

TURNING NASTY
Partly cloudy today with
highs in the 40s; chance
of rain or snow tonight.
Forecast, A12

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FEBRUARY 4, 2008

50¢
\$2.40 per week by carrier

GIANTS 17, PATRIOTS 14

A Giant Letdown



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Patriots' defensive back Ellis Hobbs leaves the field at University of Phoenix Stadium, in Glendale, Ariz., last night just as the celebrations started marking the New York Giants' victory over New England in Super Bowl XLII. The loss spoiled New England's hopes for a perfect, 19-0 season.

Patriots' quest for the perfect season ends at the Super Bowl

BILL REYNOLDS



So it ended. What would have been their fourth Super Bowl title in seven years. The chance to be the first team in NFL history to finish a season 19-0. The chance to achieve perfection. The chance to go down in history as arguably the best team in history. So it all ended last night, ended in a loss to the Giants, ended in one of the big upsets in Super Bowl history. Bang the drum slowly. It ended in one of the worst ways possible, of course, the Giants getting the ball back with just 2:39 left to play and down four, having to go the length of the field for the go-

ahead touchdown. The Giants doing what we've come to expect the Patriots to do. And the slice of irony? Just a few minutes earlier it appeared that Tom Brady had pulled another miracle out of his grab-bag. Isn't that what we'd come to expect? As if Brady and the Patriots had become like some great fictional story, defying the odds, doing what wasn't supposed to be possible, making it all seem almost too easy? As if Brady and his Patriots were once again going to dance with kings. Last night, it was going to happen

again. Once again, Brady and the Patriots did what we've come to think they would always do, down in the fourth quarter on a night when nothing seemed to be in rhythm. And when Brady hit Randy Moss for the go-ahead score in the game's dying minutes, it appeared that the Patriots really were going to win. This was going to be a game that, many years from now, long after the specifics had been lost to the passage of time, we would be telling people about. We would explain to them how much it meant. We would be telling people how we were fortun-

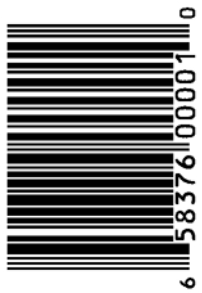
SEE REYNOLDS, A6

Inside

- The game. **B1**
- The 1972 Miami's Dolphins record as the only team to have an undefeated season remains intact. **B2**
- What went wrong? **B2**
- Jim Donaldson on the game. **B3**
- The game by the numbers. **B4**
- Giants quarterback Eli Manning is the game's most valuable player. **B5**

Today on projosports.com/patriots

- Read complete postgame coverage with Web-only feature stories.
- Find reaction from the Patriots locker room on the PatsBlog.
- See a gallery of photos from the game.
- Post your reactions to the game.



INSIDE TODAY

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LOST IN CYBERSPACE

Gossip Girl may be a huge hit in cyberspace, but so far it hasn't been able to translate that success into high ratings on TV. **D1**

WHERE'S THE WATER?

For years, the Kent County Water Authority has voiced deep concerns about a possible water shortage. So why is it that the authorities now say that their system is more than able to handle a proposed indoor water park resort in West Warwick? **C1**

TOO CLOSE TO CALL

On the eve of the Super Tuesday primaries, a new poll shows Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois running roughly even nationally. **A8**



TO OUR READERS:

For a limited time, you can own a piece of sports history - a commemorative poster featuring the ProJo's Patriots Sports pages. **See page A-6 for details.**