



# GAME NOTES

## Patriots at Miami Dolphins – December 2, 2012

### PATRIOTS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT FOR 14<sup>TH</sup> TIME IN KRAFT'S 19 YEARS OF OWNERSHIP

New England has now qualified for the playoffs 20 times in its 53-year history. The Patriots have earned 14 playoff berths in the 19 seasons since Robert Kraft purchased the team in 1994, a dramatic contrast to the six total playoff berths that the team earned in its first 34 years of existence. New England has won 12 AFC East crowns under Kraft's leadership. New England has won 15 division crowns overall (14 AFC East Crowns) and has qualified as a Wild Card team on four occasions (1998, 1994, 1985 and 1976). The Patriots also qualified for the playoffs in 1982 as part of a 16-team tournament following a players' strike.

#### PATRIOTS PLAYOFF SEASONS (20)

Year	How Qualified	Playoff Seed	Record	Result
2012	Division Champions	??	???	?????
2011	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2010	Division Champions	1	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
2009	Division Champions	3	0-1	Wild Card Round
2007	Division Champions	1	2-1	AFC Champions
2006	Division Champions	4	2-1	AFC Finalist
2005	Division Champions	4	1-1	AFC Divisional Round
2004	Division Champions	2	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
2003	Division Champions	1	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
2001	Division Champions	2	3-0	Super Bowl Champions
1998	Wild Card	6	0-1	Wild Card Round
1997	Division Champions	3	1-1	AFC Divisional Round
1996	Division Champions	2	2-1	AFC Champions
1994	Wild Card	5	0-1	Wild Card Round
1986	Division Champions	3	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1985	Wild Card	5	3-1	AFC Champions
1982*	16-Team Format	7	0-1	First Round
1978	Division Champions	2	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1976	Wild Card	4	0-1	AFC Divisional Round
1963	Division Champions	--	1-1	AFL Finalists

\*-Strike Year

#### PATRIOTS DIVISION-CLINCHING GAMES

Year	Date Clinched	Division Title	Opp.	Final Score	Final Record	2nd Place
2012	12/02/12		at MIA	23-16	??	??
2011	12/18/11		at DEN	41-23	13-3	NYJ (8-8)
2010	12/26/10		at BUF	34-3	14-2	NYJ (11-5)
2009	12/27/09		JAX	35-7	10-6	NYJ (9-7)
2007	11/25/07		PHI	31-28	16-0	BUF (7-9)
2006	12/24/06		at JAX	24-21	12-4	NYJ (10-6)
2005	12/17/05		TB	28-0	10-6	MIA (9-7)
2004	12/12/04		CIN	35-28	14-2	NYJ (10-6)
2003	12/07/03		MIA	12-0	14-2	MIA (10-6)
2001	01/06/02^		at CAR	38-6	11-5	MIA (11-5)
1997	12/22/97^		at MIA	14-12	10-6	MIA (9-7)
1996	12/15/96		at DAL	6-12	11-5	BUF (10-6)
1986	12/22/86^		at MIA	34-27	11-5	NYJ (10-6)
1978	12/10/78		BUF	26-24	11-5	MIA (11-5)
1963	12/28/63*		at BUF	26-8	7-6-1	BUF (7-6-1)

^-- Season Finale

\*-- Division-deciding AFL playoff in Buffalo, N.Y.

**2012 AFC EAST CHAMPIONS**

The Patriots claimed the AFC East Division title for the fourth consecutive season and for the 12<sup>th</sup> time under Robert Kraft.

**DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS SINCE 1994**

**New England Patriots..... 12**

- Pittsburgh Steelers..... 10
- Green Bay Packers ..... 8
- Indianapolis Colts..... 8

**PLAYOFF SEASONS SINCE 1994**

**New England Patriots..... 14**

- Indianapolis Colts.....13
- Green Bay Packers .....13
- Pittsburgh Steelers.....12
- Philadelphia Eagles .....11
- Dallas Cowboys.....9

**PATRIOTS GET NINTH VICTORY OF 2012 FOR 12<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT WINNING SEASON**

The Patriots won more than half of their games for the 12th straight year after picking up their ninth win of the season over Miami. They are the first team to win more than half of their games in 12 straight seasons since free agency began in 1993. The Patriots are the third team to win more than half of their games in 12 straight seasons since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger, joining the 49ers (16 straight from 1983-1998) and the Cowboys (16 straight from 1970-85).

