

NEW ENGLAND

AFC EAST



Head Coach: Bill Belichick (11th year)
Off. Coord: Bill O'Brien; Def. Coord: (None designated)
2009 Record: SUR 10-7, PSR 8-8-1, O-U 6-10-1
Field: Gillette Stadium (60,292) FieldTurf



Is the Pats' party over? Since New England's 17-14 Super Bowl XLII loss in Arizona, the Pats missed the playoffs after finishing second to Miami in the AFC East in 2008, then they were blasted 33-14 by the Ravens in Foxborough in the AFC divisional round last season. QB hero Tom Brady missed virtually all of '08 with an ACL tear, and at the end of LY he was laboring with finger, rib and shoulder injuries. Mighty mite receiver Wes Welker, he of the 346 receptions the last three years, spent all of the past offseason rehabbing torn knee ligaments suffered in a non-contact injury in last season's finale at Houston. The Pats' ground game is only slightly better than mediocre, 12th in the NFL in 2009, but produced just 4.1 ypc and only seven runs of 20 or more yards. The banged-up, rebuilding defense inspired so little confidence from HC Bill Belichick that he went for the yardage in last season's second-guess-producing decision at Indianapolis, then failed to gain two yards from the N.E. 28½ with 2:08 left while leading the Colts 34-28. The Pats lost 35-34.

During the peak years of their dynasty from 2001-07, Belichick and the Patriots were famous for helpful assistant coaches, heady draft selections, and just-the-right-guy free-agent additions. *Is it now the case that a combination of assistant-coaching drain, defensive leadership vacuum, over-the-hill free-agent signees, and draft-day whiffs are stifling progress?* Gone are useful assistants such as Charlie Weis, Romeo Crennel, Eric Mangini and Josh McDaniels. So too are the likes of clutch defenders such as Lawyer Milloy, Ty Law, Willie McGinest, Mike Vrabel, Tedy Bruschi and Richard Seymour. Pricy free-agent LB Adalius Thomas wasn't the same intimidator he was with the Ravens; RB Fred Taylor & CB Shawn Springs couldn't stay on the field LY. And recent Pats' drafts have been short on quality playmakers despite the quantity of the selections. New England had only one victory as a visitor LY (vs. favorite whipping boy Buffalo).

Now, the Bill Parcells-designed Dolphins and the Rex Ryan-built Jets are more than breathing down the Pats' necks. They appear to be in the AFC East race, big-time, for the near future. And it's Belichick and the Patriots who have important questions to answer. Can Brady (28 TDs, but 13 ints. LY) stay healthy? Can Welker get healthy? Is Randy Moss (13 TDC LY; now 33) due to decline? Has N.E.'s fondness for shotgun, spread-formation football sapped its OL of its ability to crunch block? What happened to the pass rush (only 31 sacks LY)? What's up with all the soft zone coverage? Will huge NT Vince Wilfork be as effective now that he's signed a 5-year extension with \$25 million guaranteed?

Many of these questions are likely to be answered this season. And Bill Belichick's reputation as a future Hall-of-Fame coach will be tested, as deep into this offseason, he was intending to enter the 2010 campaign without either a designated offensive coordinator or defensive coordinator. QBs coach Bill O'Brien mostly handled the play-calling duties last year; Belichick will be move involved with the defensive unit TY. If it's true in football that vague beginnings invite chaotic endings, it should be an interesting year in Beantown.

The revered Brady says there was a lack of confidence and trust on the team last year. *"When the going got tough, we didn't get going. We weren't a mentally tough team last year. I think that's been a big point of emphasis this offseason."* And, of course, the intense Belichick is always thinking. To rejuvenate the offense he's added rookie TEs Rob Gronkowski & Aaron Hernandez and veteran TE Alge Crumpler, plus veteran WR Torry Holt (0 TDs with the Jags LY) and rookie Taylor Price. No. 2 pick Gronkowski (6-6, 265), sidelined by back issues LY at Arizona, has exhibited big-time potential.

On defense, N.E. has re-signed DE Derrick Burgess (5 sacks LY) and has added veterans Gerrard Warren & Damione Lewis to help provide a deep DL rotation. Young LB Tyrone McKenzie (ACL in camp LY) plus draftees Brandon Spikes & Jermaine Cunningham (DE in college) have the potential to join solid starters Jerod Mayo & Tully Banta-Cain. And it's hoped CBs Devin McCourty (No. 1 TY) & Darius Butler (No. 2 LY) will be the starting tandem in the near future. Belichick also hopes his 38-13 of super-sized punter Zoltan Mesko (6-4, 240) from Michigan will solve that lingering Pats' problem.

