

Giants hoping to knock off Patriots Sunday

SPORTSDIRECT

The New York Giants denied New England a chance at history in Super Bowl XLII and will try to end another perfect season for the visiting Patriots when the teams meet on Sunday at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium (4:25 p.m., CBS-TV).

The NFC East-leading Giants have won the past three matchups against New England, including a pair of last-minute victories in the Super Bowl.

"We've always had very, very close games against them even when we've won," said quarterback Tom Brady, who has guided the Patriots to an 8-0 start. "We just haven't won as many of them as I would've liked to have won."

New England is averaging a league-high 34.5 points and owns a three-game lead over the New York Jets atop the AFC East. The Giants rebounded from a 52-49 loss in New Orleans with a 32-18 victory at Tampa Bay a week ago in defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul's season debut to maintain a half-game edge over Philadelphia in the NFC East. "They're undefeated,"

Pierre-Paul said of the Patriots, "but they've got to come through here first."

ABOUT THE PATRIOTS (8-0): Brady, who came up a yard shy of his sixth 300-yard game in last week's 27-10 win over Washington, has thrown for 22 touchdowns versus only two interceptions and owns a league-best 113.5 passer rating. Wideout Julian Edelman (57 receptions) and tight end Rob Gronkowski (44) each have seven touchdown catches, but New England suffered a costly loss when two-way running back Dion Lewis suffered a season-ending knee injury last week. The Patriots' defense is permitting only 17.9 points per game and is tied with St. Louis for second in the league with 27 sacks.

ABOUT THE GIANTS (5-4): New York's offense has been erratic, with Manning throwing for 213 yards or fewer in four of the last six games but mixing in a monster 441-yard performance and a 350-yard, six-touchdown outing in that span. Odell Beckham Jr. has at least seven catches in six of his nine starts and is coming off back-to-back 100-yard games while ex-Patriot Shane Vereen has 34 receptions out of the backfield.



DAVID BUTLER II | USA TODAY

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (left) greets Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins after the game at Gillette Stadium on Sunday. The Patriots defeated the Redskins 27-10. Undefeated New England will face the New York Giants on Sunday.

The Giants are looking for Pierre-Paul to provide a jolt for a defense that is last in the league in sacks (9.0) and

total yards allowed (422.0) and 31st in passing yards surrendered

NOTEBOOK: Gronkows-

ki has a league-best 61 touchdown receptions since 2010. ... Beckham Jr. has 19 scoring passes in 21 career

games. ... Giants coach Tom Coughlin is 5-1 lifetime against Patriots counterpart Bill Belichick.

FanDuel stops taking money in NY

BY LIANA B. BAKER
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REUTERS

NEW YORK — Daily fantasy sports site FanDuel said on Friday it stopped taking new deposits in New York after the state's attorney general declared the games to be illegal gambling.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman sent cease and desist letters this week to daily fantasy sports market leaders FanDuel and DraftKings, demanding that they stop taking money from players in the state.

Both companies filed lawsuits in New York state court on Friday, contesting the order and asking the court to rule the games are legal.

While FanDuel stopped taking new money from New Yorkers, it said players who had deposited money previously would be able play in this weekend's contests. It said users in New York

would be able to continue to withdraw from their accounts.

On Tuesday, the state attorney general's office declared the games against state law because customers "are clearly placing bets on events outside of their control or influence, specifically on the real-game performance of professional athletes."

DraftKings said in its lawsuit that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was "using strong-arm tactics and defying the rule of law," accusing him of acting as judge, jury and executioner of the companies.

New York has more daily fantasy sports players than any other U.S. state, according to Eilers Research, so being forced to shut down there could cripple the fast-growing, multibillion-dollar industry.

DraftKings accused Schneiderman of abusing his authority by threatening to

take action against the company's payment processors, Vantiv Inc and PayPal Holdings Inc, if they did not stop working with DraftKings.

Vantiv has stopped processing payments for DraftKings, the fantasy sports company said in its lawsuit. PayPal is still processing payments, pending developments in New York, a spokeswoman said.

The attorney general's declaration that daily fantasy sports is gambling, if correct, would make it "nearly impossible" for New York's legislature to pass a law allowing the games, said Bennett Liebman, former New York state deputy secretary for gaming and racing.

New York's Constitution prohibits gambling though the state has carved out a handful of exceptions, including horse racing and the state lottery. But each of those changes required amending the state's Consti-

tution, a years-long process that requires approval of legislation by two successive legislatures, followed by a public vote, he said.

About a hundred people, including a significant number of daily fantasy sports site workers, protested Schneiderman's decision on Friday outside his office.

