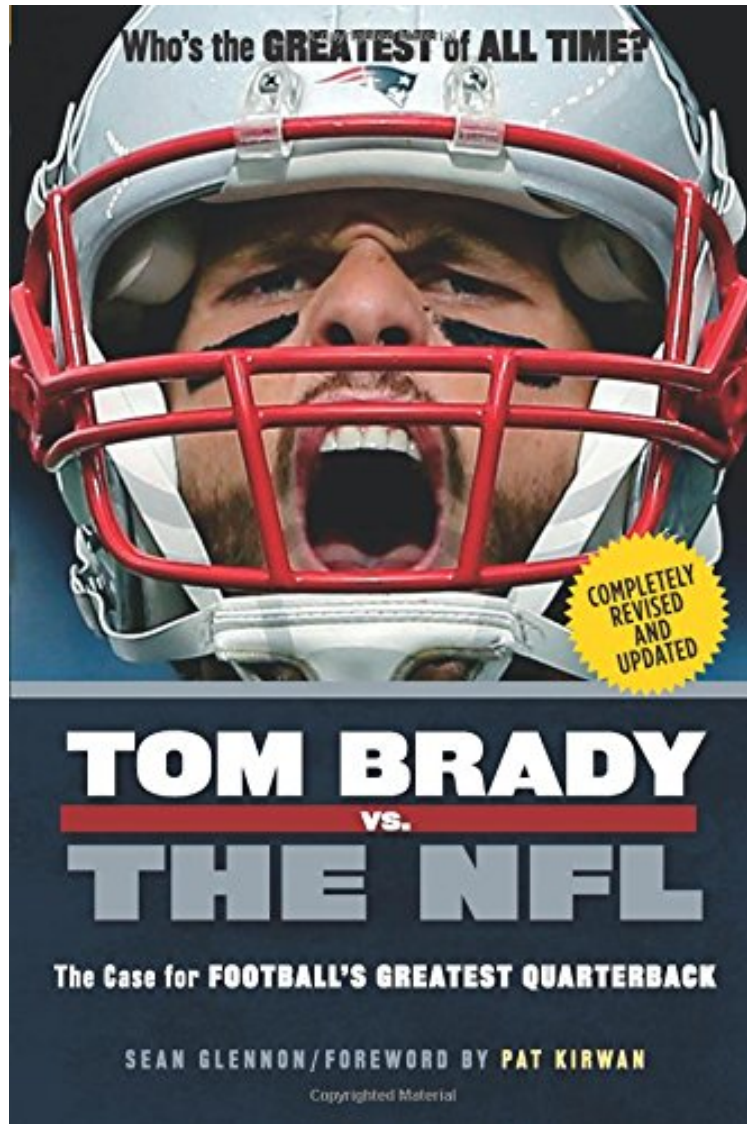


[FREE] Tom Brady vs. the NFL: The Case for Football's Greatest Quarterback

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Sean Glennon

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Sean Glennon : Tom Brady vs. the NFL: The Case for Football's Greatest Quarterback before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tom Brady vs. the NFL: The Case for Football's Greatest Quarterback:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. First Among Equals--Or What's a Heaven For...?By Jon BooneI don't disagree with Sean Glennon's thesis that Tom Brady is the best quarterback ever to play during American

