

Will Tom Brady break Peyton Manning's TD record?

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THE PATRIOTS TACKLE THE JETS: View the gallery at Projosports.com/patriots

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On the march

The Pats have won 14 straight games this year and 17 straight regular-season games, close to records in both categories:

REGULAR-SEASON STREAK		
18	Patriots	2003-04
17	Bears	1933-34
	Patriots	2006-07
SINGLE-SEASON STREAK		
14	Dolphins	1972
	Steelers	2004
	Patriots	2007

SECTION B
The Providence Journal
projosports.com
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007

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**Patriots 20
Jets 10**

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME

It was a victory that had **Bill Belichick** downright giddy, or at least what passes as giddy for Belichick. He had a smile and some kind words for former-aide-turned-Spygate-nemesis **Eric Mangini** in the much-anticipated postgame handshake, after which he thrust his fist in the air triumphantly and pumped it twice.

KIND WORDS?

"He said 'Good game,' or 'Good luck,' " Mangini related. "I can't remember."

'TIS THE SEASON . . .

"Maybe they're friends again," **Tedy Bruschi** said with a laugh about Belichick and Mangini. "I don't know. We'll see."

. . . TO BE JOLLY

Even though the Patriots didn't come close to covering the 21-point spread, they had reason to think yesterday was a good game. With their record-setting passing attack neutralized by the elements and the Jets, they effectively ran the ball . . . something they'll need to do in January playoff games at home. And they tightened one of the few weaknesses they've had this year by finally enjoying some success defensively in the red zone, holding the Jets to three points in four trips inside the 20.

CALL FOR MERCURY MORRIS

Mercury Morris, the self-appointed spokesman of the 1972 Dolphins, said he didn't want to be notified until the Patriots — attempting to match Miami's feat of going through an entire season unbeaten — "are on my block." The Pats turned the corner and are headed down the street after yesterday's victory, which gives them a 14-0 record so far this season . . . the same record the Dolphins had during the shorter regular season in '72.

UP NEXT . . .

Morris' old team, which will try to prevent the Pats from becoming the first team in National Football League history to win 15 straight games in a single-year regular season.

REIGN DANCE



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Pats safety Eugene Wilson, left, celebrates his first-quarter touchdown with teammate Asante Samuel. Jets quarterback Kellen Clemens had been hit by Richard Seymour, resulting in a wobbly pass that Wilson picked off. It was his first career TD.

Patriots grind up Jets, move to 14-0

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — As Tom Brady's arm passed the New England Patriots to wins in their first 13 games of the season, Laurence Maroney insisted that his chance was coming.

While he enjoyed witnessing New England's jaw-dropping offense, he knew that, sooner or later, his number would be called.

Yesterday was that day.

When the wind-driven snow that filled the stands at Gillette Stadium changed to wind-driven rain before the Patriots' showdown with the New York Jets, Maroney's chance to shine fell into his lap like so many raindrops on the stadium turf.

And shine he did.

Running with authority and purpose, Maroney had a career-high 26 carries for a season-high 104 yards and a touchdown as the Patriots remained perfect with a 20-10 win over the rival Jets.

"It was a big game for him," Brady said of the second-year running back. "I thought he ran the ball hard, took care of the ball, scored on the goal line. When you have elements like this, you

SEE PATRIOTS, B6

Belichick sure to keep Pats' pedal to the metal

Win 'em all.

That's what the Patriots have done so far. That's what they're going to continue to try to do. Fourteen down. Five to go. They're going to play 'em all, and so, the

JIM DONALDSON Patriots figure, they may as well win 'em all.

The next two, some fools might suggest, don't really matter because the undefeated Pats have locked up home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs and so could go on cruise-control the last two games of the regular season, resting superstar quarterback Tom Brady and selected others of his teammates in order to ensure they'll be healthy when the AFC semifinal game is played at Gillette Stadium the weekend of Jan. 12-13.

The suggestion itself is not, by the way, ridiculous. But what is foolish is bringing it up to coach Bill Belichick, as happened at yesterday's postgame news conference.

Better you should wave a red flag

SEE DONALDSON, B4

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