

Super Matchups Everywhere With Pats-Giants

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — MVP quarterbacks on marquee franchises. A rematch of a nail-biter from four years ago, featuring many of the same key characters. Madonna and plenty of Manning — Eli, and Peyton, too.

This Super Bowl certainly has all the makings of another thriller, the perfect finish to a season that began in turmoil and wound up the most successful in league history.

The NFL couldn't have planned it any better. "It's actually been a very fun week here," said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, seeking his fourth Super Bowl ring in 11 seasons, and doing it in the city where archrival Peyton Manning has worked for 13 years — if not for much longer, given his health issues and disagreements with Colts management. "It's a bit surreal to be playing in Indy's home stadium and to be practicing at their facility."

It's been even weirder for Eli Manning to have led the Giants here, only to find his superb season and chase for a second championship overshadowed by big brother.

The most popular storyline this week has been Peyton's pain in his neck. Or, rather, his status following three neck surgeries in 19 months; whether the Colts will keep him around, at the cost of a \$28 million roster bonus due in March; and whether he's truly marching with owner Jim Irsay's rebuilding organization.

Eli, who will surpass his brother for NFL titles with a victory Sunday at Lucas Oil Stadium — yes, Peyton's Place — claims this sibling's issues are irrelevant to this game, in which New York (12-7) is a 3-point underdog.

"I'm proud of Peyton. I've talked to him this week. None of that comes up," Eli said. "When I talk to Peyton, he does a great job of trying to keep me relaxed. (We) talk a little football and talk about New England some. He's supported me this week. I know he's just working hard trying to get healthy and I'm going to support him on that."

While Eli would own two championships with a victory, to one for Peyton, Brady could tie his childhood quarterbacking hero, Joe Montana, and Terry Bradshaw with four. Coach Bill Belichick would equal Chuck Noll with the same number.

To get it, the Patriots (15-3) must protect their crown jewel. Four years ago, Brady was banged around so much by New York that it turned the Super



LLOYD FOX/BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady leaps over the goal line against the Baltimore Ravens for a 4th-quarter touchdown in their AFC Championship game in Foxboro, Massachusetts, Sunday, January 22. The Patriots face the New York Giants in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Bowl in the Giants' favor.

Yes, they needed David Tyree's miracle pin-the-ball-against-the-helmet catch, then Plaxico Burress' touchdown reception to shatter New England's perfect season. But that victory was built on the relentless pressure applied to Brady.

The formula hasn't changed. "We feel that we certainly have a very strong group of men in the front," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "It's just the way we play and prefer to play. It's a pressure group, and we have played better in the back end as well, probably as a result of the ball having to come out faster than it has at certain times during the year."

Brady certainly remembers the pain, physically and emotionally, from the beating he took on the field and the scoreboard.

"Any time you lose, it's a tough thing," Brady said. "We've lost one Super Bowl. I remember

waking up in Arizona the next morning after an hour of sleep thinking, 'That was a nightmare, that didn't happen.' After time, you learn to move on and get over it."

The Giants got all over Brady again during their regular season 24-20 win at Foxborough, the last time the Patriots lost. That victory preceded a four-game slide, and New York eventually slipped to 7-7 before turning it around.

Adding to the juicy potential of a down-to-the-wire reprise of 2008, both teams barely made it to Indy. The Patriots needed backup cornerback Sterling Moore stripping the ball from Baltimore receiver Lee Evans in the end zone in the final seconds, then for Billy Cundiff to miss a 32-yard field goal that would have forced overtime.

The Giants went into overtime in San Francisco, using two botched punt returns by the 49ers to advance.

"We feel very fortunate to be here, and I'm pretty sure they do, too," Patriots Pro Bowl nose tackle Vince Wilfork. "But we also know we deserve to be here, and they know they deserve it. We are two very good and very confident teams."

Teams owned by two of the key figures in solving the 4 1/2-month lockout of the players last year. New England's Robert Kraft shuttled back and forth from the meetings to his dying wife's bedside late in the negotiating process. Myra Kraft passed away days before the lockout was resolved.

His players wore a patch with her initials MHK on the left side of their jerseys this season.

"The fact that she was so dear to me and all of our players are wearing her initials above their heart is an endearing thing," Kraft said. "What she represented is important and I hope that special sense of spirit comes through."

