



AFC NOTES

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AFC CHAMPIONSHIP: NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT DENVER BRONCOS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2016

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (13-4) —AFC EAST AT DENVER BRONCOS (13-4)—AFC WEST

SERIES

	PATRIOTS	BRONCOS
LEADER (REG. SEASON)		26-20
STREAKS (REG. SEASON)	5 of past 7	
COACHES VS. OPP. (REG. & POSTSEASON)	Bill Belichick: 8-12	Gary Kubiak: 2-4
COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD	Bill Belichick 23-9	Gary Kubiak: 3-2
VS. COMMON OPP. (REG. SEASON)	NE: 2-0 (Ind 1-0, Pit 1-0) Den: 0-2 (Ind 0-1, Pit 0-1)	
PLAYOFF RECORD	29-18	21-19
LAST WEEK	W 27-20 vs. Chiefs	W 23-16 vs. Steelers
LAST GAME (REG. SEASON)	11/29/15: Patriots 24 at Broncos 30 (OT). Denver QB Brock Osweiler throws for 270 yards & TD. Broncos RB C.J. Anderson rushes for 113 yards & 2 TDs, including game-winning 48-yd TD in OT.	
LAST GAME AT SITE (REG. SEASON)	11/29/15	
LAST PLAYOFF	1/19/14: Patriots 16 at Broncos 26. Denver QB Peyton Manning throws for 400 yards & 2 TDs (118.4 passer rating). Broncos WR Demaryius Thomas has 7 receptions for 134 yards & TD.	
REFEREE	Ed Hochuli	
BROADCAST	CBS (3:05 PM ET): TBD. Westwood One: Kevin Harlan, Dan Fouts, Boomer Esiason, Mark Malone (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 88 (WW1), 83 (NE), 82 (Den). XM: 88 (WW1), 226 (NE), 82 (Den).	

STAT LEADERS

PASSING	Brady: 402-624-4770 (3L)-36 (1L)-7-102.2 (2C)	Manning: 198-331-2249-9-17-67.9
RUSHING	Bolden: 63-207-3.3-0	Hillman: 207-863-4.2-7
RECEIVING	Gronkowski (TE): 72-1176-16.3-11	Thomas: 105-1304-12.4-6
OFFENSE	374.4 (2C)	355.5
TAKE/GIVE	+7 (3C)	-4
DEFENSE	339.4	283.1 (1L)
SACKS	Cha. Jones: 12.5	Miller: 11
INTs	Ryan: 4	Talib: 3
PR	Amendola: 12.0 (2L)	Sanders: 6.1
KR	K. Martin: 25.7	Bolden: 22.8
PUNTING	Allen: 46.0	Colquitt: 43.6
KICKING	Gostkowski: 151 (1L) (52/52 PAT; 33/36 FG)	McManus: 125 (35/36 PAT; 30/35 FG)

NOTES

TEAMS MEET for 5th time in postseason. Broncos lead all-time regular-season series (26-20) & postseason series (3-1).

Den won last playoff meeting 26-16 (Conference Championship on 1/19/14).

