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How the Philadelphia Eagles Lost Its Karma?

By
Brian Kelly

The karma-deprived Super Bowl Eagles
can't even find a park pigeon today
to share some birdseed





#1 Lud Wray



#2 Bert Bell



#3 Greasy Neale



#4 Bo McMillin



#5 Wayne Millner



#6 Jim Trimble



#7 Hugh Devore



#8 Buck Shaw



#9 Nick Skorich



#10 Joe Kuharich



#11 Jerry Williams



#12 Ed Khayat



#13 Mike McCormack



#14 Dick Vermeil



#15 Marion Campbell



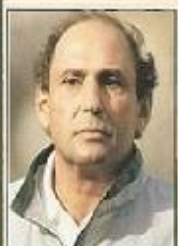
#16 Fred Bruney



#21 Chip Kelly



#17 Buddy Ryan



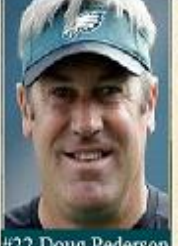
#18 Rick Kotite



#19 Ray Rhodes



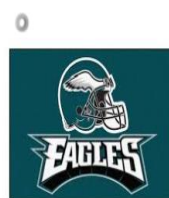
#20 Andy Reid



#22 Doug Pederson



4 How the Eagles Lost Its Karma?



How the Philadelphia Eagles Lost Its Karma?

The karma-deprived Super Bowl Eagles can't even find a park pigeon today to share some birdseed

What is karma? Let's explain. In Hinduism and Buddhism, Karma represents the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence (current life and afterlife). Karma is viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.

Another definition that is less formal—destiny or fate, following as effect from cause.

This book is written for those of us who love the Philadelphia Eagles and Eagles Football but who are not as pleased with recent Eagles' Team Management. The Eagles have many championships at various levels to their credit and many close calls. We wish this book were about only those triumphs but the Hindu and the Buddhist notion of karma has taken its toll on a spiritually deficient Eagles organization.

Eagles' Top Management shot itself in the foot in its reaction to a huge honor from its home country. A comeback in 2020 which many can't see coming until there is a major management attitude adjustment, after two less than optimal years in a row is not expected. After their karma-rich Super Bowl win, one would expect a different message coming forth about the Eagle's Team behavior. The Birds left a lot of great karma on the table.

In this book, we discuss a number of the thrilling seasons and the big games that made a big difference in Eagles Football History, but we offer our concerns about a team management led by Jeffrey Laurie who seems to care little about America and Philadelphia Eagles Fans in particular. Jeffrey Laurie by himself stole the karma from the Philadelphia Eagles.

This book is not as simple as *Who stole the Kishka*. It is about *Who stole the Karma!* Jeffrey Laurie is the cocky owner who stole away the good will of the American people from Philadelphia. Why? Because team management decided the US did not matter. That's who stole the karma. We'll show you why and we'll show how Eagles can get their Karma back.

The Eagles have stuffed away three NFL crowns (1948, 1949, 1960) and won Super Bowl LII (2017-2018). But that is not all. Always keeping fans on the edge of their seats, the Eagles have over the years had many close calls and many championship games. Daniel Gallen of Penn Live.com recently captured the frustration of Eagles fans. Four championship Seasons is a big deal but there were lots of "almost" and second places in the Eagles History

"The NFC Championship Game is well-worn territory for the Philadelphia Eagles and their fans. The Birds played in their seventh conference title game in 2017 on their way to the Super Bowl. It was their sixth appearance since 2001 including a run of four-straight from Andy Reid in the early 2000s. They lost most of their appearances. So, while this game is a symbol of success, it is also a reminder of so much heartbreak in January for the Eagles. As another mark of excellence, prior to the Super Bowl after the 2017 season, the Eagles were runners-up for the top prize with five 2nd place finishes".

The Birds' Karma disappeared right after Team Eagles were invited by America to a White House ceremony to celebrate their Super Bowl victory. The disrespect shown by Jeffrey Lurie and the Eagles' Brass to the American people was the day the Eagles' karma died. And now fans have seen two straight years of bad luck since then. Check their record.

Brian Kelly



How the Philadelphia Eagles Lost Its Karma?

Karma-deprived Super Bowl Eagles can't even find a park pigeon today to share some birdseed

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Publisher/ Editor,

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**LETS
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PUBLISH



Philadelphia Eagles Season Records from 1933 to 2020

Total Games 1264

Total Wins 609

Total Losses 631

Total Ties 26 * Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1933 * Through Feb 2018

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1933 | Lud Wray | x | East | 4th | 3-5-1 |
| 1934 | Lud Wray, | x | East | T3 rd | 4-7-0 |
| 1935 | Lud Wray, | x | East | 5th | 2-9-0 |

1933-1935 Lud Wray final record (9-21-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|------------|---|------|------------------|--------|
| 1936 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 1-11-0 |
| 1937 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 2-8-1 |
| 1938 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 4th | 5-6-0 |
| 1939 | Bert Bell, | x | East | T4 th | 1-9-1 |
| 1940 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 1-10-0 |

1936-1940 Bert Bell final record (10-44-2)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|------|-----|-------|
| 1941 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 4th | 2-8-1 |
| 1942 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 5th | 2-9-0 |

1943 The Eagles & the Steelers aka The Steagles

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|----------|------|------------------|---|
| 1943 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 3rd | 5-4-1, — |
| 1944 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd, | 7-1-2 |
| 1945 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd | 7-3-0 |
| 1946 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd | 6-5-0 |
| 1947 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 8-4-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Eastern Divisional Playoff (at Steelers) 21-0 • Lost NFL Championship (at Cardinals) 21-28 |
| 1948 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 9-2-1 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won NFL Championship (1) (Cardinals) 7-0 |
| 1949 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 11-1-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won NFL Championship (2) (Rams) 14-0 |
| 1950 | Greasy Neale | American | x | T3 rd | 6-6-0 |

1941-1950 Greasy Neale final record (66-44-5)

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|----------|---|-----|-------|
| 1951 | Bo McMillin | American | x | 5th | 2-0-0 |
| 1951 | Wayne Millner | American | x | 5th | 2-8-0 |

1951-1951 McMillin / Millner final record (4-8-0)

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|----------|---|------------------|-------|
| 1952 | Jim Trimble | American | x | T2 nd | 7-5-0 |
| 1953 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | x | 2nd | 7-4-1 |
| 1954 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | x | 2nd | 7-4-1 |
| 1955 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | x | T4 th | 4-7-1 |

1952-1955 Jim Trimble final record (25-20-3)

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|----------|---|-----|-------|
| 1956 | Hugh Devore | Eastern, | x | 6th | 3-8-1 |
| 1957 | Hugh Devore | Eastern, | x | 5th | 4-8-0 |

1956-1957 High Devore final record (7-16-1)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1958 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | T5th | 2-9-1 |
| 1959 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | T2nd | 7-5-0 |
| 1960 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | 1st | 10-2-0 |

- Won NFL Championship (3) (Packers) 17-13
- Norm Van Brocklin (MVP)
- Buck Shaw (Coach of Year),

1958-1960 Buck Shaw final record (20-16-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------|---|------------|--------|
| 1961 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | 2nd | 10-4-0 |
| 1962 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | 7th | 3-10-1 |
| 1963 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | 7th | 2-10-2 |

1961-1963 Nick Skorich final record (15-24-3)

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|---------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| 1964 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T3rd | 6-8-0 |
| 1965 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T5th | 5-9-0 |
| 1966 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T2nd | 9-5-0 |
| 1967 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | Capitl | 2nd | 6-7-1 |
| 1968 | Joe Kuharich, | Eastern | Capitl | 4th | 2-12-0 |

1964-1968 Joe Kuharich final record (28-41-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|---------|--------|------------|--------|
| 1969 | Jerry Willms. | Eastern | Capitl | 4th | 4-9-1 |
| 1970 | Jerry Willms | NFC | East | 5th | 3-10-1 |
| 1971 | Jerry Willms | NFC | East | 3rd | 0-3-0 |

1969- 1971 Jerry Williams final record (7-22-2)

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----|------|------------|--------|
| 1971 | Ed Khayat | NFC | East | 3rd | 6-4-1 |
| 1972 | Ed Khayat | NFC | East | 5th | 2-11-1 |

1971-1972 Ed Khayat final record (8-15-2)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|-----------|
| 1973 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 3rd | 5-8-1 |
| 1974 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 4th | 7-7-0 |
| 1975 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 5th | 4-10-0, — |

1973-1975 Mike McCormack final record (16-25-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|
| 1976 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 4th | 4-10-0 |
| 1977 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 4th | 5-9-0 |
| 1978 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 9-7-0 |

- Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Falcons) 13-14

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|
| 1979 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|

- Won Wild Card Playoffs(Bears) 27-17
- Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Buccaneers) 17-24

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|
| 1980 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0 |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|

- Won Divisional Playoffs(Vikings) 31-16,
- Won NFC Championship(v Cowboys) 20-7
- Lost Super Bowl XV (vs. Raiders) 10-27

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|
| 1981 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
|------|--------------|-----|------|------------|--------|

- Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Giants) 21-27

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------------|--|------|-------------|-------|
| 1982 | Dick Vermeil, NFC | | East | 13th | 3-6-0 |
|------|-------------------|--|------|-------------|-------|

- Players Strike

1976-1982 Dick Vermeil final record (57-51-0)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1983 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 4th | 5-10-0 |
| 1984 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 5th | 6-9-1 |
| 1985 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 4th | 7-9-0 |
| 1985 | Fred Bruneu | NFC | East | 4th | 1-0-0 (wk16) |

1983-1985 Marion Campbell final record (17-29-1)

1985-1985 Fred Bruneu final record (1-0-0)

| | | | | | |
|------|------------|-----|------|------------|---|
| 1986 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 4th | 5-10-0 — |
| 1987 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 4th | 7-8-0, — |
| 1988 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6=0 |
| | | | | | • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Bears) 12–20 |
| 1989 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0, |
| | | | | | • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Rams) 7–21 |
| 1990 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| | | | | | • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Redskins) 6–20 |

1986-1990 Buddy Ryan final record (43-38-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|------|------------|---|
| 1991 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 3rd | 10-6-0 |
| 1992 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Saints) 36–20 |
| | | | | | • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Cowboys) 10–34 |
| 1993 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 3rd | 8-8-0 |
| 1994 | Rich Kotite, | NFC, | East | 4th | 7-9-0 |

1991-1994 Rich Kotite final record (37-29-0)

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|------|-------|-----------------------|---|
| 1995 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East, | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Lions) 58–37 |
| | | | | | • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Cowboys) 11–30 |
| | | | | | • Ray Rhodes Coach of the year |
| 1996 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East, | 2nd | 10- 6- 0, |
| | | | | | • Lost Wild Card Playoff s (at 49ers) 0–14 |
| 1997 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East | 3rd | 6-9-1 |
| 1998 | Ray Rhodes, | NFC, | East | 5th | 3-13-0 |

1995-1998 Ray Rhodes final record (30-36-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----|-------|------------|---|
| 1999 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 5th | 5-11-0 |
| 2000 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 11- 5- 0, |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers) 21–3 |
| | | | | | • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Giants) 10–20 |
| 2001 | Andy Reid | NFC | East, | 1st | 11-5-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers) 31–9 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs (at Bears) 33–19 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship (at Rams) 24–29 |
| 2002 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0, |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons) 20–6 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship(Buccaneers) 10–27 |
| | | | | | • Andy Reid, Coach of year |
| 2003 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Packers) 20–17 (OT) |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship(Panthers) 3–14 |
| 2004 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 13-3-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Vikings) 27–14 |
| | | | | | • Won NFC Championship(Falcons) 27–10 |
| | | | | | • Lost Super Bowl XXXIX (vs. Patriots) 21–24 |
| 2005 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 6-10-0 |

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|--|
| 2006 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Giants) 23–20 • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Saints) 24–27 |
| 2007 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 8-8-0 |
| 2008 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 9-6-1 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Vikings) 26–14 • Won Divisional Playoffs (at Giants) 23–11 • Lost NFC Championship (at Cardinals) 25–32 |
| 2009 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Cowboys) 14–34 |
| 2010 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 10- 6-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Packers) 16–21 |
| 2011 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 8-8-0, |
| 2012 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 4- 12-0 |
| <u>1999-2012 Any Reid final record (140-102-1)</u> | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----|------|-----|---|
| 2013 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Saints) 24–26 |
| 2014 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| 2015 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 2nd | 7-9-0 |
| <u>2014-2015 Chip Kelly final record (26-22)</u> | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|------|------|-----------------|--|
| 2016 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 4 th | 7-9-0 |
| 2017 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 1st | 13-3-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons) 15–10 • Won NFC Championship(Vikings) 38–7 • Won Super Bowl LII (vs. Patriots) 41–33 • Nick Foles (SB MVP) |
| 2018 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 2nd | 9-7 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Bears) 16–15 • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Saints) 14–20 |
| 2019 | Doug Pederson | NFC | East | 1 st | 9-7 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs to Seahawks (at Eagles) 17–9 |

2016-2019 Doug Pederson record through 2019 season (42-28)

Eagles totals from 1933 to 2020

Total reg. season wins & losses thru Feb. 2020 **(586-608-26)-**

Total playoff wins & losses from 1933-2019 **(23-23)**

Total all games from 1933-2017 including playoffs **(609-631-26)**

Total NFL Championships / Super Bowls 5

Total NFC Championship Games 7

Total Pre Superbowl (1933-1966) runner-ups 5

Total Divisional Championship 14

Total Conference Championship Wins 4

Dedication

I dedicate this book

To my wonderful brothers and sisters:

Angel Edward J. Kelly, Jr.

Carol & Amelia Kelly

Nancy "Ann" Flannery & Angel Jim Flannery

Mary A. Daniels & Bill Daniels

Joseph A. Kelly & Diane Kelly

I surely am a lucky person to have

Such a great family

Edward J Kelly and Irene McKeown Kelly

Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 202 books from the past.

My acknowledgments were so large at one time that readers complained that they had to go through too many pages to get to page one.

And, so I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it would cost about a dollar more to print my books with full acknowledgments.

Thank you and God bless you all for your help. Please check out www.letsGOPublish.com to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book.

In this book, I received some extra special help from many fine American patriots including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Wily Ky Eyely, Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Angel Robert Gary Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Angel Ben Kelly, and Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly.

Thank you all!

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References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff.

At Meyers High School (HS Diploma) and King's College (BS Data Processing), and Wilkes-University, (MBA Accounting & Finance) I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought included in my writings. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism, so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, and company management, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations. I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 220 other books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available.

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the Karma of the Philadelphia Eagles' Football, I tried to bluff my way, so you would think that I knew everything before I began to research and write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now for all the facts that I have uncovered.

Without any pain on your part, read this book from cover to cover. Enjoy stories about the championship seasons and the recent failings of Philadelphia Football. You can decide yourself if it was Karma?

This book is not intended for historians per se, but it does teach a lot of history. It is for regular people of all levels of intelligence. It is for people that want to have a fun read, who like smiling when Eagles Football is the topic. It is fun reading about Philadelphia's 609 wins.

This book is for people who love Philadelphia Eagles' Football and perhaps it is also for some Eagles detractors who want to have command of the facts before they defend a point of view.

There are lots and lots of facts in this book. This book is not for sticklers about the mundane aspects of writing that often cause creative writers to lay bricks or paint houses instead of writing. It is for everyday people, like you and I, who enjoy the Eagles because they are the Eagles and who enjoy football because it is football. It is that simple.

When the Eagles play a team and they win or lose, that is a historical fact, but to discover such facts, it does not require fundamental or basic research. The NFL itself as well as the Eagles, copyright their original material but not public facts. They copyright so they can say "no" if somebody else's creativity affects the league or the franchise negatively. Even the NFL does not own publicly well-known facts that are readily available about legacies such as Lud Wray or Bert Bell, Greasy Neale, or even Doug Pederson and championship seasons.

The championships and the coaches and the great players are well known and well defined, though some may think the facts belong to the NFL. Facts are facts, period. So, what? As the author of this book, I care but it is a sports book. I use a judicious approach to assure that I am not throwing the bull when I intend to be presenting the facts.

Nonetheless, this is not a book about heavy math algorithms, or potential advances to the internal combustion engine, or space travel, or the eight elements necessary to find a cure for cancer. So, I refuse to treat this book 100% seriously. If you find a fault, I will fix it. This is a book about sports and sports legends and stories about sporting events that have been recorded seven million times already someplace else. Though I tried for sure to get it all right and I used the work of others to assure so, I bet I made a mistake or two.

What is my remedy for the *harmed* if I have made a mistake? I did not write this book to harm anybody. If I did not write this book, would the *harmed individuals* from the book be unharmed. So, at the very least, I can *unpublish* those parts of the book. If any reader is harmed, let me know, and I will do whatever must be done for all to be OK.

Preface:

After writing about Notre Dame, Penn State, Clemson, Alabama, Florida, Syracuse, and Army, Brian Kelly, your author was moved so much by the Eagles' to write about the team.

Kelly first wrote about the Philadelphia Eagles with a book entitled *Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football* in 2018. In 2019, Kelly followed up this work successful work with a book about Eagles' championships titled: **Super Bowl & NFL Championship Seasons: The Philadelphia Eagles**: The subtitle is "*Begins with the Eagle's first Championship & rolls right to Super Bowl LII.*"

Kelly felt it natural to write a laudatory book about his favorite pro-team. This is not that book nor is this book just about the Eagles National Championship Seasons. On the contrary this book describes how the Eagles recently lost its karma and what it must do and what we fans must do to get it back.

Actually, your author sees this book as a one-time opportunity to help to reverse the negative karma of the Eagles and help the team become winners again. Eagles fans know the alternative is to let Jeffrey Laurie, who has run the anti-karma program for the Eagles for the past twenty-five years, to continue to mismanage the Eagles for another twenty-five years until he chooses to stop. Today, the Eagles simply lost in a wild card game.

Left unchanged, Lurie's Eagles may very well work their way down to become perennial cellar dwellers if they can't get their karma back.

Your author makes a number of relevant recommendations about how the Eagles can turn be turned around. Will the fans insist that Lurie either retire or change his style so that the team can escape its bad karma curse. Jeffrey Lurie took the time to besmirch a president and he still expects good karma. His actions have the power to take any high spirited team to their graves?

Besides being about karma and its effect on the Eagles now and for the future, this book is about some of the almost championships and

some of the great championship seasons in Philadelphia Eagles Football. Most happened before current management. It touches on what the spirit of the Eagles for the most part always has been and what the team needs to do to rid the big black cloud of negative karma from their backs.

When owner Jeffrey Lurie stole the 2017 karma from the Eagles was it because he could not stand winning all the time. Did he realize his behavior hurt the essence of the team? If this were the case, *Mr. Negative*, Jeffrey Lurie is responsible for taking the karma from the heart of the team. To show how quickly the Eagles changed from a Super-Bowl contender to an also ran, just look at the lousy record of the last two years playing in the weakest division. Two negative karma seasons in a row. The fan base does not want 2020 to be year three of the karma curse.

This book does not place the Eagles on top of the world where all Eagles fans thought we should be this year. Expectations came after the Super Bowl victory in 2018 months before owner Jeff Lurie encouraged the Eagles to snub the fan base as well as the Nation.

Author Kelly hopes this new book provides the impetus for Eagles fans to either get rid of this bad owner or force him to look at his team and fan base in a more positive light. Either way, the Eagles organization has a chance of regaining karma and blasting through the negative fog to a great future.

You will see that this new book talks to you all about how we, the Eagles' fan base, can help to turn around the seeping negative karma curse

To lighten up the stories in this book, we examine many aspects of the historical and mythical Eagles Football Teams that got to play in the big stadiums in the big games. Because I still suffer from receiving negative karma from the Eagles 2017/2018 snub of our country, I could not write all the stories I would have because I am still angry at the Eagles and I am still explaining to my wife how I can still love a football team that snubbed my favorite country—my country, America.

And so, when I wrote this book under a cloud of bad karma set in motion by Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie, Lurie had become my Darth

Vader—a lot of money and power but, nothing of goodness for the people.

Eagles fans: only Jeffrey Lurie can stop the erosion of the team record. And time is running out on this owner and the Eagles.

Mr. Lurie, you and I are not friends. Despite your behavior as a human being with bad karma, I still love the Eagles. I am glad you do not wholly represent the Bert Bell and Lud Wray Eagles organization when the Eagles cared about fans. Please retire or become a better man.

I do not like Dallas' Jerry Jones either, but I would rejoice if he took over the franchise. At least Jones cares about America. He cares more about the team than himself. He has karma.

This book mostly ignores all of the troubles with Eagles' owners in order to tell many exhilarating stories about a ton of great games in the pre-negative karma days. In fact, it stops every now and then, and it takes the reader on a side excursion in time to learn about a particular event or a great circumstance. We even use some articles written by some of the best to describe a great player or a great championship. You're going to love it.

