



Fans of New England,

When the New England Patriots selected me in the 1993 NFL draft, I was a 21-year old kid from a small college (Washington State) and an even smaller hometown (Walla Walla, Washington). I had never been to the East Coast and had no understanding of the special place that sports holds in the hearts of New Englanders. It didn't take long to realize that you support your teams and players with unmatched zeal (and volume). I have grown so much in the past decade, and you have nurtured me and fostered this growth as a person and player. I could not be more humbled by or more thankful for your support.

I am pleased that I was a small part of a positive evolution of the New England Patriots franchise. Robert Kraft's energy filled the stands, allowing me to play in front of so many of you over the years. The vision of the organization lifted the team from its doormat status in the early 1990's and has produced two Super Bowl teams and one World Championship. I am proud that you are proud to be Patriots fans.

You taught me a great number of things. You taught me about the meaning of loyalty, supporting me through thick and thin. Your incomparable togetherness as a fan base taught me about the importance of teamwork. Your relationship with each other and with me taught me about the concept of community, and the necessity of giving back to that community. Your unwavering support taught me perspective and has made me realize how fortunate I am to play a game I dearly love. And yes, you taught me about "chowdah," the Green Monster, and that Larry Bird certainly had to be much better than Magic Johnson ever was.

Most important, you taught me about love and respect. The letters I received while in the hospital after my little collision along the sidelines last September were many and wonderful. You demonstrated to me that to you I was more than a number on a field. I was a person you cared about. As I raise my three little boys, I will share with them stories of your warmth and kindness. Quite simply, you helped me to learn how people should treat other people, and I thank you for that.

Please know that you have made a profound difference in my life and the way I will live it. And while I am excited about my future in Buffalo, I will miss you. Thank you for all you mean to me, and I wish you all the very best.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Brady".