



## GAME NOTES

New England Patriots vs. Oakland Raiders – September 21, 2014

### TEAM NOTES

#### **PATRIOTS IMPROVE TO 12-1 IN HOME OPENERS AT GILLETTE STADIUM**

With today's 16-9 win over Oakland, the Patriots improved to 12-1 in home openers since Gillette Stadium opened in 2002. The Patriots won their first 10 openers at Gillette before suffering their first loss, a 20-18 defeat to the Arizona Cardinals on Sept. 16, 2012. Overall, the Patriots are 30-25 home openers.

#### **PATRIOTS HOME OPENERS AT GILLETTE SATDIUM**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCORE</b>	<b>W/L</b>	<b>OPPONENT</b>
09/07/02	30-14	W	Pittsburgh
09/21/03	23-16	W	New York Jets
09/09/04	27-24	W	Indianapolis
09/08/05	30-20	W	Oakland
09/10/06	19-17	W	Buffalo
09/16/07	38-14	W	San Diego
09/07/08	17-10	W	Kansas City
09/14/09	25-24	W	Buffalo
09/12/10	38-24	W	Cincinnati
09/18/11	35-21	W	San Diego
09/16/12	18-20	L	Arizona
09/12/13	13-10	W	New York Jets
9/21/14	16-9	W	Oakland

#### **HOME SWEET HOME**

The Patriots improved to 82-15 (.845) at Gillette Stadium in regular season games. With today's victory over Oakland, New England has now won 31 straight games at home against AFC conference opponents. The Patriots last loss at home against an AFC opponent was a 33-10 loss vs. Pittsburgh on Nov. 30, 2008.

#### **TEAMS WITH HIGHEST WIN PCT. AT STADIUM SINCE 1970 (MIN. 25 GAMES)**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Stadium</b>	<b>W-L-T</b>	<b>Win Pct.</b>
New England	Gillette Stadium	82-15-0	.845
Miami	Orange Bowl	101-22-1	.819
Minnesota	Metropolitan Stadium	64-23-1	.733
Pittsburgh	Heinz Field	76-28-1	.729
LA Rams	Memorial Coliseum	53-20-2	.726

### **PATRIOTS KEEP OAKLAND OUT OF THE END ZONE**

The Patriots held the Raiders without a touchdown in the game, marking the first time the Patriots kept their opponents from scoring a touchdown in a game since September 22, 2013, when New England kept Tampa Bay out of the end zone in a 23-3 Patriots win at Gillette Stadium. The Patriots have kept their opponents out of the end zone 15 times in the 97-game regular-season history of Gillette Stadium.

### **PATRIOTS EXTEND STREAK TO 42 STRAIGHT HOME GAMES WITH AT LEAST 1 TD PASS**

The Patriots extended their streak 42 straight home games with at least one touchdown pass, the longest streak in post-merger NFL history, with the 6-yard touchdown pass from QB Tom Brady to TE Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter. New Orleans has the second longest streak with 39, including today's games. The last time the Patriots did not have a touchdown pass in a home game was in a 33-10 loss vs. Pittsburgh on Dec. 30, 2008.

### **MOST CONSECUTIVE HOME GAMES WITH A TOUCHDOWN PASS SINCE 1970**

<b><u>Team</u></b>	<b><u>Gm</u></b>	<b><u>Start</u></b>	<b><u>End</u></b>	<b><u>Record</u></b>
New England Patriots	42	12/21/08	Current	39-3
New Orleans Saints	39	10/18/09	Current	30-9
Green Bay Packers	36	10/05/08	12/02/12	29-7
Miami Dolphins	32	09/11/83	12/22/86	26-6
Green Bay Packers	29	11/03/96	09/03/00	24-5

### **PATS EXTEND STREAK TO 10 STRAIGHT HOME WINS AGAINST AFC WEST**

The Patriots won their 10th straight home game against AFC West opponents, including two playoff wins. The Patriots last loss at home against the AFC West was a 17-7 defeat to Denver on Sept. 24, 2006.

