

Headlight

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Patriots-Broncos Round 2 Should Excite Football Fans

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Editor-in-Chief,
Senior

Before I begin my rational, logical preview for this Saturday night's Patriots-Broncos playoff game, let's all just take a minute to freak out about Tim Tebow.

Done? Okay, let's begin.

Anybody who watched last week's game in Denver knows that the Broncos aren't to be taken lightly. Yes, the Pats went into Denver and whipped the Broncos last month, but everybody thought the Steelers would go to Mile High Field and cream Denver. That proved not to be the case, as Demaryius Thomas ran through Pittsburgh's secondary to give Denver the victory and light up Facebook and Twitter with posts such as "Tebow>Jesus" and "MARRY ME TEBOW!"

New England has had a nutty season themselves. It's getting to the point where their defense is impossible to name. Wilfork, Mayo, and... Tarpinian? Koutovides? Who are these guys? As of press time, Ross Ventrone was probably cut, resigned, then put on the practice squad and recalled again. However, the "bend don't break" defense here in New England has started to mesh, and the Patriots are rolling, having won eight straight games.

But can they stop the unique set of skills that Tim Tebow brings to the table? They've done it once before, but this is different. Tebow thrives under pressure. The option attack he's been running with Willis McGahee has been brutally effective, and Denver's offensive line has been superb with Tebow under center. He has really come

around as a thrower.

Tebow is not even the person on the Denver offense who most concerns me. That player is Demaryius Thomas, the rookie wide receiver out of Central Florida who caught the overtime TD pass. Thomas has really been blossoming lately, emerging as a true deep threat for Denver. With Tebow's deep ball skills being better than usual last week against Pittsburgh, and the Patriots having a suspect pass defense, I expect Thomas to cause Bill Belichick fits.

Denver's defense is the unsung hero of the Broncos. With all of the press that Tim Tebow has gotten, the Broncos defense has been unheralded yet successful all season. What scares me most is the Denver pass rush. The Broncos have three legitimate pass rushers, with Robert Ayers, Elvis Dumervil, and Von Miller all being able to rush the QB. The common thread in the Patriots last three playoff losses has been Tom Brady being hit. Last year versus the Jets, Tom Brady was sacked five times and hit many more. The year before versus Baltimore, Brady was sacked four times. In Super Bowl XLII, Brady was sacked five times and had constant pressure on him. If Denver puts pressure on Tom Brady, New England may be in for a long day.

On offense, New England is unstoppable. Tom Brady is just being Tom Brady, winning games and taking names. The emergence of The Gronk has been the main story offensively, with tight end Rob Gronkowski setting NFL records for a single season with 1327 yards receiving and 17 touchdowns, both the most for a tight end.

But there are two lesser-known X-factors that I think give New England advantages. First, I think Stevan Rid-

ley is due for a big game. The little guy from LSU has been showing promise during his limited playing time recently, running downhill and showing patience in the backfield. He brings a new dimension to the Patriots offense that they haven't had since Corey Dillon.

Secondly, Josh McDaniels is returning to eventually fill the void of Bill O'Brien, leaving for Penn State. Personally, I never loved McDaniels as I thought his play calling became mundane in 2008 with Matt Cassel. However, he brings intimate knowledge of Denver and Tim Tebow. McDaniels was the head coach of Denver two years ago, and it's been said that he was the driving force behind drafting Tebow. He worked with him before getting fired by Denver, and he knows Tebow's skill set and potential better than most. This should provide an edge to New England on defense, something that hasn't been said often this year.

I don't want to make any official predictions. Last year, I said the Patriots would beat the Jets 31-17. That didn't go so well, so I will not predict anything. But this Saturday should be a thoroughly entertaining game, and the Gillette crowd will be rocking as Denver comes to town.

Under any circumstance, Tim Tebow will cause a stir. He always does.

The game will be taking place this Saturday night at 8:00 pm at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. It will be on CBS.

FORECAST: 25-30 degrees, no precipitation, limited windchill

Ithacappella Takes Stage as MHS Alums Return

Holly Hayes
Special to Headlight,
Senior

On January 5th, 2012, Ithacappella, the all-male a cappella group from Ithaca College, took Marblehead High School by storm. Starting as an all-male choral group in 1996, Ithacappella has come a long way since its beginnings and has flourished into one of the most talented all male a cappella groups at the collegiate level. They have recently released their newest album, "Off the Hook," which includes songs by Lady Gaga, Beyoncé, John Mayer, and a plethora of others.