**MOST CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS (since 1970 merger)**

- San Francisco (1983-98)..... 16
- Dallas (1970-85) ..... 16
- New England (2001-12) . 12**
- Oakland (1970-80)..... 11

**THE PATRIOTS HAVE THE MOST 9-PLUS WIN SEASONS SINCE 2001**

The Patriots are the only team in the NFL to have recorded nine or more wins in each of the last 12 seasons.

**MOST SEASONS OF 9+ WINS SINCE 2001**

**New England .... 12**

- Baltimore..... 9
- Pittsburgh..... 9
- Indianapolis..... 9
- Philadelphia ..... 8

**BILL BELICHICK LEADS TEAM TO 12<sup>TH</sup> STRAIGHT WINNING RECORD**

Bill Belichick has now led the Patriots to a winning record for 12 consecutive seasons (2001-2012). The only other NFL coach to have at least 10 consecutive winning seasons with one team since the 1970 merger was Tom Landry, who led the Dallas Cowboys to 16 consecutive winning seasons (1970-1985).

**BELICHICK IS GOOD IN DECEMBER**

Bill Belichick is 44-7 (.863) in December with New England, the best record in December among head coaches with one team in NFL history (min. 25 games). George Seifert is second (27-6, .818).

## DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

The Patriots have now won 12 consecutive regular-season December games, a streak that began with a win over the Carolina Panthers on December 13, 2009. The Patriots are the fourth team in NFL history to win 12 consecutive regular-season games in played in December. San Diego holds the record, posting 18 consecutive regular-season wins in December from 2006-2009. The Patriots also had 12 straight December wins from 2006-08.

### The teams to win at least 12 consecutive regular-season games in December:

Team	Years	Consecutive December wins
San Diego	2006-09	18
Dallas	1968-72	13
<b>Patriots</b>	<b>2009-present</b>	<b>12</b>
Patriots	2006-08	12

## NFL'S TOP DECEMBER RECORDS SINCE 2001

The Patriots have an NFL-best 42-5 record in the month of December since the 2001 season.

Rk	Team	Record
<b>1</b>	<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>42-5</b>
2	Philadelphia Eagles	35-12*
3	Pittsburgh Steelers	34-14*
4	Indianapolis Colts	31-17 *
5	San Diego Chargers	31-18 *

The Patriots have finished undefeated in December seven times since 2001: (2001 - 4-0), (2003 - 4-0), (2005 - 4-0), (2007 - 5-0), (2008 - 4-0), (2010 -4-0) and (4-0-2011).

\*Not including today's games

## WES WELKER REACHES 1,000 YARDS TO IMPORVE TO FIVE 1,000-YARD SEASONS WITH THE PATRIOTS

Wes Welker (1,064) reached 1,000 yards for the fifth time as a member of the Patriots. He entered the Miami game with 961 yards receiving and needed 39 to reach the 1,000-yard milestone. He reached the milestone on an 8-yard reception in the second quarter. Welker's five 1,000-yard seasons as a member of the Patriots is a team record. Randy Moss and Stanley Morgan each had three 1,000-yard seasons. Welker is one of 11 current NFL players with at least five 1,000-yard seasons.

### **MOST 1,000-YARD RECEIVING SEASONS IN PATRIOTS HISTORY**

#### **5 Wes Welker (2007-09, 11-12)**

3 Randy Moss (2007-09)

3 Stanley Morgan (1979, 1981, 1986)

## WELKER HAS 17th CAREER 10-PLUS CATCH GAME TO TIE JERRY RICE FOR THE MOST 10-PLUS RECEPTION GAMES IN NFL HISTORY

With 12 receptions against Miami, Wes Welker had his 17th career game with 10 or more catches to tie Jerry Rice (17) for the most 10-plus reception games in NFL history.

### Most Games with 10+ receptions/Active Players

17Wes Welker	13 Brandon Marshall
16 Andre Johnson	13 Tony Gonzalez
15 Reggie Wayne	12 Anquan Boldin

### MOST GAMES WITH 10+ RECEPTIONS IN NFL HISTORY

17 Wes Welker	13 Tim Brown
17 Jerry Rice	13 Brandon Marshall
16 Marvin Harrison	13 Tony Gonzalez
16 Andre Johnson	12 Anquan Bolden
15 Reggie Wayne	
14 Cris Carter	

### **WELKER SETS NFL RECORD FOR MOST 10-CATCH, 100-YARD GAMES IN NFL HISTORY**

Wes Welker (16) set the NFL record for most NFL games with 10 receptions and 100 yards with his 16<sup>th</sup> such game after finishing with 12 receptions for 103 yards. He moved out of a tie with Jerry Rice (15) and Andre Johnson (15). Welker finished with 10 receptions for 138 yards.

