

NFL - 2010 Fantasy Football New England Patriots Team Preview

Written by Richard Schortemeyer III

Monday, 06 September 2010 18:00 - Last Updated Monday, 06 September 2010 22:11

We have many great articles planned leading up to the 2010 Fantasy Football season including sleepers, busts, rookies, strategy, full player rankings and projections all wrapped up into a nifty draft kit to help you win your league next year. Stay tuned for more, but for now, here's a team preview for you.

Ask a question about your fantasy team in our [FORUM](#) . Leave a comment about this article down below.

OFF-SEASON TRANSACTIONS

KEY ADDS

- Crumpler, Alge TE (FA)
- Hernandez, Aaron TE (rookie)

KEY SUBTRACTIONS

- Watson, Benjamin TE(FA)
- Aiken, Sam WR (released)

NOTE: Adding the two TE and getting Welker back will help Brady on the outside. Speaking of the outside, look for big things from Mr. Moss, who's in his walk year.

THE BIG QUESTION

Can Tom Brady and the offense return closer to the historical offense of '07?

They definitely have a chance to. Brady looked back to normal last season, throwing for nearly 4,400 yards and 28 touchdowns. WR Randy Moss recovered from 1,008 yards in '08 to 1,264 yards in '09, and with this being his walk year, I look for him to do big things in '10. I think Moss knows that he probably has one more big contract left in his NFL career.

However, there are two detriments for the offense returning to glory:

- 1) How long will it take for WR Wes Welker to fully recover from the ACL injury? His case is a little different than if it was for an outside WR, who doesn't get hit as much. Being a slot receiver, Welker constantly gets contact from the defense. It'll be interesting to monitor, but from what I've heard, Welker looks like the same dangerous option that was a huge part of the team's historical run a few years ago.
- 2) Getting Pro Bowl LG Logan Mankins back on the field. The team and Mankins have failed to reach a contract agreement, which has led to Mankins holding out and the Patriots putting him on the Roster Exempt list. Ones closest to Mankins have expressed that he wouldn't mind holding out for the entire '10 season, which doesn't spell good news for the Patriots, which have been forced to mix and match their offensive line.

If Welker can produce post-injury like the Welker pre-injury and the Patriots can get Mankins back on the O-line quickly, the offense has the ability to put up the numbers they did in '07.

ALSO

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Stephen Gostkowski has had a good career so far as the Patriots K. However, he only had 31 attempts in '10 compared to the 40 attempts he had in '09. The big reason was the return of Tom Brady, and when Tom Brady's on the field, the success rate of passing TDs and going for it on 4th down increase significantly. Plus, not having a solid running game decreases a kicker's opportunities. Its hard to rely on fantasy points from a K who doesn't get many chances.

The return game doesn't look that promising for fantasy owners. It's slated that WRs Brandon Tate and Julian Edelman will be the kick and punt returners respectively. Tate played in only two games in his rookie season of '09 due to a knee injury. Edelman showed flashes of a Wes Welker-type WR in his rookie season of '09 (37-359-1). However, the status and stats of both as returners is up in the air with the uncertainty of Welker's recovery once the regular season begins.

FANTASY DEPTH CHART

QB

- Brady, Tom
- Hoyer, Brian

RB

- Taylor, Fred
- Maroney, Laurence
- Morris, Sammy

WR

- Moss, Randy

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- Welker, Wes
- Edelman, Julian
- Tate, Brandon

TE

- Crumpler, Alge
- Hernandez, Aaron

NOTE: The starting QB position is settled. The RB rotation is unsettled. The WR position is a little questionable with Welker's status through the season. The TE rotation is pretty stable and should provide a nice 1-2 punch.

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