



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Denver Broncos– December 18, 2016

TEAM NOTES

PATS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT FOR 18th TIME IN KRAFT'S 23 YEARS OF OWNERSHIP

New England has now qualified for the playoffs 24 times in its 57-year history. The Patriots have earned 18 playoff berths in the 23 seasons since Robert Kraft purchased the team in 1994, a dramatic contrast to the six total playoff berths that the team earned in its first 34 years of existence.

PLAYOFF SEASONS SINCE 1994

New England Patriots 18

Green Bay Packers17
Indianapolis Colts.....16
Pittsburgh Steelers.....14
Denver Broncos12
Philadelphia Eagles12
Seattle Seahawks.....12

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS SINCE 1994

The Patriots claimed the AFC East Division title for the eighth consecutive season and for the 16th time under Robert Kraft.

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS SINCE 1994

New England Patriots 16

Pittsburgh Steelers 11
Green Bay Packers 11
Indianapolis Colts 10

PATRIOTS SET NFL MARK WITH 8TH STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLE

The Patriots became the first NFL team ever to win eight straight division titles.

MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES

Team	Division	Titles	Years
New England Patriots	AFC East	8	2009-16
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

PATRIOTS WIN 18TH DIVISION TITLE SINCE THE 1970 MERGER

The Patriots won their 18th division title since the NFL merger in 1970, the third-most during that time frame.

MOST DIVISION TITLES SINCE THE 1970 MERGER

Team	Titles
Pittsburgh	21
San Francisco	19
New England	18
Dallas	18
Minnesota	17

PATRIOTS NOW SET TO PLAY IN A POSTSEASON GAME FOR 8TH STRAIGHT YEAR

The Patriots are now set to participate in a postseason game for the eighth straight seasons and can become the seventh team in NFL history to play in a postseason game in at least eight consecutive seasons in 2016.

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS, PARTICIPATING IN A POSTSEASON GAME

9	Dallas (1975-83) Indianapolis (2002-10)
8	New England Patriots (2009-16) Dallas (1966-73) Pittsburgh (1972-79) LA Rams (1973-1980) San Francisco (1983-1990)
7	Houston (1987-93) San Francisco (1992-98) Green Bay Packers (2009-15)

WRAPPING IT UP.

The Patriots clinched the division with the 16-3 win at Denver.

PATRIOTS DIVISION-CLINCHING GAMES

Year	Date Clinched	Opp.	Score	Record	2nd Place
2016	12/18/16	at DEN	16-3	???	???
2015	12/13/15	at HOU	27-6	12-4	NYJ (10-6)
2014	12/14/14	MIA	41-13	12-4	BUF (9-7)
2013	12/15/13	at BAL	41-7	12-4	NYJ (8-8)
2012	12/02/12	at MIA	23-16	12-4	MIA (7-9)
2011	12/18/11	at DEN	41-23	13-3	NYJ (8-8)
2010	12/26/10	at BUF	34-3	14-2	NYJ (11-5)
2009	12/27/09	JAX	35-7	10-6	NYJ (9-7)
2007	11/25/07	PHI	31-28	16-0	BUF (7-9)
2006	12/24/06	at JAX	24-21	12-4	NYJ (10-6)
2005	12/17/05	TB	28-0	10-6	MIA (9-7)
2004	12/12/04	CIN	35-28	14-2	NYJ (10-6)
2003	12/07/03	MIA	12-0	14-2	MIA (10-6)
2001	01/06/02@	at CAR	38-6	11-5	MIA (11-5)
1997	12/22/97@	at MIA	14-12	10-6	MIA (9-7)
1996	12/15/96	at DAL	6-12	11-5	BUF (10-6)
1986	12/22/86@	at MIA	34-27	11-5	NYJ (10-6)
1978	12/10/78	BUF	26-24	11-5	MIA (11-5)
1963	12/28/63*	at BUF	26-8	7-6-1	BUF (7-6-1)

@Season Finale *Division-deciding playoff in Buffalo, NY

PATRIOTS IN THE PLAYOFFS

New England has qualified for the playoffs 24 times in its 57-year history. Eighteen of those playoff berths have come in the 23 seasons since Robert Kraft purchased the team in 1994

PATRIOTS PLAYOFF SEASONS (24)

