



## GAME NOTES

**New England Patriots vs. New York Jets– December 31, 2017**

### TEAM NOTES

- Patriots earn top seed in the AFC playoff field for seventh time.
- Patriots win 13 games for seventh time in team history.
- Patriots hold opponents under 20 points for 12<sup>th</sup> time since 2001.

### PATRIOTS EARN TOP SEED IN AFC PLAYOFF FIELD

The Patriots have now earned seven No. 1 seeds (2017, 2016, 2014, 2011, 2010, 2007 and 2003) in the postseason since 1990, the most in the NFL under that system. The NFL began playoff seeding in 1975 and the current playoff format was instituted in 1990.

### MOST NO. 1 SEEDS IN THE PLAYOFF FIELD

(Since 1990)

<b>New England</b>	<b>7</b>
Denver	5
Dallas	4
Philadelphia	4
Pittsburgh	4
San Francisco	4

### MOST NO. 1 SEEDS OVERALL

(Since 1975)

San Francisco	8
Denver	8
<b>New England</b>	<b>7</b>
Pittsburgh	6
Dallas	6
Oakland	5

### **PATRIOTS WIN 13 GAMES FOR SEVENTH TIME IN TEAM HISTORY**

The win over the Jets was the Patriots 13<sup>th</sup> win of the season. The Patriots have now won 13 or games in a season seven times, second most in NFL history.

#### **Patriots 13-Win Seasons**

2003-14-2

2004-14-2

2007-16-0

2010-14-2

2011-13-3

2016- 14-2

**2017 -13-3**

#### **Most Seasons with 13 or More Wins**

<b>Team</b>	<b>13 or more win seasons</b>
San Francisco	9
<b>New England</b>	<b>7</b>
Denver	6
Chicago	5
Green Bay	5
Indianapolis	5

#### **DEFENSE HOLDS UNDER 20 FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> TIME SINCE 2001**

The Patriots defense allowed just 18.5 points per game in 2017, marking the 12<sup>th</sup> season since 2001 that the team kept opponents under 20 points per game, the most in the NFL over that span.

#### **SEASONS ALLOWING 20 POINTS PER GAME OR FEWER SINCE 2001**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>New England</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2001, 2003-04, 2006-10, 2014-17</b>
Pittsburgh	11	2001, 2004-08, 2010-12, 2015, 2017
*Baltimore	10	2001, 2003-06, 2008-11, 2014
Miami	8	2001-03, 2005-06, 2008, 2011-12
Seattle	8	2005, 2007, 2011-16

\*Baltimore can reach 11 seasons today.

#### **PATRIOTS DEFENSE HOLDS JETS TO 0-12 ON THIRD DOWN**

The Patriots defense held the Jets to 0-for-12 on third down. The Jets did convert on a fourth down attempt in the fourth quarter. The last time the Patriots held a team without a third-down conversion was on Oct. 5, 2014, vs. Cincinnati, when the Bengals were 0-for-7 on third down and 0-for-1 on fourth down.

### **PATRIOTS DEFENSE HOLDS THE RUSHERS**

The 2017 Patriots allowed just six rushing touchdowns, tied for the second fewest in team history. The 2016 Patriots also allowed just six rushing touchdowns. The Tennessee Titans entered this week by allowing just five rushing touchdowns.

### **Fewest Rushing Touchdowns Allowed by the Patriots in a Season**

5 - 1991

**6 – 2017, 2016, 2014, 2009 and 1999**

7 - 2007, 2001, 1966

8 - 2015, 2008, 1998, 1977

### **PATRIOTS WITH BALL SECURITY**

The 2017 Patriots had just 12 turnovers (eight interceptions and four fumbles). It is the third fewest turnovers in a season by the Patriots behind the 10 in 2010 and the 11 in 2016. Kansas City entered the final week with just seven turnovers.

### **FEWEST GIVEAWAYS IN 16-GAME SEASON**

2011	San Francisco	10
2010	New England	10
2016	New England	11
2016	Atlanta	11
<b>2017</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>12</b>
2016	Buffalo	12
2014	Green Bay	13
2014	New England	13
2008	Miami	13
2008	New York Giants	13

### **COLDEST REGULAR SEASON GAME IN PATRIOTS HISTORY**

Today's temperature was 13 degrees at kickoff, marking the coldest regular-season game at Gillette Stadium. The previous coldest regular-season game was Dec. 11, 1977, when it was 14 degrees in a 14-10 win vs. Miami. The coldest game ever in Patriots history was four degrees with a wind chill of -10 vs. Tennessee in a playoff game on Jan. 10, 2004, a 17-14 New England win. Since 1970, the Patriots have played eight games when the temperature has been below 20 degrees. The Patriots are 7-1 in those games.

### **PATRIOTS SCORE IN FINAL MINUTE OF THE FIRST HALF FOR 11TH TIME IN 2017**

The Patriots scored in the final minute of the half for the 11th time in the 2017 season, when QB Tom Brady connected with RB Dion Lewis on a 5-yard touchdown pass with 20 seconds to play in the first half.

