



## GAME NOTES

**New England Patriots vs. Buffalo Bills – December 21, 2019**

### TEAM NOTES

- Patriots win 11<sup>th</sup> straight AFC East title; 19<sup>th</sup> AFC East title during Robert Kraft ownership and 17<sup>th</sup> AFC East title during Bill Belichick's and Tom Brady's tenure.
- Patriots win 12 games for 13<sup>th</sup> time
- Julian Edelman now has the most receptions from Tom Brady

### PATRIOTS WIN AFC EAST FOR THE 19<sup>TH</sup> TIME UNDER KRAFT

The Patriots claimed the AFC East Division title for the 11th consecutive season and for the 19th time under Robert Kraft.

### DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS SINCE 1994

<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>19</b>
Pittsburgh Steelers	13
Green Bay Packers	12
Indianapolis Colts	10

### PATRIOTS EXTEND NFL RECORD TO 11 STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLES

The Patriots extended their NFL record to 11 straight division titles, the longest streak in NFL history. They join the Atlanta Braves (14) as the only franchises from the NFL, NBA, MLB or NHL to win at least 10 straight division titles. The New York Yankees (1998-06), Colorado Avalanche (1995-03), LA Lakers (1982-90) and Boston Celtics (1957-65) are the teams from the other major four sports that have streaks of nine straight titles.

### MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES

<u>Team</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Titles</u>	<u>Years</u>
<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>AFC East</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2009-19</b>
Los Angeles Rams	NFC West	7	1973-79
Pittsburgh Steelers	AFC Central	6	1974-79
Minnesota Vikings	NFC Central	6	1973-78
Dallas Cowboys	NFL Capitol/NFC East	6	1966-71
Cleveland Browns	American/Eastern Conf.	6	1950-55
<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>AFC East</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2003-07</b>
Denver Broncos	AFC West	5	2011-15
Indianapolis Colts	AFC South	5	2003-07
Dallas Cowboys	NFC East	5	1992-96
San Francisco 49ers	NFC West	5	1986-90
Chicago Bears	NFC Central	5	1984-88
Oakland Raiders	AFC West	5	1972-76

**PATRIOTS HAVE MOST DIVISION TITLES SINCE REALIGNMENT**

The New England Patriots have won 16 division titles and have 16 playoff berths since realignment in 2002, the most in the NFL.

**MOST DIVISION TITLES SINCE 2002 REALIGNMENT**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Division Titles</b>	<b>Playoff Berths</b>
<b>New England</b> .....	<b>16</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Green Bay.....	9.....	13
Indianapolis.....	9.....	12
Seattle .....	8.....	12
Pittsburgh .....	8.....	11
Philadelphia .....	7.....	9

**PATRIOTS REACH 12 WINS FOR 13<sup>TH</sup> TIME;**

**TIED WITH SAN FRANCISCO FOR THE MOST 12-WIN SEASONS SINCE THE MERGER**

The Patriots are tied with San Francisco with 13 12-win seasons since 1970.

**12-WIN SEASONS SINCE 1970 MERGER**

<b>1t. New England</b>	<b>13</b>
1t. San Francisco	13
3. Dallas	12
4. Denver	11
5. Pittsburgh	10
6. Indianapolis	8

**THE PATRIOTS DEFENSE HAS ALLOWED JUST 18 TOUCHDOWNS IN 2019**

The Patriots defense has allowed 18 touchdowns in 2019 (6 rushing and 12 passing). The fewest rush/pass TDs allowed in a season since 1970 is 10 in 1970 by the Minnesota Vikings. In a 16-game schedule, the fewest touchdowns allowed by a defense are the 16 by the 1986 Chicago Bears and the 16 by the 2000 Baltimore Ravens. The fewest the Patriots have allowed in a 16-game season is 21 by the 2006 team. In a 16-game schedule, 19 defenses have let up 20 or fewer touchdowns. The last team to do it was the 2013 Seattle Seahawks with 20 touchdowns allowed

**DEFENSE HAD FOUR SACKS AGAINST BUFFALO AND HAS 45 FOR THE SEASON**

The Patriots defense finished with four sacks and now has 45 sacks in 2019. The Patriots record for most sacks under Bill Belichick is 49 in 2015.

**PATRIOTS HAVE HELD OPPONENTS SCORELESS IN 30 QUARTERS;**

**WITH ONE GAME TO GO THE PATRIOTS ARE GUARANTEED TO SET NFL MARK**

The Patriots have held teams scoreless in 30-of-60 quarters in 2019. The most scoreless quarters by a defense since 1970 is 40 by the Baltimore Ravens in 2000. The Patriots are guaranteed to break that record with one game to go.