Bottom Line...With this spring's additions, there is no doubt N.E. is deeper. But after seven total losses LY, Belichick must prove they're better, especially with the Jets and Dolphins challenging in the AFC East.

PRESEASON NOTES: An exhibition force in his early years, Belichick is only 5-7 SU (4-8 vs. the spread; 1-5 after a SU loss) the last 3 pre-seasons.

2009 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS REGULAR-SEASON STAT LEADERS

PASSING	PA	PC	YDS	PCT	TD	INT	RAT
T. Brady	565	371	4398	65.7	28	13	96.2
B. Hoyer	27	19	142	70.4	0	0	82.6
TOTAL	592	390	4540	65.9	28	13	95.6

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
L. Maroney	194	757	3.9	45	9
K. Faulk	62	335	5.4	29	2
S. Morris	73	319	4.4	55	2
F. Taylor	63	269	4.3	19	4
TOTAL	466	1921	4.1	55	19

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
W. Welker	123	1348	11.0	58	4
R. Moss	83	1264	15.2	71	13
B. Watson	29	404	13.9	36	5
J. Edelman	37	359	9.7	29	1
S. Aiken	20	326	16.3	81	2
K. Faulk	37	301	8.1	38	1
S. Morris	19	180	9.5	35	0
C. Baker	14	142	10.1	36	2
L. Maroney	14	99	7.1	17	0
TOTAL	390	4540	11.6	81	28

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
S. Gostkowski	0/0	7/7	12/13	5/8	2/3
TOTAL	0/0	7/7	12/13	5/8	2/3

DEFENSE	Total	Tackles	Assists	Sacks	FR
J. Mayo	103	70	33	1.5	1
B. McGowan	79	59	20	0.0	3
G. Guyton	85	55	30	1.5	0
B. Meriweather	83	53	30	0.0	2
L. Bodden	55	47	8	0.0	1
J. Wilhite	45	37	8	0.0	0
T. Banta-Cain	55	35	20	10.0	2
S. Springs	40	35	5	0.0	0
T. Warren	46	33	13	1.0	0
D. Butler	35	33	2	0.0	0
J. Sanders	48	32	16	0.0	0
V. Wilfork	43	31	12	0.0	1
D. Burgess	35	28	7	5.0	1
A. Thomas	34	26	8	3.0	0
P. Chung	37	25	12	2.0	0
P. Woods	36	25	11	0.0	1
M. Wright	35	25	10	5.0	1
J. Green	36	21	15	1.0	0
R. Ninkovich	23	14	9	1.0	0
K. Arrington	18	14	4	0.0	0
M. Pryor	20	12	8	0.0	1
TOTAL	1107	807	300	31	18
OPPONENTS	1318	941	377	18	13

INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
B. Meriweather	5	149	29.8	56	1
L. Bodden	5	60	12.0	53	1
TOTAL	18	327	18.2	91	3
OPPONENTS	13	146	11.2	38	1

2010

S.12	CINCINNATI
S.19	NY Jets
S.26	BUFFALO
O.04*	Miami
O.11	Bye
O.17	BALTIMORE
O.24	San Diego
O.31	MINNESOTA
N.07	Cleveland
N.14*	Pittsburgh
N.21	INDIANAPOLIS
N.25	Detroit
D.06*	NY JETS
D.12	Chicago
D.19*	GREEN BAY
D.26	Buffalo
J.02	MIAMI

2009

(SUR: 10-7 PSR: 8-8-1 O-U: 6-10-1)

S.14*	BUFFALO	L -10'	25-24	o47'
S.20	NY Jets	L -3'	9-16	u45
S.27	ATLANTA	W -4'	26-10	u46
O.04	BALTIMORE	W -2'	27-21	o45
O.11	Denver-OT	L -3'	17-20	u41'
O.18	TENNESSEE	W -9'	59-0	o41
O.25*	Tampa Bay	W -15'	35-7	u45
		(at London)		
N.01	Open Week			
N.08	MIAMI	L -10'	27-17	u47
N.15*	Indianapolis	W +3'	34-35	o49
N.22	NY JETS	W -10'	31-14	u45
N.30*	New Orleans	L +2'	17-38	u56*
D.06	Miami	L -5'	21-22	u46
D.13	CAROLINA	L -13'	20-10	u43*
D.20	Buffalo	N -7'	17-10	u41
D.27	JACKSONVILLE	W -8'	35-7	u44
J.03	Houston	W +8'	27-34	u46
J.10	BALTIMORE-P	L -3'	14-33	o43*