professional football's first century. Brady rightly deserves to be listed at the highest echelon of that position, for there were (and are) none better. In his excellent forward to the book, NFL senior analyst, Pat Kirwan, states his belief that "quarterback is the most important position in all of sports," and then persuasively explains why. Glennon builds his case for Brady's greatness in the context of Kirwan's demanding criteria. He largely succeeds, in the process also extolling the virtues of twenty other top quarterbacks, beginning with Sammy Baugh and Sid Luckman and continuing through to the present day with Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees, and the remarkable Russell Wilson, among others. Glennon uses mainly statistical metrics to compare players over the decades, complementing hard numbers with individual awards and team successes (such as playing in and winning the Super Bowl or being voted league MVP). Once or twice, he acknowledges how problematic this approach is, especially when attempting to adjust for major tilts in the playing fields that make statistical comparisons as silly as those that seek to compare fish with bicycles. The rules changes alone since 1978--rules that greatly favor the passing game by limiting what the defense can do against it--put the players of yore at a distinct disadvantage in Glennon's narrative. One does not have to wonder what the likes of Johnny Unitas, Norm Van Brocklin and Sonny Jurgensen (the latter two barely mentioned by Glennon) would have likely accomplished if they had played under these rules. Glennon's thesis might have benefited more had he used something like Paul Zimmerman's U Rating system that first appeared in Sports Illustrated in 2002. The U method deploys six statistical categories and five subjective factors--game management; two minute drill; toughness; accuracy; and arm strength--as a means of arriving at more accurate assessment before any comparisons are made. With this rating system, SI ranked Unitas, who called his own plays, as the top dog, followed distantly by Joe Montana, Steve Young, and Brett Favre. Indeed, Glennon's treatment of Unitas is curious (and suggestive about what is wrong with many of his other accounts/comparisons), withal for the backhanded nature of his compliments, outright gaffes, and failure to give his angel his due. For example, Glennon writes that "Even in his day, Unitas was considered second in that regard [greatest quarterback] to Bart Starr." He couldn't be more wrong. The overwhelming consensus among the cognoscenti of that era ranked Unitas first, Jurgensen, second, Starr, third. The NFL selected Unitas as its top overall player during its first 50 years. It chose Unitas as the second best quarterback behind Montana for its all-time 75th Anniversary team. More recently in 2014, SI ranked Unitas second behind Montana, with Brady third, in its list of the top ten best quarterbacks. I could go on with current and old-timers lists that give Unitas significant pride of place over Starr. Beyond this, Unitas comes off looking as if he was never a league championship game MVP when in fact he had won two of them, just one less than Brady has. By factoring only Super Bowl wins, Glennon insults all those who won the MVP of the only championship game around before 1960, as Unitas did in 1958 and 1959--and as Otto Graham did many times. Moreover, the author might have quoted Luckman, a Pro Football Hall of Fame member who said Unitas was the best quarterback ever. "Better than me," he said, "better than Sammy Baugh, better than anyone." Unitas did have that wonderful sudden-death championship game that made him the face of the NFL for more than a decade. But his career performance transcended that game and made him a quarterback for the ages. (Unlike the redoubtable Joe Namath [another non entity for Glennon] who also had one amazing PR game when he "guaranteed" a win for his Jets in Super Bowl III but who is now not even mentioned as a top-tiered quarterback by anyone outside of New York and Alabama.) Although Glennon also short shrifts the best quarterback in the decade of the 1970s, Roger Staubach, he almost redeems himself by giving due props to Jim Kelly, whose extraordinary achievements for the Buffalo Bills in the 1980s and 1990s are much less known today because Kelly "never won the big one." As Glennon justifiably points out, Kelly led his Bills to FOUR STRAIGHT SUPER BOWLS. And did so in superlative fashion. The guy could do it all, masterfully. Was he as good as Brady? No. Not even Kelly thinks so. Still, he was as good or better than all but a relative handful of others. Kudos to Glennon for reminding us about Kelly's distinguished career. I found Glennon's tributes to Drew Brees and Russell Wilson more than interesting, for they both excel at their positions despite the fact that they're at or under six feet tall--and play outstanding football in a league dominated by bigger, badder, faster, stronger behemoths than those who have ever played the game before. Which naturally (for me) begs one of the big WHAT IF questions about the best quarterback discussion. What if Doug Flutie, arguably the number one NCAA quarterback in its history, had played under the enlightened stewardship of Sean Payton and Pete Carroll, rather than such dunderheads as Ray Berry (coach of the New England Patriots) and General Manager John Butler (of the Buffalo Bills), who never gave Flutie much of a chance because Flutie didn't fit their idea of proper quarterback stature. Flutie was a wonder wherever he played (except perhaps for his one season with the late, unlamented USFL). His eight year career with the Canadian Football League eventuated in his being named the best player in that league's history. If I had to name a quarterback to start any critical game and could choose from among history's best, I would think long and hard before I chose anyone, including Tom Brady, over Doug Flutie, all other factors being equal. Having all the requisite skills, experience, knowledge of the game and tendencies of opponents, physical health and conditioning, and a well-honed competitive spirit is mandatory for any aspirant to achieve best ever status. In a team enterprise, however, these are not enough to assure success. The sufficient factor is typically the ability to lead. And the best leadership is one that all team members accede to--because each understands and appreciates how the leadership tide raises all boats, making each better able to contribute to the team's success. In many ways, this has been--is--Brady's hallmark trait throughout his extraordinary career, getting the most out of a

