



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Houston Texans– December 13, 2015

TEAM NOTES

PATS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT FOR 17th TIME IN KRAFT'S 22 YEARS OF OWNERSHIP

New England has now qualified for the playoffs 23 times in its 56-year history. The Patriots have earned 17 playoff berths in the 22 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..... 17

Indianapolis Colts.....16
 Green Bay Packers16
 Pittsburgh Steelers.....13
 Philadelphia Eagles12

PATRIOTS IN THE PLAYOFFS

New England has qualified for the playoffs 23 times in its 56-year history. Seventeen of those playoff berths have come in the 22 seasons since Robert Kraft purchased the team in 1994

PATRIOTS PLAYOFF SEASONS (23)

<u>Year</u>	<u>How Qualified</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Result</u>
2015	Division Champions	??	???	???
2014	Division Champions	1	3-0	SB Champions
2013	Division Champions	2	1-1	AFC Finalist
2012	Division Champions	2	1-1	AFC Finalist
2011	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2010	Division Champions	1	0-1	AFC Divisional
2009	Division Champions	3	0-1	Wild Card Round
2007	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2006	Division Champions	4	2-1	AFC Finalist
2005	Division Champions	4	1-1	AFC Divisional
2004	Division Champions	2	3-0	SB Champions
2003	Division Champions	1	3-0	SB Champions
2001	Division Champions	2	3-0	SB Champions
1998	Wild Card	6	0-1	Wild Card Round
1997	Division Champions	3	1-1	AFC Divisional
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
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
1976	Wild Card	4	0-1	AFC Divisional
1963	Division Champions	--	1-1	AFL Finalists

*-Strike Year

28-18 Record

PATRIOTS DIVISION-CLINCHING GAMES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date Clinched</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Final Score</u>	<u>Final Record</u>	<u>2nd Place</u>
2015	12/06/15	at HOU	27-6	??	???
2014	12/07/14	MIA	41-13	12-4	BUF (9-7)
2013	12/22/13	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 AFL playoff in Buffalo, N.Y.

PATRIOTS WIN AT LEAST 11 GAMES FOR THE 17th TIME IN TEAM HISTORY

The Patriots have won 11 games so far in 2015. It is the 17th time in team history that the team has won at least 11 games in a season and the sixth straight season with at least 11 wins. The Patriots have had 11 or more wins 13 times in Robert Kraft's 22 seasons of ownership after having only four 11-win seasons prior to Kraft purchasing the team (1976, 1978, 1985, 1986).

PATRIOTS DECEMBER REIGN

Since 2001, the Patriots own the NFL's best December record, with a 53-9 since 2001.

HIGHEST DECEMBER WIN PCT (2001-15)

Team	W	L	T	PCT.
New England	53	9	0	.855
Pittsburgh	45	18	0	.714
Green Bay	43	19	0	.694
Philadelphia	43	20	0	.683
Indianapolis	42	22	0	.656

PATRIOTS HAVE A SACK IN EVERY GAME SO FAR IN 2015

The Patriots have recorded at least one sack in every game so far in 2015. The Patriots finished with a sack in every game in 1979, 1977, 1973 and 1963. They had six against Houston.

PATRIOTS BEST ON THE ROAD SINCE 2000

The Patriots have the best road record since 2000 with an 83-43 record.

TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
New England	83-43	.659
Philadelphia	77-49-1	.610
Indianapolis	76-51	.598
Pittsburgh	72-54	.571

NEW ENGLAND HAS THE BEST RECORD SINCE 2010 IN FINAL FOUR GAMES

New England has posted an NFL-best 18-3 (.857) record in the final four games of the regular season since 2010, including a 3-1 record down the stretch last season en route to a Super Bowl XLIX title.

Best records in the final four games of the regular season since 2010:

Team	W-L Record	Win PCT.
New England Patriots	18-3	.857
Indianapolis Colts	15-6	.714
Carolina Panthers	15-6	.714
Green Bay Packers	15-6	.714
Pittsburgh Steelers	15-6	.714
San Diego Chargers	14-7	.667

THE PATRIOTS DEFENSE HOLDS THE TEXANS TO JUST 7 FIRST DOWNS

The Patriots held the Houston Texans to just seven first downs, the lowest total since holding the Green Bay Packers to five first downs on Nov. 19, 2006.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

BELICHICK LEADS PATRIOTS TO 11 WINS

The victory over Houston is the Patriots' 11th win of the 2015 season. Bill Belichick now has thirteen 11 win seasons, including 12 with the Patriots to tie Don Shula for the most 11-win season by a head coach.

NFL HEAD COACHES WITH THE MOST 11 WIN SEASONS

Bill Belichick	13
Don Shula	13
Tom Landry	10

BELICHICK IS IMPRESSIVE IN DECEMBER

Bill Belichick is 55-11 (.833) in December with New England, the best record in December among head coaches with one team in NFL history (min. 25 games). George Seifert is second (27-6, .818).