Giants owner John Mara played an equally important role in the labor negotiations, and

when both teams reached the Super Bowl, Kraft mentioned "a certain karma" about the matchup.

"I'm not necessarily happy to be playing Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, I'll tell you that," Mara joked. "But yeah, I'm very happy for Bob because he put his heart and soul into those negotiations during a very difficult time for him and his family, so I think the success they've had is well-deserved."

When they finally kick off Sunday, the two biggest stars will be Brady and Manning — yes, Eli. Not halftime performer Madonna, but the quarterbacks on whose arms, wits and leadership this Super Bowl will turn.

"They are both leaders on the field," Wilfork said. "I think that position you have to be smart, you have to be intelligent. I think you have to understand what's going on around you. I think both those guys have that."

On Sunday, we'll see which one adds to his championship legacy with another Super Bowl ring.

Horse Racing In Fargo Could End Two-Year Absence

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Horses could be returning to the starting gate in Fargo after a two-year shutdown to pay bills and find new sources of revenue for the park.

North Dakota Racing Commission director Winston Satran said Friday the board that runs the horse park has paid off several thousand dollars owed to suppliers and vendors. Racing was put on hold after 2009, the track's seventh season.

"We definitely have to have horse racing in Fargo," Satran said. "The commission is going to give it an all-out effort to get it started again."

The commission is scheduled to meet Feb. 16 in Bismarck to discuss racing dates for the state's two tracks, in Fargo and Belcourt. It's likely that Fargo will have a shorter season than 2009, when racing was scheduled to start on July 18 and end on Sept. 7.

"We have a limitation on the funds," Satran said. "Decisions are going to have to be made on both sides, to give and take on what would end up to be a satisfactory racing season."

Wes Heinert, president of Horse Race North Dakota, the board for the Fargo park, said he believes the two tracks should split the available funds, which is about \$160,000 for purses and \$120,000 for operating expenses.

"This isn't an us against them deal," Heinert said. "Belcourt horsemen support Fargo more than anybody anywhere. We all want to do it together."

Gipson

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been resilient the past couple weeks, piling up 13 points and seven rebounds in a loss at Iowa State last week.

The Wildcats (15-6, 4-5) return to the court Saturday against Texas A&M.

"I knew he was going to be a productive player for us right off the bat because of his size," teammate Martavious Irving said. "He is not one of the taller bigs that we have, but he knows how to use his body so well. None of that really matters when it comes to his height. He has very long arms and a great touch around the rim. I knew he would help us from the start."

Now, Gipson said, it's all about helping the Wildcats to the finish.

Wrestling

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Hage also spoke about a few of the individual performances by Buck wrestlers.

"Cassy Skillingstad wrestled up a weight twice and wrestled well," Hage said. "Logan Smith was able to beat Brandon Valley's Mason Bender, who had beat Smith earlier in the year."

Up next for Yankton is the ESD Tournament on Feb. 11 in Huron.

"It will be another typical ESD battle, except all eight teams will be in one place," Hage said. "We have to get prepared, there are a lot of tough weight classes."

Brandon Valley 40, Yankton 36: 106 — Huber Y pin Rowbotham 3:12; 113 — Presler BV win by forfeit; 120 — Miller BV maj. dec. Montoya 13-0; 126 — Dougherty BV pin Dether 5:09; 132 — Strahl Y pin Smith 3:38; 138 — Skillingstad Y dec. Hiesbrink 6-3; 145 — Smith Y dec. Bender 3-1; 152 — Winter BV pin Davis 4:28; 160 — Hisek Y pin Langner 4:59; 170 — Eigenberg BV pin Seely 4:53; 182 — Warren Y pin Tripp 1:06; 195 — Kruse Y pin Wible 1:37; 220 — Ebright BV pin Lightner 2:17; 285 — McGee pin Borgstrom 3:36

Yankton 69, Tea Area 10: 106 — Ruetz Y win by forfeit; 113 — Huber Y dec. Frindich 3-2 OT; 120 — Russelianiens TA major dec. Montoya 13-0; 126 — Strahl Y dec. Heien 7-4; 132 — Morris TA pin Dether 3:34; 138 — Skillingstad Y pin Lardy 2:42; 145 — Smith Y win by forfeit; 152 — Davis Y pin Welsh 1:34; 160 — Hisek Y pin Kuhl; 170 — Warren Y pin Fowler 0:50; 182 — Seely Y win by forfeit; 195 — Kruse Y win by forfeit; 220 — Lightner Y win by forfeit; 285 — Borgstrom Y pin Bauman 1:48

Huron 49, Brookings 18
HURON — Huron used five pins to beat Brookings 49-18 in

Eastern South Dakota Conference wrestling action Friday.

