



Pittsburgh Steelers at New England Patriots



WEEK 1 // SUNDAY, SEPT. 8, 2019 // 8:20 PM ET // GILLETTE STADIUM // REFEREE: CLETE BLAKEMAN



To open the 1979 season, Steelers HOF QB Terry Bradshaw threw a game-tying touchdown pass in the fourth quarter as Pittsburgh defeated New England, 16-13, in overtime on Monday Night Football.

REGULAR-SEASON SERIES HISTORY

LEADER: Steelers lead all-time series, 15-12

STREAKS: Patriots have won 4 of past 5

LAST GAME: 12/16/18: Patriots 10 at Steelers 17

LAST GAME AT SITE: 9/10/15: Patriots 28, Steelers 21

PITTSBURGH STEELERS (2018 STATS)



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (2018 STATS)

	LAST WEEK	
Mike Tomlin: 3-6	COACH VS. OPP.	Bill Belichick: 11-11
26.8/22.5	PTS. FOR/AGAINST	27.3/20.3
403.3	OFFENSE	393.4
Ben Roethlisberger: 452-675-5129 (1L)-34-16-96.5	PASSING	Tom Brady: 375-570-4355-29-11-97.7
James Conner: 215-973-4.5-12	RUSHING	Sony Michel: 209-931-4.5-6
JuJu Smith-Schuster: 111-1426-12.8-7	RECEIVING	James White (RB): 87-751-8.6-7
327.2	DEFENSE	359.1
T.J. Watt: 13	SACKS	Michael Bennett (Phi.): 9
Joe Haden: 2	INTs	Duron Harmon: 4
-11 (15/26)	TAKE/GIVE	+10 (28/18)
Jordan Berry: 43.7 (38.8)	PUNTING (NET)	Jake Bailey (R) (Pre.): 47.4 (43.3)
Chris Boswell: 82 (43/48 PAT; 13/20 FG)	KICKING	Stephen Gostowski: 130 (49/50 PAT; 27/32 FG)

STEELERS NOTES

- **QB BEN ROETHLISBERGER** led NFL with 5,129 pass yards in 2018 (also tied for 1st in 2014, with 4,952). Has 144 wins as a starting QB & needs 3 to tie No. 6 on the all-time list, HOFer **DAN MARINO** (147). Also ranks 7th in NFL history with 363 career TD passes & 6th with 56,194 pass yards.
- **RB JAMES CONNER** had 4 games with 100+ rush yards, 50+ rec. yards and 1+ TDs, most such single-season games in NFL history. In 1st 8 games last year, had 1,085 scrimmage yards (706 rush, 379 rec.) & 10 total TDs (9 rush, 1 rec.). **RB JAYLEN SAMUELS** had 142 yards on 19 carries (7.5 avg.) in last meeting, 17-10 win in Pit., 12/16.
- **WR JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER** became youngest player ever to catch 100 passes in season, breaking **LARRY FITZGERALD**'s record, & finished with 111, tied-6th in NFL. Ranked 5th with 1,426 rec. yards, including season's longest reception, 97-yard TD at Den., 11/25 (also had NFL's longest reception in 2017). Ranked 5th in NFL with 648 YAC last year. **WR DONTÉ MONCRIEF** makes Pit. debut. **TE VANCE MCDONALD** had 75-yard TD rec. at TB, 9/24, tied for 2nd-longest rec. by TE in 2018 (**GEORGE KITTLE**, 85). Caught TD in last meeting vs. NE.
- **LB T.J. WATT** is 1 of 3 players (**AARON DONALD**, **KHALIL MACK**) with 20+ sacks & 7+ FF since 2017. **DT CAMERON HEYWARD** has 2 career sacks vs. NE. **DE STEPHON TUITT** has sack in 3 of last 4 games. **LB BUD DUPREE** posted sack in NFL debut, at NE, 9/10/15.

PATRIOTS NOTES

- **PATRIOTS** bid to extend NFL record with 11th straight playoff berth & establish 2 other marks: 7 SB titles (Pit. also has 6) & 10+ wins in 17th straight year, breaking tie with SF (1983-98).
- **QB TOM BRADY** begins 20th NE season, tying HOFers **DARRELL GREEN** (Was.) & **JACKIE SLATER** (LA/StLR) for 2nd-most years with 1 team in NFL history (**JASON HANSON**, 21). Passed for 4,355 yards in 2018 & joined **PEYTON MANNING** (14), **DREW BREES** (12) and **PHILIP RIVERS** (10) as only QBs with 10+ seasons of 4,000+ pass yards. Has 517 pass TDs, joining Manning (539), Brees (520) & HOFer **BRETT FAVRE** (508) as only QBs ever with 500+. Has 237 wins, including postseason, most all-time.
- **RB SONY MICHEL** had 6 100-yard rush games as 2018 rookie, including 2 in postseason (Patriots were 6-0 in those games). **RB JAMES WHITE** was 1 of 3 players in 2018 with 5+ rush TDs (5) & 5+ rec. TDs (7).
- **WR JULIAN EDELMAN** needs 1 catch for 500 career, & 23 to surpass No. 4 **ROB GRONKOWSKI** (521) in NE history. **WR PHILLIP DORSETT** had career-best 7 rec. in Week 1 last year, vs. Hou. **WR JOSH GORDON** has more rec. (53) & rec. yards (569) vs. Pit. than against any opponent.
- **CB STEPHON GILMORE** was only CB in '18 w/2+ INTs, 2+ FFs, 1+ FRs & 1+ sacks in '18. **LB DONT'A HIGHTOWER** had 2 sacks in SB LIII. **DE MICHAEL BENNETT** makes NE debut. **S DEVIN MCCOURTY** has 21 INTs since '10, tied-4th among safeties.

TV: NBC (8:20 PM ET): Al Michaels, Cris Collinsworth, Michele Tafoya (field reporter)

NATIONAL RADIO: Westwood One: Kevin Kugler, Jason Taylor

SIRIUS: 81 (Pit), 83 (NE) | **XM:** 225 (Pit), 226 (NE)