

A True Definition of a Patriot
By Jesse Almeida 3/20/23

Devin McCourty was always hidden in the shadows in his career as Tom Brady was the story of the New England Patriots for most of his career, but Devin McCourty was near as important as Tom Brady was to the Patriots. The only way that people would know how important Devin McCourty was, they would have to be either a Patriot fan, or someone who watches football closely. There are times in sports, where a player's stats do not tell an entire player's career. All that you can ask for in a player is for them to give it their all every game and to help make players around them better. When you have a player like this, that player is almost impossible to replace and his value to your team is indescribable. Devin McCourty was that player for the New England Patriots. He was never known to make a big play, but he would always make his presence known. When one of his teammates needed help, McCourty was always there to help. You need a leader on both sides of the football and Devin McCourty was the leader on the defensive side of the football.

Devin McCourty was picked in the first round with the 27th pick by the New England Patriots in the 2010 NFL draft. He started his career with the New England Patriots and ended his career with that very same team. He played in 13 seasons, in the Pro Bowl 2 times, and most importantly a 3-time Super Bowl champion. McCourty played in a total of 205 games and ended up only missing 5 games in his entire career. He was a warrior on the field. Devin would do whatever it took to be on the field for his teammates and did whatever he could do to help them win the game. In those 205 games McCourty had 35 interceptions with a total of 581 yards and only 2 touchdowns in his career. One of McCourty's most memorable plays was his 104-yard kick return that resulted in 6 points against the New York Jets. Devin McCourty was one of the most beloved teammates on the field as he was one of the defensive captains of the Patriots. McCourty was able to get the most out of every one of his teammates and his presence and his leadership helped propel the Patriots to 3 Super Bowl titles.

Devin McCourty was just as much of a leader off the field as he was on the field. He was always giving back to the community as he would always take the time out of his day to be a part of any of the foundations that the New England Patriots hosted. McCourty would take time to visit the Children's Hospital in Boston to put a smile on children's faces who were going through a rough patch. Devin and his brother Jason McCourty started a foundation themselves where

they helped raise money for a disease called sickle cell disease. This disease was a disease that went through some of their family members. Devin and Jason decided to use their platforms to help other people and their families with their situation involving the disease by creating the “McCourty Twins Tackle Sickle Cell Foundation”. McCourty knew that without the fans, he would not have the support that he had throughout his career, and he was always willing to give back. Even if it was as small as giving an autograph or taking a picture with a fan, McCourty always loved Patriots Nation.

Losing Devin McCourty will be a huge hole for the New England Patriots. McCourty was their leader on the defensive end. Devin was a part of the Patriots culture for all his career, bringing a winning pedigree of football every day. Everything that Devin did was the right thing. When he would talk during a postgame conference everything, he said would be honest. On the field, he gave his all day in and day out. Off the field, he would show love to the people who supported him day in and day out. Devin McCourty is the true definition of a New England Patriot. Thank you, Devin McCourty, for an outstanding 13-year career with the New England Patriots. Next up is the Patriots Hall of Fame.