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Patriots' team unity best ever

'Family ties' key to New England's success

Associated Press
 FOXBORO, Mass. — Two weeks ago, about a dozen New England Patriots' players and their wives feasted at a famous Boston seafood restaurant.

Offensive guard John Hannah, often praised for his individual greatness but never on a winning playoff team in his first 12 seasons in the National Football League, was among them.

"We ate and acted like we were Rockefeller down there and he picked the tab up," said running back Craig James. "I said, 'thank you,' and he said, 'No, thank you.' That meant a lot to me, knowing he's happy."

The dinner followed the Patriots' second playoff victory of the season, over the Los Angeles Raiders.

It has been a season in which, Patriots' players say, there is more togetherness and feeling for each other than there has been in years.

"We see each other as being a room full of brothers," said free safety Fred Marion. "We fight for each other and we cry for each other. That's the way you have to be to be champions."

The Patriots embark today on their last journey toward that goal when they leave for New Orleans, where they will seek their fourth consecutive playoff upset, against the Chicago Bears in next Sunday's Super Bowl.

It has been a remarkable journey from the ill-fated reign of Ron Meyer, who was fired midway through last season. During his 2½ years as coach, unhappy players grumbled about him and traveled, according to one of his rules, on separate buses for the offense and defense.

"The teams that get close and are a unit and a family are the teams that win and that's what we are right now," James said. "We're not as much a defense and offense. It's more a mingling. There's not a lot of little groups."

Before Raymond Berry succeeded Meyer, "the guys would hang with either (teammates who played) their position or other players they had things in common with," said wide receiver Cedric Jones.

"But this year, with coach Berry, he emphasizes putting the team before yourself, an unselfish type of attitude. I think we've formed a type of brotherhood, a cohesiveness that we didn't have before as players and it's fun to be around because guys really care about each other."

Being concerned about teammates and unconcerned about personal glory has helped the Patriots on the field, said running back Robert Weathers.

"Players are more relaxed in situations that normally they would be a little tense in because they'd be thinking about their own success," Weathers said.



Bears' defense thrives by using '46' alignment

Associated Press
 CHICAGO — For the past two seasons, the Chicago Bears defense, known as the "46," has been No. 1 in the National Football League.

Developed and constantly re-fined by defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan, the "46" is so complicated that defensive game plans often run 100 pages. It has taken some players years to master its intricacies, and others have left training camp when they failed to make any headway.

But once the players learn the "46," they swear by it — and by Ryan.

Trying to explain it is difficult. "I don't think anybody knows totally what we're doing, except us and Buddy," says Bears Coach Mike Ditka.

Nevertheless, other teams have tried to copy the Bears' defense, and some even have met with a degree of success.

Simply stated, the philosophy of the "46" is to bring eight defenders

close to the line of scrimmage with the snap of the ball, opening numerous rush possibilities at best, and at least confusing offensive blocking assignments.

The defense had its genesis as a 4-1-6 alignment when Ryan and Neill Armstrong were with the Minnesota Vikings. That was before they joined the Bears in 1978, Armstrong as head coach and Ryan as his defensive assistant.

The name probably originated from the 4-1-6, although Ryan likes to say it was named for the "46" worn by former Bears' safety Doug Plank, a hard-hitter who sometimes moved up from the defensive backfield and lined up alongside the linebackers.

The Bears' current version of the "46" usually brings linebackers Otis Wilson and Wilber Marshall up to the line of scrimmage, presenting what looks like a six-man rush.

Those two often line up on the same side, and the Bears also bring safety Dave Duerson near the line on the other side. Add middle linebacker Mike Singletary, who starts a half-step behind his defensive linemen, and it amounts to eight de-

fenders facing as few as five blockers.

Usually, Duerson and either Marshall or Wilson, both exceptionally fast for linebackers, will drop back into pass coverage.

But the offense doesn't know which Bears' players are coming and which are not, reducing the chances of double-teaming the pass-rushers Richard Dent, Dan Hampton and William "The Refrigerator" Perry.

Putting pressure on the quarterback is the top priority of the "46."

