



## GAME NOTES

**New England Patriots at Los Angeles Chargers – December 6, 2020**

### TEAM NOTES

- Patriots reach .500 record after a 2-5 start.
- Patriots score on two special teams plays – a punt returned for a TD and a blocked field goal returned for a TD. It marked the third time the Patriots had two special teams scores under Bill Belichick.
- Cam Newton becomes the only NFL quarterback with double-digit rushing touchdowns in three different seasons.
- Newton sets NFL record for most multiple-TD games in a season by a QB with four in 2020.
- Gunner Olszewski scores first NFL touchdown on a 70-yard punt return.
- Olszewski adds his first offensive touchdown on a career-long 38-yard reception.
- J.C. Jackson has 7<sup>th</sup> pick and 9<sup>th</sup> turnover in 2020.

### PATRIOTS REACH .500 RECORD

The Patriots reached a .500 record at 6-6 after a 2-5 start with the 45-0 win over the Chargers. The Patriots lead the NFL with 19 straight seasons of at least a .500 record (2001-19), which is the second-longest in NFL history to the 21 straight seasons of at least a .500 record by Dallas (1965-1985).

### THE PATRIOTS SCORED TWO SPECIAL TEAMS TOUCHDOWNS – THIRD TIME THAT HAS HAPPENED UNDER BILL BELICHICK; FIFTH TIME OVERALL

The Patriots scored two touchdowns on special teams. WR Gunner Olszewski scored on a 70-yard punt returned for a touchdown and then DB Cody Davis blocked a field goal that was returned 44 yards for a touchdown by S Devin McCourty. Both of those plays were in the second quarter. It is the third game under Bill Belichick that the Patriots have scored two times on special teams. The Patriots scored two touchdowns on special teams with a 95-yard kickoff return by WR Cordarrelle Patterson in the second quarter and a 29-yard return of a blocked punt by LB Kyle Van Noy in the third at Chicago on Oct. 21, 2018. On Oct. 4, 2010, at Miami, WR Brandon Tate returned a kickoff 103 yards for a score and CB Kyle Arrington returned a blocked field goal 35 yards for a touchdown. It is the fifth time since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger that the Patriots have had two special teams touchdowns in one game – Nov. 18, 1979, vs. Baltimore and Nov. 23, 1980, vs. Baltimore were the others. It is the second time that the Patriots have scored two special teams touchdowns in one quarter. The Patriots scored two special teams touchdowns in the fourth quarter vs. Baltimore on Nov. 23, 1980.

### **PATRIOTS ARE THE SIXTH TEAM IN NFL HISTORY WITH BOTH A PUNT RETURN TD AND A BLOCKED FIELD GOAL RETURNED FOR A TD IN THE SAME GAME**

The Patriots are the sixth team in NFL history with both a punt return for a touchdown and a blocked field goal returned for a touchdown in the same game and the first since Baltimore in Week 12 of the 2015 season.

### **PATRIOTS RETURNED BLOCKED FIELD GOAL FOR A TOUCHDOWN**

Devin McCourty returned a blocked field goal 44 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. It is the first blocked field goal returned for a touchdown for the Patriots since DB Kyle Arrington returned a blocked field goal 62 yards for a touchdown vs. Miami on Dec. 14, 2014.

### **PATRIOTS NOW HAVE 11 NON-OFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS SINCE THE START OF 2019**

The Patriots now have four non-offensive touchdowns in 2020. The 2020 Patriots recovered one fumble for a touchdown, returned an interception for a touchdown, returned a blocked field goal and returned a punt for a touchdown. The Patriots 11 non-offensive touchdowns since the start of the 2019 season are the most in the NFL during that time. Baltimore is second with 10 non-offensive touchdowns over that span. Last season, the Patriots had seven non-offensive touchdowns. They returned two fumbles, two blocked punts, and three interceptions for touchdowns. The Patriots' record for most non-offensive touchdowns in a season is nine in 2010 and 1961.

