

New England and Tennessee will join forces this we

levietoja liny195 - 30 Dec 2019 01:56

NFL training camp Patriots Analysis Patriots Training Camp Coverage What to watch for during the Patriots' joint practices with the Titans New [Elandon Roberts Jerseys 2019](#) , 4 comments Related: Setting the schedule for this week's joint practices between the Patriots and Titans EDT Share this story Share this on Facebook Share this on Twitter Share All sharing options Share All sharing options for: What to watch for during the Patriots' joint practices with the Titans

Twitter Facebook Reddit Pocket Flipboard Email Photo by Fred Kfoury III/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images Later today, the New England Patriots and the Tennessee Titans will hit the practice fields together for the first of two joint training camp practices this week. The pair of workouts will give both teams a chance to compete against players from the outside and also be a reunion of sorts considering that numerous former members of the Patriots organization currently work in Nashville. With that in mind, let's take a look at what to watch for as the two clubs kick off the week. Will Isaiah Wynn's workload continue to grow? After starting camp as a limited participant, the Patriots increased left tackle Isaiah Wynn's workload on Monday and for the first time since his Achilles injury last August had him perform in a competitive environment. While it was only one practice, it was a positive development for the 23-year-old and a good sign for his long-term outlook. The question heading into this week is whether or not New England feels confident in having Wynn go up against another team as well. Will the Brady-Meyers connection continue to evolve? Jakobi Meyers is the biggest surprise of the Patriots' training camp so far, as his performance allowed him to go from undrafted roster bubble player to regular member of the starting offense. Going against a stout Titans defense this week, Meyers will get another chance to prove his value to New England — and to work on his chemistry with Tom Brady. If the rookie continues to find success and be on the same page as his quarterback, Brady's trust in him will only increase. The same goes for his chances of making the team. Can the preseason standouts build on their previous performances? Meyers is one of the players to stand out during last week's 31-3 demolition of the Detroit Lions. Fellow rookies Jarrett Stidham, Chase Winovich and Hjalte Froholdt also looked good, as did wide receiver Braxton Berrios and offensive tackle Dan Skipper — the latter two still fighting for roster spots. This week's practices and subsequent preseason game present more opportunities for youngsters and veterans alike to keep improving against unfamiliar opposition, and potentially set themselves up well in the camp competitions. Speaking of which... Who can set himself apart in the training camp battles? Before training camp, we identified the ten most intriguing training camp battles as follows: While the recent developments give us a sense of who might be ahead in the battles for roster spots [White Kyle Van Noy Jerseys](#) , things can turn around fast at this point in the process. It would therefore not be a surprise to see some unexpected players emerge while others take a step back. Needless to say that the camp competitions are far from over, and how players respond to another change of environment might become a deciding factor in determining who emerges victoriously and makes the Patriots' deep 53-man roster. Will there be any new injuries? So far, the Patriots have been comparatively fortunate when it comes to injuries. While wide receiver N'Keal Harry and tight end Matt LaCosse are nursing some minor issues, and both Wynn and Patrick Chung are brought along slowly, only one player — undrafted rookie cornerback D'Angelo Ross — actually saw his season come to a premature end. With the NFL season basically being a war of attrition, a team's health situation is always worth keeping a close eye on. It will be dark and cold, perhaps absurdly cold, Sunday night in Kansas City. Arrowhead Stadium will be lit up, though, and the winner of the Patriots-Chiefs game will head to Atlanta for the Super Bowl. Here's how the teams match up: WHEN NEW ENGLAND HAS THE BALL As they have much of the season, the Patriots will attempt to strike a balance of run and pass. In rookie Sony Michel (26) they have a ground force, and in fellow RB James White (28) they have perhaps the best receiver out of the backfield in the league. Don't think Tom Brady (12) won't make use of them often — and more often. Against the Chargers [Kyle Van Noy Jerseys 2019](#)