### **FINAL MINUTE SCORING IN THE FIRST HALF**

13-yard TD pass 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 with nine seconds play at NY Jets (10/15/17)

2-yard TD pass with 21 seconds to play vs. Atlanta (10/22/17)

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

11-yard TD pass with 25 seconds to play at Denver (11/12/17)

62-yard field goal with no time remaining at Oakland (11/19/17)

39-yard field goal with 15 seconds to play at Buffalo (12/3/17)

46-yard field goal with two seconds to play at Miami (12/11/17)

5-yard TD with 20 seconds to play vs. NY Jets (12/31/17)

### **2018 OPPONENTS DETERMINED**

The Patriots 2018 opponents have been determined. In addition to playing each of the other AFC East opponents twice, the Patriots will play one game against each of the AFC South and NFC North teams. As the first-place team in the AFC East, the Patriots will play the first-place team of the AFC West (Kansas City) and AFC North (Pittsburgh).

**Home:** Buffalo, Miami., NY Jets, Green Bay, Houston, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Minnesota

**Away:** Buffalo, Miami., NY Jets, Chicago, Detroit, Jacksonville, Pittsburgh, Tennessee

### **INDIVIDUAL NOTES**

#### **BELICHICK FIRST IN NFL HISTORY WITH 13-PLUS WINS IN SEVEN DIFFERENT SEASONS**

Bill Belichick is the first head coach in NFL history with 13 or more wins in seven different seasons.

George Seifert is next with four seasons with at least 13 win seasons.

2003-14-2

2004-14-2

2007-16-0

2010-14-2

2011-13-3

2016-13-2

**2017-13-3**

### **BELICHICK TIES LANDRY FOR MOST REGULAR SEASON WINS**

Bill Belichick now has 250 regular season wins to tie Tom Landry for third all-time, behind Don Shula (328) and George Halas (318).

<b>Head Coach</b>	<b>Teams</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>
Don Shula	Colts/Dolphins	328	156	6
George Halas	Bears	318	148	6
<b>Bill Belichick</b>	<b>Browns/Patriots</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>0</b>
Tom Landry	Cowboys	250	162	6
Curly Lambeau	Packers/Cardinals/Redskins	226	132	22

### **BRADY LEADING THE NFL IN PASSING YARDS**

Tom Brady entered the final week of the season leading in passing yards. He added 190 yards against the Jets to finish with 4,577 yards. If that holds it will be his third season leading the league in passing yards. He led with 4,110 yards in 2005 and 4,806 yards in 2007.

### **BRADY WILL BE THE OLDEST QB TO EVER LEAD THE NFL IN PASSING YARDS**

If Brady leads the NFL with 4,577 passing yards at the age of 40 then he will be the oldest quarterback to ever lead the NFL in passing yards. The current record is Fran Tarkenton with 3,468 yards at the age of 38 in 1978 with Minnesota.

### **BRADY IS GOOD AT 40**

Brady already has the most passing yards (4,577) and the most wins in a single season by a quarterback at the age of 40, and his 13 wins overall at the age of 40 are now tied with Brett Favre for the most wins by a quarterback overall at the age of 40.

### **MOST REGULAR SEASON WINS BY A QUARTERBACK AT THE AGE OF 40**

<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>13</b>
Brett Favre	13
Warren Moon	11

### **BRADY CLIMBS THE PASSING CHART**

Brady finished the 2017 season with 4,577 yards, his fifth-best season.

### **PATRIOTS TOP PASSING YARDS/SEASON**

<b><u>Yards</u></b>	<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Year</u></b>
5,235	Tom Brady	2011
4,827	Tom Brady	2012
4,806	Tom Brady	2007
4,770	Tom Brady	2015
<b>4,577</b>	<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>2017</b>
4,555	Drew Bledsoe	1994
4,398	Tom Brady	2009
4,343	Tom Brady	2013
4,110	Tom Brady	2005
4,109	Tom Brady	2014
4,086	Drew Bledsoe	1996

### **BRADY FINISHED WITH 4TH STRAIGHT SEASON WITH 3,000 PASS YARDS AND FEWER THAN 10 INTS.**

Tom Brady finished with his fourth straight season with at least 3,000 passing yards and fewer than 10 interceptions after finishing with 4,577 passing yards and eight interceptions.

### **QBS with the most consecutive seasons with 3,000 passing yards and fewer than 10 ints.**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Seasons</u></b>	<b><u>Consec. seasons with 3,000 yards and fewer than 10 ints.</u></b>
Alex Smith, Kansas City	2013-16	4*
<b>Tom Brady, Patriots</b>	<b>2014-17</b>	<b>4*</b>
Aaron Rodgers, GB	2014-16	3
Russell Wilson, Seattle	2013-15	3

\*active streak

### **BRADY NEARING THE TOP FOR MOST WINS AMONG ALL NFL PLAYERS**

Tom Brady has the most wins by an NFL quarterback with 221 overall career wins. His 221 wins are the second-most wins all-time by an NFL player, behind the 225 wins by Adam Vinatieri.