The Eagles had some great players over the years. The player list always begins with the immortal Dutchman, Norm Van Brocklin, and on and on with Tommy McDonald, Wilbur Montgomery, Reggie White, Chuck Bednarik, Brian Dawkins, David Akers, and of course Carson Wentz. Since 2018, the list has been highlighted with the Super Bowl MVP, Nick Foles, even though ythe Eagles owner traded Foles away.

The Eagles have been around forever helping fans to enjoy great football on Sundays. I can recall watching the Eagles with my dad on our B/W Admiral 1956/1957 TV with Van Brocklin and Bednarick and company dominating the games.

So many Pro Bowlers have made Eagles Football a bright light experience for the program's many years and many fans.

As the Editor in Chief, and recalling what a die-hard Eagles' fan that my dad is, I can predict that you will not be able to put this book down. Remember the title of this book: How the Philadelphia Eagles

Lost Its Karma? Hopefully the recommendations in this book can help us all make the Eagles a better team.

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves the Philadelphia Eagles and Eagles football, and who wants to know more about one of the most revered professional athletic teams in all of football. My dad wrote this book and in this book he gives some great tips to all Eagles' fans about how to get back our favorite team's Karma.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's *How the Philadelphia Eagles Lost Its Karma?* will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

Who is author Brian Kelly?

Brian Kelly aka Brian W. Kelly, is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 221st published book. Brian continues as an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics. Moreover, Kelly also has written several hundred articles on other topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as *The Wine Diet* and *Thank you, IBM*. His books are always well received. If I could get the pen out of Dad's hand for just awhile, I might be able to write a few books of my own, but my editing chores at Lets Go Publish always come first.

Brian Kelly's books are highlighted at www.letsgopublish.com. They are for sale at Amazon, Kindle, and Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com/author/brianwkelly, as well as and other fine booksellers.

The best!

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief
I am Brian Kelly's eldest son

More About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Kelly continues to solve problems of all kinds. With this book, Brian is now the author of 201 books, including 52 Sports Books, and hundreds of magazine articles. As a technocrat by trade before becoming an author, Brian was a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian Kelly tried his hand at politics and was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010. He also ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. Kelly's political ventures were all about learning and there was no winning. Kelly loves the Eagles, becoming a fan in the 1950's and 1960's watching games with dad and brothers on Sundays on the family 21" Admiral B/W TV.

Chapter 1 Introduction to the Book

The Eagles recently celebrated 85 years of football.



Everybody loves the Eagles!

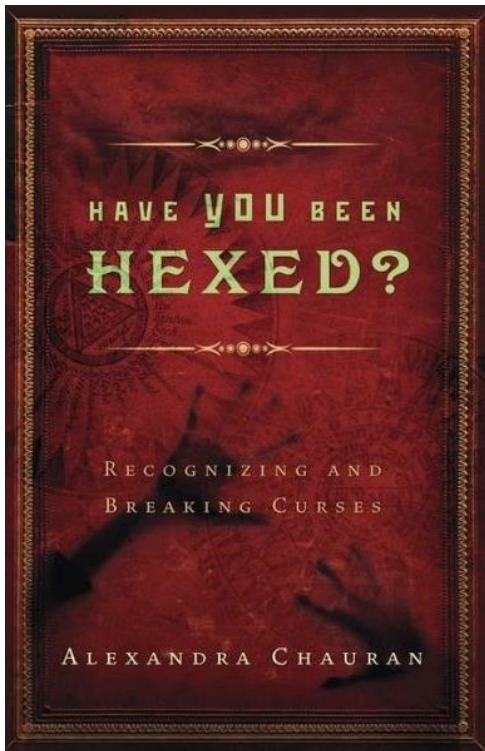
In 2017, a karma-rich Philadelphia Eagles team celebrated its 85th year of Professional football and they won the Super Bowl which they played after the 2017 season on Feb 4, 2018. How about that?.

This book celebrates many of the good Eagles' teams from over the years beginning in 1933. There were a number of championships and almost championships but there was only one Super Bowl Season and only one Super Bowl Win.

For the 2017/2018, we are forever grateful. This book helps explain why it might be the end of great seasons for the Eagles—at least until the moon is in the seventh house and Jupiter aligns with Mars and of course after Peace guides the planets and love will steer the stars and

the Eagles. I'd say it might be as long from now as the Age of Aquarius. How did this happen to such a great team?

People like me, who love the team from way back will love this book. Eagles' haters will surely want their own copy of this book just for additional ammo. Yet, it won't help them unless they can figure out how to use the good karma stories herein to throw some additional positive hexes on the birds. Of course, with or without this book, we know the Eagles have been doing well in terms of bringing bad Karma on themselves in the last several years.



For those who can't wait to stop the bad karma through normal means as we suggest in this book, there is another way. It is a remedy for football teams or just about anybody having bad luck. The primer for the book of Hex solutions reads like this:

Is everything in your life going wrong? Is it a curse or just plain bad luck? This book is the definitive guide to figuring out whether or not you've been hexed—and breaking curses of all kinds, even those we've placed on ourselves.

In easy-to-read language, Alexandra Chauran reveals everything you need to know about hex detection and confirmation, how hexes work, cleansing and banishing rituals, and characteristics of curse casters. All people have the power to hex and to heal, and Chauran shows how anyone can prevent negative magic from affecting their loved ones.—perhaps even a friendly little football team like the Eagles!

For the Eagles, it is too late to stop as the curse of bad karma has already affected the team. Maybe Chauran's book can help, as she

suggests with the right medicine [such as a new owner,] perhaps, the bad Karma may end.



In defining the format of the story book part of this book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss all of the great seasons in Philadelphia Eagles Football History. No book can claim to be able to capture all the fascination of seeing a championship game live but we sure give it a try in this book. And when the Eagles flubbed their opportunities, we mince no words in bringing that story to you also.

The Eagles had a number of almost championships in its almost 90-year history and after the team put in its first twenty-years, with Greasy Neale as the coach, the Birds began to become a regular playoff contender and even won back to back championships in the late 1940's.

Besides explaining karma and offering some thoughts on how to get the Eagles back on track. This book does not miss a championship . It tells what seems like a never-ending story, because of the 22 great coaches, hundreds of great players, and the always great Eagles fans and the many games are full of nuances. Since none of us have time for to get all that reading done, we cut the book down to an

enjoyable read in a manageable size. These championship games naturally include a lot of great people, including some fine owners that over time would make or break the Philadelphia Eagles.

Even before we get into Eagles football, we present some salient introductory material that in some ways precedes the beginning of football, the beginning of the NFL, and we lightly examines the precursor team to the Eagles, namely, the Frankford Yellow Jackets.

Chuck Bednarik, Reggie White, Norm Van Brocklin, Tommy McDonald, Steve Van Buren, Seth Joyner, Brian Westbrook, and other Philadelphia greats from over the years, have great reverence for the team for which they played the game of football. That reverence is captured in these pages. This book presents some of their best seasons of all time.

Looking at the quick snapshot of coaches and seasons at the beginning of the book, it is clear that Philadelphia has been able to survive a number of coaches who could not necessarily survive themselves. What I am suggesting is historically accurate as it was not until Greasy Neale in 1947 that after existing as an also-ran for 15 years in the league, the team almost got its first championship. In 1948, however, the Neale's Eagles broke through the sound barrier and won all the marbles. Neale and his great teams were on a roll. Though it was tough from the start, from its inception in 1933, the Eagles football program has grown both in acceptance and popularity. Go Eagles!

Look across the Internet with your web browser when you have an opportunity and you will be reminded that in 2020, the Philadelphia Eagles are world champions just twice removed. The Birds put on a fabulous season and a superb Super Bowl Game defeating the New England Patriots in February 2018 to win the coveted Super Bowl Trophy and those huge individual rings. After all those years of almost, Philly finally got the Super Bowl prize. Hopefully this coming year, the Eagles will figure out how to get good karma back on the team before it loses its great coach and great pro-bowl players.

I have done my best to portray an accurate depiction of Philadelphia Eagles football history, displayed in a properly summarized format

in which the almost championship and the championship seasons highlighted. Nobody wants to be reading this book forever unless it is a bad winter. There are a bit more than 200 pages to this book however, so there is more than enough to accompany you when the wind is howling on those cold winter nights after the close of the football season.

There are a ton of great stories in all these championships and the full seasons leading up to the classic games. More importantly, none of us should need to search further than this book for the truth about many of the depictions presented herein. What is written here is fact.

Let's now take some time to discuss some Eagles football moments and some great athletes and coaches, before we close out the first chapter of this book which tries to help the eagles to regain its Karma by highlighting the Championship Seasons in Philadelphia Eagles Football.

Brief Overview

Ya just gotta love Philadelphia as a sports city and the Philadelphia Eagles Professional Football Team. I know I do from way back. I have been to a number of the Philadelphia stadiums where the football games are / were played. I have always been a Sunday football watcher, and a proud Philadelphia Eagles Football Fan. Until (2017-2018), I never saw a championship until the big Super Bowl prize was achieved.

Now that the Eagles won the big game for the first time over the Patriots in 2018, my biggest football enemy has become bad Eagles' karma. Like you, I am watching closely to see what Jeffrey Lurie, the author of Eagles' pain, does to ease my pain. He is the source of the bad karma and he has the power to reverse it.

I remember my share of frustrations with my team for years, especially when Andy Reid was the coach. The Eagles came so close for so long but no cigar. Andy's teams got our adrenalin pumping but his Eagles stayed so far away from the big prize that we never got to have a well needed celebratory beer.

The Eagles have been around since their beginning in 1933. A karma-rich syndicate that was led by the late Bert Bell and Lud Wray were responsible for getting the Eagles flying. They purchased what arguably were the remains of the former Frankford Yellow Jackets franchise for \$2,500. Later on as World War II slowed down athletics at the pro level, in 1941, a one of a kind team swap took place between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that saw the clubs trade their home cities. Alexis Thompson became the new Eagles owner. Thompson had good Karma but the talent on the teams at the times was not so good.



Success in Pro football was not a sure thing in the early days. It could have been successful but there were no guarantees. Unlike college football, there were no rich alums who bankrolled the bad years. Teams either made money for the owners or the teams folded.

In the 1930's there were a lot of conflicts in Europe and eventually the US entered what became known as World War II in 1939.

Special medicine saves franchise during the war.

As the US geared up for the possibility of war and especially after war was declared, both college and professional football had a tough time getting the players that were needed as the armed services were grabbing all able-bodied men and assuring their enlistment. On September 16, 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the first peacetime draft in United States' history. The US had not yet declared war.

In 1943, it was so difficult getting players for pro teams that the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh franchises combined for this one season. The manpower shortage created by World War II was having an impact as men were needed for the war, and for the major manufacturing that was set up in the US to build the armaments.

The pundits called this combination team both *Phil-Pitt* and the *Steagles*. Greasy Neale, head coach of the Eagles and Walt Kiesling, head coach of the Steelers were co-coaches of this team, which finished at 5-4-1. In addition to the 1943 season, Neale coached the Eagles for 10 seasons and he led the Eagles to their first significant successes in the NFL.

After 1943, the War department informed the pro football leagues that their manpower needs were filled well enough, and they would not be wholesale enlisting Americans for the war effort from that point on. That freed both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh from having to join together again.

Paced by such future Pro Football Hall of Fame members as running back Steve Van Buren, center-linebacker Alex Wojciechowicz, end Pete Pihos, and beginning in 1949, center-linebacker Chuck Bednarik, the Eagles dominated the league for six seasons. Nobody could touch them.

They finished second in the NFL Eastern division in 1944, 1945 and in 1946. They won the division title in 1947 and then scored successive shutout victories in the 1948 and 1949 championship games. I was just one year old at the time. There was no Super Bowl until 1969 but at the time but Coach Greasy Neale brought the Eagles the moral equivalent.

Over seventy years later as I tell this story, to be sure we all know what I am saying, for long before the Super Bowl and Super Bowl Champions, there were playoffs and there was an NFL Championship team at the end of the season. And the Eagles won three of them from 1948-on before the 2017 Super Bowl Season.

The Eagles won their first championship in 1948 with Greasy Neale as coach and then Coach Neale brought them right back in 1949

with another shutout in the championship game to become World Champions of football in both 1948 and 1949. In 1960, with Coach Buck Shaw, the Eagles were again world champions.

They would have been Super Bowl Champions back then in the NFL, but the Super Bowl had yet to be invented. Two-way player Chuck Bednarek was still a mainstay over the years from Coach Neale through Coach Buck Shaw, who brought in the last NFL Championship (Super Bowl Equivalent). Greasy Neale, the Eagles other coaches and the players were tough competitors and they played each season highly spirited and they were rewarded for many years with Good Karma.

You can see that the Eagles owned the idea of *Good Karma* and they were once the big kings of pro football. At the same time, Notre Dame and Army were dominating the college ranks. After 2017-2018, the Philadelphia Eagles reign was expected to begin again. But, then the team pulled a dumb stunt. They refused to be honored by the nation. Their good karma disappeared and left bad karma in its stead.

One year after the historical victory in 2018, came an unexpected respite from the expected championship after championships. Or as the Eagles fans had hoped. The Super Bowl team from 2017-2018 battled back in the 2018 season to win its Wild Card game and then lost.

It was like it was the Andy Reid show back again for a repeat performance. It seemed like one of the Eagles' many Andy Reid divisional championship years. Most Eagles fans in 2019 were looking for Carson Wentz to drive the Eagles to another Super Bowl with a hard-earned victory as the end result. But then again owner Jeffrey Lurie had stolen the Eagles' Karma. I bet he still doesn't know it was his fault. But, my wife Pat does. Don't try to tell her otherwise.

Football has always been a tough game. It still is. The Eagles team began to get depleted because of injuries during their great 1949 championship. A rash of injuries ended Philadelphia's era of domination and, by 1958, the Eagles had fallen to last place in their

division. It was not bad karma like today, it was a combination lack of excellent management and medsa medsa talent.

Bad stuff happens when all the stars are not lined up right. That year, however, the organization began a rebuilding program by hiring a fine new coach, Buck Shaw. They added the Dutchman, Norm Van Brocklin to the squad. He was the QB that my dad told me was the “best.” Van Brocklin as QB for a time, was the Eagles. They lived and died in games based on how Van Brocklin played.

I loved listening to my dad about the Eagles and QB Norm Van Brocklin. Quarterback Norm Van Brocklin, according to my father back when I began to watch b/w TV football about 1958 after the family got our first Admiral Black/White TV, was the best quarterback alive.

My dad pointed out that he had great rivals such as Charley Conerly of the Giants and Johnny Unitas of the Colts. The Eagles got the Dutchman from a trade with the Los Angeles Rams. In just three years, in 1960, coach Buck Shaw gave Philadelphia another championship. True to his word, Buck Shaw retired from coaching the Eagles after his three years at the helm. He was quite a coach.

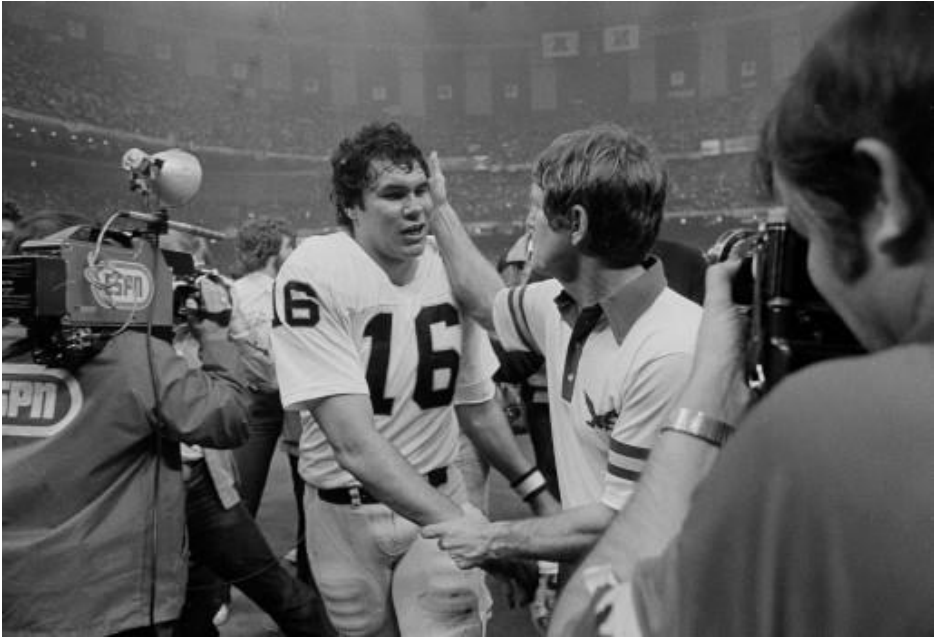
The great results during this time came from Van Brocklin's expert play and his on-the-field leadership. The Eagles won the Eastern division with a 10-2 record and then defeated the Green Bay Packers 17-13 for the NFL championship. In the game, Chuck Bednarik, who had played on Greasy Neale's championship teams, saved the day for the Eagles with an open field tackle of Green Bay's Jim Taylor on the game's final play. If you are my age, you recognize those championship names because you saw them play.



Phila's Chuck Bednarik, center, w GB's Paul Hornung, left, and Jim Taylor after the Eagles' 17-13 victory over the Pack in the NFL championship game Dec. 26, 1960, at Franklin Field

The Eagles fell just a half-game short of another NFL Eastern conference championship in 1961 but didn't reach the playoffs again for 18 years until 1978, their third season under another great coach, Dick Vermeil.

Eagles Fans were very happy with Dick Vermeil who brought to the game his own brand of positive karma. Vermeil's teams played in four straight post-season playoffs between 1978 and 1981. In 1980, Philadelphia won a then club-record 12 games, edging out Dallas for the Eastern division title. The Vermeil squad then defeated the Cowboys 20-7 for the NFC championship. However, the Eagles lost to the Oakland Raiders 27-10 in Super Bowl XV (fifteen). If my father had permitted it, I would have shed some tears on that one.



Oakland Raiders quarterback Jim Plunkett, left, accepts congratulations from Phila. Eagles head coach Dick Vermeil

This book is not about lousy Eagles teams. It is about those Eagles' teams that came close to a championship without their owner's negative karma disrupting their season. This was one of them.

In 1988 the Eagles won the NFL Eastern division championship. Starting with that season, Philadelphia, which was particularly dominating on defense, won 10 or more games for five straight years up to 1993. In four of those years, the Eagles entered the playoffs as a wild-card team, a feat they repeated in 1995 with Coach Ray Rhodes.

Nonetheless, despite the great record, there were no super bowls. Eagles fans loved the great Eagles' football records of the day, but regretted the always inopportune losses at the most inopportune times.

In 1999 Andy Reid was named the team's head coach. He was hired by Jeffrey Lurie who had promised to stay out of every day details of the operation of the team. Reid was a find for sure. He had been an assistant with Mike Holmgren's Green Bay Packers.

He instantly transformed the Eagles into one of the dominant teams in the NFL. This had been a good move of Lurie but as a negative owner, he depended on Reid's karma.

Beginning in 2000, Philadelphia won their division six times, appeared in the postseason nine times, and made a trip to Super Bowl XXXIX (39). Reid served as the team's head coach for 14 seasons, the longest tenure of any coach in franchise history. Close but no cigar. Reid had a tough time with so many chances to bring a Super Bowl to Philadelphia. Fans did not want to wait until they got to heaven to see Andy Reid bring a Super Bowl home to Philly. Nobody can recall "bad karma" Jeffrey Lurie offering his thoughts

Chip Kelly was ready to turn the Eagles around

In 2013, University of Oregon head coach Chip Kelly took the Eagles head coaching job and it immediately looked like the Eagles were on the right track to the Super Bowl. After Andy Reid's worst year ever, (4-12) Kelly brought the Eagles back and they won the NFC East Division title in his first season. The team lost in the playoffs.

Kelly did another commendable job in 2014 with another 10-6 record but this time, the Eagles came in second place. As the team was readying for the 2015 season, Kelly gained more control of the team and he got rid of some of the top Eagles talent and had open issues with players known by the press. The 2015 Eagles dropped to 7-9 and had no shot at the playoffs. The fans had not asked for Chip Kelly. The cry was for a win and a win until the Super Bowl, and after that, a win. The fans did not get what we wanted because Chip Kelly had been granted owner powers by an owner who did not understand football.

Doug Pederson: new hope in an Eagles' coach

The Eagles fired Chip Kelly and hired Doug Pederson, who was serving as offensive coordinator of the Kansas City Chiefs from 2013–2015. Pederson was well respected. He spent most of his playing career as a member of the Green Bay Packers, serving as a

backup quarterback to Brett Favre and holder on placekicks. The Packers won Super Bowl XXXI over the New England Patriots.

