



# SUPER BOWL XLII:

## NEW YORK GIANTS (13-6) VS. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (18-0)



Megan McConnell - Sports Editor

Let's go back to week 17 of the regular season when the New England Patriots and the New York Giants matched up. Coming back from a 12-point deficit in the third quarter, the Patriots prevailed to save their perfect record of 16-0.

Now, the two teams travel to Glendale, Ariz., to battle

it out in Super Bowl XLII. Even though the Patriots are favored to win, the Giants prove to be a worthy opponent. They are coming off their 10th straight road win, a single-season NFL record, and look to prove the skeptics wrong once again.

So, will it be Eli Manning's time to prove himself and show he is as good as his brother, Peyton? Or will Tom Brady continue to lead the Patriots to only the second perfect season in NFL history? Let's head over to the drawing board to see how the teams match up.

### Offense

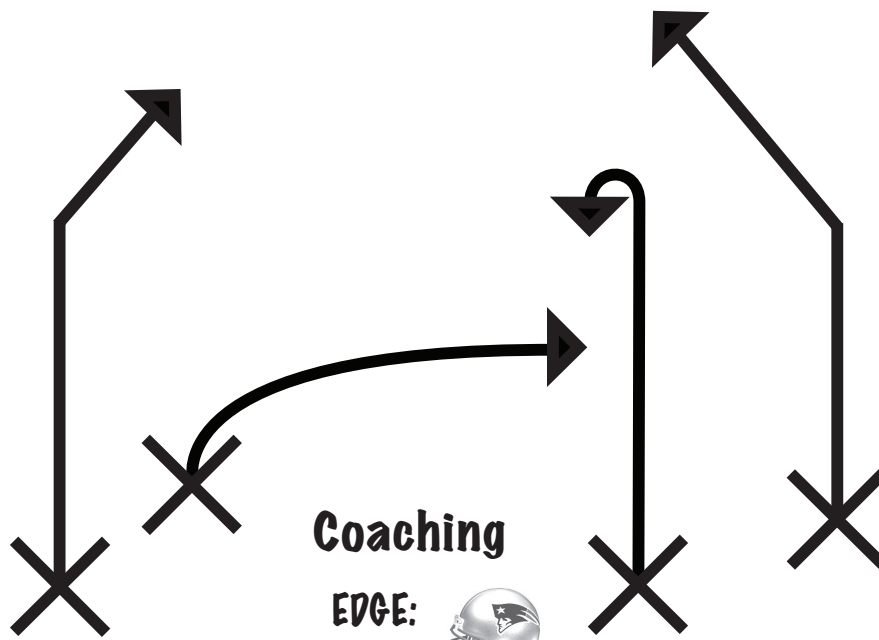
EDGE: 

The Patriots set an NFL record for most points during a regular season. Receivers Randy Moss and Wes Welker are Brady's top passing targets, combining for over 2,500 yards and 31 touchdowns in the regular season. If the passing game is stopped, New England can rely on their solid running back Laurence Maroney, who averaged 4.5 yards per carry in the regular season.

### Quarterback

EDGE: 

Despite Eli Manning's development in the playoffs, he can't surpass the greatest quarterback in recent history, Tom Brady. He has already led his team to three Super Bowl championships, while receiving two Super Bowl MVP awards in the process. During the regular season, he set a NFL record for the most single season touchdown passes with 50.



### Coaching

EDGE: 

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick has the second-best winning percentage in the playoffs behind only former Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi. Belichick will attempt to win his fourth Super Bowl in the past seven years.

### Defense

EDGE: 

An experienced linebacker crew led by Mike Vrabel and Teddy Bruschi make up the core of the Patriots defense. The secondary features veteran Rodney Harrison, who is the only player in the NFL history to record at least 25 career sacks and at least 30 interceptions, and Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel. In the regular season, New England's defense ranked fourth in points given up per game.

### Special Teams

EDGE: Push

Both teams are strong in certain areas, with the kicking game going to the Patriots. Stephen Gostkowski is one of the top three kickers in the league, making 21 out of 24 field goal attempts this year. However, the Giants return team is more talented. In the match up between the two teams in December, Domenik Hixon returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

## IHSA cracks down on athletes getting pumped up

"My body is like breakfast, lunch and dinner. I don't think about it, I just have it." Although Arnold Schwarzenegger might be able to just "have" his body, as he says, more and more people are attempting to bulk up like Arnold and try just about anything to get huge.

Fremd is no exception to the muscle-gaining craze, considering we make shirts that say "Ripped," "Jacked," "Massive" and "Testosterone." I think it's great that lifting and getting in shape is popular.

