



GAME 1
Sunday, August 31, 1997
NY Giants 31, Philadelphia 17
Giants Stadium



The Eagles opened their third season under the direction of head coach Ray Rhodes with a trip to the Meadowlands where they fell to the host New York Giants, 31-17. The New Yorkers turned a 14-3 half-time lead into a 24-3 advantage before backup quarterback Rodney Peete came on midway through the third quarter to rally the Eagles. Rhodes inserted Peete into the lineup after starter Ty Detmer (25-9-103-0-0TDs) and the Birds' offense failed to get in synch. Peete quickly led two TD drives. The first, a 10-play, 81-yd TD drive, was highlighted by Mark Seay's diving catch of a 38-yd pass and capped off by a Ricky Watters' TD run. The second came on Philadelphia's next possession when Peete finished off a 10-play, 68-yd drive with a scoring toss to FB Kevin Turner that brought the Birds to within 7 points at 24-17. Minutes later, Seay's 42-yd punt return into New York territory put Philadelphia in position to tie the game. Peete, however, was victimized by Giants' rookie safety Sam Garnes, who intercepted a pass intended for Irving Fryar and raced 95 yards for a TD and a 31-17 Giants lead with 4:58 to play. Chad Bratzke sealed the Birds' fate shortly thereafter when his sack of Peete (one of nine overall on the day by the Giants) resulted in a fumble that New York recovered ... The Giants had jumped out to a 7-0 lead when FB Charles Way took a short pass from Dave Brown and raced 62 yds to set up Brown's 3-yd TD run on a quarterback draw. New York missed an opportunity to take a 14-3 lead early in the 2nd quarter when miscommunication in the Eagles secondary resulted in WR Thomas Lewis being left all alone deep down the sideline. Lewis, however, stumbled after making the catch and New York eventually missed a FG. Nonetheless, the Giants did add a TD just before the half when rookie RB Tiki Barber's 21-yd run and 28-yd catch set up Chris Calloway's brilliant grab of a TD bullet from Brown. After intermission, Lewis returned the opening kickoff of the 2nd half 84 yds to the PE 8. Two Barber runs later, New York went on top 24-3 ... While New York had five plays of 20-yds-or-more in the first half, Philadelphia shot themselves in the foot with nine penalties during the same span, and went on to finish the day with 11 penalties in all ... For the Giants, Barber finished the day 20-88-1TD rushing and 3-32 receiving in his pro debut; Brown was 27-13-193-0-1TD passing and ran for one score. Philadelphia's Peete was 23-17-268-1-1TD in his one-and-a-half quarters of action ... Philadelphia opened the game without four projected starters - LB Darrin Smith and WR Chris T. Jones, who were game-day deactivations due to nagging ankle and knee injuries, respectively. CB Bobby Taylor, who saw little preseason action due to a pulled groin, played only in a limited role. Likewise, veteran RT Richard Cooper, who suffered a torn tricep muscle in the preseason, was idle after having been placed on the Injured reserve list. During the game, the Birds lost WR/KR Antwuan Wyatt, a promising rookie 6th round pick, for the season when Wyatt suffered a ruptured ACL in his left knee.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 18-81-1TD, T.Detmer 3-20, C.Garner 4-12, K.Turner 1-7 ...
Philadelphia	3	0	7	7	17	GIANTS - T.Barber 20-88-1TD, D.Brown 4-8-1TD, C.Way 3-5
NY Giants	7	7	10	7	31	

NYG - D.Brown, 3 run (Daluiso)
 PHI - Boniol, 48 FG
 NYG - Calloway, 9 pass from Brown (Daluiso)
 NYG - Barber, 1 run (Daluiso)
 NYG - Daluiso, 39 FG
 PHI - Watters, 3 run (Boniol)
 PHI - K.Turner, 14 pass from Peete (Boniol)
 NYG - Garnes, 95 INT return (Daluiso)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - M.Timpson 9-125, R.Watters 4-58, I.Fryar 4-40, C.Lewis 3-34, K.Turner 2-50-1TD, C.Garner 2-23, M.Seay 1-38, J.Dunn 1-3 ... GIANTS - C.Calloway 4-42-1TD, C.Way 3-63, T.Barber 3-32, T.Lewis 1-34, I.Hilliard 1-19, H.Cross 1-3

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer (starter) 25-9-103-0-0TD, R.Peete 23-17-268-1-1TD ... GIANTS - D.Brown 27-13-193-0-1TD

	PHILA	NYG
First Downs	24	12
Net Yards Gained	447	290
Rushes/Yards	26/120	27/101
Net Yards Passing	327	189
Att/Comp/INT	48/26/1	27/13/0
Times Sacked/Yards	9/44	1/4
Punts/Avg.	8/41.9	8/45.4
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	11/85	7/60

INTs: EAGLES - 0 ... GIANTS - S.Garnes 1

SACKS: EAGLES - J.Jones 1 ... GIANTS - M.Strahan 2.5, R.Harris 1.5, C.Bratzke 1, K.Hamilton 1, J.Sehorn 1, C.Miller 1, R.Phillips 1

Attendance (70,296)
 Weather (Partly sunny, 73)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)



GAME 2
Sunday, September 7, 1997
Philadelphia 10, Green Bay 9
Veterans Stadium



In a game that featured a furious finish, the Eagles upended the defending Super Bowl champion Packers 10-9. With a solid defensive effort, Philadelphia held Green Bay to just three field goals. As such, the Birds halted all-pro QB Brett Favre and the Packers string of 85 straight regular and post-season games with a touchdown ... Trailing 9-3 with 11:18 left to play, Philadelphia capped a 19-play, 80-yard drive with a 2-yard scoring toss from QB Ty Detmer to WR Freddie Solomon. The extra point kick by Chris Boniol gave the Eagles their first lead of the day at 10-9. Moments later, Bill Schroeder returned the ensuing kickoff 40 yards to the GB 47 to give the Pack good field position with 1:48 left on the clock. Then, after LB William Thomas sacked Favre on 3rd-n-10, Favre and WR Derrick Mayes hooked up on a 28-yard completion to put Green Bay at the Birds 31. Five Dorsey Levens runs later, rookie kicker Ryan Longwell pushed a 28-yard FG try wide to the right and Philadelphia had its first win of the '97 season ... The Eagles defenders held Favre to just 19 completions in 41 attempts but saved their best for short-yardage situations. Trailing 3-0 late in the first half after Boniol misfired on a 48-yd FG try (his first miss in 29 atts.), Philadelphia's defense stiffened deep in its own end. Five straight times the Pack had a crack at the end zone from inside the Birds 4-yard line. Five straight times the Birds shut the door. The result was a Longwell FG and only a 6-0 halftime lead for Green Bay. After intermission, Philadelphia had its third scoring opportunity of the day when DT Rhett Hall intercepted a shovel pass by Favre at the PE 46 and returned it 39 yds. to the GB 15. (Earlier, in the first quarter, Philadelphia's Detmer fumbled a snap at the Packers 1-yard line; then, in the 2nd quarter, after MLB James Willis recovered a fumble by Packers FB William Henderson, Philadelphia came up empty when Boniol's 48-ydr. sailed wide). This time, however, Philadelphia got a 32-yard FG from Boniol and cut Green Bay's lead to 6-3. Two series later, the Pack reached the Birds' 7 but again had to settle for a FG and a 9-3 lead with 5:48 remaining in the 3rd quarter. With that, the stage was set for the dramatic 4th quarter ... For the Eagles, Solomon proved to be an unlikely hero. After being released by the Birds on the roster cut to 60 players during the preseason, the second-year pro was re-signed one day after rookie WR/KR Antwuan Wyatt suffered a season-ending knee injury on opening day vs. the NY Giants ... Philadelphia's Irving Fryar posted game-high figures for catches and yards and, in the process, moved up the ladder among the NFL's all-time receivers. Fryar's 8 receptions moved him into a tie with Ozzie Newsome for 10th place (662) in league history while his 125 yards enabled him to vault ahead of Hall of Famer Lance Alworth and into the 12th spot on the career receiving yardage list ... Overall, Green Bay won the statistical battle, outgaining Philadelphia 380 yards to 258 with five receivers each hauling in a pass of 20-yards-or-more.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 23-81, C. Garner 3-18, K.Turner 1-1, T.Detmer 3-0 .. PACKERS - D.Levens 22-91, W.Henderson 6-16
Philadelphia	0	0	3	7	10	
Green Bay	0	6	3	0	9	

GB - Longwell, 22 FG
 GB - Longwell, 18 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 32 FG
 GB - Longwell, 27 FG
 PHI - Solomon, 2 pass from Detmer (Boniol)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 8-125, R.Watters 3-0, M.Timpson 2-18, F.Solomon 2-9-1TD, M.Seay 1-8, C.Garner 1-5, C.Lewis 1-5, K.Turner 1-3 .. PACKERS - R.Brooks 6-90, A.Freeman 4-63, W.Henderson 4-41, D.Mayes 2-40, J.Thomason 2-32, D.Levens 1-13

	PHILA	GB
First Downs	16	21
Net Yards Gained	258	380
Rushes/Yards	30/100	28/107
Net Yards Passing	158	273
Att/Comp/INT	32/19/0	41/19/1
Times Sacked/Yards	3/15	1/6
Punts/Avg.	7/43.9	6/49.2
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	2/1
Penalties/Yards	5/23	2/15

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer 32-19-173-0-1TD .. PACKERS - B.Favre 41-19-279-0-0TD

INTs: EAGLES - R.Hall 1 ... PACKERS - 0

SACKS: EAGLES - W.Thomas 1 ... PACKERS - R.White 1, G.Wilkins 1, G.Brown 1

Attendance (66,803)
 Weather (Sunny, 78)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)



