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1/17/17

**AFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME CAPSULES****Steelers****PATRIOTS****SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017****PITTSBURGH STEELERS–AFC NORTH (13-5) AT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS–AFC EAST (15-2)****SERIES**

|                               | <b><u>STEELERS</u></b>   | <b><u>PATRIOTS</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>LEADER</b>                 | 15-14  |                        |
| <b>STREAKS</b>                |  | Past 3                 |
| <b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>       | Mike Tomlin: 2-5   | Bill Belichick: 12-11  |
| <b>COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD</b> | Mike Tomlin: 8-5   | Bill Belichick: 24-10  |
| <b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>        | Pit.: 8-2 (Mia 1-1; Buf 1-0; Cle 2-0; Cin 2-0; NYJ 1-0; Bal 1-1)<br>NE: 8-1 (Mia 2-0; Buf 1-1; Cle 1-0; Cin 1-0; NYJ 2-0; Bal 1-0)   |                        |
| <b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>         | 36-23  | 30-19                  |
| <b>LAST WEEK</b>              | W 18-16 at Kansas City   | W 34-16 vs. Houston    |
| <b>LAST GAME</b>              | 10/23/16: Patriots 27 at Steelers 16. New England QB Tom Brady passes for 222 yards & 2 TDs. Patriots RB LeGarrette Blount rushes for 127 yards & 2 TDs.   |                        |
| <b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>      | 9/10/15: Patriots 28, Steelers 21. New England QB Tom Brady passes for 288 yards & 4 TDs. Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski has 5 catches for 94 yards & 3 TDs.   |                        |
| <b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>           | 1/23/05: Patriots 41 at Steelers 27. New England QB Tom Brady passes for 207 yards & 2 TDs. Patriots S Rodney Harrison has 87-yard INT-TD.   |                        |
| <b>REFEREE</b>                | Terry McAulay  |                        |
| <b>BROADCAST</b>              | CBS (6:40 PM ET): Jim Nantz, Phil Simms, Tracy Wolfson, Jay Feely (Field reporters). Westwood One: Kevin Harlan, Dan Fouts, Ross Tucker (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 88 (WW1), 81 (Pit), 82 (NE). XM: 88 (WW1), 225 (Pit), 82 (NE). |                        |

**REGULAR-SEASON STAT LEADERS**

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>PASSING</b>   | Ben Roethlisberger: 328-509-3819-29-13-95.4 | Tom Brady: 291-432-3554-28-2-112.2 (2L)       |
| <b>RUSHING</b>   | Le'Veon Bell: 261-1268-4.9-7                | LeGarrette Blount: 299-1161-3.9-18 (1L)       |
| <b>RECEIVING</b> | Antonio Brown: 106 (2L)-1284-12.1-12 (T2L)  | Julian Edelman: 98-1106-11.3-3                |
| <b>OFFENSE</b>   | 372.6                                       | 386.3   |
| <b>TAKE/GIVE</b> | +5  | +12   |
| <b>DEFENSE</b>   | 342.6                                       | 326.4   |
| <b>SACKS</b>     | James Harrison: 5                           | Trey Flowers: 7                               |
| <b>INTs</b>      | Artie Burns (R), Ryan Shazier: 3            | Malcolm Butler: 4                             |
| <b>PR</b>        | Antonio Brown: 9.3                          | Danny Amendola: 6.7                           |
| <b>KR</b>        | Fitzgerald Toussaint: 21.4                  | Cyrus Jones (R): 22.5                         |
| <b>PUNTING</b>   | Jordan Berry: 45.6                          | Ryan Allen: 44.7                              |
| <b>KICKING</b>   | Chris Boswell: 99 (36/36 PAT; 21/25 FG)     | Stephen Gostkowski: 127 (46/49 PAT; 27/32 FG) |

**NOTES**

**TEAMS MEET** for 5th time in postseason, incl. 3rd time in AFC Championship Game. Patriots defeated Steelers 41-27 in AFC CG on 1/23/05. Pit. leads all-time series 15-14 (incl. playoffs). NE defeated Pit. 27-16 in Week 7 (10/23/16).