### **PATRIOTS EXTEND STREAK TO 24 STRAIGHT GAMES WITHOUT ALLOWING A 300-YARD PASSER**

The Patriots extended their streak to 24 straight games without allowing a 300-yard passer. It is the longest current streak in the NFL. The last team to go 24-plus games without allowing a 300-yard passer was Denver from 2016-18. It is the longest streak by the Patriots since a 31-game streak from 1981-83. The last time the Patriots allowed a 300-yard passer was Oct. 21, 2018 at Chicago when Mitchell Trubisky passed for 333 yards.

### **PATRIOTS EARN THIRD STRAIGHT SERIES SWEEP OF BUFFALO**

The Patriots earned their third straight series sweep of Buffalo, 27<sup>th</sup> series sweep overall and the 15<sup>th</sup> series sweep under Bill Belichick.

### **PATRIOTS AVOID A TWO-GAME LOSING STREAK AT HOME**

With the victory, the Patriots avoided a two-game losing streak at home. The Patriots have gone 103 straight home games, including the playoffs without a two-game losing streak. The next closest streak in NFL history is 88 games by the Miami Dolphins (1976-88).

### **INDIVIDUAL NOTES**

#### **BELICHICK EXTENDS NFL RECORD TO 11 STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLES**

Bill Belichick extended his NFL record to 11 straight division titles. Paul Brown (1950-55), Tom Landry (1966-71), Bud Grant (1973-78) and Chuck Noll (1974-79) are next on the list after leading their teams to six straight titles.

#### **NFL COACHES WITH THE MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES**

<b><u>Head Coach</u></b>	<b><u>Teams</u></b>	<b><u>Consecutive Division Titles</u></b>
<b>Bill Belichick</b>	<b>Patriots</b>	<b>11 (2009-2019)</b>
Paul Brown	Cleveland	6 (1950-1955)
Tom Landry	Dallas	6 (1966-1971)
Bud Grant	Minnesota	6 (1973-1978)
Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh	6 (1974-1979)

#### **BELICHICK EXTENDS HIS NFL RECORD TO 17 DIVISION TITLES**

Belichick guided the Patriots to the AFC East title in 2019. It is his 17<sup>th</sup> division title as a head coach, the most by a head coach since the 1970 merger. Don Shula is second with 11 division titles since the merger. Overall, Belichick's 17 division titles are the most in NFL history among NFL head coaches. Shula and Tom Landry are second with 13 titles.

### **BELICHICK WINS 12 FOR 13<sup>TH</sup> TIME**

Belichick added to his NFL record with his 13th 12-win season. Don Shula is second with eight. Belichick owns the record with eight consecutive 12 win seasons (2010-17). Tony Dungy (2003-08) and Tom Landry (1976-81) are second with six straight 12-win seasons.

### **NFL HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST 12-WIN SEASONS**

<b><u>Head Coach</u></b>	<b><u>Team(s)</u></b>	<b><u>12-win Seasons</u></b>
<b>Bill Belichick</b>	<b>NE</b>	<b>13</b>
Don Shula	BAL, MIA	8
Tony Dungy	IND	6
Tom Landry	DAL	6
Marty Schottenheimer	CLE, KC, SD	5
Andy Reid	PHI, KC	5
George Seifert	SF, Car	5

### **BRADY EXTENDS RECORD TO 11 STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLES; WINS 17<sup>TH</sup> DIVISION TITLE OVERALL**

Tom Brady extended his NFL record by leading the Patriots to their 11th straight division title in 2019.

### **NFL RECORD FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES BY A STARTING QB**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>Consecutive Division Titles</u></b>
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>Patriots</b>	<b>11 (2009-2019)</b>
Terry Bradshaw	Steelers	6 (1974-1979)
Fran Tarkenton	Vikings	6 (1973-1978)

### **NFL RECORD FOR MOST DIVISION TITLES**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Career Division Titles</u></b>
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>17</b>
Peyton Manning	12
Joe Montana	9
Brett Favre	8
Terry Bradshaw	7
John Elway	7

### **BRADY IS TIED WITH PEYTON MANNING FOR SECOND-MOST REGULAR SEASON TD PASSES**

Brady, who is already the all-time leader in total (regular season and postseason) touchdowns with 612, added one against Buffalo and is tied with Peyton Manning (539) for second-place, behind the 541 touchdown passes by Drew Brees.

