



## GAME NOTES

New England Patriots vs. Los Angeles Chargers– October 29, 2017

### TEAM NOTES

#### **PATRIOTS ARE THE BEST IN THE FIRST HALF SINCE 2000**

The New England Patriots are an NFL best 97-38 in the first half of the season since Bill Belichick took over as head coach in 2000. New England closed out the first half of 2017 and head into the bye with a 6-2 record.

#### **MOST FIRST HALF WINS SINCE 2000**

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.719</b>
Denver Broncos	85	49	0	.634
Indianapolis Colts	81	50	0	.618
Green Bay Packers	80	50	0	.615
Pittsburgh Steelers	78	51	0	.605
New York Giants	77	55	0	.583

#### **PATRIOTS START 6-2 OR BETTER FOR 16<sup>th</sup> TIME IN TEAM HISTORY**

The Patriots are off to a 6-2 record or better for the 16<sup>th</sup> time in team history and for the fifth straight season. Under Bill Belichick, the Patriots have started the season with a 6-2 record or better 11 times. (1974, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017).

#### **PATRIOTS RECORD FIRST SAFETY OF THE SEASON;**

#### **PATS RECORD NFL'S FIRST SAFETY ON A PUNT RETURN SINCE 2003;**

#### **PATRIOTS FIRST SPECIAL TEAMS SAFETY SINCE 1979**

S Brandon King tackled Chargers PR Travis Benjamin in the end zone on a punt return for a safety in the second quarter. It was the Patriots first safety since DL Malcom Brown tackled Kenneth Dixon in the end zone for a safety vs. Baltimore on Dec. 12, 2016. In 2016, the Patriots had two safeties. LB Dont'a Hightower sacked QB Andy Dalton in the end zone for a safety vs. Cincinnati (10/16/16). The Patriots recorded the NFL's first safety on a punt return since the New Orleans Saints recorded a safety on a punt at Tennessee on Sept. 21, 2003. It was the Patriots first special teams safety since Dec. 9, 1979, when the Jets fumbled a snap on a punt out of the end zone.

### **PATRIOTS SCORE IN FINAL MINUTE OF THE HALF FOR SIXTH TIME IN 2017**

The Patriots scored in the final minute of the half for the sixth time in 2017, including the fifth straight game.

#### **FINAL MINUTE SCORING**

13-yard TD pass from Tom Brady with 13 seconds to play at New Orleans (9/17/17)

58-yard field goal with no time remaining vs. Carolina (10/1/17)

23-yard field goal with 40 seconds to play at Tampa Bay (10/5/17)

2-yard TD pass from Tom Brady to Rob Gronkowski with 9 seconds play at NY Jets (10/15/17)

2-yard TD pass from Tom Brady to James White with 21 seconds to play vs. Atl. (10/22/17)

36-yard field goal with 24 seconds to play vs. LA Chargers (10/29/17)

### **PATRIOTS RUNNING BACKS ACCOUNT FOR 14 RECEPTIONS**

The Patriots running backs accounted for 14 receptions with Rex Burkhead (7), James White (5), and Dion Lewis (2). Burkhead had seven receptions for 68 yards, and White had five receptions for 85 yards.

## **INDIVIDUAL NOTES**

### **INCHING CLOSER TO PASSING LANDRY**

Bill Belichick won his 269th overall game as a head coach and now needs one more wins to tie Tom Landry (270) for third place all-time, behind George Halas (324) and Don Shula (347).

### **BRADY GOES OVER 300 YARDS FOR FIFTH TIME IN 2017**

Tom Brady threw for over 300 yards for the fifth time in 2017 after throwing for 333 yards against the Chargers. Brady had five games of 300 or more yards in 2016. Brady's record is 11 games of 300 or more yards in 2011. It was his 81<sup>st</sup> 300-yard game. The Patriots are 67-14 when Brady throws for 300 yards.

#### **Most 300-yard Games in NFL History**

Drew Brees 108

Peyton Manning 93

**Tom Brady 81**

Dan Marino 63

### **BRADY HAS 30 COMPLETIONS IN FOUR GAMES IN 2017**

Tom Brady completed 32 passes against the Chargers. It marks his fourth game in 2017 with 30 completions and his 34<sup>th</sup> game overall, which is third in NFL history. Brady had 30 completions at New Orleans, 32 completions vs. Carolina and 30 completions at Tampa Bay in addition to the Chargers game.

#### **Most games with 30 or more completions**

Drew Brees 57

Peyton Manning 39

**Tom Brady 33**

Brett Favre 25

### **BRADY ON PACE FOR SECOND 5,000-YARD SEASON**

Tom Brady has 2,541 yards passing through the first eight games of the 2017 season and is on pace to finish with 5,082 yards. Brady owns one of the nine 5,000-yard passing seasons in NFL history and can join Drew Brees (5) as the only player with more than one 5,000-yard season.

### **MOST PASSING YARDS IN A SEASON**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Yards</u></b>
Peyton Manning (2013)	5,477
Drew Brees (2011)	5,476
<b>Tom Brady (2011)</b>	<b>5,235</b>
Drew Brees (2016)	5,208
Drew Brees (2012)	5,177
Drew Brees (2013)	5,162
Dan Marino (1984)	5,084
Drew Brees (2008)	5,069
Matthew Stafford (2011)	5,038

### **RB DION LEWIS HAS REGULAR SEASON HIGH WITH A 71-YD KICKOFF RETURN**

RB Dion Lewis opened the second half with a 71-yard kickoff return. It is his longest in a regular season game. He scored on a 98-yard kickoff return in the AFC Divisional Playoff win vs. Houston on Jan. 14, 2017. His previous best in a regular season game was a 33-yarder vs. Arizona (11/13/11) and at Tampa Bay (12/9/12) while with Philadelphia.

