



GAME NOTES

New England Patriots at Tampa Bay Buccaneers - August 24, 2012

*RB Stevan Ridley had a 29-yard run in the second quarter on a drive that culminated with a 1-yard touchdown run by Ridley. It is tied with Demps' 29-yard run for the longest play of the preseason. In 2011, the Patriots had five runs of 20 or more yards. All of them were by Ridley, including a season-long 33-yard touchdown run at Oakland on Oct. 2.

*Ridley finished 16 carries for 87 yards and one touchdown. His career-best in the regular season was at Oakland (10-2-11) last season when he had 10 carries for 97 yards.

*G Logan Mankins made his preseason debut with a start at left guard.

*T Sebastian Vollmer dressed for the game but did not play.

*Newly acquired TE Daniel Fells and FB Spencer Larsen made their 2012 preseason debut after missing the first two preseason games due to injuries.

*First round draft picks Chandler Jones and Dont'a Hightower were both in the starting lineup for the third straight preseason game. Jones had his first NFL sack when he dropped QB Josh Freeman for a 4-yard loss in the third quarter.

*Second-round draft pick Tavon Wilson started at safety in place of Patrick Chung, who did not dress for the game.

*Seventh-round draft pick DB Alfonzo Dennard played in his first preseason game after missing the first two games.

*Rookie RB Jeff Demps played in his first pro game when he returned a third quarter kickoff 23 yards. He finished the game with three carries for 41 yards, including a 29-yard run to help get the Patriots in position for a touchdown.

*QB Tom Brady started the game and played through the third quarter before being relieved by Ryan Mallett in the fourth quarter. Brady finished 13-of-20 for 127 yards, including a 16-yard touchdown pass to TE Rob Gronkowski.

*Mallett finished the game 7-of-13 for 66 yards with two touchdowns, a 3-yarder to WR Jeremy Ebert and a 4-yarder to Jesse Holley.

*CB Kyle Arrington was inserted as a kickoff returner for the first time this preseason. He returned a first quarter kickoff 26 yards.

*FB Eric Kettani had his first carry in the NFL on a third-and-one play in the second quarter.

*TE Aaron Hernandez had a 5-yard punt return late in the second half, his first punt return in the NFL. Hernandez led the team with 5 receptions for 52 yards.