### **WELKER HAD 10 RECEPTIONS IN THE FIRST HALF**

Welker had 10 receptions in the first half against Miami. It is the second time he has had 10 receptions in a half. He had 10 receptions on Dec. 24, 2011 vs. Miami.

### **WELKER HAS FOUR 100-YARD GAMES IN 2012**

Welker now has five 100-yard games in 2012 after finishing with 103 against Miami. Welker had a personal best with eight 100-yard games in 2011. Moss (2007) and Stanley Morgan (1986) have the New England record with nine 100-yard games in a single season.

### **STEVAN RIDLEY GOES OVER 1,000 YARDS RUSHING**

Stevan Ridley (1,010) reached 1,000 yards to give New England its 15<sup>th</sup> 1,000-yard rushing season. He is the 12<sup>th</sup> Patriots player to reach 1,000 yards. Ridley entered the game needing 61 yards and gained 64 yards. Ridley is on pace to total 1,347 rushing yards, That number would be the fourth best total in Patriots history and he would become the fourth Patriots player to reach 1,300 yards.

### **MOST YARDS RUSHING/SINGLE SEASON**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Yds</u>
Corey Dillon	2004	1,635
Curtis Martin	1995	1,487
Jim Nance	1966	1,458
Craig James	1985	1,227

### **PATRIOTS WITH 1,000 YARDS RUSHING IN A SEASON**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Year</u>
Stevan Ridley	1,010	2012
BenJarvus Green-Ellis	1,008	2010
Corey Dillon	1,635	2004
Antowain Smith	1,157	2001
Robert Edwards	1,115	1998
Curtis Martin	1,160	1997
Curtis Martin	1,152	1996
Curtis Martin	1,487	1995
Leonard Russell	1,088	1993
John Stephens	1,168	1988
Craig James	1,227	1985
Tony Collins	1,049	1983
Sam Cunningham	1,015	1977
Jim Nance	1,216	1967
Jim Nance	1,458	1966

### **RIDLEY SCORES IN HIS FIFTH STRAIGHT GAME**

Stevan Ridley had a rushing touchdown in his fifth straight game with a 2-yard run in the first quarter. The Patriots record for most consecutive games scoring is seven by Curtis Martin in 1996.

### **RIDLEY HAS NINTH RUSHING TOUCHDOWN; ON PACE TO FINISH WITH 11**

Ridley scored his ninth touchdown of the season on a 2-yard run in the first quarter. If he reaches 10 touchdowns for the season it would be the 13<sup>th</sup> time in Patriots history that a running back finished a season with 10 or more touchdowns rushing.

### **PATRIOTS FORCE TURNOVERS**

The Patriots have forced a turnover in 23 straight games, dating back to 2011 and including the first 12 games of 2012 after Trevor Scott forced a fumble on a 7-yard sack in the second quarter that was recovered by Vince Wilfork. The last team to have at least one forced turnover in all 16 regular season games was the 2010 Atlanta Falcons.

### **DIVISIONAL DOMINCANCE**

The New England Patriots own a 58-15 (.795) record in regular season AFC East games since the beginning of the 2001 season, compiling the best intra-division record of any team in the NFL.

#### **NFL'S TOP DIVISIONAL RECORDS SINCE 2001**

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
<b>New England Patriots</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.795</b>
Green Bay Packers	50	20	0	.714
Pittsburgh Steelers	51	21	0	.708
Indianapolis Colts	49	22	0	.690

#### **AFC EAST DIVISIONAL RECORDS SINCE 2001**

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>Div. Titles</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>New England</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.795</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2001, 03-07, 09-12</b>
New York Jets	36	37	0	.493	1	2002
Miami	30	42	0	.417	1	2008
Buffalo	22	50	0	.306	0	---

**NOTES:** The Indianapolis Colts were members of the AFC East in 2001 and compiled a 3-5 divisional record that season. In 2002, the Patriots and Jets both finished with a 9-7 overall record and a 4-2 divisional record, but the Jets claimed the division title by virtue of having a better record against common opponents. In 2008, the Patriots and Dolphins both finished with an 11-5 overall record and a 4-2 divisional record, but Miami qualified for the playoffs due to a better conference record (8-4 to 7-5).

### **DIVISIONAL DOMINANCE II**

The Patriots have the highest winning percentage in division games from November until the end of the season since 2002.

