



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots vs. Tennessee Titans– December 20, 2015

TEAM NOTES

**PATRIOTS WIN 12 GAMES FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT SEASON;
SECOND TEAM TO EVER HAVE AT LEAST 6 STRAIGHT 12-WIN SEASONS**

The Patriots earned their 12th win of the 2015 season. It is their sixth straight season with at least 12 wins. The Patriots became the second NFL team to win at least 12 games in six straight seasons. Indianapolis had seven straight seasons of 12 or more wins from 2003-09.

TEAMS WITH MOST CONSECUTIVE 12-WIN SEASONS SINCE 1970 MERGER

Indianapolis Colts	7 (2003-09)
New England Patriots	6 (2010-15)
Dallas Cowboys	4 (1992-95)

PATRIOTS HAVE 10th SEASON WITH AT LEAST 12 WINS

The Patriots have won at least 12 games 10 times in team history, including six straight seasons from 2010-15. The win vs. Tennessee ties Denver for third-most since the NFL merger.

MOST 12-WIN SEASONS SINCE 1970 MERGER

1. San Francisco	13
2. Dallas	11
3t. New England	10
3t. Denver	10
5. Pittsburgh	9
6. Indianapolis	8

PATRIOTS PLAYOFF SCENARIOS

The Patriots have clinched the 2015 AFC East championship and a berth in the playoffs. Pittsburgh's win over Denver clinched a first round bye. The Patriots have earned a first-round bye in an NFL-record six consecutive seasons (2010-2015). Dallas and San Francisco earned four straight byes from 1992 through 1995. The Patriots lead the NFL with 11 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	11
Pittsburgh	8
San Francisco	8
Denver	7

PATRIOTS CONTINUE DECEMBER REIGN

The Patriots won their second consecutive December game to improve to a league-leading 54-9 (.857) in December games since 2001.

HIGHEST DECEMBER WIN PCT (2001-15)

Team	W	L	T	PCT.
New England	54	9	0	.857
Pittsburgh	46	18	0	.719
Green Bay	44	19	0	.698
Philadelphia	43	21	0	.672
Indianapolis	42	23	0	.646

PATRIOTS HAVE A SACK IN EVERY GAME SO FAR IN 2015

The Patriots had five sacks against Tennessee and 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. The Patriots have streak of 27 straight games with at least one sack, the longest streak in the NFL. The last time the Patriots did not have a sack was vs. Oakland on Sept. 21, 2014.

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

New England has posted an NFL-best 19-3 (.864) 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	19-3	.864
Carolina Panthers	16-6	.727
Green Bay Packers	16-6	.727
Pittsburgh Steelers	16-6	.727
Indianapolis Colts	15-7	.682
San Diego Chargers*	15-7	.682

THE PATRIOTS HAVE WON 21 STRAIGHT HOME GAMES AGAINST NON-DIVISION AFC OPPONENTS

The Patriots have now won 21 straight home games against non-division AFC opponents. Their last loss to a non-division AFC team was a 33-10 loss vs. Pittsburgh on Nov. 30, 2008.

PATRIOTS DEFENSE SCORES FIRST TOUCHDOWN OF THE YEAR

DE Chandler Jones forced a fumble that was recovered in the end zone by DE Akiem Hicks for a touchdown. It is the Patriots first defensive touchdown of the season and first time the Patriots scored on a fumble recovery in the end zone since Chandler Jones did it at Baltimore on December 22, 2013. It is the first defensive touchdown since Rob Ninkovich scored on a 15-yard fumble return vs Chicago on Oct. 26, 2015. The touchdown was the first of Hicks's career.

QUICK HITS

- The Patriots tied their 2015 season high by forcing three Titans turnovers (2 interceptions, 1 fumble recovery). The Patriots also forced three turnovers at Buffalo on Sept. 20.
- The Patriots have allowed opponents to score 269 points in 2015 (19.2 points per game). The Patriots have allowed fewer than 20 points per game in nine of the last 14 seasons, dating back to 2001, which is the second most in the NFL over that span (Baltimore, 10).

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

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 LEADS THE PATRIOTS TO 12 WINS FOR THE 10TH TIME

Since entering the NFL in 2000, Tom Brady's teams have reached 12 regular-season wins in 10 different seasons, second all-time, behind Peyton Manning.