2008

(SUR: 11-5 PSR: 9-7 O-U: 8-7-1)

S.07	KANSAS CITY	L -16'	17-10	u44
S.14	NY Jets	W +1'	19-10	u37
S.21	MIAMI	L -12'	13-38	o36*
O.05	San Francisco	W -3'	30-21	o41
O.12*	San Diego	L +6'	10-30	u45
O.20*	DENVER	W -3'	41-7	n48
O.26	ST. LOUIS	L -8'	23-16	u42
N.02*	Indianapolis	W +6'	15-18	u44
N.09	BUFFALO	W -3'	20-10	u41'
N.13*	NY JETS-OT	L -3'	31-34	o41
N.23	Miami	W +1'	48-28	o42
N.30	PITTSBURGH	L -1'	10-33	o39*
D.07	Seattle	L -7'	24-21	o43
D.14	Oakland	W -7'	49-26	o39
D.21	ARIZONA	W -8'	47-7	o43
D.28	Buffalo	W -6'	13-0	u38

2007

(SUR: 18-1 PSR: 10-9 O-U: 12-7)

S.09	NY Jets	W -6'	38-14	o41
S.16*	SAN DIEGO	W -3'	38-14	o46
S.23	BUFFALO	W -16'	38-7	o41
O.01*	Cincinnati	W -7'	34-13	u53*
O.07	CLEVELAND	W -16'	34-17	o48*
O.14	Dallas	W -5'	48-27	o53
O.21	Miami	W -16'	49-28	o51
O.28	WASHINGTON	W -15'	52-7	o47
N.04	Indianapolis	L -5'	24-20	u56*
N.11	Bye			
N.18*	Buffalo	W -15'	56-10	o46*
N.25*	PHILADELPHIA	L -24'	31-28	o51
D.03*	Baltimore	L -19'	27-24	o48
D.09	PITTSBURGH	W -10'	34-13	u47
D.16	NY JETS	L -21'	20-10	u42
D.23	MIAMI	L -22'	28-7	u45
D.29*	NY Giants	L -13'	38-35	o46*
J.12*	JVILLE-P	L -13'	31-20	o50
J.20	SAN DIEGO-P	L -13'	21-12	u47
F.03	NY Giants-P	L -12'	14-17	u54

(Super Bowl XLII at Glendale, AZ)

2006

(SUR: 14-5 PSR: 11-7-1 O-U: 8-11)

S.10	BUFFALO	L -9'	19-17	u41
S.17	NY Jets	W -6'	24-17	o37
S.24*	DENVER	L -6'	7-17	o36*
O.01	Cincinnati	W +6'	38-13	u48*
O.08	MIAMI	W -9'	20-10	u36*
O.15	Bye			
O.22	Buffalo	W -5'	28-6	u37
O.30*	Minnesota	W -1'	31-7	u39
N.05*	INDIANAPOLIS	L -3'	20-27	u48*
N.12	NY JETS	L -10'	14-17	u38
N.19	Green Bay	W -5'	35-0	u45
N.26	CHICAGO	N -4'	17-13	u37
D.03	DETROIT	L -13'	28-21	o41
D.10	Miami	L -3'	0-21	u37
D.17	HOUSTON	W -12'	40-7	o37*
D.24	Jacksonville	W +3'	24-21	o37
D.31	Tennessee	W +3'	40-23	o41
J.07	NY JETS-P	W -9'	37-16	o38*
J.14	San Diego-P	W +4'	24-21	u46*
J.21*	Indianapolis-P	L +3'	34-38	o47

NEW ENGLAND

AFC EAST

NEW ENGLAND 2009 REGULAR SEASON TEAM STATS

	PATRIOTS	OPPONENTS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	373	289
FIRST DOWNS (Rushing-passing-by penalty)	114-222-37	80-193-16
THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS	90/206	72/194
FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS	11/22	10/21
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YARDS	6357	5123
OFFENSE (Plays-Average Yards)	1076-5.9	941-5.4
TOTAL RUSHING YARDS	1921	1768
RUSHING (Plays-Average Yards)	466-4.1	398-4.4
TOTAL PASSING YARDS	4436	3355
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-Avg)	390-592-13-7.7	300-512-18-7.0
SACKS	31	18
FIELD GOALS	26/31	14/20
TOUCHDOWNS	50	35
(Rushing-Passing>Returns-Defensive)	19-28-0-3	6-25-0-4
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:05	27:13

