

THE PATRIOTS: THEIR COLLARS ARE BLUE, THEIR RINGS GOLD

A car with the world’s best tires cannot be driven if its brakes don’t work. It takes many moving parts, perfectly fitted and working in unison, to make an automobile run properly.

The defending Super Bowl Champion **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** are not a fancy showroom convertible. They are the rugged sports utility vehicle with remarkable fuel efficiency and just a touch of luxury. The engine purrs in all weather conditions. No single part is more important than another and if a headlight needs to be changed, the perfect replacement is added without one cylinder’s motion interrupted.

Head coach **BILL BELICHICK** earned NFL Coach of the Year honors last season and has led his team to more wins in the past three years (40-14, .741) than any other coach. Including playoffs, the Patriots have won 15 consecutive games. A 4-0 start in 2004 would earn the club an NFL record 19 consecutive wins. But that was last year, say the Patriots. This is a new year.

“We have to rebuild and reestablish everything that we do,” says Belichick. “We are going to have to rebuild everything that we do fundamentally, schematically, our communication, we have some new faces and there is no shortcut to the process.”

Although the coach’s words sound more like his team was 2-14 instead of 14-2, consider the following Patriot points:

- Have won 15 consecutive games, including playoffs, and need four more wins for the NFL’s all-time longest win streak.
- Can become only the second team in NFL history to win three Super Bowls in four seasons (1992-95 Dallas Cowboys).
- Started 42 players in 2003 en route to the Super Bowl title – only four teams had more starters last season and none of them advanced to the playoffs.
- In 2003, surrendered an NFL record-low 68 points in eight regular season home games (8.5-point average).
- Have won their past eight overtime games – an NFL record.
- Own the NFL’s longest active streak of 27 wins in games in which they have had a lead entering the fourth quarter.
- *Time Magazine* named Belichick as one of its “100 Most Powerful and Influential People” in the world today.

A Super Bowl victory this season would place the Pats on the same footing as the 1992-95 Cowboys with three Super Bowl rings in four seasons. While Dallas featured stars like **TROY AIKMAN, EMMITT SMITH, MICHAEL IRVIN, DEION SANDERS** and **CHARLES HALEY**, New England’s roster has fewer household names.

“This team has really meshed,” says Patriots’ third-year tackle **TOM ASHWORTH**. “That’s the big part. We may not be the most talented team in the league, but we play well together.”

“I’ve been impressed with the make-up of the Patriots over the past several years,” says Aikman. “It’s a team that appears to be extremely unified in its goals. Bill Belichick deserves much of the credit for molding that team, but the players are to be applauded for adhering to the team philosophy. That’s a common thread among all championship teams.”

TWO SUPER BOWL WINS IN THREE YEARS

TEAM	SEASONS	SUPER BOWLS	HEAD COACH	STARTING QUARTERBACK
<i>New England Patriots</i>	<i>2001-03</i>	<i>XXXVI & XXXVIII</i>	<i>Bill Belichick</i>	<i>Tom Brady</i>
Denver Broncos	1997-98	XXXII & XXXIII	Mike Shanahan	* John Elway
Dallas Cowboys	1993-95	XXVIII & XXX	Jimmy Johnson (1993) Barry Switzer (1995)	Troy Aikman
Dallas Cowboys	1992-93	XXVII & XXVIII	Jimmy Johnson	Troy Aikman
San Francisco 49ers	1988-89	XXIII & XXIV	* Bill Walsh (1988) George Seifert (1989)	* Joe Montana
Pittsburgh Steelers	1978-79	XIII & XIV	* Chuck Noll	* Terry Bradshaw
Pittsburgh Steelers	1974-75	IX & X	* Chuck Noll	* Terry Bradshaw
Miami Dolphins	1972-73	VII & VIII	* Don Shula	* Bob Griese
Green Bay Packers	1966-67	I & II	* Vince Lombardi	* Bart Starr

* Pro Football Hall of Famer

WINNINGEST HEAD COACHES SINCE 2001, INCLUDING PLAYOFFS

COACH	TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	PCT.
<i>Bill Belichick</i>	<i>New England</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>.741</i>
Andy Reid	Philadelphia	39	16	.709
Mike Sherman	Green Bay	36	17	.679
Mike Martz	St. Louis	35	17	.673
Tony Dungy	Ind./T.B.	33	20	.623

BEST POSTSEASON RECORDS IN NFL HISTORY

COACH	TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
Vince Lombardi	Green Bay	9-1	.900
<i>Bill Belichick</i>	<i>Cle./N.E</i>	<i>7-1</i>	<i>.875</i>
Joe Gibbs	Washington	16-5	.762

*Minimum 6 games

FEWEST POINTS ALLOWED/EIGHT-GAME HOME SCHEDULE

TEAM	POINTS	YEAR
<i>New England</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>2003</i>
Dallas	70	1978
Philadelphia	73	1992
Chicago	74	1985
Denver	77	1979
Philadelphia	77	1980

CURRENT CONSECUTIVE WINS WITH LEAD AFTER 3RD QTR

TEAM	WINS
<i>New England</i>	<i>27</i>
Tennessee	19
Kansas City	15
Dallas	10
St. Louis	9

Regular season only

LONGEST PLAYOFF STREAKS BY QB TO BEGIN CAREER

QUARTERBACK	TEAM	WINS
Troy Aikman	Dallas	7
<i>Tom Brady</i>	<i>New England</i>	<i>6</i>
Joe Theismann	Washington	6
Jim Plunkett	Oakland	5

LONGEST SINGLE-SEASON WINNING STREAKS, INCLUDING PLAYOFFS

TEAM	WINS	YEAR	PLAYOFF RESULT
Miami	17	1972	Won Super Bowl VII
<i>New England</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Won Super Bowl XXXVIII</i>
Chicago	13	1934	Lost NFL Championship
Oakland	13	1976	Won Super Bowl XI
Denver	13	1998	Won Super Bowl XXXIII