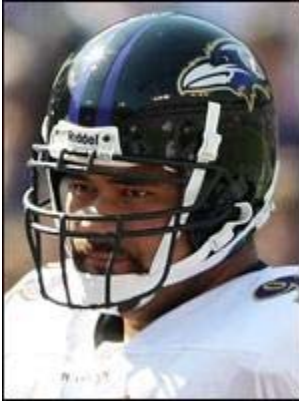


7 Points: A Little Face Time For Brady



DT Haloti Ngata
(N.Laham/Getty Images)

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Ravens DT Haloti Ngata knows the Ravens need some face time with Tom Brady...Monday night's game really isn't about Favre vs. Rodgers...A surprising truth in Indy...Why Eagles OT Winston Justice doesn't look back, what Scout.com's Ed Thompson learned from Cowboys kicker Nick Folk--and much more.

Point 1: Defensive tackle [Haloti Ngata](#) knows that the Ravens must get some face time with [Tom Brady](#) on Sunday.

While he's more than modest about his personal impact on the success of the Baltimore defense, Ngata will play a key role in determining whether or not his team will emerge from Foxborough.

Ngata anchors the middle of a defensive line that is allowing just 51 yards rushing per game during the team's 3-0 start in 2009. And if the Ravens can stifle a Patriots rushing attack that rolled for 168 yards last week during an impressive win against the Atlanta Falcons, Ngata and his teammates will be able to tee-off and put pressure on Brady from a variety of angles and positions--just like the Jets did during their Week 2 win over New England.

"With every quarterback, not only Tom, we're definitely going to try to get in his in face so he can't make his throws," Ngata said this week during a phone interview. "So just like the Jets, we're going to try to get in Tom's face a little bit, because once he gets hot with his receivers they become unstoppable. Hopefully it will work for us, too, and we can get the win."

That said, Ngata doesn't take the challenge lightly. He knows that the Patriots offensive line will be working hard to keep him and his cohorts from being so disruptive.

"Their left side, (Logan) Mankins and (Matt) Light are pretty much bell cows, they can get off that ball and get a huge block," he said. "The offensive line has been together for years, and you know they're going to execute well. They don't really have to say much to each other, so you really can't get much information from them when you're lining up. You mainly have to look at what they are doing."

The last time the two teams met was during the New England's undefeated regular season, in 2007. While the Patriots notched a 27-24 win, the Ravens had the game wrapped up until a bizarre scenario played out in the final two minutes. Baltimore had stopped the Patriots on a fourth-and-1 with 1:48 left in the game, but the coaching staff had signaled for a timeout just before the snap. The Patriots fell short on converting for the second time despite the reprieve, but were penalized for a delay-of-game on the failed play--a penalty that couldn't be declined by Baltimore, giving New England a third attempt to make the first down on a fourth-and-6. Five plays after finally moving the chains, New England took the lead for good with 44 seconds left.

I asked Ngata if he and the other Ravens players drew anything from that experience that they're holding onto this week or passing on to current players who weren't on the team that season.

"No, it's in the past. You can't look back on it and think of it as a grudge match or a re-match game," he said. "We've got one of the top offenses in the league now, and defensively we're pretty much the same. So it's a different team and a different situation now."

"Back then, the Patriots were heading to the playoffs and we were pretty much just playing for pride. Now, both teams are trying to keep the wins



Haloti Ngata is a force against the run and the pass.
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