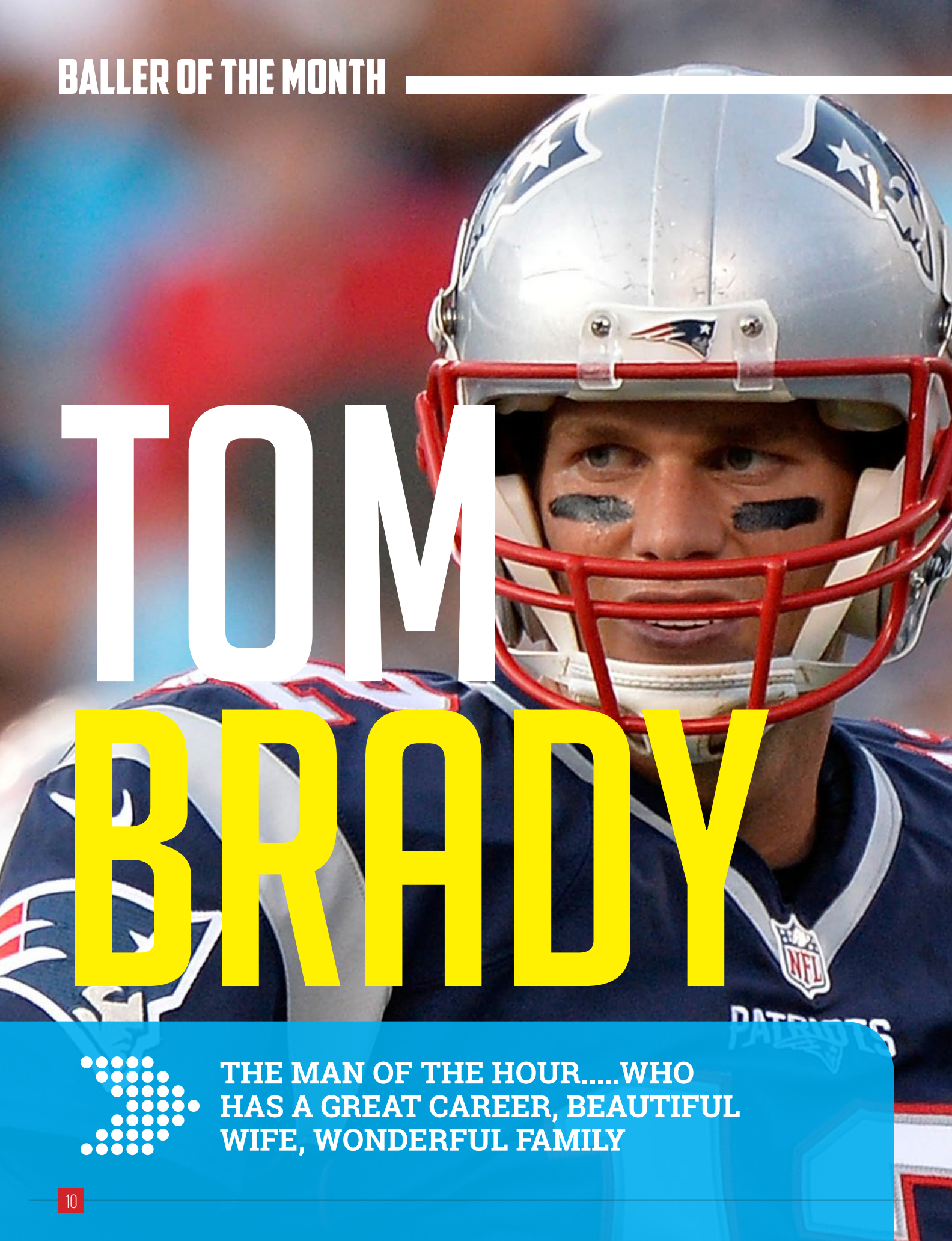


BALLER OF THE MONTH

A close-up photograph of Tom Brady wearing a New England Patriots helmet and jersey. He has black eye paint under his eyes and is looking slightly to the side. The background is blurred, showing stadium lights.

TOM BRADY



**THE MAN OF THE HOUR.....WHO
HAS A GREAT CAREER, BEAUTIFUL
WIFE, WONDERFUL FAMILY**



Thomas Edward Patrick “Tom” Brady Jr. is an American football quarterback for the New England Patriots of the National Football League (NFL). He is one of only two players, and the only quarterback, to win five Super Bowls, and the only player to win them all playing for one team. After playing college football for the University of Michigan, Brady was drafted by the Patriots in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL Draft. In Brady’s 15 seasons as a starter,[a] he has quarterbacked the Patriots to seven Super Bowl appearances, the most for any player in history.