**STEELERS:** Have 36-23 all-time postseason record, most playoff wins all-time. Rank 4th all-time in postseason win pct. (.610). Have won 7 division titles since 2002...Club had 5 players selected to 2017 Pro Bowl: **RB LE'VEON BELL** (2nd), **WR ANTONIO BROWN** (5th), **G DAVID DE CASTRO** (2nd), **C MAURKICE POUNCEY** (5th) & **QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER** (5th)...**QB Roethlisberger** is 3-1 as starting QB in AFC CG. Has 13-6 (.684) career postseason record, 5th highest postseason winning pct. by starting QB (min. 15 starts) in NFL history. Is 1 of 12 QBs in NFL history with multiple Super Bowl wins. Ranks 9th all-time in career pass TDs (301)...**RB Bell** had franchise postseason-record 170 rush yards last week. Has 337 rush yards in past 2 playoff games, 3rd highest total over 2-game span in single postseason. Has rushed for 1,172 yards (146.5 per game) & 8 TDs in his past 8 (incl. playoffs). Led NFL with 157.0 scrimmage yards per game avg., 3rd highest in NFL history. Ranked 3rd in NFL with 1,884 scrimmage yards (1,268 rush, 616 rec.) & 5th in rush yards (1,268)...**WR Brown** had 108 rec. yards last week. Has 232 rec. yards & 2 TD catches in past 2. Is 1 of 2 players in NFL postseason history with 100+ rec. yards in 4 consecutive games. Ranked 2nd in NFL with 106 catches & tied for 2nd with 12 TD catches. His 481 receptions in past 4 seasons are most of any 4-year span in NFL history. Is 1 of 2 in NFL history (**MARVIN HARRISON**) with 4 consecutive 100-catch seasons. Has 5 career seasons with 1,000+ rec. yards, 2nd most in team history...**LB JAMES HARRISON** has 2.5 sacks & FF in past 2 postseason games. Aims for 5th consecutive postseason game with sack. Has 13 TFL & 8.5 sacks in past 10 playoff games. **LB LAWRENCE TIMMONS** had 11 tackles in last meeting. Has 4 career seasons with 100+ tackles, 2+ sacks & 2+ INTs, most in franchise history. **LB RYAN SHAZIER** aims for 3rd consecutive postseason game with INT. Was only NFL player with 3+ sacks (3.5), 3+ INTs (3) & 3+ FFs (3) in 2016. Rookie **CB ARTIE BURNS** had FR last week. Tied for NFL rookie lead with 3 INTs...**K CHRIS BOSWELL** made NFL postseason record 6 FGs in Div. Rd.

**PATRIOTS:** Have appeared in 6 consecutive Conference Championship Games, most all-time. Have won 8 consecutive division titles, longest streak in NFL history. Since 2001, have won 4 Super Bowl titles, most in NFL. Have 30-19 (.612) all-time postseason record, 3rd highest winning pct. in playoff history...Head coach **BILL BELICHICK** has 24 career postseason wins, most all-time. Has won 4 Super Bowl titles (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX, XLIX), tied with **CHUCK NOLL** for most in NFL history...Patriots had 4 players selected to 2017 Pro Bowl: **QB TOM BRADY** (12th), **LB DONT'A HIGHTOWER** (1st), **S DEVIN MC COURTY** (3rd) & **ST MATTHEW SLATER** (6th)...**QB Brady** has passed for 3,148 yards (286.1 per game) with 26 TDs vs. 3 INTs for 113.7 rating in 11 career meetings (incl. playoffs). Is 2-0 vs. Pit. in postseason. Ranks 1st all-time in postseason wins (23), passing att. (1,221), completions (756), yards (8,244) & TDs (58). Has 10 career postseason games with 300+ pass yards, most all-time. Has won 4 Super Bowls as starting QB & 3 Super Bowl MVPs, both tied for most in NFL history. Had 14.0 TD/INT ratio (28 pass TDs vs. 2 INTs), highest in NFL history (min. 20 pass TDs)...In Div. Rd. win vs. Hou., **RB DION LEWIS** became 1st player in postseason history with rush TD, rec. TD & KR-TD in same game. Had 98-yard KR-TD last week, 1st postseason KR-TD in team history. **RB LE GARRETTE BLOUNT** rushed for 127 yards & 2 TDs in last meeting. Led NFL with franchise-record 18 rush TDs. Has 7 rush TDs in 6 career postseason games. Has rush TD in 5 of past 6 (incl. playoffs). **RB JAMES WHITE** had rec. TD last week. Tied for lead among NFL RBs with 5 TD catches...**WR JULIAN EDELMAN** had 8 catches for 137 yards last week. In past 8 playoff games, has 67 catches (8.4 per game) for 744 rec. yards (93 per game) & 2 TDs. Is franchise postseason leader with 76 catches. Has 3 seasons with 90+ catches, 2nd most in franchise history. **WR CHRIS HOGAN** had 4 catches for 95 yards last week...**CB MALCOLM BUTLER** had INT & 3 PD in last meeting. Led team with 4 INTs & 17 PD. **LB ROB NINKOVICH** has 6 career postseason sacks. **CB LOGAN RYAN** had sack & INT last week. Was only NFL CB with 90+ tackles (92), 2+ INTs (2), 1+ sack (1) & 1+ FF (1) in 2016. **S DEVIN MC COURTY** had INT in Div. Rd.

# NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME CAPSULES

# PACKERS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017**

# ATLANTA FALCONS

**GREEN BAY PACKERS–NFC NORTH (12-6) AT ATLANTA FALCONS–NFC SOUTH (12-5)**

### SERIES

|                               | <u>PACKERS</u>  | <u>FALCONS</u>      |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>LEADER</b>                 | 17-14   |                     |
| <b>STREAKS</b>                | 4 of past 5   |                     |
| <b>COACHES VS. OPP.</b>       | Mike McCarthy: 4-3  | Dan Quinn: 1-0      |
| <b>COACHES PLAYOFF RECORD</b> | Mike McCarthy: 10-7   | Dan Quinn: 1-0      |
| <b>VS. COMMON OPP.</b>        | GB: 2-0 (Phi. 1-0; Sea. 1-0)<br>Atl.: 1-2 (Phi. 0-1; Sea. 1-1)  |                     |
| <b>PLAYOFF RECORD</b>         | 34-21   | 8-12                |
| <b>LAST WEEK</b>              | W 34-31 at Dallas   | W 36-20 vs. Seattle |
| <b>LAST GAME</b>              | 10/30/16: Packers 32 at Falcons 33. Atlanta QB Matt Ryan passes for 288 yards & 3 TDs. Falcons WR Mohamed Sanu has GW TD catch with 31 seconds remaining.   |                     |
| <b>LAST GAME AT SITE</b>      | 10/30/16  |                     |
| <b>LAST PLAYOFF</b>           | 1/15/11: Packers 48 at Falcons 21. Green Bay QB Aaron Rodgers passes for 366 yards & 3 TDs. Packers CB Tramon Williams has 70-yard INT-TD.  |                     |
| <b>REFEREE</b>                | Bill Vinovich   |                     |
| <b>BROADCAST</b>              | FOX (3:05 PM ET): Joe Buck, Troy Aikman, Erin Andrews, Chris Myers (Field reporters). Westwood One: Kevin Kugler, James Lofton, Tony Boselli (Field reporter). SIRIUS: 88 (WW1), 81 (GB), 82 (Atl). XM: 88 (WW1), 225 (GB), 82 (Atl). |                     |

### REGULAR-SEASON STAT LEADERS

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>PASSING</b>   | Aaron Rodgers: 401-610-4428-40 (1L)-7-104.2 | Matt Ryan: 373-534-4944 (2L)-38 (2L)-7-117.1 (1L) |
| <b>RUSHING</b>   | Ty Montgomery: 77-457-5.9-3                 | Devonta Freeman: 227-1079-4.8-11                  |
| <b>RECEIVING</b> | Jordy Nelson: 97-1257-13.0-14 (1L)          | Julio Jones: 83-1409 (2L)-17.0-6                  |
| <b>OFFENSE</b>   | 368.8                                       | 415.8 (2L)  |
| <b>TAKE/GIVE</b> | +8  | +11   |
| <b>DEFENSE</b>   | 363.9                                       | 371.2   |
| <b>SACKS</b>     | Nick Perry: 11                              | Vic Beasley Jr.: 15.5 (1L)                        |
| <b>INTs</b>      | Ha Ha Clinton-Dix: 5                        | Deion Jones (R): 3                                |
| <b>PR</b>        | Micah Hyde: 5.8                             | Eric Weems: 11.4                                  |
| <b>KR</b>        | Ty Montgomery: 20.3                         | Eric Weems: 23.0                                  |
| <b>PUNTING</b>   | Jacob Schum: 43.2                           | Matt Boshier: 46.8                                |
| <b>KICKING</b>   | Mason Crosby: 122 (44/47 PAT; 26/30 FG)     | Matt Bryant: 158 (1L) (56/57 PAT; 34/37 FG)       |

### NOTES

**TEAMS MEET** for 4th time in postseason. Packers lead playoff series 2-1. GB defeated Atl. 48-21 in Divisional playoff on 1/15/11. GB leads all-time series 17-14 (incl. playoffs). Falcons defeated Packers 33-32 in Week 8.

