



“**THERE’S NOBODY BIGGER IN THE NFL THAN TOM BRADY**”

Six quarterbacks went off the board before the New England Patriots selected **TOM BRADY** with the 199th pick of the 2000 NFL Draft.

Four years later, Brady is the only one of those quarterbacks with a Super Bowl *appearance* on his résumé, let alone two Super Bowl titles and Super Bowl MVP awards.

Not only that, but Brady became the youngest starting quarterback in history to win an NFL championship (24), while also winning the MVP award in the Patriots’ 20-17 win over St. Louis in Super Bowl XXXVI.

“He came in with me at Michigan,” said Raiders’ cornerback **CHARLES WOODSON** of Brady, one of his college teammates. “He never really got that chance to shine. Then he got to the pros and had to sit behind **DREW BLEDSOE**. Then he finally got his chance, and now, there's nobody in the NFL bigger than Tom Brady.”

With only two of the six signal-callers picked ahead of him staking claim to starting positions this season – **CHAD PENNINGTON** of the Jets and **MARC BULGER** of the Rams – Brady has accomplished more than anybody could have imagined since taking over as the starter for the Patriots. He continues to build a reputation as one of the top QBs in the NFL today, though other quarterbacks like **PEYTON MANNING** and **STEVE MC NAIR** might put up bigger numbers.

“Tom Brady...I will play with him any day of the week,” says Patriots’ cornerback **TY LAW**. “With all due respect to Steve McNair, Peyton Manning and so many of the other great quarterbacks in the game today, I want to go out there with Tom Brady, because winning is the trump card of everything.”

Since his storybook rise to prominence with his first championship, Brady garnered another Super Bowl title and MVP award in New England’s 32-29 win over Carolina in Super Bowl XXXVII last season.

“The most important thing a quarterback does is help his team win,” says Patriots’ tight end **CHRISTIAN FAURIA**. “I don't think there's anyone better than Brady. When you're looking at some stat that isn't as important, you're forgetting the most important thing – he knows how to help his team win. Better than anyone else. Especially when the game is on the wire.”

As Brady continues to add more and more accolades to his already impressive collection, he now ranks 11th on the Pro Football Hall of Fame’s Top 20 passers all-time with an 85.9 rating. His ascension to the top 20 in only his fourth season was one of the fastest ever. Greats like **DAN MARINO**, **BRETT FAVRE** and **JIM KELLY** made the list in their fourth seasons as well. Manning, who is currently fifth on the list, qualified in his third year.

Few quarterbacks are immediate successes in professional football, but Brady endured no such growing pains after taking over for an injured Bledsoe in Week 2 of the 2001 season after spending one year as his understudy. Brady’s 33-12 record (.733) as a starter puts him in exclusive company. He is now one of only three quarterbacks to win better than 70 percent of his first 40 starts, joining Hall of Famers **JOE MONTANA** and **ROGER STAUBACH**.

Brady’s sterling play already has some people comparing him to the legendary Montana.

“He’s as close to Joe Montana as anyone I’ve ever seen,” says Montana’s former coach, **BILL WALSH**. “What strikes you about Brady is the serenity in which he plays the game. That might sound silly, but when you see a great quarterback, there’s a calmness and a coolness he has on the field, a fluidity to his game, smoothness, if you will, that sticks out.”

Brady thinks it is premature to even mention him and Montana in the same sentence, but he doing his best to live up to the lofty comparison.

“Joe Montana was everything,” says Brady. “He threw the ball great. He managed the game great. He made his other players great. I think as a quarterback you have to emulate some of those things. There will never be another Joe Montana. Can guys do some of those things? Dan Marino could throw it great. **JOHN ELWAY** could improvise great. Do I think I have any of those great qualities? I am working on it.”

Some Tom Brady firsts:

BRADY’S BUNCH

- Youngest starting quarterback to win a Super Bowl (24).
- Youngest quarterback to win a Super Bowl MVP award (24).
- Youngest quarterback to win two Super Bowls (26).
- Youngest quarterback to win two Super Bowl MVPs (26).
- One of only four players in history to win multiple Super Bowl MVPs (**JOE MONTANA**, (XVI, XIX and XXIV); **BART STARR**, (I and II); and **TERRY BRADSHAW**, (XIII and XIV).)
- Holds the record for most completions in a Super Bowl (32).
- One of only three QBs in NFL history with 40 starts to have a win percentage better than .700:

QUARTERBACK	CAREER WINNING % AS STARTER (40 games)
Roger Staubach, Cowboys	.746
Tom Brady, Patriots	.746
Joe Montana, 49ers and Chiefs	.700