

Wrap-up Issue, 2006....Volume 1, Issue 4

NAFlustrated

Peaking Tom

Tom Brady takes MVP honors as the Patriots win Super Bowl III

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Season Preview
Team capsule for all 32
Draft Review

Just for a moment ...

from the Editors

It is less and less the trend of journalists of all stripes, not just those in the sports world, to set about our jobs with an evermore sensational bent rather than a factual accounting of the events we cover. This is economic more than systemic and it is not necessarily a bad thing. But it does tend to weaken our positions when, as always happens, we attempt to place the current event in some historical context.

All that being said, the staff of this magazine do not recall a more interesting nor exciting playoff race, Wild Card to Super Bowl, than the one just concluded. Each week saw at least one game decided by three points or less right down to the finale that wasn't decided until after the two-minute warning. Also, the field was more wide open than the Super Bowl matchup might indicate. We certainly saw the two favorites in the end, but Dallas got a surprising win in Week 1 and three out of four home teams lost that week.

Especially captivating were the last two weeks of the playoffs as the combined win margin for all three games was 20 points including the instant classic of Carolina at St. Louis that ended 24-23 on a last second field goal. And these weren't 10-7 squeakers either. Carolina's 23 in that game was the lowest point total in the last six.

We can attribute this to many things like parity or game planning or even league conspiracies. But we prefer to simply soak in the glory and all that is the NFL playoffs. If only just for a moment.

Congratulations to the Patriots, Rams and all the NFL playoff teams

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Final Standings 2006

NFC				AFC			
North		South		North		South	
Green Bay	10-6	Carolina	10-6	Cleveland	11-5	Indianapolis	10-6
Detroit	9-7	Tampa Bay	8-8	Baltimore	8-8	Houston	9-7
Chicago	7-9	Atlanta	7-9	Pittsburgh	8-8	Jacksonville	9-7
Minnesota	7-9	New Orleans	6-10	Cincinnati	4-12	Tennessee	6-10
East		West		East		West	
Philadelphia	11-5	St. Louis	14-2	New England	14-2	Denver	10-6
Dallas	9-7	San Francisco	7-9	New Jersey	11-5	Oakland	8-7-1
New York	4-12	Seattle	6-10	Buffalo	5-11	Kansas City	7-9
Washington	4-12	Arizona	6-10	Miami	4-11-1	San Diego	6-10



The Patriots went wire to wire in 2006 and captured their first NFL title and the third title in league history. Led by Tom Brady and a bevy of stars on both sides of the ball, the club got all they could handle from St. Louis, but managed to pull away with time winding down in the fourth quarter.



The **COWBOYS** starting corner Donald Mitchell has undergone some minor surgery to repair his torn ACL, but the extent of the damage is still not known as he's been restricted physically. The team has said that they will wait and see, but sources say they are both shopping Mitchell and quietly trying to add another corner to replace him. Also on the injury front, the 'boys have all but scrapped their future plans for **Drew Henson** and assumed that he will not play again. He had been close to a long-term contract but the team, in a bit of luck, had yet to present it to his agent. He's saying all the right things about being in a decided game late, but is not so sure about the future. Now there is even talk of bringing Carson Palmer to town. If they don't get Palmer, look for a large focus on the run next year with their stable of backs ... **TAMPA** rookie corner Phil Becker has taken to the right side of the field despite never having played there. Coaches credit vets like Ronde Barber and Dexter McCleon with his development. On the other side of the ball, they will give Leo Coppa one more shot next year, allowing him to play with their franchise wideout Michael Clayton. Still to be determined is the fate of record-setting running back Jarrett Payton... Nothing official yet, but the champions may have to dismantle. The **PATRIOTS** stand to be about \$25 million over the salary cap and may have to start dumping players. They assembled the team to win it all and it's a near certainty that there will be several untouchables on the roster, but to cut the payroll they're going to need to part with some quality guys.

2007 Free Agents

Here's a breakdown of players expected not to be franchised that will figure heavily into the upcoming free agency period.

