
THE SPORTIER

Super Bowl LI Preview

New England Patriots

The New England Patriots were destructive this past year. Going into the year with Tom Brady sitting the first four games due to a suspension, those games looked like they would be tricky. But backup quarterbacks Jimmy Garoppolo and Jacoby Brissett were able to combine for only one loss in the first four games. That just shows how strong the Patriots are, even without Brady. They have so many more players that can lead the team to victory. And when Brady did come back, there was no stopping him. Brady went 11-1 in the regular season, only losing to the Seahawks in that span. During that span, star tight end Rob Gronkowski ruptured a disk in his back, causing Gronk to get surgery. This injury occurred against the Seahawks but Gronk was cleared to play the Jets the next week. He took another hit, ending his season. The Patriots used tight end Martellus Bennett to sub in for Gronk, who did a great job of filling in, scoring a total of 7 touchdowns and receiving for 701 yards in the regular season. The Patriots clinched the playoffs and when the Patriots play in the playoffs, they are a VERY good team. In the Tom Brady era, the Patriots have gone 24-9 in the postseason. The Patriots lit up the Texans 34-16, where Brady passed for 287 yards and 2 touchdowns. In the AFC Championship game against the Steelers, the Patriots yet again beat up on a team, this time the score being 36-17. This time, Brady was even more fantastic, passing for 384 yards and 3 touchdowns. This shows how good this Patriots team is and that the Patriots are going to make this the trickiest game for the Falcons this season.

Atlanta Falcons

The Falcons were supposed to be good this year, but not Super Bowl good. The year started off fine for the Falcons, going 4-1 in their first 5 games. But from there, it did not go so well. They lost three of their next five to make them 6-4, a good record, but not good enough for the playoffs. In that span they had lost to the Seahawks, the Chargers, and the Eagles. After their bye week, though, the Falcons turned it on. They went 5-1, with MVP quarterback Matt Ryan averaging 283 yards per game in that span. After the regular season, two big records were that Matt Ryan had the highest quarterback rating out of all quarterbacks this year (117.1), Vic Beasley led the NFL with 15.5 sacks, and the Falcons as a team had the most points (540). With an 11-5 record, they topped the Buccaneers in their division to advance to the Divisional Round. In the Divisional Finals, the Falcons beat the Seahawks in a game where Matt Ryan threw for 338 yards and 3 touchdowns. In the Conference Championship, the last game in the Georgia Dome's history, the Falcons DESTROYED the Packers, 44-21. With that, they advanced to the second Super Bowl in their history. The Falcons might not seem to be that dangerous, but with the threat of star wide receiver Julio Jones, the combination of running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman, and the top quarterback this year in Matt Ryan, the Patriots will get a run for their money.

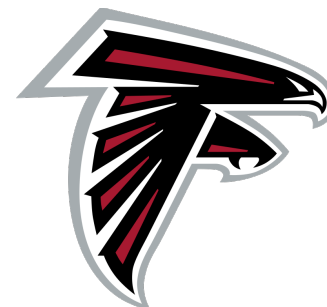
The Prediction

Patriots- 32

Falcons- 30



VS.



Super Bowl LI MVP- Tom Brady

Why Patriots?

The Patriots have a better chance at winning because their offense can rip apart the opposing defense and their defense is good enough to stop the other team. Brady has many receivers to choose from, like Julian Edelman, Chris Hogan, and Danny Amendola. They also have stars on defense, such as Dont'a Hightower and Malcolm Butler. With more quality players on each side of the ball, they can be a real threat if the players do their part in the offense or defense, which seems to be happening because the Patriots have kept winning. Though the Falcons have great players like Matt Ryan, Julio Jones, Vic Beasley, Devonta Freeman, and Tevin Coleman the Patriots are a more well-rounded team and can work without a particular player playing, as you could see with Tom Brady out. Also, the Falcons' center, Alex Mack, is playing with a broken fibula, which might slow down the Falcons' running game. The players the Falcons have are needed to win their games, but if the Patriots are able to shut down the Falcons stars, the Patriots would have a very good chance of winning.

Why Brady?

If Tom Brady wins another Super Bowl, he will likely be considered the G.O.A.T (Greatest Of All Time). If Brady is victorious in tonight's Super Bowl, he will own a handful of Super Bowl rings. It would be his fifth Super Bowl victory, which would also make him the quarterback with the most Super Bowl rings in the history of the NFL. Brady is already going into the Hall of Fame, and if he wins another Super Bowl, it's safe to say that he is the best quarterback to have ever played the game of football.