



# GAME NOTES

**Patriots vs. Miami Dolphins– December 24, 2011**

## **UNDEFEATED DECEMBER RECORDS**

The Patriots have an NFL-best 41-5 record in the month of December since the 2001 season, including a 4-0 December record in 2011. The Patriots have now finished undefeated in December seven times during that period: (4-0 in 2011), (2001 -4-0), (2003 – 4-0), (2005 – 4-0), (2007 – 5-0), (2008 – 4-0) and (2010 -4-0).

The Patriots have won 11 straight games in December overall.

## **BILL BELICHICK GOOD IN DECEMBER**

Bill Belichick is 43-7 (.860) 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).

## **PATRIOTS WIN IN DECEMBER**

The Patriots improved to 20-1 all-time in the month of December at Gillette Stadium, a streak that dates back to when the facility opened in 2002. New England has won 19 straight home games in December and has not lost a December home game since dropping a 30-17 decision to the New York Jets on Dec. 22, 2002.

## **PATRIOTS RALLY FROM A 17-0 FIRST HALF DEECIT**

The Patriots rallied from a 17-0 first half deficit to a 27-24 victory. It is the largest come-from-behind win for the New England since overcoming a 27-6 third quarter and a 21-point deficit for a 33-30 win at Chicago on Nov. 10, 2002.

## **PATRIOTS WIN GUARENTEES A POSTSEASON BYE**

The Patriots are 11-3 at home in the playoffs in their history. Thirteen of the franchise's 14 home playoff games have taken place since Robert Kraft purchased the team 18 years ago. After Kraft bought the team, the Patriots won 11 consecutive home playoff games before experiencing a home loss.

## **PATRIOTS AT HOME IN THE PLAYOFFS (11-3)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Round</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>W/L</b>	<b>Score</b>
01/16/11	AFC Divisional	New York Jets	L	21-28
01/10/10	AFC Wild Card	Baltimore	L	14-33
01/20/08	AFC Championship	San Diego	W	21-12
01/12/08	AFC Divisional	Jacksonville	W	31-20
01/07/07	AFC Wild Card	New York Jets	W	37-16
01/07/06	AFC Wild Card	Jacksonville	W	28-3
01/16/05	AFC Divisional	Indianapolis	W	20-3
01/18/04	AFC Championship	Indianapolis	W	24-14
01/10/04	AFC Divisional	Tennessee	W	17-14
01/19/02	AFC Divisional	Oakland	W	16-13 ot
12/28/97	AFC Wild Card	Miami	W	17-3
01/12/97	AFC Championship	Jacksonville	W	20-6
01/05/97	AFC Divisional	Pittsburgh	W	28-3
12/31/78	AFC Divisional	Houston	L	14-31

**WELKER SETS FRANCHISE RECORD FOR MOST YARDS IN A SEASON**

Wes Welker set the franchise record for most yards in a season after adding 138 yards against Miami to push his total to 1,518 yards. He surpassed Randy Moss who had 1,493 yards in 2007.

**PATRIOTS SINGLE-SEASON RECEIVING YARD LEADERS**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Yds</u>	<u>Rec.</u>	<u>TD</u>
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>9</b>
Randy Moss	2007	1493	98	23
Stanley Morgan	1986	1491	84	10
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1348</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>4</b>
Randy Moss	2009	1264	83	13

**Most receptions in a season by a Patriots Player**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Receptions</u>
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>123</b>
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Wes Welker</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>111</b>
Troy Brown	2001	101

**GRONKOWSKI SETS FRANCHISE RECORD FOR MOST RECEIVING YARDS BY A TIGHT END.**

TE Rob Gronkowski finished with 78 yards to move past TE Ben Coates (1,174) to set the franchise record for most passing yards by a Patriots tight end with 1,219 so far in 2011. He set the record with a 22-yard reception from Tom Brady in the third quarter. He is the sixth tight end in NFL history to reach 1,200 yards. His 1,219 yards are the fourth highest by a tight end in a single season. Gronkowski needs 72 yards to surpass San Diego's Kellen Winslow's 1980 record of 1,290 yards for most receiving yards in a season by a tight end.