range of different players at different times, players typically considered average, hardly stars, and in every instance achieving great team success at the highest level. No other quarterback has done more with less over nearly two decades in a league dedicated to making life increasingly difficult for winning teams. And players. Perhaps this is ultimately the real cause behind the hideous matter of Deflategate, which Glennon, in a preliminary chapter, all too flatteringly describes as Deflategate. As he states, there was no unlawful deflation to punish. So why defer to the unjust, inaccurate name the galoots in the NFL and ESPN have accorded this mess? Given its prominence in the popular culture, its effect on the legal system, and the way it challenges our most basic sense of fair play and justice, Deflategate cries out for responsible journalists to DO THEIR JOB--WELL. And tell this story accurately, even as Emile Zola did with his *J'Accuse* during the infamous Dreyfus Affair. Even, especially, if it means exposing their old friends, like Chris Mortensen and Peter King, for the shills they've become for this frame up. Brady did not cheat, he did not destroy his cell phone to obstruct justice, and he is now, characteristically, assuming a leadership role that will end, in a few years, the nincompoopery imposed by the worst commissioner in the history of professional sport. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read for any Pats fan! By CustomerFirst and foremost, if you dislike the Pats you will not enjoy this book. Let's just put that out there and get it out of the way. However, what Sean Glennon does, is he puts facts and figures to what Patriot fans have known for many years - Brady is the greatest QB of all time. Glennon doesn't try to hide his love of Brady and the Pats and why should he? There are clear facts to backup all his claims and I loved every minute of reading it. If you are a Patriots fan - you will love this book. If you are an open minded football fan, you will appreciate the effort and perspective Glennon has put forth. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I LIKE THIS BOOK By Pat Glennon Well, you could say why wouldn't he like this book. The truth is this book is so well delivered even a novice to the game of football would have no problem following Sean's logic. The writer has done all the research to prove that Tom Brady is by far the best of the best. Sean did not take the high road in writing this, but has given every QB their due. Facts are facts, but in writing this book Sean has made it very interesting for the common reader as well as the sports nut. He really makes his family proud of him and his talents.

Showcasing one of professional football's best players, this book spotlights the life and career of gridiron great Tom Brady. More than just a biography, it relates Brady's story while also establishing his prominent place in NFL history. By examining his skills and statistics in a variety of categories and comparing him to other great quarterbacks including Peyton Manning, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Roger Staubach, Aaron Rodgers, and more the guide makes a strong case for Brady as football's best signal caller. Along the way, his best moments as a Patriot are revisited, from championship seasons spanning from 2001 to 2015, to his favorite receivers, to his relationship with legendary coach Bill Belichick and the "Deflategate" scandal in 2015. With detailed sidebars on Brady's celebrity status, fashion sense, much-talked-about hair, and supermodel wife, this revised and updated edition is a must-have for faithful New England fans and pro football buffs alike.

About the Author Sean Glennon is a sportswriter and football historian who has contributed to the Boston Globe, the Boston Phoenix, and Salon. He is the author of *The New England Patriots Playbook*, *The Good, the Bad the Ugly New England Patriots*; and *This Pats Year: A Trek Through a Season as a Football Fan*. He is a member of the Professional Football Researchers Association and the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston. He lives in Florence, Massachusetts.