipped back to 17-10 after a field goal and an 8-yard touchdown pass from Manning to Marcus Pollard with 18 seconds left in the half. But New England's special teams kept the Colts from taking momentum into the locker room at halftime, as Bethel Johnson returned the ensuing kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown as time expired and the Patriots took a 24-10 lead into the half.

The Patriots extended their lead to 31-10 on another Cloud touchdown jaunt midway through the third quarter before Indianapolis began a furious comeback bid. Brady was intercepted twice in the final six minutes of the third quarter, and the Colts converted both turnovers into touchdowns to close the Patriots' lead to 31-24 heading into the final period. Indy scored a touchdown on its third straight possession to tie the score at 31 with 10:21 left in the game, but Johnson once again came up with a big play, returning the ensuing kickoff 67 yards and putting the Patriots in prime position to reclaim the lead. Four plays later, Brady hit Deion Branch with a 13-yard touchdown pass to give New England a 38-30 lead with 8:36 left in the game. A Kevin Faulk fumble on the Patriots' next possession gave Indy the ball on New England's 11-yard line, but the New England defense forced three straight incomplete passes from Manning as the Colts had to settle for a field goal and a 38-34 Patriots lead with 3:27 left in the game. The Patriots could not move the ball on offense and gave Indy the ball back at the Patriots' 48 with 2:57 left in the game. The Colts drove to the Patriots' 2-yard line and earned a first down with 40 seconds left, needing a touchdown and trailing by four points. The Patriots then came up with one of the biggest goal-line stands in team history, starting by stuffing Edgerrin James at the 1-yard line on first down and holding him to no gain on second down. Manning then threw incomplete to the end zone on third down, setting up a final, game-deciding fourth-down play at the Patriots' 1-yard line. Indy once again gave the ball to James, but Willie McGinest broke into the backfield to stop him for a loss of a yard and send the Patriots back to Foxborough with a historic win.

## TOMMY GUN

Tom Brady completed his first 12 passes of the game, setting a new career-best for accuracy to start a game. Brady's previous best came last season when he connected on his first 10 passes at Buffalo (11/03/02) in a 38-7 New England win. Brady finished his day against the Colts with a .743 completion percentage (26-35), which ranks as his highest completion percentage this season and the third-best completion percentage of his career.

## BETHEL'S BLAZING SPEED

Bethel Johnson returned a kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown as time expired in the first half to extend New England's lead to 24-10 at halftime. Johnson showed his blazing speed as he outran numerous Colts defenders to reach the end zone. It was Johnson's first career kickoff return for a touchdown and the first for the Patriots since Kevin Faulk brought one back against the New York Jets on Dec. 22, 2002. Johnson came up with another huge momentum-stopping return in the fourth quarter right after Indianapolis had tied the game at 31. On that play, he returned the kickoff 67 yards to the Colts' 31-yard line and set up the game-winning touchdown pass from Tom Brady to Deion Branch.

## TOUGH "D" IN RED ZONE

In the last 3:45 of the game, Indianapolis ran 10 plays inside New England's 20-yard line and came up with just three points as the Patriots hung on to win, 38-34. Of those 10 plays, seven produced a gain of one yard or less and nine of the 10 plays began inside the Patriots' 11-yard line. Edgerrin James had three chances to score a touchdown to win the game from inside New England's 2-yard line in the final minute, but was stopped short all three times. On the Colts' previous possession, the Patriots had forced Peyton Manning to throw three straight incomplete passes after Indianapolis had taken over on a fumble at the Patriots' 11-yard line, trailing 38-31 with 3:45 left in the game.

## GOAL-LINE STAND

The Patriots defense hung on to stop a furious charge by the Colts with a goal-line stand in the last minute of the game. Indianapolis trailed by four points, 38-34, but had a first-and-goal from the 2-yard line with 40 seconds left in the game. New England's defense stopped four Colts' bids to reach the end zone and win the game to give the victory to the Patriots. On first down, Tedy Bruschi and Mike Vrabel teamed to stop Edgerrin James for a 1-yard gain. On second-and-goal from the 1-yard line, Bruschi and Rodney Harrison combined to stop James up the middle for no gain. On third down, Indianapolis tried a pass play, but Tyrone Poole's coverage on Indy's Aaron Morehead helped force an incompletion. Then, with the game on the line, Willie McGinest broke through to stop James a yard into the backfield to give New England the ball back and secure the 38-34 win.

## ABLE VRABEL

Mike Vrabel sacked Peyton Manning in the first quarter and forced him to fumble the football. Dan Klecko then recovered the ball at the Colts' 36-yard line to give the Patriots great field position. Vrabel's strip-sack produced his second forced fumble of the season and set the Patriots offense up for an efficient drive that ended in a 4-yard touchdown run by Michael Cloud and a 10-0 Patriots advantage.

## POOLE PICKS 'EM OFF

Tyrone Poole recorded his fourth interception of the season off of Peyton Manning in the third quarter. Poole is tied with Ty Law for the team lead. The Patriots have now recorded at least one interception in each of the last eight games and have recorded a pick in 11 of 12 games this season. Unfortunately, New England turned the ball back over after Poole's pick, marking the first time the Patriots have turned the ball over after one of their 27 takeaways this season.

## AT HOME IN THE DOME

Adam Vinatieri hit a first-quarter field goal and five extra points to maintain his perfect streak at the RCA Dome. In his career, Vinatieri is 11-11 on field goals and 22-22 on PAT tries in Indianapolis.