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## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM Dec. 11, 2017 | 8:20 P.M.

### POSTGAME QUOTES

#### New England Patriots QB Tom Brady (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

**(The numbers on third down were something we're not used to seeing from you guys. What did you see on third down that just led to some of the lack of production?)** – "Yes, it was pretty bad. You can't get any worse than that so ... We couldn't stay on the field and just didn't make enough plays. It's just a bad night. We've had a lot of good nights this year and this was a bad night."

**(In the first half a lot of targets to the running backs. I think there were like 11 targets or 12 to the running backs and only a few to the receivers. What were you seeing out there that maybe led the ball to go more to them? What were they doing maybe that led to that?)** – "I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I think there were less screen passes in there and stuff like that. We just have to take a look. Ideally you'd like to spread it around to everybody. We just got behind and not really the way we wanted to play the game. It was just a bad loss."

**(You did win down here last year but before that, it just seems to be a constant struggle coming down here. Can you pin it on anything? Any idea why it seems to be a struggle so many times down here?)** – "Yes, we're just not playing well. I don't think there's any magic potion or anything to take to come down and win. We just didn't play good, got behind, tried to battle back and just couldn't do it. It's just a bad night. I wish we played better but we didn't, and we have to move on and try to play a lot better next week."

**(You guys move on and a game against Pittsburgh next Sunday. If you win, you're right up at the top of the AFC again. How much does that make you look forward to that opportunity and put this one behind you quickly?)** – "Yes, it's a short week and we have a lot to catch up on. I mean we can't go up there and play as poorly as we did tonight. I think we have to do a lot of things better. I certainly have to do a lot of things better and that's what my focus will be this week."

**(Is it just a coincidence that the team struggled without TE Rob Gronkowski to go to? What kind of effect is there not having him to go to? Did it have a big effect on the offense?)** – "Yes, I mean he's a great player so any time he's out there, it helps us. We've got some other good players and like I said, we try to spread the ball around quite a bit. We just couldn't quite make enough plays and I've got to throw the ball better. That's where it starts."

**(Was there anything different about the way their defensive backs played? Were they more aggressive, more contact and more physical than the last time you played them?)** – "I think we played with the lead last time. That's always important in the NFL. When you play from ahead and you





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don't turn the ball over and you can get leads and play on your terms, a lot of things go your way. Tonight we got behind, turned it over and had to play on their terms all night. They kept mixing up zone and man and ultimately kept us out of rhythm. Any time you don't convert on third down, it's not a good night. We've got to work hard on all of those things. We're in a decent place and obviously go to go to Pittsburgh and try to beat a real good team."

**(Can you talk about QB Jay Cutler's ability to control the tempo of the game early on in the first quarter? How frustrating was that for you to not be able to do anything about that?)** – "Yes and then when we did (get the ball), we went three-and-out. I don't think that was great. Obviously they're going to take the ball, which they got it, and possess it a little bit. We've got to do something when we get it. We just didn't do a great job of that."

**(Some of those throws early in the first quarter. They maybe came up on the interception a little short. Is that physical or is that more mechanical when you look at that? Or is it hard to tell right now?)** – "I think it's a little of everything. It's obviously not where I'm trying to throw it. The guy made a good play and they get them sometimes too. I wish they never got them, but sometimes they do. There were a lot of balls that were 50-50 balls tonight that were close. We got our hands on a couple and they got their hands on too many as far as I'm concerned. So (we have to) do a better job of it next week."

**(On those deep throws, does that come from a place of almost frustration with trying to get it all back in one throw on third-and-long?)** – "I think we had a decent shot there. 'Cookie' (Brandin Cooks) got behind him and I tried to put it out there for him and they intercepted it. It's third-and-long so ... You'd rather them not intercept it; but they did. I thought (Xavien Howard) made a good play."