PATRIOTS: Have 8-4 record in AFC Championship Games (5th consecutive Championship Game appearance, tied with Raiders for longest streak since 1970). With win, Pats will advance to 9th Super Bowl in club history (4-4). 1st team in NFL history to win 12 division titles in 13 seasons...**BILL BELICHICK** (23) has most postseason wins of any head coach in NFL history. Belichick & **QB TOM BRADY** (22) have most postseason wins by head coach-QB duo...Brady's 22 postseason wins are most of any QB in NFL history. Brady is all-time leader in career playoff passing yards (7,647), TDs (55), completions (711) & attempts (1,127). Brady (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XLIX) & HOFer **JOE MONTANA** are only players to win 3 SB MVP awards. Has 22-8 (.733) playoff record, tied with HOFer **TROY AIKMAN** (11-4, .733) for 2nd-best win percentage of any starting QB in NFL history (min. 15 starts). Has 13 division titles, most ever by starting QB. Last week, Brady passed for 302 yards with 2 TDs vs. 0 INTs for 103.5 rating & tied **PEYTON MANNING** (9) for most 300-yard passing games in playoff history. Also rushed for TD vs. KC & now has 6 career postseason rush TDs, tied with HOFer **JOHN ELWAY** & **STEVE MC NAIR** for 2nd-most ever by NFL QB (**STEVE YOUNG**, 8)...**RB STEVEN JACKSON** has 11,438 career rushing yards, 3rd-most amongst active players. In past 6 (including playoffs), **RB JAMES WHITE** has 30 catches for 354 yards & 4 total TDs (3 receiving, 1 rush)...**TE ROB GRONKOWSKI** led team with 11 TD catches in 2015 & is only TE in NFL history with 5 career 10-TD seasons. Last week, had 7 catches for 83 yards & 2 TDs vs. KC & surpassed **JAY NOVACEK** (6), **KEITH JACKSON** (6), **VERNON DAVIS** (7) & **DAVE CASPER** (7) for most TDs by TE in NFL playoff history. In 9 career playoff games, has 44 catches for 610 yards & 8 TDs. Aims for 5th playoff game in row with TD catch. In past 6 playoff games, **WR JULIAN EDELMAN** has 52 catches for 554 yards & 2 TDs, including 10 catches for 100 yards vs. KC. Aims for 3rd playoff game in row with 100+ yards...**LB JAMIE COLLINS** led team in tackles for 2nd consecutive season (89). Since 2014, only NFL player with 9+ sacks (9.5) & 3 INTs. **DE CHANDLER JONES** led team with career-high 12.5 sacks & became 3rd Patriot with multiple 10-sack seasons since 1982, joining HOFer **ANDRE TIPPETT** (3) & **GARIN VERIS** (2)...Club had 7 players selected to 2016 Pro Bowl (QB Brady, TE Gronkowski, DE Jones, LB Collins, **CB MALCOLM BUTLER**, **K STEPHEN GOSTKOWSKI**, **ST MATTHEW SLATER**).

BRONCOS: Have 16-5 (.762) home postseason record, 4th-best all-time among AFC clubs (min. 10 games). Broncos are 7-2 (.778) in AFC Championship Games, highest all-time win percentage (min. 5 games). Won AFC West for 5th consecutive season (tied for 5th-longest streak in NFL history) & 15th time overall...**GARY KUBIAK** (12) tied **RED MILLER** (1977) for most wins by head coach in 1st season with Broncos...**QB PEYTON MANNING** ranks 2nd in playoff history in passing yards (7,022), completions (619) & attempts (972), trailing only **TOM BRADY** (711 of 1,127 for 7,647 yards). Manning (38) ranks 4th all-time in postseason TD passes. This season, Manning (186 wins; 71,940 yards) tied **BRETT FAVRE** (186 wins; 71,838 yards) for most regular-season wins by starting QB & surpassed him for most career pass yards. In past 2 playoff meetings vs. NE, has 2-0 record & completed 59 of 90 for 749 yards with 3 TDs vs. 1 INT for 97.9 rating...Broncos were 1 of 2 NFL teams to have 2 700-yard rushers in 2015 – **RB RONNIE HILLMAN** (863) & **RB C.J. ANDERSON** (720). Hillman led team with career-high 863 yards & 7 rush TDs. In past 2 playoff games, Anderson averages 96 scrimmage yards per game with rush TD...**WR DEMARIUS THOMAS** led team in catches (105) & receiving yards (1,304) with 6 TDs. 1st Bronco with 4 consecutive 1,200-yard receiving seasons. 1 of 2 Broncos with back-to-back 100-catch seasons (**BRANDON MARSHALL**, 2007-09). Since 2012, ranks 2nd in NFL with 5,787 receiving yards. In 8 career playoff games, averages 92.4 yards per game (739 total) with 6 TDs. Has TD catch in 5 of past 6 in postseason. In 2 career playoff meetings, has 13 catches for 227 yards & TD. **WR EMMANUEL SANDERS** led team with career playoff high 85 receiving yards on 5 catches vs. Steelers last week. In past 4 (including playoffs), has 24 catches for 432 yards & 2 TDs...**LBs DANNY TREVATHAN** (109) & **BRANDON MARSHALL** (101) ranked 1st & 2nd on team in tackles in 2015...Broncos led NFL in total defense (283.1 yards per game) & pass defense (199.6 yards per game)...**LB DE MARCUS WARE** has 5 sacks in 6 career postseason games. Since 2008, **CB AQIB TALIB** leads NFL with 8 INT-

TDs. **LB VON MILLER** led team with 11 sacks & joined **SIMON FLETCHER** (5) as only Broncos with 4+ 10-sack seasons...Club had 4 players selected to 2015 Pro Bowl (LB Miller, LB Ware, **CB CHRIS HARRIS**, CB Talib).

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