

## NFL: Proof is in the Parity

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What a great win this weekend, huh? The hated Patriots, lambasted in their own house. Belichick looking like he was going to throw up all over his hoodie. It was a game that I am still enjoying, as I see the Patriot fans I know virtually every day. Their smug, 'don't worry, Belichick won't run it up on you guys' attitude was shredded by a Wildcat.

As I scan through the various articles on the game, I am struck by just how huge a win this is, in the grand scheme of things (not just where it concerns us). The Pats have been the best team in the NFL in terms of consistent winning for years. 12-4 in 2006 (finished 14-5), 16-0 in 2007 (finished 18-1) and 2-0 this year. We have been at the other end of that spectrum, and lately we have been the worst.

Add to that the fact that we had not demonstrated up to that point that we had a secondary. The Pats' WRs are very, very good. Their replacement QB had played error-free, and our Pass Defense was 32nd out of 32. This had the potential of being a route going away.

This was David vs. Goliath. This was Appalachian State vs. Michigan. This was my teenage nephew (125 lbs.) vs. Mike Tyson.

Funny thing happened on the way to inevitable. David hit Goliath right between the eyes. App State blocked that kick. My nephew still had both his ears.

How was this possible? Because the NFL is the best Sports League there is. The Pats had the longest Reg Season win-streak ended by the worst team, the same worst team that beat them last when they started the streak.

Any one team is not 'miles apart' from any other in talent: It is gameplanning. It is desire. It is effort. If you asked most people, they would still want this Patriot team over the Dolphin team that just pummelled them. I don't know if you (minus your Dolphin fanhood) could blame them: R. Moss, A. Thomas, W. Welker, E. Hobbs, R. Seymore are pretty darn good arguments.

These Dolphins pounded the Patriots. They haven't been manhandled like that since...the Dolphins pounded the Pats Dec 10, 2006. In the 24 games in between those two contests, the Pats lost 1 game by three points. The Dolphins won 1 game, in overtime. The bookends of that surreal stat are two thumpings of the team from Foxboro by the team from Miami Gardens.

The NFL has what MLB, the NHL and the NBA can only drool over: the Proof is in the Parity. Go Dolphins!