Taking supplements is completely healthy if it is not overdone and the right supplements are taken. Protein supplements are generally harmless, but when kids start to use other kinds of muscle-enhancing formulas that have names like "Jungle Warfare" and "Animal Pump," health issues may arise.

Although steroids are not known to be a major problem among high school athletes in Illinois, the threat is there, and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) is taking a very real response to it.

Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, Illinois will become the fourth state, behind Texas, Florida and New Jersey, to adopt a steroid policy for high school athletes. For at least the first year, the IHSA is considering administering the testing only during the postseason.

The word "steroid" is a term that is thrown around too much. Steroids do not refer to all substances that make you stronger or bigger. What the IHSA is referring to with their new policy is performance-enhancing drugs. However, vitamin supplements, even those



that might not be healthy, are not steroids.

Performance-enhancing drugs usually alter hormones to give athletes an edge in their sports. Common types of performance enhancers are anabolic steroids, which are used to increase muscle and lean body mass; androstenedione; diuretics, which are typically used by wrestlers to drop weight quickly; and stimulants to increase alertness and aggressiveness.

The likelihood of actually catching a high school athlete using steroids is very slim. Athletes will know the time period when they will be eligible for testing. Rather, the test is aimed toward the prevention of future use of steroids due to the rapid growing popularity of athletes wanting to be "pumped up."

Truthfully, I believe the testing will do very little or perhaps absolutely nothing to prevent the use of performance enhancers. This postseason-only policy will be a waste of money on the IHSA's part. The only way for the IHSA to really ensure the eradication of steroid use is to perform random testing throughout the season.

Although Schwarzenegger is undeniably a very wise man, high school athletes should not take this quote to heart. No one has that kind of body without hard work, yet you can achieve it without steroids.

So although the steroid policy may not be the most effective way of eliminating use of performance-enhancers, student-athletes should be aware of the risks involved with these drugs and choose one of the many alternatives, such as eating healthy and lifting regularly, as a way to be like Arnold.

## '87 grad named in Mitchell Report

Will Reising and Alex Weis  
Staff Writers

Fremd graduate and ex-Chicago Cubs catcher Todd Hundley was named in former Senator George Mitchell's investigation of steroid use in Major League Baseball (MLB). The 409-page Mitchell Report was released on Dec. 13 and contained the names of 86 former and current MLB players who were cited for using performance-enhancing drugs.

Former New York Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski told Mitchell's investigative team that "beginning in 1996, he sold Deca-Durabolin," a type of anabolic steroid, and "testosterone to Hundley on three or four occasions," according to the report.

During that season, Hundley, a member of Fremd's class of 1987, saw an increase in his offensive production. He belted 41 home runs, having never hit over 16 homers in any previous season. Hundley also amassed 112 RBI, which was well above his previous season high of 53.

Other players also told Mitchell's investigative team that Hundley was able to get steroids from Radomski. Chris Donnels, Hundley's teammate with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2000, admitted that he "recalled having extensive discussions with Hundley about performance-enhancing substance use and about Radomski."

Physical education teacher Jason Jetel played baseball with Hundley in a summer league while they were both students at Fremd, and he says Hundley's inclusion in the report did not shock him.

"When it came out, I wasn't really too surprised," Jetel said.

Jetel says the pattern of injuries during Hundley's career indicate that something was up.

"When you put on that much bulk, something has got to give, and it's usually the ligaments and tendons," Jetel said.

The Mitchell Report has been openly criticized by players as inconclusive and lacking solid evidence. Roger Clemens, a 354-game winning pitcher, was named by his former trainer Brian McNamee as taking performance-enhancing drugs. In an interview on *60 Minutes* with Mike Wallace, Clemens repeatedly denied using banned substances during his career in the major leagues.

"Never happened," Clemens said in his *60 Minutes* interview. "Never happened. And if I have these needles and these steroids and all these drugs, where did I get 'em? Where is the person out there that gave 'em to me?"

Junior Tim Murray believes that George Mitchell is a trustworthy source.

"Mitchell was a former senator. He had nothing to lose with this report and no vendettas against any of these guys. He was an unbiased source," Murray said.

MLB's current drug testing policy includes random year-round testing and a 50 game suspension for the first failed test, 100 for the second and a lifetime ban for the third offense.

Jetel says he does not know exactly what the MLB will do with the information in the report, but says the findings could have a positive effect for the game.

"The Mitchell Report might serve as a wake-up call for those guys who are thinking about using performance enhancers [like] human growth hormone in the future," Jetel said.

Clemens and two other former Yankees teammates will testify before Congress on Feb. 13. McNamee also will be present.

Hundley has yet to comment on the allegations.