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Bills know it's 'hard to find a flaw' in unbeaten Patriots



Nov. 14, 2007
By **Lesley Visser**
CBS Sports

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Every week, the same question is asked -- who'll stop the reign?

Dallas couldn't do it, the Chargers couldn't do it, and even the Colts couldn't get it done. This week, it's Buffalo's chance to try and knock down all the milk bottles at the carnival -- defeat the undefeated Patriots.



The Bills sacked Tom Brady only once in Week 3. They'll need more pressure to have a chance in Week 11. (Getty Images)

It didn't work last time. In Week 3, New England beat Buffalo 38-7, handing the Bills their third consecutive loss. [Wes Welker](#) had six catches, [Tom Brady](#) passed to eight receivers and [Vince Wilfork](#) knocked quarterback [J.P. Losman](#) out of the game, which brought on rookie [Trent Edwards](#).

Since then, however, the Bills have gone 5-1, including a four-game winning streak that is second in the AFC to ... New England.

"Everyone, including us, has tried everything," coach [Dick Jauron](#) said. "It's hard to find a flaw."

It doesn't help that [Marshawn Lynch](#) is hobbling on a tender ankle or that New England is favored by 15 points, but [Jauron](#) thinks [Losman](#) has turned the corner and the defense will come to play.

"The Patriots are very physical, but so are we," [Jauron](#) said. "Everyone knows that the model for beating New England is to get early pressure on [Tom Brady](#). The problem is, very few teams can do it."

Indianapolis sacked [Brady](#) on the first play of the Nov. 4 game with a four-man rush. But it's a kind of Three-card Monte: Do you blitz [Brady](#), who has been sacked only 10 times, or do you try to cover [Randy Moss](#) and Co.?

"At some point you have to take an educated guess," [Jauron](#) said. "No one has enough talented defensive backs to cover everyone."

It happened to the Bills against Dallas. They did a great job on [Terrell Owens](#), but eventually got burned by tight end [Jason Witten](#). If the Bills choose to try and take [Moss](#) out of the game, they might see a huge effort by [Welker](#), [Ben Watson](#), or even [Laurence Maroney](#), who rushed for 103 yards against Buffalo in the Week 3 game.

"I love to watch Buffalo play," said [Mike Ditka](#), coach of the legendary '85 Bears. "They'll strap it on and play hard on every down. But the Patriots have no weaknesses. With their three-receiver sets, they would have taken us out of our 46 defense. You have to play a perfect game to beat them."

It has been awhile since a Patriots-Bills game meant this much.

Remember in 2002, it was the young, Super Bowl champion [Brady](#) against former gun slinger [Drew Bledsoe](#), who had been traded to Buffalo from his old team. [Brady's](#) now headed for the Hall of Fame, [Bledsoe](#) is out of the game, and the Bills haven't been to the playoffs since 1999.

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- [Hometown pals say rep doesn't match Moss](#) 8
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« Back · 1 · 2
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"This should be an electric atmosphere," said Jauron of the Sunday night matchup, where the good people of Tonawanda, Lackawanna and the entire Niagara Falls region will come to Orchard Park to scream for their team.

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In an ideal world, the Bills will get after Brady using only a four-man rush, shorten the game by gaining more than 130 yards on the ground, and hope their punter, Brian Moorman, has the game of his life.

"It's so hard to rattle Brady," Dan Marino said. "He's smart and confident and he knows what to do with the football."

Even Bills general manager Marv Levy, who of course led Buffalo to four consecutive Super Bowls, is impressed with every aspect of the Patriots.

"I haven't seen a team this good since the Steelers of the '70s," said the man who coached in the NFL for 23 years, 14 with the Bills. "It's hard to find an imperfection."

I asked Jauron why it always seems that Welker is open on the 5-yard out at the goal line. The Patriots have run this a million times and he always seems to score.

"He's dangerous anywhere," Jauron said, "not just in the left flat. He's not just fast, he's quick -- that's why he's always open. I expect we'll see that play and it's up to us to cover it."

There's one more undefeated element this week that won't make it any easier for Jauron or Levy. Harvard (6-0 in conference), which is Levy's alma mater, will play Yale (9-0 overall, 6-0 in conference), Jauron's university, for the Ivy League title on Saturday.

"We don't really want to speak," Levy said, "but we have an armistice."

« Back · 1 · 2

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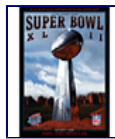
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