Quarterbacks

Aaron Brooks - 2,613 yds, 16 TD
 Steve McNair - 1,934 yds, 9 TD
 Tony Banks - 220 yds, 0 TD
 Brad Johnson - 2,485 yds, 16 TD

Running Backs

Antowain Smith - 5/10, 0 TD
 Troy Hambrick - 4/20, 0 TD
 Ron Dayne - 33/128, 0 TD
 Chester Taylor - 36/117, 0 TD

Receivers

Charles Rogers - 178 yds, 1 TD
 Corey Bradford - 288 yds, 2 TD
 Jabar Gaffney - 382 yds, 1 TD
 Issac Bruce - 800 yds, 6 TD
 Reche Caldwell - 563 yds, 2 TD
 Derrius Thompson - 629 yds, 5 TD

Offensive Linemen

Rich Braham - C
 Randy Thomas - G
 Casey Wiegmann - C
 Will Shields - G
 Brad Meester - C
 Eric Steinbach - G
 Jeff Mitchell - C
 Barry Sims - T
 Cory Raymer - C
 Ryan Tucker - T

Defensive Linemen

Dewayne White - DE
 Leonard Little - DE
 Damione Lewis - DT
 Kenny Mixon - DE
 Mike Rucker - DE
 Rob Meier - DT
 Justin Smith - DE

Linebackers

Travian Smith - 105 tackles
 Jamie Sharper - 113 tackles
 London Fletcher - 98 tackles
 Lance Briggs - 49 tackles
 Mark Simoneau - 54 tackles
 Shawn Barber - 67 tackles

Defensive Backs

CB Roderick Hood - 71 tackles
 S Sammy Knight - 94 tackles
 CB Aaron Glenn - 5 int.
 S Robert Griffith - 5 int.
 CB Donnie Abraham - 2 int.
 S Donovan Darius - 3 int.
 S Rodney Harrison - 6 int.
 S Shawn Wooden - 5 int.

2006 Season Awards

Coach of the Year

Lincoln Herrod, Phil.

Player of the Year

RB Edgerrin James, Indy

Off. Player of the Year

RB Travis Henry, Cleveland

Off. Rookie of the Year

RB Stan Finks, Detroit

Def. Player of the Year

S Shaun Williams, N.Y. (N)

Def. Rookie of the Year

DE Joe Dunn, Arizona

Super Bowl Champs

New England Patriots

14-2 Regular Season

11-1 Conference

6-0 Division

Mo Claytor, Head Coach

Super Bowl MVP

QB Tom Brady, Patriots

4118 yds, 28 TD, 13 Int.

Runner-up

St. Louis Rams

Final score, 34-24

1st Team All Pro - Offense

QB - Marc Bulger (STL)

RB - Travis Henry (CLE)

FB - Terrelle Smith (CLE)

TE - Dan Campbell (DAL)

WR - Roy Williams (DET)

WR - Chad Johnson (CIN)

C - Olin Kreutz (CHI)

G - Dan Neil (DEN)

G - Kelvin Garmon (CLE)

T - Jordan Gross (CAR)

T - Brad Hopkins (TEN)

P - Shane Lechler (OAK)

K - Billy Cundiff (DAL)

1st Team All Pro - Defense

DE - Richard Seymour (NED)

DE - Bert Berry (ARI)

DT - Cornelius Griffin (WAS)

DT - Grady Jackson (GBY)

ILB - Brian Urlacher (CHI)

OLB - Raynoch Thompson (ARI)

OLB - Al Wilson (DEN)

CB - Chris McAllister (SFO)

CB - Will Allen (PIT)

S - Shaun Williams (NYG)

S - Ed Reed (SFO)

2nd Team All-Pro - Offense

QB - Daunte Culpepper (MIN)

RB - Edgerrin James (IND)

FB - Moran Norris (HOU)

TE - Alge Crumpler (ATL)

WR - Andre Johnson (HOU)

WR - Travis Taylor (BAL)

C - Todd McClure (ATL)

G - Rick DeMulling (NYG)

G - Ben Hamilton (DEN)

T - Chris Samuels (PIT)

T - Robert Gallery (OAK)

P - Wade Gunn (HOU)

K - Doug Brien (NYJ)

2nd Team All-Pro - Defense

DE - Dwight Freeney (IND)

DE - Matt Ginsberg (IND)

DT - Kris Jenkins (CAR)

DT - Donald Chelius (PHI)

ILB - Jamie Sharper (HOU)

OLB - Julian Peterson (SFO)

OLB - Boss Bailey (DET)

CB - Patrick Surtain (MIA)

CB - Terrence Newman (DAL)

S - Troy Polamalu (PIT)

S - Greg Wesley (BUF)