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

PLAYER SEASONS

Peyton Manning	11
Tom Brady	10
Brett Favre	6
John Elway	4
Jim Kelly	4

BRADY TIED NFL RECORD FOR MOST SEASONS WITH 35 TDS;

BRADY JOINS MANNING WITH 4 SEASONS OF 35 TDS

Tom Brady threw two first half touchdown passes to reach 35 touchdowns for 2015. He now joins Peyton Manning as the only NFL quarterbacks with four seasons with 35 or more touchdowns

QBS WITH THE MOST 35+ PASSING TOUCHDOWNS IN NFL HISTORY

PLAYER 35+ TD SEASONS

Tom Brady	4 (50 in 2007, 36 in 2010 and 39, 2011, 35 in 2015)
Peyton Manning	4 (49 in 2004, 37 in 2012, 55 in 2013, 39 in 2014)
Brett Favre	3 (38 in 1995, 39 in 1996 and 35 in 1997)
Drew Brees	3 (46 in 2011, 43 in 2012 and 39 in 2013)
Aaron Rodgers	3 (45 in 2011, 39 in 2012 and 38 in 2014).

BRADY ONE OF THE BEST FINAL FOUR QUARTERBACKS

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

QBs 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	45-9	.833
Philip Rivers	31-7	.816
Roger Staubach	24-6	.800
Joe Montana	35-12	.745
Steve McNair	28-10	.737

TOM BRADY GETTING CLOSE TO SECOND CAREER 5,000-YARD SEASON

Tom Brady has 4,405 yards passing through 14 games in 2015. Brady needs to average 297.5 yards in the final two games to reach 5,000 yards.

MOST PASSING YARDS IN A SEASON

Player	Yards
Peyton Manning (2013)	5,477
Drew Brees (2011)	5,476
Tom Brady (2011)	5,235
Drew Brees (2012)	5,177
Drew Brees (2013)	5,162
Dan Marino (1984)	5,084
Drew Brees (2008)	5,069
Matthew Stafford (2011)	5,038

GRONK MOVING UP

Rob Gronkowski has 66 career touchdowns overall (65 receiving, 1 rushing), which ranks second in team history to the 68 total touchdowns by Stanley Morgan. He stands alone with the most TDs by a Patriots tight end.

MOST CAREER TOUCHDOWNS BY A PATRIOTS PLAYER

Player	Touchdowns
1. Stanley Morgan	68 (67 rec, 1 ret)
2. Rob Gronkowski	66 (65. rec. 1 rush)
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

Player	Touchdowns
1. Stanley Morgan	67
2. Rob Gronkowski	65
2. Ben Coates	50
2. Randy Moss	50

GRONK-BRADY MOVES INTO SOLE POSSESSION OF 8TH PLACE

Rob Gronkowski and Tom Brady connected on a 5-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter for the 64th touchdown connection between the two. That moved them out of a tie with Johnny Unitas and Raymond Berry (63) for sole possession of 8th place for most touchdown connections all-time. Jim Kelly-Andree Reed are in 7th place with 65 touchdown connections.

GRONKOWSKI ON PACE TO CHALLENGE HIS OWN RECORD

Rob Gronkowski has 1,072 passing yards in 2015 and is on pace to finish the 2015 season with 1,225 receiving yards. Gronkowski holds the NFL record for most receiving yards by a tight end with 1,327 receiving yards in 2011.

MOST RECEIVING YARDS BY A TIGHT END

Player	Yards	Year
Rob Gronkowski	1,327	2011
Jimmy Graham (NO)	1,310	2011
Kellen Winslow (SD)	1,290	1980
Tony Gonzalez (KC)	1,258	2004
Todd Christensen (Raiders)	1,247	1983

GOSTKOWSKI ON PACE TO CHALLENGE NFL RECORD FOR POINTS

Stephen Gostkowski has 139 points through 14 games in 2015, putting him on pace to finish the 2015 season with 159 points. Gostkowski finished first in the NFL in 2014 with 156 points, second only to his team record of 158 points in 2013. Gostkowski led the NFL in scoring in 2014 for the third straight season. He is the first NFL player with three seasons of 150 or more points.

NFL Record for Most Points by a Kicker

166 David Akers (SF) in 2011

164 Gary Anderson (MIN) in 1998

163 Jeff Wilkins (STL) in 2003

161 Mark Moseley (WAS) in 1983

158 Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2013

157 Mike Vanderjagt (Indianapolis) in 2003

156 Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2014

153 Stephen Gostkowski (NE) in 2012

Patriots Record for Most Points in a Season

158 Stephen Gostkowski, 2013

156 Stephen Gostkowski, 2014

155 Gino Cappelletti, 1964 (includes 7 TDs)

153 Stephen Gostkowski, 2012

148 Stephen Gostkowski, 2008

147 Gino Cappelletti, 1961

143 Stephen Gostkowski, 2011

DL CHANDLER JONES SETS CAREER HIGH IN SACKS

DE Chandler Jones was credited with a sack when he forced a fumble in the first quarter that was recovered for a touchdown by DE Akiem Hicks. He added a third quarter sack to push his 2015 total to a career-high 12 ½ sacks. His previous best was 11 ½ sacks in 2013. The 12 ½ sacks tie Mike Vrabel (2007) and Andre Tippett (1987) for third all-time in New England history behind the 18 ½ by Tippett in 1984 and the 16 ½ by Tippett in 1984.