BRADY REACHES 4,000 YARDS FOR EIGHTH TIME IN HIS CAREER

Tom Brady (4,138) reached 4,000 yards passing in 2015 for the eighth time in his career and for the fifth straight season. He is just the third player in NFL history with at least eight 4,000-yard passing seasons. Brady entered the game needing 88 yards to reach 4,000.

ALL-TIME 4,000 YARD PASSING SEASONS

14	Peyton Manning
9	Drew Brees
8	Tom Brady
6	Dan Marino
6	Brett Favre
6	Philip Rivers
5	Aaron Rodgers

BRADY ONE OF THE BEST FINAL FOUR QUARTERBACKS

Tom Brady is one of the best final four quarterbacks in the NFL.

Quarterbacks with the best records in the final four games of the year since 1970 (minimum 20 starts)

Quarterback	W-L Record	WIN PCT.
Tom Brady	44-9	.830
Philip Rivers	30-7	.811
Roger Staubach	24-6	.800
Joe Montana	35-12	.745
Steve McNair	28-10	.737

GRONKOWSKI REACHES 10 TOUCHDOWNS....AGAIN

Rob Gronkowski became the first tight end in NFL history with five seasons with 10 or more touchdowns after reaching 10 in 2015 with a 1-yard touchdown pass from Tom Brady in the second quarter.

NFL TIGHT ENDS WITH MOST 10-PLUS TOUCHDOWN SEASONS

Rob Gronkowski 5 10 in 2010, 18 in 2011, 11 in 2012, 12 in 2014 and 10 in 2015)

Antonio Gates	4 (13 in 2004, 10 in 2005, 10 in 2010 and 12 in 2014)
Tony Gonzalez	3
Jimmy Grahaam	3
Dallas Clark	2
Vernon Davis	2
Shannon Sharp	2
Wesley Walls	2
Julius Thomas	2

MOST 10-PLUS TOUCHDOWN SEASONS / PATRIOTS HISTORY

5 Rob Gronkowski – 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015

3 Randy Moss – 2007, 2008, 2009
3 Corey Dillon – 2004, 2005, 2006
2 BenJarvus Green-Ellis – 2010, 2011
2 Curtis Martin – 1995, 1996
2 Stanley Morgan – 1979, 1986

GRONKOWSKI REACHED 1,000 YARDS FOR THE THIRD TIME

Rob Gronkowski reached 1,000 receiving yards for the third time in his career. He entered the game with 931 receiving yards and reached the feat on in the fourth quarter on a 34-yard reception.

NFL TIGHT ENDS WITH AT LEAST TWO 1,000-YARD SEASONS

Tony Gonzalez	4
Jason Witten	4
Rob Gronkowski	3
Kellen Winslow, Sr.	3
Shannon Sharpe	3
Todd Christensen	3
Antonio Gates	2
Jimmy Graham	2

GRONK HAS THIRD 1,000-YARD 10-PLUS SEASON

Rob Gronkowski eclipsed 1,000 yards receiving and 10+ touchdowns for the third time in his career in 2015 and is the only tight end in NFL history with three 1,000-yard and double-digit TD seasons.

TIGHT ENDS WITH TWO 1,000-YARD RECEIVING AT 10+TD SEASONS

Player.	Team	Season	Rec. Yards	Touchdowns
Rob Gronkowski,	NE	2011	1,327	17
Jimmy Graham,	NO	2011	1,310	11
Jimmy Graham,	NO	2013	1,215	16
Rob Gronkowski,	NE	2014	1,124	12
Rob Gronkwski	NE	2015	1,018	10

RB JAMES WHITE SETS CAREER-HIGH

RB James White set a career-high with a 27-yard reception in the third quarter. His previous best was a 25-yarder vs. Philadelphia (12/6/15).

DL JABAAL SHEARD HAS SECOND TWO-SACK GAME OF 2015

DL Jabaal Sheard had two sacks against Houston for his second two-sack game of 2015 and the fourth two-sack o game of his career. His other two-sack game with the Patriots was at Dallas on Oct. 11. Sheard forced a fumble on both of his sacks against Houston, including one that was recovered by at the 7-yard line to lead to a Patriots touchdown.

AKIEM HICKS HAS FIRST NFL TWO-SACK GAME

DL Akiem Hicks had his first NFL two-sack game.

LINEUP NOTES

TE ROB GRONKOWSKI RETURNS TO ACTION

TE Rob Gronkowski returned to action after missing one game with a start at tight end.

ROOKIE CB JUSTIN COLEMAN RETURNED TO ACTION

Rookie CB Justin Coleman returned to action after missing three games due to injury.

DB LEONARD JOHNSON MAKES HIS PATRIOTS DEBUT

DB Leonard Johnson made his debut with the Patriots with a start a defensive back.

LB JONATHAN BOSTIC MAKES FIRST PATRIOTS START

LB Jonathan Bostic made his first start as a member of the Patriots.

TE ASANTE CLEVELAND MADE HIS FIRST NFL START

TE Asante Cleveland made his first NFL start when the Patriots opened in a two-tight end alignment.