"If you're going to throw the ball, the first thing you have to do is protect the quarterback," Ryan said. "That means if you're going to stop the pass, you have to get to the quarterback. You can't do it with three men. If you can't do it with three, you better use four. If you can't do it with four, you better use five. If you can't do it with five, use six."

From such an alignment, the possibilities are what makes for confusion.

The "46" primarily is a defense against the pass, but it also is easily modified to work against the run.

Lendl teaches Becker straight sets lesson

Associated Press
 NEW YORK — Rising to the challenge, Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked player, brushed aside the latest pretender to his throne Sunday, capturing the \$500,000 Nabisco Masters Tennis Championships with a straight-set victory over West Germany's Boris Becker.

It was power against power, strength against strength. And, in the end, nearly 2½ hours after they had begun, Lendl, the 1985 U.S. Open champion, had handed the Wimbledon winner a 6-2, 7-6, 6-3 lesson.

For the victory, Lendl earned \$100,000, while Becker collected \$70,000.

Lendl also received a check for \$800,000 as winner of the year-long, worldwide Nabisco Grand Prix circuit, bringing his 1985 earnings to nearly \$2 million.

"I, at the moment, hold all three titles in your town, and I'm proud of that," Lendl told the cheering crowd at Madison Square Garden.

Lendl referred to the Masters, the U.S. Open and the WCT Tournament of Champions, all of which are played in New York. Then he admitted that the 18-year-old Becker is

a force to be reckoned with.

The two tested each other out to begin the match, preferring to remain on the baseline, trading strong groundstrokes as they held serve through the first four games.

Then, raising his game to another level, Lendl ripped off four straight games, breaking Becker in the fifth and seventh games, to close out the first set. After the seventh game, the 18-year-old Becker, disgusted with his play, slammed his racket to the floor.

With shouts of encouragement

See Lendl, page 17

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One year ago, Charles and Ann Teague introduced state-of-the-art European tanning to Bryan-College Station. Located on Harvey Road, Perfect Tan gave area residents the opportunity to enjoy a great tan safely. Now, there's the added benefit of reciprocal memberships in SunTana tanning establishments in over forty locations across the state of Texas.

Perfect Tan is the only home-owned tanning salon in Bryan-College Station also offering memberships which can be used in well-known salons in areas such as Dallas, Austin, Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio. This is seen to be of special benefit to all students of Texas A&M who may have permanent residences out of town. Local residents who are often out of town will also enjoy the added convenience of maintaining their tan away from home.

SunTana Tanning Systems, Inc. is a Houston based company and is one of the oldest in the industry. The company has a reputation for using only the finest equipment and safety practices for customers.

As the Teagues explain it, "Indoor tanning on UVA tanning beds is rising in popularity rapidly. More tanning salons are springing-up and more businesses are adding tanning beds as a sideline. For these reasons, the public is being offered a variety of equipment ranging in quality and giving inconsistent results."

"Consistent safety, results and service are the main reasons we are delighted to have been selected as this area's SunTana affiliate. These salons use only the best equipment, such as Solaire Tanning Beds, and they maintain the kind of professionalism we believe makes customers come back. In short, the customers get the most for their money and there are no unwelcome surprises. They know what to expect in any SunTana location," they added.

For years, a healthy and successful appearance has been connected with a glowing complexion. Indoor tanning has given the public a way to enjoy this look without the drying and wrinkling the harsh rays of sunlight often promote. Unexpected pleasures to be derived from a visit to Perfect Tan is the state of total relaxation you will find when you stretch-out on the tanning bed, put on the headphones tuned into your favorite music and close your eyes. Most people are sound asleep at the end of the session.

A word about memberships: they are quite affordable. With the SunTana membership, you may visit any SunTana affiliate salon and only pay a nominal per/visit fee. The best buy for the money is an annual membership or a group membership. These enable you to enjoy large discounts.

If looking good is important to you, there is just no reason to be pale this winter. Right now, you can enjoy a complimentary visit to Perfect Tan and see what it's all about. Ask about the specials now going on! Perfect Tan is located on Harvey Road in the Post Oak Square next to the new Body Dynamics facility and the Imperial Restaurant. Call 764-2771 for an appointment.

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