Brady has been honored with four Super Bowl MVP awards (Super Bowl XXXVI, XXXVIII, XLIX, and LI), the most ever by a single player, has won two league MVP awards (2007 and 2010), has been selected to 12 Pro Bowls, and has led his team to more division titles (14) than any other quarterback in NFL history. As of the end of the 2016 season, Brady is fourth all-time in career passing yards, fourth in career touchdown passes, and third in career passer rating. His career postseason record is 25–9, winning more playoff games than any other quarterback, and he has appeared in more playoff games than any player at any position. His 208 combined regular-season and postseason wins are also the most of any quarterback in NFL history. Because of his accomplishments and accolades, many analysts and sportswriters consider Brady to be the greatest quarterback of all time, and because of his late draft selection Brady is considered to be the biggest “steal” in the history of the NFL Draft.

Brady was born in San Mateo, California, the only son and fourth child of Galynn Patricia and Thomas Brady, Sr. Brady attended Junípero Serra High School in San Mateo, where he graduated in 1995; the ceremony was held at St. Mary’s Cathedral.[18] He played football, basketball, and baseball in high school. Brady’s football career started as the backup quarterback on the Padres JV team. At first, Brady was not good enough to start on the 0–8 JV team that had not scored a touchdown all year. However, when the starting quarterback went down with an injury, he ascended to the starting position. He became the varsity starter his junior year and held the position until he graduated.

The process of recruiting was much different during Brady’s time, and athletes’ rankings were not as prominent. In terms of recruiting in the 2000s, Brady would have been considered a Four-star quarterback. In essence, he was a highly rated prospect. Brady was also on Blue Chip Illustrated as well as a Prep Football Report All-American selection. Following his recruiting process he narrowed down his list to five main schools. “Probably the ones that we did hear from and ultimately pared the list to were Cal-Berkeley, UCLA, USC, Michigan, and Illinois,” his father said.



When Brady revisited two weeks after Super Bowl XLVI in 2012, school administrators announced that they had named the football stadium Brady Family Stadium.

Brady was also known as a great baseball player in high school. He was a left handed hitting catcher with power. His skill set impressed MLB scouts, and he was drafted in the 18th round of the 1995 MLB Draft by the Montreal Expos. Although he could have had a bright future in baseball, Brady was determined to play football at the next level. He was always more passionate about football, and when he found that there was significant interest in him, he decided to take the road of football. Brady was recruited by Michigan assistant Bill Harris, and he signed to play for the University of Michigan in 1995. He finished his high school football career completing 236 of 447 passes for 3,702 yards and 31 touchdowns. He also won All-State and All-Far West honors as well as the team's Most Valuable Player Award.[23]

He was inducted into the Junipero Serra High School Hall of Fame in 2003, joining fellow Serra High graduates Barry Bonds, Lynn Swann, Gregg Jefferies, Jim Fregosi. When Brady revisited two weeks after Super Bowl XLVI in 2012, school administrators announced that they had named the football stadium Brady Family Stadium.

College career

Brady played college football for the University of Michigan from 1995 to 1999. He was a backup quarterback for his first two years, while teammate and future NFL quarterback Brian Griese led the 1997 Wolverines to an undefeated season, which was capped by a victory in the Rose Bowl and a share of the national championship. When he enrolled at Michigan, Brady was seventh on the depth chart, and he had an intense struggle to get some playing time. He worked closely with assistant athletic director Greg Harden, who met with Brady every week to build his confidence and to maximize his performance on the field. Brady told 60 Minutes in 2014: "He will always be somebody I rely on for sound advice and mentorship. He has helped me with my own personal struggles in both athletics and in life. Greg really pushed me in a direction that I wasn't sure I could go.



Under Michigan head coach Lloyd Carr, Brady battled for the starting job with Drew Henson[32] and ultimately started every game in the 1998 and 1999 seasons. During his first full year as starter, he set new Michigan records for most pass attempts and completions in a season, for a total of 214. Brady was All-Big Ten honorable mention both seasons, and was the team captain in his senior year. The Wolverines won 20 of 25 games when he started, and he set a school record for completions in a 31–16 loss against Ohio State in 1998, a season in which Michigan shared the Big Ten Conference title. Brady capped that season with a win over Arkansas in the Citrus Bowl.

