

# THOMAS: Rocket science? Celebrities pick their Super Bowl winners

## **Herald News Sports Editor**

The Herald News, Fall River, Massachusetts

Posted Feb 04, 2012 @ 10:11 AM

Last update Feb 04, 2012 @ 08:24 PM

Although my Green Bay Packers won't be playing tonight to defend their Super Bowl title, there is, apparently, still some interest in this particular football game.

Once again, I have gone out and polled a wide range of celebrities to get their take on the Super Bowl. Last year, I got predictions from celebrities, along with local coaches, athletics directors and even a random guy in the peanut butter aisle of Stop & Shop. This year I decided to strictly go the national celebrity route and began tracking down the participants in the early part of the summer, asking them to commit to picking a winner when it was known which two teams would meet in Super Bowl XLVI.

After receiving their responses via email or speaking directly with them, I have learned five things: 1) Mario Andretti certainly knows his football. 2) Kane Hodder (if you don't know who he is, you will by reading below) is very polite and does not kill in real life. 3) John Lehr has quickly become my all-time favorite caveman. 4) I have new-found respect for people who walk with milk bottles on their head. 5) Rocket scientists can have a great sense of humor.

In the past, a few people have said to me that picking the winner of a football game "isn't rocket science" so I did my best to prove/dispel that thought by getting the predictions from two NASA rocket scientists. With the help of Kathy Barnstorff, media relations specialist at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, I was able to get some in-depth analyses from a pair of NASA rocket scientists – one from New England and another from New York.

Before getting to the predictions, I do have to offer my sincere apologies to rocker Joan Jett. I initially send the same form letter to the participants and am usually pretty good about switching the 'he's' to 'she's' when I send a request to a female celebrity. Apparently, I missed one when I sent the request to Joan Jett's people. Within two minutes, I received a terse response that simply said "Joan Jett is a woman!"

Here are the celebrity/rocket scientists predictions for Super Bowl XLVI in no particular order:

**MARK CUBAN** (owner of the defending NBA champion Dallas Mavericks): "Giants are hot and hot wins Super Bowls." GIANTS 38, PATRIOTS 31.

**JACK NICKLAUS** (arguably the greatest pro golfer of all time): "I am a long-time AFC guy because I am

a fan of the Dolphins. I have nothing against Eli Manning. He's a great quarterback and I am a big fan. It just so happens I root for the AFC. How many games have the Patriots lost? Three. How many games have the Giants lost? Seven. I realize the Giants are hot right now, but over the course of a season I think the Patriots have performed better and I like their body of work." PATRIOTS 31, GIANTS 28.

**MARIO ANDRETTI** (arguably the greatest race car driver of all time): "It's going to be a tough one against the Brady Bunch and Belichick. I know New England is the better team, but the Giants have raised their game in the playoffs." GIANTS 21, PATRIOTS 17.

**LINDSEY VONN** (Olympic skier): "I pick the Patriots to win. The Patriots beat my team, the Broncos, so I hope they win. That will make me feel better." PATRIOTS 23, GIANTS 20

**DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER** (sex therapist, media personality): "I'm picking the Giants mostly because Victor Cruz's salsa dance is so sexy." GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 24.

**BARRY WILLIAMS** (actor, played Greg Brady on "The Brady Bunch"): "As the seventh and youngest Brady, Tom is a classic and a winner." PATRIOTS 31, GIANTS 17.

**JERRY SPRINGER** (talk show host): "Giants will win because New York City needs a rehearsal for the Ticker-Tape Parade that they will have again in October when the Yankees win the World Series." GIANTS 28, PATRIOTS 24.

**WINK MARTINDALE** (legendary game show host): "In my view the Giants will win the Super Bowl over the Patriots simply because the young Mr. Manning is on such a roll he can't be stopped. End of story." GIANTS 24, PATRIOTS 21.

**FLORENCE HENDERSON** (actress, played Carol Brady on the Brady Bunch): "I pick the New England Patriots because I love Tom Brady. It will be a close score." NO ACTUAL SCORE GIVEN.

**AL ROKER** (TV personality): "I think the Giants are going to win, 27 to 17, just because I like those numbers. They're going to win by a touchdown and a field goal. I don't really care about the score as long as they win." GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 17.

**JOHN LEHR** (actor, comedian, also played the Geico Caveman): "I'm picking the Giants in a close one. As a diehard Chiefs fan, it is my duty to dislike any and all Mannings for what Peyton has done to us in the playoffs over the years. He's a dream smasher. But in this case I will make an exception just because I want to see what happens to the Hoodie when his Pats fall to the Giants – again. I also predict whichever Giants receiver catches the winning pass will also shoot himself in the leg at a night club." GIANTS 24, PATRIOTS 21.