GAME 3
Monday, September 15, 1997
Dallas 21, Philadelphia 20
Texas Stadium



The Eagles suffered one their most heart-breaking losses in recent memory when they dropped a 21-20 decision to the host Dallas Cowboys on Monday Night Football. Clinging to a 20-15 lead with under a minute remaining in the fourth quarter, the Eagles, who had not allowed an offensive touchdown since the third quarter of their opener at NY Giants (a span of 8 quarters), permitted a Troy Aikman-to-Anthony Miller scoring strike from 14 yards out to give the Cowboys a 21-20 lead. (The two-point attempt failed). With 51 seconds left, the Birds took over at their own 16. QB Ty Detmer then connected with WR Freddie Solomon on a 26-yd pass and WR Michael Timpson for 13 yards before finding Solomon again for a 46-yd catch-and-run that put the Eagles at the Dallas 4-yard line for the game-winning field goal attempt by former Cowboy K Chris Boniol with 0:04 left on the clock. However, Steve Everitt's snap was bobbled by holder Tom Hutton, who scrambled toward the end zone but fumbled and recovered the ball before being stopped by CB Deion Sanders as the Cowboys prevailed ... Despite the loss, the Eagles certainly controlled the game from the outset as they jumped out to a 17-3 lead in the first half. With the score tied 3-3, Eagles blitzing CB Bobby Taylor notched his second sack and forced fumble of the game as he dumped Aikman at the Cowboy 40. LB William Thomas scooped up the loose ball and raced 37 yards for the TD. Earlier in the first stanza, Taylor's sack of Aikman forced a fumble that was recovered by LB Ray Farmer; that play led to a 49-yd FG by Boniol. In the 2nd quarter, Detmer and RB Ricky Watters led the Eagles on a 12-play, 69-yard drive that was capped off by a 12-yd TD pass from Detmer to rookie TE Chad Lewis. For Lewis, who earned his first NFL start, the touchdown was the first of his NFL career. After Boniol misfired on a 45-yd FG late in the 1st half, Cowboys K Richie Cunningham nailed a 48 ydr. to get Dallas within 17-6. The Cowboys opened the 2nd half with another Cunningham FG before Boniol answered with a 44-yd FG early in the 4th quarter. After Cunningham made the score 20-15 with a 22-yd FG with 5:25 remaining, the Eagles could not convert a first down and thus set the stage for the Aikman TD pass and the wild finish ... The loss spoiled another solid defensive effort by the Eagles, who held RB Emmitt Smith in check for most of the night. Although he gained 91 yards, Smith's longest gain was 9 yards and his average rush was 3.4 yards. Along with the two sacks by Taylor, Aikman was rattled all night long as he was just 30-13-161-0-0TD passing entering Dallas' final drive. The Cowboys also struggled offensively despite good field position as they started drives from the D43, the P45, and the P41 ... Watters also notched his first 100-yd rushing game of the year as he went 20-106. It marked the first time Philly lost a game when an Eagle RB rushed for 100 yards since 12/6/81. In that span, the Birds had been 30-0-1 when a back topped the 100-yd rushing plateau.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 20-106, C. Garner 7-48, K.Turner 1-3, T.Hutton 1-0 ... COWBOYS - E.Smith 27-91, T.Aikman 1-1
Philadelphia	10	7	0	3	20	
Dallas	3	3	3	12	21	

PHI - Boniol, 49 FG
 DAL - Cunningham, 46 FG
 PHI - W.Thomas, 37 fumble return (Boniol)
 PHI - Lewis, 12 pass from Detmer (Boniol)
 DAL - Cunningham, 48 FG
 DAL - Cunningham, 25 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 44 FG
 DAL - Cunningham, 23 FG
 DAL - Cunningham, 22 FG
 DAL - Miller, 14 pass from Aikman (pass failed)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - R.Watters 5-14, M.Timpson 4-42, F.Solomon 2-72, C.Lewis 2-19-1TD, K.Turner 2-15, I.Fryar 1-13, M.Seay 1-6 ... COWBOYS - M.Irvin 4-73, E.Bjornson 4-48, A.Miller 3-46-1TD, D.Johnston 2-10, E.Smith 3-10, St.Williams 1-18.

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer 30-18-184-0-1TD .. COWBOYS - T.Aikman 36-17-205-0-1TD

INTs: EAGLES - 0 ... COWBOYS - 0

	PHILA	DAL
First Downs	16	18
Net Yards Gained	333	279
Rushes/Yards	29/157	28/92
Net Yards Passing	176	187
Att/Comp/INT	30/18/0	36/17/0
Times Sacked/Yards	2/8	2/18
Punts/Avg.	6/41.7	4/38.3
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	2/2
Penalties/Yards	13/107	3/34

SACKS: EAGLES - B.Taylor 2 ... COWBOYS - S.Carver 1, B.Thomas 1

Attendance (63,942)
 Weather (Clear, 95)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)



GAME 4
Sunday, September 28, 1997
Minnesota 28, Philadelphia 19
Metrodome



The Eagles saw their record dip to 1-3 after falling to the host Minnesota Vikings, 28-19, at the Metrodome in Minneapolis in a nationally televised (TNT) Sunday night contest. The Vikings rode the legs of RB Robert Smith (22-125-46LG-1TD rushing) and the arm of QB Brad Johnson, who fired TD passes to three different receivers. Johnson's favorite receiving target was WR Jake Reed, who hauled in 6 passes for 134 yards, including a 48-yard score ... On the Birds' first possession, QB Ty Detmer marched Philadelphia to the Minnesota 31 before DeWayne Washington's INT set up the short slant pass from Johnson that Reed took the distance for a 7-0 lead. A Chris Boniol FG and a Detmer-to-Irving Fryar TD toss put the Eagles on top early in the second stanza. On Minnesota's ensuing possession, the Vikes faced a 3rd-and-15 situation from their own 7 when Johnson found Reed for a 33-yd gain. A 19-yd pass to Cris Carter and a 15-yd penalty on the Eagles then set up a 12-yd TD reception by Smith. Philadelphia cut its deficit to 14-13 just before halftime, after a 36-yd Detmer-to-Fryar pass helped move the Birds to the Vikes 12 before the drive stalled and ended with Boniol's second FG (26-yd). The second half began with both teams trading possessions. Then with 7:10 left Mark Seay dropped Mitch Berger's 43-yd punt and Minnesota regained possession on the Philadelphia 16. Two plays later Smith scampered 14-yds for his second touchdown and a 21-13 Viking advantage. Not to be undone Detmer led the Eagles on a 8-play, 67-yd. drive that culminated with a 20-yd TD pass that FB Kevin Turner wrestled away from CB Corey Fuller trimming the Minnesota lead to 21-19. On the ensuing 2-pt. conversion Detmer's pass was dropped in the endzone by Seay. On the very next series, Smith dashed 46 yards down the right sideline leading to Johnson's third TD pass - an 18-yd strike to Carter - increasing the Minnesota lead to 28-19. Detmer once again tried to rally his offense. Highlighted by Ricky Watters' 34 explosive rushing yards and Michael Timpson's 20-yd reception, Detmer led the Birds on a 7-play drive deep into Minnesota territory before DeWayne Washington, once again, dashed Phila.'s scoring hopes by picking off his second pass of the game off Detmer ... Aside from the two INTs, Detmer withstood constant pressure from the Vikes' defense and still managed to put up big numbers (45-28-298-2-2TDs) while Fryar celebrated his 35th birthday by tying a then career-high of 9 receptions (120 yds, 1TD).

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 13-61, C. Garner 7-30, T.Detmer 1-9 ... VIKINGS - R.Smith 22-125-1TD, B.Johnson 6-13, D.Palmer 1-6
Philadelphia	3	10	6	0	19	
Minnesota	7	7	7	7	28	

MIN - Reed, 48 pass from Johnson (Murray)
 PHI - Boniol, 47 FG
 PHI - Fryar, 6 pass from Detmer (Boniol)
 MIN - R.Smith, 12 pass from Johnson (Murray)
 PHI - Boniol, 26 FG
 MIN - R.Smith, 14 run (Murray)
 PHI - Turner, 20 pass from Detmer (pass failed)
 MIN - Carter, 18 pass from Johnson (Murray)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 9-120-1TD, M.Timpson 6-59, R.Watters 5-27, K.Turner 4-39-1TD, M.Seay 2-29, C.Garner 1-18, J.Dunn 1-6 ... VIKINGS - J.Reed 6-134-1TD, C.Carter 5-58-1TD, R.Smith 3-10-1TD, A.Glover 1-9, C.Evans 1-8, D.Palmer 1-2

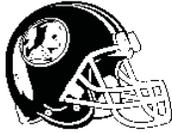
PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer 45-28-298-2-2TD .. VIKINGS - B.Johnson 32-17-221-1-3TD

	PHILA	MIN
First Downs	25	17
Net Yards Gained	372	365
Rushes/Yards	21/100	29/144
Net Yards Passing	272	221
Att/Comp/INT	45/28/2	32/17/1
Times Sacked/Yards	5/26	0/0
Punts/Avg.	4/47.8	6/46.2
Fumbles/Lost	5/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	5/50	11/95

INTs: EAGLES - T.Vincent 1 ... VIKINGS - D.Washington 2

SACKS: EAGLES - 0 ... VIKINGS - D.Alexander 2, D.Edwards 1.5, J.Randle 1.5

Attendance (55,149)
 Weather (Indoors) ... Outdoors (68 degrees)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)