Pederson was also a backup QB to Dan Marino as a member of the Miami Dolphins, and in 1999, he was the starting quarterback for the Eagles and then the Cleveland Browns. Most fans think Pederson is OK, but they won't admit to saying his boss *Jeffrey Lurie is OK*. Lurie is not OK. He is the sole reason for the recent demise of the Eagles.

Wentz & Pederson 2016 Quick Start to a Crawl

In his first season as the Eagles' new head coach after Chip Kelly , Pederson's team looked very good and then began a losing trend for the rest of the season. The Eagles chose to start 2nd overall pick Carson Wentz in week 1 of the 2016 season against the Cleveland Browns.

It was a good move. The Eagles won their first three games and looked unstoppable, including a 34–3 win over their intrastate rivals, the Pittsburgh Steelers. My buddies and I were looking for an undefeated season.

With rookie Carson Wentz at the QB slot. The 2016 Philadelphia Eagles season was the franchise's 84th in the National Football League and the first under head coach Doug Pederson.

Following their Week 4 bye week, at 3-0, the Eagles crumbled and went 4–9, including a 2–4 record against their divisional rivals and after losing to the Ravens. They were eliminated from playoff contention for the third consecutive season and fourth time in five seasons. The 2016 team finished the season at 7-9 and Pederson's magic as a coach was held in question. But then came 2017.

In 2017, with Wentz again at QB the Eagles got off to a great start and finished 13-3 in first place. Wentz was injured at the end of the season and was replaced by Nick Foles. Eagles fans thought that might be all she wrote for the team, but it was not.

Though Wentz tore his ACL late in the third quarter in game fourteen v the Rams on a first-and-goal scramble, the Eagles had some reserve troops. Besides that, Wentz pretended he was not hurt. Wentz ran out of the pocket after realizing nobody was open on the play, he sprinted to his right toward the end zone.

When Wentz got near the goal line, he was sandwiched between linebacker Mark Barron and defensive end Morgan Fox. He tore his left ACL on the play.

Although Wentz reached the end zone on that play, the Eagles did not get the TD. It was called back because of a holding penalty. Wentz told nobody and did not complain. He remained in the game for the remainder of the series, handing the ball off to running back Corey Clement twice, missing a pass to wide receiver Alshon Jeffery and then connecting with Jeffery for a touchdown on fourth down. Wentz is one tough cookie.

Wentz was so good in 2017 that when Foles stepped in, as noted, many automatically counted the Eagles out. But the Eagles adjusted well, and Nick Foles was the perfect student and he mastered the Eagles game using careful instructions from the coaching staff. Both Foles and his mentors were outstanding.

When interviewed about Nick Foles. Eagles quarterbacks coach John DE Filippo said: "...the backup quarterback in the NFL gets zero reps with the starters. Zero." This is how much experience Foles got with the Eagles starters before Carson Wentz's season-ending injury. He thus had very little time to prepare to take over the offense.

With how little football he'd played in the past two years, and how he'd completely fallen out of the NFL's collective consciousness until Wentz's injury, Foles's emergence in the playoffs as an efficient and effective QB was a small, modern football miracle. It was a triumph of both coaching and playing.

Still Foles was not Wentz, but he got his act together quickly. In the NFC championship game against the Minnesota Vikings, Foles became the fourth quarterback this millennium to throw for 300 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions in a conference title

game. He shares pretty good company now with Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, and Matt Ryan.

Against Minnesota, the league's best defense by yards per game, he completed a remarkable 78.8 percent of his throws, after completing 76.7 percent the week before against Atlanta. He was throwing shorter passes than Wentz, but he was an efficiency machine in the playoffs—thanks to a mixture of a great offensive game plan, gifted skill-position players, a sturdy offensive line, and Foles himself making the throws he was asked to make.

One of the brilliant, if obvious, maneuvers the coaching staff made once Wentz went down was to ask Foles to throw the ball quickly and not as far down the field. Foles averaged 2 fewer air yards per pass than Wentz—a huge disparity in the modern NFL—as 40 percent of Wentz's passes went beyond 10 yards, and only 25 percent of Foles's did. In these playoffs, Foles threw his average pass in 2.42 seconds—less time than any other player in the playoffs.

Foles led the Birds to a victory in Super Bowl LII (also against the Patriots). This marked the first Super Bowl title in Eagles franchise history. Pederson then became just the fourth person, after Mike Ditka, Tom Flores, and Tony Dungy to win a Super Bowl as both a player and head coach. What a great season!

What a great team! The best Eagles Ever! Already many pundits have altered their best Eagles' coaches lists and have Pederson ranked #1 over Dick Vermeil. We'll see when the 2020 season and subsequent seasons come around.

The White House Snub

Though the Eagles won all the marbles in 2017/2018, after the Super Bowl, the team was invited to the White House for a celebration. Eagles fans could not wait for this great honor. Owner Jeff Lurie, a Trump hater, unfortunately did not think it was such a big deal honor to be invited to America's First Home.

He was one of a kind as both Eagles Fans and Americans who love American success in sports felt that it was an honor to be

acknowledged by the White House. Many felt that we had been dealt a pile of disrespect from Commandant Lurie. Nobody of whom I am aware asked God to curse the Eagles for Lurie's misplay of the great karma that God had given the team in 2017/2018.

Refusing an honor from your country to many Americans and many Eagles fans is an unforgivable sin without major apologies. Lurie did not apologize and the WH boycotting Eagles team found people who never cared about them now rooting against them.

God showed what He thought of how the Eagles treated their good Karma. My wife and many others were aghast at the Eagles being so rude to our country's president and the nation because of their poor management.

God simply took away all the Super Bowl Karma from the Eagles and now they are back to being a struggling NFL team like all the others. They were on the good side of God Who had dished out all the Karma they needed until after the team owner got cocky and acted like he had done it all himself. I don't think so.

And, so, after two more seasons—2018 & 2019—, and a bad karma-Wildcard loss in 2020, here we are at the beginning of 2020 watching the great winning teams of the NFL fight to play in the Super Bowl. The karma-less big-shot Eagles that snubbed America are not among them. God was given no reason to be nice to a guy like Jeffrey Lurie who thinks God does not even exist.

And, so Eagles fans now have to endure a losing or medsa medsa team until things change at the top—sooner than later.

Jeffrey Lurie should leave Philadelphia

I am not the only one who feels this way. Back before Chip Kelly was hired as coach, Lurie was floundering in his attempt to find a coach for the then hapless Eagles. Angelo Cataldi, a writer for Metro US Sports expressed the feelings of Eagles fans even before the big 2018 snub.

“While the Eagles continue their endless search for a new head coach, it is becoming painfully obvious that their more urgent need is a new owner. Jeff Lurie is a terrible fit for Philadelphia.” Let's all pray for a return to good Karma for the Eagles and a big Exit for the owner. Now you're talking.

Chapter 2 Watch Out for Bad Karma



Jeffrey Lurie as Richie Rich

Taken from the "Boo Birds"

Jeffrey Lurie, the owner of the Philadelphia Eagles was born into wealth in Boston; His grandfather Philip Smith founded the movie theatre chain General Cinema.

His father Morris John Lurie married Nancy Smith, the daughter of entrepreneur Philip Smith. Morris and Nancy Lurie had three children: Jeffrey, Peter, and Cathy. Morris John Lurie died on April 14, 1961 at the age of 44. Four months later his grandfather Philip Smith died. Jeffrey was nine years old.

In the late 1960s the firm began acquiring bottling franchises, including a Pepsi bottling operation.

General Cinema evolved over the years into Harcourt General Inc., a \$3.7 billion conglomerate based in Chestnut Hill, Mass., with 23,700 employees worldwide. In its heyday it was the nation's fourth-largest chain of movie theaters, owned several publishing houses, three insurance companies and a leading global consulting firm, and in 1984 Carter Hawley Hale was acquired, which was at the time the tenth largest clothing retailer in the United States, including Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman-Marcus.

Lurie, a native of Boston, graduated from Clark University and later earned a Ph.D. in social policy at Brandeis University, where he wrote his thesis on the depiction of women in Hollywood movies. During this period, Lurie was also a professor of social studies at Boston University.

In 1983 he left academia to join General Cinema Corporation, a major film company founded by his grandfather, Philip Smith, and now headed by his uncle, Richard Smith. He worked as an executive in the company as a liaison between General Cinema Corporation and the production community in Hollywood. He was also an advisor in The General Cinema national film buying office.

He then founded Chestnut Hill Productions in 1985 which produced a string of Hollywood Movie & TV shows

Lurie, a native of Boston, graduated from Clark University and later earned a Ph.D. in social policy at Brandeis University, where he wrote his thesis on the depiction of women in Hollywood movies. During this period, Lurie was also a professor of social studies at Boston University

Lurie bought the Philadelphia Eagles on May 6, 1994 from Norman Braman for \$195 million. Lurie and his mother, Nancy Lurie Marks of Chestnut Hill, Mass. - Philip Smith's only daughter - borrowed an estimated \$190 million from the Bank of Boston to buy the Eagles. To back the Bank of Boston loan, Lurie put up millions of dollars' worth of personal stock in Harcourt General and GC Companies Inc., as equity capital. Additionally, he and his mother pledged their stock in the family trust as collateral so Lurie could borrow the rest.

Lurie really wanted to own a pro football team: "I am very excited at the prospect of acquiring the franchise and becoming a Philadelphian," Lurie said in a statement. "Philadelphia is one of the great sports cities in America, and I look forward to a long and successful relationship with the city, its team and its loyal fans."

Most Eagles fans did not care about the Eagles owner until he dissed the country and Eagles fans by giving the White House a tough time on a presidential visit. Now, because of the bad karma he brought on the Eagles with his snub, many fans would like Lurie to disappear and pick up a big check for the Eagles on his way out—and don't come back

A week before the Super Bowl Game was played in 2018, Jeffrey Lurie told the press how much it meant to him: "This is the most passionate fan base in the NFL, if not in sports," Lurie said. "They care so much, they're our partners, and we just want to win so badly for them."

As a writer, I have no reason to like Jeffrey Lurie

I have no axe to grind against Jeffrey Lurie. He is only in my life because he is the owner of the Eagles and I don't think he is a very good or very likable owner. Everybody is welcome to their own opinion. I've shared my opinion with some sports trainers who agree with my observations. They agree with my opinion of Mr. Lurie and they added that few in their business think of him in complimentary terms. I wish I could like him. I had some reasons to not like Lurie before he snubbed my president and I will share that with you now.

Prior to 2018, I had already written more than thirty books about college football teams. I left writing about the pro teams to others. But each Sunday, I sat down at mostly 1:00 PM and watched the Eagles play their game. I could not care during this time that Jeffrey Lurie owned my favorite pro team.

For the first three games of 2016, I watched the Eagles with new QB sensation Carson Wentz. They were literally unbeatable. Wentz was a phenomenon and I was thrilled that he was playing for the Eagles. Nobody knew when or if his masterful performances would end. His

new coach took over for a real bad karma guy—Chip Kelly. I did not blame Jeffrey Lurie for handing Kelly too much power mostly because I did not know who Lurie was.

Doug Pederson and Carson Wentz looked good enough to give me the same hope I had for the Eagles when Chip Kelly took over for Andy Reid three years prior. Time sometimes takes what was good and turns it upside down. That's what happened before Pederson came after Kelly was ousted. The best thing about Kelly was that he was gone after just three years. Pederson is entering his fifth year now and I fear he is already undermining Pederson and that this fine coach may soon tell him to shove it. I hope not.

2016 turned out not to be so special for the Eagles but it proved that Doug Pederson was a great coach and that Carson Wentz was the real deal. When the season began in 2017, the Eagles were on fire. They just kept rolling and they finished 13-3.

When Carson Wentz was injured and out for the season with just a few games left, Nick Foles, filled in so well he made Super Bowl MVP. He was another player full of good karma, who had brought in a 10-6 record in Chip Kelly's first season, he had been brought back onto the Eagles in 2017 and luckily was ready for duty.

Foles finished the season under duress as good and perhaps even better than Wentz would have if he were still playing at the end of the season. Eagles insiders told the pundits that Foles bot no reps with the Eagles A offense during the year so the coaches had to help him in a lot of ways as he suited up for duty.

Many pundits wrote off the Eagles as a contender when Wentz went down. "Too bad!" It had looked like the Eagles were on their way. Even loyal fans like me were concerned--but I had liked Foles as a QB from Chip Kelly's Eagles Day One and actually wondered how Sanchez had taken over for him.

Foles had been Chip Kelly's QB but he got rid of him after a great first year. Foles went with Andy Reid, who the longer he is separated from the Eagles, the more I respect the good he does and the good in him. To repeat, Foles had given Chip Kelly a fine 10-6

record in 2014. So, it was tough for fans to see him leave the Eagles for Andy Reid's Chiefs. But, he was gone.

In 2017, fate brought him back to Philadelphia before he was needed. He was not a starter but was Carson Wentz's primary backup. He was not a money grubber and so he more than likely had enough in the bank after being starting QB for the Eagles that he could be his own man. He was ready to hang up his cleats. I am glad he did not.

Foles was not happy with football and as a newlywed, and deep in love, he thought about giving up pro football for married life. Nonetheless, he was by hook or by crook with the Eagles in 2017. With Doug Pederson, Carson Wentz, and Nick Foles, there was a ton of Karma in key positions on the team. It mattered. I don't even think I had heard the name Jeffrey Lurie even by then.

When Wentz was lost for the season, without Foles looming in the background, there was just about nobody who looked at the possibility of an Eagles' Super Bowl appearance let alone a victory. Even with Foles, the pundits figured that in 2017, for the Eagles without Wentz, it was all over.

Foles is a good man like Andy Reid and Carson Wentz and Doug Pederson. He put his personal good karma into the Eagles pot of karma, and it mixed well with the good people on the team. Foles being able to play instead of Wentz was a quirk of fate, that good karma had been bestowed upon the Eagles Team. Thankfully at the time Jeffrey Lurie stayed in the press-box luxury seats, busy signing paychecks.

To repeat, the spirit of good karma was with the Eagles as Wentz went down that fateful night in November 2017. At the time, few know that the Eagles were destined for glory. Good karma and a good man and a good player, Nick Foles, and a good coach, Doug Pederson slugged through the impossibilities with their "good luck and good talent," and overcame the adversities and the impossibilities.

We all know that the Eagles won their only ever Super Bowl that year because God was on their side and to say it differently for

agnostics, “the stars were aligned well, and good karma was on their side. From my perspective the master of the universe, God decided it should be that way.

I was wondering at the time while the Eagles were struggling, which college team I would write about this year as we approached 2018. I thought perhaps LSU or my father in law’s favorite team, the Raiders, or perhaps another. I had not decided as the college season ended and the Eagles were still winning. Eventually, I decided that I would write my first pro football book. It would be about the Philadelphia Eagles.

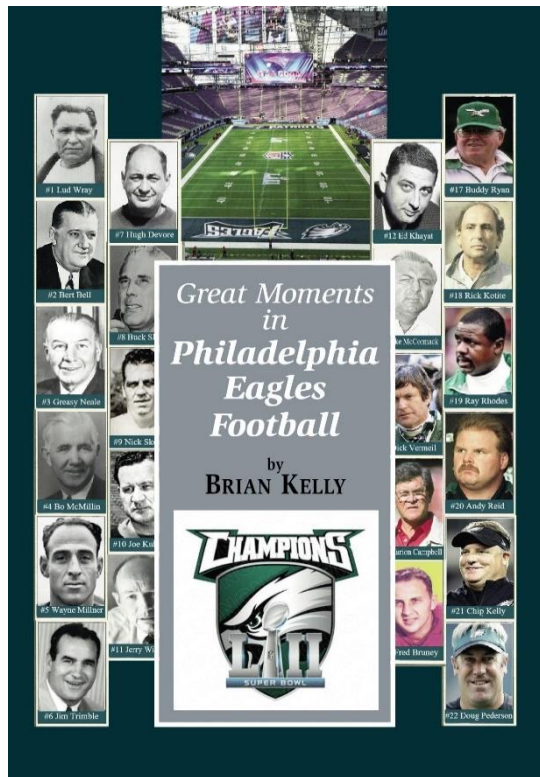
I later wrote three other pro football books after that about the:

- Pittsburgh Steelers
- New England Patriots
- New York Giants

Thankfully all of my sports books—college and pro are still successful.

Check them out when you have a minute at amazon.com/author/brianwkelly

This is the text on Amazon when you click on the book titled *Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football*:



Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football:
This book begins at the beginning of Football and goes to the Doug Pederson era. paperback – April 13, 2018 by [Brian Kelly](#) (Author)

It was my 153rd book so I knew I could do it.

I commissioned my usually great professional graphics designer who had produced scads of book covers in her lifetime. I asked her to create the Eagles cover you see above. She did a great job. I assisted in the design but my job was easy.

I captured the coach's pictures and I created empty football cards. I inserted the coach's pics into the football cards and Michele Thomas, a real talent, did the rest. Look at that cover above. It is impressive. Michele Thomas is a great cover designer and I benefitted from her work. I would use her for any project and have.

I liked the books I received when I ordered author's copies for myself so much that I sent them free of charge to the Eagles to see if they liked the book and its contents. I sent books to Nick Foles and Carson Wentz because there was a great tribute to both in the book.

I looked up the owner's information and I also sent Jeffrey Lurie his own copy of the book, thinking he would like it. Feeling pretty big about myself after writing what I thought was a great book about the Eagles and a great looking book to boot about my favorite professional team, I sent a copy to Lurie's publicity people suggesting the following:

I told them I would be willing to be a press-box guest in the Lurie Press Box (I have no idea what that really is) and that I would bring a free autographed copy of the new Eagles book for each of the other guests (I figured about twenty) when the Eagles started play in 2018. If Lurie would give me their names, their book would be so autographed. I did not realize that I was nobody and Lurie was somebody.

I am still waiting for a response. I got nothing—not even a thank you for a copy of the book—from anybody in the Eagles organization. What ignoramuses!. If the books were returned to Amazon, the distributor would have notified me. They got the books and the notes but figured who's Brian Kelly and dismissed me as somebody looking for something. Fine.

I thought Wentz or Foles or both, who are regular guys might slip out a thank you that I might keep as a keepsake—nothing

nothing nothing. That was the first time, I started to think bad karma when I thought of Jeffrey Lurie. What a cocky nogoodnik. So, I reconciled this as cocky management and I was convinced that the players never saw the books intended for them.

FYI, not that it matters, I am a Catholic and do not practice Buddhism or any of the religions in which Karma plays a major role.

Yet I respect those notions and we would all be a lot better off if we respected the notions inherent in those religions that suggest there is a major role for Karma in our lives.

It takes a lot to hurt my feelings and I expect nothing from anybody, especially Jeffrey Lurie. But then Lurie disrespected the nation and the president over the Collin Kaepernick fiasco.

Today, if Lurie wants want to buy a book that I have written about the Eagles, that is fine. I normally do not interfere with sales. However, the five Eagles books I have written are out there for sale, including this one. But, I tell you if I could control who Amazon sells my books to, I would ask them to not accept an order from Jeffrey Lurie for a book about the Eagles. Even though he owns the Eagles, he does not own me. I would tell the staff to not ship to Lurie unless and until I gave the OK.

I still love the Eagles.

But I know who I am and why I heard nothing from big shot Jeffrey Lurie and his owned Eagles when I spent more than \$100 to give them a laudation in print. Here is my reasoning explaining why I was snubbed by the Eagles without even an RSVP. With my 153 books published at the time, to the Eagles, I am nobody, nothing, nada. Jeffrey Lurie should read this poem below if he has any humility and if he loves our common God.

I am nobody, who are you?:

Emily Dickinson is my favorite poet. Her simple deductions have guided my life in that I expect nothing from anybody. When nothing comes from my ventures and nothing has been gained, I fault something in the process or the product or the presentation. I do not attack the evaluator. In other words, I fault myself.

You too can learn from Emily Dickinson, a poet, (I hate poets per se) who taught me my biggest lesson in life. Check out this short Dickinson poem at your leisure.

I'm Nobody! Who are you? (260)

Emily Dickinson 1830-1886

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
 Are you – Nobody – too?
 Then there's a pair of us!
 Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!

How dreary – to be – Somebody!
 How public – like a Frog –
 To tell one's name – the livelong June –
 To an admiring Bog!

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I don't think I would have been as impressed by Ms. Dickinson had she not asked in her poem, Who Are You!

When we are nothings in life; most of us actually know it before we are told.

Yet, a good sense of humility carries us way off into the aura of success for our ventures even if we do not know it at the time. Even if there are no accolades to be received.

I, Brian W. Kelly or in sports books known as Brian Kelly know who I am and I love it.

I am nobody and I am proud of it. Who are you?

Knowing who I am and working in a world of others, venturing into the world of Jeffrey Lurie was not familiar territory. I admit that being nobody, a nothing from NEPA, I thought that the beautiful book I sent (from an Eagles fan) would motivate Mr. Lurie to respond with a simple, I received your donation, thank you Brian.

