

Karen Guregian Wednesday, May 03, 2017

Jimmy Garoppolo keeps it short and sweet: 'It's good to be back'



Patriots backup QB Jimmy Garoppolo catches a pass from Sam Paster, 20, a student at Cotting School as he participates in a AccessSport America football clinic at Harvard Stadium on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Staff Photo by Matt West

Jimmy Garoppolo has been a regular at lending a hand at the AccessSportAmerica football skills clinic through the years. And the 150 or so high school students with disabilities were sure glad Jimmy G was on hand today at Harvard Stadium. By the look of it, they felt fortunate to be on the receiving end of the quarterback's passes.

Bill Belichick resisted the temptation to trade his backup to Tom Brady, even though Garoppolo becomes a free agent at season's end. That means Garoppolo is going to stick around at least another year. So he was at Harvard for his third straight year, along with teammates Patrick Chung and Devin Lucien, brightening the day of many students while going through various football drills.

Garoppolo briefly addressed the kids after the event but didn't stop for the media.

"I had a great offseason. It's good to be back," was all he'd say to a handful of reporters as he walked out.

His teammates are glad he wasn't dealt to another team.

"I'm just glad that he's back. He's a great player," Chung said. "We have a lot of good players. The more players we have, the better our chances."

Chung said he's been impressed at how Garoppolo has handled himself throughout the past few years, with the uncertainty of starting or not, depending on Tom Brady's suspension, as well as the trade talk.

"He's getting better and better. I mean, he's learning from the best one (Brady), and he works hard and he's getting better," said Chung. "He's always been good. Now, he can be a guy. Hopefully he keeps that going."