### **RB REX BURKHEAD SETS CAREER HIGHS**

RB Rex Burkhead sets career highs with seven receptions for 68 yards. His previous best in receiving yards was the 41 yards he had at New Orleans (9/17/17) and previous best in receptions was four twice in 2016 while with Cincinnati.

### **JAMES WHITE ON HISTORIC PACE**

RB James White had five receptions for 85 yards. He now has 43 receptions for the year and is on pace to finish the season with 86 receptions. Eight NFL running backs have had 90 or more receptions in a season. The Patriots record for most reception by a running back is 77 by Tony Collins in 1986.

### **Most Receptions in a Season by an NFL Running Back**

Matt Forte (2014 with Chicago)	102
Larry Centers (1995 with Arizona)	101
LaDainian Tomlinson (2002 with SD)	100
Larry Centers (1996 with Arizona)	99
Roger Craig (19985 with SF)	92
Charlie Garner (2002 with Oakland)	91
Steven Jackson (2006 with St. Louis)	90
Brian Westbrook (2007 with Philadelphia)	90

### **DB JONATHAN JONES RECORDS FIRST NFL INTERCEPTION**

DB Jonathan Jones intercepted Chargers QB Philip Rivers with one second to play and the Chargers on the New England 23-yard line to preserve the 21-13 victory. It marks his first NFL interception.

### **BRADY AND GRONK CONNECTIONS**

TE Rob Gronkowski and QB Tom Brady have now connected on 72 touchdown passes after a two-yard score in the second quarter, the second most touchdown connections between a quarterback and tight end in NFL history and tied for the fifth-most connections all-time.

### **THE MOST TD CONNECTIONS BETWEEN A QB AND A TE IN NFL HISTORY**

<b><u>Quarterback</u></b>	<b><u>Tight End</u></b>	<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>TD Connections</u></b>
Philip Rivers	Antonio Gates	San Diego	85
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>72</b>
Drew Brees	Jimmy Graham	New Orleans	51
Drew Bledsoe	Ben Coates	New England	45
Peyton Manning	Dallas Clark	Indianapolis	44
Sonny Jurgensen	Jerry Smith	Washington	43
Dan Fouts	Kellen Winslow	San Diego	41
John Elway	Shannon Sharpe	Denver	41
Ben Roethlisberger	Heath Miller	Pittsburgh	41

### **BRADY TO GRONK - 5TH PLACE ALL-TIME**

<b><u>Quarterback</u></b>	<b><u>Receiver</u></b>	<b><u>Touchdown Connections</u></b>
Peyton Manning	Marvin Harrison	112
Steve Young	Jerry Rice	85
Philip Rivers	Antonio Gates	85
Dan Marino	Mark Clayton	79
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>72</b>
Drew Brees	Marques Colston	72
Peyton Manning	Reggie Wayne	67
Jim Kelly	Andre Reed	65
Aaron Rogers	Jordy Nelson	65
Johnny Unitas	Raymond Berry	63
Brett Favre	Antonio Freeman	57

### **GRONK MOVES INTO PATRIOTS TOP FIVE FOR SCRING**

TE Rob Gronkowski scored on a 2-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter and moved past Tony Franklin into fifth place on the Patriots all-time list with 444 total points.

#### **Most Points in Patriots History**

1.Stephen Gostkowski	1,537
2.Adam Vinatieri	1,158
3.Gino Cappelletti	1,130
4.John Smith	692
<b>5.Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>444</b>
6.Tony Franklin	442

### **GRONKOWSKI NEARING TOP 10**

TE Rob Gronkowski had 57 yards and pushed his career total to 6,604 to move past Heath Miller (6,569) into 11<sup>th</sup> place all time for NFL tight ends.

#### **PLAYER RECEIVING YARDS**

1) Tony Gonzalez	15,127
2) Jason Witten	12,117
3) Antonio Gates	11,307
4) Shannon Sharpe	10,060
5) Ozzie Newsome	7,980
6) Jackie Smith	7,918
7) Pete Retzlaff	7,412
8) Greg Olsen	7,412
9) Kellen Winslow	6,741
10) Vernon Davis	6,716
<b>11) Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>6,604</b>
12) Heath Miller	6,569

### **GRONKOWSKI ON PACE FOR FOURTH 1,000-YARD SEASON**

TE Rob Gronkowski now has 509 receiving yards and is on pace to finish the year with 1,018 yards. It would be his fourth 1,000-yard season and he would join Tony Gonzalez and Jason Witten as the only NFL tight ends with four 1,000 yard seasons.

# **LINEUP NOTES**

## **LB ELANDON ROBERTS RETURNS TO ACTION**

LB Elandon Roberts returned to action after missing a game due to injury and started at linebacker. He finished with six total tackles.

## **DL ALAN BRANCH MAKES SECOND START OF THE SEASON**

DL Alan Branch made his second start of the NFL season and his first since the season-opener vs. Kansas City on Sept. 7

## **LB TREVOR REILLY MADE HIS DEBUT IN A PATRIOTS UNIFORM**

LB Trevor Reilly made his debut in a Patriots uniform after being signed from the practice squad early in the week. He saw action on special teams and on defense.