



# GAME NOTES

## New England Patriots vs. Philadelphia Eagles - August 20, 2012

\*The Patriots and Eagles have now met in the preseason a total of 20 times. Philadelphia ties Washington as New England's second most frequent postseason opponent. The Giants and Patriots have met the most with 21 total preseason meetings.

### PATRIOTS MOST FREQUENT PRESEASON OPPONENTS

Team	Games	W	L	Last
New York Giants	21	8	13	2011
<b>Philadelphia Eagles</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2012</b>
Washington Redskins	20	13	7	2009

\*The Patriots fell to 1-1 this preseason with a 27-17 loss to Philadelphia. New England lost to the Eagles by the same score in Philadelphia's last preseason trip to New England on Aug. 22, 2008.

\*QB **Ryan Mallett** started the game in place of Tom Brady. It marked his first professional start. Mallett had 10 completions on 20 attempts for 105 yards and a touchdown. In the first half, Mallett led New England's first three drives, including a 13-play, 80-yard touchdown drive that ended in a 7-yard scoring pass to TE **Alex Silvestro**. Mallett also led the Patriots' first two drives of the second half. Mallett's touchdown pass was his second scoring toss as a member of the Patriots. He had a 16-yard touchdown pass to RB Stevan Ridley in his first NFL preseason action vs. Jacksonville on Aug. 11, 2011.

\*TE **Alex Silvestro**, who converted to tight end from defense line, made his first NFL catch on an 11-yard reception from QB Ryan Mallett in the first quarter. Silvestro later caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from Mallett in the second quarter.

\*LB **Brandon Spikes** and DL **Ron Brace** made their preseason debuts on defense with both players seeing action in the starting lineup.

\*WR **Deion Branch** made his preseason debut on offense with a start at wide receiver. The 11-year veteran led the Patriots with 51 receiving yards on three catches.

\*First round draft picks **Chandler Jones** and **Dont'a Hightower** were both in the starting lineup for the second straight preseason game.

\*K **Stephen Gostkowski** was a perfect 3-for-3 on field goal attempts tonight, connecting from 51, 35, and 55 yards. Gostkowski is 5-for-8 from 50 yards or more in his career, including a career-best 53-yard field goal at Denver on Nov. 11, 2009. His only 50-plus field goal at Gillette Stadium in the regular season was a 51-yarder vs. Chicago on Nov. 26, 2006.

- Gostkowski has never attempted two 50-yard field goals in a regular season game, but was 2-for-2 from 50-plus tonight.
- The longest regular season field goal in Gillette Stadium history was a 54-yarder by K Mike Nugent of Cincinnati on Sept. 12, 2010. Tonight Gostkowski connected on a 55-yarder.
- Only one field goal in Patriots history has been from longer than 55 yards – the team-record 57-yarder by Adam Vinatieri against Chicago in Champaign, Ill., on Nov. 10, 2002.

\***Deion Branch** (from Mallett), **Jeremy Ebert** (from Brian Hoyer), **Shane Vereen** (from Mallett) and **Donte' Stallworth** (from Hoyer) all had catches of exactly 20 yards, tying for the Patriots' longest plays of the night.

\*Sixth-round draft pick DB **Nate Ebner** picked off Philadelphia QB Nick Foles at the 3-yard line and returned it 34 yards to end a scoring threat at the end of the first half. A world-class rugby player who walked on at Ohio State, Ebner was a special teams standout who saw limited action on defense in college.

\***Defensive Quick Hits:** LB **Jermaine Cunningham** led the team with three quarterback hits. DL **Marcus Forston** led the team with two tackles for losses. LB **Niko Koutouvides** paced the club with five solo tackles and also added a team-high two special teams stops.

\***Even Steven in the Preseason:**

- 51-51-1: The Patriots' all-time record at home in the preseason.
- 19-19: The Patriots' overall record in the preseason since 2003.
- 10-10: The Patriots' record in their last 20 preseason home games.
- 10-10: The Patriots' all-time against the Eagles in the preseason.
- 5-5: The Patriots' record in the preseason this decade (2010-present).
- 1-1: The Patriots' record in the 2012 preseason.