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  - [Inside The Octagon](#)
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- [The Blitz](#)

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## [Nate Solder: 'I think I'm starting to play at a higher level'](#)



Patriots left tackle **Nate Solder** is gaining confidence with his improved play in recent weeks, and that's a significant sign for the team's offensive line.

*"I think I'm starting to play at a higher level," Solder said. "It's not college anymore, and I think you can kind of see that in the way that I play, technique-wise, the way I'm keeping the width in the pocket and that kind of thing."*

Why is that?

*"It's a process that I'm still in. getting better, this is a competitive league," Solder said. "There are a lot of great players. I think to play at that level takes time, takes an adjustment. Thanks to good coaching and everything, I'm on that trail of getting better, and hopefully it continues."*

*"Seeing some improvement in my play certainly gives me some motivation."*

With all that in mind, did the Patriots get the short end of the stick last week when the Bills' front four got all of the attention in their matchup, considering the Pats handled them pretty well? Solder didn't think so.

*"I think they're great," Solder said of the Bills. "I think it took a team effort to beat them. Their front four were all what we thought. It helped (that) Tom got the ball out quick and that sort of thing. It wasn't always the O-line, but a lot of times, it was. across the board, I think our offense did pretty well. I know for myself, I was pretty happy with the way I played. I know I have a lot to improve, though."*

This entry was posted on Monday, October 1st, 2012 at 5:05 pm and is filed under [Week 5](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. Both comments and pings are currently closed.

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**Jeff Howe** joined the Boston Herald in 2012 after a three-year stint with NESN.com. Howe has been covering the Patriots beat on a full-time basis since 2009. The Lowell native has covered the professional sports scene in Boston for the past six years since graduating from UMass in 2006, including a two-year run on the Celtics beat for the Boston Metro. Howe also has experience covering the Red Sox, Bruins and Hockey East.



**[Karen Guregian](#)** has been a member of the Boston Herald sports staff since 1984, performing a variety of jobs. Since 2007, she's covered the Patriots full-time, both as the main beat writer as well as beat columnist. Previously, the Chelmsford native and Northeastern graduate was a long-time Bruins writer and also a key contributor to the paper's Red Sox coverage. A two-time Boston Magazine "Best of Boston" award winner in the outstanding sports reporter category, Karen has covered Super Bowls, World Series, Stanley Cups, NBA Finals, golf and tennis majors, and the Olympics during her Herald career.

^Patriots Blitz



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October 2012

**S M T W T F S**

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

[« Sep](#)

- [October 2012](#) (16)
- [September 2012](#) (289)
- [August 2012](#) (324)
- [July 2012](#) (146)
- [June 2012](#) (160)
- [May 2012](#) (149)
- [April 2012](#) (114)
- [March 2012](#) (194)
- [February 2012](#) (234)



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