**PACKERS:** Have won 13 NFL championships, most all-time. Team's .618 postseason winning pct. (34-21) is best in NFL history among teams with 50+ games played. This is team's 32nd playoff appearance, tied for most in NFL history. **MIKE MC CARTHY** has led team to playoffs in 9 of his 11 seasons as head coach & is 10-7 in the postseason...Packers had 3 players selected to 2017 Pro Bowl: **S HA HA CLINTON-DIX** (1st), **G T.J. LANG** (1st) & **QB AARON RODGERS** (6th)...In past 8 (incl. playoffs), **QB Rodgers** is 8-0 with 2,384 pass yards (298 per game), 21 TDs & 1 INT for 117.9 rating. Has 100.1 postseason passer rating, 4th best in NFL history. In 6 career meetings, has 1,992 pass yards (332 per game), 16 TDs & 1 INT for 122.2 rating...**RB TY MONTGOMERY** had 2 rush TDs last week. Has 4 TDs in past 3 on road...**WR JORDY NELSON** led NFL with 14 rec. TDs & ranked 6th with 1,257 rec. yards. Since 2011 (incl. postseason), ties for 3rd in league with 58 TD catches. Had 94 rec. yards & TD in Week 8. **WR RANDALL COBB** has 5 TD catches in past 5 postseason games. **WR DAVANTE ADAMS** has 3 TD catches in 5 career playoff games. Had 12 receptions in Week 8. **TE JARED COOK** had 6 receptions for 104 yards & TD last week, 1st career postseason TD...**LB CLAY MATTHEWS**

has 11 career postseason sacks, tied for 5th most since 1982. Had 2 sacks in only career playoff meeting. **LB JULIUS PEPPERS** has 143.5 career sacks, 5th most since 1982. In past 6 postseason games, has 4.5 sacks, 2 FFs & 2 PD. Is only player in NFL history with 100+ sacks & 10+ INTs (11). Has 2 sacks in past 3 meetings. **LB NICK PERRY** led team with career-high 11 sacks. **DT MIKE DANIELS** had sack in last meeting. **CB DAMARIOUS RANDALL** has 2 INTs in past 3 playoff games. **S Clinton-Dix** led team with 5 INTs...**K MASON CROSBY** made 2 50+ yard FGs in final 2 minutes of regulation last week, incl. GW 51-yarder as time expired. Is 1st player in postseason history with 2 50+-yard FGs in final 2 minutes of regulation. His 51-yard FG was longest GW FG in NFL postseason history.

**FALCONS:** Won NFC South & advanced to postseason for 1st time since 2012. Are 5-3 at home in playoffs in franchise history. Ranked 1st in NFL in total points (540) & 2nd in total offense (415.8 yards per game). Head coach **DAN QUINN** won 1st career playoff game last week...Falcons had 6 players selected to 2017 Pro Bowl: **LB VIC BEASLEY JR.** (1st), **K MATT BRYANT** (1st), **RB DEVONTA FREEMAN** (2nd), **WR JULIO JONES** (4th), **C ALEX MACK** (4th) & **QB MATT RYAN** (4th)...**QB Ryan** set franchise record and ranked 2nd in NFL with 4,944 passing yards. Has 6 consecutive 4,000+ yard seasons, tied for 2nd longest streak in NFL history. Led league with 117.1 rating, 5th highest single-season rating in NFL history. In past 3 postseason games, has 984 pass yards (328 per game) with 9 TDs & 3 INTs for 111.9 rating. In past 2 meetings, has 663 pass yards (331.5 per game) with 7 TDs vs. 1 INT for 123.9 rating...**RB Freeman** had 1,079 rush yards, 2nd consecutive 1,000-yard season. In past 6 at home (incl. postseason), has 10 rush TDs. Had rush TD last week in postseason debut...**WR Jones** ranked 2nd in NFL with 1,409 rec. yards, 4th season with 1,000+ rec. yards. Has 30 receptions for 372 yards (93 per game) & 3 TDs in 4 career playoff games. Had 11 receptions for 259 yards & TD in 12/8/14 meeting. **WR MOHAMED SANU** had TD catch last week, 1st career postseason TD. Had 9 receptions for 84 yards & TD in Week 8. **WR TAYLOR GABRIEL** has 5 rec. TDs in past 7. Had TD in last meeting...**DE DWIGHT FREENEY** has 10 career postseason sacks, 4th most among active players. **LB Beasley** led NFL with 15.5 sacks. Has 6 sacks & 2 FFs in past 7 at home. **LB DEION JONES** (106) & **S KEANU NEAL** (105) led NFL rookies in tackles. Neal tied for 3rd in league with 5 FFs. **CB ROBERT ALFORD** tied for 5th in NFL with 19 PD. **CB RICARDO ALLEN** had INT last week in postseason debut.