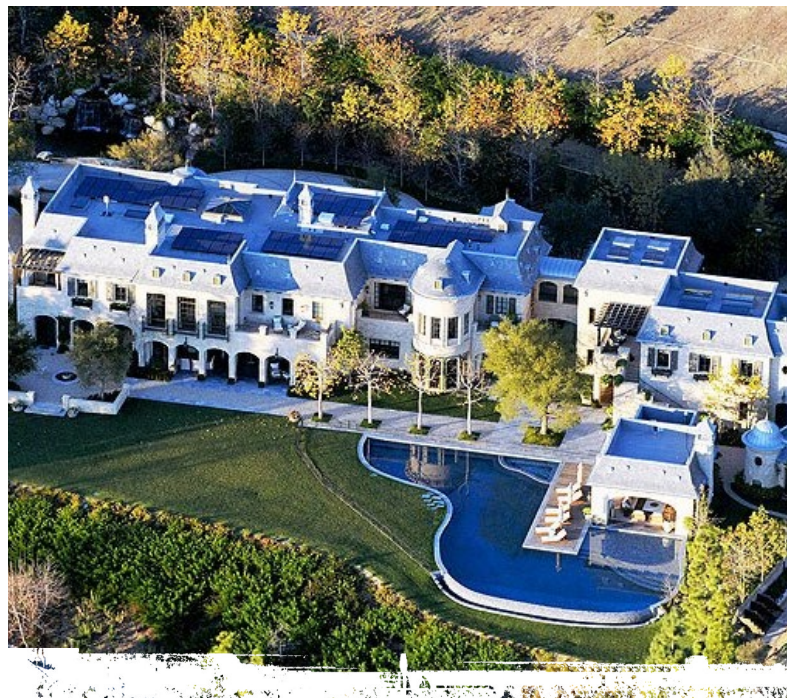
In the 1999 season, Brady had to once again hold off Henson for the starting job. The two players platooned during the season's first seven games, with Brady playing the first quarter, Henson the second and Carr then deciding upon a quarterback for the second half. The 1999 Michigan Wolverines started off 5–0, including a 26–22 win over Notre Dame, and a road win against eventual powerhouse Wisconsin. Against Michigan State, Brady was not chosen to play the second half; however, he was reinserted into the game with Michigan down by 17 points, and he nearly led Michigan all the way back before



losing 34–31. After a 300-yard passing game the following week, Carr went exclusively with Brady for the remainder of the season. Brady went on to lead Michigan to multiple 4th-quarter comebacks, including a remarkable 31–27 win against Penn State, and leading them out of a close game against Indiana, 34–31, heading into the regular season's final game, winners of three straight, earning him the moniker of "Comeback Kid".

Brady concluded the regular season against Michigan's rival, Ohio State; this was a dramatic game with a trip to the Orange Bowl on the line. With five minutes left, tied 17–17, Brady led Michigan to the winning score. He led Michigan to an overtime win in the Orange Bowl over Alabama, throwing for 369 yards, four touchdowns, leading the team back from a pair of 14-point deficits in regulation (14–0 in the first half, and 28–14 in the second). He threw the game-winning score on a bootleg to tight end Shawn Thompson. Michigan won when Alabama missed an extra point following its own touchdown.

In the two seasons that Brady started at Michigan, he posted a 20–5 record, including his two largest victories at the Citrus Bowl (1999) and the Orange Bowl (2000).



Brady finished his career ranking 3rd in Michigan history with 710 attempts and 442 completions, 4th with 5,351 yards and 62.3 completion percentage, and 5th with 35 touchdown passes.

He has subsequently played his entire professional career with the Patriots and has enjoyed a distinguished and decorated career that includes five Super Bowl wins, four Super Bowl MVPs and two League MVPs. Brady is rated among the greatest quarterbacks of all time. In addition to his other accolades, he has been named to the Pro Bowl twelve times and led the league in passing three times. He holds numerous NFL post-season passing records, and has more post-season wins than any other quarterback. With Brady playing quarterback, the Patriots have never had a losing season and have won 14 division titles They played in eleven AFC Championship Games from 2001 to 2016—including six in a row from 2011 to 2016—and won seven of them.

In his second season, Brady took over as the starting quarterback after Drew Bledsoe was injured; he eventually led the Patriots to victory in Super Bowl XXXVI. Brady won the NFL comeback player of the year in the 2009 season, and he and the Patriots continued in that and subsequent seasons to turn in strong performances, winning his second League MVP in 2010. Brady returned to the Super Bowl in the 2011 season where once again Brady and the Patriots were upset by the New York Giants. Brady then made his sixth and most recent trip to the Super Bowl after the 2014 season (Brady's 15th as a pro) where Brady led a memorable fourth quarter comeback over the defending champion Seattle Seahawks for his fourth Super Bowl win, and was named Super Bowl MVP for the third time.

Brady led the Patriots when they set the NFL record for the longest consecutive winning streak—that included the playoffs—with 21 straight wins in the 2003 and 2004 seasons. He set the record for most consecutive playoff wins with 10, and in 2007, he led the Patriots to the first undefeated regular season since the season was expanded to 16 games. He has thrown for more passing yards and touchdowns than any quarterback in NFL postseason history, and has the sixth highest career passer rating of all time (96.6) among quarterbacks with at least 1,500 career passing attempts.

Brady and Joe Montana are the only players in NFL history to win multiple NFL MVP and Super Bowl MVP awards. In 2007, he was named NFL Most Valuable Player (MVP), and the Associated Press named him Male Athlete of the Year, the first NFL player so honored since Montana in 1990. He became the first quarterback to throw for 50 touchdowns in a season. In 2010, he was unanimously chosen as the NFL MVP, becoming the first player since 1986 to be unanimously chosen as MVP, and was ranked as the top player in the NFL Top 100, a poll of league players. He set the NFL record for consecutive passes without an interception, and broke his own record for the highest season touchdown to interception ratio, among players who have started a full season, at 9:1.

