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GAME NOTES BY ERIK SCALAVINO

Edelman-to-Amendola highlights wild win

FOXBOROUGH – Returning from a concussion that kept him out of the final two regular season games, Julian Edelman led all receivers in the game with eight catches.

But it was his 51-yard touchdown throw to fellow wide receiver Danny Amendola in the third quarter that easily was the most memorable play on a truly bizarre night in Foxborough.

It was the first time Edelman, a quarterback at Kent State, threw a touchdown since his college days in 2008. It also marked the first time a non-QB threw a TD for the Patriots since kicker Adam Vinatieri did so on a fake field goal in St. Louis in 2004.

The Edelman-to-Amendola connection knotted the game at 28 apiece with less than five minutes to play in the third quarter.

"I don't throw it as good as I used to... my shoulder's a little sore. It's a tough throw," Edelman joked after the game, adding that it's a play they work on "every couple of weeks" in practice.

"We hit it in practice a few times. Practice execution becomes game reality. We all saw that the coverage we wanted was going to be there."

"Julian's got a good arm. He put it out there for me. It was a good play," remarked Amendola, who also scored earlier on a 15-yard catch-and-run that saw him dive for the pylon. He finished with five grabs for 81 yards and those two scores.

"Catch the ball and get in the end zone," Amendola smiled, recalling what was going through his mind as he got wide open behind the Ravens' secondary and the ball from Edelman was hanging in the air. "That's pretty much it. Not much time to

think right there. I knew that had a chance, and it ended up working out."

"Edelman's pass was amazing. It was right on the money," tight end Rob Gronkowski marveled. "Couldn't ask for a better pass and better route from Danny."

Gronk on D

The game appeared to have been sealed with safety Duron Harmon's interception of Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco in the end zone just after the 2-minute warning. The Patriots tried to kneel on the ball to run out the clock, but a few seconds remained on the clock on fourth down, forcing New England to punt and giving the Ravens one last gasp on offense.

Gronkowski was inserted as a deep safety on the game's final play – a Hail Mary pass by Baltimore with just four ticks left on the clock. Safety Devin McCourty wound up getting his paws on the football and knocking it away as it fell into the end zone.

"Yeah, just going for the jump ball, knock it down, make sure the other team doesn't get it. It was successful," he stated matter-of-factly.

TB12 on the run

The latter stages of the 2014 season have seen QB Tom Brady take off an run a number of times for sizeable gains. Against Baltimore his four-yard scramble for a touchdown on 3rd-and-goal opened up the scoring for New England after the Patriots

fell behind 14-0. It was Brady's fifth touchdown run in his playoff career, tying him with former Patriots running back Curtis Martin for the franchise record.

Revis disputes call

Cornerback Darrelle Revis was flagged twice against the Ravens – once for pass interference and another time for defensive holding. The PI call helped set up a Baltimore touchdown just before halftime, while the holding call negated a third-quarter Flacco fumble recovered inside the Ravens' 5-yard line by linebacker Jamie Collins.

Both penalties came with Revis covering Ravens receiver Steve Smith, and the cornerback spoke candidly about both infractions afterward.

"I don't agree with that call," he said of the pass interference. "Definitely don't, because I played the ball right. But the refs make the call and that's it. I definitely don't agree with the call."

"It's a tough game," he added. "A lot of penalties, a lot of scrapping out there. Pushing, tugging, back-and-forth. The receivers push off, and that's what it is. I pulled, [Smith] pushed off. They called me, and that's that."

Ins and Outs

On Friday's final injury report of the week, the Patriots listed just four players, all four of them regarded as "probable" (75-percent chance of playing) versus Baltimore. Only running back Jonas Gray (ankle) was among the seven players deactivated to get down to the 46-man game day limit.

The other six were all healthy scratches: offensive lineman Jordan Devay, wide re-

ceiver Josh Boyce, tight end Steve Maneri, rookie defensive lineman Zach Moore, rookie running back James White, and rookie offensive lineman Cameron Fleming.