PATRIOTS 10-PLUS SACK SEASONS

<u>Sacks</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Year</u>
12.0	Tony McGee	1977
10.0	Bobby Hamilton	1977
11.5	Tony McGee	1978
10.5	Tony McGee	1979
18.5	Andre Tippett	1984
16.5	Andre Tippett	1985
10.0	Garin Veris	1985
11.0	Garin Veris	1986
12.5	Andre Tippett	1987
11.0	Willie McGinest	1995
12.5	Mike Vrabel	2007
10.0	Tully Banta-Cain	2009
10.0	Mark Anderson	2011
10.0	Andre Carter	2011
11.5	Chandler Jones	2013
12.5	Chandler Jones	2015

JONES HAS NINTH CAREER MULTIPLE SACK GAME; FOURTH MULTIPLE SACK GAME OF 2015

Jones had his ninth career game with multiple sacks and his fourth game in 2015 with multiple sacks.

KESHAWN MARTIN SETS CAREER BEST WITH A 75-YARD KICKOFF RETURN

WR Keshawn Martin set a career best with a 75-yard kickoff return in the second quarter. His previous best was a 54-yard return during his rookie season while with Houston vs. Jacksonville (11-18-12). It is the longest since an 81-yard return by Danny Amendola Nov. 23, 2014 vs. Detroit.

JAMES WHITE SCORES FOR FIFTH TIME IN FIVE GAMES

RB James White scored on a 30-yard reception in the second quarter to give New England a 21-3 lead. The touchdown was White's fifth in the last five games (2 rushing, 3 receiving), which is the most by any Patriots player over that span.

QUICK HITS

Jamie Collins intercepted a Zach Mettenberger pass intended for Delanie Walker in the fourth quarter and returned it 51 yards to give the Patriots possession at the Titans' 16-yard line, setting up Stephen Gostkowski's 32-yard field goal that gave the Patriots a 33-16 lead with 1:06 left in the game. The interception was Collins's first of the season and the third of his regular-season career. He also has two career playoff interceptions.

Jamie Collins sacked Titans QB Marcus Mariota for an 8-yard sack on third down in the second quarter, and Tennessee settled for a field goal on the next play.

Patrick Chung stopped Tennessee RB Antonio Andrews for no gain on fourth-and-1 at the Patriots' 38-yard line in the second quarter.

Jabaal Sheard sacked Titans QB Zach Mettenberger for a 10-yard loss on the final play of the first half.

Akiem Hicks sacked Tennessee QB Marcus Mariota for a 5-yard loss on second down in the first quarter, forcing the Titans into a third down that they did not convert.

Sealver Siliga stopped Tennessee FB Jalston Fowler for no gain on third-and-1 in the second quarter, forcing a Titans punt on the next play.

Jordan Richards broke up a Zach Mettenberger pass intended for Titans WR Dorial Green-Beckham on second down in the third quarter after Mettenberger was pressured by **Rob Ninkovich**, forcing a third-and-long that the Titans did not convert.

The Patriots held the Titans to a 25% third-down conversion percentage (3-for-12), marking the fourth time in the last five games that the Patriots have held their opponents to 25% or less on third down. The Patriots have held opponents to 25% or less on third down five times in 2015.

New England has recovered opponent fumbles in six of the last seven games. In the first seven games of the season, the Patriots recovered opponent fumbles in two games.

Stephen Gostkowski had four field goals, tying his season high (at Buffalo, Sept. 20).

Rookie running back **Joey Iosefa** led the Patriots with 51 rushing yards in his NFL debut.

LINEUP NOTES

WR LEONARD HANKERSON PLAYS IN FIRST GAME WITH THE PATRIOTS

WR Leonard Hankerson played in his first game with the Patriots.

RB JOEY IOSEFA PLAYS IN FIRST NFL GAME

RB Joey Iosefa made his NFL debut on special teams and as a running back on offense.

DAVID ANDREWS STARTED AT CENTER

David Andrews, who started the first ten games at center, started against Titans in place of Bryan Stork, who was inactive for the game.

JORDAN RICHARDS MAKES FIRST NFL START

2015 second round draft pick Jordan Richards made his first NFL start when the Patriots opened in the nickel defense.

LB DONT'A HIGHTOWER RETURNS TO ACTION

LB Dont'a Hightower returned to the starting lineup after missing two games due to injury.