### **PATRIOTS EARN 29TH SHUTOUT IN TEAM HISTORY, 12TH UNDER BELICHICK**

The Patriots earned their 29th shutout in franchise history and 12th under Bill Belichick with the 45-0 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers. It is the Patriots' first shutout since a 33-0 win at the New York Jets on Oct. 21, 2019.

### **INDIVIDUAL NOTES**

#### **BELICHICK MOVES PAST TOM LANDRY FOR THIRD-MOST GAMES COACHED**

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick coached in his 455<sup>th</sup> NFL game against the Chargers to move past Tom Landry for the third-most games coached in NFL history, behind the 526 games coached by Don Shula and the 506 games by George Halas.

#### **MOST GAMES AS A HEAD COACH IN NFL HISTORY**

<b><u>Head Coach</u></b>	<b><u>Games</u></b>
Don Shula	526 (490 regular season games and 36 playoff games)
George Halas	506 (497 regular season games and 9 playoff games)
<b>Bill Belichick</b>	<b>455 (412 regular season games and 43 playoff games)</b>
Tom Landry	454 (418 regular season games and 36 playoff games)

#### **BELICHICK REGISTERS FOURTH WIN OF 45 OR MORE POINTS AS A HEAD COACH**

Belichick led the Patriots to a 45-0 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers. It is the fourth time as a head coach that his team has won by 45 or more points. That ties Tom Landry for the most such wins in the Super Bowl era.

### **FIRST NFL QUARTERBACK WITH THREE SEASONS WITH DOUBLE-DIGIT RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**

Cam Newton capped the Patriots' first offensive drive with a 1-yard touchdown run, his 10<sup>th</sup> rushing touchdown of the season. He added a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter for his 11<sup>th</sup> of the season. Newton is the only NFL quarterback with three seasons with double-digit rushing touchdowns in a season. He had an NFL-record of 14 in 2011, 10 in 2015 and now 11 in 2020. The Patriots record for most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a season is 12 by Steve Grogan in 1976.

### **MOST RUSHING TDS IN A SEASON BY A QUARTERBACK**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>Season</u></b>	<b><u>Rushing Touchdowns</u></b>
<b>Cam Newton</b>	<b>Carolina</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>14</b>
Steve Grogan	Patriots	1976	12
Tobin Rote	Green Bay	1956	11
Johnny Lujack	Chicago	1950	11
Kordell Stewart	Steelers	1997	11
<b>Cam Newton</b>	<b>Patriots</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Cam Newton</b>	<b>Carolina</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>10</b>
Kyle Murray	Arizona	2020	10
Billy Kilmer	San Francisco	1961	10
Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota	2002	10

### **NEWTON IS THE 11<sup>TH</sup> PATRIOTS PLAYER TO REACH AT LEAST 10 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**

Newton became the 11<sup>th</sup> Patriots player to reach at least 10 rushing touchdowns.

### **PATRIOTS PLAYERS TO REACH 10 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Rushing Touchdowns</u></b>	<b><u>Season</u></b>
LeGarrette Blount	18	2016
Curtis Martin	14	1996
Curtis Martin	14	1995
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	13	2010
Corey Dillon	13	2006
Steven Ridley	12	2012
Corey Dillon	12	2005
Corey Dillon	12	2004
Antowain Smith	12	2001
Steve Grogan	12	1976
<b>Cam Newton</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2020</b>
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	11	2011
Horace Ivory	11	1978
Jim Nance	11	1966
Tony Collins	10	1983

### **NEWTON EXTENDS NFL RECORD FOR MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS BY A QB**

Newton extended his NFL record to 69 rushing touchdowns, the most by an NFL quarterback, after scoring two rushing touchdowns against the Chargers.

### **Most Rushing Touchdowns by an NFL Quarterback**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Rushing Touchdowns</u></b>
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<b>Cam Newton</b>	<b>69</b>
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Steve Young	43
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Jack Kemp	40
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### **NEWTON SETS NFL RECORD FOR MOST MULTI-TD GAMES IN A SEASON BY QB**

Newton scored multiple rushing touchdowns in a game for the fourth time in 2020, the most in a single season by an NFL quarterback.