GAME 5
Sunday, October 5, 1997
Philadelphia 24, Washington 10
Veterans Stadium



The Eagles, who entered the game with a 1-3 record, earned a much-needed 24-10 win over the visiting Washington Redskins. Philadelphia's offense put together its best outing of the season to date, piling up 449 total yards, including 203 on the ground. The Eagles' ground attack was led by RBs Ricky Watters (31-104-2TDs and earned NFC Offensive Player of the Week honors) and Charlie Garner (12-60). QB Ty Detmer chipped in with a 3-yd TD run and a 27-17-246 passing effort while FB Kevin Turner added 81 combined yards on three carries and four catches. Philadelphia's offensive line also did its part, clearing holes for the backs and holding Washington without a sack all afternoon. Overall, the 50 rushing attempts by the Birds were the most in the NFL thus far in 1997 and the club's highest total since 12/27/87 when they posted 52 carries vs. Buffalo. By contrast, the 'Skins, who trailed 14-0 early in the 2nd quarter, would finish the day with just 30 rushing yards on only 12 carries.... The Eagles took a 7-0 lead on their second possession of the first quarter when Detmer capped a 12-play, 81-yd drive with a 3-yd scramble for a TD. Philadelphia marched 75 yards on its next series and went on top 14-0 when Watters dove over from one yard out. Key plays on the drive included a 29-yd run by Turner, a 16-yd screen pass to Watters on a 3rd-n-14 play, and a 22-yd pass to WR Michael Timpson that put the Birds on the WR 1.... Washington trimmed its deficit to 14-3 when a fumbled handoff from Detmer to Garner gave the 'Skins the ball at the Eagles' 23. Philadelphia ended Washington's next drive early, however, when DE Richard Dent pressured Gus Frerotte into an errant toss that SS Michael Zordich intercepted. Seven plays later, Chris Boniol booted a 34-yd FG that gave the Eagles a 17-3 halftime lead. So dominant, in fact, were the Eagles in the first half that they piled up a 244-74 advantage in terms of total yards of offense.... In the 3rd quarter, Frerotte's 38-yd pass to WR Michael Westbrook put Washington at the Eagles' 5 and set up a TD strike to RB Terry Allen. But after moving to within 7 points, the Redskins could move no closer. Philadelphia, in fact, widened its lead early in the final stanza when Watters ran left for a 1-yd TD and a 24-10 Eagles advantage. Watters' second TD plunge was set up by WR Irving Fryar who first hauled in a 26-yd pass and then made a one-handed grab of a 33-yd Detmer strike that put Philadelphia at the Washington 1 ... The Eagles D-line pressured Frerotte often and the secondary provided excellent coverage. The result: Washington's dangerous WR corps was held in check. Michael Westbrook had just 3 catches, Leslie Shepherd and Henry Ellard had one apiece, and Alvin Harper had none.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	
Philadelphia	7	10	0	7	24	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 31-104-2TD, C.Garner 12-60, K.Turner 3-38, T.Detmer 4-1-1TD
Washington	0	3	7	0	10	... REDSKINS - T. Allen 12-30

PHI - Detmer, 3 run (Boniol)
 PHI - Watters, 1 run (Boniol)
 WAS - Blanton, 37 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 34 FG
 WAS - Allen, 5 pass from Frerotte (Blanton)
 PHI - Watters, 1 run (Boniol)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - F.Solomon 4-45, K.Turner 4-43, I.Fryar 3-72, R.Watters 2-36, M.Timpson 1-22, J.Johnson 1-14, C.T.Jones 1-10, J.Dunn 1-4 ...
 REDSKINS - M.Westbrook 3-62, B.Mitchell 3-31, J.Asher 3-30, T. Allen 3-17-1TD, L.Bowie 2-9, L.Shepherd 1-47, H.Ellard 1-20

	PHILA	WASH
First Downs	26	12
Net Yards Gained	449	228
Rushes/Yards	50/203	12/30
Net Yards Passing	246	198
Att/Comp/INT	27/17/0	37/16/1
Times Sacked/Yards	0/0	2/18
Punts/Avg.	5/44.2	7/44.7
Fumbles/Lost	4/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	7/65	8/55

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer 27-17-246-0-0 ...
 REDSKINS - G.Frerotte 37-16-216-1-1TD

INTs: EAGLES - M.Zordich 1 ... REDSKINS - 0

SACKS: EAGLES - R.Hall 1, H.Thomas 1 ... REDSKINS - 0

Attendance (67,008)
 Weather (Sunny, 69)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)



GAME 6
Sunday, October 12, 1997
Jacksonville 38, Philadelphia 21
ALLTEL Stadium



The Eagles made their first-ever trip to Jacksonville to face the defending AFC Central Division's Jaguars and came away with a 38-21 loss. The Jags "manhandled us in every phase of the game," said Eagles' head coach Ray Rhodes after seeing his club's record fall to 2-4. In particular, the Jaguars' offensive and defensive lines out-muscled those of Philadelphia. On offense, the Jags' line opened gaping holes for RB James Stewart, who would finish the day with 5 rushing TDs. On defense, they applied frequent pressure to Philadelphia's passers and stuffed the running lanes Jacksonville scored on its first three possessions and took a 21-0 lead with 1:42 to play in the 1st quarter. The Jaguars' offense, led by QB Mark Brunell, moved the ball with ease, both on the ground and through the air, scoring first on an 8-play, 80-yard drive, then on a 6-play, 82-yd drive. Stewart capped those drives with 7 and 8-yard scoring jaunts, respectively. In the process, Stewart, who had come on in relief when starter Natrone Means suffered a sprained ankle on the first series, etched his name into the record books. A third-year pro, Stewart became only the 12th player in NFL history to score 5 TDs in a game. He also became only the third man to rush for 5 TDs in a single contest (Ernie Nevers ran for six in 1929; Jim Brown and Cookie Gilchrist each ran for five in '59 and '63 respectively), and the first ever to do so vs. Philadelphia. While Stewart finished the day with 15-102-5TDs rushing on the day, Brunell was an efficient 14 of 19 passing yards for 153 and no interceptions. In all, the Jags averaged 6.2 yards per carry (24-149) while the Birds were held to just 90 yards on 27 carries (3.3 avg.) Already leading 14-0 in the first stanza, Jacksonville blocked a punt by the Eagles' Tom Hutton and took over on Philadelphia's 11-yard line. Three plays later, Stewart's third TD of the day, a 2-yd run, increased the Jags' lead to 21-0. Philadelphia finally got on the board late in the 2nd quarter when QB Ty Detmer capped a 69-yd march with a slant pass that WR Irving Fryar turned into a 34-yd TD play. Fryar would finish the day with a career-high 10 receptions for 124 yds and 3 TDs After intermission, the Eagles showed additional life, moving to the Jacksonville 25 before a 43-yd FG try by Chris Boniol fell short into the wind, and to the Jags' 35 before a Detmer pass was intercepted by Deon Figures and returned to the Birds' 38. From there, Stewart's 21-yd jaunt set up his fourth TD run of the day, this time a 1-yarder for a 28-7 lead. Two series later, a fumble by FB Kevin Turner gave the Jags' the ball at the PE31. Six plays later, Stewart upped Jacksonville's lead to 35-7 early in the final stanza with another 1-yd TD run. With that, Rhodes replaced Detmer with Rodney Peete. It marked the second time in the Eagles' first six games that Peete came on in relief of Detmer with the Birds facing a large second-half deficit. Peete proceeded to lead 65 and 54-yd scoring drives on his first two series at the helm, capping them with TD strikes of 9 and 15 yards, respectively The Birds also suffered a loss on the injury front when CB Bobby Taylor severely strained his right knee while breaking up a 1st quarter pass from Brunell to Jimmy Smith. The injury sidelined the top-flight corner for the rest of the season.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 15-44, C.Garner 9-37, T.Detmer 1-7, R.Peete 1-3, D.Staley 1-(-1) ...
Philadelphia	0	7	0	14	21	JAGUARS - J.Stewart 15-102-5TDs, N.Means 2-13, W.Jackson 1-13, T.Hallock 2-11, M.Brunell 2-8, D.Shelton 2-2
Jacksonville	21	0	7	10	38	
<p>JAX - Stewart, 7 run (Hollis) JAX - Stewart, 8 run (Hollis) JAX - Stewart, 2 run (Hollis) PHI - Fryar, 34 pass from Detmer (Boniol) JAX - Stewart, 1 run (Hollis) JAX - Stewart, 1 run (Hollis) PHI - Fryar, 9 pass from Peete (Boniol) PHI - Fryar, 15 pass from Peete (Boniol) JAX - Hollis, 38 FG</p>						
			PHILA	JAX		RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 10-124-3TDs, K.Turner 6-59, R.Watters 4-69, C.Garner 3-21, J.Johnson 2-31, C.T.Jones 1-12, M.Timpson 1-9 ...
First Downs			23	21		JAGUARS - M.Brunell 19-14-153-0-0
Net Yards Gained			393	306		INTs: EAGLES - 0 ... JAGUARS - D.Figures 1
Rushes/Yards			27/90	24/149		SACKS: EAGLES - R.Hall 1, J.Harris 1, R.Dent 1, Team 1 ... JAGUARS - T.Brackens 1, C.Simmons 1, J.Lageman 1, J.Smeenge 1
Net Yards Passing			303	157		Attendance (69,150) Playing surface (Grass)
Att/Comp/INT			42/27/1	20/15/0		Weather (Intermittent showers, 76)
Times Sacked/Yards			4/22	4/6		
Punts/Avg.			5/32.0	4/48.5		
Fumbles/Lost			2/1	2/1		
Penalties/Yards			10/65	7/35		



GAME 7
Sunday, October 19, 1997
Philadelphia 13, Arizona 10 (OT)
Veterans Stadium



It wasn't pretty by any means but Philadelphia managed to earn a 13-10 overtime victory vs. the visiting Arizona Cardinals. A 24-yd FG by Chris Boniol 4:02 into overtime gave the Birds the win. In the process, the Eagles upped their 1997 record at home to 3-0 and their overall mark to 3-4 Injuries and lineup changes were a factor before the game even started. Philadelphia had a new quarterback at the helm as Rodney Peete started in place of Ty Detmer. For Peete, it was his first starting assignment since 9/30/96 when he suffered a season-ending knee injury vs. the Dallas Cowboys. Arizona was without the services of its regular QB, Kent Graham, who was sidelined by an ankle injury suffered a week earlier vs. the Giants. In his place, Stoney Case got the starting nod. The Eagles entered the game without four key players, including three starters and one part-time starter. Regulars Bobby Taylor (RCB, torn anterior cruciate ligament), Brian Dawkins (FS, leg), and Chris T. Jones (WR, knee) were sidelined as was WR Michael Timpson (bruised shoulder), who had earlier filled in when Jones was ailing. In their places were CB Charles Dimry, WR Freddie Solomon and rookie FS Charles Emanuel, the latter of whom started for the first time as a pro Philadelphia took a 7-0 lead early in the 2nd quarter after passes by Peete to Irving Fryar and Jimmie Johnson set up Ricky Watters' TD run. Midway through the 2nd stanza, the Cards' Joe Nedney misfired on a 40-yd FG. Then, with seconds to go in the half, the Eagles' Chris Boniol hit the right upright from the same distance. The Birds finally surrendered a FG to the Cards in the 3rd quarter and held a 7-3 lead until 3:07 remained in regulation. It was then that Arizona's third string QB, rookie Jake Plummer, capped a 14-play, 98-yd drive with a 31-yd scoring strike to WR Kevin Williams that put Arizona on top 10-7. Philadelphia responded quickly as QB Rodney Peete marched the Birds from their own 20 to the Arizona 21, setting up a 38-yd FG by Boniol that tied the game with 0:26 remaining in the 4th quarter. In overtime, Arizona received the kickoff, but stalled just inside Eagles' territory and were forced to punt. Peete then led the Birds on a 6-play, 73-yd drive that was capped by a 27-yd catch and run by Charlie Garner which set up Boniol's overtime FG ... In all, Peete was 36-28-298-2-0TD passing, but saved his best for last as he went 4-8-51 on the game-tying drive and 4-4-70 on the game-winning drive in the extra session. His 298 yards passing was his best as an Eagle ... After entering the game with just 10 sacks in six games, the Birds' defense notched 7 vs. Arizona. All 7 sacks came from different Eagles, including all three starting LBs (William Thomas, James Willis, and Darrin Smith), DE Richard Dent, DTs Rhett Hall and Jimmie Jones, and SS Michael Zordich.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 24-83-1TD, C.Garner 2-25, R. Peete 3-21, K.Turner 3-1 ...
Philadelphia	0	7	0	3	3	13	CARDINALS - L.Centers 11-37, L.Johnson 7-23, J.Plummer 3-22, S.Case 5-8, L.McElroy 2-2
Arizona	0	0	3	7	0	10	

