

## they can do both. We like to be in that kind

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Undrafted rookie wide receiver Jakobi Meyers has been one of the stars of Patriots training camp [Steph en Gostkowski Jerseys 2019](#)

, but there have often been players who draw positive reviews in practice before failing to see it carry over to games. Meyers did not have that problem against the Lions on Thursday night. The rookie caught six passes for 69 yards and two touchdowns in a performance that should help push him closer to the 53-man roster. After the game, Meyers said he felt he showed he deserves to be in the NFL and that he'll keep working to show that's the case come cutdown day. "I have to keep proving to my coaches that I deserve to be here," Meyers said, via NESN.com. "I'm not on the team yet. I'm trying to make sure I can stay here and continue to be here. That's who I'm trying to prove a point to, not really to the people who didn't give me the [draft] call. . . . I'm not satisfied

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, either. I've just got to keep going forward, and hopefully more is to come." The Patriots will continue their preseason with a game against the Titans on August 17. Sony Michel ran for 931 yards in his first NFL regular season with the Patriots and then had six rushing touchdowns in three postseason games to help the team to a Super Bowl title, so it's hard to find much reason to complain about his rookie performance. If one did want to find an obvious area of improvement, it would be Michel's work in the passing game. Michel only caught seven passes last season and the Patriots skewed heavily toward the ground game when he was in the backfield, so defenses could predict what was coming even if they weren't able to stop it often enough. Patriots running backs coach Ivan Fears doesn't think they'll have that luxury this year. Fears said Michel is "much improved" in the passing game and that the offense will reflect that once the regular season is underway. "The whole key to make it so we're interchangeable

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, everybody looks at us saying they can do both. We like to be in that kind of mode, they got to worry about Sony catching the ball as well as running the ball," Fears said, via Mac Cerullo of the . "I think you'll find Sony is going to do very well in the passing game, and I bet you'll find James White and the rest of the guys doing very well in the running game also. We're going to try to keep that going." Offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said that the Patriots' offensive identity is still taking shape. If Fears is right about Michel's strides in the passing game

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, he'll be at the forefront of whatever identity winds up ruling the day in New England.

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