**Most Receiving Yards by a Patriots Tight End**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Year</u>
<b>Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>2011</b>
Ben Coates	1,174	1994
Ben Coates	915	1995
Marv Cook	808	1991
Don Hasselbeck	808	1981

**Most Receptions by a Patriots Tight End**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Rec.</u>	<u>Year</u>
Ben Coates	96	1994
Ben Coates	84	1995
<b>Rob Gronkowski</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2011</b>
Marv Cook	82	1991

**Most Receiving Yards by Tight End in the NFL**

<u>Player</u>	<u>Yards</u>	<u>Year</u>
Kellen Winslow (SD)	1,290	1980
Tony Gonzalez (KC)	1,258	2004
Todd Christiansen (Raiders)	1,247	1983
<b>Rob Gronkowski (NE)</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>2011</b>
Jackie Smith (STL)	1,205	1967
Tony Gonzalez (KC)	1,203	2000
Pete Retzlaff (PHI)	1,190	1965
Ben Coates (NE)	1,174	1994

**BRADY ON PACE FOR 5,000 YARDS; SETS PERSONAL BEST  
BRADY SETS SINGLE SEASON CAREER HIGH IN PASSING YARDS**

Brady passed for 304 yards to give him 4,897 for the season, a single-season career high. His previous best was 4,806 yards passing in 2007.

**BRADY HAS THIRD MOST PASSING YARDS ALL-TIME; NEEDS 103 FOR 5,000**

After throwing for 304 yards against the Dolphins and (4,897) yards through 15 games this year, Tom Brady has the third highest single season passing total and needs 103 yards in the final game to become the third quarterback in NFL history to reach 5,000 yards. He needs 188 yards to break Dan Marino's NFL record of 5,084 yards in 1984. Only two NFL players have thrown for 5,000 or more yards in a season with Dan Marino's NFL record 5,084 in 1984 and Drew Brees' 5,069 in 2008. After 15 games, Marino had 4,744 yards in 1984 and Brees had 4,683 after 15 games in 2008.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Passing Yds</b>
Dan Marino	Miami	1984	5,084
Drew Brees	New Orleans	2008	5,069
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>Patriots</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>4,897</b>
Kurt Warner	St. Louis	2001	4,830
Tom Brady	Patriots	2007	4,806
Dan Fouts	San Diego	1981	4,802

(Note- Drew Brees has 4,780 in 2011 and does not play until Monday)

**BRADY ON PACE FOR SECOND CAREER 40 TOUCHDOWN SEASON**

Brady has 36 touchdown passes through 15 games and needs four in the last game to reach 40. If Brady reaches 40 touchdowns he will be just the second player in NFL history to have two seasons with 40 or more touchdown throws. Dan Marino had 48 touchdowns in 1984 and 44 in 1986.

**The Players with the Most Touchdown Passes in a single season in NFL history**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Touchdowns</b>
Tom Brady	Patriots	2007	50
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis	2004	49
Dan Marino	Miami	1984	48
Dan Marino	Miami	1986	41
Aaron Rodgers	Green Bay	2011	40

**WELKER HAS EIGHTH 100-YARD GAME OF THE 2011 SEASON**

Wes Welker registered his 23rd career 100-yard game and his eighth of the 2011 season after finishing with 138 yards on 12 catches vs. Miami. Welker's eight 100-yard games are a single-season career best. His previous best was six 100-yard games in 2009. The Patriots record for most 100-yard receiving games in a season is nine by Randy Moss in 2007 and Stanley Morgan in 1986.

**BRADY HAS HIS 44th 300-YARD GAME**

Brady threw for 304 yards for his 44th career 300-yard game and his tenth 300-yard game of the 2011 season. The ten 300-yard games are a personal best. The NFL record for most 300-yard games in a season is 11 by Drew Brees (2011).