### **Most Career Touchdown Passes (Regular Season)**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Touchdowns</u></b>
Drew Brees	541
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>539</b>
Peyton Manning	539
Brett Favre	508
Dan Marino	420

### **BRADY WINS 12 FOR 13TH TIME**

Since entering the NFL in 2000, Tom Brady's teams have reached 12 regular-season wins in 13 different seasons, the most by a starting quarterback in NFL history.

### **STARTING QBS WITH THE MOST 12-WIN REGULAR SEASONS IN NFL HISTORY**

<b><u>PLAYER</u></b>	<b><u>SEASONS</u></b>
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>13</b>
Peyton Manning	11
Brett Favre	6
John Elway	4
Jim Kelly	4

### **BRADY IS GOOD AGAINST BUFFALO**

Brady's 32 wins against Buffalo are most ever by a quarterback against a single team. Buffalo is 0-16 as the road team when Brady starts and finishes a game, including 0-15 at Gillette Stadium. Brady only played in the first half on Dec. 28, 2014 in the regular-season finale vs. Buffalo, a 17-9 Bills win at Gillette Stadium after the Patriots had already wrapped up the AFC East title.

### **MOST WINS BY A STARTING QUARTERBACK AGAINST AN OPPONENT (REGULAR SEASON ONLY)**

**Tom Brady .....32 wins against Buffalo**  
**Tom Brady .....29 wins against N.Y. Jets**  
Brett Favre ..... 26 wins against Detroit  
**Tom Brady .....23 wins against Miami**  
Brett Favre .....23 wins against Chicago  
Ben Roethlisberger 23 wins against Cincinnati

### **EXTENDS MARK FOR MOST TD TARGETS BY A QB**

Brady has thrown a touchdown pass to 76 different players in the regular season, extending his record for most touchdown targets by an NFL quarterback after an 8-yard touchdown pass to TE Matt LaCosse in the first quarter.

### **Most Touchdown Targets by an NFL Quarterback**

<b><u>QUARTERBACK</u></b>	<b><u>TD TARGETS</u></b>
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>76</b>
Vinny Testaverde	70
Steve DeBerg	62
Brett Favre	61

### **WR JULIAN EDELMAN HAS MOST RECEPTIONS FROM TOM BRADY**

WR Julian Edelman caught a 7-yard pass from Tom Brady in the first series to move out of a tie with Wes Welker (563) for the most receptions from Brady. He now has 568 receptions from Brady.

### **TOP TARGETS FROM TOM BRADY**

<b><u>PLAYER</u></b>	<b><u>RECEPTIONS</u></b>
Julian Edelman	568
Wes Welker	563
Rob Gronkowski	516

### **RB REX BURKHEAD SETS SINGLE-GAME HIGH FOR RECEIVING YARDS**

RB Rex Burkhead set a single-game career-high in receiving yards with 77 yards on 4 receptions. His previous best was 68 receiving yards vs. L.A. Chargers on Oct. 29, 2017.

### **TE MATT LACOSSE CHAS FIRST TD PASS AS A PATRIOT; SECOND CAREER TOUCHDOWN PASS**

TE Matt LaCrosse caught an 8-yard touchdown pass from Tom Brady in the first quarter for his first touchdown pass as a member of the Patriots. It was his second career touchdown. He caught a 10-yard touchdown pass vs. Pittsburgh on Nov. 25, 2018 when he played for Denver.

### **NICK FOLK CONNECTS ON A 51-YARD FIELD GOAL;**

### **LONGEST FIELD GOAL OF THE YEAR FOR THE PATRIOTS**

Nick Folk connected on a 51-yard field goal in the third quarter, the longest field goal for the Patriots in 2019. The previous long was a 46-yard field goal by Folk at Cincinnati on Dec. 15. Folk finished 3-for-3 on field goal attempts, connecting on a 36, 51 and 20-yard field goal. He has made 25 field goals of 50 or more yards in his career.

### **HIGHTOWER HAS SECOND MULTI-SACK GAME OF THE 2019 SEASON; 4<sup>TH</sup> OVERALL**

LB Dont'a Hightower finished with 1 ½ sacks against Buffalo. It is the fourth multi-sack game of his career, and the second of the 2019 season. He also had 1 ½ sacks on Oct. 6, 2019 at Washington.

### **LINEUP NOTES**

- Jason McCourty returned to action after missing a game due to injury.