

The Patriots are in the 2022 Postseason
By Jesse Almeida 1/2/22

After the Patriots made their upgrades to their wide receivers and their tight ends and paid players in order to add talent on the roster, I said at the beginning of the year that you should be optimistic in the 21-22 NFL season for the Patriots. The Patriots went a different route with the quarterback than expected, but it is safe to say that Bill made the right decision. Fans wanted to see Mac Jones over Cam Newton and they did that. The fans turned out to be right and because of his outstanding play in year 1, the New England Patriots will finish at worst 10-7 and make the playoffs after Miami's loss today. How did the Patriots turn it around so quickly after it looked like it would be a long rebuild?

Well for starters, if you do not pay elite players what they are worth, they will not play for you. Patriots fans have seen this with Tom Brady not getting what he is worth, Trading Randy Moss due to the fact that Bill did not want to pay the elite wide out, Adam Vinitari who is one of the best kickers of all time, Richard Seymore, Chandler Jones, Malcolm Butler, Wes Welker, the list goes on and on. But for the first time, we saw Bill Belichick go out and get Hunter Henry one of the best tight ends in football, Jonnu Smith, Kendrick Bourne a young wideout who showed that he can be an outstanding wide receiver, Jalen Mills and Mathew Judon both helped elevate the Patriots defense, and Trent Brown who really helped the Pats O-line. Nelson Agholor has had a down year but has shown good things on the football field in the past. When you give players what they want, they will come play for you and will help your football team. That is what this season showed for the Patriots.

The Patriots not only brought in elite talent, but they filled needs for the team. The Patriots needed to add some sort of weapons in the offseason of 2021. They did that by adding an elite tight end in Hunter Henry, a solid tight end in Jonnu Smith, and Kendrick Bourne who has really shown potential in the NFL. They were added in with Jakobi Meyers who showed some promise in the previous year. That is 4 solid targets for any quarterback in the league. Then, you have James White who unfortunately went down at the beginning of the year. This allowed Damien Harris, and Rhamondre Stevenson to elevate their games and they turned out to have great seasons. The offense looked way better than last season. The Pats are in the middle of the pack in yards per game and total yards, 8th in points per game and total points. The previous

season the Pats were at the bottom of yards per game and total yards, and was at the bottom of the list in points per game and total points.

The offense has upgraded from the previous season and the defense has looked even better than the previous year. The Patriots kept Deatrich Wise who has been a solid defensive end this year. The Pats added elite linebacker Matt Judon, brought back Kyle Van Noy, and added a solid defensive back in Jalen Mills. With what they already had with J.C. Jackson who is a pro bowl cornerback, Adrian Phillips who has really played well at safety, Kyle Dugger who has been a fantastic safety as well, and many more has put the Patriots as the third best defensive team in the NFL only allowing 311 yards per game. That is third in the NFL. The Patriot's defense has allowed 16.9 points per game and 270 points total. That is 1st in the NFL.

Finally, Mac Jones. He has been everything that was reported in the preseason, and more. I think that it is safe to say that he is going to be a very great quarterback for a very long time. He will not be like Tom Brady, however it looks like this kid is going to have a very great career. To come in as a rookie, learn the Patriots playbook so quickly, click with the team as fast as he did, and to perform the way he did in his first season was just outstanding. He may not be the flashiest quarterback out of the 2021 NFL Draft, however Mac is easily the most mature, and NFL ready quarterback out of the draft. Cam Newton himself could not learn the Patriots playbook or learn the Patriots offensive playstyle. Everyone has to remember the Patriots way is not an easy way to learn right away, but Mac Jones looks like a true New England Patriot. Mac Jones in my honest opinion should win the NFL Rookie of the Year award. As a rookie Mac Jones has thrown 21 TDs, 12 INT and a QB Rating of 54. He has been a top 15 QB in the league this season ahead of names including Russell Willson, Carson Wentz, Lamar Jackson, Baker Mayfield, and all of the other rookie quarterbacks. Mac Jones is only a rookie and will continue to get better, and the future is bright for the Patriots with Mac Jones as their quarterback.

As said on the podcast, the Patriots future looks bright. The Patriots are in the playoffs and cannot finish worse than 10-7, and could finish with the AFC East crown. With all of those question marks there is one thing that is certain, and that is Mike has a lot of explaining to do. He predicted the Patriots to finish 4-13, 6-11 at best under .500 and miss the playoffs. I predicted them at 11-6 (which could still happen), 12-5 at best, and they would make the playoffs. Mike made a deal with me that if the Patriots would go over .500 in the 2021-2022 season, him and I would go to Gillette Stadium for a game in the 2022-2023 season and he would wear a full on

clown outfit, makeup, everything, and hold up a sign saying “I lost a bet for predicting the Patriots to go under .500 last year.” My end was that but instead of a clown suit, I would have a tee shirt with my face in clown makeup along with my face in clown makeup saying that “I lost a bet predicting the Patriots to go over .500 last year.” Well Mike, it's time to pay up and there is no way around the hottest take ever made on Beantown Takes. I hoped you learned that the Patriots are here, and they are here for the foreseeable future.

Sources:

[Ranking the star players the Patriots have let go in the Bill Belichick era | Touchdown Wire | Page 4 \(usatoday.com\)](#)

[Patriots offseason tracker 2021: Full list of trades, signings, departures | RSN \(nbsports.com\)](#)

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