PHI - Watters, 2 run (Boniol)
 ARZ - Nedney, 23 FG
 ARZ - Williams, 31 pass from Plummer (Nedney)
 PHI - Boniol, 38 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 24 FG

	PHILA	ARZ
First Downs	25	15
Net Yards Gained	407	235
Rushes/Yards	32/130	28/92
Net Yards Passing	277	143
Att/Comp/INT	36/23/2	31/16/0
Times Sacked/Yards	4/21	7/49
Punts/Avg.	4/51.3	7/43.3
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	1/1
Penalties/Yards	3/25	4/32

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 5-85, K.Turner 5-43, F.Solomon 4-57, R.Watters 3-39, C.Garner 3-38, J.Johnson 1-18, M.Seay 1-12, C.Lewis 1-6 ...
CARDINALS - R.Moore 6-101, A.Edwards 3-17, K.Williams 2-40-1TD, C.Gedney 2-16, L.Centers 1-16, F.Sanders 1-8, L.McElroy 1-(-6)

PASSING: EAGLES - R.Peete 36-23-298-2-0TDs ...
CARDINALS - S.Case (starter) 22-11-94-0-0, J.Plummer 9-5-98-0-1TD

INTs: EAGLES - 0 ...
CARDINALS - K.Lassiter 1, S.Rice 1

SACKS: EAGLES - W.Thomas 1, M.Zordich 1, J.Willis 1, R.Hall 1, R.Dent 1, D.Smith 1, J.Jones 1 ...
CARDINALS - T.Howard 1, M.Caldwell 1, K.Lassiter 1, M.Smith 1

Attendance (66,860)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)
 Weather (Overcast, 55)



GAME 8
Sunday, October 26, 1997
Philadelphia 13, Dallas 12
Veterans Stadium



With 45 seconds left to play, Eagles QB Rodney Peete fired an 8-yr pass to rookie free agent tight end Chad Lewis for the game's only touchdown. Seconds later, Chris Boniol booted an extra point that gave the Birds, who trailed throughout, a 13-12 win on a day marked by a cold, steady rain. For Peete, it was the second straight week in which he struggled for the better part of four quarters and then rallied Philadelphia to a victory. A week earlier vs. the visiting Arizona Cardinals, Peete marched the Birds to a game-tying FG in the final seconds of regulation play and then to a game-winning FG in overtime with both of those drives starting at his own 20. Defensively vs. the Cowboys, Phila. was led by RDT Rhett Hall, RLB William Thomas, and CB Troy Vincent. Hall earned NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors by posting career-highs of 12 tackles and 3.5 sacks. He also stopped Cowboys' all-pro RB Emmitt Smith behind the line of scrimmage three times. Thomas chipped in with 8 tackles, including two sacks, while Vincent held all-pro WR Michael Irvin to just 3 catches for 57 yds, all in the first half. As a unit, the Birds' defense stiffened in the red zone, allowing the Cowboys just 4 FGs when they ventured inside the Birds' 20. The win gave Philadelphia a bit of revenge for their week-three loss at Dallas This time, Dallas started swiftly as Herschel Walker returned the opening kickoff to the DC 47, helping set up Richie Cunningham's 26-yr FG for a 3-0 lead. It would be the first of four FGs on the day for Cunningham in as many tries. On the first play of Dallas's next series, however, Aikman was sidelined for the remainder of the game when a sack by LB William Thomas and DT Jimmie Jones left him with a mild concussion. Wade Wilson came on in relief and was promptly presented with a scoring opportunity as Dallas's Brock Marion partially blocked a punt by Tom Hutton, giving the Cowboys the ball at the PE 28. Dallas, however, was forced to settle for a 24-yr Cunningham FG and a 6-0 lead. Late in the 2nd qtr, Boniol, whose 52-yr FG try had fallen short earlier, was short on a 47-yr try. Taking over on their own 38, the Cowboys then marched to the Birds' 18 but mustered only a FG and a 9-0 lead at the half Phila. finally got on the board with 4:57 left in the 3rd qtr when a 33-yr punt return by Mark Seay and a 25-yr Charlie Garner run set up a Boniol FG that cut Dallas's lead to 9-3. An inspired Eagles defense then forced Dallas to go 3-and-out and gave the ball back to the offense at the PE49. From there, four Ricky Watters runs netted 33 yards and moved the ball to the Dallas 18 before Philadelphia had to settle for another FG. The Cowboys appeared to respond quickly, however, as Walker returned the ensuing short kickoff 49 yards to the Birds' 34. Although the 'Boys reached the PE4, they soon faltered. After Dallas was penalized twice, Hall sacked Wilson and threw Smith for a 2-yr loss that forced the Cowboys to settle for a Cunningham FG and only a 12-6 lead Two possessions later, Philly took over at its own 26 and began a 10-play drive that would culminate in the game winning points. The drive was highlighted by a 27-yr catch-n-run by FB Kevin Turner, a 4th-n-11 completion to Fryar that gave the Birds' a first down by the nose of the ball, and a 14-yr run by Watters. Peete, who was 7-5-58 on the final drive, then drilled the TD strike to Lewis that enabled the Birds to lift their record to 4-4 at midseason.

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	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 20-88, C.Garner 9-55, K.Turner 1-6, R.Peete 3-5 ... COWBOYS - E.Smith 25-126, T.Aikman 2-15, Sh.Williams 2-6, W.Wilson 1-3, H.Walker 1-1
Philadelphia	0	0	3	10	13	
Dallas	3	6	0	3	12	
DAL - Cunningham, 26 FG						
DAL - Cunningham, 24 FG						
DAL - Cunningham, 35 FG						
PHI - Boniol, 29 FG						
PHI - Boniol, 37 FG						
DAL - Cunningham, 43 FG						
PHI - Lewis, 8 pass from Peete (Boniol)						
		PHILA		DAL		RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 6-59, K.Turner 2-34, M.Seay 1-11, C.Lewis 1-8-1TD, C.Garner 1-5, M.Timpson 1-5, R.Watters 1-4 ... COWBOYS - E.Smith 5-36, M.Irvin 3-57, A.Miller 2-16, H.Walker 1-8, E.Bjornson 1-7, St.Williams 1-5
First Downs		17		14		PASSING: EAGLES - R.Peete 31-13-126-0-1TD ... COWBOYS - W.Wilson 16-11-108-0-0, T.Aikman (starter) 6-2-21-0-0
Net Yards Gained		274		244		INTs: EAGLES - 0 ... COWBOYS - 0
Rushes/Yards		33/154		31/151		SACKS: EAGLES - R.Hall 3.5, W.Thomas 2, G.Jefferson 0.5 ... COWBOYS - B.Thomas 1, T.Casillas 1
Net Yards Passing		120		93		Attendance (67,106)
Att/Comp/INT		31/13/0		22/13/0		Playing surface (Astro Turf)
Times Sacked/Yards		2/6		6/36		Weather (Overcast, 48)
Punts/Avg.		4/31.3		5/30		
Fumbles/Lost		2/0		0/0		
Penalties/Yards		4/25		10/95		



GAME 9
Sunday, November 2, 1997
Arizona 31, Philadelphia 21
Sun Devil Stadium



Philadelphia committed 15 penalties and four turnovers while falling to the host Arizona Cardinals, 31-21, at Sun Devil Stadium. The loss, which came in the wake of consecutive victories over the Cards and Cowboys, dropped Philadelphia's record to 4-5 After the Eagles had fallen behind, 17-7, in the 3rd quarter, quarterback Ty Detmer, who came on in relief of ineffective starter Rodney Peete after intermission, threw two TD passes on successive drives to put Philadelphia on top 21-17. Then, with 6:53 remaining to play and the Eagles clinging to their 4-point lead, they got a 27-yd FG from Chris Boniol to seemingly up their edge to 7. But a holding penalty on the play forced another kick from 10 yards further back. When the subsequent re-kick clanked off the left upright, Philadelphia's lead was stuck at four. The Eagles' defense responded, however, by shutting the Cards down on three plays and forcing a punt. But when Mark Seay fumbled Jeff Feagles' punt, Arizona took over at the PE24. Seven plays later, Kent Graham's 1-yd QB sneak put the Cards on top 24-21. Arizona then shut the door on the Eagles when LB Mike Caldwell intercepted a Detmer pass, giving Arizona the ball at the PE20. Graham, who himself had come on in relief of rookie starter Jake Plummer in the final stanza, again moved his club to the PE1. From there, he ran three unsuccessful quarterback sneaks until finally nudging the ball over the goal line with another sneak on a 4th-n-goal that made the final score 31-21 Prior to the Arizona possession set up by Seay's fumble, Philadelphia's defense had dodged a number of bullets - four Cardinals' possessions to that point had started inside Eagles' territory. On three of those occasions, the Eagles held Arizona without a 1st down; they forced one punt and forced two long FGs that were off the mark. As such, the Cards got just one TD the first four times they began a drive on the Philadelphia side of midfield. In all, however, Arizona would go on to start six drives inside Philadelphia territory; the last two after Seay's fumble and Detmer's 2nd interception. By comparison, Philadelphia started only one drive in Arizona territory Poor special teams play cost the Eagles dearly. The Birds' special teams surrendered a 66-yd kick return and a 50-yd punt return and fumbled a punt deep in their own end. Those same units were whistled for eight penalties, including two holding calls on PAT tries and one holding call on a FG attempt (the latter of which took points off the board and resulted in a miss on the subsequent re-kick). Although the Eagles defense stymied the Cards after Kevin Williams returned the opening kickoff 66 yards to the PE33, Philadelphia surrendered a TD pass following Williams' 50-yd punt return to the PE31 and a TD after Seay's fumble at the PE24 Arizona had opened the scoring when DT Bernard Wilson intercepted a screen pass by Peete and rumbled 66 yards for a score. Philadelphia, however, quickly tied the score as CB Willie Clark returned the ensuing kickoff (an onsiders try) 39 yards for a TD. Then, late in the 2nd quarter, after Eagles defenders dropped two INTs that could have been easily returned for scores, Plummer moved the Cards to a FG and a 10-7 edge at the half.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 21-73, C.Garner 6-14, R.Peete 1-8 ... CARDINALS - L.McElroy 13-67, J.Plummer 3-17, K.Graham 6-3, L.Johnson 1-2, L.Centers 9-1, C.Smith 1-0
Philadelphia	7	0	14	0	21	
Arizona	7	3	7	14	31	

ARZ - Wilson, 66 INT return (Nedney)
 PHI - Clark, 39 return of onsiders kick (Boniol)
 ARZ - Nedney, 45 FG
 ARZ - Moore, 31 pass from Plummer (Nedney)
 PHI - Seay, 19 pass from Detmer (Boniol)
 PHI - Solomon, 18 pass from Detmer (Boniol)
 ARZ - Graham, 1 run (Nedney)
 ARZ - Graham, 1 run (Nedney)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - F.Solomon 4-77-1TD, M.Timpson 4-48, R.Watters 4-31, I.Fryar 2-53, C.Garner 2-22, J.Johnson 1-28, M.Seay 1-19-1TD ... CARDINALS - R.Moore 3-82-1TD, C.Gedney 3-42, J.McWilliams 3-28, L.Centers 2-4, F.Sanders 1-9

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer 27-15-224-2-2TD, R.Peete (starter) 13-3-54-1-0TD ... CARDINALS - J. Plummer (starter) 18-7-132-1-1TD, K.Graham 9-5-33-0-0

INTs: EAGLES - B.Dawkins 1 ... CARDINALS - B.Wilson 1, R.McKinnon 1, M.Caldwell 1

SACKS: EAGLES - H.Thomas 1.5, R.Hall 1, J.Willis 1, M.Mamula 0.5, R.Dent 0.5, G.Jefferson 0.5 ... CARDINALS - S.Rice 1, E.Swann 1

	PHILA	ARZ
First Downs	18	17
Net Yards Gained	360	231
Rushes/Yards	28/95	33/90
Net Yards Passing	265	141
Att/Comp/INT	40/18/3	27/12/1
Times Sacked/Yards	2/13	5/24
Punts/Avg.	7/45.7	7/41.6
Fumbles/Lost	2/1	1/1
Penalties/Yards	15/140	5/38

Attendance (39,549)
 Playing surface (Grass) Weather (Sunny, 88)



GAME 10
Monday, November 10, 1997
San Francisco 24, Philadelphia 12
Veterans Stadium



The visiting San Francisco 49ers rolled into Veterans Stadium with an eight-game winning streak while the Birds came into the game with a 4-0 mark at home. Three hours later, the Niners left with their ninth consecutive win, a 24-12 decision that dropped the Eagles record to 4-6. The Birds, with the exception of the inspired play from their defensive unit, did little to help themselves throughout the evening. Four plays into the game, RB Ricky Watters, who had 185 rushes and 31 receptions without a fumble to this point in the season, lost the handle on his first run from scrimmage. Niners' safety Merton Hanks scooped up the fumble and raced 38 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead. After Philadelphia's defense forced the Niners to punt on three straight series, the Birds had drawn to within one point on a pair of field goals by Chris Boniol. It was then, nearly four minutes into the 2nd quarter that things unraveled quickly. First, Freddie Solomon muffed a 49ers' punt, giving the ball back to San Francisco at the PE26. Four plays later, RB Garrison Hearst swept around right end for a 1-yd TD that increased the Niners' lead to 14-6. Moments later the 49ers got a jolt from punt returner Chuck Levy who fielded a Tom Hutton kick, burst up the middle and streaked to the outside, racing - untouched - on his way to a 73-yd TD. San Francisco then closed out the first half scoring as former Eagles kicker Gary Anderson booted a 31-yd FG. In all, Philadelphia had outgained the visitors, 156 yards to 114 in the first two quarters despite giving up four sacks. In fact, the Eagles' defense played well enough to hold the Niners to just 213 yards on the night and limited QB Steve Young to just 103 yards on 13 of 23 passing. But it was San Francisco who entered the locker room with a 24-6 lead at intermission In the second half, the Birds' offense struggled behind a patchwork offensive line that saw Bubba Miller start in place of regular LG Joe Panos and Mike Zandofsky come on in relief of RG Ian Beckles, who was sidelined in the third quarter due to a recurring foot injury. By game's end, San Francisco had tallied 8 sacks vs. Eagles QBs, including 3.5 by DT Dana Stubblefield and 2.0 by DE Chris Doleman. On the ground, the Birds failed to gain 100 rushing yards for the first time all season. Philadelphia's only offensive bright spots came from veteran WR Irving Fryar and backup QB Bobby Hoying. Fryar who went 9-138 receiving, reached two milestones, first topping the 700-reception mark for his career and then moving into 9th place on the NFL's all-time lists for both receptions and receiving yards. In the process, Fryar also ensured himself of his eighth straight year with 50-or-more receptions, currently the longest such streak in the league. Hoying, a second-year pro, replaced Detmer with 6:49 left to play. As such, it was only the second time he had stepped under center in a NFL regular season game and the first time since he replaced an injured Detmer for the final play of the Birds' game-five loss to Dallas on 9/30/96. Hoying went on to engineer two drives, the second of which culminated in his 6-yd TD pass to tight end Chad Lewis, a score that made the final tally 24-12 in favor of the 49ers.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 14-42, C.Garner 4-18, T.Detmer 2-9 ... 49ERS - G.Hearst 26-77-1TD, S.Young 5-26, T.Kirby 2-10-0, W.Floyd 4-2, C.Levy 1-2
Philadelphia	3	3	0	6	12	
San Fran.	7	17	0	0	24	

SF - Hanks, 38 fumble return (Anderson)
 PHI - Boniol, 28 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 34 FG
 SF - Hearst, 1 run (Anderson)
 SF - Levy, 73 punt return (Anderson)
 SF - Anderson, 31 FG
 PHI - Lewis, 6 pass from Hoying (pass failed)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 9-138, F.Solomon 3-29, K.Turner 3-3, R.Watters 2-22, C.Lewis 2-12-1TD, C.Garner 1-14, M.Timpson 1-13 ... 49ERS - T.Owens 3-50, T.Kirby 3-32, J.J. Stokes 3-18, W.Floyd 2-2, M.Harris 1-5, G.Hearst 1-(-4)

PASSING: EAGLES - T.Detmer (starter) 31-13-137-1-0TD, B.Hoying 14-8-94-0-1TD ... 49ERS - S.Young 23-13-103-1-0TD

INTs: EAGLES - C.Dimry 1 ... 49ERS-D.Walker 1

SACKS: EAGLES - D.Conner 1 ... 49ERS - D.Stubblefield 4, C.Doleman 1.5, J.Bryant 1.5, K.Greene 1,

	PHILA	SF
First Downs	18	13
Net Yards Gained	257	213
Rushes/Yards	20/69	38/117
Net Yards Passing	188	96
Att/Comp/INT	45/21/1	23/13/1
Times Sacked/Yards	8/43	1/7
Punts/Avg.	7/40.4	8/36.8
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	2/0
Penalties/Yards	4/40	4/50

Attendance (67,133)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)
 Weather (Mostly cloudy, 46)



GAME 11
Sunday, November 16, 1997
Philadelphia 10, Baltimore 10 (OT)
Memorial Stadium



The Philadelphia Eagles and their hosts, the Baltimore Ravens, entered the game with identical 4-6 records. Then, after four quarters of play and a full 15-minute overtime period, they left with a 10-10 tie and identical 4-6-1 marks. Each team had opportunities to win in overtime but failed to capitalize. Early on in the extra stanza, Baltimore reached the Eagles 32 but turned the ball over on downs after losing four yards apiece on consecutive plays. Likewise, Philadelphia reached the Ravens 33 before a dropped pass and two more incomplete passes stymied that drive. Two possessions later Baltimore had a 53-yard FG try by Matt Stover sail wide. Then, with 2:21 left to play, QB Bobby Hoying marched the Eagles to the BR17. Following a 5-yard penalty on the offense, Philadelphia had a chance to win on the final play of the game, but Chris Boniol's 40-yd FG attempt sailed wide and the game ended with the NFL's first tie since 1989 For Philadelphia, the game may have marked the beginning of a new era as the Birds opened with second-year player Hoying at quarterback over veterans Ty Detmer and Rodney Peete, both of whom had shared the starting role through the first 10 contests. Entering the game, Hoying's experience consisted of 4th quarter mop-up duty vs. the 49ers a week earlier and one Hail Mary pass on the final play of a game vs. Dallas in 1996. In all, the youngster acquitted himself well, completing 19 of 22 passes in regulation play and engineering a game-tying TD drive in the final minutes of the 4th quarter. On that 5-play drive, a march that began at his own 40, Hoying moved the Eagles to the Baltimore 2 with consecutive completions of 8 and 25 yards to FB Kevin Turner, 13 yards to WR Michael Timpson, and 12 yards to WR Irving Fryar. From there, RB Charlie Garner ran it in and Boniol's extra point tied the score with 1:25 to play In the overtime period, Hoying connected on just one of his first seven passes before hitting six of his last nine. In all, he finished his first NFL start with solid 38-26-276-0-0 passing numbers despite having three passes dropped and despite being sacked nine times. He also completed an Eagles record 13 consecutive passes. Throughout, Hoying showed a keen knowledge of the offensive system and a presence of mind that belied his inexperience Baltimore opened the scoring in the 1st quarter with a 29-yd TD pass from Vinny Testaverde to WR Michael Jackson. The Ravens started that drive on the Eagles 37 following a short punt and appeared to have stalled when they faced a 4th-n-2 situation at the 29. Jackson, however, turned a short completion on a hitch pattern into a TD and a 7-0 lead. Throughout the first half the Eagles' offense sputtered, allowing four sacks and gaining just 37 total net yards while never moving beyond their own 37-yard line. Baltimore had an opportunity to add to its lead just before halftime but Eagles LB William Thomas intercepted a Testaverde pass at the PE7 ... The defense turned in another solid effort once again as they held the Ravens to just the first qtr. TD and a fourth qtr. FG in five quarters of action. They also posted 2 INTs in a game for the first time this year as both LBs James Willis and Thomas posted their first thefts of the season. However, Ravens rookie RB Jay Graham became the first player to rush for 150+ yards vs. the Eagles since Emmitt Smith scampered for 158 on 11/6/95.