**ASHRITA FURMAN** (Guinness World Record holder for holding the most Guinness World Records

(136), including walking 80.95 miles with a milk bottle on his head): “Being a New Yorker, I have to go with the Giants. Both teams have excellent quarterbacks and offenses but I think the Giants’ defense will prove to be a bit tougher.” GIANTS 37, PATRIOTS 27.

**RANDOLPH MANTOOTH** (actor, writer, producer): “I’m getting mixed messages. My heart is telling me one thing, but my gut is telling me another. The Giants beat the Patriots the last time they played in the Super Bowl, and that I believe, will be the inspiration that will tip the balance in New England’s favor. I have won more wagers listening to my gut than following my heart, so.... my pick... New England Patriots! But don’t be surprised if you see me smiling if they lose.” NO ACTUAL SCORE GIVEN.

**JOHN ONDRASIK** (singer, Five for Fighting): “We may be looking at our first-ever overtime Super Bowl. Though my head says Brady, I’ll go with the Giants. No L.A.-born sports fan can pick anything Boston.” GIANTS 20, PATRIOTS 17.

**KANE HODDER** (actor, stuntman, played killer Jason Voorhees in four Friday the 13th horror movies): “Tom Brady proved that he is a class act by admitting in a post-game interview that he didn’t have a very good game against the Ravens and that his teammates won that game. He will come out firing at the Super Bowl and throw for 350 yards and three touchdowns.” PATRIOTS 31, GIANTS 21.

**JENNIE FINCH** (former Olympic softball pitcher): “Going for the underdog. I’m hoping the Giants’ defense stays on fire, putting pressure on Brady. I’m a Manning fan, so I would like to see Eli win it again. Plus, I had the honor of training with the Giants this fall. Weatherford taught me how to kick my first field goal. It was awesome!” GIANTS 20, PATRIOTS 17.

**SCOTT A. BERRY** (‘Rocket Scientist’, Aerothermodynamics Branch, NASA Langley Research Center): “I jumped at the opportunity to prognosticate about this very important event, knowing my skills as a rocket scientist give me an advantage over “Johnny Burger King”. The Patriots will crush the Giants, and in doing so will avenge the outcome of their last “super” meeting. The final score will be 23-13 Pats over G-men (not quite a crush, but you can’t fault my enthusiasm). Oh, and Gronk will play!” PATRIOTS 23, GIANTS 13.

**MIKE DIFULVIO** (‘Rocket Scientist’, NASA Langley Research Center): “I have been running calculations and computer simulations for the past two weeks trying to scientifically determine the outcome of the game through the use of advanced algorithms developed to support our national space program. Extensive efforts to include variables such as weather, injury status of players, historical outcomes of previous encounters, and other critical inputs have allowed me to unequivocally determine that the Giants will be victorious in an epic game that will be determined by a fourth-quarter Patriots turnover that will enable the Giants to win by the score of 27-24.” GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 24.

*(Berry, who graduated from Seekonk High School, did have this response to DiFulvio’s prognostication: “Wait a minute, how could your codes be forecasting a Giants victory when my codes are predicting a*

*Giants flop? The public will lose all faith in us if this ever gets out – especially when it is clearly evident to anyone with any knowledge of the game knows that the Giants will go down in flames, the law of averages tells us so. The Patriots won during the season in 2007 and lost in the rematch (at the Super Bowl). The Giants won during this season and will thus lose the rematch Everyone knows that (except for Giants fans who refuse to acknowledge the inevitable) Victory will be ours! And redemption!”*

**ANDRE DAWSON** (MLB Hall of Famer): “Tom Brady will get revenge on Super Bowl XLII and win his fourth Super Bowl ring.” PATRIOTS 27, GIANTS 20.

**ALISON SWEENEY** (actress, ‘Days of our Lives’): “Since I was in New York when the Giants won on Sunday night in overtime, I’m going with the Giants. Hopefully, it’ll be another close game since those are the most fun to watch.” GIANTS 23, PATRIOTS 21.

**DARREN DAULTON** (former Philadelphia Phillies all-star catcher): “After polling the Eagle fans and peering into my crystal ball, it’s the Pats.” PATRIOTS 31, GIANTS 24.

**KEN JENNINGS** (all-time game show winnings leader and winner of 74 Jeopardy! games): “Tom Brady is turning into the most intense man in sports, and he WANTS this. Four rings for him and Belichick put them up there with Noll/Bradshaw and Walsh/Montana. He will do what it takes.” PATRIOTS 37, GIANTS 20.

