

2002 GAME-BY-GAME REVIEW



GAME
1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2002
TENNESSEE 27, PHILADELPHIA 24
THE COLISEUM • 68,804



The Titans overcame a 14-point halftime deficit to send the Eagles home with a 27-24 opening day loss on a steamy, Nashville afternoon. In a physical, hard-hitting game, both teams lost starting players – Titans DE Jevon Kearse (foot) and Eagles LG John Welbourn (broken leg) – in the first series of action and many other players suffered heat-related cramps. The Titans got off to a quick start, marching 80 yards in 8 plays to take a 7-0 lead on a 14-yd. TD pass from Steve McNair to Eddie George. After the Eagles were forced to punt for the 2nd straight series, renowned kick returner Brian Mitchell sparked the Eagles with a big play on the punt coverage unit. Mitchell forced Titans rookie return man John Simon to fumble and picked up the loose ball. Three plays later, Donovan McNabb fired an 18-yd. TD pass to James Thrash to knot the score at 7-7. Eagles head coach Andy Reid then dipped into his bag of tricks with an onside kick that Eagles TE Jeff Thomason recovered. McNabb completed double-digit yardage passes to Thrash (14 yards), Duce Staley (16) and Todd Pinkston (17) before flipping a shovel pass to Staley for a 7-yd. TD. After a Titans field goal, McNabb found another weapon in WR Antonio Freeman, connecting with him 3 times for 54 yards on a drive that led to a 7-yd. TD pass to TE Chad Lewis. A forced fumble by DE Hugh Douglas led to a FG by David Akers that gave the Eagles a 24-10 lead at halftime. After a field goal by the Titans early in the 3rd, the Eagles chewed up nearly nine minutes of the clock with a 15-play drive. However, the Eagles produced no points and the Titans took advantage. After an interception by Andre Dyson, McNair hit WR Justin McCareins on a 2-yd. TD pass to cut the Eagles lead to 24-19. The two-point conversion attempt by George was stopped by the Eagles. After another Eagles punt, the Titans stormed back with the game-winning touchdown drive capped by a two-yard scamper by George. This time, George's two-point conversion attempt succeeded to give the Titans a 27-24 lead. The key play in that drive was a 39-yard completion to Derrick Mason on a 3rd-n-19 play. McNabb and the Eagles had two possessions left, but could not record a first down as the Eagles left The Coliseum with a tough loss.

NOTES: In his first game as an Eagle, LB Shawn Barber recorded 3 takeaways (one interception and two fumble recoveries) and 7 tackles ... McNabb moved ahead of Tommy Thompson into 4th place on the club's all-time completions list ... Blaine Bishop, the long-time Titan/Oiler, notched 4 tackles and a forced fumble in his return to Nashville ... The Eagles converted their 3rd first quarter onside kick in the Andy Reid era (the other two were in the 2000 season opener vs. Dallas and in week 11 of 2001 at Kansas City) ... McNabb was sacked 6 times, the most since his NFL debut vs. TB (12/19/99).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	14	10	0	0	- 24
Tennessee	7	3	3	14	- 27

Ten – E.George, 14 pass from S.McNair (Nedney)
Phila – J.Thrash, 18 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Staley, 7 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Ten – J.Nedney, 33 FG
Phila – C.Lewis, 7 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 30 FG
Ten – J.Nedney, 47 FG
Ten – J.McCareins, 2 pass from S.McNair (run failed)
Ten – E.George, 2 run (George run)

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	TEN
First Downs	17	22
Net Yards Gained	261	328
Rushes/Yards	22/80	25/61
Net Yards Passing	181	267
Att/Comp/INT	36/18/2	34/24/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	6/31	1/2
Punts/Average	6/43.8	2/50.0
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	4/3
Penalties/Yards	10/113	6/50
Time of Possession	29:12	30:48

RUSHING: : EAGLES – B.Westbrook 8-42, D.Staley 7-18, D.McNabb 3-15, D.Levens 3-9, C.Martin 1(-4) ...
TITANS – E.George 18-42-1TD, S.McNair 5-24, R.Holcombe 1-4, K.Dyson 1(-9).

RECEIVING: EAGLES – D.Staley 5-47-1TD, A.Freeman 3-54, T.Pinkston 3-37, C.Lewis 3-28-1TD, J.Thrash 2-32-1TD, D.Levens 2-14 ... TITANS – D.Mason 7-109, E.George 4-38-1TD, F.Wycheck 3-47, R.Holcombe 2-17, D.Bennett 2-13, K.Dyson 2-10, E.Kinney 1-25, J.Simon 1-6, G.Comella 1-2, J.McCareins 1-2-1TD.

PASSING: EAGLES - D.McNabb 36-18-212-2-3TDs ...
TITANS – S.McNair 34-24-269-1-2TDs.

INTs: : EAGLES – S.Barber 1-1 ... TITANS – L.Schulters 1-8, A.Dyson 1-2.

SACKS: EAGLES – H.Douglas 1.0 ... TITANS – C.Hall 3.0, K.Carter 1.5, L.Schulters 1.0, H.Ford 0.5.

Weather: Hot & Hazy, 83 degrees

Wind: Calm

Playing surface: Grass

Time: 3:20



GAME
2

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 37, WASHINGTON 7
FEDEX FIELD • 84,982



The Eagles used a national television audience to display one of their most dominating performances in team history with a 37-7 thrashing of the host Washington Redskins on Monday Night Football. With all the pre-game hype surrounding Jeremiah Trotter (in his first game vs. his former club) and the fun-and-gun offense of Redskins head coach Steve Spurrier, it was the Eagles and Donovan McNabb who had all the microphones in front of their faces after this primetime effort that included 451 total yards of offense. The defense shut out the Redskins offense all night long (179 total yards) as they forced Redskins quarterbacks into hurried, errant throws while forcing three turnovers and holding the Redskins to just 3-for-12 on third down. McNabb got Philadelphia jump started on their first offensive play from scrimmage, finding a streaking James Thrash across the middle of the field for a 33-yard pick up. After McNabb connected with Todd Pinkston for a 26-yard completion, the mobile QB scampered 8 yards for a TD and a 7-0 lead. On their next possession later in the quarter, McNabb completed 7 of 8 passes, including a 2-yard scoring strike to TE Jeff Thomason. Although the Redskins would climb to within 7 points on a 90-yard punt return for a TD by Jacques Green early in the 2nd quarter, the Eagles registered field goals on their final three drives of the half to climb to a commanding 23-7 lead. The Eagles kept the pedal to the metal early in the 3rd quarter as McNabb connected with Thrash on a 39-yard TD throw. Later in the 3rd, Brian Dawkins intercepted an errant pass attempt by back-up QB Danny Wuerffel deep in Eagles territory. Nine plays later, RB Dorsey Levens scampered 47 yards for a TD to finish the scoring.

NOTES: The game was delayed for a brief time in the 4th quarter after pepper spray being used by police to curb fighting in the stands seeped into the Eagles bench area ... Spurrier's offense was shutout for the first time since 1989 when he was the head coach at Duke ... The last time the Eagles defeated the Redskins by 30-or-more points was on November 12, 1950 (33-0) ... McNabb connected with 10 different receivers, accounted for 319 net yards (4th most in his career) and earned the Monday Night Football's horse trailer player of the game ... Dawkins recorded a sack and an INT in the same game for the first time in his career ... Thrash burned his ex-teammates with a 6-107-1TD receiving performance.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	14	9	7	7	- 37
Washington	0	7	0	0	- 7

- Phila** – D.McNabb, 8 run (Akers)
- Phila** – J.Thomason, 2 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
- Was** – J.Green, 90 punt return (Tuthill)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 22 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 40 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 47 FG
- Phila** – J.Thrash, 39 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Levens, 47 run (Akers)

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	WAS
First Downs	22	11
Net Yards Gained	451	179
Rushes/Yards	28/168	18/89
Net Yards Passing	283	90
Att/Comp/INT	38/26/0	31/16/2
Sacked/Yards Lost	2/9	4/29
Punts/Average	4/44.5	6/40.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	1/1
Penalties/Yards	4/30	7/55
Time of Possession	35:23	24:37

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Levens 6-65-1TD, D.Staley 15-55, D.McNabb 5-36-1TD, B.Westbrook 2-12 ... REDSKINS – S.Davis 12-53, K.Watson 3-16, S.Matthews 2-16, C.Bailey 1-4.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – D.Staley 7-57, J.Thrash 6-107-1TD, T.Pinkston 3-36, A.Freeman 3-35, J.Thomason 2-18-1TD, B.Westbrook 1-20, C.Lewis 1-14, F.Mitchell 1-6, C.Martin 1-1, D.Levens 1-(-2) ... REDSKINS – S.Davis 6-23, R.Gardner 4-63, B.Johnson 2-14, K.Watson 2-5, D.Thompson 1-9, K.Lockett 1-5.

PASSING: EAGLES - D.McNabb 38-26-292-0-2TDs... REDSKINS – S.Matthews 22-10-62-1-0 (starter), D.Wuerffel 9-6-57-1-0.

INTs: EAGLES – T.Vincent 1-1, B.Dawkins 1-0 ... REDSKINS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – B.Dawkins 1.0, H.Douglas 1.0, R.Cook 1.0, N.Kalu 0.5, D.Walker 0.5 ... REDSKINS – L.Arrington 1.0, L.Jackson 1.0.

Weather: Cloudy, 76 degrees

Wind: N 8 mph

Playing surface: Grass

Time: 3:06



GAME
3

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 44, DALLAS 13
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,537



Donovan McNabb threw for 287 yards and 3 TDs, ran for 67 yards and a TD, and the wide receiver trio of Antonio Freeman, James Thrash, and Todd Pinkston combined for 17 catches for 246 yards and 4 TDs in the Eagles 44-13 rout over the Cowboys in the final home opener ever at Veterans Stadium. For the second consecutive game, the Eagles defense did not allow a touchdown as they forced four turnovers. The Eagles bounced back from a sluggish 1st quarter in which they allowed a 100-yard kickoff return for a TD by Reggie Swinton. Down 10-3 early in the 2nd stanza, McNabb connected with Thrash on a picture-perfect 35-yard scoring strike down the right sideline and the Eagles never looked back. On their next possession, the Eagles took advantage of a personal foul and a 49-yard interference penalty on the Cowboys to set up McNabb's 2-yard scoring run. McNabb then completed 7 passes to five different players in engineering a 10-play, 87-yard hurry-up drill in the waning minutes of the first half to set up a 20-yard field goal by David Akers as time expired. The Eagles continued to attack in the second half, scoring twice in just four offensive plays. Freeman registered his first touchdown as an Eagle after hauling in a pass from McNabb and running 35 yards into the end zone. After a fumble by Cowboys QB Quincy Carter was recovered by Brian Dawkins at the DC25, McNabb pitched to RB Brian Westbrook who threw a strike to Pinkston in the end zone for a 34-10 lead. The Eagles sealed the game up with a 17-play, 80-yard drive that took 8:14 off the clock and resulted in a 2-yard TD pass from McNabb to Pinkston.

