

# Brady ready to throw all energy into Patriots

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Ready to speak doesn't mean ready to open up, but Tom Brady discussed how difficult cult life was while facing allegations that he and the New England Patriots conspired to break rules by intentionally deflating game balls in the AFC Championship game.

"Whatever has happened has taken the focus away from my team and what happened last year," Brady said Tuesday appearing on WEEI in Boston. "So it should have been a very joyous offseason and I'm sure it was for a lot of people, and certainly was for me at different times, but

some of those things are pretty personal."

Brady said he read the book "The Four Agreements" to get through the trying period. He would not directly address whether he was amenable to a one-game suspension in negotiations to reduce his four-game ban, vacated last week by a federal judge in New York.

"There were a lot of negotiations back and forth. We had five different settlement conferences with the league to try and avoid what has

happened at this point," Brady said. "I think at different points there were a lot of different things that came up. I think I was advised not to talk about those things."

Brady denied in January any knowledge of rules violations before the AFC Championship game. During the investigation, Patriots employees Jim McNally and John Jastremski were suspended for their alleged role. Brady said last week he feels bad for the employees and on Tuesday endorsed them getting their jobs back.

"None of those things are my decision but I feel terrible for what they've been through, what their families have been put through. I know what my family has

been put through, and what has happened but I just feel terrible they're not with our team," Brady said.

Ultimately the guarded quarterback said Tuesday he looks forward to getting back on the field.

"I have a lot of personal feelings about this and to get into every conversation everyone wants to have, you know, in a way I've had a lot of these conversations with people over the last seven months," Brady said. "You get kind of brought back into those emotions and those haven't been the best emotions, they don't serve me as the quarterback of the New England Patriots this week, so I have to put whatever I have aside and try to go out and do my job."

## Patriots seek chemistry on offense

Offensively, the Patriots have the talent themselves to be their usual high-productive selves this season. The problem is that virtually none of the unit played together this summer. The offensive line has at least two jobs at guard where the starter is unknown.

All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski didn't take a single preseason rep this summer, nor did returning leading receiver Julian Edelman. Fellow key receiver Brandon LaFell opens the year on physically unable to perform list, while LeGarrette Blount, the team's only proven running back, must serve a one-game suspen-

sion to kick off the new year.

Is the defense in New England good enough for another title run? Is the offense capable of coming together quickly enough for an opening night challenge from a Ben Roethlisberger offense that's openly talked about averaging 30-plus points per game this season?

Even with the biggest question of the offseason answered and Brady ready to assume his usual spot under center for the defending champions, the Patriots are like all teams that have plenty to prove as the new season kicks off on Thursday night at Gillette Stadium.

And head coach Belichick, four decades of coaching experience to lean on, knows it.

# Police investigate Texas football players

BY JON HERSKOVITZ AND LISA MARIA GARZA  
REUTERS

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas police have started a criminal investigation of an incident in which two high school football players crashed into a referee from behind during a game, officials said on Tuesday.

The police department in Marble Falls, northwest of Austin, said it was weighing assault charges after Friday's game at Marble Falls High School against John

Jay High School of San Antonio.

The prosecuting attorney is receptive to filing charges if the investigation bears that out, Marble Falls Police spokesman Sergeant Tom Dillard said. He said the investigation could take about a week.

The Northside Independent School District, which includes John Jay, said assistant football coach Mack Breed, 29, was put on administrative leave to investigate reports he told players "that guy needs to pay for cheating us" in reference to the

official for calls the team felt were unfair.

The names of the official and the players have not been released by police.

The two players were ejected from the game, which John Jay lost 15-9, school officials said. They now face a disciplinary hearing.

The two players believed the official had made racial slurs toward them, Stan Laing, athletic director for the Northside district said at a news conference.

The football official denied making racial slurs in

an interview with Austin television station KEYE.

The school district said it is filing a complaint with the Texas Association of Sports Officials against the referee about the suspected racial slurs.

In a video of the incident, which aired on television stations and was seen more than 5 million times on YouTube as of Tuesday afternoon, the two John Jay players are seen lining up behind the official, with one running into him from behind and the other plowing into him when he was down.

## Coach

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He has coached in the Maine Junior Black Bear and St. Stephen youth programs.

"I can't wait. I wish we could get started today," said the 39-year-old MacDonald. "I'm really looking forward to it. Coaching with Tim Kilroy was a good learning experience. Since he was in a wheelchair, I got to do the drills with the players."