**FRANKIE BANALI** (drummer for Quiet Riot): “New York Giants all the way! Why? Repeat of Super Bowl XLII and this will be the main event after taking the Patriots down earlier this season. Just like Don Frank Sinatra sang..... “Start spreading the news” baby!” GIANTS 31, PATRIOTS 17.

**RICHARD KLINE** (actor, played Larry on ‘Three’s Company’): “I am picking the New York Giants to win the Super Bowl. Based on New England’s escape from Baltimore and the fact that Eli Manning is a much better QB than Joe Flacco, I think the Pats’ secondary will have their hands full. Pretty Boy’s 8.9 yards per throw will chew up yardage as usual, but the Giants defense will hold when critical. GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 24.

**ALAN THICKE** (actor, played father Jason Seaver on ‘Growing Pains’): “Patriots, because Brady won’t have a second mediocre game in a row, Pats’ defense is man-ing up and they’ll want Eli Man-ning down.” PATRIOTS 30, GIANTS 24.

**RUDY RUETTEGER** (former walk-on at Notre Dame and inspiration for the movie ‘Rudy’): “The Giants. The reason is Eli Manning.” GIANTS 21, PATRIOTS 20.

**LAURIE BERKNER** (children’s recording artist): “I live in New York. I want the Giants to win. Both of the teams have been better defensively in the last few weeks than the rest of the season so I think the scores won’t be too high (I based mine on the scores of each of their last playoff games where both teams

played against great defensive teams). They also seem pretty evenly matched, so the spread shouldn't be that wide. I owe my analysis entirely to having watched the last few minutes of the Giants/49ers game and bribing my husband for information." GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 24.

**SHANNON MILLER** (former Olympic gymnast): "Hard to bet against Tom Brady, although I do like an underdog story. It'll be a great game!" PATRIOTS 28, GIANTS 24.

**DAN JANSEN** (former Olympic speed skater and gold medalist): "The Giants are reminding me a bit of last year's Packers in that they got hot at the right time. They have been playing better than anyone the last 4-5 weeks and I think their defense will be able to hold down Brady and the Pats offense. Plus, Manning is playing great and smart and their running game has improved enough to make the passing game even more effective. GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 20.

**ANDREW MCCARTHY** (actor, director, writer): "The Giants will win. I say this partly because Manning is playing well, and partly because I live in New York and work with Teamsters and something might happen to me if I pick New England." GIANTS 24, PATRIOTS 17.

**DAVID WEINSTONE** (children's recording artist): "I'm having a tough time with this one. Being a native New Yorker, I'll be wearing my Giants jersey game day but I really love/admire the Pats too. Still, I'm gonna have to say that history will repeat itself and the Giants will take it. (Wild guess - by 7.) I think if Gronk doesn't play, Brady, as great as he is, may be in a tight spot with Tuck, Pierre-Paul and Umenyiora putting the pressure on. Here's to two great teams and two great QBs!" GIANTS 28, PATRIOTS 21.

**ARTIS GILMORE** (NBA Hall of Famer): "I think the Giants' front four has the capability to put enough pressure on Brady to make a difference." GIANTS 31, PATRIOTS 24.

**PATRICK MULDOON** (actor, 'Days of Our Lives'): "I'm a Colts fan which makes me an arch enemy of the Patriots even though I admit they are unbelievably strong. If Peyton Manning can't be in the Super Bowl, I suppose his brother being there is the next best thing." GIANTS 34, PATRIOTS 27.

**WARRICK DUNN** (former NFL running back): "Nobody has a better defensive mind than Bill Belichick, and given that extra week, they will be supremely prepared. I think the Patriots will win by 10 points," NO ACTUAL SCORE GIVEN.

**NOEL MACNEAL** (puppeteer, played Bear on 'Bear in the Big Blue House'): "I'm rooting for the Giants. Give 'em credit, they beat the odds, practically snuck in when no one was looking, and then beat Green Bay. Kinda the same Giants that made it into the Super Bowl last time. And up against the same team, except it won't be easy. Pats will lead, Giants will come back to narrow it then will win but only by a seven-point spread." GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 20.

**ELWOOD EDWARDS** (The man whose voice lets America Online users know 'you've got mail'): "The Patriots. They have a better QB." PATRIOTS 27, GIANTS 24.

**CLAIRE COFFEE** (actress, NBC's 'GRIMM'): "New York Football Giants. Why? NFC pride! Also, my boyfriend is a Giants fan, so I'm legally obligated to make that pick." GIANTS 33, PATRIOTS 20.