The Patriots went on to win eleven of the fourteen games Brady started, and six straight to finish the regular season, winning the AFC East and entering the 2001–02 NFL playoffs with a first-round bye. Brady finished with 2,843 passing yards and 18 touchdowns and earned an invitation to the 2002 Pro Bowl. In Brady's first playoff game, he threw for 312 yards against the Oakland Raiders and led the Patriots back from a ten-point fourth-quarter deficit to send the game to overtime, where they won on an Adam Vinatieri field goal. In the AFC Championship Game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Brady injured his knee, and was relieved by Bledsoe. The Patriots won the game and were immediately instituted by Las Vegas oddsmakers as 14-point underdogs against the NFC champion St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.

Brady returned from his knee injury in the AFC Championship Game to start in Super Bowl XXXVI a week later in New Orleans. Despite being heavy underdogs, the Patriots played well, holding the Rams' high powered offense in check through the first three quarters. The Rams rallied from a 17–3 deficit to tie the game with 1:30 left in regulation. **The Patriots then got the ball back at their own 17 yard line with no timeouts remaining. Sportscaster and former Super Bowl-winning coach John Madden said he thought the Patriots should run**



out the clock and try to win the game in overtime. Instead, Brady drove the Patriots' offense down the field to the Rams 31 before spiking the ball with seven seconds left. Then kicker Adam Vinatieri made a 48-yard field goal as time expired to give the Patriots a 20–17 win and their first ever league championship. **Brady was named MVP of Super Bowl XXXVI while throwing for 145 yards, one touchdown, and no interceptions, becoming the then-youngest quarterback to ever win a Super Bowl.** On February 1, 2004, Brady led the Patriots to a 32–29 victory over the NFC champion Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII and was named Super Bowl MVP for the second time. During the game, Brady threw for 354 yards with three touchdowns and set the record for most completions by a quarterback in a Super Bowl. With 1:08 left in the fourth quarter and the score tied 29–29, Brady engineered a drive to put the Patriots in position for the game-winning field goal.

Brady during Super Bowl XXXIX

During the 2004 season, Brady helped the Patriots set an NFL record with 21 straight wins dating from the previous year, an accomplishment honored in the Pro Football Hall of Fame (though for official records, the NFL considers it an 18-game regular season winning streak; it does

Brady was named MVP of Super Bowl XXXVI while throwing for 145 yards, one touchdown, and no interceptions, becoming the then-youngest quarterback to ever win a Super Bowl.



not count playoff games). New England finished 14–2, equaling their 2003 record and the best regular-season record ever for a defending champion. The Patriots also won the AFC East divisional title for the third time in four years. Brady threw for 3,692 yards and 28 touchdowns, with a 92.6 passer rating, and was voted to his second Pro Bowl. In the AFC playoffs, Brady led the Patriots to victories over the Indianapolis Colts and the Pittsburgh Steelers. Brady played his best game of the year in Pittsburgh despite requiring intravenous treatment the previous night when he ran a temperature of 103°. Against the NFL's best defense, he recorded a quarterback passer rating of 130.5, his highest of the season. On February 6, 2005, the Patriots narrowly defeated the Philadelphia Eagles, 24–21, to win Super Bowl XXXIX. Brady threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns while capturing the Patriots' third championship in four years. During the 2005 season, injuries suffered by running backs Corey Dillon, Patrick Pass, and Kevin Faulk forced the Patriots to rely more on Brady's passing. Brady also had to adjust to new center Russ Hochstein and running back Heath Evans. Brady finished first in the league with 4,110 passing yards and third in the league with 26 touchdowns. At 92.3, his 2005 passer rating was the second-highest of his career at the time, although he equaled his career high for interceptions with 14. He rushed for 89 yards and fumbled a career-low four times. He and the Patriots finished with a 10–6 record, winning