### **MOST MULTI-TD RUSHING GAMES BY A QUARTERBACK IN A SINGLE SEASON**

<b><u>Player (Team)</u></b>	<b><u>Multi-Rush TD Games</u></b>	<b><u>Season</u></b>
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<b>Cam Newton (NE)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2020</b>
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Johnny Lujack (CHI)	3	1950
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Steve Grogan (NEP)	3	1976
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Steve McNair (TEN)	3	1997
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Kordell Stewart (PIT)	3	1997
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<b>Cam Newton (CAR)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2011</b>
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### **NEWTON RUSHED FOR AT LEAST TWO TDS IN A GAME FOR THE 10th TIME IN HIS CAREER**

Newton had his 10<sup>th</sup> game with at least two rushing touchdowns, the most in NFL history by an NFL quarterback.

### **Cam Newton 2-TD Rushing Games**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Opponent</u></b>	<b><u>Rushing TDs</u></b>
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12/04/11	at Tampa Bay	3
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<b>12/06/20</b>	<b>at LA Chargers</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>11/01/20</b>	<b>at N.Y. Jets</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>09/20/20</b>	<b>at Seattle</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>09/13/20</b>	<b>vs. Miami</b>	<b>2</b>
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09/23/18	vs. Cincinnati	2
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01/03/16	vs. Tampa Bay	2
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11/26/12	at Philadelphia	2
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11/20/11	at Detroit	2
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10/02/11	at Chicago	2
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## **MOST MULTI-TD RUSHING GAMES BY A QUARTERBACK IN NFL HISTORY**

### **Player Multi-Rush TD Games**

<b>Cam Newton</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Otto Graham .....	7
Jack Kemp.....	7
Steve McNair.....	7
Steve Young .....	7

## **NEWTON EXTENDS ANOTHER NFL RECORD**

Newton extended his NFL record with his 42<sup>nd</sup> career performance with both a rushing and passing touchdown. Steve Young (31), Aaron Rodgers (25) and Frank Tarkenton (24) are next in line.

## **GUNNER OLSZEWSKI SCORES FIRST NFL TOUCHDOWN ON A 70-YARD PUNT RETURN; PATRIOTS FIRST PUNT RETURN FOR A TD SINCE 2014**

WR Gunner Olszewski scored his first NFL touchdown on a 70-yard punt return in the second quarter. It is the first punt return for a touchdown for New England since WR Julian Edelman returned a punt 84 yards vs. Denver on Nov. 2, 2014. Olszewski's return comes on the heels of an 82-yard punt return for a touchdown that was reduced after a penalty to a 58-yard punt return in the win vs. Arizona on Nov. 29.

## **OLSZEWSKI IS THE FIRST PATRIOTS PLAYER WITH TWO 60-YARD PUNT RETURNS IN ONE GAME**

Olszewski added a 61-yard punt return in the fourth quarter, in addition to his 70-yard touchdown return in the second quarter. He is the first player in Patriots history with two punt returns of at least 60 yards in a single game and the first NFL player to do so since Indianapolis RB Nyheim Hines had 84- and 71-yard punt returns for touchdowns vs. Carolina on Dec. 22, 2019.

## **OLSZEWSKI HAS SECOND MOST PUNT RETURN YARDS IN A GAME IN TEAM HISTORY**

Olszewski finished with 145 punt return yards, the second-most ever by a Patriots player in a single game.

### **Most Punt Return Yards in a Game/Patriots**

156 Mike Haynes vs. Buffalo, Nov. 7, 1976

**145 Gunner Olszewski, at LA Chargers, Dec. 6, 2020**

## **OLSZEWSKI RECORDS FIRST TOUCHDOWN RECEPTION**

Olszewski scored his first touchdown reception on a career-long 38-yard pass from QB Jarrett Stidham in the fourth quarter. His previous best was a 29-yard reception vs. the NY Giants on Oct. 10, 2019.

## **DEVIN MCCOURTY SCORES SECOND TOUCHDOWN OF THE 2020 SEASON**

S Devin McCourty returned a blocked field goal 44 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter. It is his second touchdown of the 2020 season. He returned an interception 43 yards for a touchdown at Seattle on Sept. 20.