MacDonald played soccer, basketball and baseball at Calais High School and also played hockey in the St. Stephen program when he was in high school.

He played Senior A men's hockey in St. Stephen.

"When I got done playing, I wanted to give back to the great game of hockey. Hockey has been really good to me," said MacDonald, who still plays in men's leagues in Brewer.

MacDonald was one of three applicants for the job.

"He has some coaching experience in soccer and hockey, and we really liked him during the interviews," said Bisson. "Everybody we talked to had great things to say about him."

MacDonald said he has heard a lot of positive things about the Hampden program.

"I've heard they have a great bunch of kids and there's a lot of talent. I'm looking forward to building the program," he said.

"We're going to play a good, honest game of hockey. There won't be any cheap shots. We aren't going to disrespect our opponents. We're going to play hard for all 45 minutes," he added.

MacDonald has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree from Husson University, and he is the director of finance for the Bangor Housing Authority.

# Bills re-sign Cassel, release tight end O'Leary

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

The Buffalo Bills re-signed quarterback Matt Cassel five days before the team's regular-season opener against the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

Cassel will be the No. 2 quarterback for the Bills, coach Rex Ryan said Tuesday.

"What was important to me is the entire room," Ryan said. "Those three guys, I mean they work in concert with each other that is important I think, in all those types of things. They push each other, yet they are there for each other, they watch tape together. It is really a unique deal because sometimes when you get competition, especially three guys going,

sometimes it is not always like that. But here it is kind of a unique deal and you know what we said, as we mentioned day one we like all three and we kept all three."

Cassel was acquired from the Minnesota Vikings in March, but was released during final roster cuts last week as the Bills appeared set to go with third-year quarterback E.J. Manuel as the primary backup to new starter Tyrod Taylor. Cassel had originally been set to earn \$4.15 million this season, but the 33-year-old is expected to make significantly less under his new deal.

Rookie tight end Nick O'Leary was waived to create a roster spot for Cassel. The sixth-round draft pick caught just one pass for eight yards during the preseason.

## Falcons to take second look at Jake Long

Veteran offensive tackle Jake Long is scheduled to work out for the Atlanta Falcons on Wednesday.

Long was cleared to resume football activities by Dr. James Andrews, ESPN reported Tuesday. He also visited the New York Giants last month when he was in Atlanta (July 28) for a physical.

Long is recovering from a torn ACL for the second time. He went down in October 2014 with the same injury that knocked him out in December 2013.

Long, the No. 1 overall pick in 2008 with the Miami Dolphins, was released by the St. Louis Rams at the end of the 2014 season.

The Falcons have 2014 first-rounder Jake Mat-

thews slated to start at left tackle.

Long has only played left tackle in the NFL, with the Dolphins and Rams, but would be a fit on the right side if he proves healthy.

Long was drafted out of Michigan by Bill Parcells, the father-in-law of current Falcons' personnel man Scott Pioli.

## MMA

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On offense, the Mariners return their backfield but are re-tooling their line. Senior Sam Prive has moved from guard to tackle, and senior co-captain tight end Jon Ware has switched to tackle.

Sophomores Tyler Gagnon of South Berwick, Ethan Liberty of Skowhegan and Kyle Miller of York, and junior Jay Aboumitri will try to step in and keep the train moving.

"There's a few guys getting their feet wet and obviously missing some assignments and making some mistakes," McKenney said.

Michael Fahey is a three-year starter at quarterback. The senior co-captain, who rushed for 116 yards per game with 10 touchdowns and passed for 464 yards and seven touchdowns in 2014, directs the option.

"He's a leader in the huddle, and he can make plays both running with his feet and

throwing," McKenney said.

The brother halfback tandem of sophomore Jacob Doolan (1,180 yds., 8 TDs) and junior Josh Doolan of Fairfield (324 yds., 1 TD) team up with sophomore fullback James Ferrar of Cumberland (592 yds., 5 TDs) and junior FB Joe DiBiase of Portland to carry the rest of the running load.

Jacob Doolan was the New England Football Conference Rookie of the Year last season.

Maine Maritime lacks experience at wide receiver, where sophomore Jordan Susi of South Portland is a veteran and freshman Derek Breunig of Westbrook has shown promise.

The Mariners have veteran presences at each level of the defense.

Senior linebacker and co-captain Jeddy Doyon of Hampden (74 tackles in 2014) and senior tackle Mike Burgess of North Yarmouth (53), both ALL-NEFC first-team choices, and senior co-captain and safety Justin Loveley of West Gardiner (43) are among the leaders.