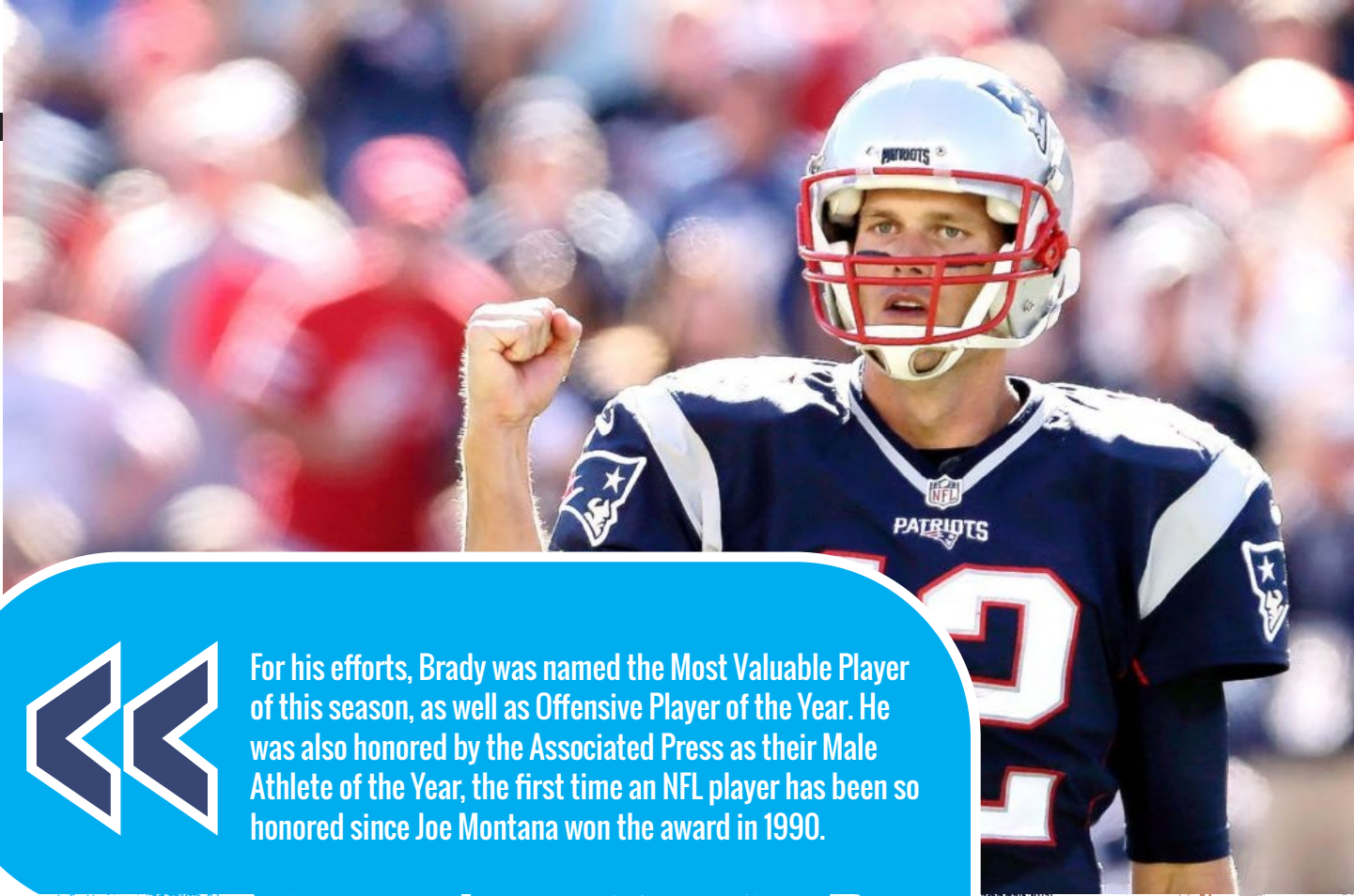
their third straight AFC East title. In the playoffs, Brady led the Patriots to a 28–3 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars in the wild card round; however, on January 14, 2006, the Patriots lost 27–13 to the Denver Broncos at INVESCO Field. Brady threw for 341 yards in the game with one touchdown and two interceptions, in the first playoff loss of his career. While away at Dallas, he had a career-high five passing touchdowns in a 48–27 win. **The win tied him with Roger Staubach for the most wins ever by a starting quarterback in his first 100 regular-season games, with 76.** The next week, in part of a 49–28 win at Miami, he had yet another record day, with six passing touchdowns, setting a franchise record. He also had the first perfect passer rating of his career. Two weeks later, as part of a come-from-behind 24–20 victory at Indianapolis, he threw for another three touchdowns, the ninth consecutive game in which he had done so, breaking Peyton Manning’s NFL record of eight. During the last game of the year, Brady threw two touchdown passes; his second touchdown was his 50th, breaking Peyton Manning’s 2004 record of 49.

Brady finished the season with 4,806 passing yards, 50 touchdown passes, and only 8 interceptions. It was unanimously voted the greatest passing season of all time by ESPN in 2013. His 50:8 touchdown to interception ratio was, at the time, an NFL record. He became the first quarterback to pass for 50 touchdowns in a season and his 117.2 passer rating is currently [when?] the fourth highest in a single season. His 8.7% touchdown passing percentage is currently the third highest ever in a season. He led **the Patriots to becoming the first team to ever go undefeated in the regular season since the 16 game schedule was enforced and directed an offense that scored a then NFL record 589 points and 75 total touchdowns.** Those records stood until they were eclipsed by the 2013 Broncos. The team’s 50 total touchdown passes is the fourth most ever in a season. **For his efforts, Brady was named the Most Valuable Player of this season, as well as Offensive Player of the Year. He was also honored by the Associated Press as their Male Athlete of the Year, the first time an NFL player has been so honored since Joe Montana won the award in 1990.**

In the Patriots’ first playoff game, an AFC Divisional game against Jacksonville, Brady began the game with an NFL postseason record sixteen consecutive completed



Brady hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the fifth time in his career.



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passes, and finished the game with 26 completions in 28 attempts, a completion rate of 92.9%. That mark is the highest single-game completion percentage (for passers with at least 20 attempts) in NFL history, regular season or postseason. With the win, the Patriots matched the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins as the only team to win 17 consecutive games in one season.

