

The Patriots: How They Got Here

Here we go again. The New England Patriots are back in the Super Bowl.

After playing in their seventh straight AFC championship game on Jan. 21 against the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Patriots are looking for their second straight Super Bowl victory.

New England made the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history last year, overcoming a 25-point deficit to defeat the Atlanta Falcons, 34-28, to win the big game. Having had much of its key core intact heading into the 2017-18 season, it's no surprise the Patriots find themselves making yet another Super Bowl run.

Facing the Eagles is nothing new, either. Tom Brady and the Patriots beat Philadelphia in Super Bowl XXXIX.

EXCELLENCE DEFINED

The Patriots will appear in their 10th Super Bowl, the most by any franchise. (Dallas, Denver and Pittsburgh have been to eight.) With a win, New England would earn its sixth title, which would tie the Steelers for most in National Football League history.

So how did they get here? Well, that's more of the same, too.

BELICHICK AND BRADY

Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady have been the driving factors in all of the Patriots' Super Bowl wins. They earned their first three in a four-year span (2002 to 2005) but had to wait 10 years for their next championship.

Even with a little extra drama this year after the Patriots traded backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo to the San Francisco 49ers, Belichick and Brady found a way to work through their differences.

OVERCOMING INJURIES

The Patriots' week of practice ahead of their AFC championship game against the Jaguars featured a scary moment for Brady.

He cut his knuckle on a helmet during a handoff and it required 12 stitches. Brady missed one practice and became the talk of the town throughout the week, with Patriots fans fearing the worst.

But the future Hall of Famer put together a solid game with 290 yards and two touchdowns, including the go-ahead touchdown pass to Danny Amendola with 2:48 left in the game.



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