

A Joke of an Offseason  
By Jesse Almeida 4/30/22

At this point, it is hard to tell what the Patriots actually are as a football team. The timeline since the 2019 season has been one crazy ride to say the least. 1st, they let their franchise quarterback go in Tom Brady who helped form the franchise to a winning culture. Next they reset and had Cam Newton as the starting quarterback with little to no help on offense and having a losing season that had fans questioning their future. Then, Bill finally goes out and spends on a few weapons and boosts the defense in the 2021 offseason and picks one of the top quarterbacks in the draft. This had fans somewhat optimistic on the Patriots path in the future because maybe that one season was a retool season and they could be back on track to being a threat in the AFC. The Patriots went 10-7 and into the playoffs however got blown away by the Bills. Questions started back up again on how good this Patriots team really is and fans knew that they needed more help for Mac Jones especially heading into his second year.

Bill Belichick's biggest job was to add a top wideout or good wide outs for Mac Jones to have options to throw to, and give him more protection. Did he do that? Not really. The only wideout that the Patriots added in the offseason was DeVante Parker in a trade with Miami. Parker is 29 and had 2 touchdowns last year 515 yards and 40 receptions out of 73 targets. His best year was in 2019 where he had 9 touchdowns, 1202 yards, and 72 receptions out of 128 targets. He has had injury issues just like Nelson Agholor and is a question mark on the field. If he can stay on the field then this would help but not to what the Patriots need. Jakobi Myers is a restricted free agent but is most likely to come back, but as of right now the Patriots only have Kendrick Bourne, DeVante Parker, and Agholor as their wideouts. That is a big if too seeing that Parker and Agholor have had injury issues. If you want to count Ty Montgomery as a wide receiver signing, fine. However he is more known for running back and his numbers do not look so great. To make matters worse, Trading away Shaq Mason is a huge loss for the Pats front line on offense, along with Ted Karras going to the Bengals.

The defense has also taken a step back as the Patriots lost J.C. Jackson because Bill does not pay top cornerbacks. He released Kyle Van Noy, and traded defensive lineman Chase Winovich to the Browns for a young lineman in Mack Wilson who has less sacks, however his other numbers look better so that deal looks good. The Patriots still have Dont'a Hightower as a free agent, and Collins as a free agent. The defensive linemen are not as solid and their corners

are not as scary as before. The Patriots added Malcolm Butler back in efforts to replace J.C. Jackson, and also added Jabrill Peppers (saftey).

It seems as so the only thing the Patriots really did in the offseason was keep most of their players and are running it back. There is only one issue with this and that is that almost every team in the AFC got better and you either stayed neutral if not got worse. Miami got better with their new big name in Tyreek Hill. The Colts got better with Matt Ryan as their new QB and their defense got better with go figure Stephon Gilmore as their big defensive add. Kansas City lost Hill but got Juju Smith-Schuster and are still very good with their other key pieces. The Raiders added Devante Adams, and Chandler Jones as their big moves to add with a team that just missed the playoffs. The Broncos made a splash getting Russell Wilson. The Browns acquired Deshaun Watson and Amari Cooper and do not forget that the Bengals were just in the Super Bowl, the Bills, and Titans are solid as well, and the Chargers and Ravens are right there also.

There are many teams that are in competition for the playoffs this season and honestly the Patriots are probably the 11th or 12th best team out of the 16 teams in the AFC. The Patriots had the opportunity to elevate their roster and get back to being a contending team and honestly failed that. The Patriots still have options with the free agency market and the draft but even the draft is off to a bad start and it looks like the Patriots will not be spending on people like Jarvis Landry or OBJ. The Patriots took Cole Strange at 29 as an offensive guard, was projected to be a 3rd round pick, and is turning 24 in July. The pick had the league shocked and even laughing as Sean McVay coach of the Rams laughed at the pick. In the second round, the Patriots made a wide out pick by the name of Tyquan Thornton from Baylor, and picked a cornerback in the third round in Marcus Jones from Houston. This offseason is not over obviously but this was a huge failure and that is so unfortunate for Mac Jones and Patriots fans because based off of this offseason, the Patriots will most likely go under .500 this season. That is embarrassing for Patriots nation, and Bill Belichick.

Works Cited:

[Patriots 2022 NFL offseason tracker: Key dates, team needs, in-house free agents, rumors, more - CBSSports.com](#)

[DeVante Parker Stats | Pro-Football-Reference.com](#)

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