



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Miami Dolphins – September 7, 2014

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS END 10-GAME OPENING DAY WIN STREAK

The Patriots ended a 10-game winning streak on kickoff weekend. It was their first loss in the opener since a 31-0 loss at Buffalo on Sept. 7, 2003. The Patriots joined Dallas (17, 1965-1981), Miami (11, 1992-2002) and Portsmouth/Detroit (10, 1930-1939) as the only teams with at least 10 straight opening day wins.

Team	MOST CONSECUTIVE OPENING DAY WINS	YEARS
Dallas	17	(1965-1981)
Miami	11	(1992-2002)
New England	10	(2004-2014)
Portsmouth/Detroit	10	(1930-1939)
Chicago	9	(1984-1992)

PATRIOTS VS. MIAMI IN SEASON OPENERS

The Patriots opened the season against the Miami Dolphins for the eighth time in team history. The Patriots are now 4-4 against Miami in the season-opener.

The Patriots are 3-1 in home games and 1-3 at Miami.

Patriots vs. Miami in Season Openers (4-4)

Year	Date	Opponent	Score
1970	09/20	vs. Miami	27-14 (W)
1974	09/15	vs. Miami	34-24 (W)
1987	09/13	vs. Miami	28-21 (W)
1990	09/09	vs. Miami	24-27 (L)
1994	09/04	at Miami	35-39 (L)
1996	09/01	at Miami	10-24 (L)
2011	09/12	at Miami	38-24 (W)
2014	09/07	at Miami	20-33 (L)

PATS END STREAK OF WINS AT 61 WHEN FORCING AT LEAST THREE TURNOVERS

The Patriots ended a streak of 61 straight wins when they force at least three turnovers in a game.

PATRIOTS SUFFER FIRST BLOCKED PUNT SINCE 2012

Miami blocked a Patriots first quarter punt, the first against the Patriots since Sept. 16, 2012, vs. Arizona.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

TOM BRADY LOSES ON OPENING DAY FOR JUST THE SECOND TIME

Tom Brady fell to 11-2 on opening day as a starter.

NFL QUARTERBACKS WITH THE BEST RECORD IN SEASON-OPENING GAMES

Player **Season Opening Record** **WIN PCT**

Tom Brady	11-2	.846
John Elway	12-4	.750
Dan Fouts	9-3	.750
Peyton Manning	11-4	.733

BRADY BECOMES ONE OF FIVE WITH AT LEAST 360 CAREER TOUCHDOWNS

Brady is one of five NFL players with at least 360 career touchdowns after his 6-yard touchdown pass to TE Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter moved him to 360 career touchdown passes. Brady is fifth all-time in NFL history in touchdown passes.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS CAREER

(regular season only) Bold indicates active players

Rank	Name	Touchdowns
1.	Brett Favre	508
2.	Peyton Manning	491
3.	Dan Marino	420
4.	Drew Brees	363
5.	Tom Brady	360
6.	Fran Tarkenton	342
7.	John Elway	300
8.	Warren Moon	291
9.	Johnny Unitas	290
10.	Vinny Testaverde	275

BRADY PASSES WARREN MOON FOR SIXTH PLACE IN PASSING YARDS; NEEDS 602 YARDS TO BECOME THE SIXTH NFL PLAYER TO REACH 50,000

Tom Brady (49,398) entered the Miami game needing 177 yards to move past Warren Moon into sixth place on the NFL's all-time passing yards list and moved past him with an 18-yard pass to TE Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter.

Player **Passing yards**

1. Brett Favre	71,838
2. Peyton Manning	64,964
3. Dan Marino	61,361
4. John Elway	51,475
5. Drew Brees	51,081
6. Tom Brady	49,398
7. Warren Moon	49,325
8. Fran Tarkenton	47,003
9. Vinny Testaverde	46,233
10. Drew Bledsoe	44,611

GRONKOWSKI EXTENDS HIS STREAK TO 51 STRAIGHT GAMES WITH A RECEPTION

Rob Gronkowski has caught at least one pass in all 51 regular-season games that he has played after extending his streak with a 9-yard reception in the first quarter.

LONGEST CURRENT STREAKS OF CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH A RECEPTION BY TIGHT ENDS

88 Owen Daniels (Houston)
87 Jason Witten (Dallas)
81 Heath Miller (Pittsburgh)
51 Rob Gronkowski

GRONK PASSES CAPPELLETTI FOR SOLE POSSESSION OF FOURTH PLACE

Gronkowski's 6-yard touchdown in the second quarter was his 43rd career touchdown reception. He passed Gino Cappelletti (42) for the fourth-most touchdown receptions in team history.