, White tied an NFL postseason mark with 15 catches, totaling 97 yards. The one thing Kansas City can do exceptionally well on defense is rush the passer with DT Chris Jones (95) and LBs Justin Houston (50) and Dee Ford (55), so Brady will throw those quick shots to his backs and WR Julian Edelman (11) and TE Rob Gronkowski (87). Should the offensive line, led by LT Trent Brown (77), C David Andrews (60) and RG Shaq Mason (69), provide ample time, Brady can then look deep, where he could have significant matchup edges with Edelman, Chris Hogan (15), Phillip Dorsett (13) and even Cordarrelle Patterson (84). Chiefs defensive coordinator Bob Sutton will need to be aggressive all game; we saw what happens when an opponent isn't when Brady and Michel ripped up the Chargers last week. Sutton's secondary has no dynamic players — S Eric Berry (29) is the best but has not been healthy this season — and using six DBs could be a necessity Sunday. The Chiefs (52 sacks) must get a strong pass rush on Brady, making him throw off-balance or before he wants to. One thing in Kansas City's favor is a plus-9 turnover margin. WHEN KANSAS CITY HAS THE BALL Don't change what you have been doing. All-Pro Patrick Mahomes (15) is only the third quarterback to throw for at least 50 touchdowns in a season; Brady also did it in 2007. Mahomes never gives up on plays, and he has an uncanny skill at prolonging them until WRs Tyreek Hill (10)

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, Sammy Watkins (14) or Chris Conley (17) and All-Pro TE Travis Kelce (87) get open. Hill was the AP's All-Pro flex player, showing his versatility. Considering his mobility, strong arm and resourcefulness, it is surprising Mahomes was sacked 26 times. New England, which had 30 sacks this season, wants to keep him bottled up, so key confrontations could be All-Pro RT Mitchell Schwartz (71) vs. DE Trey Flowers (98), and LT Eric Fisher (72) against an assortment of pass rushers. The Patriots also will get their linebackers into the mix, particularly Dont'a Hightower (54) and Kyle Van Noy (53). Patriots CB Stephon Gilmore (24) is an All-Pro and will see plenty of Hill. How the other DBs handle Kelce and Mahomes' other targets could be a deciding factor; the New England secondary has been victimized often in road games. Given the potential for cold weather, the Chiefs could work hard to run the ball with Damien Williams (26), who has stepped up nicely since Kareem Hunt was released, and Spencer Ware (32)

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, who has battled a hamstring injury. Mahomes doesn't use his backs often in the passing game, but they are solid. SPECIAL TEAMS Both sides are reliable and have some dangerous elements in the return game. Kansas City has Hill for punts and rookie Tremon Smith (39) for kickoffs, while New England features Patterson on kickoffs and the always-reliable Edelman on punts. The cold weather could make the football feel like a lead weight for punters Ryan Allen (6) of the Patriots and Dustin Colquitt (2) of the Chiefs, though wind shouldn't bother either of them; they're used to it. Field goals could be another matter. Although New England's Stephen Gostkowski (3) and Kansas City's Harrison Butker (7) have strong and accurate legs, don't be stunned to see both teams go for some fourth downs. Gostkowski is far more seasoned in pressure spots. COACHING Andy Reid is 2-6 against New England. He's had one of his best coaching years, though, and his handling of Mahomes has been remarkable. As long as he pushes the envelope and avoids playing not to lose, he will give Kansas City every chance to reach its first Super Bowl since the 1969 season. Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels recognizes his team will need to score aplenty, and he never backs off. The Patriots might be losing defensive coordinator Brian Flores to Miami as Dolphins head coach, and he could show why he deserves that spot by finding a way to slow down a Chiefs team that scored 565 points this season. INTANGIBLES The Patriots, in their record eighth straight conference title game, are so experienced in this environment. Yet they claim to feel slighted because of the doubts raised about their level of competence after going 3-5 on the road. A ticked-off Brady is never a good thing for the opposition

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, and the Patriots could become only the third franchise to reach three straight Super Bowls. Still, Kansas City is so parched for a trip to the big game — the Chiefs went to two of the first four Super Bowls and won in 1970, but none since. And this team has a freshness about it largely thanks to Mahomes, who shattered nearly every franchise passing record this season. Their meeting in October could have gone either way, with New England getting the ball last and making the final, winning drive. And that was in

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