NOTES: Cowboys RB Emmitt Smith broke the NFL all-time record for rushing attempts set by Walter Payton (3,838) ... The TD pass by Westbrook was the first by an Eagles non-QB since 1992 (Keith Byars) ... The Eagles had 100-yard wide receivers in consecutive games for the first time since 1992 (Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams, 9/13 and 9/20) ... Koy Detmer and Akers converted a fake field for a first down as Detmer flipped a pitch to Akers, who ran 10 yards ... The Eagles notched 30-plus point wins in consecutive games for the first time since weeks 2 and 3 of the 1980 season ... McNabb earned NFC offensive player of the week honors for his efforts.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Dallas	10	0	3	0	- 13
Philadelphia	3	17	14	10	- 44

- Phila** – D.Akers, 51 FG
- Dal** – R.Swinton, 100 kickoff return (Cundiff)
- Dal** – B.Cundiff, 47 FG
- Phila** – J.Thrash, 35 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
- Phila** – D.McNabb, 2 run (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 20 FG
- Phila** – A.Freeman, 59 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
- Phila** – T.Pinkston, 25 pass from B.Westbrook (Akers)
- Dal** – B.Cundiff, 33 FG
- Phila** – T.Pinkston, 2 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 32 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	DAL	PHILA
First Downs	18	26
Net Yards Gained	304	447
Rushes/Yards	27/121	26/153
Net Yards Passing	183	294
Att/Comp/INT	35/21/1	40/26/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	3/18	3/15
Punts/Average	5/46.0	3/50.0
Fumbles/Lost	3/3	4/2
Penalties/Yards	7/92	3/25
Time of Possession	30:52	29:08

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 6-67-1TD, D.Staley 11-41, J.Thrash 2-33, D.Akers 1-10, K.Detmer 1-3, B.Westbrook 4-0, D.Levens 1-(-1) ... COWBOYS – E.Smith 11-52, A.Bryant 1-24, M.Wiley 4-20, R.Thomas 3-20, T.Hambrick 5-11, Q.Carter 3-(-6).

RECEIVING: EAGLES – A.Freeman 6-118-1TD, J.Thrash 6-80-1 TD, T.Pinkston 5-48-2TDs, D.Staley 3-24, C.Lewis 3-21, B.Westbrook 1-13, M.Bartrum 1-8, D.Levens 1-(-3) ... COWBOYS – J.Galloway 7-70, A.Bryant 4-35, D.Scott 3-23, R.Swinton 3-15, E.Smith 2-31, T.McGee 2-27.

PASSING: EAGLES - D.McNabb 37-24-287-0-3TDs, K.Detmer 2-1-(-3)-0-0, B.Westbrook 1-1-25-0-1TD ... COWBOYS – Q.Carter 35-21-201-1-0.

INTs: EAGLES – S.Brown 1-29 ... COWBOYS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – D.Walker 1.0, P.Grasmanis 1.0, H.Douglas 1.0 ... COWBOYS – G.Ellis 2.0, L.Glover 1.0

Weather: Partly Cloudy, 82 degrees
Wind: S 12 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:18



GAME
4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 35, HOUSTON 17
VETERANS STADIUM • 64,867



It was a day of firsts for the Eagles. Free safety Brian Dawkins became the first player in NFL history to post a sack, an interception, a touchdown catch, and a fumble recovery in the same game, leading the Eagles to a 35-17 triumph in their first-ever meeting with the expansion Houston Texans. With the win, the Eagles took over sole possession of first place in the NFC East as they upped their win streak to 3 games. After the Texans took a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter, Philadelphia stormed back for 28 unanswered points. The onslaught began with a 25-yard field goal by David Akers. After a forced fumble by Darwin Walker on the Texans next possession, Dawkins scooped up the loose ball at the HT42. Duce Staley then gave the Eagles the lead for good with the first of his 2 one-yard touchdown scampers. After a pair of sacks against rookie first-round pick David Carr, the Eagles used a 34-yard catch and run by Todd Pinkston on a 3rd-n-3 play which led to another Staley TD and a 17-7 lead. With Carr and the Texans offense rattled, Dawkins intercepted an errant pass and set up another field goal by Akers to give the Eagles a 20-7 halftime lead. After their first drive stalled in the second half, the Eagles lined up in punt formation to apparently give the Texans the ball. But the Eagles executed a perfect fake as Brian Mitchell took the direct snap and shoveled a pass to Dawkins, who raced 57 yards for a TD. Donovan McNabb hit Chad Lewis for the 2-point conversion to give the Eagles a 28-7 lead. After the Texans closed the gap to 28-17 late in the third quarter, Eagles WR James Thrash caught a short pass from McNabb and outran the Houston secondary for a 38-yard TD, finishing the scoring on the afternoon. But Dawkins was not finished with his afternoon as he came up with a sack of Carr on the Texans final possession as he etched his name in NFL record books.

NOTES: Thrash caught a TD pass and DE Hugh Douglas recorded a sack for the 5th straight game (both dating back to last year) ... The Eagles defense recorded 7 sacks by 7 different players ... Mitchell, who had attempted 17 passes in his career, threw the first TD pass of his career ... McNabb signed a lucrative, 12-year contract two days before the game ... Staley tied a career high with 2 rushing TDs and moved past Tom Sullivan (871) into 4th place on the Eagles all-time rushing attempts list ... Dawkins earned NFC defensive player of the week honors following the game.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Houston	7	0	10	0	- 17
Philadelphia	3	17	8	7	- 35

Hou – C.Bradford, 23 pass from D.Carr (Brown)
Phila – D.Akers, 25 FG
Phila – D.Staley, 1 run (Akers)
Phila – D.Staley, 1 run (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 41 FG
Phila – B.Dawkins, 57 pass from B.Mitchell (McNabb-C.Lewis pass)
Hou – C.Bradford, 29 pass from D.Carr (Brown)
Hou – K.Brown, 48 FG
Phila – J.Thrash, 38 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>HOU</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	12	21
Net Yards Gained	242	391
Rushes/Yards	24/91	29/102
Net Yards Passing	151	289
Att/Comp/INT	29/16/2	44/25/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	7/37	3/27
Punts/Average	7/42.6	4/42.8
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	4/2
Penalties/Yards	11/83	4/32
Time of Possession	26:36	33:24

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 12-33-2TDs, D.McNabb 7-23, D.Levens 5-20, J.Thrash 1-19, B.Westbrook 4-7 ... TEXANS – J.Allen 14-41, J.Wells 8-33, D.Carr 2-17.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 6-70, C.Lewis 5-31, D.Staley 3-39, C.Martin 3-29, J.Thrash 2-45-1TD, D.Levens 2-15, B.Dawkins 1-57-1TD, A.Freeman 1-14, J.Thomason 1-13, B.Westbrook 1-3 ... TEXANS – C.Bradford 7-97-2TDs, J.Gaffney 5-49, B.Miller 2-22, J.Allen 2-20.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 42-24-259-1-1TD, B.Mitchell 1-1-57-0-1TD, F.Mitchell 1-0-0-0-0 ... TEXANS – D.Carr 29-16-188-2-2TDs.

INTS: EAGLES – B.Dawkins 1-27, B.Taylor 1-0 ... TEXANS – E.Brown 1-7.

SACKS: EAGLES –B.Gardner 1.0, B.Dawkins 1.0, B.Whiting 1.0, D.Walker 1.0, P.Grasmanis 1.0, H.Douglas 1.0, I.Reese 1.0 ... TEXANS – C.Carter 1.0, K.Mitchell 1.0, J.Posey 0.5, J.Sharper 0.5.

Weather: Partly Cloudy, 64 degrees
Wind: ENE 10 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:19



GAME 5 **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2002**
JACKSONVILLE 28, PHILADELPHIA 25
ALLTEL STADIUM • 65,005



Costly mistakes and penalties by the Eagles sent them home with a 28-25 loss to the Jaguars at a steamy ALLTEL Stadium in Jacksonville. Although they toppled the Jaguars in most statistical categories, the Eagles found themselves on the wrong end of the penalty breakdown, registering 10 penalties for 75 yards. The most critical penalty occurred late in the first half as the Eagles defense was late getting off the field and was flagged with too many men on the field during a punt by the Jaguars. The penalty resulted in a first down for the Jaguars and an eventual touchdown, giving them a 14-7 lead. Prior to that play, the momentum of the game had just swung into the Eagles favor after a 9-play, 63-yard drive led to a 4-yard TD pass from Donovan McNabb to TE Chad Lewis that erased an early 6-0 deficit. After the disappointing turn of events, McNabb was poised to even up the score before halftime as he fired a long pass to Antonio Freeman who was streaking toward the end zone. But the ball fell out of the hands of Freeman as he hit the ground. The Eagles added a field goal midway through the 3rd quarter to cut the deficit to four, but the Jaguars rebounded early in the 4th quarter with an 11-play, 79-yard drive that resulted in a one-yard TD plunge by Stacey Mack. One play before the TD, Jacksonville faced a 4th-and-1 situation at the Eagles 2-yard line and gave the ball to Mack who barely earned the first down. Down by 11, the Eagles went right back to the air as McNabb connected with Freeman on a 57-yard completion to the JJ5. But a holding penalty on the Eagles negated the play and forced a punt that turned out to be disastrous. Bobby Shaw took the punt by Sean Landeta, dodged a few tacklers and raced 69 yards for a score that gave Jacksonville a commanding 28-10 lead. McNabb scored on a 4-yd. TD run and connected with Freeman on an 8-yd. TD pass, but it was too little, too late for Philadelphia, who could not overcome their severe rash of penalties and miscues earlier in the contest.

NOTES: The game was a homecoming for FS Brian Dawkins, CB Lito Sheppard, and director of player relations Harold Carmichael, who are all alumni of Raines HS in Jacksonville.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	0	7	3	15	- 25
Jacksonville	3	11	0	14	- 28

Jax – H.Epstein, 34 FG
Jax – H.Epstein, 31 FG
Phila – C.Lewis, 4 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Jax – K.Brady, 2 pass from M.Brunell (Brunell-Taylor pass)
Phila – D.Akers, 31 FG
Jax – S.Mack, 1 run (Epstein)
Jax – B.Shaw, 69 punt return (Epstein)
Phila – D.McNabb, 4 run (Staley run)
Phila – A.Freeman, 8 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>PHILA</u>	<u>JAX</u>
First Downs	28	16
Net Yards Gained	406	267
Rushes/Yards	30/199	27/70
Net Yards Passing	207	197
Att/Comp/INT	48/28/0	23/13/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	5/23	1/0
Punts/Average	5/39.4	5/44.6
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	10/75	4/21
Time of Possession	34:58	25:02

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 12-100-1TD, D.Staley 13-82, D.Levens 3-12, J.Thrash 1-4, B.Westbrook 1-1 ...
JAGUARS – F.Taylor 21-48, M.Brunell 3-20, S.Mack 3-2-1TD.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – C.Lewis 6-47-1TD, D.Staley 6-35, J.Thrash 5-68, A.Freeman 4-28-1TD, T.Pinkston 4-21, B.Westbrook 2-17, J.Thomason 1-14 ...
JAGUARS – J.Smith 4-91, P.Johnson 3-39, K.Brady 2-34-1TD, P.Mitchell 2-18, F.Taylor 2-15.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 48-28-230-0-2TDs ...
JAGUARS – M.Brunell 23-13-197-0-1TD.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ... **JAGUARS** – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – D.Walker 1.0 ... **JAGUARS** – J.Henderson 3.0, D.Darius 1.0, M.Coleman 1.0.

Weather: Partly Cloudy, 87 degrees
Wind: E 10-15 mph
Playing surface: Grass
Time: 3:07



GAME
6

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 20, TAMPA BAY 10
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,523



The Eagles held the Buccaneers without an offensive touchdown in their third straight meeting at Veterans Stadium as they forged a 20-10 victory over Tampa Bay. Duce Staley pounded out a season-high 152 yards vs. a stingy Bucs defense, who entered the game ranked #1 in the league, and Donovan McNabb threw for a TD and ran for another. The Eagles defense forced 2 turnovers, combined for six sacks, and harassed Bucs QB Brad Johnson all day long before an injury brought in Rob Johnson in the 4th quarter. The Eagles took advantage of an early fumble by FB Mike Alstott (forced by Bobby Taylor and recovered by Barry Gardner) with a 30-yard field goal by David Akers. The Bucs responded with a big turnover of their own as Simeon Rice sacked and forced a fumble of McNabb deep in Eagle territory. LB Derrick Brooks scooped up the loose ball and rumbled 11 yards for a touchdown. Down 7-3, McNabb and the Eagles struggled to move the chains vs. the Bucs until late in the 2nd quarter. After a 29-yard punt return by Brian Mitchell set up the Eagles at the TB45, McNabb faked a handoff to Staley and lofted a perfect 42-yard strike to a streaking Todd Pinkston to give the Eagles a 10-7 lead heading into halftime. Both teams traded field goals in the 3rd quarter before Eagles CB Al Harris, a former Tampa Bay draft pick, neatly stepped in front of a Brad Johnson-to-Keyshawn Johnson pass along the sideline. Harris kept both feet in bounds as he secured possession of the ball. McNabb and Staley went on to lead a 10-play, 42-yard drive that ended with a one-yard rollout for a touchdown by McNabb. After the quarterback switch by Tampa Bay, the Bucs drove to the PE11 threatening to make it a one-possession game. But K Martin Gramatica misfired on a 29-yard field goal (wide left) as the Bucs 5-game winning streak came to a halt.

NOTES: Staley, whose 152 yard-output was the 2nd highest of his career, moved past Tom Woodeshick (3,563) and into 6th place on the Eagles all-time rushing list ... Mitchell combined for 144 return yards, including a 47-yard kickoff return and a 29-yard punt return ... The Eagles improved to 10-3 since the bye week was instituted in 1990, including a 4-0 mark under head coach Andy Reid ... The 2nd quarter TD by the Eagles broke a streak of 14 straight quarters that the Bucs held opposing offenses out of the end zone ... Eagles LG John Welbourn returned to the lineup after a four-game absence (leg) and helped fuel the Birds successful running attack.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Tampa Bay	7	0	3	0	- 10
Philadelphia	3	7	3	7	- 20

Phila – D.Akers, 30 FG
TB – D.Brooks, 11 fumble return (Gramatica)
Phila – T.Pinkston, 42 pass from D. McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 36 FG
TB – M.Gramatica, 48 FG
Phila – D.McNabb, 1 run (Akers)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	15	14
Net Yards Gained	207	269
Rushes/Yards	21/81	34/159
Net Yards Passing	126	110
Att/Comp/INT	38/23/1	25/12/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	6/29	2/17
Punts/Average	7/42.6	6/51.2
Fumbles/Lost	4/1	3/1
Penalties/Yards	7/59	8/56
Time of Possession	28:47	31:13

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 24-152, D.Levens 2-9, D.McNabb 6-4-1TD, B.Westbrook 1-(-1), J.Thrash 1-(-5) ...
 BUCCANEERS – M.Pittman 12-49, M.Alstott 5-14, R.Johnson 3-10, A.Stecker 1-8.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 4-61-1TD, D.Levens 3-37, J.Thrash 2-17, D.Staley 2-12, C.Martin 1-0 ...
 BUCCANEERS – K.McCardell 5-32, M.Alstott 5-8, M.Pittman 4-15, K.Johnson 3-38, J.Jurevicius 3-35, K.Dilger 2-9, R.Dudley 1-18.

PASSING: EAGLES - D.McNabb 25-12-127-1-1TD...
 BUCCANEERS – B.Johnson 31-19-124-1-0 (starter), R.Johnson 7-4-31-0-0.

INTs: EAGLES – A.Harris 1-0 ... BUCCANEERS – B.Kelly 1-14.

SACKS: EAGLES – C.Emmons 2.0, D.Walker 1.0, B.Whiting 1.0, N.Kalu 1.0, C.Simon 1.0 ... BUCCANEERS – S.Rice 1.0, W.Sapp 0.5, E.Wyms 0.5.

Weather: Cloudy, 57 degrees
Wind: SW 7 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:09



GAME 7 **MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2002**
PHILADELPHIA 17, NEW YORK 3
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,791



In the final Monday Night Football game at Veterans Stadium, the Eagles piled up 295 yards rushing en route to a hard fought, 17-3 win over the New York Giants. RB Duce Staley registered his 2nd straight 100-yard rushing game with 126 yards on 24 carries and QB Donovan McNabb rushed 7 times for 111 yards, including a spectacular 40-yard TD scamper early in the 4th quarter that broke open a tight game. The Eagles defense did not allow an offensive touchdown for the 4th time this season, holding the Giants to just a 2nd quarter field goal. In a typical Eagles-Giants scrum, four field goals represented the scoring throughout the first 3 quarters of action as both teams squandered scoring opportunities in the process. The Eagles drove into the Giants red zone three straight times in the first half only to settle for 3 points on each occasion. They also saw K David Akers misfire on his first field goal attempt of the season on the opening possession. The Giants, meanwhile, engineered two drives inside the Eagles 20, only to settle for a field goal in the 2nd quarter and a costly fumble by FB Charles Stackhouse out of the end zone for a touchback in the 3rd quarter. Ahead 9-3, early in the 4th quarter the Eagles found themselves backed up at their own 1-yard line after a Giants punt. McNabb and the Eagles methodically moved down the field in nine plays, including a 17-yard run by Staley, a 32-yard pass to Thrash, and a 40-yard jaunt by McNabb into the end zone. On the TD run, McNabb narrowly escaped the grasp of Giants DT Cornelius Griffin and DE Kenny Holmes and received good downfield blocking from WR Todd Pinkston and RB Dorsey Levens as he gave the Eagles a 15-3 lead. McNabb's completion to TE Chad Lewis on the two-point conversion attempt gave Philadelphia a 17-3 lead and completed the scoring.

NOTES: Eagles return specialist Brian Mitchell became the third player in NFL history to register 21,000 all-purpose yards, joining Walter Payton and Jerry Rice ... Staley and McNabb became the first Eagles duo to each amass 100 yards of rushing since October 8, 1995, when RBs Ricky Watters and Charlie Garner scorched Washington ... Staley moved past Timmy Brown (3,703) and Watters (3,794) and into 4th place on the Eagles all-time rushing list on his way to earning Monday Night Football's horse trailer player of the game honors ... McNabb's 40-yard jaunt was the longest scoring run of his career.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
New York	0	3	0	0	- 3
Philadelphia	3	6	0	8	- 17

Phila – D.Akers, 27 FG
NYG – M.Bryant, 26 FG
Phila – D.Akers, 36 FG
Phila – D.Akers, 35 FG
Phila – D.McNabb, 40 run (D.McNabb-C.Lewis pass)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>NYG</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	18	21
Net Yards Gained	348	422
Rushes/Yards	23/103	40/295
Net Yards Passing	245	127
Att/Comp/INT	34/20/0	30/14/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	1/6	1/10
Punts/Average	5/41.6	3/43.3
Fumbles/Lost	5/1	1/0
Penalties/Yards	9/75	9/65
Time of Possession	26:12	33:48

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 24-126, D.McNabb 8-107-1TD, D.Levens 5-33, B.Westbrook 3-29 ... GIANTS – T.Barber 15-79, M.Allen 1-13, R.Dayne 4-11, D.Joyce 1-1, K.Collins 2-(-1).

RECEIVING: EAGLES – J.Thrash 7-69, T.Pinkston 3-20, D.Staley 2-37, C.Martin 1-6, A.Freeman 1-5 ... GIANTS – J.Shockey 6-69, T.Barber 5-92, R.Dixon 2-43, A.Toomer 2-16, C.Stackhouse 2-16, M.Rivers 1-8, D.Joyce 1-5, R.Dayne 1-2.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 30-14-137-0-0 ... GIANTS - K.Collins 34-20-251-0-0.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ... GIANTS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – D.Walker 1.0 ... GIANTS – M.Barrow 0.5, M.Strahan 0.5.

Weather: Partly cloudy, 51 degrees
Wind: NNW 5 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:08



GAME 8 **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2002**
PHILADELPHIA 19, CHICAGO 13
MEMORIAL STADIUM • 54,049



With a dominating 2nd half performance, the Eagles defense paved the way for a 19-13 victory over the Chicago Bears on a cold, rainy afternoon at Memorial Stadium in Champaign, Illinois. David Akers nailed four field goals in the final two quarters as the Eagles battled back from a 13-7 halftime deficit. After a sluggish, mistake-filled first quarter in which 10 flags were thrown by the officials, the Bears lit the scoreboard first with a 30-yard field goal by Paul Edinger early in the 2nd stanza. On the ensuing possession, the Eagles drove 73 yards in 10 plays to take a 7-3 lead on a 5-yard TD run by Donovan McNabb. But the Bears stormed back to finish the first half with 10 points in the final two minutes. First, RB Anthony Thomas rumbled 6 yards for a TD to cap off a 69-yard drive then, with the Eagles driving in Bears territory, McNabb was pressured in the pocket and threw an ill-advised interception to Mike Brown at the CB37. Bears QB Jim Miller completed three passes to the PE35, where Edinger nailed a 53-yard field goal that bounced off the cross bar and in. Down 13-7 at half, the Eagles quickly tied the game with two field goals by Akers on their first two possessions and the defense did the rest. The Eagles simply threw a blanket over the Bears offense, holding them to 53 total yards in the final 30 minutes. During Chicago's 6 possessions, the Eagles held them to 5 rushing yards on 8 attempts, an 0-6 conversion rate on third down, and just 6 first downs. They also recorded three sacks, including a pair by Hugh Douglas in the 4th quarter. The Bears also lost a key fumble early in the 4th quarter when WR Dez White took a pitch from Miller and fumbled. DE Brandon Whiting recovered the ball and set up another Akers field goal to give the Eagles the lead for good at 16-13. After another field goal by Akers with 3:42 to play, the Eagles defense came up with one last stand. The Bears drove to the PE24 with 35 seconds to play, but Miller fired three incomplete passes and was sacked by Douglas.

NOTES: The Eagles made their first-ever visit to Champaign, Illinois, the temporary home for the Bears while Soldier Field underwent renovation ... McNabb rushed for a TD in his fourth consecutive game (tying four others for most consecutive games with a rushing TD by a QB since the 1970 merger) ... 22 penalties were called during the game (9 on Phila, 13 on Chicago) and 18 were enforced (6 on Phila, 12 on Chicago). The Eagles set a team record with 8 first downs via penalty ... Eagles LB Ike Reese made his first NFL start in place of an injured Carlos Emmons (hamstring) ... WR Antonio Freeman had four catches, all resulting in first downs. Three of those plays came on third down.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	0	7	6	6	- 19
Chicago	0	13	0	0	- 13

- Chi** – P.Edinger, 30 FG
- Phila** – D.McNabb, 5 run (Akers)
- Chi** – A.Thomas, 6 run (Edinger)
- Chi** – P.Edinger, 53 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 23 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 36 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 27 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 22 FG

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>PHILA</u>	<u>CHI</u>
First Downs	23	18
Net Yards Gained	309	260
Rushes/Yards	37/117	24/74
Net Yards Passing	192	186
Att/Comp/INT	33/18/1	37/19/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	3/17	3/19
Punts/Average	3/40.0	7/37.4
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	1/1
Penalties/Yards	6/54	12/121
Time of Possession	33:01	26:59

RUSHING: EAGLES –D.McNabb 9-46-1TD, D.Staley 19-39, J.Thrash 3-18, B.Westbrook 4-12, D.Levens 1-2, S.Landeta 1-0 ... BEARS – A.Thomas 16-52-1TD, L.Johnson 7-22, J.Miller 1-0.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – A.Freeman 4-67, C.Lewis 3-23, J.Thrash 3-19, T.Pinkston 2-63, D.Staley 2-19, D.Levens 2-12, C.Martin 1-4, F.Mitchell 1-2 ... BEARS – M.Booker 5-37, A.Thomas 4-52, S.Pritchett 4-39, A.Merritt 2-30, D.White 2-27, M.Robinson 1-12, J.Davis 1-8.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 33-18-209-1-0 ... BEARS – J.Miller 36-19-205-0-0, M.Booker 1-0-0-0-0.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ... BEARS – M.Brown 1-0.

SACKS: EAGLES – H.Douglas 2.0, B.Bishop 1.0 ... BEARS – P.Daniels 2.0, B.Urlacher 1.0.

Weather: Light rain and sleet, 38 degrees

Wind: SW 7 mph

Playing surface: AstroPlay

Time: 3:08



GAME
9

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2002
INDIANAPOLIS 35, PHILADELPHIA 13
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,660



A pair of streaks came to an end as the Indianapolis Colts dominated all facets of the game and ended their three-game losing skid and halted the Eagles three-game win streak with a 35-13 victory at Veterans Stadium. Ironically, it was the largest margin of defeat against the Eagles since a 44-17 thrashing to the Colts at the Vet in 1999. The Colts used a near-perfect outing by QB Peyton Manning (23-18-319-0-3TDs) and spectacular homecomings for WR Marvin Harrison (6-137-2TDs) and rookie RB James Mungro (28-114-2TDs in his first NFL start) to fuel the win. The Eagles had a short-lived lead early in the first quarter after a 34-yard field goal by David Akers on their first possession. Mungro, a native of East Stroudsburg, PA, then ripped off a 49-yard run on the Colts first play from scrimmage and Indianapolis never looked back. Although Mungro fumbled later in that drive at the Eagles one-yard line, he bounced back on their next possession, scoring on a 6-yard run to give Indy a 7-3 lead. On the last play of the first quarter, Manning fired a 57-yard TD strike to Harrison, a product of Roman Catholic HS in Philadelphia, as the Colts quickly built a 14-3 cushion. The Eagles managed to get within eight points late in the 2nd quarter as Akers connected on a 20-yard field goal. Up 14-6, the Colts came out firing in the 3rd stanza, completing all four passes on their first drive, including a 27-yard scoring strike to Reggie Wayne. After McNabb fumbled deep inside Indy territory, the Colts used another Manning-to-Harrison TD connection, this time a 43 yarder, to push the lead to 28-6. Mungro finished off his day with his second TD, a 10-yarder, late in the 4th quarter and became the 6th Colts running back to surpass the 100-yard rushing mark in his first start. McNabb fired a TD pass to TE Jeff Thomason to end the scoring.

NOTES: The last time the Eagles allowed five touchdowns in a game was 11/21/99 against Manning and the Colts ... The last time the Eagles were held without a sack was 11/14/99 at Washington ... Eagles P Sean Landeta played in his 250th NFL game and KR Brian Mitchell in his 200th.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Indianapolis	14	0	14	7	- 35
Philadelphia	3	3	0	7	- 13

Phila – D.Akers, 34 FG
Ind – J.Mungro, 6 run (Vanderjagt)
Ind – M.Harrison, 57 pass from P.Manning (Vanderjagt)
Phila – D.Akers, 20 FG
Ind – R.Wayne, 27 pass from P.Manning (Vanderjagt)
Ind – M.Harrison, 43 pass from P.Manning (Vanderjagt)
Ind – J.Mungro, 10 run (Vanderjagt)
Phila – J.Thomason, 2 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)

TEAM STATISTICS	IND	PHILA
First Downs	18	21
Net Yards Gained	446	374
Rushes/Yards	35/127	22/105
Net Yards Passing	319	269
Att/Comp/INT	23/18/0	48/27/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	0/0	2/12
Punts/Average	5/33.4	3/49.3
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	3/2
Penalties/Yards	3/25	3/25
Time of Possession	30:38	29:22

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 7-62, D.Levens 7-44, D.Staley 6-15, B.Westbrook 1-(-1), T.Pinkston 1-(-15) ...
COLTS – J.Mungro 28-114-2TDs, P.Manning 2-11, A.Denson 2-2, J.Finn 3-0.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – A.Freeman 7-84, D.Staley 4-39, C.Lewis 4-36, T.Pinkston 3-57, C.Martin 3-9, B.Westbrook 2-25, F.Mitchell 2-20, J.Thrash 1-9, J.Thomason 1-2-1TD ...
COLTS – M.Harrison 6-137-2TDs, R.Wayne 6-121-1TD, J.Mungro 2-20, M.Pollard 1-18, Q.Ismail 1-13, T.Walters 1-10, J.Finn 1-0.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 47-27-281-0-1TD, D.Levens 1-0-0-0-0 ...
COLTS – P.Manning 23-18-319-0-3TDs.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ...
COLTS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – 0 ...
COLTS – D.Freeneey 1.0, M.Washington 1.0.

Weather: Mostly Cloudy, 66 degrees
Wind: S 18 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 2:53



GAME
10

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 38, ARIZONA 14
VETERANS STADIUM • 64,990



In one of the most heroic performances in sports history, QB Donovan McNabb, hobbled from a broken ankle, turned in one of the best performances of his young NFL career in defeating the Arizona Cardinals, 38-14, on a cold, rainy afternoon at Veterans Stadium. On the game's third play from scrimmage, McNabb was sacked by Cardinals S Adrian Wilson and LB LeVar Woods rolled his right ankle before fumbling. As McNabb limped to the sidelines and had his right ankle re-taped, the Cardinals took a 7-0 lead with a 12-yard TD pass from Jake Plummer to rookie Jason McAddley. After a 45-yard kickoff return by Brian Mitchell, McNabb returned on the next series and fired a 28-yard pass to James Thrash to set up the Eagles at the AC4. Two plays later, McNabb connected with Thrash again on a 2-yard TD pass, his first of four in the 1st half. Early in the 2nd stanza, the Eagles rode a powerful running attack led by Duce Staley to drive 75 yards for another TD – a 3-yard shovel pass from McNabb to RB Dorsey Levens. Leading 14-7, McNabb made his only miscue of the day, an interception to Wilson, who returned it 35 yards to the Eagles 2-yard line. From there, the Cardinals tied the score at 14 with a 2-yard scoring strike from Plummer to Joel Makovicka. McNabb connected on two more scoring strikes to end the half – a 27-yard strike to Todd Pinkston and a 9-yard pass to Staley, who bowled over two Cardinals defenders into the end zone. Staley, who logged a career-high 31 carries for 135 yards, fueled a 212-yard rushing performance by Philadelphia. The Eagles scored the only points of the second half with a 34-yard FG by David Akers in the third quarter and a 4-yard TD run by Thrash in the fourth.

NOTES: Despite the injury that sidelined him for the remainder of the regular season, McNabb completed a career-high 80% of his passes (20-25) and tied a career high with 4 passing TDs. He also moved past Sonny Jurgensen (9,639) and into 5th place on the Eagles all-time passing yardage list ... McNabb became the first Eagle since Randall Cunningham (9/17/89 at Washington) to throw for 4 TDs in a half ... McNabb completed 12 straight passes to end the game, the second-highest mark in team history ... Staley's 12th 100-yard rushing game tied Ricky Watters for third place in team history and his 217 total yards from scrimmage was third most ever in his career ... Thrash recorded a rushing TD and a receiving TD in the same game for the first time in his career ... Four different Eagles caught TDs for the first time since 11/30/97 vs. Cincinnati.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Arizona	7	7	0	0	- 14
Philadelphia	7	21	3	7	- 38

Arz – J.McAddley, 12 pass from J.Plummer (Gramatica)
Phila – J.Thrash, 2 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Levens, 3 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Arz – J.Makovicka, 2 pass from J.Plummer (Gramatica)
Phila – T.Pinkston, 27 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Staley, 9 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 34 FG
Phila – J.Thrash, 4 run (Akers)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>ARZ</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	15	26
Net Yards Gained	248	462
Rushes/Yards	20/124	43/212
Net Yards Passing	124	250
Att/Comp/INT	35/20/1	25/20/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	4/39	1/5
Punts/Average	5/37.6	2/37.5
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	2/1
Penalties/Yards	1/5	8/88
Time of Possession	23:45	36:15

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 31-135, D.Levens 7-57, B.Westbrook 4-16, J.Thrash 1-4-1TD ... **CARDINALS** – M.Shipp 9-76, T.Jones 9-30, J.Plummer 2-18.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – J.Thrash 7-63-1TD, D.Staley 3-82-1TD, A.Freeman 3-27, T.Pinkston 2-35-1TD, J.Thomason 2-20, F.Mitchell 1-18, C.Martin 1-7, D.Levens 1-3-1TD ... **CARDINALS** – M.Shipp 5-50, F.Jones 4-43, J.Soliday 2-20, A.Jackson 2-17, S.Bush 2-12, J.Makovicka 2-7, T.Jones 2-2, J.McAddley 1-12-1TD.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 25-20-255-1-4TDs ... **CARDINALS** – J.Plummer 35-20-163-1-2TDs.

INTS: EAGLES – B.Taylor 1-3 ... **CARDINALS** – A.Wilson 1-35.

SACKS: EAGLES – H.Douglas 1.0, B.Bishop 1.0, P.Grasmanis 1.0, I.Reese 0.5, N.Kalu 0.5 ... **CARDINALS** – A.Wilson 0.5, L.Woods 0.5.

Weather: Light Rain, 43 degrees

Wind: N 8 mph

Playing surface: NeXturf

Time: 2:46



GAME
11

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 38, SAN FRANCISCO 17
3COM PARK • 67,919



One week after losing the services of Pro Bowl quarterback Donovan McNabb, the Eagles traveled west for a Monday night clash of NFC powerhouses at San Francisco and trounced the 49ers, 38-17. Koy Detmer, making his first start in nearly three seasons, dismantled the 49ers defense with 3 touchdowns (2 passing, 1 rushing) before exiting the game in the 3rd quarter with a gruesome injury - a dislocated elbow on his non-throwing arm. KR Brian Mitchell etched his name in the NFL record books once again with his 13th kick return for a touchdown - a 76-yard punt return - that broke open a tight game in the 2nd quarter. The Eagles defense also took center stage under the bright Monday lights, limiting Pro Bowlers Jeff Garcia, Terrell Owens, and the rest of the explosive 49ers offense to just 17 points on their home turf. After a scoreless first quarter that resembled the defensive struggle in the 2001 match-up of these two teams (a 13-3 Niners win), the Eagles exploded for 21 points in the 2nd quarter. Detmer orchestrated a 12-play, 90-yard drive that was capped off by a 25-yard scoring strike to Todd Pinkston, who outleaped 49ers CB Jason Webster. After forcing the 49ers into their 4th punt in their first four possessions, Mitchell raced 76 yards for his record setting TD return and gave the Eagles a 14-0 lead. The 49ers stormed right back on their next possession as Garcia found Owens on a 32-yard pass play and later on a 3-yd TD connection. With just over two minutes remaining in the half and the Eagles pinned at their own 26 yard line, the Eagles went back on the offensive. A pair of 21-yard plays (a run by WR James Thrash and a catch by TE Chad Lewis) set up Detmer's 11-yard TD throw to Antonio Freeman that gave the Eagles a comfortable 21-7 advantage at halftime. After the 49ers cut into the lead with a field goal by Jeff Chandler, Detmer went back to work. He connected with a highlight film completion to Thrash at the 49ers 1-yard line. From there Detmer plunged the final yard on a QB sneak to give Philadelphia a commanding 28-10 cushion. After another 49ers punt, Detmer completed a 24-yard pass to 2nd string TE Jeff Thomason down to the 6-yard line of SF. On that play however, Detmer fell awkwardly on his left arm and dislocated the elbow. As Detmer lay in obvious pain on the turf of Candlestick Park, the Eagles training staff raced to the fallen quarterback and lifted him on the medical cart. In a classy display of respect and sportsmanship, dozens of players from each team patted the gutsy quarterback on the back and he exited the game. 2nd-year QB A.J. Feeley took over for Detmer and fired a 1-yard scoring strike to Lewis to give the injury-plagued Eagles a 35-10 lead. Although the 49ers would record another Owens TD reception at the tail end of the 3rd quarter, the Eagles defense harassed 49ers quarterbacks for most of the 4th quarter and held on for an emotional 38-17 triumph.

NOTES: Mitchell entered the game tied with Eric Metcalf with 12 combined returns for TD in regular season action ... RB Duce Staley became the third back in team history to record 1,000 rushing attempts ... Detmer was sacked only once in 26 passing attempts and that came on the first play from scrimmage after slipping on the Candlestick Park turf ... Pinkston set a career high with his 5th TD catch of the season ... There were no turnovers in the game ... Mitchell and Detmer shared Monday Night Football's horse trailer player of the game honors, while Mitchell was awarded the NFC special teams player of the week honors.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	0	21	14	3	- 38
San Francisco	0	7	10	0	- 17

- Phila** – T.Pinkston, 25 pass from K.Detmer (Akers)
- Phila** – B.Mitchell, 76 punt return (Akers)
- SF** – T.Owens, 3 pass from J.Garcia (Chandler)
- Phila** – A.Freeman, 11 pass from K.Detmer (Akers)
- SF** – J.Chandler, 35 FG
- Phila** – K.Detmer, 1 run (Akers)
- Phila** – C.Lewis, 1 pass from A.Feeley (Akers)
- SF** – T.Owens, 18 pass from J.Garcia (Chandler)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 43 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	SF
First Downs	19	24
Net Yards Gained	343	409
Rushes/Yards	31/107	18/104
Net Yards Passing	236	305
Att/Comp/INT	29/21/0	63/36/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	1/8	4/32
Punts/Average	5/39.2	6/40.0
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/0
Penalties/Yards	5/41	9/86
Time of Possession	27:38	32:22

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 16-55, J.Thrash 5-29, D.Levens 4-15, B.Westbrook 3-10, K.Detmer 1-1-1TD, A.Feeley 2-(-3) ... 49ERS – G.Hearst 10-65, P.Smith 2-29, J.Garcia 3-13, K.Barlow 3-(-3).

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 6-94-1TD, C.Lewis 5-41-1TD, A.Freeman 4-26-1TD, J.Thrash 2-45, D.Staley 2-12, J.Thomason 1-24, D.Levens 1-2 ... 49ERS – T.Owens 13-166-2TDs, T.Streets 8-65, J.Stokes 5-28, G.Hearst 4-31, P.Smith 2-12, F.Beasley 1-15, C.Wilson 1-9, J.Swift 1-8, K.Barlow 1-3.

PASSING: EAGLES – K.Detmer 26-18-227-0-2TDs (starter), A.Feeley 3-3-17-0-1TD ... 49ERS – J.Garcia 51-29-284-0-2TDs (starter), T.Rattay 12-7-53-0-0.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ... 49ERS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – D.Walker 1.0, S.Brown 1.0, C.Simon 1.0, H.Douglas 1.0 ... 49ERS – A.Carter 0.5, B.Young 0.5.

Weather: Clear, 64 degrees
Wind: SE 8 mph
Playing surface: Grass
Time: 3:39



GAME 12 **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2002**
PHILADELPHIA 10, ST. LOUIS 3
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,552



Kurt Warner and the Rams offense were harassed all day long as the Eagles pushed their record to 9-3 with a 10-3 victory at a frigid Veterans Stadium. The Eagles recorded a season-high 8 sacks and 5 takeaways, including an interception by CB Bobby Taylor that was returned 23 yards for the game's only touchdown. Starting their third quarterback in as many games due to injuries to Donovan McNabb (ankle) and Koy Detmer (elbow), the Eagles turned to third-string signal caller A.J. Feeley, who made his first start since his junior year at Oregon in 1999. Feeley completed 14 of 30 pass attempts for 181 yards and had a 24-yard touchdown pass to WR James Thrash taken away early in the first quarter after a penalty on LT Tra Thomas. Taylor broke a scoreless tie later in the quarter after stepping in front of a Warner pass and racing in for a 7-0 lead. Late in the 2nd quarter, Feeley fired a 41-yard completion to WR Todd Pinkston down to the Rams 12-yard line. After their drive stalled, David Akers connected on a 31-yard field goal to give the Eagles a 10-0 lead. The Rams responded quickly with their two-minute offense, driving into the red zone. From there, Brian Dawkins and Al Harris knocked down passes in the end zone to force the Rams into kicking a 22-yard field goal. In the 2nd half, the Eagles limited the Rams to just 92 total yards while recording 6 sacks, including 3 by reserve DE N.D. Kalu. Warner was intercepted by Troy Vincent in the end zone early in the 3rd quarter to thwart another Rams scoring attempt.

NOTES: The Eagles became the first NFL team to win with three different starting quarterbacks since Jacksonville in 1997 (weeks 1-3) ... The game was a rematch of the 2001 NFC Championship game in which the Rams won, 29-24, at St. Louis ... The eight sacks were the most by Philadelphia since 11/19/00 vs. Arizona ... Taylor's TD was the first TD by the Eagles defense since 12/9/01 vs. San Diego (Brian Dawkins returned a fumble 49 yards for a TD) ... The last time the Rams were held without a TD was in a 16-3 loss at Carolina on 12/3/00 ... Kalu's 3 sacks were the most by an Eagle since Mike Mamula recorded 3 vs. New England on 12/19/99 ... He later earned NFC defensive player of the week honors ... Rams RB Marshall Faulk did not start but returned to the field after a two-game absence (ankle injury).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
St. Louis	0	3	0	0	- 3
Philadelphia	7	3	0	0	- 10

Phila – B.Taylor, 23 interception return (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 31 FG
StL – J.Wilkins, 22 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	STL	PHILA
First Downs	13	12
Net Yards Gained	250	265
Rushes/Yards	20/76	31/108
Net Yards Passing	174	157
Att/Comp/INT	42/20/2	30/14/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	8/44	3/24
Punts/Average	7/39.1	8/36.8
Fumbles/Lost	5/3	4/4
Penalties/Yards	5/35	9/65
Time of Possession	30:39	29:21

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Levens 12-64, D.Staley 14-32, J.Thrash 2-5, B.Westbrook 1-4, A.Feeley 2-3 ... RAMS – L.Gordon 7-30, M.Faulk 9-29, E.Conwell 1-8, I.Bruce 1-6, T.Edwards 1-2, K.Warner 1-1.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 3-64, C.Lewis 3-44, D.Staley 3-22, A.Freeman 2-26, J.Thrash 2-16, B.Westbrook 1-9 ... RAMS – T.Holt 6-80, I.Bruce 5-74, M.Faulk 4-22, R.Proehl 3-29, E.Conwell 2-13.

PASSING: EAGLES – A.Feeley 30-14-181-0-0 ... RAMS – K.Warner 42-20-218-2-0.

INTs: EAGLES – B.Taylor 1-23-1TD, T.Vincent 1-0 ... RAMS – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – N.Kalu 3.0, H.Douglas 2.0, B.Whiting 1.0, S.Barber 1.0, Team 1.0 ... RAMS – G.Wistrom 1.0, L.Little 1.0, J.Zgonina 1.0.

Weather: Partly Cloudy, 34 degrees
Wind: W 23 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:07



GAME 13 **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2002**
PHILADELPHIA 27, SEATTLE 20
SEAHAWKS STADIUM • 59,862



Traveling to the West Coast for the second time in less than two weeks, the Eagles shook off the jet lag and posted their fourth straight victory with a 27-20 decision at Seattle. The Eagles also won their third consecutive decision with a backup quarterback at the helm as A.J. Feeley, native of Ontario, Oregon, made a homecoming of sorts to the Pacific Northwest and fired 2 TD passes in the victory. Bobby Taylor registered a career-best two interceptions to pace another strong defensive effort, which included four sacks and numerous other pressures of Seahawks signal caller Matt Hasselbeck. However, Hasselbeck and the Seahawks started very strong, posting two impressive drives deep into Eagles territory but came away with just 6 points on a pair of Rian Lindell field goals. Down 6-0, Eagles kick return specialist Brian Mitchell sparked the club with a 32-yard scamper on the ensuing kickoff to the PE45. Feeley directed a 9-play drive that resulted in a 6-yard TD pass to WR James Thrash. The next two Seahawk possessions ended with an interception by Taylor. Although the Eagles could not capitalize on the first turnover, they did on the second as Feeley connected with WR Todd Pinkston on a 17-yard completion before RB Duce Staley raced 21 yards for the score and a 14-6 lead. Two field goals by David Akers finished off the scoring in the first half as Philadelphia took a commanding 20-6 cushion into the locker room. Early in the 3rd quarter, the turnover bug struck the Seahawks again as rookie CB Sheldon Brown hauled in a Hasselbeck pass and returned it to the SS39. From there, Feeley connected with Pinkston on a nicely thrown 20-yard scoring pass to widen the lead to 27-6. The Seahawks would battle back with two TDs, including one in the game's final minute, but WR Freddie Mitchell scooped up an onsidess kick attempt to seal the win.

NOTES: Taylor, who became the first Eagle to record INTs in consecutive games since Troy Vincent did so in weeks 3-4 of 2000, left the game after his 2nd interception with neck spasms and a mild concussion ... DE Brandon Whiting tied a career high with two sacks. Interestingly, his other two-sack outing came at Seattle in 2001 ... DE N.D. Kalu knifed through the line on a punt attempt by the Seahawks and tackled Seattle punter Jeff Feagles for a 15-yard loss. He also added a sack ... Reid is 2-0 vs. his mentor, Mike Holmgren, who hired him to his Green Bay staff in 1992 ... Rookie SS Michael Lewis made his first NFL start in place of Blaine Bishop (groin) and recorded a team-high 12 tackles.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	7	13	7	0	- 27
Seattle	6	0	7	7	- 20

- Sea** – R.Lindell, 34 FG
- Sea** – R.Lindell, 43 FG
- Phila** – J.Thrash, 6 pass from A.Feeley (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Staley, 21 run (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 33 FG
- Phila** – D.Akers, 40 FG
- Phila** – T.Pinkston, 20 pass from A.Feeley (Akers)
- Sea** – K.Robinson, 8 pass from M.Hasselbeck (Lindell)
- Sea** – J.Stevens, 11 pass from M.Hasselbeck (Lindell)

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	SEA
First Downs	20	24
Net Yards Gained	316	367
Rushes/Yards	31/126	25/172
Net Yards Passing	190	195
Att/Comp/INT	36/21/1	45/24/3
Sacked/Yards Lost	0/0	4/28
Punts/Average	6/35.2	4/36.3
Fumbles/Lost	3/0	0/0
Penalties/Yards	3/15	8/56
Time of Possession	30:37	29:23

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 21-100-1TD, D.Levens 5-19, B.Westbrook 2-7, A.Feeley 3-0 ... SEAHAWKS – S.Alexander 17-123, M.Hasselbeck 6-62, H.Evans 1-2, J.Feagles 1-(-15)

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 7-88-1TD, J.Thrash 5-23-1TD, D.Levens 3-30, C.Lewis 3-19, A.Freeman 2-24, D.Staley 1-6 ... SEAHAWKS – B.Ingram 5-48, K.Robinson 4-44-1TD, D.Jackson 3-34, J.Stevens 3-32-1TD, S.Alexander 3-8, I.Mili 2-24, H.Evans 2-17, M.Strong 2-16

PASSING: EAGLES – A.Feeley 35-21-190-1-2TDs, D.Levens 1-0-0-0-0 ... SEAHAWKS – M.Hasselbeck 45-24-223-3-2TDs

INTs: EAGLES – B.Taylor 2-17, S.Brown 1-12 ... SEAHAWKS – A.Simmons 1-4

SACKS: EAGLES – B.Whiting 2.0, H.Douglas 1.0, N.Kalu 1.0 ... SEAHAWKS – 0.

Weather: Sunny, 45 degrees
Wind: S 5 mph
Playing surface: FieldTurf
Time: 3:31



GAME
14

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2002
PHILADELPHIA 34, WASHINGTON 21
VETERANS STADIUM • 65,615



In the final regular season game ever at Veterans Stadium, the Eagles captured their second consecutive NFC East title for the first time in team history with a 34-21 victory over the visiting Redskins. QB A.J. Feeley won his third consecutive start in place of an injured Donovan McNabb (ankle) and Koy Detmer (elbow), throwing for 220 yards and two touchdowns and LB Carlos Emmons returned a fumble 44 yards for his first career TD to help the Eagles pull away in the 3rd stanza. RB Duce Staley, who accounted for 106 yards of total offense and 2 TDs, opened the scoring in the first quarter after taking a screen pass from Feeley and scampering 38 yards for a 7-0 lead. After a 28-yard field goal by David Akers on the first play of the 2nd quarter, the Eagles used a 53-yard catch-and-run by FB Cecil Martin and a 7-yard completion to Freddie Mitchell to set up Staley's 1-yard TD run. Redskins quarterback Patrick Ramsey fired the first of his three TD passes on the day in the 2nd quarter to cut the lead to 17-7 at the half. The Eagles took complete control of the game in the third quarter, however, as Emmons fell on a fumbled handoff to Ladell Betts. Without being touched on the ground, Emmons rose to his feet and rumbled for the TD. Later, Feeley fired a 6-yard completion to Antonio Freeman to build a 31-7 cushion.

NOTES: Brian Mitchell moved past Walter Payton and into 2nd place on the NFL's all-time combined net yards list ... David Akers shattered his own club record of most points in season with a 45-yard field goal in the 4th quarter ... The Eagles became the first team since the Dallas Cowboys (1995-96) to capture two straight NFC East championships ... The Eagles wore green jerseys and green pants for the second time in team history ... Michael Lewis started in place of strong safety Blaine Bishop for the 2nd straight week and recorded his first career sack.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Washington	0	7	0	14	- 21
Philadelphia	7	10	14	3	- 34

- Phila** – D.Staley, 38 pass from A.Feeley (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 28 FG
- Phila** – D.Staley, 1 run (Akers)
- Was** – C.Doering, 15 pass from P.Ramsey (Cortez)
- Phila** – C.Emmons, 44 fumble return (Akers)
- Phila** – A.Freeman, 6 pass from A.Feeley
- Was** – R.Gardner, 30 pass from P.Ramsey (Cortez)
- Was** – D.Thompson, 21 pass from P.Ramsey (Cortez)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 45 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	WAS	PHILA
First Downs	16	15
Net Yards Gained	292	320
Rushes/Yards	25/86	30/110
Net Yards Passing	206	210
Att/Comp/INT	35/23/0	28/16/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	2/7	2/10
Punts/Average	7/49.3	7/33.4
Fumbles/Lost	3/3	1/0
Penalties/Yards	9/73	11/91
Time of Possession	29:48	30:12

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 20-62-1TD, D.Levens 8-43, A.Feeley 2-5 ... REDSKINS – L.Betts 16-49, S.Davis 2-24, K.Watson 4-9, P.Ramsey 2-3, R.Gardner 1-1.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 5-49, C.Martin 3-59, D.Staley 2-44-1TD, C.Lewis 2-44, D.Levens 2-11, F.Mitchell 1-7, A.Freeman 1-6-1TD ... REDSKINS – D.Thompson 7-70-1TD, D.McCants 4-39, R.Gardner 3-58-1TD, R.Cartwright 3-15, L.Betts 2-7, K.Watson 2-1, C.Doering 1-15-1TD, Z.Flemister 1-8.

PASSING: EAGLES – A.Feeley 28-16-220-1-2TDs ... REDSKINS – P.Ramsey 35-23-213-0-3TDs.

INTs: EAGLES – 0 ... REDSKINS – F.Smoot 1-0.

SACKS: EAGLES – M.Lewis 1.0, C.Emmons 0.5, H.Douglas 0.5 ... REDSKINS – L.Arrington 1.0, J.Armstead 1.0.

Weather: Partly Cloudy, 42 degrees

Wind: WNW 21 mph

Playing surface: NeXturf

Time: 3:10



GAME 15 **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2002**
PHILADELPHIA 27, DALLAS 3
TEXAS STADIUM • 63,209



The Eagles tied a team record with their 12th win of the season as they dominated the Dallas Cowboys, 27-3, in front of a nationally televised audience (ESPN) at Texas Stadium. Philadelphia used a suffocating performance by their defense, holding the Cowboys to just 146 yards (2.9 per play), a 0-12 conversion rate on third down, while forcing three more take-aways, including an 80-yard interception return for a touchdown by LB Shawn Barber. 3rd string QB A.J. Feeley improved his record to 4-0 as a starter as he threw for 253 yards and a TD and RB Duce Staley eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark for the season with 56 yards and a touchdown that opened the scoring in the first stanza. That touchdown was set up by a 25-yard punt return by Brian Mitchell that put the Eagles at their own 47-yard line. Early in the 2nd quarter, Philadelphia faced a 3rd-and-11 at their own 26-yard line. With an all-out blitz coming by the Cowboys, Feeley neatly handed off to rookie RB Brian Westbrook, who raced 18 yards for a clutch first down. Feeley later completed a picture-perfect touchdown pass to WR Todd Pinkston (14 yards), who neatly kept both feet in bounds while hauling in the touch pass by the 2nd-year quarterback. Later in the quarter with the Eagles pinned in at their own 2-yard line, Feeley calmly directed an 84-yard drive that led to a 32-yard field goal by Akers to give the Eagles a 17-0 lead. On that drive, Feeley connected with Antonio Freeman on a 41-yard completion down to the Cowboys 6-yard line. Early in the 3rd quarter, Brian Dawkins sacked and forced a fumble by Cowboys QB Chad Hutchinson that was recovered by DT Corey Simon. But the Eagles could not convert as Feeley had a pass tipped and intercepted by Roy Williams in the end zone. Down 17-0, Cowboys PR Joey Galloway sparked the Cowboys with a 71-yard punt return to the PE9. After a 6-yard run by Emmitt Smith, Carlos Emmons stopped Hutchinson on a scramble before Dawkins pressured him into throwing a pass away. On 4th down, the Cowboys went for it, but Hutchinson misfired on a fade route in the end zone to keep Dallas off the board. The Eagles shutout bid ended early in the 4th quarter when Billy Cundiff nailed a 42-yard field goal. Down 17-3, the Cowboys appeared poised for a comeback when Feeley was intercepted by Pete Hunter. But on a first down play at the PE21, Eagles DE Brandon Whiting hit Hutchinson as he was attempting a pass to Smith. The wobbly ball was caught by Barber and returned 80 yards for a touchdown. On the ensuing kickoff, Cowboys castaway Keith Adams drilled Woodrow Dantzler who fumble away the ball to Dameane Douglas. Akers converted a 39-yard field goal attempt to finish the scoring at 27-3.

NOTES: The Eagles defense had its best game in terms of 3rd down conversions in team history. It was the fifth time in team history they have held an opponent without a 3rd down conversion and the first since 12/14/96 at NY Jets (0-8). In 1992, the Broncos had the most 3rd down situations (11) without gaining a first down vs. the Eagles. Since the statistic was first kept by the NFL in 1972, the all-time record is 0-14 set by Denver in 1975 vs. San Diego ... The Eagles shattered the team record for most points scored in a season (396 in 1990) and won their sixth straight game for the first time since 1991 ... The Eagles defense has recorded at least one touchdown in each of their last three games at Texas Stadium ... Westbrook posted a career-high 55 rushing yards ... The Eagles have outscored the Cowboys, 204-64, in their last 6 games vs. Dallas ... Barber's interception return for a TD was the 2nd of his career ... The Eagles allowed season lows in total net yards (146), first downs (9), and third down conversions (0-12).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Philadelphia	7	10	0	10	- 27
Dallas	0	0	0	3	- 3

- Phila** – D.Staley, 5 run (Akers)
- Phila** – T.Pinkston, 14 pass from A.Feeley (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 32 FG
- Dal** – B.Cundiff, 42 FG
- Phila** – S.Barber, 80 interception return (Akers)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 39 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	DAL
First Downs	17	9
Net Yards Gained	359	146
Rushes/Yards	32/114	19/68
Net Yards Passing	245	78
Att/Comp/INT	33/19/2	24/15/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	1/8	7/50
Punts/Average	6/33.2	8/41.6
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	6/2
Penalties/Yards	10/67	7/69
Time of Possession	31:43	28:17

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 19-56-1TD, B.Westbrook 8-55, D.Levens 2-2, A.Feeley 2-2, J.Thrash 1-(-1) ... COWBOYS – E.Smith 8-30, C.Hutchinson 4-28, M.Wiley 1-6, T.Hambrick 6-4.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – A.Freeman 4-82, T.Pinkston 4-55-1TD, C.Lewis 3-34, D. Staley 3-27, F. Mitchell 2-17, J.Thrash 1-34, D.Levens 1-5, B.Westbrook 1-(-1) ... COWBOYS – A.Bryant 3-34, T.McGee 3-28, J.Whalen 3-24, D.Scott 2-25, E.Smith 2-6, T.Hambrick 1-6, R.Thomas 1-5.

PASSING: EAGLES – A.Feeley 33-19-253-2-1TD ... COWBOYS – C.Hutchinson 24-15-128-1-0.

INTs: EAGLES – S.Barber 1-80-1TD ... COWBOYS – P.Hunter 1-16, Ro.Williams 1-0.

SACKS: EAGLES – N.Kalu 2.0, B.Dawkins 1.0, C.Emmons 1.0, B.Whiting 1.0, P.Grasmanis 1.0, D.Walker 1.0 ... COWBOYS – T.Dixon 1.0.

Weather: Clear, 62 degrees

Wind: N 5 mph

Playing surface: Artificial

Time: 2:56



GAME 16 **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2002**
NEW YORK 10, PHILADELPHIA 7 (OT)
GIANTS STADIUM • 78,782



The Eagles needed a win to clinch home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The Giants needed a win to clinch a wild card playoff berth. The stage was set for an emotional battle at Giants Stadium and both teams treated the crowd to a playoff-like atmosphere in what was the regular season finale. Giants kicker Matt Bryant booted a game-winning, 39-yard field goal five minutes into the overtime session as the New Yorkers stung the Eagles with a 10-7 defeat. The game stretched into overtime after Eagles kicker David Akers misfired on a 35-yard field goal with less than two minutes remaining in regulation. The Eagles jumped out of the gate quickly on their very first possession of the game, driving 67 yards in four plays. After a run for a loss and a false start penalty, the Eagles faced 2nd and 18 deep in their own territory. But A.J. Feeley, who made his fifth start in place of injured QBs Donovan McNabb and Koy Detmer, fired two long completions – a 20 yarder to Jeff Thomason and a 35 yarder by Duce Staley – to get the Eagles down to the Giants 20 yard line. From there, Eagles coach Andy Reid reached into his bag of tricks and utilized a double reverse. WR James Thrash took the handoff from WR Freddie Mitchell and scampered through a maze of blockers 20 yards into the end zone. On the ensuing drive, the Giants were poised to tie the game after driving to the Eagles 6-yard line. But the Eagles picked a great time to record their first-ever interception vs. Kerry Collins (239 previous attempts without an Eagles INT) as rookie SS Michael Lewis snared a deflected pass in the end zone in front of Giants TE Jeremy Shockey. Late in the 2nd half the Giants found themselves deep inside Eagles territory at the 3-yard line. But Eagles MLB Levon Kirkland disrupted a handoff attempt to Tiki Barber and Brandon Whiting pounced on the loose ball to keep the Giants scoreless once again. Early in the 3rd quarter, Barber was forced to fumble by Lewis at midfield. Kirkland recovered, but the Eagles stalled on the drive and were forced to punt. The Giants drove right back down the field once again, but missed a 36-yard field goal. The shutout was intact by the Eagles until midway through the 4th quarter, when Shockey hauled in an 8-yard pass from Collins to tie the score. After the Eagles downed a punt inside the Giants 10-yard line, Barber fumbled for the third time as Brian Dawkins stripped the ball away and Lewis came up with it at the Giants 26. Staley ran six straight times to the Giants 17-yard line, but Akers misfired on the field goal attempt. The Eagles won the coin toss in overtime and used a 32-yard return by Brian Mitchell to set them up at their own 45-yard line. Feeley, however, was intercepted by Shaun Williams at the NYG37. The Giants drove to the Eagles 22-yard line to set up the game-winning field goal.

NOTES: Lewis started his fourth straight game in place of Blaine Bishop and recorded his first career INT, a forced fumble, and a fumble recovery ... Brian Mitchell became the 2nd player in NFL history (Jerry Rice) to record 22,000 combined net yards ... Freddie Mitchell started in place of an injured Todd Pinkston (toe) and caught four passes ... Hugh Douglas moved past Greg Brown (50.5) and into third place on the Eagles all-time sack list ... The Eagles were held to season lows in points (7), total net yards (209), and first downs (9).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Pts
Philadelphia	7	0	0	0	0	7
New York	0	0	0	7	3	10

Phila – J.Thrash, 20 run (Akers)
NYG – J.Shockey, 7 pass from K.Collins (Bryant)
NYG – M.Bryant, 39 FG

TEAM STATISTICS	PHILA	NYG
First Downs	9	23
Net Yards Gained	209	461
Rushes/Yards	23/65	39/213
Net Yards Passing	144	248
Att/Comp/INT	25/13/1	35/25/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	1/6	1/8
Punts/Average	8/40.5	4/34.8
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	7/3
Penalties/Yards	8/55	7/64
Time of Possession	26:04	39:06

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 17-28, J.Thrash 1-20-1TD, D.Levens 4-18, A.Feeley 1-(-1) ... GIANTS – T.Barber 32-203, K.Collins 6-8, R.Dayne 1-2.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – F.Mitchell 4-35, D.Staley 3-39, J.Thomason 2-37, C.Lewis 1-16, C.Martin 1-11, J.Thrash 1-8, A.Freeman 1-4 ... GIANTS – J.Shockey 10-98-1TD, T.Barber 8-73, A.Toomer 2-57, D.Campbell 2-8, Daryl Jones 1-8, R.Dayne 1-8, C.Stackhouse 1-4.