On a whirlwind singing tour from Massachusetts and Connecticut to New Jersey and Florida, the boys stopped by Marblehead to run workshops, answer questions, hang out, and perform a nighttime concert in front of a packed high school theater. They started off the day at 9 a.m. with the high school mixed choir, giving the singers a taste of their repertoire and teaching them how to beat box. They taught the chorus about arranging mu-

sic, their methods of auditions and group leadership, and what it's like to participate in an a cappella group in college.

The meeting was even more enjoyable because a Marblehead high school grad, and present Ithacappella member, Brian Felsenthal, was able to sing on the Marblehead stage once again! Ithacappella returned at the end of the day to run workshops with the four a cappella groups at the high school, The Jewel Tones, Luminescence, The Grizzly Freakin' Man Singers, and Serendipity. All four groups had the opportunity to sing one of their own songs for Ithacappella and get critiqued and complimented by the group of college singers.

The workshops were only the beginning. Ithacappella returned for a third time to perform in front of the Marblehead community and students alike, receiving rave reviews and building a budding fan base of love-struck high school girls. A particular favorite among the audience was the group's rendition of "Someone Like You" by Adele, with soloist Jason Peterson. Their performance had a solid blend of popular

radio hits, choral arrangements, and older favorites, and they have perfected the ability to fill the entire space with sound.

Although Marblehead was only the second stop on their tour, which continues over the next two weeks until they return to school, the Ithacappella boys were already exhausted after a long day of promoting and performing, and partially revived themselves with some cookies and other baked goods at an after-concert reception held for all the performers.

The next day at Marblehead high school, there were many students donning brand new Ithacappella t-shirts, and one can already see how quickly the Ithacappella craze has grown. For those of us who can't get enough a cappella in our lives, the House Jacks will be making a much anticipated appearance at the Marblehead High School annual Acappellooza on May 12, and we can only hope that Ithacappella will visit us again in the near future, for they will always be welcomed by a mass of fans on the Marblehead stage!

Cartoon: The Debates



HEADLIGHT HOROSCOPE-Horoscopes for the New Year

Grace Perry
Design Coordinator, Sophomore

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 19)

You will start this year in a great mood. Luck is sure to be on your side, Aries. Possibly an A+ on that Math quiz? Or maybe even a love interest will look your way. Good things are bound to come.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)

After a long short winter break, you might find yourself waiting for something big to happen. When given an inch, make sure to take the extra mile this month. Don't stress out so much Taurus. Take deep breaths. February break will be here before you know it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This month will be eye opening. For you, Gemini, January is all about new beginnings. Don't be afraid to try something new. Possibly try out a new club/activity? Maybe reach out to a new friend? Don't be afraid to take a turn in a new direction.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Be adventurous; don't be afraid to reach out to others when the time is right. Someone may be feeling the same way as you are. Things may seem a bit uneasy this month, remain calm and carry on. If you are lucky, love just may be pointed in your direction. Smile. Life is good.

Leo (July 22-August 22)

You know what you want this month. Go out and get it. Listen to you heart, not your head. Too much thinking can get in the way of your interests.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This month is a big month for you. You may feel unorganized and uneasy. Don't worry, you are ready for change. It is time to get organized and plan for those upcoming midterms, my friend. Try finding free time for yourself. Possibly clean your room too.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your mind may be in tangles this month. Things may be slowing you down. Watch out for complications. Don't try to do everything at once. Take time out of your long school day for yourself. In the meantime, you are bound to meet someone new this month. Be open to new faces. People can surprise you.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may feel a sense of confidence this month. Confidence is good! You may learn on an entirely different level. Your athletic abilities might shine through as well. Let go of the past, by doing so, you might clear a way for an exciting new direction.

Sagittarius (November 22- December 21)

You will accomplish something this month. Whether it is acing your driving test or finishing that painting in studio, greatness is upon you. As temperatures begin to drop, your social life is heating up as well. Be open to new opportunities. It is a new year after all!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This month is full of challenge for you, dear Capricorn. Possibly a bad breakup or drama filled holiday season? Hold your head up high and do your best. Accept the current challenges with determination. Your fierce personality will ride out the storm; you will soon be back on your feet.

Aquarius (January 19- February 18)

You are ready for your future this month. Stress has slightly been taken off your shoulders. You may be ready/wishing to leave high school, but don't wish to grow up so quickly. Four years will fly by in a blink of an eye. Enjoy yourself. You are a teenager for only so long.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This month is full of choices. Use an open mind to make the correct choice. Your feelings towards someone will grow over the next month. Possibly stronger and more intense if you let them. Drama is very possible. Be careful. Balance head and heart.

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