



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Pittsburgh Steelers– October 23, 2016

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS OFF TO A HOT START ONCE AGAIN

The Patriots have started the season with at least six wins in their first seven games for the eighth time in team history and for the sixth time under head coach Bill Belichick after the 27-16 win over Pittsburgh pushed the Patriots to a 6-1 start. The Patriots started the season 6-1 in 1974, 1980, 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2016. In 2007, New England started the season 7-0 and in 2015 the Patriots started the season 10-0.

PATRIOTS ARE BEST ROAD TEAM SINCE 1994

Since the start of the 1994 season when Robert Kraft purchased the team, the Patriots have the best regular-season road record in the NFL. The Patriots are 3-0 in 2016 on the road.

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
New England	109-70	.609
Pittsburgh	97-82	.542
Indianapolis	95-85	.519
Green Bay	93-85	.522

PATRIOTS START SEASON SEVEN STRAIGHT GAMES WITH NO INTS.

The Patriots have yet to throw an interception in 2016 through the first seven games, setting a team mark to start a season. The old mark was in 2015 when the Patriots did not throw a pick in the first four games. The overall team record for most consecutive games without an interception is eight straight games, set in the second half of the 2010 season. The NFL record to start a season without an interception is nine games set by Cleveland in 1960. The Patriots join the 2008 Washington Redskins (8) and 1960 Browns (9) as the only teams with no interceptions through first seven games to start a season.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

GRONK TIES STANLEY MORGAN FOR ALL-TIME TOUCHDOWN RECORD

TE Rob Gronkowski tied Stanley Morgan for the most touchdowns overall and most touchdown receptions in team history with his 36-yard score in the third quarter. He is now tied with Stanley Morgan with 68 total touchdowns and 67 touchdown receptions.

MOST CAREER TOUCHDOWNS BY A PATRIOTS PLAYER

<u>Player</u>	<u>Touchdowns</u>
1t. Rob Gronkowski	68 (67, rec, 1 rush)
1t. Stanley Morgan	68 (67 rec, 1 ret)
3. Ben Coates	50
4. Randy Moss	50
5. Sam Cunningham	49
6. Jim Nance	46
7. Tony Collins	44

MOST TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS BY A PATRIOTS PLAYER

<u>Player</u>	<u>Touchdowns</u>
1t. Rob Gronkowski	67
1t. Stanley Morgan	67
3. Ben Coates	50
3. Randy Moss	50

MOST RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS BY A PATRIOTS TIGHT END

<u>Player</u>	<u>TD</u>	<u>Years</u>
Rob Gronkowski	67	2010-Present
Ben Coates	50	1991-99
Russ Francis	28	1975-80, 87-88
Ben Watson	20	2004-09

GRONKOWSKI TO BRADY SHINES AGAIN

The 36-yard touchdown pass from Tom Brady to Rob Gronkowski is the 66th touchdown connection between the two, the second most between a quarterback and a tight end in NFL history. The two are now in sole possession of seventh place all-time, breaking a tie with Jim Kelly and Andre Reed.

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

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Tight End</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>TD Connections</u>
Philip Rivers	Antonio Gates	San Diego	79
Tom Brady	Rob Gronkowski	New England	66
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 - 7TH PLACE ALL-TIME

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Receiver</u>	<u>Touchdown Connections</u>
Peyton Manning	Marvin Harrison	112
Steve Young	Jerry Rice	85
Dan Marino	Mark Clayton	79
Philip Rivers	Antonio Gates	79
Drew Brees	Marques Colston	72
Peyton Manning	Reggie Wayne	67
Tom Brady	Rob Gronkowski	66
Jim Kelly	Andre Reed	65
Johnny Unitas	Raymond Berry	63
Brett Favre	Antonio Freeman	57

GRONK MOVES INTO 14TH PLACE IN RECEIVING YARDS AMONG TIGHT ENDS

Gronkowski entered the game in 16th place among NFL tight ends with 5,837 career yards and had 93 yards receiving to move past Todd Heap (5,869) and Todd Christensen (5,872) into 14th place all-time with 5,930 receiving yards. Vernon Davis is in 13th place with 6,064 receiving yards.

BRADY INCHING CLOSER TO BECOMING THE ALL-TIME WINNINGEST

QUARTERBACK

Brady won his 197th game overall, and needs four more wins to become the NFL's all-time leader.

MOST CAREER WINS BY AN NFL QUARTERBACK

(REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON)

<u>Quarterback</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Wins</u>
Peyton Manning	IND/DEN	200 (186 reg. season/14 postseason)
Brett Favre	ATL/GB/NYJ/MIN	199 (186 reg. season/13 postseason)
Tom Brady	NE	197 (175 reg. season/22 postseason)
John Elway	DEN	162 (148 reg. season/14 postseason)

BLOUNT SETS CAREER HIGH WITH EIGHT RUSHING TDS IN 2016

RB LeGarrette Blount scored on a 3-yard touchdown run in the second quarter for his seventh rushing touchdown of the season to match his career single-season high. He scored on a 5-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter for his career-high eighth rushing touchdown of the season. His previous best was his seven rushing touchdowns in 2013 with the Patriots. He is on pace to finish the season with 18 rushing touchdowns. The Patriots record for most rushing touchdowns in a season is 14 by Curtis Martin in 1996 and 1995.

BLOUNT HAS THIRD 100-YARD GAME OF 2016

13TH 100-YARD GAME OF HIS CAREER

Blount had his third 100-yard game of the 2016 season after finishing with 127 yards rushing on 24 carries for a 5.3-yard average. It is his third 100-yard rushing game of the 2016 season and the 13th 100-yard game of his career. He had 123 yards rushing vs. Miami (9/18/16) and 105 yards rushing vs. Houston (9/22/16).

BLOUNT SCORES TWICE; SECOND TWO-TD DAY OF 2016

Blount scored on a 3-yard run and a 5-yard run for his second two-touchdown day of the 2016 and his eighth game of his career with two or more rushing touchdowns. He also scored two rushing touchdowns vs. Houston on Sept. 22, 2016. His career-best is three rushing touchdowns vs. Jacksonville on Sept. 27, 2015.

CB MALCOLM BUTLER RECORDS FIRST INT. OF THE 2016 SEASON

CB Malcolm Butler picked off a QB Landry Jones pass in the end zone in the first quarter to end a Pittsburgh scoring threat. In 2015, Butler had two interceptions.

S PATRICK CHUNG LEADS TEAM WITH 10 TACKLES

S Patrick Chung led the team with 10 total tackles. It marked his eighth career game with 10 or more tackles.

LINEUP NOTES

LB JAMIE COLLINS RETURNS TO ACTION

LB Jamie Collins returned to the starting lineup after missing the previous game with an injury. He finished with eight total tackles.

RB BRANDON BOLDEN RETURNS

RB Brandon Bolden returned to action after missing the previous two games due to injury.

ANTHONY JOHNSON MAKES FIRST NFL START

DL Anthony Johnson made his first NFL start.

DB ERIC ROWE MADE HIS START WITH THE PATRIOTS

DB Eric Rowe made his first start as a member of the Patriots at cornerback in place of Logan Ryan.

LB SHEA MCCLELLIN RETURNS TO ACTION

LB Shea McClellin returned to action after missing the last two games due to injury.