New England 2010 Draft Picks

Rd	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	School
1 (27)	Devin McCourty	CB	5'11"	193	Rutgers
2 (42)	Rob Gronkowski	TE	6'6"	264	Arizona
2 (53)	Jermaine Cunningham	DE	6'3"	266	Florida
2 (62)	Brandon Spikes	LB	6'3"	249	Florida
3 (90)	Taylor Price	WR	6'0"	204	Ohio
4 (113)	Aaron Hernandez	TE	6'2"	245	Florida
5 (150)	Zoltan Mesko	P	6'4"	240	Michigan
6 (205)	Ted Larsen	OL	6'2"	304	North Carolina St.
7 (208)	Thomas Welch	OL	6'6"	307	Vanderbilt
7 (247)	Brandon Deaderick	DE	6'4"	314	Alabama
7 (248)	Kade Weston	DT	6'5"	317	Georgia
7 (250)	Zac Robinson	QB	6'2"	214	Oklahoma State

PROJECTED OFFENSE

QB	12 Tom Brady	8 Brian Hoyer
	9 Jeff Rowe	7 Zac Robinson (7th Rd)
RB	39 Laurence Maroney	21 Fred Taylor
	42 B. Green-Ellis	34 Sammy Morris
RB	33 Kevin Faulk	
WR	81 Randy Moss	84 Torry Holt
	17 Taylor Price (3rd Rd)	88 Sam Aiken
WR	83 Wes Welker	11 Julian Edelman
	19 Brandon Tate	86 David Patten
TE	87 Rob Gronkowski (2 nd Rd)	82 Alge Crumpler
		46 Aaron Hernandez (4th Rd)
LT	72 Matt Light	76 Sebastian Vollmer
LG	70 Logan Mankins	60 Rich Ohrnberger
C	67 Dan Koppen	62 Ted Larsen (6th Rd)
RG	61 Steve Neal	63 Dan Connolly
RT	77 Nick Kaczur	64 Mark LeVoir

PROJECTED DEFENSE

DE	94 Ty Warren	53 Derrick Burgess
NT	75 Vince Wilfork	91 Myron Pryor
DE	99 Mike Wright	92 Damione Lewis
		68 Gerard Warren
OLB	50 Rob Ninkovich	58 Pierre Woods
ILB	51 Jerod Mayo	55 Brandon Spikes (2nd Rd)
ILB	59 Gary Guyton	53 Tyrone McKenzie
OLB	95 Tully Banta-Cain	96 Jerm. Cunningham (2nd Rd)
CB	23 Leigh Bodden	32 Devin McCourty (1st Rd)
		24 Jonathan Wilhite
S	31 Brandon Meriweather	25 Pat Chung
S	36 James Sanders	30 Brandon McGowan
CB	28 Darius Butler	22 Terrence Wheatley

PROJECTED SPECIALISTS

K	3 Stephen Gostkowski	
P	14 Zoltan Mesko (5th Rd)	5 David King

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS POINTSPREAD BREAKDOWN (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS)

	SUR	Spread	Home	Home	Road	Road	SB	Fav	Fav>3	Dog	After
			SUR	Sprd	SUR	Sprd		Sprd	Sprd	Sprd	SUL
2009	10-7	8-8-1	8-1	5-4	1-6	2-4-1	---	6-7-1	5-7-1	2-1	3-3
2008	11-5	9-7	5-3	3-5	6-2	6-2	---	6-6	4-5	3-1	4-1
2007	18-1	10-9	10-0	5-5	8-0	5-3	0-1	10-9	10-9	---	---
2006	14-5	11-7-1	6-3	3-5-1	8-2	8-2	---	7-6-1	6-5-1	4-1	3-1
2005	11-7	9-9	6-3	4-5	5-4	5-4	---	7-5	6-4	2-4	5-1
L5 Years	64-25	47-40-2	35-10	20-24-1	28-14	26-15-1	0-1	36-33-2	31-30-2	11-7	15-6