But regrettably, I got nothing. If I had sent just one book to one person, I could chalk it up to the mail or the mail system. However, I sent four books.

For all I know, Lurie's rules prevented all intended receivers from receiving my gift. For all I know, Lurie's rules for the Eagles prohibited anybody from receiving any gift. That would be the most charitable of all possible reasons for the snubbing from a gift-giving Eagles' fan. If I knew more folks, I would tell you, I promise. If I had sent a crate of choice, recently picked apples, I suspect they too would not have been received well from Richie Rich Jeffrey Lurie because perhaps he needed no fruit from plebeians at the time.

So, when Jeffrey Lurie and the Eagles snubbed my president after they won their first of one Super Bowl, it all came home to me. My wife wanted me to say to hell with the Eagles. When my wife told me what had really occurred, I admired her frankness.

My wife was the one who properly characterized the Eagles after the White House snub as *the team that had lost its Karma*. The eagles were so good in 2017 and into the 2018 playoffs that Jeffrey Lurie's innate negative karma could not hurt the team. But, he hurt the Eagles karma with his snub.

When Lurie on his own put hate out in response to the love shown by the White House, the bad karma overwhelmed the Eagles team and they could not overcome Jeffrey Lurie, who was the Eagles minister of bad karma and still is.

My wife is a very smart lady. She and a ton of other Americans through our president wanted to have the Eagles invited to the White House so that we could all celebrate together as a country the first Eastern Pennsylvania Pro Team to win the Super Bowl—(no disrespect to Terry Bradshaw's western PA team the Steelers.).

BTW, with four Super Bowls himself, Bradshaw knew how to celebrate Pennsylvania with the nation. He still does.

Jeffrey Lurie, selfish as always prevented Eastern PA from having our day in the sun for no reason but disdain for our president. What a shame. .

Yes, bad karma cocky rich know-it-all Jeffrey Lurie, who is not well loved by regular people because he always acts like a caviar (fish) cheek smelling big shot, gave up the Eagles' high honor from our the leaders of our country. Instead, Mr. Lurie chose to say to hell with the USA so that he could display his personal animus for our great President, Donald Trump, who eats Big Macs regularly rather than Lurie caviar.

I love Donald Trump but I do not even like Jeffrey “bad karma” Lurie. In fact, I'll take ¼ of a Trump for seventeen thousand Luries. How about you?

How about a ¼ pounder?



President Trump Hosts Clemson – Hosts White House Fast Food Fest after 2018/2019 National Championship

President Trump takes a deep interest in the country. He tried to honor the Philadelphia Eagles but they rejected the accolades. My children are all in their thirties just like the Eagles players. Just like Clemson and LSU did recently, they would have loved being treated by the country for a job well done in winning a national championship. What did Jeffrey Lurie gain by that disrespectful trick? . Our Eagles made a bone headed mistake to disrespect America.



Donald Trump’s billions could consume Lurie’s billions any day of the week because Lurie has no charisma and no karma and God has given Trump an over-allotment of both—big time. Moreover, Trump is not a bully like Lurie. Trump is tough in dealing with American adversaries but he is a good man. Ask the religious leaders in our country. Lurie stole the Karma from the Philadelphia Eagles and it may not come back until Lurie decides to vacate the premises.

BTW, if Lurie ever wants respect from nobodies out in regular America, when he shows some human humility, I would agree to talk with him... just maybe.

Lurie, they tell me is a tall man (6’ 3”) in stature but a little man in spirit.. The Boo Birds have him have him pegged as a man who uses his Richie Rich façade to bully a lot of “lesser” people. But, he cannot bully Donald Trump because the Donald is richer than him,

Yet, as the owner of the Eagles, he can and did snub our President and America to show off his bad Karma.

With the whole team under his control, Lurie basically stole the good karma from the Philadelphia Eagles and he replaced it with his own negative bad Karma.

He means nothing to most. Maybe the fans and others can get rid of Jeffrey Lurie, who is the real reason the Eagles lost their winning ways. He is the big problem with the Eagles over the last two years and it portends to be the determining factor again for the 2020 Eagles.

Coach Pederson has been mum lately about Eagles recent coach firings. since Lurie began undercutting his personnel decisions. Imagine you're Doug Pederson at this moment. Imagine how humiliated you must feel. Your boss, your owner, just cut your legs from under you. In an emasculating power move, he forced you to fire your offensive coordinator, Mike Groh, 24 hours after you publicly guaranteed Groh his job. Receivers coach Carson Walch, too. Soes Coach Pederson need the job that much to accept bullying from an owner few respect.

Can the Eagles possibly become Super Bowl champions this year under these circumstances? With a cocky, uncaring Jeffrey Lurie still in charge, chances of a Super Bowl unfortunately are slim to none. Of course Lurie can exit stage left and pick up about \$3 billion for selling the Eagles to a better person, or he can change his nasty, selfish ways.

FYI, Steve Jobs, not known for his humility, once talked about the devastating loss of being ousted from Apple, an event that was influenced by his toxic management style. "I didn't see it then," Jobs said, "but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. It was awful-tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it." With Jobs as a doctor and Lurie as the patient, there is some hope, but I would not hold my breath on Mr. Lurie becoming a better man. It would be nice.

Right now bad karma is controlling the Eagles

The mythical rock group, Horses's A's, knew the issues with Karma from experience and so they cautioned their members before the show: "Be kind to each other and the people out there in the audience. You never know when your conceit or harsh gesture will come back to bite you. It could be months, years or decades. When Karma strikes back, you may not remember why it came and got you but then again at other times, it happens rather quickly.

Suppose you are out on the highway, knowing all the frustrating issues that are possible. We all have to deal with them. Even in grocery stores or quite frankly pretty much any place humans might roam, we are all subject to peril. Yet, at the same time, we humans potentially can be the worst offenders and some are quick to be offended and then at some time hence, the retaliation begins. If it persists, the world of good Karma has been disturbed. It has turned bad.

Don't think the sports world is devoid of athletes, managers, coaches, and even owners who need their comeuppance and there seems to always be another class of sports world warrior who is happy to deliver the just deserts. Sometimes when the retribution arrives in the form of bad Karma, it revolves around some hilarious instances when justice is served in an instant. Sometimes it is right after a game such as right after your refreshing shower and a walk through what has always been a clear, innocent exit.

What would you call it if, right as you opened the gate to leave, you felt something above go click and you start getting doused by a tipped Gatorade barrel on the next floor. That's bad enough! How about if right after you get cleaned-up and get out the gate, you leave and lock the gate behind, you find yourself face to face with Rocky, the otherwise friendly neighborhood dog from the house across the street.

You look at Rocky and something is definitely wrong. He happens to be suffering through his first day of hydrophobia (rabies). You quickly realize that Rock is not sporting a new white dog beard. It's his mouth foaming. Start running. And, why you? Maybe Big

Johnny, it was that cheap shot you took on the QB at the game today?

They say the sports world is chockablock filled with instances of hubris, premature celebration and ill-fated notions all running amok on athletes and sports personalities who are too cocky for their own good. This book is about some great Philadelphia Eagles championship moments and some occurred when thy team was too filled up with itself to understand all the negative effects of bad karma.

What good did it serve the Eagles' owner to snub Eagles fans, America, and the White House by treating a well-intentioned invitation to celebrate with the nation with disrespect. We get the karma we deserve.

Eagles' fans all know by now that the most recent Eagles bad karma moment from which the Eagles are still suffering, happened in the late spring of 2018. It was after the Birds won the Super Bowl. Representing all Americans, the White House (WH) had invited the new World Champions of football to a day-long testimonial for their great victory.

It should have been received by the Eagles as an honor given by the American people. But the Eagles acted like as if they had been Super Bowl perennial champions from way back. This was a once-in-a-lifetime moment and the cocky Eagles team rejected it. That's why the Eagles have been reaping bad karma ever since. Ask my wife.

What happened? Some folks associated with this Eagles team had some political differences with the US President and these team members and/or administrators felt they should express their dissatisfaction by throwing the invitation back at the President's face. They should have expected a bad karma moment from such a crass act but they did not.

And, for this, most of the blame falls on Eagles Owner Jeffrey Lurie. Pundits who know Lurie and his antics do not respect him as they do other owners because he is a pedantic. The word is that he has time for nobody but himself and when he gives attention to the concerns of others, he treats them in a condescending manner. He is

a billionaire, who is so rich he thinks he is perfect from what the pundits suggest.

Yet, Karma takes no prisoners. It destroys perpetrators without making them aware of their disfavor..

Here we all are, Eagles fans, two seasons later. The Eagles record for the last two years is below even the Andy Reid Average. And Andy got fired by Lurie for his stellar performances. What will happen to Doug Pederson?

Lurie cast the negative karma spell on the whole team including the coaches. Yet, Pederson has enough personal Karma that he rallied the team and made the playoffs both years. The black cloud did not subside and in 2019, the Eagles advanced less than in 2018, and eventually lost the Wildcard game to the Seahawks?

Will the pompous Jeffrey Lurie ever realize that he is to blame for the Eagles race to the bottom? Will he realize that it has been caused by his own black cloud of negative karma? Will he see that the results would be lots worse if the Eagles themselves were not still rolling in their own personal karma?

The Lurie-owned team caused the bad karma spell but the proud Jeffrey Lurie is looking for a reason for the not so great record two last years. As he is firing people on the staff, he refuses to look at himself as the cause. My mother and grandmother, if they spotted Lurie looking for a reason for the smell on the team, they would take a deep smile and tell the boss that he was smelling his upper lip. Amen, grand mom.

Now folks, after we take another chapter to discuss Karma, we will begin a journey looking at the Eagles through history – some good and some bad and we will then end the book after discussing the Doug Pederson era right up to the 2019/2020.

The final chapter will be a recap of The Eagles current battle with bad karma and some hope for the future.

Chapter 3 Good Karma v. Bad Karma



Though the specifics vary according to different belief systems, karma is best understood as a kind of intangible force or entity that influences one's fate within the cycle of life, death, and rebirth. It is not necessarily a sports thing but it can be.

When used in a religious context, karma is often (but not exclusively) capitalized. We will use capitalization and lack of capitalization as appropriate in this book. Karma is clearly a descriptive term for a lot of happenings.

Sallie Painter, a paranormal researcher in her piece titled, *Good Karma Vs. Bad Karma* suggests that “Good karma versus Bad karma is often a spiritual discussion defined by various religious doctrines. Karma and reincarnation are part of the belief systems of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism.” For sports book folks, who are interested in the history and the play-by play action of the games, don’t worry, there is no final exam.

Be good is the message of karma just as be good is the message of life.

Theories of Good Karma V. Bad Karma

The theory of good and bad karma is a simplified explanation of cause and effect. Good karma is often described as a type of reward for doing good deeds and treating others well. Bad karma is explained as the mirroring of bad deeds and mistreatment of others. According to the theory, both good and bad karma can be the result of past lives as well as your current life. Think of Jeffrey Lurie and the demise of the Eagles when you think of bad karma.

Please do not get hung up on the specific beliefs of your own religion—such as a belief in reincarnation. Karma has become a generic notion of whether things are OK or not OK.

Even if you do not practice Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, or Sikhism, it helps to understand the notion of karma as we can all find examples in our own lives.

Good Karma Defined

It is fair to say that good karma is the effect of cause, your action in either a deed, thought or word. Your intention drives the effect of your action to manifest as good. Good action is returned to you either in this life or the next.

Example of Good Karma

A possible example of good karma is a woman who in a “past life” selflessly cared for the sick, often sacrificing by placing others above herself. In her current life, she is constantly surprised by the generosity of others and never wants for anything.

Bad Karma Definition

Bad karma is the opposite of good karma and acquired by bad deeds, thoughts and/or words. Bad intentions motivating bad actions create bad results. Like good karma, bad karma can be earned either in your current lifetime or the product of a previous life.

Example of Bad Karma

One example of bad karma is a man who mistreated his sibling in another life. This bad action reaped bad karma, and he was reincarnated in the same role as his sibling. Another example of bad Karma is—say the owner of a Pro Football team whose team wins the Super Bowl and is invited to the White House. The owner is so cocky he disrespects the White House and the president by minimizing the overture causing the White house to cancel the invitation. The bad karma cloud then influences the team's achievements in a negative way.

Reaping Bad Karma

The law of karma demanded that he experience the effects of his actions in the previous lifetime against the sibling that he persecuted. If he meets his karma without anger, hatred and other negative emotions, he can overcome the bad karma and be free of it in the next lifetime. Perhaps Jeffrey Lurie has to wait another lifetime for his redemption but I would suggest that Mr. Lurie begin a life of humility in this life so that his negative effects can be removed from the Eagles team.

Good and Bad Karma work together

The belief in doing good deeds and reaping good karmic rewards doesn't always mean the good deeds you do this lifetime will bring you good karma during this lifetime. It's more likely that good karma just as bad karma will accumulate and present itself in your next life. By the same token, a past life filled with good deeds could be reaped during your current life.

Karma Isn't Always Simple

The idea that karma is black and white and very simply either good or bad is a common assumption. There are times when you might think you've created bad karma through the wrong action, but with the right intent. Intention of an action weighs it either as having good karma or bad karma. Ask Owner Lurie whether he intended to hurt the President or his White House.

Example of Good Intention with Bad Action

There are times when you might have a good intention but must take a bad action. Does this mean your karmic result is bad? For example, you might decide to lie to your friend, in order to spare her feelings. The simple action of telling a lie goes against most karma doctrines. However, your intention in telling your friend the lie was good and motivated by compassion and love.

Will your karma result be bad according to the doctrine of telling a lie creates bad karma? Or, will your good intention outweigh the bad karma of a lie? Jeffrey Lurie needs to answer questions like this to change his personal karma and to change the future for the Eagles. If Lurie is a big man. He can undo a lot of the pain which the Eagles are currently suffering.

Instant Bad Karma

You may have heard the term, instant karma used to identify when sometimes there is an immediate retaliation for a bad or reward for a good deed. Instant Karma is often visited on you when you're in need of an urgent lesson, or when you could use something good to encourage you. Consider that with the most powerful team in the nation being the Eagles in 2017-2018, the Karma was with the Eagles until their owner chose to put his own politics above that which was best for the team and the country. Lurie is so thick he does not understand.

That is why many sports pundits have suggested that the problem with the Eagles is its Owner, Jeffrey Lurie. I agree. Do you? Can we talk the big shot owner into some humility. Karma loves action and humility!

Example of Instant Bad Karma

You've probably seen instant karma and just didn't know what to call it. An example would be a person laughing at someone as they slip and fall on an icy sidewalk. The person laughing at the other person's misfortune moves and quickly slips on the ice and falls to the ground. Some people would say the person laughing reaped instant bad karma for their bad action. Can you see Lurie thinking

he is so cool that he persists in bad actions? Can you see the Eagles' owner doing what is right to help his team? Can you see Lurie blaming Coach Doug Pederson for the two medsa medsa seasons and firing him? What would you do if he did that. I think I would work hard to get rid of him as an owner.

Example of Instant Good Karma

An example of instant good karma would be a person who finds a lost wallet and returns it to the person who lost it. The owner is overcome with gratitude and rewards the finder with a monetary gift. The person who found the wallet took good action, and the result was instant good karma. If Jeffrey Lurie became a good man and offered an apology to all Eagles he may have harmed, and nobody got fired, would we think his bad karma would be reduced? I do!

Karma Belief Systems

Ideally, Buddhism doesn't describe karma as a good vs bad. Karma is defined as simply the product of actions made during this and past lives. Unlike Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism that believe in good and bad karma. Jeffrey Lurie's good karma can be restored by being good.

Perspectives on Good Karma V Bad Karma

We lead our lives without necessarily thinking in terms of karma. Sometimes to get by in life, people do things about which they are uncomfortable. For example, it has been recently reported that less than 24 hours after Doug Pederson vowed offensive coordinator Mike Groh as well as wide receivers' coach Carson Walch would return next season, both were out on the street. Pederson was embarrassed for his turnabout but was not cleared by Lurie to report the truth. So, while Pederson kept insisting he had reluctantly decided to hand out the pink slips after further evaluation, not many are buying it.

Instead, there's been rampant speculation the cocky owner disregarded his coach and called his own shot, ordering Pederson to dismiss his cohorts. In fact, one published report went so far as to suggest this has been a regular occurrence during Pederson's regime

and it may only be a matter of time before the coach tells the guy signing his paycheck where he can stick his signature.

Lurie has been paying the good will price

Not that it may matter to the “commander in chief,” but since those allegations came out it seems to be open season on Lurie, who’s pretty much stayed in the background since he shelled out what seemed then an outrageous \$185 million to take over from Norman Braman. By the way, the franchise is now worth \$3.1 billion. Lurie is so rich, with bad karma as his guide, he may believe he needs no help from anybody.

If Lurie persists in bad deeds, the personal good karma of his coaches and players may not be able to sustain the team. This year, the Eagles made the playoffs. Perhaps next year, there will be no playoffs. Perhaps the year after that, the team has a losing record. After destroying the team Karma as Lurie did with Andy Reid in his last year coaching for Jeffrey Lurie, and the Eagles become cellar dwellers vis a vis, Andy Reid’s 2013—4-12 record. Then, what? Will Philadelphia run Jeffrey Lurie out of town? I think so.

They say there is a lot of karma in sports. Perhaps Jeffrey Lurie never heard about that. Bad sports karma, it seems, is not an equal opportunity deal. It doesn't afflict all in cycles. It just concentrates on a select few. Writers over time will cite the Chicago Cubs, who have a history of futility that is now legendary. The Boston Red Sox alternate between being also-rans and contenders, but have consistently fallen short of bringing that World Series title back to Beantown.

Sometimes the rotten luck gets indescribably strange. In 1960, for example the Baltimore Colts trailed the Detroit Lions 13-8 with only seconds left in the game. Legendary Quarterback John Unitas faded back to pass and threw the ball into the end zone, where halfback Lenny Moore made a spectacular diving catch for a touchdown. The Colts led 15-13, and more than 50,000 fans at Memorial Stadium figured the game was in the bag.

On the next play Earl Morrall, Detroit's quarterback, threw a touchdown pass that won the game for Detroit. The Colts lost their

remaining games and failed to repeat as NFL champions. Bad Karma?

How about the new notion that your team's performance can suffer when team fans act in an unsportsmanlike fashion. Remember Alabama fans last season with their "We just beat the hell out of you" chant? Even though they did just about beat the hell out of everyone, in the College Football Playoffs final, they got the hell beat out of them.

You reap what you sow in life; you get what you deserve. Don't bring bad karma on our team with a potty mouth and vile sentiments. Remember also the Miami football dynasty: As they degenerated into a bunch of foulmouthed thugs, their team lost talent and they may never glimpse greatness again.

Jeffrey Lurie was messing with bad Karma in the Chip Kelly days. Remember he got rid of a ton of really good players, such as DeSean Jackson. Jackson believes it is bad karma affecting the Eagles and a bad karma coach like Chip Kelly. Shortly after being fired, DeSean Jackson was headed back to the playoffs with a huge matchup awaiting him and the Redskins on a particular Sunday in the Green Bay Packers. Meanwhile, he was pleased to announce that his old coach, Chip Kelly, is out of a job.

Many have wondered how Jackson has felt about Kelly getting fired, given Kelly cut Jackson from the Eagles after he had a very productive 2013 season. Before the Skins played the Eagles in Week 16, Jackson declined to say much in order to avoid making headlines.

Well, now that the dust has settled on Kelly's career in Philly, Jackson has opened up. Here is what he told Sports Illustrated about Kelly's dismissal:

"I'm a firm believer that bad karma comes back on you. When you ruin a team like that, you do things to peoples' families, you release people, you trade people, you get rid of good players who build something with the community, with the fans, with the kids—to have a guy come in and change up the team like that, I just believe in karma. I don't have any bad words to say about him as far as

what he feels he needs on his roster. But the guys that were on that roster created something special, from Jeremy Maclin to LeSean McCoy to Trent Cole to Todd Herremans and myself and Brandon Boykin; it goes on and on and on. When we were there we were a brotherhood. So for everyone to go their separate ways and to see how it all ended up, it's a very sad thing."

With Jeffrey Lurie as the Chip Kelly Owner, do you see the bad karma following Lurie around like a bad penny? Lurie brings with him a contagion of bad karma.

See you in the next chapter.

Chapter 4 Eagles Launch First Football Team



Eagles Early Team

There would be no Eagles today if it were not for 1933. The Philadelphia Eagles launched their first football team in 1933. Most fans understand the Eagles most recent history which includes three shots at the big prize --- the Super Bowl. The Birds lost their first two tries and then in Super Bowl LII on February 4, 2018, the Eagles beat the NE Patriots in a great game 41-33 at U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis, MN.

Philadelphia's debut in the biggest championship game there is, came against the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XV (15). The Eagles, led by quarterback Ron Jaworski and a defense that had allowed the fewest points (222) in the NFL, were defeated 27-10. I saw the game. Jaworski always played better.

