

# **NFL GameDay**

## **Week 20**

### **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ DENVER BRONCOS 1<sup>ST</sup> HALF**

IN A MATCHUP OF QUARTERBACKS WHO LED THE TWO HIGHEST SCORING OFFENSES IN NFL HISTORY, IT WAS THE TEAMS DEFENSES THAT SET THE TONE.

BRONCOS RECEIVER DEMARIUS THOMAS WAS COVERED BY PATRIOTS PRO BOWL CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB, UNTIL A PICK PLAY FORCED TALIB FROM THE GAME.

FOOTBALLS MOST PROLIFIC PASSER HANDED OFF 6 TIMES AND DENVER RUSHED FOR 57 YARDS ON THE GAMES FIRST TOUCHDOWN DRIVE.

THE BRONCOS HELD THE PATRIOTS TO THREE POINTS IN THE FIRST HALF. DENVER DIDN'T ALLOW NEW ENGLAND MANY OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE PATRIOTS WERE UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FEW THEY HAD.

### **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS @ DENVER BRONCOS 2<sup>ND</sup> HALF**

IN THE 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF, MANNING STAYED IN COMMAND BY SETTING THE PACE.

SHORT CROSSING ROUTES LED TO A LONG, TIME-CONSUMING DRIVE.

EIGHT WEEKS EARLIER, BRADY OVERCAME A 24-POINT SECOND HALF LEAD AGAINST DENVER. SHAUN PHILLIPS WOULD NOT HEAR OF A LETUP THIS TIME.

THE PATRIOTS NEEDED BRADY TO CARVE THE BRONCOS DEFENSE APART. INSTEAD, HE WAS EATEN UP BY THE PLAYER CALLED POT ROAST.

THE BRONCOS WERE POISED TO PUT THE PATRIOTS AWAY.

BUT FOR THE THIRD TIME INSIDE THE 20, THEY HAD TO SETTLE FOR 3.

BEFORE DENVER'S DEFENSE WAS NEEDED, THE OFFENSE MADE ONE MORE PLAY.

AND SO DID ITS SPECIAL TEAMS.

IN ONE OF THE BIGGEST GAMES OF HIS CAREER, MANNING PLAYED ONE OF HIS BEST.

HIS GAZE WAS DISTANT. HIS FOCUS? WHAT LIES AHEAD.

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS 1<sup>ST</sup> HALF**

THE NFL'S TOP-RANKED DEFENSE HELD THE 49ERS TO 3 POINTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

MUCH LIKE RICHEARD SHERMAN, WHO DOESN'T MIND THE SPOTLIGHT, EXCEPT WHEN IT COMES TO THE REFS.

THE PENTALTY ON THRID DOWN EXTENDED THE 49ERS DRIVE.

THE 49ERS CONTAINED RUSSELL WILSONS' AD-LIBBED SCRAMBLES, BUT IT TOOK ONLY ONE IMPROV PLAY TO BUST OPEN THEIR COVERAGE.

## **SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS 2<sup>ND</sup> HALF**

(RADIO – TDS; 49ERS SIDELINE “WE’VE GOTTA GET SOME ENERGY OK”)

IT’S TOUGH TO GENERATE MORE ENERGY THAN SEATTLE’S FANS, OR ITS DEFENSE. / THIS SEASON, THE SEAHAWKS LED THE LEAGUE IN TAKEAWAYS. AND IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, THEIR DEFENSE BEGAN TO TAKE OVER THE GAME.

THE SEAHAWKS FORCED TURNOVERS ON TWO STRAIGHT POSSESSIONS, AND LED BY SIX IN THE FINAL MINUTES.

(SIDELINE SOUND)

THE 49ERS LAST-GASP DRIVE WOULD INCLUDE A DO-OR-DIE CONVERSION.

(RADIO – 4<sup>TH</sup> DOWN CONVERSION)

THE 49ERS WERE UP AGAINST NOT ONLY THE LEAGUE’S BEST DEFENSE -- BUT ALSO, THE LEAGUE’S BEST CORNERBACK – ONE THEY HAD RARELY TESTED ALL DAY.