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS 2009

REGULAR SEASON STAT RANKINGS

OFFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	397.3	3
FIRST DOWNS (Per Game)	23.3	1
POINTS PER GAME	26.7	6
RUSHING (Yds. Per Game)	120.1	12
RUSHING TDS	19	T-6
PASSING OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	277.2	3
PASSING COMPLETION %	65.9	6
PASSING TDS	28	T-7
FIELD GOALS	26	T-10
TIME OF POSSESSION	33:05	1
DEFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	320.2	11
SCORING DEFENSE	17.8	5
RUSHING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	110.5	13
PASSING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	209.7	12
PASS COMPLETION%	58.6	11
INTERCEPTIONS	18	T-11
SACKS BY DEFENSE	31	T-23
TOTAL TEAM PENALTIES	81	26
TURNOVER MARGIN	+6	T-8

NEW ENGLAND—2009 Game-by-Game Statistics, including playoffs

OPPONENT	OFFENSE					DEFENSE				
	PF	PA	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-Y-P	SK F-FL	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-Y-P	SK F-FR		
Buffalo	25	24	23/73	39/53/1/368	1 0-0	19/90	15/25/0/186	4 3-1		
NY Jets	9	16	20/83	23/47/1/216	0 0-0	31/117	14/22/0/137	2 2-1		
Atlanta	26	10	39/168	25/42/0/277	0 0-0	17/58	17/28/0/199	0 2-1		
Baltimore	27	21	30/85	21/32/0/234	3 2-1	17/116	27/47/1/247	2 1-1		
Denver	17	20	27/96	19/33/0/209	1 2-1	25/103	35/48/1/321	2 2-1		
Tennessee	59	0	30/193	38/45/0/426	2 1-0	36/193	2/14/2/-7	0 6-3		
Tampa Bay	35	7	28/107	23/32/2/307	1 0-0	26/89	11/30/3/151	3 1-0		
Miami	27	17	24/109	25/37/1/323	2 0-0	31/133	20/37/0/201	2 1-0		
Indianapolis	34	35	28/113	29/42/1/364	2 2-1	18/91	28/44/2/316	1 0-0		
NY Jets	31	14	35/111	28/41/0/299	2 3-1	26/104	8/21/4/122	2 1-1		
New Orleans	17	38	28/122	23/40/2/244	2 2-1	26/113	18/23/0/367	1 1-1		
Miami	21	22	25/96	19/29/2/352	0 0-0	27/88	29/52/1/328	1 2-0		
Carolina	20	10	40/185	19/32/1/192	0 2-2	24/126	15/30/0/179	2 0-0		
Buffalo	17	10	34/109	11/23/1/115	0 0-0	23/105	18/27/1/136	6 3-0		
Jacksonville	35	7	36/197	23/26/0/267	0 1-1	25/98	19/25/2/177	2 1-0		
Houston	27	34	19/74	25/38/1/243	2 1-1	27/144	24/39/1/295	1 2-0		
Baltimore	14	33	18/64	23/42/3/132	3 1-1	52/234	4/10/1/34	0 1-1		

NEW ENGLAND TEAM STATISTICS 2006-2009 (INCLUDING ALL PLAYOFF GAMES)

YEAR	OFFENSE													DEFENSE																					
	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FL	T-R-P	PC	PA	PI	SK	Y-P	YPP	YPT	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FR	T-R-P	PC	PA	PI	SK	Y-P	YPP	YPT	DIF	APR	OPR	TM	TO
2009	10-7	8-8	26	19	23	28	117	4.1	17-10	52-19-30	24	37	16	21	269	7.2	14.9	18	26	118	4.4	29-11	39-10-25	18	31	19	31	199	6.5	17.0	2.1	-2.6	3.8	33	+4
2008	11-5	9-7	26	19	22	32	142	4.4	17-11	43-21-21	21	34	11	45	223	6.7	14.3	17	26	107	4.1	19-8	37-8-27	18	30	14	30	201	6.8	16.0	1.7	3.1	7.0	33	+1
2007	18-1	10-9	34	17	24	28	115	4.2	16-7	84-20-56	25	37	12	29	285	7.8	11.6	18	23	97	4.3	29-13	38-7-27	20	33	23	52	198	6.0	17.4	5.8	-8.6	5.0	32	+17
2006	14-5	11-7	25	16	21	31	119	3.9	31-16	56-22-30	21	34	16	33	216	6.3	13.3	18	25	97	3.9	29-16	32-16-12	19	34	25	52	211	6.3	18.8	5.5	.3	4.8	31	+9