### **DB CODY DAVIS RECORDS FIRST BLOCKED FIELD GOAL; SECOND BLOCKED KICK OF HIS CAREER**

DB Cody Davis blocked Michael Badgley's 58-yard field goal attempt right before halftime and S Devin McCourty returned it 44 yards for a touchdown. It was Davis' first blocked field goal. He blocked an extra point vs. Houston on Nov. 3, 2019, while with Jacksonville. It also marked the second blocked kick of the 2020 season for the Patriots. DB Justin Bethel blocked an extra point vs. San Francisco on Oct. 25.

### **CHASE WINOVICH RECORDS FIRST CAREER INTERCEPTION**

DL Chase Winovich recorded his first career interception when he picked off Chargers QB Justin Herbert in the third quarter.

### **DONTE MONCRIEF HAS FIRST RUSHING ATTEMPT SINCE 2016**

WR Donte Moncrief converted a key third-and-four play with a 4-yard rush late in the second quarter to give the Patriots a first down at the Chargers 13-yard line. It was his 6<sup>th</sup> career rushing attempt and his first since Oct. 30, 2016, vs. Kansas City when he played for Indianapolis.

### **J.C. JACKSON EYEING TAKEAWAY RECORD UNDER BELICHICK**

J.C. Jackson has recorded seven interceptions and recovered two fumbles for a total of nine takeaways in 2020. CB Asante Samuel (10 interceptions) has the team mark for most takeaways in a single season under head coach Bill Belichick. The all-time Patriots record is held by DB Ron Hall, who recorded 13 takeaways (11 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries) in a single season in 1964.

### **MOST TAKEWAYS IN A SEASON FOR A PATRIOTS PLAYER UNDER BILL BELICHICK**

10 Asante Samuel in 2006 (10 interceptions)

**9 JC Jackson in 2020 (7 interceptions and 2 fumble recoveries)**

8 Kyle Arrington in 2011 (7 interceptions and 1 fumble recovery)

### **NICK FOLK EXTENDS STREAK**

K Nick Folk extended his streak to 20 consecutive field goals with his 32-yard field goal in the fourth quarter. It is the second-longest streak of his career. He made 23 straight field goals in 2013 when he played for the New York Jets.

### **HARRIS IS AVERAGING OVER FIVE YARDS PER CARRY**

RB Damien Harris is averaging 5.1-yards per carry (126 rushing attempts for 641 yards). Four Patriots players have finished a season with at least a 5.0-yard average (minimum 100 attempts).

### **HIGHEST AVERAGE RUSHING GAIN/SEASON (minimum 100 attempts)**

<b><u>Yards per Rush</u></b>	<b><u>Player</u></b>
5.59	Don Calhoun, 1976 (129-721)
5.45	Mosi Tatupu, 1983 (106-578)
5.05	LeGarrette Blount, 2013 (153-772)
5.04	Carl Garrett, 1969 (137-691)

### **JAKE BAILEY'S PUNTING IS NOT ALLOWING RETURNS**

Jake Bailey's punting in 2020 has allowed an NFL-low of 38 punt return yards. The Patriots record for fewest yards allowed on punt returns in a season is 75 in 2007.

### **ADRIAN PHILLIPS TIES A CAREER-HIGH WITH 12 TOTAL TACKLES**

S Adrian Phillips tied a career high with 12 total tackles. He also had 12 tackles at Denver in 2018 and at New England in 2017 while he played for the Chargers. Phillips leads the 2020 Patriots with 82 total tackles, a new single-season high. His previous best was 77 total tackles in 2018 with the Chargers.

### **LINEUP NOTES**

#### **SONY MICHEL GETS FIRST CARRIES SINCE RETURNING TO ACTION**

RB Sony Michel had his first rushing attempts since returning from injured reserve. He finished the game with 10 rushing attempts for 35 yards.

#### **DALTON KEENE RETURNS TO ACTION**

TE Dalton Keene returned to action after missing three games while on injured reserve.