Year	How Qualified	Seed	Record	Result
2016	Division Champions	???	???	????
2015	Division Champions	2	1-0	AFC Championship Game
2014	Division Champions	1	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
2013	Division Champions	2	1-1	AFC Championship Game
2012	Division Champions	2	1-1	AFC Championship Game
2011	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2010	Division Champions	1	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
2009	Division Champions	3	0-1	Wild Card Round
2007	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2006	Division Champions	4	2-1	AFC Championship Game
2005	Division Champions	4	1-1	AFC Divisional Round
2004	Division Champions	2	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
2003	Division Champions	1	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
2001	Division Champions	2	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
1998	Wild Card	6	0-1	Wild Card Round
1997	Division Champions	3	1-1	AFC Divisional Round
1996	Division Champions	2	2-1	AFC Champions
1994	Wild Card	5	0-1	Wild Card Round
1986	Division Champions	3	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1985	Wild Card	5	3-1	AFC Champions
1982*	16-Team Format	7	0-1	First Round
1978	Division Champions	2	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1976	Wild Card	4	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1963	Division Champions	--	1-1	AFL Championship Game

*-Strike Year

29-18 Record

PATRIOTS EARN FIRST ROUND BYE FOR SEVENTH STRAIGHT SEASON

The Patriots earned a first round bye for the seventh straight season, adding to their NFL record. Dallas and San Francisco earned four straight byes from 1992 through 1995 and Denver earned four straight from 2012-15.

The Patriots lead the NFL with 12 first-round byes since the current NFL playoff format was instituted in 1990.

MOST SEASONS EARNING A BYE SINCE 12-TEAM PLAYOFF FORMAT IN 1990

New England 12

Denver	8
Pittsburgh	8
San Francisco	8

MOST FIRST ROUND BYES SINCE 2001

New England 11

Denver	5
Chicago	4
Pittsburgh	4
Atlanta	3
Indianapolis	3
Philadelphia	3

PATRIOTS WIN 12 GAMES FOR THE 7TH STRAIGHT SEASON TO TIE NFL MARK WIN 11 FOR THE 11TH TIME IN TEAM HISTORY.

The Patriots have won at least 12 games 11 times in team history, including seven straight from 2010-16. San Francisco owns the NFL record with thirteen 12-win seasons since the NFL merger. The Patriots are now tied with Indianapolis for the most consecutive 12-win seasons with seven straight.

CONSECUTIVE 12-WIN SEASONS SINCE 1970 MERGER

New England Patriots	7 (2010-16)
Indianapolis Colts	7 (2003-09)
Dallas Cowboys	4 (1992-95)

12-WIN SEASONS SINCE 1970 MERGER

1. San Francisco	13
2t. New England	11
2t. Dallas	11
2t. Denver	11
5. Pittsburgh	9
6. Indianapolis	8

PATRIOTS PROVE TO BE GOOD ON THE ROAD; IMPROVE TO 7-0 ON THE ROAD IN 2016

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 with a 113-70 (.628). The 2016 Patriots are now 7-0 on the road. The only season the Patriots went undefeated on the road was in 2008 with an 8-0 record. The Patriots were 7-1 on the road in 2006 and in 1986

STINGY DEFENSE

The Patriots defense has 10 seasons holding opponents under 20 points per game since 2001, including in each of the last two seasons. The 2016 Patriots have allowed just 16.6 points per game. The Patriots defense has held its opponent under 20 points in nine games in 2016. The Patriots held their opponents under 20 points 11 times in 2001 and 2006, the most under Bill Belichick.

SEASONS ALLOWING 20 POINTS PER GAME OR FEWER SINCE 2001

Team	Seasons	Years
New England	10	2001, 2003-04, 2006-10, 2014-15
Baltimore	10	2001, 2003-06, 2008-11, 2014
Pittsburgh	10	2001, 2004-08, 2010-12, 2015
Miami	8	2001-03, 2005-06, 2008, 2011-12

**PATRIOTS HAVE THROWN JUST TWO INTERCEPTIONS IN 2016;
LOWEST MARK EVER THROUGH THE FIRST 14 GAMES A SEASON**

The 2016 Patriots have thrown just two interception in 2016 through the first 15 weeks of the 2016 season, the fewest interceptions thrown by any team though the first 15 weeks of the season since the 1970 merger. Prior to the Patriots, the fewest interceptions through the first 15 weeks of the season was the 1993 Dallas Cowboys with three interceptions.

PATRIOTS NEARING RECORD FOR LEAST AMOUNT OF INTERCEPTIONS

The Patriots have thrown just two interceptions in 2016. The NFL record for fewest interceptions thrown in a season by an NFL team since the 1970 merger is five. The Patriots had just five passes intercepted in 2010, tying the NFL mark for fewest interceptions in a single season. New England attempted 507 passes in 2010, with just five resulting in interceptions. The Patriots are the only team of that group to have only five interceptions with over 500 pass attempts.