Starting rookie center Bryan Stork left the game in the middle of the second quarter and received medical attention on his right lower leg. He was then taken to the locker room for further examination. The team later announced that he had a knee injury and would not return to the game.

Starting right guard Ryan Wendell slid over to center on the next series, with Josh Kline taking over for Wendell at guard.

Late in the third quarter, cornerback Brandon Browner retreated to the bench and was examined by nearly the entire medical staff. He was then escorted to the locker room. It was later announced that he'd suffered a knee injury. It appeared to be his right leg that the medical staff was treating. Logan Ryan came on in relief of Browner, who spoke to media at length after the game, seemed in good spirits, and proclaimed he was "feeling great."

Extra Point

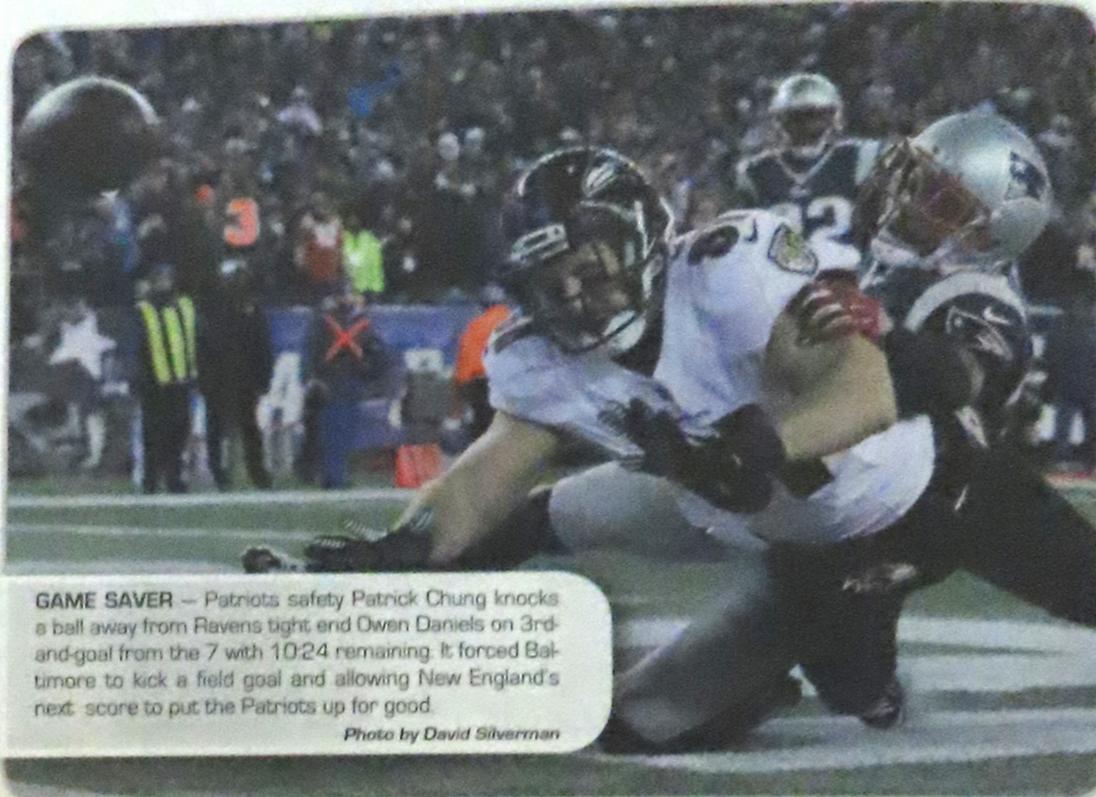
...Upon arriving in Providence Friday evening, one of the buses in Baltimore's convoy was involved in a minor accident with a taxi cab outside the team's hotel. According to reports by media covering the Ravens, the bus sideswiped the parked vehicle, but no one was injured.

...NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell was in attendance, watching the game from the stands with his wife.

...Brandon Bolden started the game at running back just days after signing a contract extension with the club.

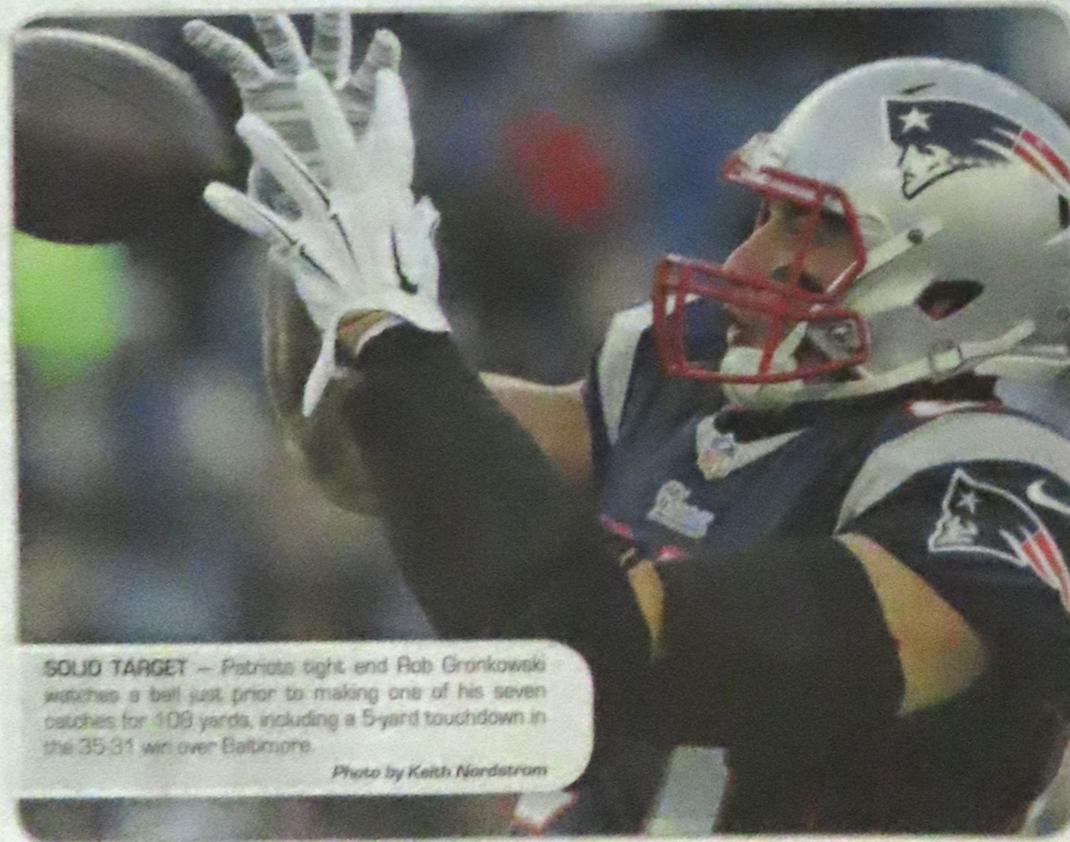
...Former Patriots practice squad receiver Kamar Aiken scored the first touchdown of the game for Baltimore on the game's opening drive.

...Linebacker Jerod Mayo watched the game from the Patriots sideline. He's been out on injured reserve most of the season with a knee problem. *PFW*



GAME SAVER – Patriots safety Patrick Chung knocks a ball away from Ravens tight end Owen Daniels on 3rd-and-goal from the 7 with 10:24 remaining. It forced Baltimore to kick a field goal and allowing New England's next score to put the Patriots up for good.

Photo by David Silverman



SOLID TARGET – Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski catches a ball just prior to making one of his seven catches for 109 yards, including a 5-yard touchdown in the 35-31 win over Baltimore.

Photo by Keith Nordstrom