

Yikes...

By Jesse Almeida 1/24/22

In the last Patriots article that I wrote, I mentioned that the Patriots met expectations and found a way to make it into the postseason. Even though fans expected this season to be very different compared to the year before, it is safe to say that Patriots fans would call this year a successful season. The Patriots got me to give them extra points for the bounce back from the 2020-21 season even though the Pats finished at 10-7. Before the Wild Card game against the Bills, the Patriots had a B-, B season if you were to ask me. I felt optimistic that the Pats would at least be competitive, even though in the last 4 weeks the Patriots were 1-3. You would think that Bill and his playoff experience would help the Patriots turn things around in the playoffs. However the complete opposite happened.

The Wild Card game against Buffalo was embarrassing. The only thing that came out good in that game was Kendrick Bourne showed up and looked like he could play a bigger role in a run. Mac Jones was alright as he was 24/38 passing with 232 yards, 2 TD, and 2 Int. The scariest thing that Patriots fans should walk away from that game is that the defense despite their ranking in the NFL is very inconsistent. This leaves you with a bunch of question marks in the future in terms of the defense with J.C. Jackson becoming a free agent, Devin McCourty could be done, and Dont'a Hightower is a free agent. Key aspects are free agents and the question is how do you build this defense in the future?

Mac Jones needs a solid number 1 wide receiver to play alongside Bourne, and Myers at the wideout position. Agholor will be back next year but who knows how he will be after being sidelined for most of the year with an injury. Hunter Henry is a solid tight end and the Patriots just need another wideout for Mac and his offense. As for Mac Jones, this was a good learning experience for him and we will see how he uses this season to elevate his game next season.

The Patriots 2021-2022 season was a D. Did the Patriots finish over .500? Yes they did. Did the Patriots make the playoffs? Yes they did. However did the Patriots end their season strong? No they did not. Were the Patriots at least competitive in the playoffs? No they were not. Once the Patriots started to struggle at the end of the season, they never found a way to turn it around and that is not a good look. The reason for that is because you start to ask questions like was this season a fluke, or are they not as good as we think they are? If the Patriots were at least competitive in the Wild Card game, their season would have been average because they at least showed that they can compete against top competition, but the Patriots did not even do that. The

Patriots were on the right path for most of the season but due to the fact that they did not stay consistent and had a huge downfall at the end of the season, the Patriots season was below average with many questions to come in the offseason.