### **MOST WINS BY AN NFL PLAYER (INCLUDING POSTSEASON GAMES)**

#### **(GAMES PLAYED)**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Wins</u></b>
Adam Vinatieri	225
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>221</b>
George Blanda	218
Jerry Rice	211
Gary Anderson	210
Peyton Manning	201
Brett Favre	201
Morten Andersen	194

### **GRONKOWSKI LEADS ALL TIGHT ENDS IN RECEIVING YARDS FOR FOURTH TIME**

Rob Gronkowski finished first among all tight ends with 1,084 receiving yards. It is the fourth time that he has led all tight ends in receiving yards. He led with 1,327 yards in 2011, 1,124 yards in 2014 and 1,176 yards in 2015. Only two tight ends have led in receiving yards at the position more than four times – Ton Gonzalez (7) and Shannon Sharpe (5).

### **GOSTKOWSKI TIES FOR HIS SECOND BEST POINT TOTAL**

K Stephen Gostkowski is the first NFL player with five 150 point seasons. His 156 total points in 2017 are tied for the second most in his career to the 158 total points he had in 2013.

### **Patriots Record for Most Points in a Season**

158	Stephen Gostkowski, 2013
<b>156</b>	<b>Stephen Gostkowski, 2017</b>
156	Stephen Gostkowski, 2014
155	Gino Cappelletti, 1964 (includes 7 TDs)
153	Stephen Gostkowski, 2012
151	Stephen Gostkowski, 2015
148	Stephen Gostkowski, 2008
147	Gino Cappelletti, 1961

### **NFL Record for Most Points by a Kicker**

166	David Akers (SF) in 2011
164	Gary Anderson (MIN) in 1998
163	Jeff Wilkins (STL) in 2003
161	Mark Moseley (WAS) in 1983
158	Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2013
158	Matt Bryant (ATL) in 2016
158	Greg Zuerlein (LAR) in 2017
157	Mike Vanderjagt (Indianapolis) in 2003
<b>156</b>	<b>Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2017</b>
156	Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2014
153	Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2012
151	Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2015

### GOSTKOWSKI TIES NFL MARK WITH FIFTH SEASON AT 90 PERCENT IN FIELD GOALS

Gostkowski made 92.5 (37-of-40) percent of his field goals in 2017. He tied Adam Vinatieri (2002, 2004, 2010, 2014 and 2015) for the most seasons at 90 percent on field goals with five.

### PATRIOTS BEST FIELD GOAL PCT./SEASON

(Minimum 30 Attempts)

<u>Player</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>FGM</u>	<u>FGA</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
Stephen Gostkowski	2014	35	37	.946
Adam Vinatieri	2004	31	33	.939
Stephen Gostkowski	2013	38	41	.927
<b>Stephen Gostkowski</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>.925</b>
Stephen Gostkowski	2015	33	36	.917
Stephen Gostkowski	2008	36	40	.900
Adam Vinatieri	2002	27	30	.900

### GOSTKOWSKI HAS SECOND-MOST FIELD GOALS IN A SEASON

Gostkowski finished with 37 field goals in 2017. He set a Patriots franchise record with 38 field goals in 2013 and now owns the top six field goal seasons in team history.

### MOST FIELD GOALS MADE IN A SEASON/PATRIOTS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Field Goals</u>	<u>Year</u>
Stephen Gostkowski	38	2013
<b>Stephen Gostkowski</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2017</b>
Stephen Gostkowski	36	2008
Stephen Gostkowski	35	2014
Stephen Gostkowski	33	2017
Stephen Gostkowski	33	2015
Tony Franklin	32	1986
Adam Vinatieri	31	2004
Adam Vinatieri	31	1998



### **LEWIS SCORES TWO TDS FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WEEK**

RB Dion Lewis scored on a 3-yard run in the first quarter and a 5-yard pass in the second quarter for his second straight week scoring two touchdowns. He had a rushing touchdown and a receiving touchdown in the fourth quarter vs. Buffalo the previous week. It is his third game overall with two touchdowns. In addition to the Buffalo game and the Jets game, he scored a rushing touchdown, a receiving touchdown and a kickoff return for touchdown in the AFC Divisional Playoff game vs. Houston on Jan. 14, 2017.

### **ERIC LEE CREDITED WITH FIRST CAREER SAFETY**

DL Eric lee sacked Jets QB Bryce Petty in the end zone for a sack in the fourth quarter.

### **LB MARQUIS FLOWERS ADDS ANOTHER SACK**

A week after registering his first NFL sacks with 2 ½ against Buffalo, LB Marquis Flowers added an 8-yard sack in the second quarter against the Jets.

### **LB JAMES HARRISON RECORDS TWO SACKS**

LB James Harrison played in his first game with the Patriots and recorded two sacks on the Jets final drive. It marks his 18<sup>th</sup> game with at least two sacks.

### **LINEUP NOTES**

- **LB James Harrison** played in his first game as a member of the Patriots.
- **LB Kyle Van Noy** returned to action and the starting lineup after missing the last three games due to injury.