Jason Green, 35, visiting from Nashville for a daily fantasy sports conference this weekend, came to the protest after reading the cease and desist letters.

"Regulation is one thing, but this isn't regulation — just one guy making a decision," he said. "There's a lot of misinformation out there and hopefully we've shown that people should be allowed to keep playing."

Green works at a video game company and enters up to 20 hockey lineups per night, spending a few hundred dollars a week on the games.

heading a ball and it helps them "keep their eyes open and establish the correct contact points."

Ball said it helps to have players "strengthen their neck muscles" in addition to teaching them the proper technique.

One type of ball that can cause a significant impact with the head is a punt from the goalkeeper.

But Shannon pointed out that the Seacoast United/Black Bear club instructs the goalkeepers not to punt the ball unless they absolutely have to.

However, it isn't so much that they are trying to prevent headers.

"We want our players to play the ball out of the back with short passes," said Shannon. "We want them to learn how to receive and pass the ball. We don't want our goalies punting the ball so one of our fast forwards can run it down and score."

Atherley said they are using lighter soccer ball these days and that is beneficial.

"Forty years ago, when I was a kid, they used leather balls and when they'd get wet, they'd feel like they weighed 25 pounds," quipped Atherley. "But the balls today travel a lot faster."

just trying to kick a field goal."

Buffalo running back LeSean McCoy (19 carries for 112 yards) gained 32 yards during the subsequent possession as the Bills collected two first downs, forced the Jets to use all their timeouts and bled 2:23 off the clock.

The Jets took over at their own 36-yard-line with 24 seconds left, but Fitzpatrick (15-for-34, 193 yards, two touchdowns, two interceptions) was picked off on the next play to set off Ryan's wild celebration.

Boxing

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De La Hoya said Alvarez was not ready to beat the defensive wizard but the boxer wanted the match, wanted to test himself and had no regrets despite losing his WBC and WBA super welterweight titles to the American.

The promoter knows Cotto could emerge victorious, but that does not stop him from dreaming big about a clash against Kazakhstan knockout artist Gennady Golovkin, another world middleweight title holder.

De La Hoya believes that boxing thrives when the best take on the best and said he could see Alvarez in a championship slugfest against unbeaten Golovkin within a year or 18 months.

"It's interesting to see how long we're going to take to build, the need for it to marinate just a bit," he said. "I like my meat medium rare. I'm not a guy who likes to over cook my meat."

"In the meantime, Triple G (Golovkin) is now fighting with tough guys, Canelo is fighting with tough guys. They might lose, they might win. That's the risk we have to take. The vision, the game plan, is to have them meet, sooner than later.

"It will be like two Mack trucks colliding. It will be the next super fight for the sport of boxing."

De La Hoya said fight fans love the big hitters and particularly bemoaned a lack of excitement in the heavy-weight ranks. But the promoter believes a renaissance could be born at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"The Olympics are important in identifying the next superstars."

"We've had our struggles in the past Olympics," De La Hoya said about poor U.S. results at recent Games, "which I blame on the Olympic system, which has been changed now back to the old scoring system."

Now instead of computerized punch counts, which reward volume, ringside judges will score along the lines of professional boxing to better integrate technique and punching power into the judging.

"I believe that in Rio and the following Olympics, America is going to have our next great Olympic champions who are going to carry the sport for years to come," said De La Hoya, who plans on being in Rio as a spectator and talent scout.

"I strongly feel that in Rio the United States is going to identify the next heavy-weight champion that America needs to bring excitement and more attention to the sport."

De La Hoya also sees a boost in excitement should mixed martial arts star Ronda Rousey try boxing.

He went so far as to suggest to editors of Ring Magazine, the Bible of Boxing which is owned by Golden Boy Promotions, that Rousey grace a recent controversial cover of the magazine.

"Ronda Rousey is the hottest athlete right now. She's the 'It Girl'. The fact is that she wants to be a world champion in boxing, she's mentioned it. She wants to try it out."

"When Ronda Rousey is ready to become a boxer, I told her Golden Boy Promotions is ready to welcome her with open arms," said De La Hoya.

Soccer

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"Developmentally, based on what we know about concussions and their long-term effects, it makes a lot of sense," said Atherley. "It's a good thing."

"If it has been proven scientifically, I'm all for it," said Gettler, who has been a head coach at the college level for 39 years. "We have to do everything we can to prevent concussions and the onset of head trauma."

However, he admitted he wasn't sure how much of a difference this would make.

"Like any contact sport, any time a player suffers trauma or repeated collisions involving their heads, it's not good for the athlete," Shannon said.

But Shannon said he wasn't sure youngsters 10 and under would have enough opportunities to head the ball for it to make a "significant impact."