Statistically, Brady did not fare as well in the AFC Championship Game against the San Diego Chargers, throwing three interceptions (including his first interception in the red zone since the playoff loss to Denver). Nevertheless, the Patriots won their 18th game of the season, 21–12, to advance to the Super Bowl for the fourth time in seven seasons. Brady, with the 100th win of his career, also set an NFL record for the fewest games needed by a starting quarterback to do so: his 100–26 record is sixteen games better than Joe Montana's. In Super Bowl XLII, Brady was pressured heavily and sacked five times. The

In his first game after his injury, in nearly a year, Brady threw for 378 yards and two touchdowns in the 2009 season opener against the Buffalo Bills. In the final minutes of the game, the Patriots were down 24–13 before Brady and Benjamin Watson connected on two straight touchdowns to lead the Patriots to a 25–24 win. Brady was named the AFC Offensive Player of the Week for the 13th time in his career for his performance. On October

18, 2009, in an early season snowstorm, Brady set an NFL record against the Tennessee Titans for most touchdowns in a single quarter, throwing five in the second quarter. Brady finished the game with six touchdowns, tying his career best, and 380 yards, completing 29 of 34 attempts, finishing with a nearly perfect passer rating of 152.8. The Patriots' 59–0 victory over the Titans tied the record for the largest margin of victory since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger, and set a record for largest halftime lead in NFL history (they led 45–0).

On September 10, 2010, Brady signed a four-year, \$72 million contract extension, making him the highest-paid player in the NFL. The extension included \$48.5 million in guaranteed money. Brady became the quickest quarterback to achieve 100 regular season wins by helping his team defeat the Miami Dolphins 41–14 on October 4, 2010. In a 31–28 win over the Indianapolis Colts on November 21, 2010, **Brady tied Brett Favre's record of winning 25 consecutive regular-season home starts.** Brady's last regular-season defeat at home was a 17–14 loss to the New York Jets on November 12, 2006. On December 6, 2010, Brady engineered a 45–3 victory over the New York Jets and set an NFL record by winning 26 consecutive regular-season home starts.

Brady threw for 3,900 yards with 36 touchdowns and only four interceptions on the season. He had a 111.0 passer

Brady tied Brett Favre's record of winning 25 consecutive regular-season home starts



rating; this gave him—at the time—two of the top five season ratings in NFL history and made him the first player to finish with a rating above 110 in two different seasons.

Brady was also the only unanimous selection for the AP All-Pro Team and was named the 2010 Associated Press NFL Offensive Player of the Year. By unanimous decision, he won the MVP award for the second time in his career.

In Week 1 of the 2011 NFL season, Brady threw for 517 yards, 4 touchdowns, and one interception in a game against the Miami Dolphins. This was the second time that he had thrown for 400 or more yards in a single game.

In the regular season finale against the Buffalo Bills, Brady became the fourth quarterback to throw for 5,000 yards in a single season, finishing with 5,235; although Brady surpassed Dan Marino's longstanding record of 5,084 passing yards, he finished the season second in passing yards behind only Drew Brees' 5,476.

In the end, the Patriots finished the season 13–3 and clinched the AFC's #1 seed. There's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady. He's the best. He does so much for us in so many ways on so many different levels. I'm very fortunate that he's our quarterback and what he's able to do for this team. It's good to win with him and all the rest of our players. If that's more than somebody else did, I don't really care about that.

—Bill Belichick

In the Patriots' 45–10 rout of the Denver Broncos in the Divisional round, Brady set a personal postseason best with 363 passing yards, and tied an NFL record shared by Daryle Lamonic and Steve Young, throwing for 6 touchdown passes. The win, his first postseason win since January 2008, gave Brady and Patriots head coach Bill Belichick sole possession of the NFL record for postseason wins by a QB-coach combo with 15. In the AFC Championship game against the Baltimore Ravens, Brady failed to throw a touchdown pass for the first time in 36 games, though he did pass for 239 yards and scored a 1-yard rushing touchdown late in the game. The Patriots were the beneficiaries of a missed field goal from Ravens kicker Billy Cundiff that saw Brady and the Patriots reach their fifth Super Bowl since Brady joined the team. In Super Bowl XLVI, Brady and the Patriots met the New



York Giants, meeting in the Championship for the second time in five years. Brady played well, leading a Super Bowl record-tying 96-yard touchdown drive to close the first half and at one point completing 16 passes in the row for a 20/23 mark partway into the third quarter, another Super Bowl record. A final score of 21–17 for the Giants prevented Brady from winning his fourth Super Bowl. Brady started all 16 regular season games of the 2012 NFL season and led the Patriots to a 12–4 record. The Patriot scored 557 total points, the third highest in league history and Brady became the first quarterback to lead his team to 10 division titles. With that point total, the Patriots became the first team to score at least 500 points in a season four different times, with Brady leading all four squads (another record). He finished the season with 4,827 passing yards, 34 touchdowns, only 8 interceptions, and a passer rating of 98.7. It was Brady's third straight season throwing for over 30 touchdowns. Brady also started both Patriots play-off games, winning against the Houston Texans. With the victory, Brady surpassed Joe Montana for most career playoff wins, with 17.

