

Talk about last night's Patriots-Eagles matchup

Look for surveys today at projosports.com/patriots



PATRIOTS, EAGLES BATTLE IT OUT: View the gallery at projosports.com

Complete Pats report

Get late Patriots game stories, reaction and analysis from Gillette Stadium at projosports.com/patriots

Comeback kid

Tom Brady has now engineered 26 game-winning drives in the fourth quarter:

Regular season	20
Playoffs	6
When score was tied	9
When Pats trailed by 1-9	11
When Pats trailed by 10-plus	6



SECTION B
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2007

projo SPORTS

Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: pjsports@projo.com

Patriots 31
Eagles 28



JUST GOOD ENOUGH

ONE WAY TO LOOK AT IT

"Tough game, hard fought . . . good win."
Bill Belichick after the Patriots' win over the Eagles.

ANOTHER LOOK

"We're going to get a whole lot of humble pie (in practice this week)."
Donte Stallworth, anticipating how Belichick really feels about last night's goings-on.

NEW LOOK

Either way, the football world no longer sees the Patriots as an unstoppable monolith after they had to rally from behind in the fourth quarter to win a home game against a 24-point underdog.

DISTURBING LOOK

The Patriot defense was sliced apart by quarterback **A.J. Feeley**, who passed for 345 yards and three touchdowns and led the Eagles on scoring drives of 77, 76, 68 and 78 yards. It wasn't until he turned back into journeyman A.J. Feeley at the very end — making a giant mental mistake as he eschewed the short slant passes that the Patriots hadn't been able to stop all night and tried a bomb into the end zone that was intercepted by **Asante Samuel** — that New England could breathe easier.

FAMILIAR LOOK

The Eagles' defensive strategy of heavy pressure on **Tom Brady** paid dividends, as the Pats' offense wasn't nearly as fluid as it had been all year. Pundits from coast to coast were saying after the game that Philadelphia had given the NFL a blueprint on how to attack the Patriots . . . a blueprint that includes teeing off on Brady.

VERY FAMILIAR

But just as the end of the game was a case of Feeley being Feeley, it also was a case of Brady being Brady. Pressure or no, he engineered the 26th fourth-quarter comeback of his career as he led the Pats on a 10-play, 69-yard drive that erased a 28-24 Eagles lead and gave the Pats a 31-28 advantage.

ONE MORE MILESTONE

Brady went over the 25,000-yard mark in his career during the game.

NOW ON PROJO.COM

A complete postgame report from **Shalise Manza Young, Jim Donaldson** and **Rob Lee**, with reaction from both teams.

STAT OF THE DAY

The Patriots are closing in on the Dolphins in the race for the greatest number of AFL/AFC Eastern Division championships:

TEAM	NO.
Dolphins	12
Patriots	11
Bills	10
Colts	6
Oilers	4
Jets	4



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who was sacked three times by the Eagles last night, feels the heat in the second quarter as he dumps a pass off to wide receiver Randy Moss.

Pats survive a stern test from Eagles

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Asante Samuel's now-infamous tattoo may not say "Get Rich," but the cornerback certainly is going to be just that after his performance last night.

The fifth-year free-agent-to-be ended the Eagles' potential game-winning drive with an end-zone interception as New England overcame its closest game yet, edging Philadelphia, 31-28.

The pick was Samuel's second of the game and came with the Eagles looking as though they were headed for the end zone once again, which would have given them the lead with about three minutes to play in the game.

Behind the surprising play of A.J. Feeley, starting in place of the injured Donovan McNabb, Philadelphia had gained 58 yards on seven plays, and was facing second-and-4 from the New England 29-yard line when Feeley threw toward the end zone.

But he overthrew Kevin Curtis, and Samuel was there for the interception.

On the third play of the game, Samuel picked off Feeley and returned the ball 40 yards for the Patriots' opening touchdown.

Though Feeley ended the night with three interceptions (James Sanders picked him off at the end of the game), anyone who came here to Gillette Stadium thinking of all the ways the New England defense would pick apart the Eagles' offense with him at the helm would up being disappointed.

Making his first start since Dec. 26, 2004, with McNabb suffering from both ankle and thumb injuries, Feeley was efficient and decisive for much of the game, spreading the ball around to eight receivers and completing two-thirds of his passes.

One of the biggest wins in Feeley's seven-year career — much of it spent as a backup — came against the Patriots, a 29-28 come-from-behind Monday Night Football win on Dec. 20, 2004, when he was with the Dolphins. Miami scored twice in four minutes in that game, and Tom Brady forced a throw as he was being sacked that was intercepted and led to the game-winning score.

Clearly Feeley was channeling those good vibes again last night.

After Samuel brought his first pick back for the score, Feeley and the Eagles

SEE PATRIOTS, B6

Don't look now, but there's a chink in the Pats' armor

FOXBORO — If defense does, indeed, win championships, then Patriots fans shouldn't be so sure about winning the Super Bowl title that just about everyone in New England seems to consider virtually inevitable.

JIM DONALDSON



Don't be deceived by those three passes the Pats picked off, including two in the last four min-

utes, and one in first two minutes that was returned for a touchdown.

Because this was a game in which the Patriots were ripe for picking.

For most of a nerve-racking, nail-biting battle to preserve their perfect record, the New England defense was carved up by a backup quarterback on a team that the oddsmakers in Las Vegas had as 24-point underdogs.

They had handled Colts future Hall of Famer Peyton Manning. They had handled the Cowboys' highly touted Tony Romo. But, for

most of last night's 31-28 salvage job, the Pats couldn't handle the Eagles' unheralded A.J. Feeley.

Starting for the first time this season in place of the injured Donovan McNabb, Feeley got off to a bad start, throwing an interception that Asante Samuel returned 40 yards for a touchdown just 1:22 into the game.

At that point, it seemed the undefeated, and almost untested, Patriots were on their way to yet another romp, like the 56-7 shellacking they put on the Bills last Sunday night in Buffalo.

In four of their previous five games, the Pats had scored at least 48 points, so when the defense contributed a quick seven, it appeared likely that the national television audience would get to bed at a decent hour.

Instead, they didn't get as much sleep as they'd have liked and neither will Pats coach Bill Belichick this week.

The Patriots appeared to be sleepwalking defensively, as Feeley com-

SEE DONALDSON, B6

HS GAME TIME

RHODE ISLAND AND SE MASS

YOUR SCHOOL
YOUR FRIENDS
YOUR TEAMS
YOUR VOICE

HS GAME TIME .COM

SCHOOLS
SPORTS
PHOTOS
VIDEOS
STATS
SCORES / SCHEDULES
STANDINGS

SEARCH

staff content
user submitted
ADVANCED

Schools listed alphabetically to find your team fast!
Log on to HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland