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Patriots legend to hold book signing

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(Matthew J. Lee/Globe staff)

New England Patriots legend Gino Cappelletti on the sidelines for the ceremonial coin toss before the Pats game against the Denver Broncos at Invesco Field on Oct. 11, 2009.

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Gino Cappelletti, a legend in New England for his performance on the football field and for his commentary during radio broadcasts of Patriots' games, will be in Framingham Tuesday for his first public signing of a recently released book chronicling the franchise's history.

Cappelletti played 11 seasons with the Boston Patriots, primarily as a kicker and wide receiver, from 1960 through 1970. The number 20 jersey he wore has been retired. He was the franchise's all-time leading scorer with 1,130 points until former Patriots kicker Adam Vinatieri surpassed the mark in 2005, and Cappelletti won the American Football League's Most Valuable Player award in 1964.

He has worked as a color commentator for the Patriots' radio broadcasts for 27 years alongside play-by-play announcer Gil Santos.

Cappelletti also returned kicks during his pro career, played defensive back, and threw one pass completion for a touchdown.

Along with the book's author Bob Hyldburg, Cappelletti will sign copies of "Total Patriots: The Definitive Encyclopedia of the World-Class Franchise," at BJ's Wholesale Club on Whittier Street from 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 15.

Cappelletti wrote the foreword for the 5.4-pound, 803-page, illustrated "encyclopedia" on the New England Patriots, which contains a battery of statistics and records, more than 960 player profiles, season-by-season narratives spanning five decades of the team's history, game-story recaps, anecdotes, recaps of unforgettable moments, and trivia.

Since the book was published in September and hit shelves in October, this is

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Since the book was published in September and introduced in October, this is the only signing Cappelletti has done and is currently scheduled to do for the book, said Bill Ames of Triumph Books, which published "Total Patriots."

The event is a book-signing only, copies will be available for purchase at BJ's, and paraphernalia or items besides the book will not be signed, Ames said.

Hyldborg, a Northeastern University alum, has been a loyal Pats fan since watching the team compete against the Buffalo Bills at Fenway Park in 1968. He has worked for the NFL as a photographer for Patriots' home games since the 2005 season.



(Globe file photo)

Gino Cappelletti of the Boston patriots, November 1968.

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