



## **GAME NOTES**

### **New England Patriots vs. Washington Football Team – August 12, 2021**

#### **PATRIOTS PLAY IN FRONT OF FANS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE THE 2019 POSTSEASON**

The New England Patriots played in front of a crowd at Gillette Stadium for the first time since the 2019 postseason game vs. the Tennessee Titans on Jan. 4, 2020.

#### **PATRIOTS AND WASHINGTON MEET IN THE PRESEASON FOR THE 23<sup>RD</sup> TIME**

The Patriots and Washington met in the preseason for the 23<sup>rd</sup> time, tied with Philadelphia for the second-most preseason meetings to the 29 against the New York Giants. The Eagles and the Giants are the Patriots other preseason opponents in 2021.

#### **PATRIOTS HAVE MORE WINS AGAINST WASHINGTON THAN ANY OTHER PRESEASON OPPONENT**

The Patriots opened the 2021 preseason with a 22-13 victory over Washington. The Patriots now have 15 victories against Washington in the preseason, the most wins against any other preseason opponent. The Patriots have the second-most preseason wins against Philadelphia with 13 victories. The Patriots will travel to Philadelphia for a preseason game next week.

#### **MATT LACOSSE AND DONT'A HIGHTOWER RETURN TO ACTION**

TE Matt LaCrosse and LB Dont'a Hightower returned to play after exercising their reserve/opt-out decision last season.

#### **BROWN, LANGI AND VAN NOY MADE RETURN**

T Trent Brown, LB Harvey Langi and LB Kye Van Noy made their returns to the Patriots. All three of those players had previous stints with the Patriots before leaving to play for another team. Brown started the game at right tackle and Van Noy started at linebacker.

#### **FIVE OF THE EIGHT 2021 DRAFT SELECTIONS MADE THEIR NFL DEBUTS**

Five of the eight draft picks from the 2021 draft class made their NFL debuts. First-round pick QB Mac Jones, third-round pick LB Ronnie Perkins, fourth-round pick RB Rhamondre Stevenson, sixth-round pick Will Sherman and seventh-round pick WR Tre Nixon

#### **NEWTON PLAYED THE FIRST TWO DRIVES FOLLOWED BY JONES AND HOYER**

QB Cam Newton started the game and played the first two drives before 2021 first-round draft pick QB Mac Jones entered the game with 55 seconds to play in the first quarter. Newton finished 4-of-7 for 49 yards. Jones first completion was a 7-yard pass to WR Kristian Wilkerson on the last play of the first quarter. Jones played through the third quarter and finished 13-of-19 for 87 yards. Brian Hoyer finished the game and finished 2-of-4 for 14 yards.

### **ROOKIE K QUINN NORDIN WAS 3-OF-3 IN HIS NFL PRESEASON DEBUT**

Rookie free agent K Quinn Nordin connected on all three of his field goal attempts in his NFL preseason debut. He connected on a 35-yard field goal for his first NFL attempt late in the first quarter. He kicked a 50-yard field goal early in the second quarter and a 40-yard field goal in the third quarter. He was 2-of-5 in four games as a senior with Michigan in 2020.

### **YODNY CAJUSTE SEES FIRST ACTION WITH THE PATRIOTS**

2019 third-round draft pick Yodny Cajuste played in his first game as a member of the Patriots after spending the 2019 season on the reserve/non-football injury list and the 2020 season on injured reserve. Cajuste saw action at right tackle.

### **LINEBACKER BRANDON KING RETURNED TO ACTION**

LB Brandon King played in his first game since suffering an injury in the 2019 preseason that forced him to miss the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

### **SIX PLAYERS ACQUIRED IN THE 2021 OFFSEASON WERE IN THE STARTING LINEUP**

The Patriots had six players that were acquired in the 2021 offseason in the starting lineup. Trent Brown (right tackle) and Jonnu Smith (tight end) started on offense, while Davon Godchaux (defensive line), Matt Judon (linebacker), Kyle Van Noy (linebacker) and Jalen Mills (cornerback) started on defense.

### **JAMES FERENTZ STARTED AT CENTER**

James Ferentz started in place of David Andrews at center. Ferentz has made four career starts with the Patriots in the regular season, including three at center. He started at center in two games in 2020 for New England.

### **CB JOJUAN WILLIAMS PICK LEADS TO PATRIOTS ONLY TOUCHDOWN**

CB Joejuan Williams picked off Washington QB Steven Montez in the fourth quarter and ran 36 yards on the return to the Washington 19-yard line to help set up a 1-yard touchdown run by 2021 fourth-round draft pick RB Rhamondre Stevenson.

### **STEVENSON HAD A 91-YARD TOUCHDOWN RUN; GOES OVER 100 YARDS AND SCORES 2 TDS**

2021 fourth-round draft pick Rhamondre Stevenson had a 91-yard touchdown run with 1:17 to play to seal New England's 22-13 win. The longest run in team history was an 85-yard touchdown run by Larry Garron on Oct. 22, 1961 vs. Buffalo. Stevenson finished the night with 10 carries for 127 yards with two rushing touchdowns and a 12.7-yard average. He also scored on a 1-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter.