

Super Bowl XLIII

By Mark Maske and Les Carpenter



NEW YORK GIANTS (13-6) VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (18-0) 6 P.M. AT UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM IN GLENDALE, ARIZ. » **TV:** WTTG-5, WBFF-45. » **RADIO:** WTEM (980 AM). » **LINE:** PATRIOTS BY 12.

GIANTS ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
2	Anthony Wright	QB	6-1	211
9	Lawrence Tynes	PK	6-1	202
10	Eli Manning	QB	6-4	225
12	Steve Smith	WR	5-11	197
13	Jared Lorenzen	QB	6-4	285
17	Plaxico Burress	WR	6-5	232
18	Jeff Feagles	P	6-1	215
22	Reuben Droughns	RB	5-11	220
23	Corey Webster	CB	6-0	202
25	R.W. McQuarters	CB	5-10	194
26	Danny Ware	RB	6-0	234
27	Brandon Jacobs	RB	6-4	264
28	Gibril Wilson	S	6-0	209
29	Sam Madison	CB	5-11	180
31	Aaron Ross	CB	6-0	193
33	Geoffrey Pope	CB	6-0	186
35	Kevin Dockery	CB	5-8	188
37	James Butler	S	6-3	215
39	Madison Hedgecock	FB	6-3	266
43	Michael Johnson	S	6-2	211
44	Ahmad Bradshaw	RB	5-9	198
51	Zak DeOssie	LB	6-4	250
52	Tank Daniels	LB	6-3	248
53	Reggie Torbor	LB	6-2	250
55	Kawika Mitchell	LB	6-1	253
57	Chase Blackburn	LB	6-3	247
58	Antonio Pierce	LB	6-1	238
59	Gerris Wilkinson	LB	6-3	231
60	Shaun O'Hara	C	6-3	303
61	Adam Koets	T	6-5	300
65	Grey Ruegamer	G	6-4	299
66	David Diehl	G	6-5	319
67	Kareem McKenzie	T	6-6	327
69	Rich Seubert	G	6-3	310
71	Dave Tolfelson	DE	6-4	255
72	Osi Umenyiora	DE	6-3	261
75	Manny Wright	DT	6-5	345
76	Chris Snee	G	6-3	317
77	Kevin Boothe	G	6-5	315
79	Guy Whimper	T	6-5	302
81	Amani Toomer	WR	6-3	203
83	Sinorice Moss	WR	5-8	185
85	David Tyree	WR	6-0	206
86	Jerome Collins	TE	6-4	267
87	Domenik Hixon	WR	6-2	182
88	Michael Matthews	TE	6-4	270
89	Kevin Boss	TE	6-6	253
91	Justin Tuck	DE	6-5	274
92	Michael Strahan	DE	6-5	255
93	Jay Alford	DT	6-3	304
96	Barry Cofield	DT	6-4	306
98	Fred Robbins	DT	6-4	317
99	Russell Davis	DT	6-4	306

FIRST DOWN

How Healthy Is Brady?

There seems to be little doubt that Patriots QB Tom Brady will play today, but will the injury to his right ankle that he suffered during the AFC title game affect him? A right-handed QB must plant on his right leg at the end of his drop-back, and must push off on that leg to throw. Brady threw three interceptions against the Chargers and a similar performance today perhaps could cost the Patriots their unbeaten season.



SECOND DOWN

Ball Control

Brandon Jacobs is one of the most difficult running backs to bring down, and the Giants will need him to run well in order to limit possessions for the Patriots. If Jacobs can attack New England between the tackles and wear down the defensive line and linebackers, the Giants should be able to strike in play-action. Jacobs carried 21 times in the NFC title game and he could get at least that much work today.



THIRD DOWN

Helping Hands

Randy Moss was the best wide receiver in the league during the regular season, but he has had just one catch in each of the Patriots' two playoff wins. If the Giants double- and triple-team Moss today, that means plenty of room to roam for Wes Welker, Donte' Stallworth and Jabar Gaffney. Welker is most effective in the slot and in short yardage, while Stallworth and Gaffney have plenty of big-play potential.