Brady and the Patriots began the season with much upheaval on the offensive side of the ball. Rob Gronkowski was injured and Aaron Hernandez was arrested. Wes

Welker departed to the Denver Broncos, Danny Woodhead left in free agency for the San Diego Chargers, and Brandon Lloyd was released from the team. In order to replace the five players, the Patriots signed Danny Amendola in free agency, drafted rookies Aaron Dobson and Josh Boyce, and signed undrafted rookie free agent Kenbrell Thompkins. In the first two games of the season, Brady completed 52% of his passes and had three touchdowns and one interception. Brady was in pursuit of Drew Brees' record of at least one touchdown in 54 consecutive regular season games and saw the streak end at 52 games in a Week 5 loss against the Cincinnati Bengals. In a Week 6 game against the Saints, the Patriots struggled in the first half and bounced back in the second with Brady passing for 269 yards with a touchdown to Kenbrell Thompkins as time expired to pull out the win over the Saints. In Week 11, Brady faced-off against Peyton Manning for the fourteenth time in his career. After going to the half trailing by 24 points, Brady and the Patriots scored 31 unanswered points. The Patriots won after a muffed punt in overtime when Stephen Gostkowski scored a field goal. With a Week 16 win over the Ravens, Brady collected his 147th win as a starting quarterback to tie Dan Marino for fourth place all time, and the following week he defeated the Bills to tie John Elway for third place. Brady's Patriots finished the season 12-4, to earn the second seed in the AFC and a first-round bye.

In the Divisional Round matchup against the Indianapolis Colts, Brady made his 25th playoff appearance, breaking Brett Favre's career record for playoff appearances by a quarterback (Jerry Rice appeared in 29 playoff games). The following week, the Patriots lost to the Denver Broncos, eliminating Brady and the Patriots from the playoffs. Brady started the 2014 season with a 33-20 loss to the Miami Dolphins. It was Brady's first opening day loss since 2003. Brady was good for 241 yards and a touchdown in the loss. New England rebounded against the Minnesota Vikings, but Brady struggled, throwing for 149 yards and a touchdown in a 30-7 win. Against the Oakland Raiders Brady was pressured all day, but threw for 234 yards and a touchdown in 16-9 win. After a humiliating 41-14 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs, Brady led New England to back-to-back wins against the Cincinnati Bengals and the Buffalo Bills. Brady then defeated the New York Jets with a 261-yard performance that included 3 touchdowns. The following week, a 51-23 embarrassment of the Chicago Bears saw Brady throw for 354 yards and a season-high 5 touchdowns. After passing for 333 yards, and 257 yards in his next two games against the Denver Broncos and Indianapolis Colts respectively, Brady defeated the Detroit Lions 34-9 with 349 passing yards and 2 touchdowns against only one interception. The Patriots winning streak was put to the test against the Green Bay Packers in week 13. Down 13-0 early, Brady threw for 2 touchdowns, no picks, and 245 yards. Still down 26-21, Brady was unable to give the Patriots their 8th consecutive victory. After trailing 14-3 at the San Diego Chargers, Brady rallied his team with 317 passing yards, 2 touchdowns, and only one pick, to a 23-14 comeback win. Brady clinched his NFL





record 12th AFC East division title with 287 passing yards, 2 touchdowns and a pick.

In a 35–31 Divisional Round win over the Ravens, **Brady threw for three touchdowns and ran in a fourth, breaking Curtis Martin's club record for rushing touchdowns in the playoffs; Brady also broke Joe Montana's record for playoff touchdowns with 46.** After the Ravens scored on their first two possessions, the Patriots were quickly down 14–0. Brady led New England on an 8 play, 78 yard drive, and ran for a score to cut the Raven lead to 14–7. In the second quarter, Brady's 15 yard touchdown pass to Danny Amendola tied the score at 14–14. After getting the ball back, Brady threw an interception at the end of the first half. Joe Flacco capitalized on it by throwing an 11-yard touchdown strike to Owen Daniels to give Baltimore a 21–14 halftime lead. Down 28–14, Brady engineered an 80-yard drive, culminating in a touchdown to Rob Gronkowski to cut the lead to 28–21. The Patriots tied the game once again at 28 off of a trick play where Brady passed laterally to Julian Edelman who then threw a 51-yard touchdown to Danny Amendola. Ravens kicker Justin Tucker drilled a 25-yard field goal to give Baltimore a 31–28 4th quarter lead. Brady got the ball back, and threw a 23-yard touchdown to Brandon LaFell to give the Patriots their first lead, up 35–31. After a Duron Harmon interception and a Joe Flacco Hail Mary attempt failed, Brady clinched his record 9th AFC Championship Game, fourth straight, and the third championship game against the Indianapolis Colts. **After a 45–7 blowout, Brady advanced to play in his sixth Super Bowl, breaking a tie with John Elway for**

most career Super Bowl appearances by a quarterback. In Super Bowl XLIX, Brady completed 37–50 passes for 328 yards, 4 touchdowns and 2 interceptions. **He guided a 10-point 4th quarter comeback as the Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28–24 to give Brady his fourth Super Bowl ring, tying him with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw for most Super Bowl victories by a starting quarterback. He was named Super Bowl MVP for the third time, tying Montana's record for most Super Bowl MVP awards.** Brady's 37 complete passes in the game set a Super Bowl record at the time, which would be broken by Brady himself in Super Bowl LI two years later.