The Eagles returned to the Super Bowl with Andy Reid after 24 years to face off against the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXIX (34) in 2004. Prior to that appearance, Philadelphia had lost three consecutive NFC championship games—to the Rams, Buccaneers and Panthers. The Eagles created a lot of fan tears over

the years getting so close the fans could taste it but never bringin home the big prize.

Finally, they broke out for their second Super Bowl appearance in franchise history. Was Andy Reid up to the challenge? Ironically, Andy Reid is coaching Kansas City now and the Chiefs are off to an opportunity to win their first Super Bowl since Super Bowl IV in 1970, fifty years ago. By the time you read this, that game will be in the record books. Andy Reid has been there before but has never won a Super Bowl with the Eagles or afterwards.

Neither Andy Reid's misfortunes, nor their franchise misfortune changed, however, as they lost by a hair to the Patriots 24-21 to fall to an 0-2 record in Super Bowl outings. Finally, after a long wait and with their 22nd head coach Doug Pederson, a real Philadelphia Eagle, the Eagles found the third time to be the charm. They lost in their first two appearances, but they won big-time in 2018. Then, they lost their Karma and nobody knows what is next for the Eagles.

The beginning era of the Eagles history, 1933 to 1939, was most influenced by its owner, and then also coach, Bert Bell. After Bell had sold the team, to Alexis Thompson in 1940, the second era of the Eagles history was largely directed by their new coach and future Hall of Famer, Greasy Neale.

Let's get back to the beginning.

Before the Eagles were the name of the team, there was already a team in Philadelphia. Bert Bell is responsible for making the Eagles into the Eagles. From 1930, until 1932, Bell was a backfield coach for the Temple Owls College Football Team. In 1932, George Preston Marshal tried to coax Bell into buying the rights to an NFL franchise, but Bell was not happy with the NFL and in fact, disparaged the league and he ridiculed the idea of becoming an owner. However, when Pop Warner took over as the head coach of Temple for the 1933 season, the famous coach chose to hire his own assistants and Bell was let go in the process. All of a sudden, the NFL for Bell did not look so bad.

It was in early 1933 that Bell's opinion on the NFL had changed, and he became very interested in becoming an owner of a team based in Philadelphia. Because NFL games were played on Sunday, before Bell anteed up the money for a PA team, he was advised by the NFL that Pennsylvania Blue Laws would have to be adjusted in order for PA to host an NFL franchise mollified.

This should have been an easy task as the blue laws were already antiquated. The first of the blue laws in Pennsylvania, for example, was enacted in 1682, back when it was a colony of the British Empire. The general prohibition was against working or having fun on Sundays. The ban carried over when Pennsylvania became a state in 1787. Sunday restrictions have tempered state activities for over 330 years. There are other blue laws for example:

Keeping restaurants with liquor licenses closed until 7 a.m. on Sundays, even when people are gathering to watch concrete stadiums blow up, is one of the strange laws on the books in Pennsylvania. Some call these laws ghosts of the past but they still haunt the PA criminal code. Fishing for example is legal on Sundays but hunting is not. Buying a new or used car from an auto dealer on Sundays is against the law. However, you can test drive or window shop at those weekend car expos, but you can't legally buy or even negotiate a purchase.

To be sure that he could operate the team, Bert Bell became what can be called a “force majeure” in lobbying to get the laws adjusted as required by the NFL. Bert Bell was not going to be denied. He borrowed money from Frances Upton, and he partnered with Lud Wray, the Eagles first coach, and he eventually gained the rights to a franchise in Philadelphia, which he named the Philadelphia Eagles.

Before the Eagles, however, there were the Yellow Jackets. Though operating out of Philadelphia, they were not the Philadelphia Yellow jackets. They were the Frankford Yellow Jackets. Yes, they were a very early professional American football team, formed as part of the part of the National Football League. They existed from 1924 to 1931, though the team's origin dates back to as early as 1899, when American football was a blend of rugby and soccer. They were associated with the Frankford Athletic Association.

The Yellow Jackets won the NFL championship in 1926. You can count that for the Eagles if you want to stretch it. Somehow, the Yellow Jackets became or did not become the Philadelphia Eagles and we can fight over whether the first “Eagles” game was in 1922 or in 1933. But, let’s not as this is not a history book. The Yellow Jackets were certainly the predecessor team to the Philadelphia Eagles.

Philadelphia Eagles

The 1931 Yellow Jackets victory over the Bears would be the last game the Yellow Jackets would play. The Yellow Jackets suspended operations the following day. Unable to find a buyer, the Frankford Athletic Association returned the franchise to the league.

The NFL spent over a year searching for a new team to operate in Philadelphia. On July 9, 1933, the NFL granted an expansion franchise to Bert Bell and Lud Wray and awarded them the assets of the failed Yellow Jackets organization. As noted, Bell and Wray named their team the Philadelphia Eagles, after the symbol of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. This has led to assumptions that the Yellow Jackets changed their name to the Eagles and returned to the league after sitting out the 1932 season. However, that is not the case.

Bell and Wray did not buy the Yellow Jackets team, but rather the NFL rights to the Philadelphia area that formerly had belonged to the Frankford Athletic Association. Due to the period of dormancy, the Eagles do not claim the Yellow Jackets' history as their own, and the NFL considers the Eagles a 1933 expansion team for record-keeping purposes. Additionally, Bell and Wray assembled an almost entirely new team; only one player from the 1931 Yellow Jackets ended up with the 1933 Eagles.

Those of us who do not tune into the nuances of the business of football, believe in the obvious. The Philadelphia Eagles are the reincarnation of the Frankford Yellow Jackets.

It was not long for the Philadelphia Eagles to play their first game

The 1933 Philadelphia Eagles season was the franchise's first season in the National Football League (NFL). The team record was 3–5–1. They failed to qualify for the playoffs under head coach Lud Wray.

Pennsylvania eased some of the Blue laws to allow Sunday sporting events. When this was done, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh became available for NFL franchises as they could play home games on Sundays.

The Eagles held their first training camp in Atlantic City, New Jersey. They scheduled their home games to be played at the Baker Bowl in Philadelphia, which was also the home of the Philadelphia Phillies of Major League Baseball. The Eagles played at the Baker Bowl for three seasons before moving to the newer Philadelphia Municipal Stadium in the south Philadelphia area.

It was not a happy day for the Eagles on October 15, 1933, when Lud Wray's squad finally got to play their first NFL game. The game was played at the Polo Grounds in New York City against the New York Giants in the team's first game. The Giants played like the Eagles defense was not on the field. Before 18,000 spectators, the Giants won by a blowout over the Eagles in the first of many games that would be contested between these two rivals.

It would be nice to have a better tale to tell about this first-ever meeting occurring on Oct. 15, 1933 but what is, is, and New York was in a winning way. It was just eight days after baseball's New York Giants, with Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth on duty, defeated the Washington Senators to win the World Series, at the Polo Grounds, and football's Giants kept the winning momentum going at the field of champions, by destroying the Eagles, 56-0, in Philadelphia's NFL debut game.

The Giants went 11-3 in 1933 but lost to the Chicago Bears in the NFL Championship Game, thwarting the chance for three New York champions, as the Rangers won the Stanley Cup in the spring of '33. The first time the Eagles beat the Giants came on Oct. 28, 1934, in their fourth try, defeating New York at the Polo Grounds, 17-0.

Chapter 5 Eagles Football – Tough Start 1933-1940

From 1933 on, life was never easy for the Philadelphia Eagles. That is why it is so difficult to believe the Eagles got too big for their britches and lost their karma after the 2017-2018 Super Bowl season. The Eagles never had been gifted with substantial karma on the playing field in their early seasons and onward through Andy Reid. Something always got in the way of continuous good play.

Though it was good fortune and luck that got the Eagles going in 1933 and It was luck that Lud Wray and Bert Bell, the first owners were able to make payroll and keep the team, there was no luck season after season until Coach Greasy Neale showed up to show the Eagles how to win some football games. You can see what I mean by examining the Eagles early record from 1933 through 1940.

What Happened to the Philadelphia Eagles?



1933 Philadelphia Eagles Team Picture

During the time when the new owners also were the coaches in the early period of the team, there was not one season in which the wins

outnumbered the losses. In other words, as you can see below, every Eagles' season was a losing season.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1933 | Lud Wray | x | East | 4th | 3-5-1 |
| 1934 | Lud Wray, | x | East | T3rd | 4-7-0 |
| 1935 | Lud Wray, | x | East | 5th | 2-9-0 |

1933-1935 Lud Wray final record (9-21-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|------------|---|------|------------------------|--------|
| 1936 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 1-11-0 |
| 1937 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 2-8-1 |
| 1938 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 4th | 5-6-0 |
| 1939 | Bert Bell, | x | East | T4th | 1-9-1 |
| 1940 | Bert Bell, | x | East | 5th | 1-10-0 |

1936-1940 Bert Bell final record (10-44-2) Eel

Their best record during this period was their sixth season in 1938 when they came in fourth place in the East Division. They won five games this year and they lost six. The best that could be said of the Lud Wray / Bert Bell teams until 1940 was that in none of the Eagles' seasons to 1940 was the team skunked for the entire season. Though they did have three seasons with just one victory, they had no seasons in which they had not won at least one game.

Today, even with the 13-3 record in 2017/2018, and the two playoff wins plus the Super Bowl Win, the Eagles still have not made up for their poor showing in the early years. Their record is (609-631-26). The Eagles had some terrible records such as 2-9-0 in 1935; 1-11-0 in 1936, 2-8-1 in 1937, 1-9-1 in 1939; and 1-10-0 in 1940. In Greasy Neale's first two years, they were 2-9-1 in 1941; and 2-9-0 in 1942. So, before their tenth season, the Eagles team record was 14-61-4.

That gave the team 47 (61 minus 14) more losses than wins. To break even at that time, they would have needed 47 more wins than losses. In other words, they would have to play almost five complete seasons with no losses and 47 wins. That is a tall task. They have played better since then but they are still not at a break-even level. (609-631-26).

You can see how these early seasons of minimal to no on-field karma affected the cumulative overall record of today. Consider that if this year's 9-8 record (2019) becomes a typical no-karma season and we have twenty more of them, by 2040, the Eagles will only then hit the break-even mark for the first time. That's 108 years after the Eagles played their first game. Let's all hope it is before then.

First Eagles fans have to fix the karma problem with owner Jeffrey Lurie. Complain! Complain! Complain! Don't let Lurie destroy our Eagles..

Greasy Neale: a great football coach

Even when they hired their first professional coach for the 1941 season, the Eagle's fortunes did not change immediately. The team was so mired in poor talent at the time that it took a few years for Coach Greasy Neale, the third Eagles Coach since the founding, to bring home the Eagles first winning season. You can see Neale's record below:

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------|------|--------------|---|
| 1941 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 4th | 2-8-1 |
| 1942 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 5th | 2-9-0 |
| <i>1943 The Eagles & the Steelers aka The Steagles</i> | | | | | |
| 1943 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 3rd | 5- 4- 1, — |
| 1944 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd , | 7-1-2 |
| 1945 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd | 7-3-0 |
| 1946 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 2nd | 6-5-0 |
| 1947 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 8-4-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Eastern Divisional Playoff (at Steelers) 21–0 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFL Championship (at Cardinals) 21–28 |
| 1948 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 9-2-1 |
| | | | | | • Won NFL Championship (1) (Cardinals) 7–0 |
| 1949 | Greasy Neale | x | East | 1st | 11-1-0 |
| | | | | | • Won NFL Championship (2) (Rams) 14-0 |
| 1950 | Greasy Neale | American | x | T3rd | 6-6-0 |

How about “Greasy Neale” for a moniker. If you were looking for a replacement coach for any sport, to replace a coach with a very poor record, would you even stop to consider a coach named “Greasy.” Well, the Eagles did and it was a great move.

Look at some of the other nicknames in the early days of football and you might change your mind. Greasy Neale was one of the best. Without him coming along when he did, who knows if the Eagles would have survived as the Eagles. Once he got going, Greasy Neale brought the Eagles a lot of championships and almost championships.

Coach Neale's first two seasons were pitiful as you can see but he had his own Karma and he brought the Eagles to a point of respectability, with three first and three second places,

Neale began his coaching career while still a professional player. He served as the head football coach at Muskingum College (1915), West Virginia Wesleyan College (1916–1917), Marietta College (1919–1920), Washington & Jefferson College (1921–1922), the University of Virginia (1923–1928), and West Virginia University (1931–1933), compiling a career college football coaching record of 82–54–11. He coached basketball for two seasons at Marietta (1919–1921) as well, amassing a record of 26–11.

He also served as an assistant football coach for the Yale Bulldogs football program for seven seasons (1934–1940). At Washington & Jefferson, he led his 1921 squad to the Rose Bowl, where the Presidents played the California Golden Bears to a scoreless tie. At Virginia, Neale was also the head baseball coach from 1923 to 1929, tallying a mark of 80–73–2.

Neale later coached the independent professional Ironton Tanks with his legendary style, flair and winning ways. He and Tanks quarterback Glenn Presnell claimed victories against the NFL's second place New York Giants and third place Chicago Bears in 1930. The team folded in 1931.

Neale moved to the National Football League (NFL), serving as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles from 1941 to 1950. Although it took Neale a while to pull together the needed talent to build a winning team, once he had the right ingredients, they stayed among the league's best for nearly a decade. From 1944 through 1949, Neale's Eagles finished second three times and in first place three times. Neale also led the Eagles to the NFL Championship in 1948 and again in 1949. They played in the championship game in 1947 but lost. The NFL Championship was before their was an AFL. It was the biggest game of the year.

The Eagles were the only team to win back-to-back titles by shutting out their opponents, beating the Chicago Cardinals 7–0 in the snow ridden 1948 NFL Championship Game and the Los Angeles Rams

14–0 in the 1949 NFL Championship Game in a driving rain storm. It was the last championship for the Eagles until 1960 with coach Buck Shaw.

Neale's offense was led by the passing of quarterback Tommy Thompson, the pass catching of future Hall of Fame end Pete Pihos, and the running of another Hall of Famer, Steve Van Buren. He tallied a mark of 66–44–5 including playoff games in his ten seasons with the Eagles. Neale was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1967 and the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1969. Both inductions recognized his coaching career.



Greasy Neale talks with three star-players, HB, Steve Van Buren, Tackle Al Wistert and quarterback Tommy Thompson

Greasy Neale's first winning season was in 1943 but it was not for the Eagles. The Steagles was the team created by the temporary merger of two National Football League (NFL) teams, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Philadelphia Eagles. The combined team played the 1943 season. The teams were forced to merge to survive because both had lost many players to military service during World War II. Greasy Neale was the coach. The team's record was 5-4-1

Chapter 6 Coach Greasy Neale Era 1941 to 1950

Coach # 3 Greasy Neale

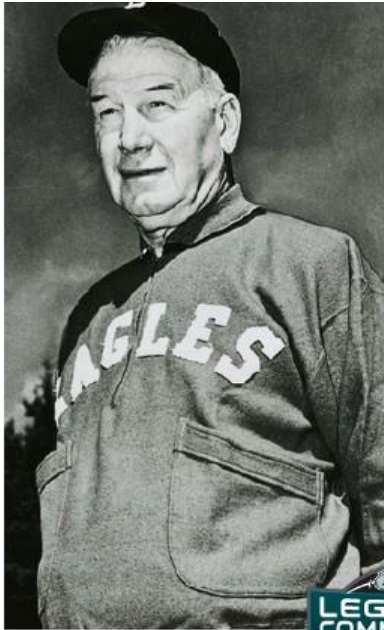
Greasy Neale, Coach #3—the best at the time

Counting 1943, the year of The Steagles, the 1944 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their twelfth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Greasy Neale in his fourth season of ten as head coach. Neale had finally broken through the win barrier. This Eagles team finished with a winning season record of 7-1-2, winning seven games and finishing in second place. Though they had by all accounts a fine season, their first winning season other than the Steagles, they failed to qualify for the playoffs for the twelfth consecutive season.

Life went back to normal for Philadelphia after the 1943 season and it got its share of the players from the Steagles temporary merger. However, the NFL was still not back to full-strength because of the war. The Steelers and the Chicago Cardinals in fact merged at the beginning of 1944 for just one year because things were not yet completely right. In 1945, there would be a “return to normalcy.”

The 1944 NFL Draft was a bit different this year as a number of colleges had suspended football and there was not as much talent coming from the colleges. Some schools such as perennial basketball power Gonzaga dropped football during the war and never brought it back.

The Draft was held later than usual on April 19, 1944. The draft would be for 32 rounds, not the customary 22 rounds. Again, in round 2 and 4 only the 5 lowest wins teams from the 1943 season would pick. Due to the merger in 1943, The Eagles would alternate with the Pittsburg Steelers in picking either 4th or 9th in each round.



GREASY NEALE

HEAD COACH, 1941-50

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: 1969

EAGLES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: 1987

After coaching extensively on the collegiate level at Marietta, Washington and Jefferson (1922 Rose Bowl team), Virginia, and West Virginia, Earle "Greasy" Neale broke into the NFL in 1941 and quickly turned the Eagles into contenders. He captured three straight Eastern Division crowns and back-to-back NFL Championships in 1948 and 1949. He was recognized as a master of the T-formation. From 1918-22, he was an outfielder with the Cincinnati Reds and the Philadelphia Phillies.

PETE PIHOS

END, 1947-55

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: 1970

EAGLES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: 1987

A member of the Eagles' 1948 and 1949 NFL Championship teams, Pete Pihos enjoyed a career that included six trips to the Pro Bowl and three straight seasons leading the NFL in receptions. He may best be remembered for his game-winning catch in the 1949 NFL Championship Game vs. the Rams. A third-round draft choice by the Eagles out of Indiana in 1945, he caught 373 passes and 61 touchdowns during his career in Philadelphia. He was born in Orlando, Florida.

1944 -1946 Results

From 1944 through 1946, the Eagles had turned their game around. They came in second place each year in the Eastern Division. In 1947, they came in first but lost the NFL championship game. The coach matters for sure. Greasy Neale was a great coach.

1947 Greasy Neale, Coach #3

This Eagles team finished with a championship level winning season record of 8-4, finishing in first place. The Eagles improved on their previous record of 6-5, winning eight games. They qualified for the playoffs for the first time ever but lost the NFL Championship. Greasy Neale had unlocked the secret of the Philadelphia Eagles, and he clearly gave Doug Pederson the keys in 2017/2018. The keys included Neale's positive karma, which seventy-years later was blown up by Jeffrey Lurie in the Great White House Snub of 2018.

1947 National Championship Game

It was the Eagles v the Chicago Cardinals. This big game was played for the 1947 National Football League Championship. It was the 15th annual National Football League (NFL) championship game. The Chicago Cardinals was the team, not the St. Louis Cardinals. The game was played on December 28 at Comiskey Park in Chicago. The attendance was 30,759, well below capacity. As usual in Chicago, it was cold with a deep wind.



Cardinals-Eagles Game Action

The game featured the Western Division champion Chicago Cardinals (9-3) and the Eastern Division champion Philadelphia Eagles (8-4). A week earlier, the Eagles defeated the Pittsburgh

Steelers 21–0 in a tiebreaker playoff to determine the Eastern winner. Both the Eagles and Cardinals were making their first appearances in the championship game.

The Cardinals had won the regular season meeting against the Birds in Philadelphia three weeks prior by a healthy 24 points and after a week off, they were 12-point favorites to win the title game at home. They did.

The Cardinals grabbed a quick 14–0 lead in the second quarter, then the teams traded touchdowns. The Eagles closed the gap to 28–21 with five minutes to go, but the Cardinals controlled the ball the rest of the way on an extended drive to pick up their first title. The Eagles would shine even better in 1948.

This was the only NFL title game ever played at Comiskey Park and it continues as the Cardinals' only win. The two teams returned for a rematch in 1948 in Philadelphia, but the Eagles won in a snowstorm. The Cardinals have not won a league championship since this one in 1947, over seven decades ago, the longest drought in the NFL. (They did make it to the Super Bowl (XLIII) in the 2008 season, but lost by four points.)

The Eagles had also won NFL championships prior to the 2017/2018 game but had never won a Super Bowl Game until Pederson and company accomplished that in 2018. They're still talking about that 2018 win across the entire NFL for lots of reasons. Will it be the Eagles' last?

The Cardinals' win in 1947 kept the NFL title within the city of Chicago; the north end's Bears had won the previous season. This was the Cardinals' last playoff win as a franchise until January 1999; at 51 years and five days, it was the longest post-season win drought in NFL history. They relocated to St. Louis in 1960 and again to Arizona in 1988.

1948 Greasy Neale, Coach #3

The 1948 Philadelphia Eagles football team finished with a championship level winning season and this time got the

championship Their record was 9-2-1, finishing in first place. The Eagles improved on their previous record of 8-4, winning nine games and whooping everybody else to get the championship.

