

Super Bowl: Mahomes-Brady have played tight games

TAMPA BAY -- There was a regular-season shootout and a playoff masterpiece the first season that Patrick Mahomes and Tom Brady met on a football field.

Brady came out ahead in those two meetings, but Mahomes has gotten the edge the past two times they met.

Now as they are set to meet on football's biggest stage of the Super Bowl, it's time to look back at those first four games when they shared a field.

While their teams split those contests, Mahomes has put up the better numbers with his 109.2 passer rating and 11-3 touchdown to interception ratio outpacing Brady's 86 rating with six TDs and five interceptions.

But the matchup features the most accomplished quarterback ever to play the game who is still thriving at age 43 in Brady against the young gun who is rewriting record books at age 25.

"Could you imagine if Michael Jordan had gotten his team to the (NBA) Finals when he was older against a young LeBron James?" CBS game analyst Tony Romo said. "It would be the greatest thing in the history of sports. ... I think we actually might have that game."

Here's a look at the past meetings between Brady and Mahomes:

Chiefs 27, Bucs 24 at Tampa, Nov. 29, 2020: Mahomes and Tyreek Hill jumped all over Tampa Bay early with TD passes of 75 and 44 yards in the first quarter. Hill had seven catches for 203 yards in the first period, the third-most yards in any quarter for a player in the past 40 years. Mahomes added a 20-yard TD pass to Hill in the third quarter to make it a 17-point game. Mahomes threw for 462 yards and three TDs, with Hill leading the way with 13 catches for 269 yards.

Brady threw two TD passes in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to three points with 4:10 to play, but Mahomes then ran for two first downs and converted another on a third-down pass to Hill that iced the game.

"I learned a long time ago, you don't give Tom Brady

another shot," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "That's why he's the G.O.A.T. So, don't give them the ball back. That was the mindset there."

Chiefs 23, Patriots 16 at New England, Dec. 8, 2019: Mahomes and the Chiefs clinched the AFC West and snapped New England's 21-game home winning streak. Mahomes injured his hand on the second drive of the game yet finished with 283 yards passing and a TD.

Brady struggled, going 19 of 36 for 169 yards, a touchdown and interception. Bashaud Breeland sealed the win when he knocked away Brady's fourth-down pass attempt to Julian Edelman in the end zone with just over a minute to play.

"You want to beat the best," Mahomes said. "You want to go out and play against the best and give your best effort. It wasn't pretty the whole time. It was just a tough, hard-fought win."

Patriots 37, Chiefs 31, OT, at Kansas City, Jan. 20, 2019: The only previous postseason meeting between the star QBs was a classic, with Brady and the Patriots coming out victorious in overtime in the AFC title game to set up his sixth championship.

The Patriots took a 14-0 halftime lead when Brady connected on a 29-yard strike to Phillip Dorsett in the final minute of the second quarter. New England was up 17-7 after three, setting the stage for a dramatic fourth quarter that featured five TDs and one field goal.

Mahomes threw two touchdowns to Damien Williams to give Kansas City the lead before the Patriots responded with a 75-yard TD drive to go back ahead 24-21 with 3:32 to go.

Mahomes put the Chiefs back ahead with a quick TD drive and the Chiefs appeared headed to the Super Bowl when Charvarius Ward intercepted Brady with just over a minute to play. But Dee Ford had lined up offside and Brady capitalized with a 25-yard pass to

Rob Gronkowski on the next play to set up Rex Burkhead's go-ahead 4-yard TD with 39 seconds left.

Mahomes responded with two deep passes to set up a tying field goal, but the Chiefs lost the coin toss and Brady led New England 75 yards against an exhausted defense for the winning score.

"Overtime, on the road against a great team," Brady said. "They had no quit. Neither did we. We played our best football at the end. I don't know, man, I'm tired. That was a hell of a game."

Patriots 43, Chiefs 40, at New England, Oct. 14, 2019: The first meeting between Brady and Mahomes was a shootout, with Brady staking the Patriots to a 24-9 halftime lead.

Mahomes responded with four TD passes in the second half and gave the Chiefs the lead with a 75-yarder to Tyreek Hill with 3:03 to play.

Brady responded with a 65-yard drive including a 16-yard pass to James White and 39-yarder to Gronkowski. That set up Stephen Gostkowski's winning field goal on the final play that gave Brady his record 200th victory as a starting QB.

"It's tough to slow those guys down, they've been scoring a lot of points all year," Brady said. "They're gonna be pretty tough to stop. Glad we had our last shot and glad we took advantage of it."

Chiefs depend on banged up OL in big game

The Kansas City Chiefs were supposed to have a talented lineup of millionaires, each a seasoned veteran of the rough-and-tumble NFL, protecting their half-billion dollar quarterback as they defended their Super Bowl title this season.

