

The Sportier

Super Bowl LI Review

A Thriller for the Ages

Super Bowl LI will rank as one of the most exciting Super Bowls in history. It started out with no scoring, first the Patriots without a score, then the Falcons, then the Pats again, then the Falcons again. But next time when the Pats got the ball, Falcons linebacker Deion Jones stripped Patriots running back LeGarrette Blount of the ball, which gave the Falcons the ball back. The Falcons went on to score on a running play by running back Devonta Freeman. The Patriots got the ball back and punted again, the 3rd punt of the half for the Patriots. The Falcons got the ball back and scored a touchdown on a nice pass from quarterback Matt Ryan into the hands of tight end Austin Hooper. With the score 14-0, the Patriots got the ball back and marched down the field to the Atlanta 23 yard line. Right when it looked like the Patriots were going to get into the game, quarterback Tom Brady tried to pass to wide receiver Danny Amendola but cornerback Robert Alford came out from behind Amendola to pick off the ball and run it 82 yards back to the end zone for a touchdown. With the score now 21-0, the Patriots were finally able to make use of their field position and kicker Stephen Gostkowski kicked a 41 yard field goal to put the Patriots on the board, 21-3. After halftime, which included an amazing stunt performed by Lady Gaga, the Falcons punted after their first possession and the Patriots punted after theirs, giving the Falcons the ball. The Falcons, like they had been doing, marched up the field and a pass to running back Tevin Coleman secured another touchdown, putting the Falcons up 28-3. The Super Bowl record up to this point for a comeback was 10 points, which had happened multiple times. But little did anybody know that that record would soon be shattered to pieces. The Patriots got the ball back and finally turned their game on. The Patriots marched down into Falcon territory with a series of passes and runs. At the Falcons 2 yard line, the Patriots finally broke through and scored a touchdown on a run. The Falcons lead was cut to 28-9, and the extra point was missed by Gostkowski, who missed 5 in the regular season, which is rare for a kicker like Gostkowski. The next drive, the Falcons were forced to punt and that led to a Patriots field goal. The score was now 28-12. The Patriots had already made up 9 points. It was looking like the game was starting to reverse what happened in the 1st half. The Falcons got the ball and on 3rd and 1, Matt Ryan dropped back to throw and was blindsided... FUMBLE! The Patriots recovered, which led to a key touchdown that put them within 10 points. And this time, they tried for the 2 point conversion to be down by only 1 score. Brady handed it off to running back James White, who converted for the score! The Patriots were only 8 points down! *This was developing to be the most amazing comeback in Super Bowl history!* The Falcons were forced to punt again, after an amazing sideline catch by Julio Jones. The Falcons should have run the ball and kicked a field goal, to make the Patriots need two scores to tie, but the Falcons play calling was inexplicable, calling for passes when run plays were more logical. Tom Brady got the ball back with 3:30 left to go, and when you give the ball to Brady with this kind of time, Brady can crush you. Brady and the Patriots offense were storming down the field and on 1st and 10 at their own 36, Tom Brady threw a strike across the field to Julian Edelman. The ball

was tipped in the air by Robert Alford and 3 Falcons quickly got to Edelman, but SOMEHOW Edelman held on to the ball under a pile of players and even when a Falcons player kicked it out, he saved the ball from dropping. That play gained the Patriots 41 yards, which put the Patriots in a great spot to score. The Patriots spectacular comeback became even more improbable when James White rushed in for his 2nd touchdown to make his team 2 points away from tying the game up. The choice was obvious. The Patriots would have to go for the 2 point conversion or they could say goodbye to all their hard work this season. Brady passed it to Amendola on the left side of the field and... The game was tied! The Patriots had just made Super Bowl LI one of the craziest football games EVER. The Falcons got the ball back and instead of trying to get the ball down the field, a few short passes resulted in a 4th down punt. The Patriots let the clock run out and sent the Super Bowl into it's 1st ever overtime. The Patriots received the kick and if they scored a touchdown, they would be world champions who staged the biggest comeback in the history of the Super Bowl. It's the Patriots, so what did you think happened? The Patriots moved quickly with good passes, gaining 1st downs on most of them. Finally, at the 2 yard line, the Patriots had a chance to get their 5th title. James White with the handoff to the right and he reaches... And the Patriots have won! One of the most unlikely comebacks in a championship in sports history had occurred! The Patriots beat all odds and came back from 25 points and won Super Bowl LI! And the best part: Commissioner Goodell handing Tom Brady the Super Bowl MVP award.