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	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 11-37, C. Garner 10-21-1TD, B.Hoying 1-6, K.Turner 1-(-1) ...
Philadelphia	0	0	3	7	0	10	RAVENS - J.Graham 35-154, V.Testaverde 7-48, E.Byner 2-2
Baltimore	7	0	0	3	0	10	

BAL - M. Jackson, 29 pass from Testaverde (Stover)
 PHI - Boniol, 33 FG
 BAL - Stover, 23 FG
 PHI - Garner, 2 run (Boniol)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 6-71, K.Turner 5-57, R.Watters 4-33, C.Garner 4-28, J.Johnson 3-29, F.Solomon 2-42, M.Timpson 1-13, M.Seay 1-3 ...
RAVENS - J.Graham 5-15, D.Alexander 4-39, E.Green 4-23, M.Jackson 2-37-1TD, E.Byner 2-13, R.Yarborough 1-9, B.Kinchen 1-4

	PHILA	BAL
First Downs	18	19
Net Yards Gained	273	329
Rushes/Yards	23/63	44/204
Net Yards Passing	210	125
Att/Comp/INT	38/26/0	32/19/2
Times Sacked/Yards	9/66	2/15
Punts/Avg.	9/45.0	7/46.1
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	2/0
Penalties/Yards	4/20	2/15

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 38-26-276-0-0TD ...
RAVENS - V.Testaverde 32-19-140-2-1TD

INTS: EAGLES - W.Thomas 1, J.Willis 1 ...
RAVENS - 0

SACKS: EAGLES - W.Thomas 1, D.Conner 0.5, R.Hall 0.5 ...
RAVENS - M.McCrary 3, P. Boulware 2, J.Jones 2, R.Burnett 1, J.Sharper 1

Attendance (63,546)
 Playing surface (SPORTSGRASS)
 Weather (Partly Sunny and Windy, 44)



GAME 12
Sunday, November 23, 1997
Philadelphia 23, Pittsburgh 20
Veterans Stadium



The Eagles kept their playoff hopes alive with an impressive 23-13 victory over their powerful cross-state rival, the Pittsburgh Steelers. Riding the arm and poise of rookie quarterback Bobby Hoying the Birds capitalized on five Pittsburgh turnovers to win their first game in the month of November. In just the second start of his career, Hoying (31-15-246-2TDs), made a successful Veterans Stadium debut by firing two first quarter touchdown passes and handling the Steelers vaunted blitz packages like a seasoned veteran ... Philadelphia got off to a fast start when, on the Steelers first possession, LB William Thomas jarred the ball loose from RB Jerome Bettis and MLB James Willis recovered the ball on the PE 42. On the very next play RB Ricky Watters (20-48 yds) darted 28 yds. to the PS 30 and two plays later Hoying hit TE Jason Dunn who rumbled 31 yds. for his first TD of the season and a 7-0 Eagles lead. Philadelphia increased that lead to 14-0 on its very next possession when Hoying lead the offense on a 7-play, 80-yd drive culminating in an 8-yd TD strike to WR Irving Fryar (7-116-1TD). On that drive Hoying hooked up with Fryar three times for 65 yds., including a 44-yd bomb that set up the TD. Pittsburgh QB Kordell Stewart rallied his offense on the very next series. Using a punishing ground attack led by Bettis (20-80 yds.), Stewart marched the Steelers to the PE 28 where they finally dented the scoring column with a 46-yd Norm Johnson FG. After trading possessions, Pittsburgh again chipped into the Philadelphia lead. A 23-yd Stewart scramble and more powerful running by Bettis set up Johnson again, this time for a 40-yd FG that trimmed the Birds' lead to 14-6. After a 36-yd pass to Watters and an 18-yd scamper by RB Charlie Garner, the Eagles regained their 11-point advantage on Chris Boniol's 23-yd FG. With 1:42 remaining in the first half, the Steelers attempted to narrow the gap one more time but CB Troy Vincent picked off Stewart's pass at the PE 12 to preserve the Eagles 17-6 advantage ... On the first Steelers possession of the second half CB Charles Dimry intercepted Stewart again, marking the second time in as many weeks the Birds' began the second half by intercepting their opponent. From that point Hoying promptly led the Birds on a 14-play, 53-yd drive that resulted in another Boniol FG (35 yds.) pushing the Eagles lead to 20-6. Again Pittsburgh responded when Stewart hit Bettis on a screen pass that he promptly took 19 yds. for a TD. Hoying quickly answered back by marching the Birds to the PS 7 where they were forced to settle for a 25-yd Boniol FG and a 23-13 lead. With hope dwindling and time running out, Pittsburgh once again cut into the Philadelphia lead when Will Blackwell hauled in a 30-yd Stewart Hail Mary pass with 10 ticks left on the clock, thereby trimming the Eagles' lead to 23-20. That would prove to be all for the scoring as LB William Thomas scooped up the subsequent on-sides kick attempt and the Eagles locked up the victory ... Irving Fryar's 116 yds not only marked his fifth 100-yd receiving game of the season, it also put him over the 1,000-yd plateau for the fifth time in his career. Bobby Hoying looked very impressive in his home debut picking up his first NFL victory as a starter. The Birds' three INTs gave them a total of five in the last two games, equaling their total from the previous 10 contests. For Pittsburgh, Bettis totaled 99 yds. of offense while Stewart, who threw three INTs, ended the day 43-20-294-3-2TDs.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	
Philadelphia	14	3	3	3	23	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 20-48, C.Garner 8-42, K.Turner 2-11, B.Hoying 5-(-4)...
Pittsburgh	3	3	7	7	20	STEELERS - J.Bettis 20-80, K.Stewart 3-33, G.Jones 1-8, C.Hawkins 1-(-10)

- PHI - Dunn, 31 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
- PHI - Fryar, 8 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
- PIT - Johnson, 46 FG
- PIT - Johnson, 40 FG
- PHI - Boniol, 23 FG
- PHI - Boniol, 35 FG
- PIT - Bettis, 19 pass from Stewart (Johnson)
- PHI - Boniol, 25 FG
- PIT - Blackwell, 30 pass from Stewart (Johnson)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 7-116-1TD, J.Johnson 4-37, R.Watters 2-50, J.Dunn 1-31-1TD, F.Solomon 1-12 ... **STEELERS** - C.Johnson 7-106, Y.Thigpen 5-87, W.Blackwell 4-58-1TD, C.Hawkins 2-21, J.Bettis 1-19-1TD, G.Jones 1-3

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 31-15-246-0-2TDs ... **STEELERS** - K.Stewart 43-20-294-3-2TDs

	PHILA	PIT	INTs: EAGLES - T.Vincent 1, C.Dimry 1, M.Stevens 1 ... STEELERS - 0
First Downs	19	22	
Net Yards Gained	326	383	
Rushes/Yards	35/97	25/111	SACKS: EAGLES - M.Zordich 1, M.Mamula 0.5, J.Jones 0.5 ... STEELERS - L.Kirkland 1, K.Henry 1, G.Lloyd 1
Net Yards Passing	229	272	
Att/Comp/INT	31/15/0	43/20/3	
Times Sacked/Yds.	3/17	2/22	
Punts/Avg.	4/41.5	2/36.5	Attendance (67,166)
Fumbles/Lost	1/0	3/2	Playing surface (Astro Turf)
Penalties/Yards	3/15	6/54	Weather (Mostly Cloudy, 45)



GAME 13
Sunday, November 30, 1997
Philadelphia 44, Cincinnati 42
Veterans Stadium