The unit also features senior outside linebacker Johnny Weymouth of Windham (57 tackles), junior tackle Chris Ford (25) and sophomore cornerback Collin Joyce of Westbrook (47).

"We're looking for a good amount of improvement on the defensive side this year," McKenney said. "Causing more turnovers and doing a better job on third-down situations are key things that we've got to do better with this year."

Senior defensive backs Cody Chapman of Bangor and senior Matt Clifford of Kittery, junior linebacker Robert Bradley Jr. and sophomore LBs Andrew Cavanaugh and Zachary Faskianos also will contribute as will junior end Dominic Gigante, freshman defensive back John Bennett, senior linebacker Alex Gamester, sophomore linebacker Ryan Miller and freshman lineman Jacob Trawinski.

"What we're focused on is to be competitive in the conference and try and get back to being in the mix for the conference championship," McKenney said.

## Soccer

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She calmly slotted a low shot with the inside of her right foot through a maze of players and past the right of Henderson.

"I tried to keep my body over the ball," said Conner, who spied the open corner.

"I didn't see it. There were a lot of people in there," said Henderson.

Conner made it 3-0 when her corner kick glanced into the net off a Brewer defender.

"I was trying to get it more toward the middle of the goal, but it curved off my foot," said Conner.

A pair of handballs resulted in Brewer penalty kicks, but Gilmore absorbed Emily Lord's penalty kick in her chest and then extended her left arm to rob Maria Low.

"I've never had that happen before," said Gilmore. "I just looked at the ball and reacted."

Bragg atoned for a couple of open-net misses in the first half by beating Henderson with a powerful shot from 22 yards out.

Trimper converted a

Grace Morris pass from seven yards out, and Speckhardt tapped an Erynne Sauda rebound behind back-up goalie Rose McLaughlin.

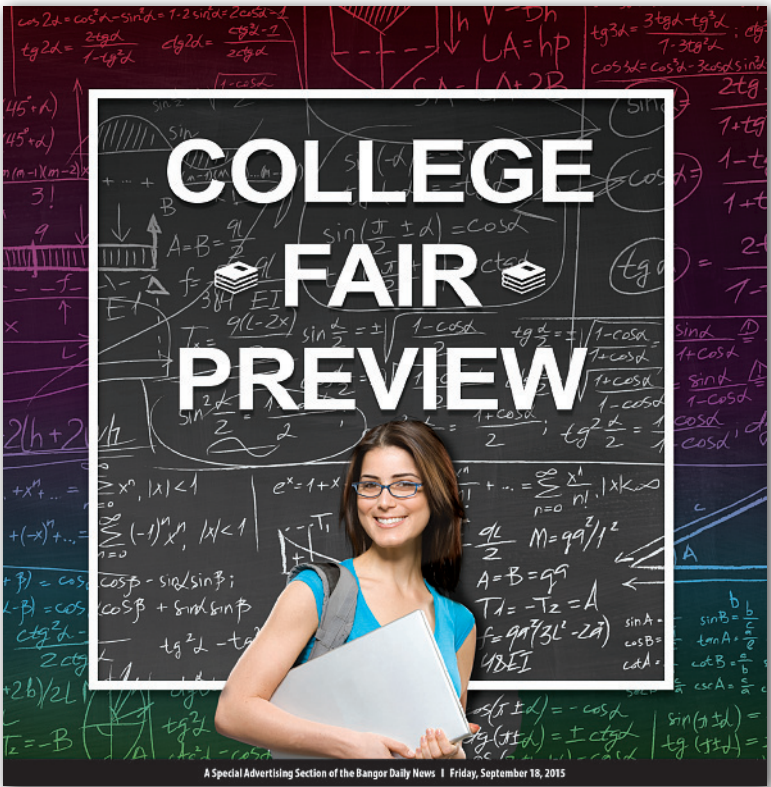
Henderson finished with 13 saves and McLaughlin had one. Gilmore made three saves, and Maddie Hodgdon didn't have to make any after she replaced Gilmore.

Left back Young and midfielder Morris were standouts for Bangor with back-midfielder Hannah Laskey turning in a solid performance for Brewer.

JV: Bangor 4-2

# COLLEGE FAIR PREVIEW

Geared toward students and it's about making college affordable, decorating a small space, making the transition to college life easier, and info from colleges around the state.



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