### **PATRIOTS DEFENSE STOPS THE RUN**

The Patriots defense limited Oakland to 67 rushing yards (3.0 yards per carry) one week after holding Minnesota to 54 yards on the ground.

### **PATRIOTS CONTINUE STRONG START TURNING THE BALL OVER**

The Patriots have now forced a turnover in each of the three games so far in 2014, and have totaled eight takeaways through three games. New England is on pace for 43 takeaways in 2014, which would be the most for the team since having 47 takeaways in 1985. The Patriots defense had 29 turnovers in 2013. The most takeaways in team history was 50 in 1976.

# INDIVIDUAL NOTES

## BRADY BECOMES THE THIRD NFL QUARTERBACK WITH 150 WINS

Tom Brady led the Patriots to his 150th career regular season win, becoming the third NFL quarterback to reach that milestone, joining Brett Favre (186) and Peyton Manning (169, not including today's game).

### **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.	<b>Peyton Manning</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.698*</b>
3.	<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.773</b>
4.	John Elway	148	82	1	.643
5.	Dan Marino	147	93	0	.613

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

## WILFORK SEALS WIN WITH THIRD CAREER INTERCEPTION

Vince Wilfork made his third career interception when he snared a pass that had been deflected in the final minute of the game. The play came with the Raiders having gained a first-and-goal and with Oakland trailing by seven points, 16-9. Wilfork's last interception was also against Oakland, coming in a 31-19 New England victory in Oakland on October 2, 2011. Two of Wilfork's three career interceptions have come against the Raiders.

## VINCE WILFORK IS PATRIOTS FRANCHISE LEADER IN INTERCEPTIONS BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN

Vince Wilfork had his third interception as a Patriots defensive lineman and as a result became the franchise's all-time leader in interceptions by a defensive lineman. Wilfork moved past Anthony Pleasant (2), Richard Seymour (2) and Henry Thomas (2) to become the first Patriots defensive lineman to have three interceptions.

### **PATRIOTS RECORD BOOK / MOST INTERCEPTIONS BY A DEFENSIVE LINEMAN**

Player	Yrs	Int	Yds
<b>Vince Wilfork</b>	<b>2004-2014</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>
Anthony Pleasant	2001-2003	2	0
Richard Seymour	2001-2008	2	6
Henry Thomas	1997-2000	2	40

## EDELMAN RUNS STREAK TO NINE STRAIGHT GAMES WITH AT LEAST SIX RECEPTIONS

Julian Edelman has at least six receptions in his last nine regular season games. He closed out the 2013 season with six straight games with at least six catches and extended his streak to 10 with at least six receptions in the first three games in 2014. It is the longest streak in the NFL and is the longest streak for the Patriots since Wes Welker put together a team record streak of 12 (2007-08), 11 (2008-09) and 10 (2012) such games.

**EDELMAN HAS FOURTH REGULAR SEASON GAME WITH 10 CATCHES**

Julian Edelman caught 10 passes for 84 yards against Oakland, marking his fourth regular season game with at least 10 receptions. He had 13 receptions at Miami (12/15/13) and vs. New York Jets (9/12/13) and 10 receptions at Houston (1/3/10). He also had 10 receptions in the AFC Championship game at Denver (1/19/14).

**EDELMAN ON A HIGH PACE IN 2014**

Edelman has 22 receptions through the first two games. He is on pace to finish the season with 117 receptions.

**GOSTKOWSKI HAS 27 STRAIGHT FOURTH QUARTER FIELD GOALS**

Stephen Gostkowski has made 27 consecutive fourth-quarter field goals, including a 20-yard and a 36-yard field goal against Oakland. .

**GOSTKOWSKI STARTS THE SEASON PERFECT**

Stephen Gostkowski was three-for-three on field goals against the Raiders and has made all eight of his attempts in 2014. His first four field goals were all 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. Against the Raiders, Gostkowski was good from 21, 20, and 36 yards.

