



TOM TERRIFIC

New England quarterback **TOM BRADY** may never lead the NFL in passing yards, touchdowns, or passer rating. In fact, the sixth-round pick from 2000 may never lead his peers in any category except the one that’s most important – *winning*.

He is simply success personified.

Entering his sixth season, Brady has played four full years (he only attempted three passes as a rookie). In that short time, the seventh quarterback selected in the 2000 NFL Draft has led New England to 48 wins in 62 starts for a .774 winning percentage, the best such mark in NFL history among signal-callers with at least 40 starts as well as the best winning percentage among active QBs who have started at least 16 games.

The highest career winning percentages by QBs with at least 40 starts in the Super Bowl era (since 1966):

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	W	L	PCT.
Tom Brady	New England	2000-Present	48	14	.774
Roger Staubach	Dallas	1969-79	85	29	.746
Joe Montana	San Francisco/Kansas City	1979-94	117	47	.713
Donovan McNabb	Philadelphia	1999-Present	56	23	.709

Other “winning” characteristics of the Patriots’ 28-year-old quarterback:

- 9-0 record in playoff games, including 3-0 in Super Bowls with a pair of Super Bowl MVP Awards.
- 7-0 record in overtime, including one such win in the postseason. No other quarterback in NFL history has a career overtime record better than 5-0 .
- 19-2 in games decided by six points or less.

So, when playing against Brady what does a defensive back need to do in order to find success?

“Has *anybody* figured out how to have success against him yet?” asks Buffalo Bills safety **LAWYER MILLOY**, who was Brady’s teammate from 2000-02 and now faces him twice a season in the AFC East. “You really have to play the best game of your life because he is the one guy in the NFL on offense – and defense – who doesn’t make any mistakes. You really have to play a mistake-free game if you want to have success against him.”

A former AFC East rival agrees with Milloy. “You have to be disciplined because Brady is such a great play-action quarterback,” says Kansas City cornerback **PATRICK SURTAIN**, who faced Brady in the AFC East as a Miami Dolphin from 2000-04. The Chiefs and Surtain, a two-time NFL All-Star, host New England on November 27. “He puts the ball in places that most other quarterbacks cannot,” adds Surtain. “Each and every play you have to be focused when you are playing against him.”

Milloy points to Brady’s poise and polish in explaining how his surgeon-like methods carefully slice into a defense.

“He takes what the defense gives him,” says Milloy. “He makes the defense work and when they go out of their element and try to make a play against him, that is when he takes his yards.

Surtain believes Brady’s ability to play his best in a game’s biggest moment is what separates him from other standout passers.

“He gets it done in crunch time when it counts,” says Surtain. “In the last couple minutes of the game you want the ball in Tom Brady’s hand. How can you argue with that? He has won three out of the last four Super Bowls.”

Philadelphia Eagles defensive coordinator **JIM JOHNSON**, whose units over the past five seasons rank first in the NFL in fewest points allowed, sacks, third down defense, and red zone defense, limited Brady to 236 passing yards in the Pats’ 24-21 Super Bowl XXXIX win over Philadelphia, but yielded a 110.2 passer rating to him.

“The thing that Tom Brady does,” says Johnson, “even though you blitz him, he gets rid of the ball. He sees things, he’s smart, and he manages the offense well. Besides having a strong arm, he’s a got good touch on his receivers downfield. He’s very consistent and doesn’t overthrow many receivers. He doesn’t turn the ball over and in two-minute situations, he’s as good as anybody.”

Brady is joined by Pro Football Hall of Famers **TERRY BRADSHAW**, **JOE MONTANA** and **BART STARR** as the only quarterbacks to win multiple Super Bowl MVP honors. A look at how these four quarterbacks compare through their first five NFL seasons:

CATEGORY	BRADY	MONTANA	BRADSHAW	STARR
Age (entering 6th season)	28	28	27	27
Games played/started	64/62	72/49	59/51	57/34
Attempts	2,018	1,645	1,227	722
Completions	1,243	1,045	589	387
Completion Percentage	.616	.635	.480	.536
Yards	13,925	11,979	7,524	5,019
3,000-yard seasons	3	2	0	0
Touchdowns	97	78	48	23
Interceptions	52	44	81	40
Passer Rating	87.5	90.0	53.2	63.3
Percentage of starts won	.774	.571	.627	.353

Overtime record	7-0	1-0	0-0	--
Super Bowl wins	3	1	1	--
Super Bowl MVP awards	2	1	0	--