

the 1980s; and Irving Fryar, Curtis Martin, and Chris Slade in the 1990s, the Patriots had never won the big game.

Thanks to the dedicated ownership of longtime season ticket holder and local philanthropist Bob Kraft and his family, however, the Patriots became a better, stronger franchise both off and on the field. Faced with an untenable stadium situation, Kraft, using his own money, eventually built a wonder in CMGI Field, which will open this fall as the new home of the new world champions. Forced to replace the legendary coach Bill Parcells, Kraft eventually hired Bill Belichick, a low-key mastermind who has justly earned a reputation for devising pro football's most devious defensive schemes.

Still, in spite of Coach Belichick and his team of heady assistants coordinated by Romeo Crennel and Charlie Weis, few expected the Patriots, 5-11 last season, to even contend for pro football's ultimate prize. Indeed, the Pats stumbled to an 0-2 start, lost franchise quarterback Bledsoe, and appeared, behind unheralded Tom Brady, a sixth round draft choice who had begun 2001 as a third-string quarterback who had thrown but three passes as a rookie, about to fall to 1-4 against San Diego. But Brady led a remarkable comeback to overcome San Diego and its Massachusetts quarterback Doug Flutie of Natick and Boston College.

This turnaround heralded a season in which the Patriots would overcome obstacles in step-by-step fashion. After falling to the St. Louis Rams 24-17 in Foxboro, the Pats refused to lose again, reeling off six regular season and three playoff wins in shockingly methodical succession. Rather than serving as a distraction, a healthy Bledsoe served as a rallying point for Belichick to demonstrate his decisiveness, Brady to show his skills, and Bledsoe to reveal his class.

Haunted by the phantom roughing-the-passer call against Sugar Bear Hamilton in a 1976 playoff and the paralyzing of Darryl Stingley in a 1978 exhibition, the Patriots overcame their old AFL foe the Oakland Raiders at Foxboro Stadium's final contest. Truly a win for the ages and the region, the overtime thriller took place in several inches of snow and ended in the Pats' favor thanks to the clutch receiving of East Boston's Jermaine Wiggins and the boot of Adam Vinatieri, pro football's best pressure kicker whose play-off beard had begun to resemble that of former Boston Bruins great Raymond Bourque. As the clock neared midnight on that snowy Saturday, the Patriots celebrated their 16-13 sudden-death comeback with long snapper Lonie Paxton making snow angels in the end zone.

In spite of these heroics, critics downplayed the Pats' chances against the number-one-ranked defense of the Pittsburgh Steelers in Heinz Field, their fine new facility. The all-around special play of the overlooked but record-setting receiver and returner

Troy Brown put the Patriots on the scoreboard first, but then disaster seemed to strike in the form of an ankle injury to Brady. Fortunately, Bledsoe, although inactive for more than four months, came off the bench to spark the Patriots to an upset that returned them to the Super Bowl in New Orleans for the third time.

Backed by Bledsoe and Brady, the strongest QB combination that the NFL had seen since the Rams rotated Norm Van Brocklin and Bob Waterfield in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Patriots nevertheless found themselves an overwhelming underdog to lose by double digits to the record-setting St. Louis Rams and their offensive machine. But Tedy Bruschi, Ty Law, and Lawyer Milloy led a hard-hitting defense. Brady, David Patten, and Antowain Smith controlled the ball on offense, and the Patriots led their fine and worthy opponent for most of the game. When the Rams tied the score with 90 seconds to go, other teams might have lost their composure and the game. But not this club.

The Patriots played with poise, relying on the youthful Brady to sling the short passes that put the Pats in position for another heart stopping kick by Vinatieri. For the first time in Super Bowl history, a game ended with a winning offensive play, a field goal. While worth just three points, this kick meant so much more, a Super Bowl win for the players, coaches, owners, and fans of the Patriots, and a reminder of the timeless value of believing in yourselves and your teammates.

Mr. President, I commend the champion Patriots and the runner-up Rams for their achievements. ●

REPORT RELATIVE TO EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT OF JUNE 24, 1985 TO JULY 1, 2004, CONCERNING FISHERIES OFF THE COASTS OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 66

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China extending the Agreement of June 24, 1985, Concerning Fisheries Off the Coasts of the United States, with annex, as extended (the "1985 Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes in Beijing on April 6, and July 17, 2001, extends the 1985 Agreement to July 1, 2004.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the People's Re-

public of China, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2002.

PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 67

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 4, 2002.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 68

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget.

To the Congress of the United States:

Americans will never forget the murderous events of September 11, 2001. They are for us what Pearl Harbor was to an earlier generation of Americans: a terrible wrong and a call to action.

With courage, unity, and purpose, we met the challenges of 2001. The budget for 2003 recognizes the new realities confronting our nation, and funds the war against terrorism and the defense of our homeland.

The budget for 2003 is much more than a tabulation of numbers. It is a plan to fight a war we did not seek—but a war we are determined to win.

In this war, our first priority must be the security of our homeland. My budget provides the resources to combat terrorism at home, to protect our people, and preserve our constitutional freedoms. Our new Office of Homeland Security will coordinate the efforts of the federal government, the 50 states, the territories, the District of Columbia, and hundreds of local governments: all to produce a comprehensive and far-reaching plan for securing America against terrorist attack.

Next, America's military—which has fought so boldly and decisively in Afghanistan—must be strengthened still