They qualified for the playoffs as a repeat in the Eastern Division and they returned to the NFL Championship game, this time defeating the Chicago Cardinals to win their first NFL title. Well-deserved Go Eagles! Go Greasy Neale and thanks for coming by!

The NFL Draft was still a reportable event and so we still are reporting about it. The 1948 NFL draft was held later this season, just five days after the end of the regular season, but before the College Bowls. It was held nine days before the championship game was played.

NFL Championship Game Dec 19, 1948

The NFL Championship game was played at Philadelphia's Shibe Park on December 19 during a blizzard.

The status of the game was tentative until close to game time. In fact, thinking the game would not be played in such a blizzard, star back Steve Van Buren remained home. He needed a yeoman effort to make it to the stadium to suit up and play that day. It was so bad Van Buren was sure the game was called off. Eagles coach Earle "Greasy" Neale called him and told him the game was still on. Van Buren had to catch 3 trolleys and walk 12 blocks in order to make the game on time.



1948 Eagles v Chicago Cardinals NFL Championship in Philadelphia in a Blizzard

The paid attendance for the game was 36,309. Only 28,864 were seated as the weather chased a number of fans away. The game was scoreless until early in the fourth quarter. The Eagles recovered a fumble that set up Van Buren's five-yard touchdown at 1:05 into the fourth quarter. Not seeing the goal line too well with the snow, the Cardinals disputed that the ball or Van Buren had crossed the snow-covered goal line. The referee's call stood regardless.

This was the Cardinals' last appearance in any NFL Championship game in the 20th century. There is said to be a curse on the football Cardinals that followed them from Chicago to St. Louis and on to Arizona. You would need to read another book not written by this author to learn more about the curse.

Looking a bit deeper into the circumstances of this day, the major problem was that they could not remove the tarp with the amount of snow that was piled on it. Eventually the crew had to ask for the help of both the Eagles and the Cardinals players to remove the tarp from the field. Amazing.



Earle (Greasy) Neale with the team after defeating the Chicago Cardinals in the 1948 NFL championship game. Linebacker Alex Wojciechowicz said of Neale, "He devoted his life to teaching his men not only sports, but also an understanding and appreciation of life itself."

Though getting the tarp off was a big enough of a problem, the snow fall was so rapid that seeing the yard lines was nearly impossible. It was up to the head ref to use his best judgment and keen observation skills to determine first downs, touchdowns and so on. Could you imagine such a decision being used today? Not likely.

Through three quarters of play the scoreboard had not been dented. However, when Chicago fumbled early in the fourth quarter on their own side of the 50-yard line, the Eagles took advantage. Hall of Famer Steve Van Buren scored the game's only touchdown, giving the Eagles a 7-0 lead, which would later become the final score.

Not much else to report

Championship Season

Greasy Neale, Coach

The 1949 Philadelphia Eagles football team finished with a championship level winning season and won the NFL championship for the second time in a row

Their record was a terrific 11-1-0, finishing in first place. On October 16, the Eagles sustained their only loss of the season v the Chicago Bears at Chicago, L (21-38). The Eagles improved on their previous record of 9-2-1, winning eleven games and whooping everybody else to get the coveted championship. They qualified for the playoffs as a repeat in the Eastern Division and they returned to the NFL Championship game, this time defeating the Chicago Cardinals to win their first NFL title. Well deserved! Go Eagles! Go Greasy Neale and thanks again for coming by!

The 1949 NFL Championship Game

There were no playoffs to set up the 1949 National Football League Championship Game. The league was still in its infancy. However, it was the 17th title game for the National Football League (NFL). It was played on December 18 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, California. It was lousy weather with a big rain storm that caused the field to become a mud pit. Paid attendance was 27,980, but only 22,245 braved the weather to take a seat in the wet stadium.

Our Eastern Division champion Philadelphia Eagles (11-1), were the defending NFL champions, and they were matched against the Western Division winners, the Los Angeles Rams(8-2-2). The Eagles devoured the Rams W (14-0) for their second championship in a row.

This was the first NFL title game played in the western United States. The Rams had last appeared in a title game in 1945. They won that game and ironically, it was the franchise's final game in Cleveland. Then, they moved way out west to LA.

The Eagles were favored by a touchdown, they won by two TD's shutting out the Rams from scoring. It was the second consecutive shutout for the Eagles in back to back NFL championship games. The score was 14-0. It featured the great rushing of the immortal running back Steve Van Buren, who led the field with 196 yards on 31 carries for the Eagles. The Eagles fabled defense held the Rams to just 21 yards on the ground.



Eagles v Rams National Title Game

Philadelphia head coach Earle "Greasy" Neale did not like to fly, so the Eagles traveled to the West Coast by train. On the way west, they stopped in Illinois for a workout at Stagg Field at the University of Chicago on Wednesday morning. Cross country trains typically stop in Chicago to pick up another train going west.

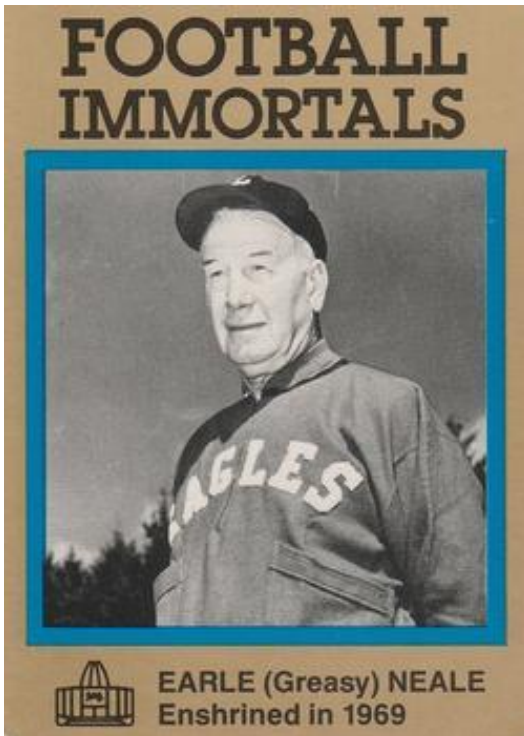
The Eagles had a tough year 6-6 in third place in 1950 and Greasy Neale got fired before the next season by another bad owner, Jim Clark.

Coach Greasy was vacationing at Lake Worth, Fla. in February 1951. He was confident that after this tough season (6-6) his Eagles would bounce back the next season. Then, he received a terse telegram from team owner Jim Clark saying: "You will be paid for the one year remaining on your contract, but you are no longer the coach of the Philadelphia Eagles."

THE YEAR GREASY NEALE WAS FIRED

By Gene Murdock

[Originally published in Pro Football Digest, April—May 1968, five years before Neale's death in 1973 and 17 years after his controversial ousting.]



It was a tense moment in the Philadelphia Eagles' dressing room at the Polo Grounds on a raw Sunday afternoon in late November 1950. The National Football League champions had just dropped a heartbreaker to the New York Giants, 7-3. The club owner stood in the center of the room and pointed an accusing finger at his coach. "And you," he shouted, "you made mistakes out there; you made mistakes!"

"Damn you," fired back the coach, "I never make mistakes. Or if I do you

can't tell me in my clubhouse in front of my football players. If you want to tell me what mistakes I make on the football field, you tell me in your office on Monday morning!"

Seated in his home in Parkersburg, W.Va. 17 years later, 76-year-old Earle "Greasy" Neale still has thunder in his voice as he talks of the shouting match that openly marked the beginning of the end of his long and colorful coaching career. "Imagine this now -- the president of a ball club standing in the middle of the dressing room after you'd been beaten 7-3, popping off in front of your players, telling me you can't win with three points. Anybody knew that. It didn't take a genius to tell you that!"

The year 1950 had already been a trying one for Greasy, who had led the Eagles to NFL titles in 1948 and 1949, winning "Coach of the Year" honors both seasons. He had taken over the club, a tail-end outfit, in 1941, had converted it into a winner within three or four years and had topped this feat with three divisional and two league crowns.

As the 1950 season approached, the future had looked bright. Neale had most of his championship team back, a team studded with such seasoned stars as Steve Van Buren, Tommy Thompson, Pete Pihos and Vic Sears. In addition, there were outstanding second-year men like Chuck Bednarik, Clyde "Smackover" Scott and Frank Ziegler. Greasy confided to Philadelphia sportswriter Stan Baumgartner on the eve of the College All-Star game his personal optimism: "I don't see why our boys can't do it again. Who is there to beat us?"

But things had not worked out that way. A wave of crippling injuries beset the Eagles in training camp. In the first game of the season, the Cleveland Browns, newly arrived in the NFL after terrorizing the All-America Conference, proved they belonged there by trouncing the Eagles 35-10.

As he looks back on that first game with Paul Brown's team, Greasy admits that he and his Eagles probably took the neophyte Browns too lightly.

"They beat us with passes – Otto Graham to Dub Jones. I thought Russ Craft could cover anybody alive – he covered "Crazylegs" Hirsch all the time and would take the ball right away from him and run for touchdowns – but he couldn't cover

Dub Jones. I knew within 10 minutes after that game started that the Eagle defense wouldn't stop the Browns."

But the Eagles bounced back. They won five straight and seemed headed for another championship until they experienced a series of exasperating razor-thin defeats in November and December that destroyed their hopes for a third straight title. The mounting frustration came to a head in the Polo Grounds dressing room with owner Jim Clark and Greasy blowing up at each other. In picturesque language Neale offered to quit his job on the spot, but Clark quickly retreated and diplomatic relations between the two were temporarily patched up.

As Greasy recalls it: "After that game in New York we went out to Cleveland for our second game with the Browns. Jim and I rode out together and had a few drinks together. I forced him on Tuesday to come to practice and apologize to the team. He told me then: 'You can coach this team forever for me.'"

The cut went too deep, however, and in three months' time the "Coach of the Year" – the man who had wondered: "Who is there to beat us?" – was fired.

What happened? From the distance of years, it looks quite simple. After racing to a 5-1 record to lead the Eastern Conference at the midway point, the Eagles apparently collapsed. In the last half of the season, except for a 33-0 rout of the Redskins, the Philadelphians dropped five games. They ended up in a tie for third place in the East with a 6-6 record, the team's poorest performance since 1942.

But as Greasy tells it, nothing is ever quite that simple. Although only 6-6 for the season, the Eagles outscored their opponents by the lopsided margin of 254 to 141. And, significantly, they dropped those five second-half games by a total of 18 points. The Giants beat them twice (7-3 and 9-7), the Browns once (13-7), Pittsburgh once (9-7) and the Cardinals once (14-10).

In the first Giant game, the one that touched off the Clark-Neale confrontation, Philadelphia was near the goal line most of the time but could not push the ball across and had to settle for a

field goal. As Greasy remembers it, they were stopped five times – on the 16-, 20-, 5-, 2-, and 4-yard lines.

He talks of the second clash with the Browns with bitterness lightened by a special kind of pride. "I spent two hours a day for a week on defense before the second Brown game. Imagine that! They only give 20 minutes to defense normally. "

Motley gains 15 yards, Graham doesn't complete a pass. And they beat me on an intercepted pass that they scored on and two fumbles where Groza kicked field goals. They beat us 13-7. They made two first downs – and I'll bet it's the only game Graham ever played in which he didn't complete a pass!"

Greasy's strategy for stopping Marion Motley was simple: "I put Bednarik on that Motley and I said: 'That's your man, and don't you let him go anywhere. When he comes through the line, whether he's got the ball or not, you hit him, and you hit him, and you tear him apart!'

"That Bednarik, he was something! You know, he was the first lineman ever taken as a first-round draft choice. He and Van Buren and Joe Muha were the best picks we ever made."

The loss of those five games by 18 points resulted less from a collapse of the team on the field -- on defense the Eagles allowed far fewer first downs than any team in the league and were only 70 yards behind the Browns in yards allowed -- than from a succession of damaging injuries, but anytime a coach loses players like Van Buren, "Bosh" Pritchard, Scott and Al Wistert for extended periods, he's in trouble. Greasy was no exception.

Van Buren developed a spur on the bottom of one of his feet in training and after playing in the All-Star game with Novocain deadening the pain, he was returned to Philadelphia for an operation and did not practice for the next six weeks. He missed the season's opener and was far below par all year long. His rushing total dropped from the league-leading figure of 1,146 yards in 1949 to 626 in 1950, with his average declining from 4.4 yards a try to 3.3.

Pritchard, who had finished fifth in the NFL in rushing in 1949 with a 6.0 average, injured a knee in training and didn't play in a single game in 1950. Scott, who as a rookie from Arkansas in 1949 had averaged just under five yards a try in 40 carries, was badly injured in the second quarter of the 1950 opener against the Browns and was finished for the season.

As Stan Baumgartner explained it: "Pritchard and Scott are very fast men who can run the ends, keep the opposing defense spread and make it possible for Van Buren to plunge through the line. When these two carriers were out of the lineup, the opposition concentrated on Van Buren and bottled him up before he could get started. The only other danger was quarterback Tommy Thompson's forward passes. With no far of Pritchard, Scott or Van Buren, the rival club concentrated on possible receivers. So, Neale's entire intricate offense bogged down."

Greasy was vacationing at Lake Worth, Fla. in February 1951, confident that his Eagles would bounce back the next season, when he got a terse telegram from owner Jim Clark saying: "You will be paid for the one year remaining on your contract, but you are no longer the coach of the Philadelphia Eagles."

"It was a complete surprise," says Greasy. "After that blowup in New York Clark told me that I could coach the Eagles as long as he had the club. It liked to kill my wife. She died two months later."

In Neale's opinion an important factor in his dismissal was a difference of views over his scouting system. "We had the greatest scouting system of any team in the NFL," Greasy proudly claims. "We had the information on every boy who entered school until the time he graduated from any college in America."

According to Greasy, it was in 1943 that he and Alexis Thompson, who then owned the Eagles, and general manager Harry Thayer worked out an elaborate method of compiling complete information on all college football players.

"We had 68 books that we took into the second draft meeting we attended. No team had ever done this before. They laughed at us, but you can bet they stopped after we got ourselves men like Van Buren and Muha with that system! "

The problem was that Jim Clark, who headed the 1,000 stockholders who bought the club from Lex Thompson, didn't know anything about football. He wanted to trim expenses by doing away with my scouts. He thought we were spending too much money for information on football players.

"That scouting system won us championships. But I was wasting my time telling Clark that. He paid no attention to it."

To replace Neale, Clark hired Bo McMillan, who in three years as head coach of the Detroit Lions (1948-50) had compiled a 12-24 won-lost record and had feuded continually with the club-owners. He coached the Eagles for two games in 1951, quitting because of illness. Wayne Millner succeeded him, and the Eagles wound up the year with a 4-8 mark.

Today, Greasy Neale lives in his boyhood hometown in a house filled with trophies. The trophies tell of the days he played football with Jim Thorpe long before the NFL was born, of years as a slick-hitting outfielder with the Cincinnati Reds and as a coach of college football teams – including the Washington and Jefferson giant-killers who held mighty California to a scoreless tie in the 1922 Rose Bowl.

And some of the trophies tell Greasy that he was professional football's "Coach of the Year" two years in a row – just before a season when the percentages took over and five games lost by a total of 18 points brought him and his high-flying Eagles back to earth.

Chapter 7 Seven Coaches from 1951 to 1968

Coach # 4 Bo McMillin

Coach #5 Wayne Millner

Coach #6 Jim Trimble

Coach #7 Hugh Devore

Coach #8 Buck Shaw

Coach #9 Nick Skorich

Coach #10 Joe Kuharich

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf/Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Record</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1951 | Bo McMillin | American | 5 th | 2-0-0 |
| 1951 | Wayne Millner | American | 5 th | 2-8-0 |
| <u>1951-1951 McMillin / Millner final record (4-8-0)</u> | | | | |
| 1952 | Jim Trimble | American | T2 nd | 7-5-0 |
| 1953 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | 2 nd | 7-4-1 |
| 1954 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | 2 nd | 7-4-1 |
| 1955 | Jim Trimble | Eastern | T4 th | 4-7-1 |
| <u>1952-1955 Jim Trimble final record (25-20-3)</u> | | | | |
| 1956 | Hugh Devore | Eastern, | 6 th | 3-8-1 |
| 1957 | Hugh Devore | Eastern, x | 5 th | 4-8-0 |
| <u>1956-1957 High Devore final record (7-16-1)</u> | | | | |



Eagles 1951 Head Coach Bo McMillan as player -- QB

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Record</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| 1958 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | <u>T5th</u> | 2-9-1 |
| 1959 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | <u>T2nd</u> | 7-5-0 |
| 1960 | Buck Shaw | Eastern | x | <u>1st</u> | 10-2-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won NFL Championship v (Packers) 17-13 • Norm Van Brocklin (MVP) • Buck Shaw (Coach of Year), |

1958-1960 Buck Shaw final record (20-16-1)

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|---------|---|------------|--------|
| 1961 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | <u>2nd</u> | 10-4-0 |
| 1962 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | <u>7th</u> | 3-10-1 |
| 1963 | Nick Skorich | Eastern | x | <u>7th</u> | 2-10-2 |

1961-1963 Nick Skorich final record (15-24-3)

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|---------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| 1964 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | <u>T3rd</u> | 6-8-0 |
| 1965 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | <u>T5th</u> | 5-9-0 |
| 1966 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | <u>T2nd</u> | 9-5-0 |
| 1967 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | Capitol | <u>2nd</u> | 6-7-1 |
| 1968 | Joe Kuharich, | Eastern | Capitol | <u>4th</u> | 2-12-0 |

1964-1968 Joe Kuharich final record (28-41-1)

1951 Bo McMillan, Coach #4 (2-0)

1951 Wayne Millner, Coach #5 (2-8)

The 1951 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their nineteenth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Bo McMillan and Wayne Millner at different times in the season. Both were in their first season of one as head coach. This Eagles team finished with a dismal losing season of 4-8-0. Greasy Neale was gone as his owner thought that coaches were a dime a dozen. This season proved they were not.

The Eagles owner Jim Clark fired Greasy Neale and first hired Bo McMillin as head coach on Feb 8, 1951. He took on the challenge of returning the Philadelphia Eagles to their previous glory. However, after just two games (both wins), McMillin underwent surgery for what was believed to be ulcer troubles. The verdict was far worse: stomach cancer, which ended his coaching career. Assistant coach Wayne Millner took over as head coach for the rest of the year. Millner would resign weeks before the 1952 season citing health as the reason for stepping down. There was no championship in 1951

1952-1955 Jim Trimble Coach # 6

The 1952 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their twentieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL)

football. They were led by Jim Trimble in his first season of four as head coach. This Eagles team finished with a winning record of 7-5-1. The team was a bit better 7-4-1 in 1953 and 1954. Trimble was not a bad coach but he also was no Greasy Neale. The team achieved three second place finishes but no championships.



Great player Pete Pihos and Coach Jim Trimble in Honors Ceremony

Head coach Wayne Millner, who took over, for ailing head coach Bo McMillin in 1951, resigned on September 8, just 3 weeks before the 1952 season started, citing health as the reason for stepping down. He was replaced by coach Jim Trimble just in time for the season. The Eagles problem with coach retention did not help the team win games.

1953 was the fourth season in a row for the team to not make the playoffs.

Jim Trimble would not survive after this season though he was doing reasonably well. The Eagles fired him after the (4-7-1)1953 season.

Under Trimble, Philadelphia was not a bad team. They had finished second in the prior two 2 seasons to the Cleveland Browns. And so, Trimble was awarded a three-year contract after the team's second straight runner-up finish in 1953. He had another fine year in 1954 but no cigar. When the stubby cigar that was left, could not be lit again, it was time for a departure song as far as Eagle's management was concerned. But, what did they know?

1956-1957 Hugh Devore Coach # 7

The Eagles changed coaches during the off season. Jim Trimble was fired on December 12, and they hired Hugh Devore. Devore had a long career including Notre Dame, Green Bay, NYU, etc. before taking over the Eagles. Jim Trimble's legacy is more connected to football products, thanks to his "slingshot" goal posts. In 1966, he would design and market the idea. Today they are the common goal post at football games.

The replacement for Trimble came with stellar credentials. Hugh Devore, who had been an interim coach at Notre Dame several times, was a great guy and was a well-liked and respected coach, Devore had consistently brought in less than stellar results at ND, but the Eagles expected better. He was hired and coached for two years before getting the axe. As one might expect, as good a guy as he was, Devore predictably brought in less than stellar results. This did not please the Eagles constituency and sooner, not later, the great man, but medsa-medsa coach was given the bum's rush.