FOURTH DOWN

Keep It Going

The Giants have been able to produce morale-breaking long drives in each of their playoff games, some lasting as long as eight minutes. New England isn't accustomed to teams doing this against its defense. And nothing may be more effective against a big-play offense like the Patriots than keeping it off the field. It will be paramount for QB Eli Manning not to force throws and keep his turnover-free postseason going.



PATRIOTS ROSTER

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.
3	Stephen Gostkowski	PK	6-1	210
6	Chris Hanson	P	6-2	202
7	Matt Gutierrez	QB	6-4	230
10	Jabar Gaffney	WR	6-1	200
12	Tom Brady	QB	6-4	225
15	Kelley Washington	WR	6-3	215
16	Matt Cassel	QB	6-4	230
17	Chad Jackson	WR	6-1	215
18	Donté Stallworth	WR	6-0	200
21	Randall Gay	CB	5-11	190
22	Asante Samuel	CB	5-10	185
23	Willie Andrews	DB	5-10	190
26	Eugene Wilson	DB	5-10	195
27	Ellis Hobbs	CB	5-9	195
28	Antwain Spann	CB	6-0	195
31	Brandon Meriweather	S	5-11	200
33	Kevin Faulk	RB	5-8	202
36	James Sanders	S	5-10	210
37	Rodney Harrison	S	6-1	220
38	Kyle Eckel	FB	5-11	237
39	Laurence Maroney	RB	5-11	220
41	Raymond Ventrone	S	5-10	200
44	Heath Evans	FB	6-0	250
50	Mike Vrabel	LB	6-4	261
52	Eric Alexander	LB	6-2	240
53	Larry Izzo	LB	5-10	228
54	Tedy Bruschi	LB	6-1	247
55	Junior Seau	LB	6-3	250
58	Pierre Woods	LB	6-5	250
61	Stephen Neal	G	6-4	305
65	Wesley Britt	T	6-8	320
66	Lorin Paxton	LS	6-2	260
67	Dan Koppen	C	6-2	296
68	Ryan O'Callaghan	T	6-7	330
70	Logan Mankins	G	6-4	310
71	Russ Hochstein	G-C	6-4	305
72	Matt Light	T	6-4	305
74	Billy Yates	G	6-2	305
75	Vince Wilfork	DL	6-2	325
77	Nick Kaczur	T	6-4	315
80	Troy Brown	WR	5-10	196
81	Randy Moss	WR	6-4	210
82	Stephen Spach	TE	6-4	250
83	Wes Welker	WR	5-9	185
84	Benjamin Watson	TE	6-3	255
88	Kyle Brady	TE	6-6	280
90	Le Kevin Smith	DL	6-1	308
93	Richard Seymour	DL	6-6	310
94	Ty Warren	DL	6-5	300
95	Rashad Moore	DL	6-3	325
96	Adalius Thomas	LB	6-2	270
97	Jarvis Green	DL	6-3	285

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE			
WR	83	Wes Welker	
LT	72	Matt Light	
LG	70	Logan Mankins	
C	67	Dan Koppen	
RG	61	Stephen Neal	
RT	77	Nick Kaczur	
TE	84	Benjamin Watson	
WR	81	Randy Moss	
QB	12	Tom Brady	
RB	39	Laurence Maroney	
FB	44	Heath Evans	

DEFENSE			
LE	94	Ty Warren	
NT	75	Vince Wilfork	
RE	93	Richard Seymour	
OLB	50	Mike Vrabel	
MILB	55	Junior Seau	
MILB	54	Tedy Bruschi	
OLB	96	Adalius Thomas	
LCB	22	Asante Samuel	
RCB	27	Ellis Hobbs	
SS	37	Rodney Harrison	
FS	36	James Sanders	

SPECIAL TEAMS	
K	3 Stephen Gostkowski
P	6 Chris Hanson

STATISTICS

Passing	Cmp	Att	Yds	TD	Int	Rtg
T. Brady	398	578	4806	50	8	117.2
Team	403	586	4859	50	9	116.0
Opp.	314	526	3381	23	19	78.1

Rushing	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Maroney	185	835	4.5	59	6
Morris	85	384	4.5	49	3
Team	451	1849	4.1	59	17
Opp.	360	1572	4.4	49	7

