

Without an NFL title, was this season a failure for the Pats?

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Underdog alley

The Giants' victory over the Patriots last night was the third-biggest upset, in terms of the point spread, in Super Bowl history:

YEAR	UNDERDOG	FAVORITE	SP.
1968	Jets	Colts	18
2001	Patriots	Rams	14
1969	Chiefs	Vikings	12
2007	Giants	Patriots	12

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18 wins | 42 NFL records

ONE BIG LOSS



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Quarterback Tom Brady heads for the locker room after last night's game against the Giants in the Super Bowl. Brady and the Patriots saw their bid for an unbeaten season end in defeat.

Manning-led Giants win Super Bowl, spoiling Pats' bid to go 19-0

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The confetti littering the field at University of Phoenix Stadium was the right color — red, blue and silver — but it wasn't celebrating the New England Patriots' completion of an undefeated season.

Instead, it was the shiny coronation of the New York Giants as Super Bowl XLII champions after their 17-14 triumph over the Pats last night.

The Patriots began the day focused on becoming just the second team in NFL history — and the first in 35 years — to complete a perfect season. They had been dominant, they had been lucky, they had persevered, and they had not lost.

Until last night.

And now New England must process the reality that it won its first 18 games but fell short when it mattered most.

"When you don't finish the season with a win in the Super Bowl, then you haven't finished off the season in the right way," left tackle Matt Light said. "It's no mystery that we didn't finish the season the way we wanted to."

It wasn't just the 19-0 record, which would have put the Pats in rarefied air. It was to win for beloved veteran Junior Seau, who had waited 14 years between Super Bowl appearances and is still looking for his first ring, and in memory of Marquise Hill, who died last May.

"We are certainly disappointed. We worked so hard to stay focused and tried to win one game at a time, 18 times," Rodney Harrison said. "We have been through so much. I give all of our guys in that locker room a lot of credit; they have a lot of heart. We just came up short."

"Our goal wasn't to be perfect," Richard Seymour said. "Our goal was to win the Super Bowl. The undefeated season just sort of happened."

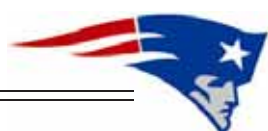
New York pulled off one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history, with game most valuable player, the oft-maligned Eli Manning, leading it on the game-winning touchdown drive in the final minutes, pulling off a fantastic escape act in the process. Trailing by 14-10 with 2:42 to play, Manning be-

gan a 12-play drive that covered 83 yards. On third-and-5 from their own 44-yard line, the quarterback was swarmed by several members of the Patriots' defense, including Jarvis Green, who seemed to have a good grip on Manning.

But he wriggled out of Green's grasp, spun around and heaved a high pass downfield for little-used receiver David Tyree. Tyree and safety Rodney Harrison both leaped for the ball, and Tyree somehow came down with it, pinning it against his helmet.

"We had the guy for a sack and he slips out and he throws a Hail Mary and the guy comes down with

SEE PATRIOTS, B4



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**GIANTS 17
PATRIOTS 14**

UNFORGETTABLE

"You never forget these. I still remember the Colts' game (a 38-34 loss in the AFC Championship Game) from last year. You always remember the losses."
Tom Brady

UNEXPECTED

"Totally unexpected. We beat the Patriots? Five weeks ago, I couldn't have told you this. Absolutely not. Five weeks ago, I didn't think this was going to happen."
Michael Strahan,
Giants defensive lineman

UNBELIEVABLE

"You could sense [the Patriots] were frustrated. And a little surprised. We were stopping the best offense in football. Of course they were surprised."
Strahan

REALLY UNBELIEVABLE

"Even when my parents were telling me we were going to win, I wasn't sure I believed them."
Strahan