

# new england 48, miami 28

## STORYLINE:

This game was a back-and-forth shootout until New England pulled away with the last 17 points of the fourth quarter.

## TURNING POINT:

After New England took a 24-21 lead in the third quarter, the Dolphins answered by driving to a first-and-10 at the Patriots 27. But the drive stalled after a holding penalty on Samson Satele and the Dolphins had to punt. New England then drove 87 yards on its next drive to open a 10-point lead.

## IT WAS OVER WHEN:

The Dolphins had no margin for error in the fourth quarter, and their hopes disappeared when Brandon Meriweather intercepted Chad Pennington in Dolphins territory with the score 38-28.

## WORTH NOTING:

Dolphins FB Casey Cramer scored his first NFL touchdown on a 2-yard pass in the third quarter. ... Ricky Williams' touchdown reception was his first since the 2003 season. ... Chad Pennington had a passer rating of 99.7, the seventh time in 11 games this season he's reach the 90 mark. ... Four different New England players set season highs for receiving yards.

## STAT THAT STANDS OUT:

New England's first three drives of the second half covered 78, 87 and 80 yards and all ended with touchdowns.



Fullback Casey Cramer's first NFL touchdown gave the Dolphins a 21-17 lead in the third quarter.

Digest Photo/RICHARD C. LEWIS

## reportcard

### QUARTERBACK: A-

Pennington may have had his finest game. Only downside was a fourth-quarter interception.

### RUNNING BACKS: C

Wildcat did little. So did the base running game. Long run was 13 yards by Ricky Williams.

### RECEIVERS: B

Good numbers for Camarillo, Ginn, Bess and TE David Martin, but Ginn dropped two passes.

### OFFENSIVE LINE: C-

Pats won the battle up front. The line had issues in run blocking and pass protection. Penalties also hurt.

### DEFENSIVE LINE: D

New England won this battle as well. New England had 530 yards, and all facets of the defense are to blame.

### LINEBACKERS: D

Porter had a sack and Roth a forced fumble, but there was no slowing down the Pats offense.

### DEFENSIVE BACKS: D

Two takeaways — Hill INT, Goodman fumble recovery — can't make up for giving up 415 yards passing.

### SPECIAL TEAMS: B-

About time: no big coverage mistakes. But there were no big returns, either. Fields punted well.

## THEY SAID IT:

DE Vonnie Holliday:

"What's so disappointing about this loss, not only were we beat physically and these guys came out and put up the points, but the way we handled the game, especially at the end right there, is embarrassing. It was an embarrassing loss on a big stage with a big opportunity. We're a team that's certainly building and changing a culture, and what we did today was the exact opposite of what we want to do."

NT Jason Ferguson:

"We can't carry this on our sleeve. We definitely didn't show our class in this game. They didn't show theirs either. They just made more plays when it counted and hats off to them."