Most Patriots Touchdown Receptions/Career

67	Stanley Morgan
50	Ben Coates
	Randy Moss
43	Rob Gronkowski
42	Gino Cappelletti
39	Jim Colclough
38	Irving Fryar

EDELMAN HAS HIGHEST FIRST HALF YARDAGE

Julian Edelman finished the first half at Miami with 95 receiving yards, a personal best for the first half. His previous best was 64 yards in the first half at the New York Jets on Nov. 22, 2012. His best in a half overall was 118 yards in the second half at Atlanta on Sept. 29, 2013.

EDELMAN RUNS STREAK TO SEVEN STRAIGHT WITH SIX RECEPTIONS

Julian Edelman closed out the 2013 season with six straight games with at least six catches and extended his streak to seven with 6 receptions against Miami.

EDELMAN CAUGHT A 44-YARD RECEPTION IN THE SECOND QUARTER; TIED FOR HIS SECOND LONGEST RECEPTION

Julian Edelman caught a 44-yard reception from Tom Brady in the second quarter. It is tied for his second-longest reception of his career. He also caught a 44-yard pass at Atlanta on Sept. 29, 2013. His career longest was a 56-yard touchdown reception at the New York Jets on Nov. 22, 2012.

GOSTKOWSKI SCORES IN HIS 108TH STRAIGHT GAME

Gostkowski has now scored at least one point in 108 games, a franchise record. He broke a tie with Adam Vinatieri and John Smith for the all-time lead with 102 consecutive games scoring in the win vs. Denver on Nov. 24, 2013.

Patriots Record for Most Consecutive Games Scored

108 Stephen Gostkowski (12/17/06- present)

101 Adam Vinatieri (11/24/96-12/29/02)

101 John Smith (09/28/75-10/02/80)

GOSTKOWSKI IS FOURTH IN NFL HISTORY FOR MOST CONSECUTIVE EXTRA POINTS

Stephen Gostkowski is fourth in the NFL for most consecutive extra points in NFL history.

Most Consecutive (Kicking) Points After Touchdown

422 Matt Stover, Baltimore, 1996-2008; Indianapolis, 2009

371 Jason Elam, Denver, 1993-2002

371 Jeff Wilkins, St. Louis, 1999-2007

361 Stephen Gostkowski, New England, 2006-present

359 Jay Feely, Atlanta, 2002-04; N.Y. Giants, 2005-06; Miami, 2007; N.Y. Jets, 2008-09; Arizona, 2010-2013

STARTING BLOCKS

DOMINIQUE EASLEY MAKES HIS PATRIOTS DEBUT

First-round draft pick Dominique Easley made his Patriots debut after sitting out all four preseason games. He entered the game at left end late in the first quarter.

GRONKOWSKI, MAYO, VOLLMER AND WILFORK RETURN TO THE FIELD

TE Rob Gronkowski, LB Jerod Mayo, OL Sebastian Vollmer and DL Vince Wilfork all made a successful return to regular season action after missing significant time last season. Gronkowski and Mayo did not see action during the 2014 preseason. Mayo led the team with 12 total tackles against Miami.

DAN CONNOLLY STARTED AT CENTER

Dan Connolly started at center against Miami. He started 11 games at center in 2011 and then started at right guard in 2012 and 2013.

PATRICK CHUNG MAKES HIS RETURN TO THE PATRIOTS WITH A START

Patrick Chung made his return to the Patriots with a start at safety. He also lined up on kickoff returns with Matthew Slater. Chung played four seasons (2009-12) with the Patriots after joining the team as a second round pick and then spent the 2013 season with Philadelphia before returning.

CHUNG RETURNS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NFL

Chung lined up to return kicks for the first time in his NFL career and returned his first kickoff 30 yards in the second quarter.

MARCUS CANNON MAKES FIRST START AT GUARD

Marcus Cannon made the start at left guard. It was his first NFL start at left guard. He started one game in 2012 at right tackle and had six starts in 2013 at right tackle.

NEW FACES

The Patriots have 14 players on the opening day roster that were not with the team in 2013. Of that group, 10 saw action in the game against the Dolphins.

2014 Draft Picks – DL Dominque Easley, OL Cameron Fleming and DL Zack Moore. (OL Bryan Stork and RB James White were inactive, while QB Jimmy Garoppolo did not play)

2014 rookie free agents – DB Malcolm Butler

First-Year – OL Jordan Devey

Veteran free agents – S Patrick Chung, S Don Jones, WR Brandon LaFell, CB Darrelle Revis and TE Tim Wright. (LB Darius Fleming was inactive)

JORDAN DEVEY MAKES FIRST NFL START IN FIRST NFL GAME

OL Jordan Devey, who spent the 2013 season on the New England practice squad, made his first NFL start and played in his first NFL regular-season game, when he started at right guard.