**RUSSELL HORNSBY** (actor, NBC's 'GRIMM'): "I'm pulling for the New York Football Giants. Although Tom Brady and the New England Patriots offense is very explosive, I still believe in the old-school saying 'defenses win championships.' The Giants have a very good defense (second only to the 49ers – my hometown team) that I feel can slow Brady down. The Pats' D Is not strong enough to stop Eli Manning and his core of explosive receivers." GIANTS 31, PATRIOTS 24.

**TAYLOR DAYNE** (singer): "Tough call, but as always I represent New York. I love Eli Manning, love the team. It'll be a close game. Both teams and quarterbacks are up for the '07 rematch." GIANTS 31, PATRIOTS 24.

**FRED LYNN** (former Red Sox all-star outfielder): "Playing indoors will help the Pats' short-game passing attack. Two big tight ends will be the difference in the red zone. Manning will have a big day, but it won't be enough." PATRIOTS 33, GIANTS 27.

**BRIAN BOITANO** (former Olympic figure skater): "It's so hard to bet against Tom Brady and Bill Belichick, especially since the Giants beat the Patriots in the regular season and a few years ago in the Super Bowl. Third time is a charm. There's no way the Giants can do it again!" PATRIOTS 34, GIANTS 27.

**JUDY TENUTA** (comedienne and first female stand-up comic to win "Best Female Comedian" at the American Comedy Awards): "Super Bowl 2012 will be won by the Patriots. Why? Because they have Tom Brady – the hottest, I mean greatest, quarterback of all time (next to Joe Montana). True, the Giants beat the Patriots in 2008 and Mr. Manning is a fine quarterback with a great defense, but Mr. Brady can pass to any receiver and score, right ladies? Besides, he's on a mission to crush the Giants this time. And that is exactly what Tom must do as his hot wife Gisele whispers Victoria Secrets in his ear, 'if you like it then you better put a ring on it – a Super Bowl ring that is.' Go Patriots." PATRIOTS 57, GIANTS 40.

**GERALD CASALE** (original member of Devo): "Well, as we all witnessed, unpredictability was the one constant this NFL season. The Packers getting beat was jaw-droppingly shocking. I did predict that New England would be standing at the end in my e-mail to you last fall. How perverse that they are now in a rematch with their nemesis, the Giants. I'm sure the 2007 "Helmet Catch" still fuels Brady's nightmares. Manning is definitely one lucky @#%& when it comes to playoff games. He should thank Kyle Williams and send him a generous gift. Clearly, whoever avoids turnovers wins this one. If Brady plays as he did against the Ravens, it's all over for the Patriots. I might as well close my eyes and flip a coin. This is a Carnak the Soothsayer prediction." PATRIOTS 24, GIANTS 20.

**MICKY RIVERS** (former MLB player, [www.mickthequick.com](http://www.mickthequick.com)): “The Giants will win. I like their defense better than New England’s.” GIANTS 17, PATRIOTS 7.

**SASHA COHEN** (former Olympic figure skater): “Patriots are going to win by three points. The last time the two teams played in the Super Bowl, the Patriots were on the verge of history to go undefeated. However, the Giants pulled off a miracle and beat the Patriots and ruined their perfect season. Revenge is on the mind of Patriots.” PATRIOTS 27, GIANTS 24.

**JAMES TUPPER** (actor, ABC’s ‘Revenge’): “New England is ready to avenge their loss to Giants and Brady is the hardest working winner in the NFL.” PATRIOTS 27, GIANTS 10.

**RICH ‘GOOSE’ GOSSAGE** (MLB Hall of Famer): GIANTS 27, PATRIOTS 23.

**MARK DEKLIN** (ABC’s ‘GCB’ and CBS’ ‘Hawaii Five-O’): “Tough call. It’s a great re-match between these two teams; Brady and Manning are both first-rate QBs and both teams should be hungry for the win. I feel like it could easily go either way, but my gut is saying that it’ll be the Giants by six points or less. GIANTS 31, PATRIOTS 28.

As for my pick...I don’t think Tom Brady will have back-to-back subpar games and I don’t think the Giants will defeat the Pats twice in the same season, so this may be the chance we get to see Bill Belichick actually shake Tom Coughlin’s hand after a Super Bowl. I am, however, still in serious denial when it comes to football... PACKERS, 35-17.

Mike Thomas is the sports editor of The Herald News. He can be reached at [\*\*mthomas@heraldnews.com\*\*](mailto:mthomas@heraldnews.com).

Read more: <http://www.heraldnews.com/newsnow/x1087083585/THOMAS-Rocket-science-Celebrities-pick-their-Super-Bowl-winners#ixzz1ldIFG2Db>