On February 29, 2016, Brady signed a two-year contract extension covering the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

After serving his four-game suspension, Brady made his 2016 season debut on October 9 on the road against the Cleveland Browns; he completed 28 of 40 passes for 406 yards and 3 touchdowns in a 33–13 Patriots victory. In his first home game the following week, Brady completed 29 of 35 passes for 376 yards and 3 touchdowns in a 35–17 Patriots victory over the Cincinnati Bengals. In Week 7, Brady completed 19 of 26 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns as New England defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 27–16. The next week, the Patriots defeated the Buffalo Bills 41–25, with Brady completing 22 of 33 passes for 315 yards and four touchdowns. Brady's outstanding numbers during his first four games following the suspension earned him the AFC Offensive Player of the Month award for October.

Following a bye week, Brady and the Patriots faced the Seattle Seahawks in a Week 10 rematch of Super Bowl XLIX. Brady completed 23 of 32 passes for 316 yards, one interception, and no touchdowns in a 31–24 loss that saw the two teams trade leads seven different times. In Week 11, Brady completed 24 of 40 passes for 280 yards, four touchdowns, and no interceptions in a 30–17 road win against his childhood team, the San Francisco 49ers in a performance that earned him AFC Offensive Player of the Week honors for Week 11. **Those four touchdown passes also gave him 444 career regular season touchdown passes with one team, breaking the record previously held by Brett Favre.** The following week, Tom Brady completed 30 of 50 passes for 286 yards and two touchdowns in a 22–17 road victory against the New York Jets. **The win was also the Patriots’ 500th victory (including playoffs) in franchise history. During this victory, Brady also became the fifth quarterback to record 60,000 career regular season passing yards, joining Peyton Manning, Brett Favre, Drew Brees, and Dan Marino.** The following week, Brady completed 33 of 46 passes for 269 yards and one touchdown as the Patriots defeated the Los Angeles Rams 26–10. **The Patriots’ win against the Rams gave Brady his 201st career victory, including playoff games, breaking Peyton Manning’s record of 200.** In Week 14, Brady completed 25 of 38 passes for 406 yards, three touchdowns, and one interception during a 30–23 victory against the Baltimore Ravens on Monday Night Football.

The next week, Brady completed 16 of 32 passes for 188 yards in a 16–3 victory in Denver. With this victory, the Patriots clinched an eighth consecutive AFC East title and a seventh consecutive first-round bye in the playoffs, both NFL records.[161] On December 20, 2016, Brady was named to the Pro Bowl for the eighth straight season and 12th time overall.[162] In Week 16, Brady threw for 17 of 27 passes for 214 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions as he led the Patriots to a 41–3 win over the Jets.[163] In Week 17, Brady threw for 25 of 33 passes for 276 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions in a 35–14 victory over the Miami Dolphins in the regular season finale that gave the Patriots home field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.[164] Brady’s 276 yards against Miami moved him ahead of former Miami quarterback Dan Marino into fourth place on the NFL’s all-time passing yards list. **Brady’s three touchdowns against Miami also gave him 28 passing touchdowns against two interceptions for the regular season. This broke Nick Foles’s 27:2 TD:INT ratio which was set in 2013. He was named to the AP All-Pro Second Team, behind Matt Ryan of the Atlanta Falcons.**

Brady hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy for the fifth time in his career.

The Patriots began their postseason run in the divisional round by hosting the Houston Texans, who had the league’s No. 1 total defense. Brady completed 18 of 38 passes for 287 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions in a 34–

16 Patriots victory. **With this victory, the Patriots clinched a record sixth straight trip to the AFC Championship Game. In that game, Brady threw for 32 of 42 passes for 384 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions as the Patriots defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers by a 36–17 score to become the first NFL franchise to reach the Super Bowl for a ninth time.**

Brady and the Patriots faced the NFC champion Atlanta Falcons—who boasted the league’s highest scoring offense—in Super Bowl LI at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on Sunday, February 5, 2017. During the game, Brady threw 43 completions on 62 attempts for 466 passing yards (all Super Bowl records), 2 touchdowns, and an interception. With the Patriots trailing 28–3, Brady directed the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history to tie the game at the end of regulation. This resulted in the first overtime in the history of the storied game. After winning the overtime coin toss, the Patriots elected to receive the ball and marched down the field to score a touchdown and win the game 34–28. With the victory, Brady won his fifth Super Bowl, which tied defensive player Charles Haley for the most Super Bowl victories of all time, and he became the first quarterback in NFL history to win five Super Bowls. Brady was named the Super Bowl MVP for his clutch performance. This was the fourth time that Brady had won the award, giving him more career Super Bowl MVP awards than any other player in NFL history.

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