FEWEST INTERCEPTIONS IN A SEASON

Year	Team	Int.	Pass Attempts
2010	New England	5	507
2011	San Francisco	5	451
1990	Kansas City	5	449
1990	NY Giants	5	398
1966	Green Bay	5	318
1960	Cleveland	5	264

**GAME TIME TEMEPERATURE WAS 18 DEGREES;
THIRD COLDEST SINCE 1993**

The game time temperature was 18 degrees, the coldest game since the Patriots 41-27 win at Pittsburgh on Jan. 23, 2005 in the AFC Championship Game, which was 11 degrees. It is the coldest regular season game for the Patriots since a 19 degree game vs. Indianapolis on Dec. 26, 1993. The Patriots coldest game since 1993 was 4 degrees on Jan. 10, 2004 in a playoff win vs. Tennessee.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

BELICHICK SETS THE MARK FOR MOST DIVISION TITLES WITH HIS 14TH TITLE

Bill Belichick guided the Patriots to the AFC East title in 2016 for his 14th title overall. Overall, Belichicks 14 division titles are the most ever by an NFL coach. Don Shula and Tom Landry each had 13 overall. Belichick's 14 division titles are the most by a head coach since the 1970 merger. Don Shula is second with 11 division titles since the merger.

BELICHICK EXTENDS RECORD TO EIGHT STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLES

Bill Belichick extended his NFL record to eight consecutive division titles. Paul Brown (1950-55), Tom Landry (1966-71), Bud Grant (1973-78) and Chuck Noll (1974-79) led their teams to six straight titles.

NFL COACHES WITH THE MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES

Head Coach Teams Consecutive Division Titles

Bill Belichick Patriots 8 (2009-2016)

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 ADDS TO HIS RECORD WITH HIS 11TH 12-WIN SEASON

Bill Belichick owns the NFL record among head coaches with 11 seasons of 12 or more wins. Belichick has led the Patriots to an NFL record seven straight 12-win seasons. Tony Dungy had six straight 12 win seasons.

NFL HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST 12-WIN SEASONS

Head Coach Team(s) 12-win Seasons

Bill Belichick NE 11

Don Shula BAL, MIA 8

Tony Dungy IND 6

Tom Landry DAL 6

Marty Schottenheimer CLE, KC, SD 5

George Seifert SF 5

BELICHICK NEARING 200 REGULAR SEASON WINS WITH THE PATRIOTS

Bill Belichick now has 199 career regular season wins with the Patriots and is one win away from joining

NFL Head Coaches with the Most wins with one team

George Halas (Chicago) – 318-148

Don Shula (Miami) – 257-133-2

Tom Landry (Dallas) - 250-162

Curly Lambeau (Green Bay) – 209-104-21

Bill Belichick (Patriots) – 199-71

Chuck Noll (Pittsburgh) – 193-148-1

**BRADY EXTENDS HIS RECORD TO EIGHT STRAIGHT DIVISION TITLES;
WINS NFL-LEADING 14TH DIVISION TITLE**

Tom Brady extended his NFL record by leading the Patriots to their eighth straight division title.

NFL RECORD FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE DIVISION TITLES BY A STARTING QB

Player	Team	Consecutive Division Titles
Tom Brady	Patriots	8 (2009-2016)
Terry Bradshaw	Steelers	6 (1974-1979)
Fran Tarkenton	Vikings	6 (1973-1978)

NFL RECORD FOR MOST DIVISION TITLES

Player	Career Division Titles
Tom Brady	14
Peyton Manning	12
Joe Montana	9
Brett Favre	8
Terry Bradshaw	7
John Elway	7

TOM BRADY WINS 12....AGAIN

Since entering the NFL in 2000, Tom Brady's teams have reached 12 regular-season wins in 11 different seasons, to tie Peyton Manning for the most 12-win seasons.

STARTING QB'S WITH THE MOST 12-WIN REGULAR SEASONS IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASONS
Tom Brady	11
Peyton Manning	11
Brett Favre	6
John Elway	4
Jim Kelly	4

BRADY IS BIG IN DECEMBER

Tom Brady is 53-10 (.841) in December, the second-best winning percentage in December among quarterbacks in the Super Bowl era. Roger Staubach is first (17-3, .850). Among active quarterbacks, Cam Newton is second with a 18-4 record (.818). Brady has 53 wins in December, which is one more than the 52 by Brett Favre for the most among all NFL quarterbacks. Manning is next with 49 wins.

