



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Minnesota Vikings – September 14, 2014

TEAM NOTES

PATRIOTS EXTEND STREAK TO 12 STRAIGHT OVER THE NFC NORTH; LONGEST WINNING STREAK OF ANY TEAM AGAINST A DIVISION

The Patriots extended their streak to 12 straight wins against NFC North teams with the win over Minnesota. Since realignment in 2002, their only loss against the current NFC North was on Oct. 13, 2002, when they dropped a 28-10 decision at home against the Green Bay Packers in their very first game against the reconfigured division. The Patriots streak is the longest current streak any NFL team has against another division. Kansas City has the second longest streak at 10 straight wins against the NFC West. They lost their first two games against the current NFC West in 2002 and then went on their 10-game winning streak.

PATRIOTS HAVE THE BEST INTERCONFERENCE RECORD SINCE REALIGNMENT IN 2002

Since realignment in 2002, the Patriots are now 39-9, the best inter-conference record in the NFL.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>
New England	39-9
Pittsburgh	33-14-1
*Indianapolis	32-16 (play at Philly)
*Tennessee	30-18 (play vs. Dallas)
*Atlanta	29-18-1 (at cinny)

*Not including today's games

PATS IMPROVE TO 38-1 WHEN A PATRIOT REACH 100 YARDS RUSHING

Since 2000, New England 38-1 when a Patriot eclipses 100 yards rushing after Stevan Ridley gained 101 yards rushing. The only loss during the Bill Belichick era came at Miami on Dec. 20, 2004, when Corey Dillon rushed for 121 yards on 26 carries and the Patriots lost to the Dolphins, 29-28. Since then, New England is 25-0 with a 100-yard rusher.

PATRIOTS DEFENSE STOPS THE RUN

The Patriots defense limited Minnesota to 54 yards on the ground after allowing 191 yards rushing in the opener at Miami. The Vikings offense gained 185 yards rushing in Week One.

BOUNCING BACK AFTER A LOSS

Since the beginning of 2003, the Patriots are now 35-4 (.897) in regular-season games following a loss. The Patriots have dropped back-to-back regular season games just four times since 2003. (2006, 2009, 2011 and 2012). As a starter, Tom Brady is 36-8 in games following a loss.

PATRIOTS REGISTER A SACK IN 17TH STRAIGHT GAME

The Patriots have a sack in 17 straight games following Chandler Jones' 3-yard sack in the first quarter, tied for second longest streak since Bill Belichick took over as head coach in 2000, behind a 24-game streak from Oct. 1, 2006 to Nov. 25, 2007. The Patriots also had a 17-game streak from Oct. 25, 2009 to Sept. 10, 2010. The Patriots have 55 sacks during the 17-game streak, compared to 34 during the 17-game streak and 68 during the 24-game streak. The last time the Patriots failed to record at least one sack was in the 2013 season-opener at Buffalo on Sept. 8, 2013.

PATRIOTS DEFENSIVE FINISHES WITH FOUR INTERCEPTIONS

Devin McCourty, Darrelle Revis, Logan Ryan and Dominique Easley intercepted Minnesota QB Matt Cassel. The last time the Patriots had four interceptions in a game was Sept. 30, 2012, at Buffalo.

THE PATRIOTS DEFENSE RECORDED SIX SACKS

The Patriots defense recorded six total six, including two by Dont'a Hightower and Chandler Jones. The last time the Patriots had six sacks in a game was vs. Miami on Oct. 27, 2013. The last time the Patriots had more than six in a game was Dec. 30, 2012 vs. Miami with seven sacks.

RIDLEY REACHES CENTURY MARK

Stevan Ridley rushed for over 100 yards for the sixth time in his career, finishing the day with 25 attempts for 101 yards rushing one touchdown.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

BELICHICK BECOMES THE SIXTH NFL HEAD COACH WITH AT LEAST 200 REGULAR SEASON WINS.

Belichick (200) reached 200 career regular season wins with the victory over Minnesota to become just the sixth NFL head coach with at least 200 career wins in the regular season, joining Don Shula (328), George Halas (318), Tom Landry (250) Culy Lambeau (226) and Marty Scottenheimer (200). Belichick accomplished the feat in 306 games, the fourth-fastest in NFL history to reach 200 regular-season wins. BB has coached in 304 games

Number of games to 200 wins:

282 Don Shula
288 George Halas
300 Curly Lambeau
306 Bill Belichick
319 Tom Landry
327 Marty Schottenheimer

Head Coach	Teams	W-L-T (regular season)
Don Shula	Colts/Dolphins	328-156-6
George Halas	Bears	318-148-6
Tom Landry	Cowboys	250-162-6
Curly Lambeau	Packers/Cardinals/Redskins	226-132-22
Bill Belichick	Browns/Patriots	200-106-0
Marty Schottenheimer	Browns/Chiefs/Redskins.Chargers	200-126-1

BRADY MOVES PAST ELWAY INTO THIRD PLACE FOR WINS

Tom Brady led the Patriots to his 149th career regular season win to move past Hall of Famer John Elway into sole possession for third on the all-time win list among starting quarterbacks.

MOST CAREER WINS AS A STARTING QB

(Regular season only) Bold Indicates active players

Rk	Name	W	L	T	Pct.
1.	Brett Favre	186	112	0	.624
2.	Peyton Manning	168	73	0	.697*
3.	Tom Brady	149	44	0	.772
4.	John Elway	148	82	1	.643
5.	Dan Marino	147	93	0	.613

***Not including this week's game**

BRADY IS NOW THIRD IN PATRIOTS HISTORY WITH 195 GAMES PLAYED

Tom Brady played in his 195th NFL game for the Patriots and is now third all-time in most games played as a Patriots player.