**MOST 300-YARD PASSING GAMES IN NFL HISTORY'**

Peyton Manning	63
Dan Marino	63
Brett Favre	62
Drew Brees	55
Kurt Warner	52
Dan Fouts	51
Warren Moon	49
<b>Tom Brady</b>	<b>44</b>
Joe Montana	39

### **MOST 300-YARD GAMES PASSING IN A SEASON**

- 11 Drew Brees, New Orleans, 2011
- 10 Tom Brady, Patriots, 2011**
- 10 Rich Gannon, Oakland, 2002
- 10 Drew Brees, New Orleans, 2008
- 9 Dan Marino, Miami, 1984
- 9 Warren Moon, Houston, 1990
- 9 Kurt Warner, St. Louis, 1999
- 9 Kurt Warner, St. Louis, 2001
- 9 Peyton Manning, Indianapolis, 2009
- 9 Matt Schaub, Houston, 2009

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

Tom Brady has now thrown at least one touchdown pass in 31 straight regular season games, extending his team mark with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Deion Branch in the third quarter. Brady's current streak started when he threw a touchdown pass in all 16 games in 2010 and he has now achieved the feat in all 13 games in 2011. The old team record was 19 games, also set by Brady. The NFL record is 47 set by Johnny Unitas (1956-7), followed by Drew Brees with 41 and Brett Favre with 36.

### **WELKER IS STREAKING**

Wes Welker extended his streak to 76 straight regular-season games with at least one reception as a member of the Patriots to extend his franchise record. Welker has an overall streak of 93 straight regular-season games with at least one reception, including his time with the Miami Dolphins. Welker has caught at least one pass in each of his 80 games with the Patriots, including four postseason games. The last time that Welker did not catch a pass in a game was December 24, 2005 when he was with Miami.

### **LB JEROD MAYO RECORDS FIRST TWO SACK GAME OF HIS CAREER**

LB Jerod Mayo recorded his first two sacks of the season. It is his first career two-sack game.

### **GOSTKOWSKI MOVES INTO SOLE POSSESSION OF THIRD ON PATRIOT SCORING LIST**

K Stephen Gostkowski 45-yard field goal in the third quarter moved him out of a tie with John Smith (692) into sole possession of third place on the New England all-time scoring list. He added nine points to increase his total to 701. Adam Vinatieri (1,158) is in first place followed by Gino Cappelletti (1,130).

### **BRANCH REACHES 500 RECEPTIONS**

Deion Branch reached his 500<sup>th</sup> career reception with a 31-yard reception in the second quarter. He is one of 19 active players with 500 or more receptions.

### **WELKER HAS 14th CAREER 10-PLUS RECEPTION GAME**

Welker finished with 12 receptions for 138 yards. It is Welker's 14th career game with 10 or more receptions and his third such game of the 2011 season. He had a career-high 16 receptions at Buffalo on Sept. 25 and 11 vs. Indianapolis on Dec. 4.

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

15 Andre Johnson	12 Anquan Boldin
14 Reggie Wayne	12 Brandon Marshall

#### **14 Wes Welker**

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

- 17 Jerry Rice
- 16 Marvin Harrison
- 15 Andre Johnson
- 14 Wes Welker**
- 14 Cris Carter
- 14 Reggie Wayne
- 13 Tim Brown
- 12 Anquan Boldin
- 12 Brandon Marshall

### **PATRIOTS SCORE TOUCHDOWNS**

The Patriots have scored 55 total touchdowns so far in 2011. That number is third in team history.

### **MOST TOUCHDOWNS IN A SEASON**

75 in 2007

65 in 2010

**55 in 2011**

52 in 1961 and 1980

50 in 2009

49 in 2004 and 1979

### **BRADY SCORES TWO RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS**

Tom Brady scored on two 1-yard touchdown run for a single-season career high of three rushing touchdowns for the 2011 season. His previous best was two rushing touchdowns in the 2007 season. It is the second time in his career that he has had two rushing touchdowns in a game. He scored two rushing touchdowns in the 2007 win vs. Washington on Oct. 28, 2007.

### **HOT WHEN IT'S COLD**

The temperature at kickoff was 30 degrees. The Patriots have enjoyed tremendous recent success in cold weather games and are 31-7 since 1993 when the kickoff temperature is 34 degrees or colder. The Patriots are 22-4 when it's 30 degrees or colder.