Wyatt Shillingstad (106), Chet Glanzer (113), Tyler Kleinsasser (182), Jerimiah Johnson (195) and Matt Halter (220) scored pins for Huron.

Nate Schaefer's pin at 120 pounds was the lone pin for Brookings. Josh Puppe earned a technical fall at 126 pounds.

Wyatt Shillingstad H pin. Kayde Bartels 1:28; 113 — Chet Glanzer H pin. Martin Silva 1:38; 120 — Nate Schaefer B pin. Jesse Mikrutin 1:30; 126 — Josh Puppe B tech fall Tyler Skogstad 19-4; 132 — Peter Hanson B dec. Michael Johnson 3-1; 138 — Cain Glanzer H maj. dec. Nick Hansen 18-7; 145 — Mackenzie Harvey H had a forfeit; 152 — Reagan Francom H dec. Weston Resmen 6-1; 160 — Hartman Katz H dec. Adam Palmer 6-0; 170 — Bryan Nelson B maj. dec. Austin Meyers 12-1; 182 — Tyler Kleinsasser H pin. Levi Smith in 0:35; 195 — Jerimiah Johnson H pin. Dylan VanHolland in 1:25; 220 — Matt Halter H pin. Zach Weier in 0:40; 285 — Raleigh Jungemann H dec. Justin Behrend 11-6

Late Thursday

Dakota Valley Quad

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Canton went 3-0 in a home wrestling quadrangular Thursday.

Canton beat Dakota Valley 63-18, Alcester-Hudson 67-12 and Parker 66-15.

Dakota Valley edged Parker 42-36 and Alcester-Hudson 36-30. Parker beat Alcester-Hudson 30-25 in the other match.

CANTON 63, DAKOTA VALLEY 18: 106 — John Lemer C pin. Kaleb Martin 2:40; 113 — Jordan Sehr C pin. Tripp Shuey 3:19; 120 — Tyler Schunk DV pin. Derek Dilts 3:47; 126 — Ryley Ostbye C dec. Blake Penryman 9-7; 132 — Brady Dam DV pin. Dylan Krejci 5:14; 138 — Alex Davies C by forfeit; 145 — Logan Dolan C by forfeit; 152 — Jesse Peterson C by forfeit; 160 — Austin Schreurs C pin. Jacob Curran 1:04; 170 — Josh

Lasley C by forfeit; 182 — Tanner Broughton C by forfeit; 195 — Caleb VanWyke C by forfeit; 220 — Tanner Ovre C pin. Taylor Lambert 3:32; 285 — Tanner Lambert DV by forfeit

DAKOTA VALLEY 42, PARKER 36: 106 — Kaleb Martin DV pin. Jayden Even 4-8; 113 — Schuyler Walchek DV by forfeit; 120 — Tripp Shuey DV by forfeit; 126 — Tyler Schunk DV pin. Andy Leber 2-5; 132 — Brady Dam DV pin. Dion Beardemphl 4:32; 138 — Jon Boyle P by forfeit; 145 — Dylan Nagleslad P by forfeit; 152 — Kordell Buyck P pin. Jacob Curran 28; 160 — Zach Knock P by forfeit; 170 — Justice Verby P by forfeit; 182 — Adam Harms P by forfeit; 195 — Open; 220 — Taylor Lambert DV pin. Payton Jensen 3:2; 285 — Tanner Lambert DV by forfeit

DAKOTA VALLEY 36, ALCESTER-HUDSON 30: 106 — Kaleb Martin DV by forfeit; 113 — Tripp Shuey DV by forfeit; 120 — Schuyler Walchek DV by forfeit; 126 — Jaylen Dickau AH pin. Tyler Schunk 1:15; 132 — Levi Merrick AH pin. Brady Dam 5:3; 138 — Lance Merrick AH by forfeit; 145 — Colin Walsh AH by forfeit; 152 — Rick Heiman AH by forfeit; 160 — Jacob Curran DV by forfeit; 170 — Open; 182 — Open; 195 — Open; 220 — Taylor Lambert DV pin. Trent Rus AH 3:8; 285 — Tanner Lambert DV by forfeit



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