Player Games Played

Bruce Armstrong	212
Julias Adams	206
Tom Brady	195

BRADY IMPROVES TO 4-0 AGAINST THE VIKINGS

Tom Brady improved to a 4-0 record against the Vikings. Brady is undefeated against eight NFL teams: Minnesota (4-0), Atlanta (4-0), Chicago (3-0), Dallas (3-0), Detroit (3-0), Jacksonville (4-0), Philadelphia (3-0) and Tampa Bay (3-0).

MCCOURTY REGISTERS LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURN OF HIS CAREER

DB Devin McCourty returned a first quarter interception 60 yards to the Minnesota 1-yard line to set up a Patriots touchdown. It is the longest interception return of his career. He had a 50-yard return as a rookie in 2010 at Detroit (11/25) on Thanksgiving Day.

REVIS REGISTERS FIRST INTERCEPTION WITH THE PATRIOTS

DB Darrelle Revis registered his first interception with the Patriots when he picked off a Matt Cassel pass in the second quarter.

EDELMAN HAS SECOND GAME IN A ROW WITH A 44-YARD CATCH

WR Julian Edelman had a 44-yard reception in the second quarter. He had a 44-yard reception in the second quarter at Miami in the opener and had a 44-yard reception at Atlanta on Sept. 29, 2013. It is tied for the second longest reception of his career. He had a 56-yard touchdown reception at the New York Jets on Nov. 22, 2012. Edelman now has six receptions of 40 or more yards in his career.

EDELMAN RUNS STREAK TO EIGHT 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 eight with 6 receptions at Miami and at Minnesota in the first two games of 2014. It is the longest streak in the NFL.

CHANDLER JONES BLOCKS A FIELD GOAL AND RETURNS IT 58 YARDS FOR A TD

DL Chandler Jones blocked a second quarter Minnesota 48-yard field goal attempt and returned it 58 yards for a touchdown. It is the fifth blocked field goal returned for a touchdown in Patriots history and the first returned for a touchdown since S Patrick Chung blocked a field goal attempt that was returned 35 yards for a touchdown by DB Kyle Arrington at Miami on Oct. 4, 2010. It is the second field goal block by Jones. He blocked a 39-yard attempt vs. Miami on Oct. 27, 2013. It is Jones' second career touchdown. He recovered an errant shotgun snap squibbed into the end zone at Baltimore on Dec. 22, 2013.

JONES REGISTERS TWO SACKS FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN HIS CAREER

Jones finished with his fifth career two-sack game. He had three two-sack games in 2013.

GOSTKOWSKI HAS 25 STRAIGHT FOURTH QUARTER FIELD GOALS

Stephen Gostkowski has made 25 consecutive fourth-quarter field goals, including a 27-yard field goal against Minnesota.

GOSTKOWSKI STARTS THE SEASON PERFECT

Stephen Gostkowski has made all five of his attempts in 2014, the first four from greater than 40 yards. He drilled a 47 and 45-yard field goal in the season-opener at Miami and connected on a 48-yarder in the first quarter and a 47-yarder in the third quarter at Minnesota. Gostkowski added a 27-yarder in the fourth quarter against Minnesota.

BRADY INCHING CLOSER TO 50,000 PASSING YARDS

Tom Brady (49,547) 453 yards to become the sixth player to reach 50,000 passing yards.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Passing yards</u>
----------------------	-----------------------------

1. Brett Favre	71,838
2. Peyton Manning	65,233*
3. Dan Marino	61,361

4. John Elway	51,475
5. Drew Brees	51,414*
6. Tom Brady	49,457
7. Warren Moon	49,325
8. Fran Tarkenton	47,003
9. Vinny Testaverde	46,233
10. Drew Bledsoe	44,611

*Not including today's games

GRONKOWSKI EXTENDS HIS STREAK TO 52 STRAIGHT GAMES WITH A RECEPTION

Rob Gronkowski caught a 6-yard pass in the third quarter and has caught at least one pass in all 52 regular season games that he has played.

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

*89 Owen Daniels (Houston/Baltimore)

*88 Jason Witten (Dallas)

*82 Heath Miller (Pittsburgh)

52 Rob Gronkowski

*Not including today's games.

HIGHTOWER HAS FIRST CAREER TWO-SACK GAME

LB Dont'a Hightower registered his first career two-sack game.

STARTING BLOCKS

OL CAMERON FLEMING MAKES FIRST START

2014 fourth-round draft pick OK Cameron Fleming made his first NFL start when he lined up as a tackle-eligible tight end.

2014 FOURTH-ROUND PICK BRYAN STORK SEES FIRST ACTION

2014 fourth-round draft pick OL Bryan Stork saw his first action after being inactive in the season-opener at Miami. He entered the game at center in the fourth quarter.

DEONTAE SKINNER SEES FIRST ACTION

Rookie free agent Deontae Skinner was signed to the 53-man roster from the practice squad the day before the game and saw action at linebacker and on special teams in his NFL debut.

CHRIS JONES MAKES HIS 2014 DEBUT

DL Chris Jones made his 2014 debut with a start against the Vikings. He was inactive in the season-opener.

AARON DOBSON MAKES HIS 2014 DEBUT

WR Aaron Dobson made his 2014 debut after missing the season-opener at Miami.

SEALVER SILIGA MAKES FIRST START OF THE SEASON

DL Sealver Siliga made his first of the 2014 season.

