



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Miami Dolphins– January 1, 2017

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS EARN TOP SEED IN AFC PLAYOFF FIELD

The Patriots have now earned six number one seeds (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)

New England	6
Denver	5
Dallas	4
Pittsburgh	4
San Francisco	4

MOST NO. 1 SEEDS OVERALL

(Since 1975)

San Francisco	8
Denver	8
New England	6
Pittsburgh	6
Dallas	6
Oakland	5

PATRIOTS WIN 14 GAMES FOR FIFTH TIME IN TEAM HISTORY

The win over the Miami was the Patriots 14th win of the season. The Patriots have now won 14 or games in a season five times, the most in NFL history.

Patriots 14-Win Seasons

2003-14-2

2004-14-2

2007-16-0

2010-14-2

2016- 14-2

Most Seasons with 14 or More Wins

Team 14 or more win seasons

New England **5**

San Francisco 4

Chicago 2

Indianapolis 2

Miami 2

Pittsburgh 2

Washington 2

STINGY DEFENSE

The Patriots defense has 11 seasons holding opponents under 20 points per game since 2001, including in each of the last three seasons. The 2016 Patriots have allowed just 15.6 points per game, the best in the NFL. The only other time the Patriots have led the NFL in this category was in 2003 when they finished by allowing just 14.9 points per game.

The Patriots defense has held its opponent under 20 points in 11 games in 2016, tied for the most under Bill Belichick. The Patriots held their opponents under 20 points 11 times in 2001 and 2006.

SEASONS ALLOWING 20 POINTS PER GAME OR FEWER SINCE 2001

Team Seasons Years

New England **11** **2001, 2003-04, 2006-10, 2014-16**

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

The Patriots have Allowed an NFL-low 250 points in 2016

Fewest Points Allowed by the Patriots in a Season

157 - 1982 (9 games)

217 - 1977

236 - 1976

237 - 2006

238 - 2003

250 - 2016

257 - 1963

260 - 2004

272- 2001

274 - 2007

ROAD WARRIORS

The 2016 Patriots finished 8-0 on the road for the second time in team history with the win at Miami. The only other season the Patriots went undefeated on the road was in 2008 with an 8-0 record. The Patriots join San Francisco (3 times) as the only NFL team with two 8-0 undefeated road seasons.

NFL TEAMS THAT HAVE FINISHED WITH AN 8-0 ROAD RECORD

Team	Year
New England	2016
Dallas	2014
New England	2007
St. Louis	2001
San Francisco	1990
San Francisco	1989
San Francisco	1984

DIVISIONAL DOMINANCE

The New England Patriots own a 76-22 (.775) record in regular-season AFC East games since the beginning of the 2001 season, compiling the best intra-division record of any team in the NFL.

NFL'S TOP DIVISIONAL RECORDS SINCE 2001

Team	W	L	T	Pct.
New England	76	22	0	.775
Indianapolis	69	28	0	.711
Green Bay	68	28	1	.708
Pittsburgh	68	31	0	.684

AFC EAST DIVISIONAL RECORDS SINCE 2001

Team	W	L	T	Pct.	Div. Titles	Years
New England	76	22	0	.775	14	2001, 03-07, 09-16
N.Y. Jets	45	53	0	.459	1	2002
Miami	41	57	0	.418	1	2008
Buffalo	35	63	0	.357	0	---

PATRIOTS SET NFL MARK WITH JUST TWO INTERCEPTIONS IN 2016;

The Patriots set an NFL record by throwing just two interceptions in 2016. The previous NFL record for fewest interceptions thrown in a season by an NFL team since the 1970 merger was five. The 2016 Patriots had just two interceptions on 550 pass attempts. The 2016 Dallas Cowboys and Minnesota Vikings entered the final week with just four interceptions.