BRADY HAS THROWN JUST ONE INTERCEPTION

Tom Brady has thrown just two interceptions in 372 pass attempts in 2016. Brady's lowest interception total during his career was in 2010 when he threw just four interceptions.

NFL INTERCEPTION PERCENTAGE (150 MIN ATTEMPTS)

Rank	Player	Int. Pct.
1.	Damon Huard (KC) 2006 (244-1)	0.41
2.	Josh McCown (CHI) 2013 (224-1)	0.45
3.	David Garrard (JAC) 2005 (168-1)	0.60
4.	Nick Foles (PHI) 2013 (317-2)	0.63
5.	Joe Ferguson (BUF) 1976 (151-1)	0.66
6.	Tom Brady (NE) 2010 (492-4)	0.81
7.	Steve DeBerg (KC) 1990 (444-4)	0.90

BLOUNT SETS TEAM RECORD FOR MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWN IN A SEASON

RB LeGarrette Blount set the franchise record with his 15th rushing touchdown of the season on a 1-yard run in the second quarter. He had been tied with Curtis Martin with 14 rushing touchdowns. Martin had 14 rushing touchdowns in 1996 and 1995.

MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS/SEASON IN PATRIOTS HISTORY

15 LeGarrette Blount, 2016

- 14 Curtis Martin, 1996
- 14 Curtis Martin, 1995
- 13 BenJarvus Green-Ellis, 2010
- 13 Corey Dillon, 2006
- 12 Stevan Ridley, 2012
- 12 Corey Dillon, 2005
- 12 Corey Dillon, 2004
- 12 Antowain Smith, 2001
- 12 Steve Grogan, 1976
- 11 BenJarvis Green-Ellis, 2011
- 11 Horace Ivory, 1978
- 11 Jim Nance, 1966
- 10 Tony Collins, 1983

Patriots record for most overall touchdowns in a season

- 23 Randy Moss, 2007 (23 receiving)
- 18 Rob Gronkowski, 2011 (17 receiving and 1 rushing)
- 17 Curtis Martin, 1996 (14 rushing and 3 receiving)
- 15 LeGarrette Blount, 2016 (15 rushing)**
- 15 Curtis Martin, 1995 (14 rushing and 1 receiving)

BRADY REACHES 3000 YARDS

Tom Brady (3,064) once again reached 3,000 yards in 2016 for his 14th 3,000-yard season. He entered the game needing 124 yards to reach the milestone and reached it on a 16-yard pass to RB James White in the third quarter.

NFL RECORD FOR MOST 3,000-YARD SEASONS

- 18 Brett Favre
- 16 Peyton Manning
- 14 Tom Brady**
- 14 Drew Brees
- 13 Dan Marino
- 12 John Elway

RB DION LEWIS SETS CAREER HIGHS

RB Dion Lewis set a career-best after finishing with 18 rushing attempts for 95 yards. His previous best was 15 rushing attempts for 69 yards rushing on Sept. 10, 2015 vs. Pittsburgh.

NATE EBNER SPECIAL TEAMS TAKLES – TIED FOR NFL LEAD

DB Nate Ebner has a team-leading 16 special teams tackles in 2016, which is tied for the NFL lead with Miami's Mike Hull and Michael Thomas. He has had 10 or more tackles in each of his five NFL seasons, including a career-high 17 specials teams tackles as a rookie in 2012.

EDELMAN NEARING 100 RECEPTIONS

WR Julian Edelman had 6 receptions to push his 2016 totals to 85 receptions. He needs to average 7.5 receptions over the final two games to record his second career 100-catch season. In 2013, Edelman finished with 105 receptions.

DL TREY FLOWERS HAS THIRD TWO-SACK GAME OF 2016

DL Trey Flowers recorded two sacks for the third time in 2016. He had two sacks in back-to-back games at Buffalo (10/30) and vs. Seattle (11/13).

CB LOGAN RYAN HAS FIRST INTERCEPTION OF 2016

CB Logan Ryan intercepted a Denver pass and returned 46 yards for his first pick of the 2016 season.

LINEUP NOTES

ROOKIE JONATHAN JONES MAKES FIRST NFL START

Rookie DB Jonathan Jones made his first NFL start in the Patriots nickel defense.

LB SHEA MCCLELLIN LINED UP AS A WIDE RECEIVER

LB Shea McClellin lined up as a wide receiver for one play in the first quarter.

ERIC ROWE RETURNS TO ACTION

DB Eric Rowe returned to action after missing the previous game due to injury.