

BELICHICK & BRADY: WINNING COMBO

In 1803, **MERRIWEATHER LEWIS** and **WILLIAM CLARK** departed from St. Louis and traveled west for four years through present-day Washington State to discover sights, land, and rivers that no American had seen before.

The New England Patriots' tandem of head coach **BILL BELICHICK** and quarterback **TOM BRADY** are likewise on an expedition – of the NFL variety – that this year can place them on a mountaintop from which no coach-quarterback duo has ever peered a fourth Super Bowl victory in a five-year span. And within that stretch, they can be the first such tandem to hoist the Lombardi Trophy three years in a row.

Belichick and Brady own the best winning percentage (48-14, .774) for any head coach-quarterback combination since 1970:

"Tom has been a great leader on our team," says Belichick. "His preparation, week-in and week-out, is exceptional. He studies the game plan very hard. He studies his opponents well and has a good command of not only what he's doing, but what our offense is doing as a unit. Nobody works any harder or does any more to prepare for a game than Tom."

Brady says he and his teammates follow his coach's personality.

"We respond to the way he speaks to us," says Brady. "We take on his personality. There are things that are important to him, and us being prepared and playing hard and playing smart is important. The outcomes are based on whether or not we accomplish those things.

"I don't think we get blinded by the fact that we win a game. I mean, it's great, but at the same time, if you don't improve, every team in the league is improving as the season goes on."

The top five coach-quarterback winning percentages since 1970:

COACH	QUARTERBACK	TEAM	RECORD	PCT.
Bill Belichick	Tom Brady	New England Patriots	48-14-0	.774
John Madden	Ken Stabler	Oakland Raiders	60-19-1	.756
Mike Ditka	Jim McMahon	Chicago Bears	46-15-0	.754
George Seifert	Steve Young	San Francisco 49ers	62-23-0	.729
Mike Shanahan	John Elway	Denver Broncos	43-16-0	.729



MARINO'S TOP FIVE

New Pro Football Hall of Famer and former Miami Dolphins quarterback **DAN MARINO** wishes that he could play in the NFL forever, but enjoys watching today's young quarterbacks.

"Do I wish I could still play?" Marino asks. "Yes, because it's something you can never do again for the rest of your life and it was such a big part of your life. I enjoyed it so much, the competition.

"I don't think that will ever leave you as a player. If any player ever tells you different, then they're lying to you."

Below are Marino's five favorite quarterbacks in the NFL today, listed alphabetically:

DANDIES

Tom Brady	New England Patriots	
Daunte Culpepper	Minnesota Vikings	
Peyton Manning	Indianapolis Colts	
Ben Roethlisberger	Pittsburgh Steelers	
Michael Vick	Atlanta Falcons	