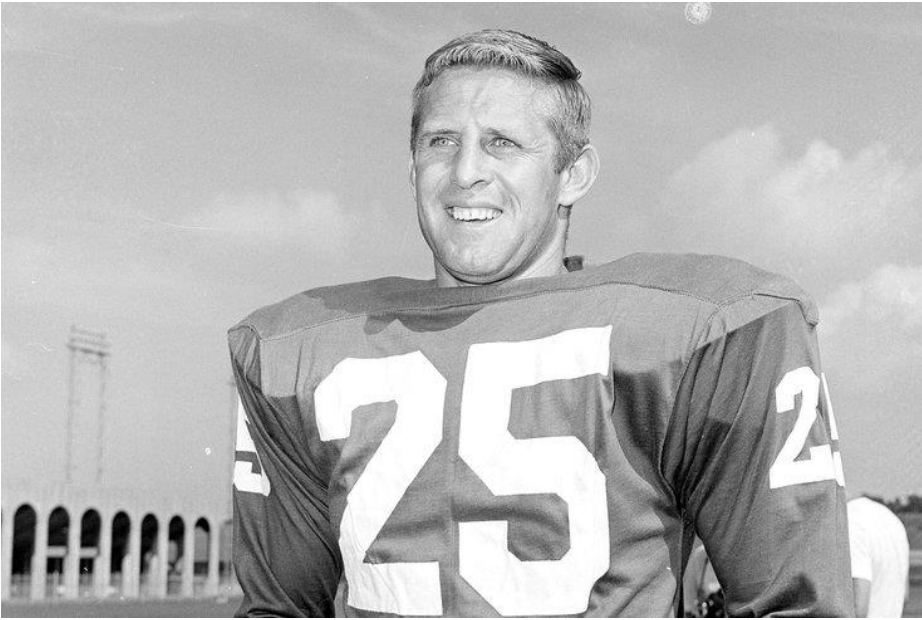


The 1957 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their twenty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Hugh Devore in his second and last season as head coach. This Eagles team won three more games than in 1956 but still finished with a losing record of 4-8-0. This was the eighth season in a row for the team to not make the playoffs.

Who is Tommy McDonald

Joining the Eagles after being drafted in 1957, Tommy McDonald spent seven years as a Philadelphia Eagle. Wide receiver Tommy McDonald led the league in touchdown receptions twice and earned Pro Bowl honors five times. And, yes, he was part of that team that won the 1960 NFL Championship. If you check out his resume, you will hear it speaking for itself. As a side note, his great success came during a time where defenses weren't handicapped by safety rules. McDonald more than survived.

Tommy McDonald: "I THINK CATCHING PASSES IS JUDGMENT, MOSTLY. I'VE GOT GOOD VISION; GOOD PERIPHERAL VISION. I THINK SOMETIMES I CAN SEE THINGS THE DEFENSIVE BACK DOESN'T SEE. I WATCH FOR HIM TO MAKE HIS MOVE—YOU'VE GOT TO STUDY THE GUYS IN THIS LEAGUE—AND IF HE'S A FRACTION LATE COMPENSATING FOR MINE, THEN I'VE GOT HIM BEAT."



Wide receiver Tommy McDonald was taken early in the draft on 1957 (third round) by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1957. He had been an All-America choice at Oklahoma, winning the Maxwell Award in 1956 as college football's player of the year.

Though small in stature, he made up for it in heart and talent, and desire. During his three varsity years at Oklahoma, the Sooners never lost a game. McDonald could catch anything.

Eagles Championship Year 1960



Coach Buck Shaw gets lift from Bobby Walston, 83, Tim Brown, 22, Tommy McDonald 25

1958-1960 Buck Shaw Coach # 8

The 1958 Philadelphia Eagles football team finished in fifth place with first year coach Buck Shaw. In 1959, they came in 2nd place and then Buck Shaw brought the pride back to the Philadelphia Locker room with a National Football League Championship.

After Hugh Devore was fired in the offseason, Vince Lombardi was offered the Eagles head coaching position, but he refused it. He opted to stay as the Offensive Coordinator of the New York Giants. Buck Shaw took the team that was not in too good a shape from two poor years helping make it a stronger contender.

The 1959 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their twenty-seventh season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Buck Shaw in his second of three seasons as head coach. This Eagles team finished second in the Eastern Conference with a winning record of 7-5-0. This was the tenth season in a row for the team to not make the playoffs.

1960 Buck Shaw Coach # 8

The 1960 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Buck Shaw in his third and last seasons as head coach. This Eagles team finished first in the Eastern Conference with a winning record of 10-2-0. This broke the ten years spell of not making the playoffs. This same year, Vince Lombardi, a one-time head coaching prospect at Philadelphia, coached the Green Bay Packers in his first year.

This great Buck Shaw coaching year and Eagles 1st place, 10-2 performance culminated in the Eagles' beating the Green Bay Packers in the NFL championship game to win their third league title. The victory over the Packers was also the first and only playoff defeat of the great Vince Lombardi's coaching career. The 1960 season was the Eagles' first postseason appearance since their last NFL championship season of 1949. It was their only postseason appearance in the 28 seasons from 1950 to 1977, and their last NFL title until their victory in Super Bowl LII, 57 years later. Go Eagles!

This year, the NFL now had a competition with the AFL. The AFL had its own draft. The 1960 American Football League draft was held on November 22–23, 1959, in Minneapolis, shortly after the organization of the league. It lasted 33 rounds. An additional draft of 20 rounds was held by the AFL on December 2.

The Philadelphia Eagles lost 4 players to the AFL including 1st round pick Ron Burton a running back out of the Northwestern University. A total of 6 NFL 1st round picks in this draft would sign with the AFL this particular year.

Great Eagles Games—11/20/1960 v Giants

“The Hit”:

On October 23, 2013, Ray Didinger wrote about “The Hit.”

Over 50 years later, “The Hit” still resonates.

The people who were there still talk about it. Those who saw it on TV still shudder at the memory. It was the beauty and the

beast of pro football captured in one unforgettable image, one play that defines two legends. [I saw “The Hit.”]

Chuck Bednarik and Frank Gifford (New York Giants) collided dozens of times in the course of their Hall of Fame careers. But it was the one encounter on November 20, 1960, at Yankee Stadium that still echoes through the game. Almost every day, Bednarik, before his passing several years ago, said he is asked about “The Hit.”

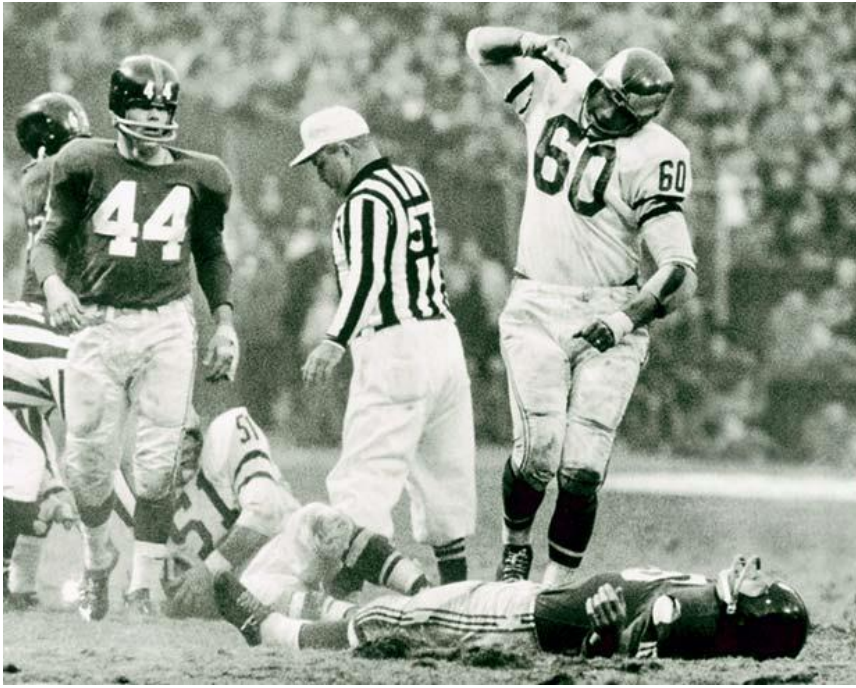
Surely, he had tired of it by now.

“Are you kidding? I never get tired of it,” Bednarik said. “For Frank, it’s probably a different story.”

“The Hit” came on a critical play late in a game which the Eagles led 17-10. On Nov. 20, 1960, the 6-1 Eagles battled the rival 5-1-1 Giants with first place on the line in the NFL’s Eastern Division. The Giants were driving toward a potential tying score when Gifford, their star halfback, ran a slant pattern across the middle. He caught the ball, but was immediately leveled by Bednarik, a 6-foot-3, 235-pound linebacker, coming full speed in the opposite direction.

The 6-foot-1 Gifford, who played at 185 pounds, was slammed backwards violently onto the frozen turf where he lay unconscious, his arms and legs limp. As he hit the ground, the ball rolled loose and Chuck Weber dove on the fumble to seal the victory that vaulted the Eagles to the Eastern Division title and eventually the world championship.

When Bednarik saw Weber recover the fumble, he did a fist-pumping victory dance over the motionless Gifford. To this day, Bednarik swears he didn’t see Gifford at his feet. He was, he claimed, simply reacting to the win, which was then assured. “I was saying, ‘This (expletive) game is over,’” Bednarik said. “I wasn’t directing it at Frank or anybody else. I was elated we won. If people think I was gloating over Frank, they’re full of you-know-what.”



Gifford suffered a severe concussion on the play. He sat out the remainder of the 1960 season and all of the following season before returning to the Giants in 1962. Gifford has always insisted he has no hard feelings toward Bednarik.

“It was a good, clean hit,” Gifford said. “It wasn’t an elbow, or a clothesline shot. He hit me in the chest and my head snapped when I hit the ground. I was out cold when they carried me off. I woke up in the locker room and had no idea what happened.” Whenever the Eagles and Giants renew their rivalry, ... old-school Philly fans reflect on that play. What made it particularly remarkable was that Bednarik was playing both ways - center on offense; linebacker on defense - as he did for much of the 1960 season. He was 35 years old, playing every down and he still had the strength to KO Gifford in the final two minutes of the game...

An award-winning writer and producer, Ray Didinger was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1995. He has also won six Emmy Awards for his work as a writer and producer at NFL Films. The five-time Pennsylvania Sportswriter of the Year is a writer and analyst for Comcast SportsNet. Didinger will provide Eagles fans a unique

historical perspective on the team throughout the season for PhiladelphiaEagles.com. You can read all of his Eagles History columns here.



Philadelphia Tom Brookshier (40) brings down Green Bay's Jim Taylor in the second quarter of NFL championship game. Eagles' Don Burroughs rushes in to help. *UPI/Journal Sentinel files*

Against the Giants one week later on Nov 27, at home, the Eagles, at 7-1 beat the Giants W (31-23) making them 8-1 going into December. This game was played before 60,547. Then, on Dec 4, at St Louis, the Eagles beat the Cardinals 20-6 before 21,358. At Pittsburgh, riding high on none straight wins, the Eagles were set back on Dec 11 at Pittsburgh by the Steelers in a close match L (21-27) before 22,101. In the last game of the year, with the Eastern Championship already in the bag, the Eagles beat the Redskins on Dec 18 at Washington W 38-28 10-2 20,558

The 1960 NFL Championship

The **Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel** provides a great account of the game:

By BUD LEA, Milwaukee Sentinel

Philadelphia- Time ran out on the Cinderella Packers Monday.

The team which rose from rags to riches under the driving leadership of Vince Lombardi ended its most successful season in 15 years nine yards away from the biggest prize in the world of football - the National League championship.

The Eagles won this 28th title game, 17-13, on a slippery Franklin Field turf as 67,325 held their breath because the Packers were on the move - from their 35 to the Philadelphia nine when the "bell" saved the Eagles.

With five seconds to play, Bart Starr fired a 15-yard pass to Jim Taylor, who was gang-tackled in the muck on the nine. The Bayou Blaster buried his head in the mud as the gun sounded ... it was all over.

Each Loses \$2,000

Losing meant a loss of more than \$2,000 to each Packer. The winners took home \$5,116.55 apiece while each Packer pocketed \$3,105.14.

The Packers moved easily against the Eagles, outgaining the best in the East, 401 yards to 296. But when scoring opportunities were presented, Green Bay failed badly.

The big play time and again was missing. Four times the Packers penetrated inside the Philadelphia 10-yard line and all they could show for it was a 20-yard field goal by Paul Hornung early in the first quarter.

Pack Hogs Ball

The ball control theory could have been thrown out the window on this unusually warm winter afternoon. The Packers had 85 plays to the Eagles' 48.

Philadelphia, as expected, hitched its attack to Norm Van Brocklin, a pudgy, intelligent man of 34 who did enough damage with 3 1/2 minutes of the second quarter to beat the Packers.

Held 6-0 Lead

Getting good protection, the Dutchman exploited Green Bay's defense by completing four of seven passes for 120 yards in this short stretch - one a 35-yard scoring shot to sprinter Tommy McDonald, and the other a 22-yard blur to rookie Ted Dean which set up Bobby Walston's 15-yard field goal.

Until Van Brocklin opened up with this deadly barrage, the Packers enjoyed a 6-0 lead on two field goals (20 and 23 yards) by Hornung. Philadelphia then took its 10-6 halftime lead into the fourth quarter.

At 1:53 of the fatal fourth, Starr fired a seven-yard touchdown pass to Max McGee. It climaxed an 80-yard drive in 12 plays, put in motion by one of the most daredevil stunts of the year - a 35-yard run by McGee after faking a punt deep in his own territory.

But Dean, hailed the rookie of the year in most quarters, returned the ensuing kickoff 58 yards to the Packer 40. And seven plays later the 6-2, 210-pound halfback from Wichita wheeled five yards around left end to assure victory.

Lose Hornung

The Packers lost the services of Hornung midway through the third quarter, and his spot was filled adequately by rookie Tom Moore.

Before suffering a pinched shoulder nerve, which hampered his ball handling, Hornung had gained 61 yards in 11 rushes and had caught four passes for 14 yards.

Individually, the Packers looked sharp on paper. Taylor gained 105 yards in 24 carries; Starr completed 21 of 34 passes for 178 yards and a touchdown, and Gary Knafelc had his best game of the year with six catches for 76 yards.

But the punch fizzled when it counted. And the indication was evident right off the bat.

On the very first offensive play of the game, Bill Qinlan recovered a Van Brocklin lateral to Bill Barnes on the Eagle 14. What an opportunity!

Taylor ripped through for five ... Hornung two ... Taylor one to the Eagle six. With fourth down and two to go, Taylor was met head on and missed by a yard.

A golden opportunity was royally flubbed, but another was right around the corner. It came the fourth time the Eagles had the ball, when Dean sliced over tackle for eight yards and fumbled. Forrester Gets It

Bill Forrester scooped up the ball on the Eagle 22. Two running plays by Hornung and a six-yard blast by Taylor reached the seven.

Taylor fought his way fiercely to the five, only to have an offside penalty shove the Packers back to the 12. With the going tough on the slippery gridiron, Starr then decided to go to the air.



Jim Taylor takes the handoff

His first shot aimed at Knafelc was broken up by Bobby Freeman, an ex-Packer. The next on third down, sailed beyond McGee's reach in the end zone.

Hornung, who had rested on the two previous plays, came in and booted a 20-yard field goal at 6:20 of the first quarter.

Move Again

The Eagles showed little life on two series of plays, but the Packers started to move again late in the initial period.

After Willie Wood was caught in his tracks while fielding Van Brocklin's 30-yard punt on the Packer 37, the Bays methodically ground out yardage with its potent power-punch of Taylor and Hornung and Starr's accurate passes.

In seven plays the Packers were sitting pretty on the Philly 16.

Taylor clawed his way to the 13, but over-eagerness cost the Pack a five-yard offside penalty on the next play.

Starr resorted to passes and both fizzled. His first shot intended for McGee was broken up by Tom Brookshier. The next was dropped by Eagle defender Don Burroughs.

Denied a touchdown, the next best thing was a field goal, and Hornung obliged by splitting the uprights from the 23. His effort gave Green Bay a 6-0 lead 1:44 into the second quarter.
Crowd Restless

Meanwhile, a highly partisan mob of Eagle rooters became restless. They started stamping their feet for action. Van Brocklin responded after McGee dribbled a 30-yard punt which stuck in the mud like a pitchfork on the Eagle 43.

He selected the pass which turned fans fears into reality. Two went to McDonald, a fast man downfield, 22 yards and then 35 for the touchdown.

On the TD Packer, defender Hank Gremminger was beaten on the hazardous turf, and by the time Em Tunnell tried to get to McDonald, he was shooting into the end zone.

Walton Converts

Bobby Walston converted at 8:08 and the Eagles had taken the upper hand, 7-6.

Five plays later Van Brocklin was at it again. This time he picked on Jess Whittenton, completing a bomb to Pete Retzlaff which gained 41 yards. Johnny Symank caught the high-flying Eagle on the Packer 33.

Then Dean slipped past Whittenton and gained 22 yards after taking a perfect pass from Van Brocklin to the Packer eight. The Dutchman, though, couldn't come up with the TD pass on three tries so Walston booted a field goal from the 15 at 11:48 in the second quarter to boost the Eagle's lead to 10-6.

March 73 Yards

This prompted Green Bay to march 73 yards in 10 plays, and Starr was masterful at ripping the Eagle defense apart.

Hornung, shrewd at picking his holes, started the drive with a 16-yard run. Seven plays and 29 yards later, Starr hit Taylor for a 15-yard gain to the Philly 20.

Only 45 seconds remained after Starr fired a seven-yard pass to Hornung. Then the Packer passer hit Knafelc on the seven. Starr couldn't find a receiver on the next play, made it to the line of scrimmage but lost valuable time.

Brookshier Helps

The Packers hurriedly lined up for a field goal attempt and Brookshier proved a perfect host by jumping the gun.

Green Bay refused the offside penalty because of the angle of the kick. But from the 13, Hornung missed the field goal and another scoring chance was "blown" as the first half ended.

Although the third quarter was scoreless, there were chances for both clubs to score only to be thwarted by some fine defensive play.

On the third play after the second half kickoff, Starr heaved a long pass to Boyd Dowler, who ran straight downfield. But Burroughs, the Ram castoff who intercepted nine passes this season, made an outstanding defensive maneuver in knocking the ball out of Dowler's reach.

Stopped On 25

The next time the Packers got the ball they quickly romped into Philly land again, but on fourth down with two to go, Taylor was stopped on the 25.

Now it was Van Brocklin's turn to get hot again and a 33-yard shot to McDonald, who was wide open, and a 25-yarder to

Walston, who took the ball away from Gremminger, put the Eagles on the Packer five.

On second down, though, Symank saved further embarrassment by jumping high to intercept Van Brocklin's pass in the end zone for an automatic touchback.

The Packers, offensively, couldn't respond though. Three of Starr's passes failed to connect, and then McGee went back to punt. Well, everyone in Franklin Field including the Eagles and Packers thought so.

But the Taxi, a real money player, jolted everyone in this old park by taking off with the ball. The Eagles did not have a single man rush McGee, so the Packer-punter nonchalantly shot up the middle for 35 yards.



This was not a play from the bench, Lombardi later revealed, strictly a McGee gimmick. It worked ... and how, it worked.

Now the Packers were within striking distance again on the Eagle 45. It was the lift they needed, and Starr quickly went to work.

To The 10

His 15-yard strike to Knafelc and Moore's 11-yard blast over three defenders carried to the 23. Taylor fought for five and Moore wheeled for eight to the 10.

Taylor then hit Burroughs so hard on the next play after picking up three yards that the Eagle defender had to be helped off the field. Starr immediately took advantage of his sub, Bobby Jackson, and passed to McGee from the seven for the touchdown.

Hornung came off the bench to convert at 1:53 in the fourth quarter, and the Packers were on the verge of their first championship in 16 years with a 13-10 lead.

Then Dean sprinted 58 yards on the kickoff to the Packer 40, and the handwriting was on the wall. Aside from a 13-yard pass to Barnes, Van Brocklin relied on the running of Barnes and Dean to gobble up 40 yards and a touchdown in seven plays.

Dean scored with a five-yard sprint around left end. Maybe the Packers were looking for the pass because they certainly didn't react to the Eagle runner. Walston kicked the extra point at 5:21 and that proved to be the final outcome.

Try to Rally

The Packers tried to rally. But when McGee fumbled away the ball to Chuck Bednarik after picking up a first down on the Eagle 48, things looked bleak, mighty bleak.

It wasn't until Lew Carpenter returned Van Brocklin's punt six yards to the Packer 35 that another hope prevailed. But time was wastin', a minute and 15 seconds remained.

Starr, between taking time outs and getting instruction from the bench, fired quickies to Taylor and Moore. A 17-yard strike to Knafelc put the Packers on the Eagle 30.

Then the Alabama rifle tried to go for the touchdown, but his receiver, Dowler, was knocked down in the end zone. Starr hurriedly followed with an eight-yard pitch to Knafelc.

And with five seconds to go he hit Taylor, who was pounded into the mud on the nine. The gun sounded, and the Eagles went wild, their fans wilder, for this has been as hungry a team as the Packers.

The game has to go down as one of the best in the history of this great game. It had everything, considering the fact it was played on a frozen and later a muddy field.



