

Perfect Patriots face gatecrashing Giants

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Could match Dolphins' undefeated season of 1972

University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Arizona

AFC Champions

NFC Champions

NEW YORK GIANTS

Aiming for historic upset after defying odds to reach final



ROAD TO GLENDALE
Wild Card weekend

Tampa Bay 14-24 New York

Division Championships

New England 31-20 Jacksonville

Dallas 17-21 New York

Conference Championships

New England 21-12 San Diego

Green Bay 20-23 New York

Patriots – Awarded franchise: 1959
Super Bowl winner: 2002, 2004, 2005

FRANCHISE HISTORY

Super Bowl winner: 1987, 1991. NFL Champion: 1927, 1934, 1938, 1956

Giants – Awarded franchise: 1925

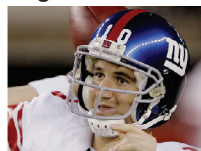
Record breakers

QUARTERBACK HEAD-TO-HEAD (2007-08)

Against the odds



Completion	70	57	%
Attempts	35.5	34.4	per game
Yards	293.2	220.5	per game
TD passes	3.1	1.4	per game



QB **Tom Brady** pulls all strings with a record-breaking 50 touch down passes in regular season

Quarterback: Patriots rely on Brady's throwing – wide variety of passes keeps defences guessing – but team can also adapt with running game

Spread offence:

Wide receivers
Randy Moss – with record 23 TD catches – and **Wes Welker** have left opposition trailing all season



Fourth Super Bowl win for coach **Bill Belichick** would equal record tally of victories. His 0.833 playoff winning percentage is second only to **Vince Lombardi** (0.900)

Giants' defensive puzzle

Putting more men in line to blitz
QB leaves more space behind for runners, fewer gives QB more freedom to act

QB **Eli Manning** starting to live up to promise and emerge from shadow of big brother Peyton

Linemen: Defensive ends **Michael Strahan** and **Osi Umenyiora** must pressurise QB to control Patriots' passing

Cornerbacks: Formidable defence must keep up with Pats' wide receivers without leaving space for other offensive players

Linebackers: Must shut down running backs

Safety backs: Last line of defence

Strict disciplinarian
Tom Coughlin changed approach for turnaround in fortunes



Patriots	OFFENCE	Giants	Per game	Patriots	DEFENCE (Conceded)	Giants
4.6		2.7	Touchdowns	2.0		2.5
1.2		1.4	Field goals	0.8		1.3
Passing: 288	119	130	Yards	196	98	87
	Rushing				Rushing	

Source: NFL

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