PASSING: EAGLES – A.Feeley 25-13-150-1-0 ... GIANTS – K.Collins 35-25-256-1-1TD.

INTS: EAGLES – M.Lewis 1-0 ... GIANTS – S.Williams 1-0.

SACKS: EAGLES – H.Douglas 1.0 ... GIANTS – K.Holmes 1.0.

Weather: Sunny, 34 degrees
Wind: NW 10 mph
Playing surface: Grass
Time: 2:59



NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF GAME

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2003
PHILADELPHIA 20, ATLANTA 6
VETERANS STADIUM • 66,452



The Eagles advanced to the NFC Championship for the 2nd straight season with a 20-6 win over the visiting Atlanta Falcons. Donovan McNabb returned to action for the first time in nearly two months after a suffering a broken ankle on November 17 and completed 67% of his passes for 247 yards and a touchdown. McNabb also displayed his mobility on his 2nd play from scrimmage, dashing out of the pocket for a 19-yard running play. Although the Eagles did not score on that drive, they did light the scoreboard quickly thereafter. On the Falcons next possession, Eagles cornerback Bobby Taylor snared a Michael Vick aerial at the Falcons 39-yard line and scooted into the end zone for a 7-0 lead. The Eagles defense harassed Vick all day long, sacking him 3 times, intercepting him twice, and limiting him to just 30 yards rushing on 6 attempts. Later in the first quarter, McNabb converted two big gains with his arm – a 15 yarder to Chad Lewis and a 24 yarder to Todd Pinkston – to set up a 34-yard field goal by David Akers. Eagles DT Corey Simon smothered another Falcons drive after halting Falcons RB T.J. Duckett on a 3rd-and-1 rushing attempt. McNabb connected with James Thrash on a 42-yard pass play to set up another Akers field goal giving Philadelphia a 13-0 lead. Vick orchestrated two long scoring drives that ended in field goals to finish the first half at 13-6. The third quarter was marred by a pair of missed field goals as Akers nailed the upright on a 51-yard attempt and Falcons kicker Jay Feely misfired on a 37-yard attempt. After the Eagles held the Falcons on a drive early in the 4th, McNabb embarked on a crucial drive with 12:08 to play at their own 25-yard line. McNabb completed key third down passes to running backs Dorsey Levens (17 yards) and Brian Westbrook (13 yards) as the Eagles drove into Falcons territory. But the Eagles could not convert a third-and-one situation at the Falcons 35. With 6:34 to play and a strong wind howling in their faces, Eagles head coach Andy Reid decided to go for it. Not only did they convert the first down, Thrash hauled in a 10-yard completion from McNabb, eluded Falcons cornerback Ray Buchanan, and raced the final 25 yards into the end zone. Armed with a 20-6 lead, the Eagles defense finished exactly how they started – with an interception. This time by FS Brian Dawkins who put the finishing touches on a defensive masterpiece.

NOTES: With his 4th postseason win, Reid moved past Greasy Neale and Dick Vermeil and into first place on the franchise's all-time list for most wins in the playoffs ... The Eagles did not commit a turnover for the first time in franchise playoff history ... Taylor, who has played in more playoff games than any player in team history, recorded the longest INT return in his career and earned NFL defensive player of the week honors ... Akers became the club's all-time postseason leader in points scored, field goals, and extra points ... McNabb tied Ron Jaworski's club record for TD passes in the playoffs and surpassed his record in completions ... Prior to the game, Simon's wife, Natasha, gave birth to the couple's first child, Corey Jr. He also recorded a sack of Vick.



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Atlanta	0	6	0	0	- 6
Philadelphia	10	3	0	7	- 20

Phila – B.Taylor, 39 interception return (Akers)
Phila – D.Akers, 34 FG
Phila – D.Akers, 39 FG
Atl – J.Feely, 34 FG
Atl – J.Feely, 52 FG
Phila – J.Thrash, 35 pass from D.McNabb (Akers)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>ATL</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	19	15
Net Yards Gained	354	318
Rushes/Yards	24/93	26/91
Net Yards Passing	261	227
Att/Comp/INT	39/23/2	30/20/0
Sacked/Yards Lost	3/27	2/20
Punts/Average	5/38.2	5/41.4
Fumbles/Lost	2/0	2/0
Penalties/Yards	9/95	3/30
Time of Possession	30:33	29:27

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 18-63, D.McNabb 4-24, J.Thrash 2-4, B.Westbrook 1-0, D.Levens 1-0 ... **FALCONS** – W.Dunn 14-45, M.Vick 6-30, Q.McCord 2-13, T.Duckett 2-5.

RECEIVING: EAGLES – T.Pinkston 5-48, D.Staley 5-39, J.Thrash 2-77-1TD, C.Lewis 2-22, C.Martin 2-18, B.Westbrook 2-17, D.Levens 1-17, A.Freeman 1-9 ... **FALCONS** – W.Dunn 6-56, B.Finneran 5-72, A.Crumpler 4-66, T.Gaylor 3-28, Q.McCord 2-31, R.Kelly 2-17, T.Duckett 1-18.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 30-20-247-0-1TD ... **FALCONS** – M.Vick 38-22-274-2-0, D.Johnson 1-1-14-0-0.

INTs: EAGLES – B.Taylor 1-39-1TD, B.Dawkins 1-21 ... **FALCONS** – 0.

SACKS: EAGLES – B.Whiting 1.0, C.Simon 1.0, D.Walker 1.0 ... **FALCONS** – K.Brooking 1.0, P.Kerney 1.0.

Weather: Clear, 29 degrees
Wind: W 10 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:22



NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2003
TAMPA BAY 27, PHILADELPHIA 10
VETERANS STADIUM • 66,713



The Eagles came up short in the NFC Championship game for the second straight season as they fell to the visiting Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 27-10, in the final football game ever at Veterans Stadium. The Vet was rocking early on as Brian Mitchell took the opening kickoff 70 yards to the TB26. Two plays later, Duce Staley raced 20 yards for a touchdown giving the Eagles a 7-0 lead just 52 seconds into the game. However, the Bucs responded on the ensuing possession with a 48-yard field goal by Martin Gramatica. Later in the first quarter, Eagles CB Bobby Taylor snared a pass by Brad Johnson inside Bucs territory. The Eagles could not respond with points and instead pinned the Bucs inside the 5-yard line on a pooch punt by Lee Johnson. Tampa Bay did get some breathing room and faced a 3rd-and-2 situation at their own 24 when Johnson connected with WR Joe Jurevicius on a 71-yard catch-and-run down to the PE5. Two plays later, Bucs RB Mike Alstott plunged in from one yard out to give them a 10-7 lead. The Eagles tied the game in the second quarter with a 30-yard field goal by David Akers, but Tampa Bay used a 9-yard scoring pass from Brad Johnson to Keyshawn Johnson late in the 2nd quarter to take the lead for good. The Eagles offense struggled to get on track throughout most of the 2nd half as the Bucs took a 20-10 lead into the fourth quarter. Down by 10, Donovan McNabb and the Eagles moved deep into Bucs territory with under four minutes to play and threatened to shift the momentum back in their favor. But Tampa Bay CB Ronde Barber stepped in front of a McNabb pass and raced 92 yards for a score that ended the Eagles comeback attempt.

NOTES: Prior to the game, honorary captain Wilbert Montgomery took a handoff from Ron Jaworski in a re-enactment of his 42-yard TD run in the 1980 NFC Championship game win over Dallas ... McNabb moved past Ron Jaworski and into first place on the club's all-time post-season list for attempts (248) and past Randall Cunningham for yards passing (1,459) ... With kickoff returns of 70 and 43 yards, Mitchell had the longest and 3rd longest KORs in Eagles post-season history.



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Tampa Bay	10	7	3	7	- 27
Philadelphia	7	3	0	0	- 10

- Phila** – D.Staley, 20 run (Akers)
- TB** – M.Gramatica, 48 FG
- TB** – M.Alstott, 1 run (Gramatica)
- Phila** – D.Akers, 30 FG
- TB** – K.Johnson, 9 pass from B.Johnson (Gramatica)
- TB** – M.Gramatica, 27 FG
- TB** – R.Barber, 92 interception return (Gramatica)

<u>TEAM STATISTICS</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>PHILA</u>
First Downs	15	20
Net Yards Gained	308	312
Rushes/Yards	32/49	21/80
Net Yards Passing	259	232
Att/Comp/INT	33/20/1	49/26/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	0/0	2/11
Punts/Average	7/36.3	7/39.9
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/2
Penalties/Yards	3/16	5/45
Time of Possession	30:53	29:07

RUSHING: EAGLES – D.Staley 13-58-1TD, D.McNabb 3-17, B.Westbrook 2-5, D.Levens 3-0 ... BUCCANEERS – M.Alstott 17-25-1TD, M.Pittman 8-17, A.Stecker 1-9, B.Johnson 6-(-2).

RECEIVING: EAGLES – C.Lewis 6-65, D.Staley 6-26, A.Freeman 5-66, J.Thrash 4-23, T.Pinkston 3-51, B.Westbrook 1-8, C.Martin 1-4 ... BUCCANEERS – M.Pittman 5-53, K.McCardell 5-37, K.Dilger 3-41, K.Johnson 3-40-1TD, J.Jurevicius 1-71, K.Williams 1-7, R.Dudley 1-7, A.Stecker 1-3.

PASSING: EAGLES – D.McNabb 49-26-243-1-0 ... BUCCANEERS – B.Johnson 33-20-259-1-1TD.

INTs: EAGLES – B.Taylor 1-1 ... BUCCANEERS – R.Barber 1-92-1TD.

SACKS: EAGLES – 0 ... BUCCANEERS – R.Barber 1.0, S.Rice 1.0.

Weather: Mostly cloudy, 26 degrees
Wind: WNW 14 mph
Playing surface: NeXturf
Time: 3:19