Receiving	No.	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Welker	112	1175	10.5	42	8
Moss	98	1493	15.2	65	23
Faulk	47	383	8.1	23	1
Stallworth	46	697	15.2	69	3
Gaffney	36	449	12.5	56	5
Watson	36	389	10.8	35	6
Team	403	4859	12.1	69	50
Opp.	314	3381	10.8	73	23

INTs	No.	Yds	TD	Sacks	No.
Samuel	6	89	1	Vrabel	12.5
Gay	3	52	0	Green	6.5
Seau	3	28	0	A. Thomas	6.5
Sanders	2	43	0	Colvin	4.0
				Warren	4.0
				Seau	3.5
Team	19	288	3	Team	47.0
Opp.	9	131	1	Opp.	21.0

Punting	No.	Avg.	Net	In20
Feagles	71	40.4	36.0	25
Team	72	39.8	36.0	25
Opp.	87	41.7	37.1	27

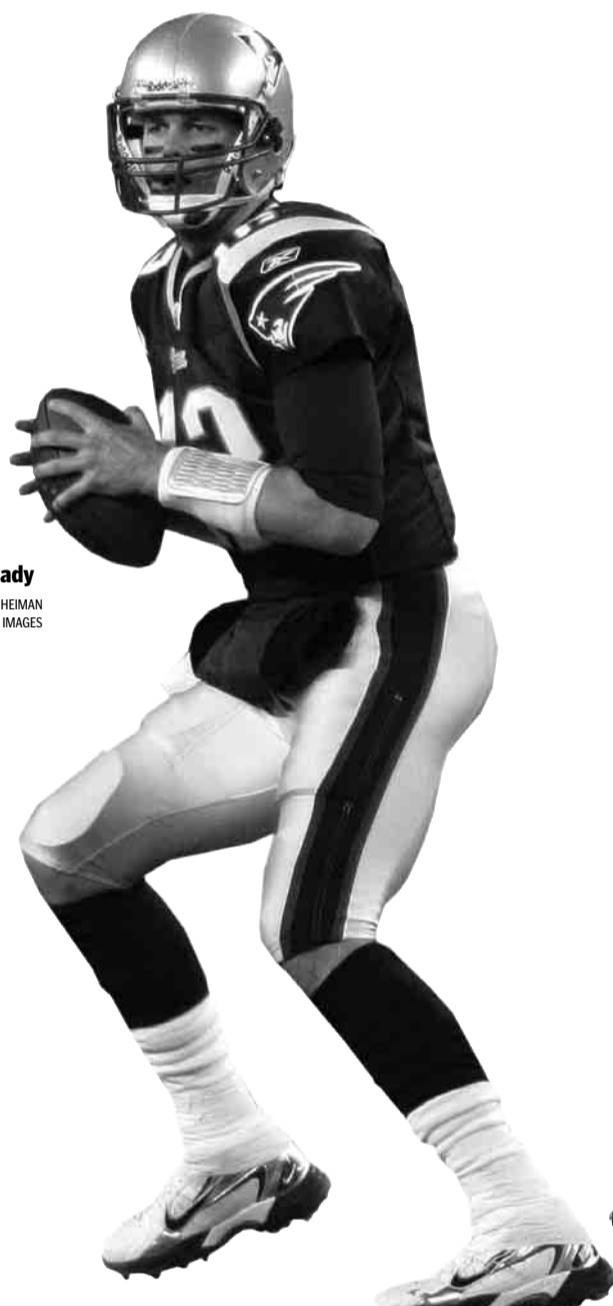
Scoring	TD	XP-Att	FG-Att	S	Pts
Tynes	0	40-42	23-27	0	109
Burress	12	0-0	0-0	0	72