**BRADY INCHING CLOSER TO 50,000 PASSING YARDS**

Tom Brady (49,781) needs 219 more passing yards to become the sixth player in NFL history to reach 50,000 passing yards.

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>Passing yards</u></b>
1. Brett Favre	71,838
2. Peyton Manning	65,475*
3. Dan Marino	61,361
4. John Elway	51,475
5. Drew Brees	51,651*
<b>6. Tom Brady</b>	<b>49,781</b>
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 53 STRAIGHT GAMES WITH A RECEPTION**

Rob Gronkowski caught a 6-yard pass touchdown pass in the second quarter and has caught at least one pass in all 53 regular season games that he has played.

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

\*90 Owen Daniels (Houston/Baltimore)

\*89 Jason Witten (Dallas)

\*83 Heath Miller (Pittsburgh)

53 Rob Gronkowski

\*Not including today's games.

## **GRONKOWSKI AND BRADY CONNECT FOR 44<sup>TH</sup> TOUCHDOWN**

Rob Gronkowski and Tom Brady connected on their 44<sup>th</sup> touchdown pass with a 6-yard connection in the second quarter. It is tied for the second-most connections between a quarterback and a tight end in NFL history.

### **THE MOST TD CONNECTIONS BETWEEN A QB AND A TE IN NFL HISTORY**

<b>Quarterback</b>	<b>Tight End</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>TD Connections</b>
Phillip Rivers	Antonio Gates	San Diego	63
Drew Bledsoe	Ben Coates	New England	45
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>New England</b>	<b>44</b>
Peyton Manning	Dallas Clark	Indianapolis	44
Drew Brees	Jimmy Graham	New Orleans	43
Sonny Jurgensen	Jerry Smith	Washington	43
Dan Fouts	Kellen Winslow	San Diego	41
John Elway	Shaoun Sharpe	Denver	41

### **NOTABLE DEFENSIVE PLAYS**

The Patriots defense came up with a number of notable plays in keeping Oakland out of the end zone. Below are some of the highlights—

- **Kyle Arrington** swatted away a Derek Carr pass intended for Oakland WR Denarius Moore on third-and-5 to end the Raiders' first offensive possession of the game.
- **Dont'a Hightower** and **Rob Ninkovich** teamed up to drop Oakland RB Darren McFadden for a 6-yard loss on a passing play on first down in the first quarter, setting up a long yardage situation that helped to stall an Oakland drive and force the Raiders to settle for a field goal.
- **Chandler Jones** batted down a pass by Oakland's Derek Carr on third-and-14 in the first quarter, forcing Oakland into a field goal try on the next play. He also batted away a Carr pass intended for WR James Jones on second down in the third quarter, forcing Oakland into a third down that it did not convert and helping to hold Oakland to a field goal on the drive.
- Pro Bowl special teamer **Matthew Slater** tackled Oakland PR TJ Carrie for a 1-yard loss on a first-quarter punt return.
- **Patrick Chung** reached in to bat away a Derek Carr pass intended for Oakland FB Marcel Reese inside the Patriots' 10-yard line in the third quarter.
- **Rob Ninkovich** and **Jerod Mayo** teamed up to stop Oakland RB Latavius Murray for no gain on third-and-1 at the Patriots' 29-yard line in the fourth quarter, forcing an Oakland punt on the next play and keeping momentum on the Patriots' side following a New England field goal drive.

## **LINEUP NOTES**

### **DL MICHAEL BUCHANAN MADE HIS 2014 DEBUT**

Michael Buchanan made his 2014 debut after missing the first two games due to injury.

### **TE ROB GRONKOWSKI MAKES HIS FIRST START OF 2014**

TE Rob Gronkowski made his first start of the 2014 season.

### **BRANDON LAFELL MADE HIS FIRST AS A PATRIOT**

WR Brandon LaFell was in the starting lineup for the first time as a member of the Patriots.