The Eagles, who entered the game as the only NFL team yet to have scored 25 points in a game this season, scored 44 en route to a thrilling, last-second victory over the visiting Cincinnati Bengals. Chris Boniol's 31-yd. FG on the final play of the contest gave Philadelphia a 44-42 win. In a game filled with big plays and a total of eight TD passes, both teams combined for 1,004 yards of offense, including 507 by the Eagles After twice trailing the Birds by 13 points in the second half, Cincinnati rallied behind QB Boomer Esiason to go in front, 42-41, with a minute left to play. It was Esiason, who with 5:29 remaining, marched his club 67 yards in just six plays, capping the drive with his fourth TD pass of the day. In all, Esiason completed 5 of 6 passes on the drive, including a 13-yd. TD strike to James Hundon. After the Birds went three-plays-and-out on their ensuing possession, the Bengals took over at their own 37, trailing by six points, with 2:41 remaining on the clock. Esiason then completed 4 of 7 passes before an interference penalty on CB Charles Dimry gave Cincinnati a 1st-n-goal situation at the Eagles' 1. One play later, FB Brian Milne plunged over for a TD and Doug Pelfrey added the extra point kick that put the Bengals up by 1 with just 60 seconds left. Philadelphia then started at their own 26-yd line and, under the command of second-year QB Bobby Hoying, began what would become a 61-yd drive to the game-winning FG. On the drive, Hoying, who started only the third game of his career, was three of five passing. In order, Hoying drilled a 28-yd strike to WR Irving Fryar, a 16-yr. to WR Freddie Solomon on a 3rd-n-11 play, and an 18-ydr to Fryar that put the Birds at the Bengals 13 with 0:05 remaining. From there, Boniol booted the game-winner In a game for the ages, two aged players put on a show. WR Irving Fryar, a 35-year old in his 14th pro season, hauled in 7 passes for 122 yards en route to his sixth 100-yd game of the year. As such, Fryar tied the club's mark, for 100-yd receiving games in a season, set by Mike Quick in 1983. Likewise, 36-year old Boomer Esiason led the Bengals with a 47-27-378-1-4TD passing effort. But while those two 14th-year pros did their thing, the 25-year old Hoying also wowed the crowd. En route to raising his record as a starter to 2-0-1, Hoying fired TD passes to four different receivers and tossed completions to nine Eagles in all. Hoying finished his third start in as many weeks by completing 26 of 42 passes for 313 yards with 4 TDs and just one INT. The INT, incidentally, was the first of his career and came on his 92nd pass attempt. (That marked the third longest streak to start an NFL career without an INT) Boniol, with his 3-3 effort on FGs, pushed his number of career FG attempts to 101, thus qualifying for the NFL's all-time accuracy list. His 83.47% success rate as of this date, places him atop that list as the most accurate FG kicker in NFL history The Eagles took the opening kickoff and jumped out to a 7-0 lead after Hoying hit WR Michael Timpson with a 23-yd TD pass. Esiason, however, put the visitors on top 14-7 at the end of the first quarter after capping the Bengals' second and third drives with TD passes to WRs Darnay Scott and James Hundon, respectively. Midway through the 2nd stanza, Hoying's 30-yd run set up a 2-yd TD pass to TE Chad Lewis that evened the score. On the subsequent kickoff, the Eagles' Darion Conner forced a fumble that teammate Michael Zordich returned to the CB 28 (Conner would go on to finish the day with three tackles on kickoffs). That play set up a TD pass from Hoying to TE Jimmie Johnson that put Philadelphia on top 21-14. A Boniol FG minutes later gave the Birds a 24-14 edge at the half. For the Eagles, those 24 points after just two quarters equaled their highest output for any game thus far in '97 (they beat Washington 24-10 on Oct. 5) After intermission, Eagles' LB William Thomas intercepted an Esiason pass that went off the hands of RB Ki-Jana Carter. Philadelphia took over at the Bengals' 30 and got another Boniol FG for a 27-14 edge. Thomas's theft marked the third week in a row that the Birds' defense opened the second half by registering an INT The two teams then traded TDs over the rest of the 3rd quarter which ended with Philadelphia still on top by 13. Although Cincinnati subsequently cut its deficit to six points with 9:13 left to play, the Eagles seemingly iced the game minutes later when RB Ricky Watters (20-98-1TD) broke loose for a 16-yd TD run that put the Eagles on top 41-28. That, however, only set the stage for the wild finish orchestrated by Esiason and Hoying.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Philadelphia	7	17	10	10	44
Cincinnati	14	0	7	21	42

PHI - Timpson, 23 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 CIN - Scott, 10 pass from Esiason (Pelfrey)
 CIN - Hundon, 36 pass from Esiason (Pelfrey)
 PHI - Lewis, 2 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 PHI - Johnson, 14 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 PHI - Boniol, 33 FG
 PHI - Boniol, 25 FG
 CIN - Carter, 1 run (Pelfrey)
 PHI - Turner, 23 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 CIN - McGee, 9 pass from Esiason (Pelfrey)
 PHI - Watters, 16 run (Boniol)
 CIN - Hundon, 13 pass from Esiason (Pelfrey)
 CIN - Milne, 1 run (Pelfrey)
 PHI - Boniol, 31 FG

	PHILA	CIN
First Downs	27	29
Net Yards Gained	507	497
Rushes/Yards	35/196	27/124
Net Yards Passing	311	373
Att/Comp/INT	42/26/1	47/27/1
Times Sacked/Yds.	2/2	1/5
Punts/Avg.	4/39.3	3/35.7
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	3/2
Penalties/Yards	5/54	5/30

RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 20-98-1TD, B.Hoying 5-62, C.Garner 9-29, K.Turner 1-7...
BENGALS - C.Dillon 19-114, D.Scott 1-6, E.Bieniemy 1-3, B.Milne 1-1-1TD, K.Carter 4-0-1TD, B.Esiason 1-0.

RECEIVING: EAGLES - I.Fryar 7-122, M.Timpson 6-73-1TD, K.Turner 4-41-1TD, J.Johnson 2-20-1TD, F.Solomon 2-18, R.Watters 2-7, M.Seay 1-22, C.Garner 1-8, C.Lewis 1-2-1TD...
BENGALS - D.Scott 6-99-1TD, J.Hundon 5-118-2TD, D.Dunn 4-54, E.Bieniemy 4-25, T.McGee 3-41-1TD, K.Carter 2-17, C.Dillon 2-17, M.Battaglia 1-7.

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 42-26-313-1-4TD ...
BENGALS - B.Esiason 47-27-378-1-4TD.

INTs: EAGLES: W.Thomas 1 ...
BENGALS: S.Shade 1.

SACKS: EAGLES - M.Mamula 1 ...
BENGALS - J.Francis 1, D.Wilkinson 1

Attendance (66,623)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)
 Weather (Mostly Cloudy, 47)



GAME 14
Sunday, December 7, 1997
New York Giants 31, Philadelphia 21
Veterans Stadium



After winning two straight home games, the Eagles hosted their division rivals from New York, the Giants, who entered the game sitting atop the NFC East with a 7-5-1 record. A win by the Birds would have vaulted Philadelphia into a first place tie with the New Yorkers. The Eagles, however, saw their playoff hopes diminish with a 31-21 loss. QB Bobby Hoying, who had been superb in Philly's previous two wins, finally showed he was human by throwing three INTs and fumbling twice in this, the fourth start of his career. The five turnovers led to 21 points by the Giants ... In a poorly played first quarter both teams committed turnovers that resulted in scores. The Eagles' very first possession began in Giants' territory but ended quickly when Hoying's pass to WR Michael Timpson was intercepted by Jessie Armstead, who raced 57 yards for a 7-0 Giants advantage. The Eagles returned the ensuing kickoff to their own 45 and, despite once again having good field position, came up empty, punting after just three plays. Philly, however, did take advantage of the next opportunity as CB Charles Dimry scooped up a fumble by QB Danny Kanell on the Giants next series and returned it to the NY 3. Two plays later RB Ricky Watters' 1-yd plunge knotted the score at seven apiece. With 7:05 left to play in the half, Giant LB Scott Galyon's sack of Hoying forced a fumble that the New Yorkers recovered at the PE 33. Kanell quickly led a 5-play drive resulting in an 11-yd TD strike to RB Tiki Barber. Kanell increased the visitors' lead to 21-7 on the first play of the Giants' very next series, firing a 40-yd TD pass to WR David Patten on a post pattern. That TD was also set up by a turnover as DE Bernard Holsey's sack of Hoying resulted in another fumble that the Giants recovered. Minutes later, in a final attempt to narrow the gap before intermission, Hoying led the Birds to the NY 30 only to have Chris Boniol's 48-yd field goal into a stiff wind hit the cross bar ... The second half opened much the same way as had the first when, on the Giants' first possession, Eagles' FS Brian Dawkins intercepted a Kanell pass and took it 64 yards for a score that pulled the Birds to within 7. The theft marked the fourth time in as many weeks that the Birds began the second half by intercepting their opponent ... The score remained 21-14 until 10:27 remained to play. It was then that Kanell capped a 9-play, 70-yd drive with his third touchdown strike of the game, a 5-ydr. to WR Chris Calloway. The drive was keyed by Barber who took a handoff from Kanell, faked a reverse to Calloway, and went 42 yards around left end before being pushed out of bounds at the PE 5. Brad Daluiso then added a field goal that put New York on top 31-14 before Hoying and WR Irving Fryar combined on a 72-yd TD pass for the game's final score ... Barber powered the Giants ground game all afternoon, finishing with 114 yds on 21 carries as well as 4 catches for 28 yards. As such, Barber became the third back in four weeks to top the century mark against the Birds. In the trenches, New York's offensive and defensive lines both outplayed Philly. The Giants sacked Hoying four times (all in the first half) and pressured him on numerous occasions. The result would be the first loss by the Eagles in Hoying's four starts.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 12-39-1TD, C.Garner 5-18, K.Turner 2-7, B.Hoying 1-6 ...
Philadelphia	7	0	7	7	21	GIANTS - T.Barber 21-114, C.Way 18-76, T.Wheatley 5-20, D.Kanell 2-(-2).
NY Giants	7	14	0	10	31	

NYG - Armstead, 57 INT return (Daluiso)
 PHI - Watters, 1 run (Boniol)
 NYG - Barber, 11 pass from Kanell (Daluiso)
 NYG - Patten, 40 pass from Kanell (Daluiso)
 PHI - Dawkins, 64 INT return (Boniol)
 NYG - Calloway, 5 pass from Kanell (Daluiso)
 NYG - Daluiso, 19 FG
 PHI - Fryar, 72 pass from Hoying (Boniol)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - M.Timpson 5-54, M.Seay 3-39, R.Watters 3-15, I.Fryar 2-78-1TD, K.Turner 2-10, C.Garner 1-13 ... GIANTS - C.Calloway 4-38-1TD, T.Barber 4-28-1TD, D.Patten 3-54-1TD, A.Toomer 1-15, K.Alexander 1-9, H.Cross 1-9.

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 35-16-209-3-1TD ... GIANTS - D.Kanell 27-14-153-1-3TD.

INTs: EAGLES - B.Dawkins 1 ... GIANTS - J.Armstead 2, P.Ellsworth 1.

SACKS: EAGLES - R.Dent 1, TEAM 1 ... GIANTS - J.Armstead 1, K.Hamilton 1, S.Galyon 1, B.Holsey 1.