Instead, they'll have a motley cast of late-round draft picks, journeymen and castoffs making up their offensive line.

The Chiefs lost Pro Bowl left tackle Eric Fisher to a torn Achilles' tendon in their AFC championship win over Buffalo, which means they are headed to the Super Bowl next weekend with just one starter playing his original position. The other four in the starting lineup consist of a seventh-round draft pick, an offensive guard pressed into service at tackle, another tackle playing on the veteran's minimum and a right guard that wasn't even on the team a few weeks ago.

Of all the worries facing coach Andy Reid, their performance in protecting Patrick Mahomes might be his chief concern.

"Listen, they're talented guys," Reid said, "and in some cases we've had some young ones step in and, again, we've had some older guys step in. But that combination has been able to get us through some games here, and most of all I think the quarterback trusts them, as do the running backs, and there's good communication."

To fully appreciate the job the Chiefs have done in patching together their current offensive line, you must first consider what Reid and general manager Brett Veach planned on taking into their opener way back in September.

Fisher was supposed to be joined at left guard by Kelechi Osemele, a former All-Pro who had been released by the New York Jets. Austin Reiter was the expected center with Laurent Duvernay-Tardif at right guard and Mitchell Schwartz, also a former All-Pro and one of the league's most durable players, handling right tackle.

They also had spent a third-round pick on Lucas Niang, who was penciled in as the primary backup

at several positions.

That group, with its \$35.5 million price tag, didn't even make it to training camp.

Duvernay-Tardif, a trained physician, opted out of the season to help with COVID-19 patients in his native Canada, and Niang also opted out. Osemele tore tendons in both knees and was lost for the year in Week 5. Schwartz hit the COVID-19 list the same week he hurt his back, an injury that ultimately landed him on injured reserve.

Now with Fisher's injury, the Chiefs will have four backups surrounding Reiter when they face the Buccaneers. Mike Remmers, playing for his seventh team, is expected to start at left tackle. Nick Allegretti, a seventh-round pick in 2019, will be next to him. Andrew Wylie had taken over for Duvernay-Tardif at right guard but will slide out to right tackle, while Stefan Wisniewski — who spent most of this season with Pittsburgh — will slide into his place at guard.

Presto! An offensive line making about \$7.5 million this season, or about one-fifth the anticipated group.

"We say it every year: These are long seasons. It's a battle of attrition," Veach said. "It's not a question of 'if' but 'when' the next guy steps up. We have superstars at the top, but we know as the season goes on, guys like Remmers — those guys keep seasons going, and those guys are going to be called up, they train and prepare and work their tails off."

They'd better be prepared. The Buccaneers had the league's fourth-best pass rush during the regular season, wreaked havoc on the Packers' Aaron Rodgers in the NFC championship and has piled up seven sacks in three postseason games.

One thing the Chiefs have going for them? The guy taking the snap.

Mahomes has one of the quickest releases of any quarterback in the NFL, and his ability to identify blitzes, manipulate the snap count and keep defenses off balance should take some of the pressure off those five guys protecting him.

Selling or buying a home?

GIVE ME A CALL... I CAN HELP!



3021 PARADISE
This beautiful tudor home includes 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths with a study, formal dining room, living room, den and an updated kitchen with a commercial Viking stove and vent-a-hood. It has the feeling of solitude with separated gardens, a two car garage and a large insulated barn. There is also and additional 1 car garage and storage.
\$357,000



3900 WICHITA
Completely and beautifully updated home! New floors throughout the house, quartz countertops in the kitchen, countertops updated throughout the house, formal dining and living room, large family room with wood burning fireplace, island in kitchen along with new refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and microwave. Washer/dryer room with folding island, and room for other activities.
\$169,000



3529 KELLY
This charming home features 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room, kitchen with bar, refrigerator and stove stay with home, laundry room/storage, carport, metal roof, circle drive, large lot.
\$65,000



926 WILBARGER
4BR, 2B, 2624 sq.ft., newly remodeled kitchen, large living/dining room, roof is 1 year old, CH/A.
\$55,000



3105 BEAVER
3BR, 1B,nice covered porch in back, fire pit, storage/workshop, large fenced back yard.
\$45,000



1704 11TH STREET
2 beauty stations with sinks, reception desk, large waiting area, washer/dryer connections, CH/A.
\$29,000



Jim Surber

REALTOR®

940-839-7359

Wilbarger Realty Inc.



Sue Ann Streit, Owner/Broker
3119 Wilbarger, Vernon, Tx 76384
940-552-0000

NEED EXTRA CASH !!! ???

I BUY RVs & MOBILE HOMES

Travel Trailers • 5th Wheels
Goosenecks • Bumper Pulls
In Any Area!!! Any Condition!!!
Old/New !!! Dirty or Clean !!!

I PAY CASH 956-466-7001
No Title – No Problem – We Can Apply For One
ANR Enterprises