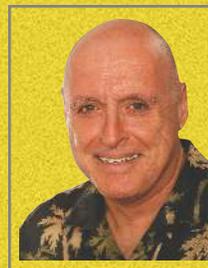


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



755 Is Tom Brady About to Relive a Nightmare?

It's like a bad dream, happening all over again...and there's no doubt Tom Brady has been thinking about it. What bad dream? That's next, on The Extra Point.

He's now always referred to as the G.O.A.T. — the greatest of all time when it comes to NFL quarterbacks. He won six Super Bowl titles with the New England Patriots. That said, all of them were games that could have gone either way, and Brady's wins were less than dominant.

Brady has six Super Bowl rings, the most of any player in NFL history. He'll be after his seventh in about 90 minutes, as his Tampa Bay Buccaneers take on the defending champs, the Kansas City Chiefs.

The six wins earned Brady the title of the greatest ever to play his position, but two of the three losses came to one team and one style of play. In Super Bowls 42 and 46, the New York Giants used a bruising pass rush to batter Brady, and he was not highly effective.

The Giants, under defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, knocked 30 year-old Brady down repeatedly, sacking him five times. They were able to get great pressure on Brady the entire game, using just the front four of their defensive line, with other defenders covering the receivers. Brady finished with just 29 pass completions in 48 attempts. The Giants won the game with only 35 seconds remaining on the clock, ending New England's hopes for a perfect season of 19 wins and no losses.

Four years later in Super Bowl 46, Spagnuolo was coaching the Rams but Giants' defensive coordinator Perry Fewell used a similar plan to rattle then 34 year-old Brady. He was sacked twice and threw an interception. The Giants won in the final minute, again frustrating Brady and the Patriots.

Now, to that bad dream. Brady, at age 30 and

34, was never a speedy runner or very elusive in avoiding a pass rush, but he was certainly better at it than is 43 year-old Brady. Today, he goes face-to-face with the man who came up with the way to beat him, Steve Spagnuolo, now the defensive coordinator of the Chiefs.

Can history repeat itself? Kansas City is known much more for its wide-open offense, not it's defense. However, Spagnuolo has assembled a unit that isn't as talented as those Giants' defenses mentioned, but the Chiefs have the ability to put pressure on the quarterback with just the front four. They had fewer sacks than did Tampa Bay, but Brady is now less able to avoid pressure.

One of the keys to the game will be if Spagnuolo and team can once again deliver on the plan to get Brady on the ground and interrupt his rhythm.

People in business occasionally find themselves up against an old competitor, who beat them before, and who returns in a new role to challenge them again. What if it happened to you? What if that competitor knew exactly how you would likely react in a given situation? What if they tested you the same way they bested you? How would you deal with it?

We'll soon know how Tom Brady will deal with it. Will he have the right answers, or will Steve Spagnuolo resurrect the nightmare he first unleashed on Brady 13 years ago?

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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