He also warned that by eliminating heading at that age group, youngsters wouldn't learn proper heading technique and it could lead to injury if they try to head the ball during a game.

"My only problem with the policy is they are taking

away one of the most fundamental ways to score goals," said Ball. "It's part of the game."

The coaches also stressed that concussions often result from players whacking their heads together while trying to head a ball, not the actual heading of the ball.

"I have never seen a head injury or concussion result from someone heading the ball. Typically, you get a head injury from two players cracking heads, an elbow hitting a head or the head hitting the ground when they land," Ball said.

Medical experts also differ on how the most concussions occur.

In an article by BBC health reporter Michelle Roberts from 2011, Dr. Michael Lipton of the Montefiore Medical Center in New York discovered during a clinical trial that players who headed the ball 1,000 or more times a year showed signs of mild traumatic brain injury on their brain scans. There were 32 volunteers involved.

But Dr. Andrew Rutherford from the School of Psychology at Keele University, who had researched the possible damage created by heading for several years, wasn't convinced by the findings.

Like Ball, Rutherford suspected most head trauma was created by the clashing of heads.

All four coaches were adamant that youngsters must be taught proper heading technique.

Atherley has used a soft Nerf ball to teach heading to youngsters, and Shannon said he has used balloons and beach balls to instruct youngsters the proper technique without sustaining head trauma.

Gettler said he likes to use underinflated balls when his team is doing a heading drill because it reduces the head trauma.

He also prefers an underinflated ball during games because it promotes skill.

"The ball should be headed with the hairline on the forehead and players should attack the ball to establish the force on the ball rather than allow the force of the ball to impact them," said Atherley.

He has observed that youngsters can be apprehensive about heading so they wind up "closing their eyes and contacting the ball with the wrong part of the head: the top of their head or their nose."

He said by using a Nerf ball, it gives the youngsters "a lot more confidence"

Bills' 13-yard-line.

Running back Chris Ivory (18 carries for 99 yards) gained 8 yards on first down, but the Jets lost a yard apiece on the next two plays before Fitzpatrick overthrew tight end Kellen Davis in the end zone on fourth down.

"We were thinking touchdown," Bowles said. "I don't know (if) with a field goal we would have gotten the ball back right there (with) an on-side kick. We had a better chance of scoring a touchdown right there as opposed to

scattershot Fitzpatrick, who found wide receiver Brandon Marshall for a 14-yard touchdown with 4:23 left in the third and wide receiver Eric Decker for a 31-yard touchdown pass over the middle midway through the fourth.

"We had a lead," Ryan said. "You were never comfortable."

The Jets appeared ready to take the lead with five minutes left when Buffalo punter Colton Schmidt dropped the snap and was swallowed up by several Jets as he recovered it at the

Bills

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touchdown pass from quarterback Tyrod Taylor to running back Karlos Williams — in a span of 8:05 between the second and third quarters.

"Pretty bad to fall behind that much," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said.

However, the Jets stormed back thanks to a suddenly stout defense, which forced four consecutive three-and-outs, as well as a previously

with a lot of false talk about us.... I chose to stand up for me and what I represent..... I'm so sorry if a lot of you can't handle being talked to direct."

The Cowboys (2-6) play at Tampa Bay on Sunday and are in the middle of a six-game losing streak, the franchise's longest since 1989, after quarterback Tony Romo was injured. Romo is set to return from a fractured collarbone Nov. 22 against the Miami Dolphins.

NFL NOTES: Chicago Bears running back Matt Forte said Friday that he suffered a sprained MCL in his right knee during the contest against Minnesota on Nov. 1. Forte missed Chicago's ensuing victory over the San Diego Chargers last Monday night and is listed as questionable for Sunday's game against the St. Louis Rams. Receiver Alshon Jeffery, who has three straight 100-yard performances, also is questionable with a groin injury. Forte has been a limited practice participant this week and made it clear he isn't about to rush back to the field before he is healthy.

Bryant

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Bryant called the media "dirty" nine times as he spoke to Garrett, then walked out. He later returned, sat briefly at his locker and walked out with music blaring from a wireless speaker system, ESPN reported.

After the media access was over, Bryant responded on Twitter: "Yeah, I blew up on the media but report why I blew up on ya'll ... Saying I don't [care] about me and calling players [racial slur] is not professional."

Bryant followed up later by tweeting: "If you going to tell something tell the whole thing...I'm done with the situation...I hope everyone is having a great day."

Bryant later returned to Twitter: "Now I guess I'm the bad person??? The media comes in our locker room with no restrictions...I guess they can say whatever and it's cool...let me remind all of you... WE ARE HUMANS AS WELL...WITH FAMILIES..we have to live