<b>Team</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>Pct.</b>
<b>New England</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.810</b>
Indianapolis	26	9	0	.743
Green Bay	28	10	0	.737
San Diego	25	10	0	.714
Pittsburgh	27	12	0	.692

### **BRADY FIRST NFL QUARTERBACK WITH 10 DIVISION TITLES**

Tom Brady is the first starting quarterback in NFL history with 10 division titles, surpassing Joe Montana who had nine.

### **BRADY GOOD ON RUSHING**

Tom Brady converted a third-and-one situation in the third quarter. He is now 66-of-67 when converting on third-and-one or third-and-two situation in his NFL career. He is 21-of-23 on fourth and two or less.

### **BRADY ENDED A STREAK OF 201 PASS ATTEMPTS WITHOUT AN INTERCEPTION**

Tom Brady ended a streak of 201 consecutive pass attempts without an interception when he threw a pick in the first quarter. It was Brady's first interception since a fourth quarter interception at Seattle on Oct. 14. Brady has the NFL record of 358 attempts without an interception (10/17/10 – 9/12/11).

### **BELICHICK TIES DAN REEVES WITH FOR SEVENTH PLACE ALL-TIME**

Bill Belichick earned his 201<sup>st</sup> victory to tie Dan Reeves for 7<sup>th</sup> place all-time. Marty Schottenheimer is in sixth place with 205 career wins.

#### **MOST WINS NFL COACHES**

<u>Head Coach</u>	<u>Team(s)</u>	<u>Years of service</u>	<u>Record</u>
1. Don Shula	BAL, MIA	33	347-173-6
2. George Halas	Chicago	40	324-151-31
3. Tom Landry	Dallas	29	270-178-6
4. Curly Lambeau	GB,Cards, WAS	33	229-134-22
5. Chuck Noll	Pittsburgh	23	209-156-1
6. M. Schottenheimer	CLE,KC,WAS,SD	21	205-139-1
<b>7. Bill Belichick</b>	<b>CLE, NE</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>201-107-0</b>
Dan Reeves	DEN,NYG,ATL	23	201-174-2
9. Chuck Knox	LAR,BUF,SEA	22	193-158-1
10. Bill Parcells	NYG,NE,NYJ,DAL	19	183-138-1
11. Mike Holmgren	GB, SEA	17	174-122-0
12. Joe Gibbs	Washington	16	171-101-0
13. Paul Brown	CLE, CIN	21	170-108-6

### **BRADY MOVES PAST TARKENTON ON THE NFL'S ALL-TIME COMPLETION LIST**

Tom Brady (3,695) moved past Fran Tarkenton (3,686) into 9<sup>th</sup> place on the NFL's all-time completion list. Brady entered the Miami game needing 16 completions to pass Tarkenton and passed him on a 2-yard completion to TE Aaron Hernandez in the third quarter. Vinny Testaverde is in 8<sup>th</sup> place with 3,787 completions.

### **PATRIOTS STRONG IN SEASON'S SECOND HALF**

The Patriots are now 4-0 in the second half of the 2012 regular season (games 9-16). Since the 2010 season, the Patriots are now a combined 20-0 in the second half of the regular season. In both 2010 and 2011, the Patriots were 8-0 in the second half of the regular season. The last time the Patriots lost a game in the second half of the regular season was in the 2009 regular-season finale, a 34-27 loss at Houston on Jan. 3, 2010.

### **WELKER EXTENDS STREAK TO 106 CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH AT LEAST ONE RECEPTION**

Wes Welker extended his streak to 106 straight regular season games with at least one reception, including his time with the Miami Dolphins. He has a streak of 89 straight regular-season games with at least one reception as a member of the Patriots to extend his franchise record. Welker has caught at least one pass in each of his 96 games with the Patriots, including seven postseason games. The last time that Welker did not catch a pass in a game was December 24, 2005 when he was with Miami. He is one of 39 NFL players to have a streak of at least 100 games with one reception.

### **CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH AT LEAST ONE TOUCHDOWN PASS CONTINUES FOR BRADY**

Tom Brady has now thrown at least one touchdown pass in 44 straight regular season games following a 7-yard touchdown pass to WR Wes Welker in the second quarter. It is the third longest streak, behind Drew Brees at 54 and Johnny Unitas (47) (1956-60) and the longest current streak in the NFL. Brady's current streak started when he threw a touchdown pass in all 16 games in 2010 and 2011 and now the first nine games of 2012. The old team record was 19 games, also set by Brady.

### **WELKER HAS CAUGHT AT LEAST SIX PASSES IN TEN STRAIGHT GAMES**

Welker has caught at least six passes in ten straight games after finishing with 12 against Miami. Welker had a 12-game streak in 2007-08 and an 11-game streak in 2009 with six or more passes in a game.