FEWEST INTERCEPTIONS IN A SEASON

Year	Team	Int.	Pass Attempts
2016	New England	2	550
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

PATRIOTS HAVE THE BEST TD/INT. PERCENTAGE IN NFL HISTORY

The 2016 Patriots threw 32 touchdowns and had just two interceptions for an NFL record TD/INT. percentage of 16.0

Best Touchdown to Interception percentage in a single season

Year	Team	TDs	INT.	TD/INT Percentage
2016	Patriots	32	2	16.00
2010	Patriots	37	5	7.40
2011	Green Bay	51	8	6.38
2014	Green Bay	38	6	6.33
2016	Dallas	24	4	6.00
2007	Patriots	50	9	5.56

2017 OPPONENTS DETERMINED

The Patriots 2017 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 West and NFC South teams. As the first-place team in the AFC East, the Patriots will play the first-place team of the AFC South (Houston) and AFC North (Pittsburgh).

Home: Buffalo, Miami., NY Jets, Atlanta, Carolina, Houston, Kansas City, San Diego,

Away: Buffalo, Miami., NY Jets, Denver, New Orleans, Oakland, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

BILL BELICHICK LEADS THE PATRIOTS TO 14 AGAIN

Bill Belichick guided the Patriots to a 14-2 record in 2016. It is his the fifth time that he has coached a team to 14 wins, most in NFL history by a head coach.

Most 14 win Season by a Head Coach

Bill Belichick 5 (2003, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2016)

George Seifert	3
Joe Gibbs	2
Mike Ditka	2
Don Shula	2

BRADY MOVES PAST MARINO INTO FOURTH PLACE FOR MOST PASSING YARDS

Tom Brady moved past Dan Marino into fourth place on the NFL's all-time passing yards list on a 6-yard pass to WR Chris Hogan in the first quarter. He entered the Miami game needing 56 yards to pass Marino.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Passing yards</u>
1. Peyton Manning	71,940
2. Brett Favre	71,838
3. Drew Brees	65,761
4. Tom Brady	61,582
5. Dan Marino	61,361
6. John Elway	51,475
7. Warren Moon	49,325
8 .Eli Manning	48,034
9. Fran Tarkenton	47,003
10. Ben Roethlisberger	46,814

BRADY HAD JUST TWO INTERCEPTIONS IN 2016

Tom Brady threw just two interceptions in 432 pass attempts in 2016.

NFL INTERCEPTION PERCENTAGE (150 MIN ATTEMPTS)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Int. Pct.</u>
1.	Brian Hoyer (CHI) 2016 (200-0)	0.00
2.	Damon Huard (KC) 2006 (244-1)	0.41
3.	Josh McCown (CHI) 2013 (224-1)	0.45
4.	Tom Brady (NE) 2016 (432-2)	0.46
5.	David Garrard (JAC) 2005 (168-1)	0.60
6.	Nick Foles (PHI) 2013 (317-2)	0.63
7.	Joe Ferguson (BUF) 1976 (151-1)	0.66
8.	Sam Bradford (MIN) 2016 (519-4)	0.77
9.	Tom Brady (NE) 2010 (492-4)	0.81
10.	Dak Prescott (DAL) 2016 (451-4)	0.89
11.	Steve DeBerg (KC) 1990 (444-4)	0.90

BRADY HAS BEST TD/INTERCEPTION RATIO IN A SINGLE SEASON

Tom Brady threw 28 touchdown passes and just two interceptions in 2016 for an NFL-best TD/INT ratio of 14.0.

(MINIMUM OF 20 TOUCHDOWNS)

PLAYER	TD/INT	RATIO
Tom Brady (NE-2016)	28/2	14.00
Nick Foles (Philadelphia -2013)	27/2	13.50
Tom Brady (NE-2010)	36/4	9.00
Aaron Rodgers (GB-2014)	38/5	7.60
Aaron Rodgers (GB-2011)	45/6	7.50
Tom Brady (NE-2007)	50/8	6.25

LB SHEA MCCLELLIN HAS LONGEST FUMBLE RETURN IN TEAM HISTORY

LB Shea McClellin returned a Miami fumble that was forced by S Devin McCourty 69 yards in the fourth quarter. It is the longest fumble return in team history. The previous best was a 68-yard return for a touchdown by DE Richard Seymour at Buffalo on Oct. 3, 2004.

BLOUNT ADDS HIS 18TH RUSHING TOUCHDOWN OF THE SEASON

RB LeGarrette Blount added to his team record with his 18th rushing touchdown of the season on a 1-yard run in the fourth quarter. His 18 rushing touchdowns led the NFL. He joins Jim Nance, who led the AFL in rushing with 11 in 1966 and 7 in 1967, as the only Patriots player to lead in rushing touchdowns. Blount's 18 rushing touchdowns are the most in the NFL since Adrian Peterson had 18 for Minnesota in 2009.