RESULTS

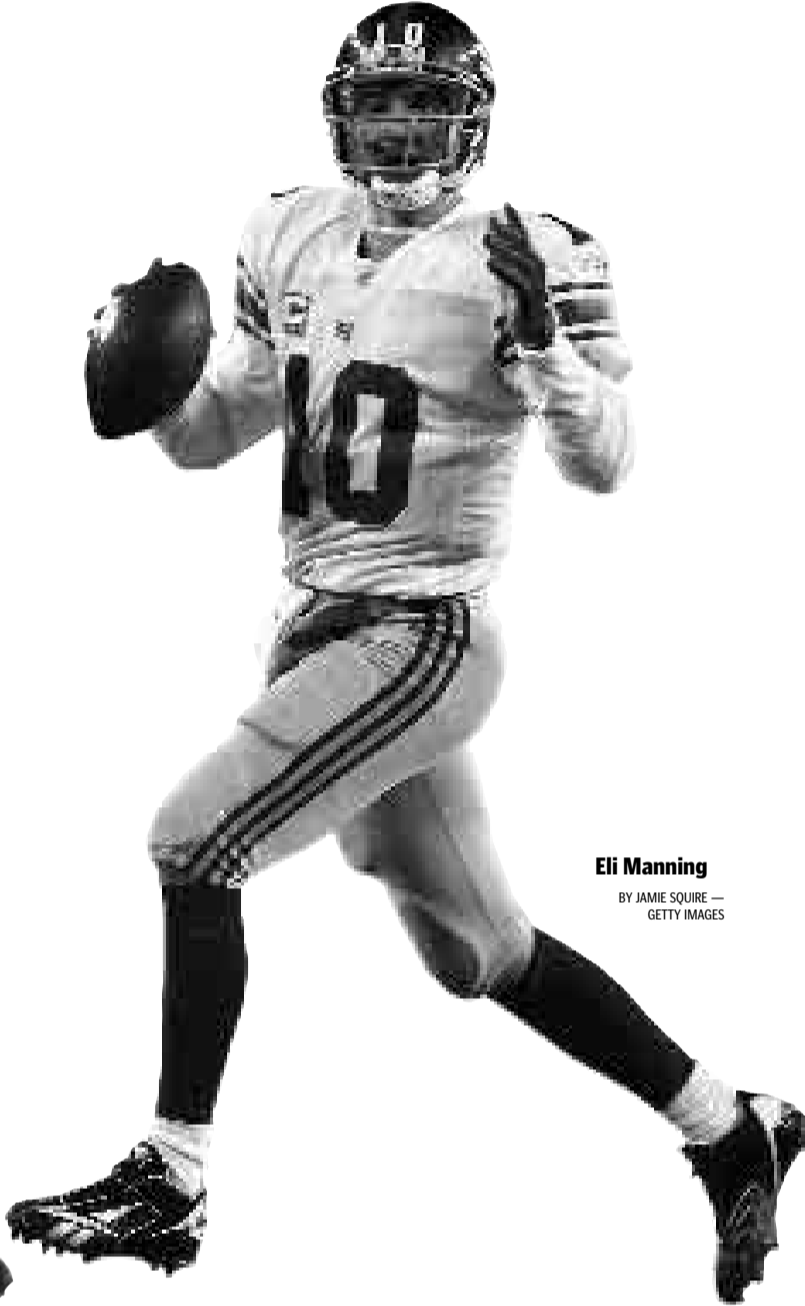
Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 9	at Dallas	L, 35-45
Sept. 16	Green Bay	L, 13-35
Sept. 23	at Washington	W, 24-17
Sept. 30	Philadelphia	W, 16-3
Oct. 7	N.Y. Jets	W, 35-24
Oct. 15	at Atlanta	W, 31-10
Oct. 21	San Francisco	W, 33-15
Oct. 28	at Miami (London)	W, 13-10
Nov. 11	Dallas	L, 20-31
Nov. 18	at Detroit	W, 16-10
Nov. 25	Minnesota	L, 17-41
Dec. 2	at Chicago	W, 21-16
Dec. 9	at Philadelphia	W, 16-13
Dec. 16	Washington	L, 10-22
Dec. 23	at Buffalo	W, 38-21
Dec. 29	New England	L, 35-38

Date	Opponent	Result
Sept. 9	at N.Y. Jets	W, 38-14
Sept. 16	San Diego	W, 38-14
Sept. 23	Buffalo	W, 38-7
Oct. 1	at Cincinnati	W, 34-13
Oct. 7	Cleveland	W, 34-17
Oct. 14	at Dallas	W, 48-27
Oct. 21	at Miami	W, 49-28
Oct. 28	Washington	W, 52-7
Nov. 4	at Indianapolis	W, 24-20
Nov. 18	at Buffalo	W, 56-10
Nov. 25	Philadelphia	W, 31-28
Dec. 3	at Baltimore	W, 27-24
Dec. 9	Pittsburgh	W, 34-13
Dec. 16	N.Y. Jets	W, 20-10
Dec. 23	Miami	W, 28-7
Dec. 29	at NY Giants	W, 38-35

