

Rob Gronkowski

Robert James Gronkowski

Rob “Gronk” Gronkowski, a graduate of the Lou Gehrig Babe Ruth League in Amherst, New York, is a tight end for the New England Patriots. He played college football for the University of Arizona and was drafted by the Patriots in the second round of the 2010 NFL Draft.

In 2011, Gronkowski, in his second season in the NFL, set the season record for touchdowns by a tight end with 17 receiving touchdowns and 18 overall, as well as the single-season record for receiving yards by a tight end, with 1,327. That season he became the first tight end in NFL history to lead the league in receiving touchdowns. In his first three seasons, he had 38 receiving touchdowns in 43 games; no other tight end during that span had more than 25.

In June of 2012, Gronkowski signed a six-year, \$54 million contract extension, the largest ever for an NFL tight end. Gronkowski had several setbacks—a broken forearm in June 2012, back surgery in June 2013, and a right knee injury in December 2013, which prematurely ended his 2013 season. But he always returned before expected and was in full strength in record time.

It was during the 2014 season that Gronkowski became the first tight end in NFL history to catch at least 10 touchdowns in four separate seasons. He was also a major factor in the Patriots’ Super Bow XLIX win, recording 6 catches for 68 yards and a touchdown late in the second quarter. Gronkowski was named to his third Pro Bowl and was the unanimous choice for tight end on the 2014 All-Pro Team, receiving all 50 votes.