MOST RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS/SEASON IN PATRIOTS HISTORY

18 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 LeGarrette Blount, 2016 (18 rushing)

18 Rob Gronkowski, 2011 (17 receiving and 1 rushing)

17 Curtis Martin, 1996 (14 rushing and 3 receiving)

15 Curtis Martin, 1995 (14 rushing and 1 receiving)

BRADY NEARING THE TOP FOR WINS OVERALL

Tom Brady has the most wins by an NFL quarterback with 205 career wins. His 205 wins are the fifth most among all players.

Most Wins by an NFL Player

Player	Wins
Adam Vinatieri	220
George Blanda	218
Gary Anderson	212
Jerry Rice	210
Tom Brady	205

EDELMAN HAS SECOND CAREER 1,000-YARD SEASON

WR Julian Edelman had his second career 1,000-yard receiving season after setting a single-season best with 1,106 yards. Edelman entered the game needing 45 yards and went over the 1,000-yard mark on 14-yard reception in the second quarter. He joins Wes Welker (5), Rob Gronkowski (3), Randy Moss (3), Stanley Morgan (3) and Terry Glenn (2) as the only Patriots players with at least two 1,000-yard seasons. Edelman had 1,056 yards receiving in 2013.

Most 1,000 Yard Season/Patriots History

5 Wes Welker

3 Rob Gronkowski

3 Randy Moss

3 Stanley Morgan

2 Julian Edelman

2 Terry Glenn

EDELMAN SET CAREER HIGH WITH 77-YARD TOUCHDOWN

WR Julian Edelman scored on a 77-yard touchdown in the third quarter. The 77-yard touchdown is a career long. His previous best was a 69-yard touchdown at San Diego on Dec. 7, 2014. Edelman now has four touchdown passes of 50 or more yards.

Edelman's 50-yard touchdown passes

77t at Miami, Jan. 1, 2017

69t at San Diego, Dec. 7, 2014

59t at Dallas, Oct. 11, 2015

56t at NY Jets, Nov. 22, 2012

EDELMAN SETS CAREER BEST IN RECEIVING YARDS

Edelman went over 100 yards receiving for the second time in 2016 and set a single-game best with 151 receiving yards. His previous best was 141 receiving yards at San Diego on Dec. 7, 2014. His other 100-yard game in 2016 was 101 vs. Los Angeles on Dec. 4, 2016. It is Edelman's 11th 100-yard game (nine in the regular season and two in the postseason).

TE MARTELLUS BENNET SETS CAREER HIGH IN TOUCHDOWNS

TE Martellus Bennett set a single-season career best after scoring on a 2-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter for his seventh touchdown of the season. Bennett's previous best was six touchdowns in 2014 with Chicago.

NATE EBNER FINISHES TIED FOR FIRST IN NFL IN SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES

DB Nate Ebner had a team-leading and career-best 19 special teams tackles in 2016, which was tied with Miami's Michael Thomas (19) for the NFL lead. He has had 10 or more tackles in each of his five NFL seasons.

BRADY HAS THROWN TOUCHDOWN PASSES TO 65 DIFFERENT PLAYERS; SECOND PLACE FOR TD TARGETS BY A QB

Tom Brady connected with WR Michael Floyd in the first quarter. Brady has now thrown touchdown passes to 65 different players in the regular season, behind Vinny Testaverde who had 70.

Most Touchdown Targets by an NFL Quarterback

<u>QUARTERBACK</u>	<u>TD TARGETS</u>
Vinny Testaverde	70
Tom Brady	65
Steve DeBerg	62
Brett Favre	61

LINEUP NOTES

NEWLY ACQUIRED WR MICHAEL FLOYD MAKES FIRST START AS A PATRIOT

WR Michael Floyd made his first start as a member of the Patriots. He scored his first touchdown with the Patriots on a 14-yard pass from Tom Brady in the second quarter.

DON'T'A HIGHTOWER RETURNS TO THE STARTING LINEUP

LB Dont'a Hightower returned to the starting lineup after missing the previous game.