PLAYOFFS	
Jan. 6	at Tampa Bay W, 24-14
Jan. 13	at Dallas W, 21-17
Jan. 20	at Green Bay W, 23-20



Tom Brady
BY MICHAEL HEIMAN
— GETTY IMAGES



Eli Manning
BY JAMIE SQUIRE
— GETTY IMAGES

They're in It Until the End

TOM BRADY: His 4th-Quarter Rallies Kept Patriots' Perfect Season Intact

Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss was asked during the week if Tom Brady is the best quarterback with whom he has played. "Not just the best quarterback that I've ever played with," Moss said. "I think the best quarterback that's ever been put in this league."

A case can be made that Brady has had the best season for a quarterback, and if he wins his fourth Super Bowl title, he has accomplished enough to be considered the greatest quarterback in pro football history.

He set the single-season NFL record with 50 touchdown passes during the regular season. He set the single-game postseason mark for passing accuracy with his 26-for-28 outing in the Patriots' triumph over the Jacksonville Jaguars in an AFC semifinal.

The Patriots were pushed to the limit four times during the regular season, needing fourth-quarter comebacks to beat the Colts, Eagles, Ravens and Giants. Each time they faced a fourth-quarter deficit, they seemed to raise their level of play a few notches, and Brady and Moss often were the central figures.

The key sequence of the regular season finale against the Giants came when Moss dropped a deep pass on one play, then caught the go-ahead touchdown pass on the next.

Brady's late-game exploits have been the stuff of legend on the biggest stage. In each of the Patriots' Super Bowl victories, Brady has led fourth-quarter drives that have resulted in the winning points.

ELI MANNING: He Put Team in Position To Advance With Error-Free Play

Eli Manning never has received the same credit as brother Peyton, but here he is on threshold of winning a professional championship far sooner than his older sibling.

Since throwing four touchdown passes against the Patriots in the regular season finale, Manning has become a different player. He's been the quarterback the Giants thought they were getting when they traded for him on draft day 2004.

He's thrown 93 straight passes without an interception, including 85 during the NFL playoffs. In all, Manning has gone 101 straight postseason passes without throwing an interception.

In his 60 NFL starts, including five postseason games, Manning has led the Giants to nine victories with fourth-quarter comebacks, one of them against the Cowboys in an NFC semifinal last month.

In that game, Manning marched the Giants to the Cowboys 1-yard line. From there, running back Brandon Jacobs scored a touchdown to put New York ahead for good in the fourth quarter.

In the NFC championship game a week later at Lambeau Field, Manning put the Giants in position to attempt a 36-yard field goal to win with four seconds to play. But Lawrence Tynes's kick was no good. The Giants got the ball in overtime after intercepting Brett Favre and won when Tynes converted a 47-yard field goal.

Manning engineered one of his more riveting comebacks at Chicago in Week 13. The Giants trailed 16-7 before Manning led them to a pair of touchdowns in the final 6 minutes 54 seconds for a 21-16 victory.

KEY MATCHUPS

Patriots CBs Asante Samuel and Ellis Hobbs vs. Giants WR Plaxico Burress, right: Patriots S Rodney Harrison last week called Samuel the best cornerback in the league "hands down." But Samuel and Hobbs face a tough assignment matching up with Burress, who had a superb season despite playing on a bad ankle and had two TD catches in the regular season finale. He's simply too big, at 6 feet 5, and rangy for most defensive backs to handle one-on-one. Samuel is listed at 5-10 and Hobbs at 5-9.



Giants' pass rush vs. Patriots' offensive line: Much of New England quarterback Tom Brady's success this year has come because he rarely gets hit. This is why many say the Patriots have the best line in the league. The line has been tested in various ways the last few weeks, including the last game of the regular season when the Giants had some success pressuring Brady. The Giants led the league in sacks during the regular season and have big-time pass rushers in Osi Umenyiora, Michael Strahan and Justin Tuck.