	PHILA	NYG
First Downs	15	18
Net Yards Gained	256	345
Rushes/Yards	20/70	46/208
Net Yards Passing	186	137
Att/Comp/INT	35/16/3	27/14/1
Times Sacked/Yards	4/23	2/16
Punts/Avg.	5/34	6/28.2
Fumbles/Lost	3/2	3/1
Penalties/Yards	4/30	6/45

Attendance (67,084)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)
 Weather (Partly cloudy and cold, 41)



GAME 15
Sunday, December 14, 1997
Atlanta 20, Philadelphia 17
Georgia Dome



Philadelphia entered its 15th game of the season with a very realistic shot at a playoff berth. Indeed, when the day began, the Eagles needed wins in their final two games coupled with a loss apiece by the Panthers and Lions over the same two-week span. A heartbreaking 20-17 loss to the Falcons at the Georgia Dome, however, extinguished all such hope ... It was a particularly galling loss for Philly, who appeared to be on the verge of a thrilling come-from-behind victory after erasing a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Back-to-back touchdowns and field goal drives in that final stanza enabled the Eagles to tie the game with just under 2:00 remaining. Unfortunately, that was all the time the Falcons needed to put Morten Andersen in position to drill a game-winning, 33-yard FG as time expired ... Philly had jumped out to a quick 7-0 lead after taking the opening kickoff and marching 89 yards to a TD. RB Ricky Watters carried 7 times for 63 yards on the drive before Bobby Hoying lofted a 3-yd scoring pass to WR Michael Timpson in the corner of the end zone. Despite its early success, however, Philly's offensive attack would then sputter until just over 10 minutes remained to play. In between, the Eagles gained only two first downs and failed to convert seven straight third down plays ... In the 2nd qtr, Falcons rookie RB Byron Hanspard scampered 53 yards to the Eagles 28. Two plays later, he hauled in a 10-yd TD strike from QB Chris Chandler that evened the score at 7-7. Although Atlanta would go on to outgain the Eagles 204-137 in the half, the score remained knotted at intermission. Philly's offensive struggles were magnified early in the 3rd qtr, however, when a Hoying pass was batted in the air and intercepted by DE Lester Archambeau at the Eagles' 38-yd line. Minutes later, RB Harold Green's 13-yd burst to the PE 3 set up a 1-yd TD run by Jamal Anderson that gave Atlanta a 14-7 lead. After Phila. responded with its second consecutive 3-plays-and-out series of the quarter, Atlanta embarked on a 17-play, 70-yd drive that chewed 10:10 off the clock. When the drive ended with a FG more than four minutes into the 4th qtr, Atlanta had upped its lead to 17-7 and finished the 3rd qtr. with a time of possession edge of 12:13 to 2:47. Only then did the Eagles' offense get back in the groove. Hoying's 56-yd bomb to WR Freddie Solomon and a pass interference penalty three plays later led to a 1-yd TD plunge by Watters that cut Philadelphia's deficit to 17-14. When the Eagles defense quickly forced a 3-n-out series by the Falcons, Hoying again took charge, leading a 12-play, 58-yd march to a game-tying FG. The key play of the drive was an 11-yd toss to WR Irving Fryar on a 4th-n-5 play down to the AF 22. From there 2nd and 3rd down passes fell incomplete in the end zone, first when TE Chad Lewis could not hang on to an underthrown ball and then when CB Ronnie Bradford broke up a pass to Timpson at the last second. The Eagles subsequently settled for a 39-yd FG by Chris Boniol that tied the game with 1:55 to play ... Two plays after returning the ensuing kickoff to their own 24, Atlanta's Green took a screen pass at his own 35 and broke six tackles on his way to a 47-yd gain. That put the Falcons on the PE 18 and set up Andersen's game-clinching boot.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Philadelphia	7	0	0	10	17
Atlanta	0	7	7	6	20

RUSHING: EAGLES - R.Watters 15-95-1TD, B.Hoying 2-6, C.Garner 3-5 ... FALCONS - J.Anderson 21-78-1TD, B.Hanspard 5-76, C.Chandler 7-38, H.Green 3-19.

PHI - Timpson, 3 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 ATL - Hanspard, 10 pass from Chandler (Andersen)
 ATL - Anderson, 2 run (Andersen)
 ATL - Andersen, 21 FG
 PHI - Watters, 1 run (Boniol)
 PHI - Boniol, 39 FG
 ATL - Andersen, 33 FG

RECEIVING: EAGLES - R.Watters 4-35, I.Fryar 3-35, F.Solomon 2-64, K.Turner 2-2, J.Dunn 1-15, C.T.Jones 1-11, C.Lewis 1-8, C.Garner 1-7, M.Timpson 1-3-1TD ... FALCONS - T.Mathis 4-57, T.Kinchen 3-39, B.Kozlowski 2-41, H.Green 1-47, B.Emanuel 1-16, B.Hanspard 1-10-1TD.

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 34-16-180-1-1TD ... FALCONS - C.Chandler 21-12-210-0-1TD.

	PHILA	ATL
First Downs	15	21
Net Yards Gained	277	386
Rushes/Yards	20/106	36/211
Net Yards Passing	171	175
Att/Comp/INT	34/16/1	21/12/0
Times Sacked/Yards	1/9	5/35
Punts/Avg.	6/41.5	4/38.8
Fumbles/Lost	0/0	2/1
Penalties/Yards	6/50	4/35

INTs: EAGLES - None ... FALCONS - L.Archambeau 1.

SACKS: EAGLES - G.Jefferson 2.0, R.Dent 1.0, M.Mamula 1.0, R.Farmer 1.0 ... FALCONS - L.Archambeau 0.5, C.Smith 0.5.

Attendance (42,866)
 Playing surface (Astro Turf)
 Weather (Indoors) Outside (Cloudy, rain 40)



GAME 16
Sunday, December 21, 1997
Washington 35, Philadelphia 32
Jack Kent Cooke Stadium



The Eagles concluded their 1997 season with a 35-32 loss to Washington in their first ever visit to Jack Kent Cooke Stadium. The host Redskins got off to a quick start as they used two defensive touchdowns to mount an early 14-0 lead in the first quarter. On the game's first possession, Redskins defensive back Darryl Pounds sacked QB Bobby Hoying on a corner blitz and forced a fumble that he scooped up and returned 18 yards for a touchdown. Later in the quarter, Hoying was intercepted by Darrell Green, who then raced 83 yards for another TD. Hoying and the Eagles rebounded quickly, though, as rookie RB Duce Staley scampered 57 yards to the 'Skins 31 yards on the ensuing kickoff. Three plays later, Hoying hit TE Jason Dunn with a 31-yd scoring strike to cut the Redskins lead in half. The furious scoring pace continued in the 2nd stanza as the Redskins registered TD runs by Stephen Davis (1 yd.) and Larry Bowie (3 yds.), while the Eagles countered with a 9-yd scoring jaunt by RB Charlie Garner. After Ricky Watters left the game early in the first quarter with a shoulder injury, Garner saw his most game action of the year and, in the process, rushed for a season-high 115 yards and 2 TDs on 18 carries. In addition, third-string RB Staley also saw his most action of the year as he finished with 30 yards on 6 carries, while catching 2 passes for 22 yds. ... The Eagles got on the scoreboard first in the 2nd half as K Chris Boniol nailed a 33-yd FG to make the score 28-17. For Boniol, it marked the 61st straight FG he made from 35 yards and under. After a Brian Dawkins interception early in the 4th quarter, Hoying led the Birds on a 13-play, 58 yard drive that was capped off by a 1-yd TD run by Garner. Hoying then hit Freddie Solomon for the two-point conversion (the Eagles first two-pointer of the year) to make the score 28-25. However, the Redskins roared right back as KR Brian Mitchell returned the ensuing kickoff 74 yards before QB Jeff Hostetler and WR Michael Westbrook connected on a 7-yd scoring strike with just 5 minutes remaining in the contest. Philly would not die, though, as Hoying marched the Eagles to another TD on their next possession as he hit Solomon on a 14-yd TD pass with just over a minute left in regulation. However, Boniol's onside kick was recovered by the 'Skins Chris Thomas as Washington held on for the 35-32 victory.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Philadelphia	7	7	3	15	32
Washington	14	14	0	7	35

WAS - Pounds, 18 fumble return (Jacke)
 WAS - Green, 83 INT return (Jacke)
 PHI - Dunn, 31 pass from Hoying (Boniol)
 WAS - Davis, 1 run (Jacke)
 PHI - Garner, 9 run (Boniol)
 WAS - Bowie, 3 run (Jacke)
 PHI - Boniol, 33 FG
 PHI - Garner, 1 run (Solomon-Hoying pass)
 WAS - Westbrook, 7 pass from Hostetler (Jacke)
 PHI - Solomon, 14 pass from Hoying (Boniol)

	PHILA	WAS
First Downs	24	17
Net Yards Gained	401	221
Rushes/Yards	36/193	20/78
Net Yards Passing	208	143
Att/Comp/INT	31/21/1	24/16/2
Times Sacked/Yards	6/47	2/17
Punts/Avg.	3/38.7	3/47.0
Fumbles/Lost	2/2	2/0
Penalties/Yards	7/72	2/20

RUSHING: EAGLES - C.Garner 18-115-2TDs, R.Watters 8-30, D.Staley 6-30, K.Turner 2-16, B.Hoying 2-2 ... REDSKINS - S.Davis 12-65-1TD, L.Bowie 3-23-1TD, J.Hostetler 4-0, B.Mitchell 1-(-10)

RECEIVING: EAGLES - K.Turner 6-44, I.Fryar 4-65, F.Solomon 3-30-1TD, C.Garner 3-23, C.T. Jones 2-40, D.Staley 2-22, J.Dunn 1-31-1TD ... REDSKINS - M.Westbrook 5-58-1TD, J.Asher 4-45, L.Bowie 2-21, S.Davis 2-(-3), B.Mitchell 1-18, A.Connell 1-14, C.Thomas 1-7

PASSING: EAGLES - B.Hoying 31-21-255-1-2TD ... REDSKINS - J.Hostetler 23-16-160-2-1TD, T.Green 1-0-0-0-0TD.

INTs: EAGLES - T.Vincent 1, B.Dawkins 1 ... REDSKINS - D.Green 1.

SACKS: EAGLES - M.Mamula 1, E.Jasper 1 ... REDSKINS - K.Harvey 2, C.Dishman 1, D. Pounds 1, G.Jones 1, K.Lang 0.5, R.Owens 0.5

Attendance (75,939)
 Playing surface (Grass)
 Weather (Sunny and 43)