Bednarik makes tackle in 1960 Eagles NFL Title game . Colorization by John Turney

This Eagles victory was the third NFL title for the Philadelphia Eagles, and their final championship until the team won Super Bowl LII in 2018. The 2018 game of course was spectacular, and it ended a 57-season championship drought.



This was the second and last NFL championship game played in Philadelphia, and the only one contested at Franklin Field. A dozen years earlier, the 1948 title game was held in the snow at Shibe Park and was also an Eagles' victory. As a point of interesting trivia, prices for the game were ten and eight dollars

On Top, Buck Shaw Retires from Eagles

Posting from FEBRUARY 14, 2011

1958: Buck Shaw Hired as Head Coach of Philadelphia Eagles

On February 14, 1958 the Philadelphia Eagles announced that Lawrence “Buck” Shaw had been hired as head coach. The Eagles most recently had endured two disappointing seasons under Hugh Devore.



Buck Shaw, coaching on the sidelines for the good of the Eagles

Since Earle “Greasy” Neale, who built the club into a two-time NFL champion, was let go in 1950, the team had gone through four head coaches, from Bo McMillin, who resigned after two games in '51 due to health reasons, through Wayne Millner, Jim Trimble, and Devore.

The 58-year-old Shaw had been a star player under Head Coach Knute Rockne at Notre Dame (where he was a teammate of the legendary George Gipp) and, with Rockne’s encouragement, went on to coach at Santa Clara, Nevada, and North Carolina State before moving into the pro ranks as the original head coach of the San Francisco 49ers in the AAFC in 1946.

“The Silver Fox”, as he was dubbed due to his full head of gray hair, stayed at the helm for nine years and his record with the 49ers, who became part of the NFL in 1950, was a solid 71-39-4. From there, he had become the first head coach at the Air Force Academy, and resigned after going 9-8-2 in two seasons.

While it was publicly stated that Shaw was signed to an extended contract, it was actually a one-year deal with an option on both sides for a second (the term was at the coach’s request).

Shaw also had business interests in California and made clear that he would handle his coaching duties from June through December only, which, even in an era in which pro coaching was not yet a year-round occupation, was still somewhat unusual.

Fortunately for Shaw, while the team had played poorly in the previous three seasons (a combined 11-23-2), they had drafted well. The first four picks in '57 alone proved valuable to the team's future – FB Clarence Peaks from Michigan State, Wake Forest HB Billy Barnes, HB Tommy McDonald from Oklahoma, and QB Sonny Jurgensen out of Duke.

While Jurgensen started some games in his first year and showed promise, the new coach made clear at his introductory press conference that, in emphasizing the passing game, he intended to obtain an experienced and accomplished quarterback, and did so with the acquisition of 32-year-old Norm Van Brocklin from the Rams (The Dutchman was unhappy with the LA organization, especially Head Coach Sid Gillman, and was threatening to retire if not traded).

Peaks and Barnes both saw substantial action in '57, but Coach Devore had taken criticism for his handling of the diminutive McDonald. Too small to play halfback (5'9", 172 pounds), the coach stubbornly resisted suggestions that he be moved to flanker until late in the season. The immediate results were spectacular, and under Van Brocklin's tutelage, McDonald developed into an outstanding deep threat.

Shaw was soft-spoken, rarely raising his voice, and acted much as the organization's CEO, letting his strong group of assistants handle the details. Offensive line coach Charlie Gauer was highly regarded, and Van Brocklin largely directed the offense. Jerry Williams proved to be an innovative and highly-effective defensive assistant. Shaw handled administration (which he did ably), made personnel decisions, and set the overall tone.

With a new home field (the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field) as well as head coach and quarterback, the

Eagles looked to improve in 1958. The record (2-9-1) was actually worse than in '57, but the team was in the process of rebuilding and did show signs of turning around.

Van Brocklin threw the ball well (and often – he led the NFL with 374 pass attempts and 198 completions), and was an outstanding team leader. Barnes joined The Dutchman as a Pro Bowl selection, leading the club in rushing with 551 yards and gaining another 423 on 35 pass receptions.

McDonald caught just 29 passes, but 9 of them were for touchdowns and he gained 603 yards for a 20.8 average gain. Pete Retzlaff, who had been buried on the depth chart at halfback after being obtained from the Lions, was nurtured by Van Brocklin and blossomed into an outstanding end – he caught 56 passes to co-lead the NFL along with Baltimore's Raymond Berry. Veteran end Bobby Walston continued to be a reliable receiver and also handled the placekicking.

The team had been sound defensively under Devore, and contained solid players in DE Tom Scott, DT Jess Richardson, LB Bob Pellegini, HB Tom Brookshier, and safeties Jerry Norton and Lee Riley. However, players at the other positions proved less adept. Such was also the case with the offensive line, where former All-Pro linebacker Chuck Bednarik had moved to center, but holes remained elsewhere. As Van Brocklin said after the season, "We bled for linemen. After last year, Barnes and Peaks are lucky to be alive."

The personnel were overhauled as needed (they traded or released 20 players in 1958), and the Eagles improved to 7-5 in 1959 and 10-2 in '60, when they won the NFL Championship. Important acquisitions included rookies J.D. Smith (OT), Joe Robb (DE), and Gene Johnson (DB) in 1959 and Maxie Baughan (LB) and Ted Dean (RB) in '60 as well as veterans Stan Campbell (G) and Don Burroughs (FS).

Shaw made clear prior to the 1960 season that it would be his last, and he went out on top (he is pictured at top celebrating with #11 Van Brocklin & #60 Bednarik). In making his retirement official the day after the Eagles won the

championship, he said “I can’t think of a better time to bow out. I can’t soar any higher than being head coach of a world championship professional football team. It was a distinct pleasure coaching the Eagles, and I can’t pay too high a tribute to this 1960 team. It was a team of tremendous desire, a team that just would not accept defeat.”

The beauty of this win compared with 2018, was that there was no cocky coach to take the hard earned Team karma away. It had been earned with the work of Buck Shaw and the Eagles deserved it and honored their team.

1961-1963 Nick Skorich # 9

The 1961 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Nick Skorich for the Eagles next three seasons as head coach. With the team left behind from Buck Shaw, this Eagles team was still great. They finished first in the Eastern Conference with a winning record of 10-4-0. The Eagles did not make the playoffs this year after losing to the NY Giants in Game #13. The Giants finished 10-3 to take the Eastern Championship. The next two years were sub-par with the Eagles finishing in seventh place . That was it for Nick Skorich.



Nick Skorich Instructing the troops

Coach Skorich would not see another year with Philadelphia

1964-1968 Joe Kuharich # 10

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------|---------|---------|------------------------|--------|
| 1964 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T3rd | 6-8-0 |
| 1965 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T5th | 5-9-0 |
| 1966 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | x | T2nd | 9-5-0 |
| 1967 | Joe Kuharich | Eastern | Capitol | 2nd | 6-7-1 |
| 1968 | Joe Kuharich, | Eastern | Capitol | 4th | 2-12-0 |

1964-1968 Joe Kuharich final record (28-41-1)

In 1964, the Philadelphia Eagles football team hired Joe Kuharich in his first of five seasons as head coach. He started off slow with a 6-8 record followed by a 5-9 in 1965. Kuharich was able to bring in two second place finishes in the Capitol Division in 1966 and 1967. The 1966 team tied for second with a 9-5 record while the 1967 team had a losing record of 6-7 yet still finished in 2nd in the four team division. In 1968, the team fell apart with a 2-12 record after which Kuharich had to find himself another job.



Eagles coach Joe Kuharich, treasurer & VP Ed Snider, & owner Jerry Wolman

Jerry Wolman gave an unproven coach, Joe Kuharich, what pundits at the time called “an *unheard-of* contract of \$1 million over 15 years”. Taking over as the boss of the team, Kuharich then traded future Hall of Famers Sonny Jurgensen to the Washington Redskins and Tommy McDonald to the Dallas Cowboys. You tell me? No Eagle fan that I know of was happy about those trades. Perhaps Wolman and current owner Jeffrey Lurie are related. No karma provided by either.

On the lighter side today but not back then in Philadelphia, one of the most infamous incidents in Philadelphia sports history came at halftime of the final game of the dismal 1968 season (2-12). The Eagles were well on their way to losing to the Minnesota Vikings at halftime. The team management had planned an extravaganza for half-time. It was to be a Christmas pageant.

However, field conditions were so poor, they had to cancel the big deal. Instead, the team found a fan dressed as Santa Claus, and they coaxed him to run onto the field to celebrate with a group of cheerleaders. With their Eagles in such a sorry state, the fans, were in no mood to celebrate. Instead, they loudly booed and actually threw snowballs at Santa Claus. The sense of frustration was as Nat King Cole would say, “Unforgettable.”

Chapter 8 Four Coaches From 1969 to 1982

Coach #11 Jerry Williams

Coach #12 Ed Khayat

Coach #13 Mike McCormack

Coach #14 Dick Vermeil

Owner 1969 1984 Leonard Tose

| Year | Coach | Conf | Div | Place | Record |
|---|-----------------|--|--------|-------------|-----------|
| 1969 | Jerry Williams. | Eastern | Capito | 4th | 4-9-1 |
| 1970 | Jerry Williams | NFC | East | 5th | 3-10-1 |
| 1971 | Jerry Williams | NFC | East | 3rd | 0-3-0 |
| <u>1969- 1971 Jerry Williams final record (7-22-2)</u> | | | | | |
| 1971 | Ed Khayat | NFC | East | 3rd | 6-4-1 |
| 1972 | Ed Khayat | NFC | East | 5th | 2-11-1 |
| <u>1971-1972 Ed Khayat final record (8-15-2)</u> | | | | | |
| 1973 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 3rd | 5-8-1 |
| 1974 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 4th | 7-7-0 |
| 1975 | M. McCormack | NFC | East | 5th | 4-10-0, — |
| <u>1973-1975 Mike McCormack final record (16-25-1)</u> | | | | | |
| 1976 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 4th | 4-10-0 |
| 1977 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 4th | 5-9-0 |
| 1978 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 9-7-0 |
| | • | Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Falcons) 13–14 | | | |
| 1979 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
| | • | Won Wild Card Playoffs(Bears) 27–17 | | | |
| | • | Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Buccaneers) 17–24 | | | |
| 1980 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0 |
| | • | Won Divisional Playoffs(Vikings) 31–16, | | | |
| | • | Won NFC Championship(v Cowboys) 20–7 | | | |
| | • | Lost Super Bowl XV (vs. Raiders) 10–27 | | | |
| 1981 | Dick Vermeil | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| | • | Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Giants) 21–27 | | | |
| 1982 | Dick Vermeil, | NFC | East | 13th | 3-6-0 |
| | • | Players Strike | | | |
| <u>1976-1982 Dick Vermeil final record (57-51-0)</u> | | | | | |

There were no firsts or seconds and not a whiff of a championship was in the air from 1969 through 1973 with Jerry Williams, Ed Khayat, and Mike McCormack handling the coaching duties. The Jerry Wolman lack of larma was everywhere and new owner Leonard Tose could not shake it until he was able to hire Dick Vermeil in 1976. Until then, there were no winning seasons.

Ed Khayak finished Jerry Williams 1971 season. His record was 6-4-1 but coupled with Williams' 0-3-0, the team finished at 6-7-1. McCormack brought in a 3rd, 4th and 5th place finished with an overall record of 16-25-1).

It seems that coaches # 11, #12, and #13, were not bad people and did not necessarily operate with bad karma but the team was in a seven year slump that even rapid coaching changes could not solve. Until they hired Dick Vermeil.

1976-1982 Dick Vermeil #14 (57-51)

Dick Vermeil was loaded with personal Karma and he helped Leonard Tose inject some good luck in the Eagles after the US Bicentennial. In 1976, the Eagles brought in Dick Vermeil who began with a 4-10 record followed by a 5-9. By 1978 Vermeil had made a team out of the Eagles and they came in with a positive 9-7 season and snagged 2nd place.

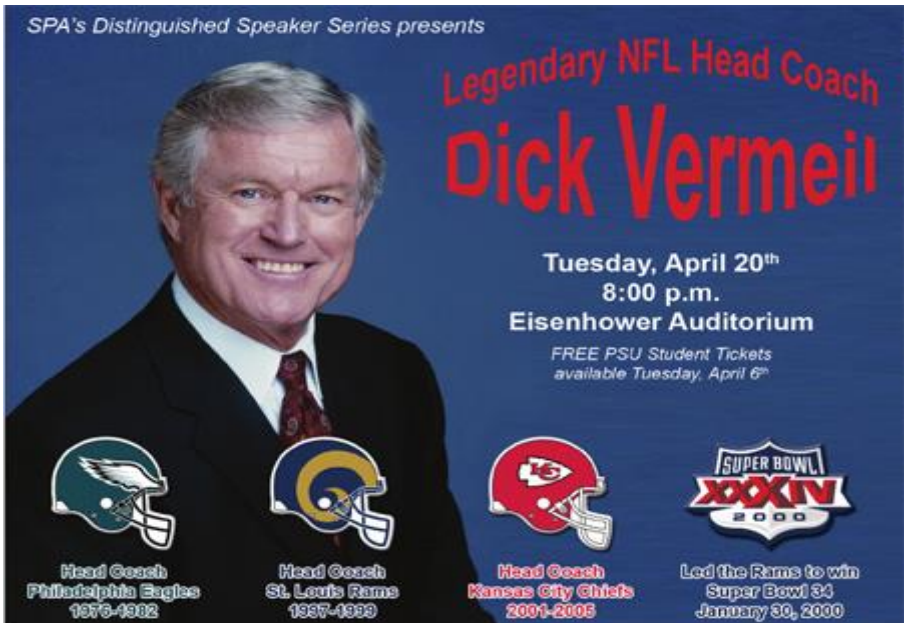
The grabbed another 2nd place in 1979 followed by a win of the NFC East (1st place) in 1980. They got to the big Super Bowl game for the first time in 1980 and they were beaten by the Raiders L (10-27).

SPA's Distinguished Speaker Series presents

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Led the Rams to win
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January 30, 2000

It was not long for this young new fiery coach would bring the Eagles to their first playoff berth in 18 years in 1978 and then their first Super Bowl appearance just two seasons later. We were all Vermeil guys back then. As a Vermeil guy, I know how exciting it was to have this coach on the sidelines coaching my favorite team.

Vermeil did not come from nowhere. After coaching #12 UCLA (8–2–1) to a win over #1 Ohio State (11–0), coached by the master, Woody Hayes, in the 1976 Rose Bowl by the score of 23–10 Dick Vermeil was offered the Head coaching job of the Philadelphia Eagles. Because of bad trades by past Eagles coaches, Vermeil did not have a 1st round draft pick until 1978, but Vermeil did big things with the talent he had inherited from previous coaches. Read about Dick Vermeil anywhere. He was and is a fine coach. When he left the Eagles eight years later a lot of fans lamented.

At 9-7-0, in 1978, the team qualified for the playoffs for the first time in eighteen years. Let me say that again for so long we could not say it. The Eagles reached the postseason for the first time in eighteen years, which ended the longest postseason drought in the franchise's history and one of the longest in the history of the NFL

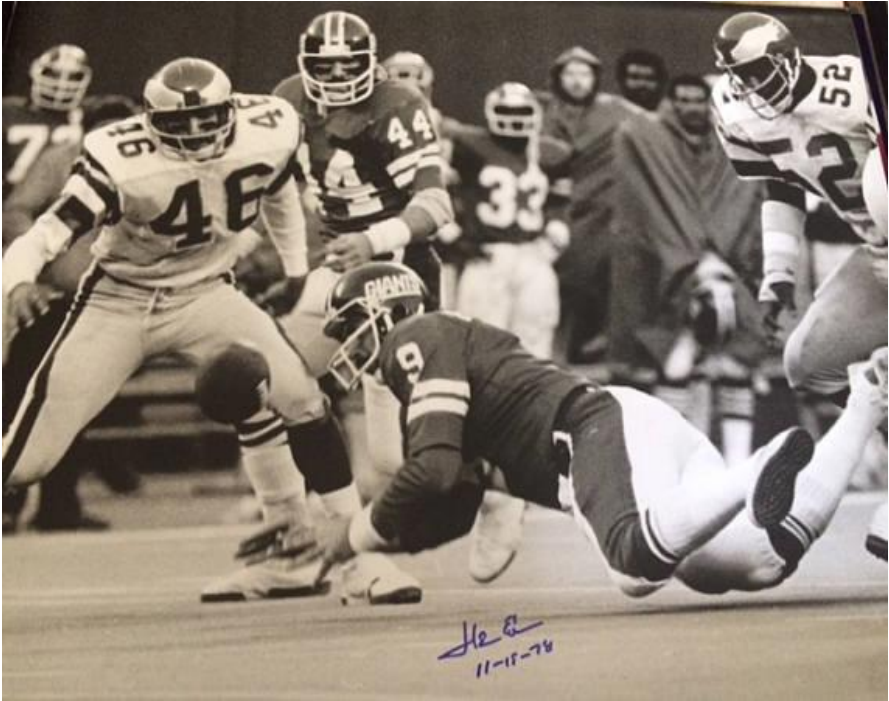
At NY on Nov 19, the Eagles defeated the Giants W 19–17 before 70,318. More on this game “miracle” below:

Miracle at the Meadowlands

Since this day, Nov 19, 1978, it has been known as “The Miracle at the Meadowlands” Sportscasters and Philadelphia Eagles fans believe it was a miracle that when needed, the Eagles got a fortuitous fumble recovery by cornerback Herman Edwards that he returned for a touchdown at the end of this November 19, 1978 NFL game against the New York Giants in Giants Stadium.

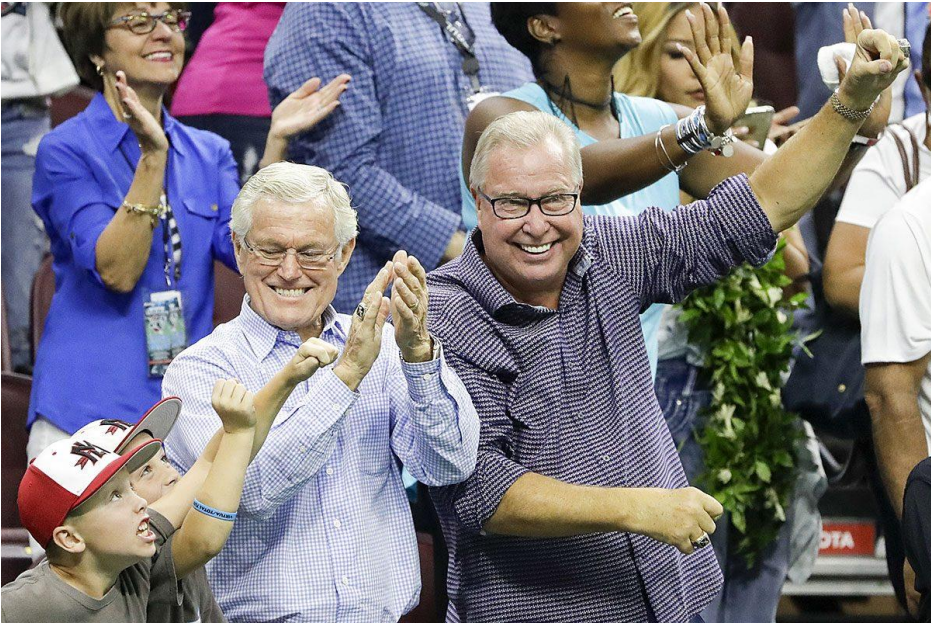
It was seen as miraculous because it occurred at a point in the game when the Giants were easily capable of running out the game's final seconds. The Giants had the ball, and the Eagles had no timeouts left. Everyone watching expected quarterback Joe Pisarcik to take one more snap and kneel with the ball, thus running out the clock and preserving a 17–12 Giant upset. Instead, he attempted to hand it off to fullback Larry Csonka and botched it, allowing Edwards to pick up the ball and run 26 yards for the winning score.

The Eagles were 6–5 going into this game, and the win was crucial for them to have a shot at the playoffs. It ultimately provided the Eagles with the fifth-and-final playoff spot in the 1978 NFC playoffs.



Herman Edwards: "The Miracle at the Meadowlands"

Coming into this playoff game, Mike Michel had not attempted a single field goal, and the Eagles' issues in the kicking game would ultimately play a decisive role in their loss to the Falcons. As an aside, the irony of the Eagles' placekicking dilemma is that the Falcons' kicker in this game was rookie Tim Mazzetti. He had been cut by Philadelphia in the preseason.



Dick Vermeil, coach, & Ron Jaworski, QB, years later at a benefit

The Eagles were winning the game, but the Falcons came back to win their first playoff game in team history. They came back from a 13–0 deficit by scoring two TD’s in the final 5 minutes of the game. It seemed to be the old Philadelphia death-wish in play again.

In the first quarter, Philadelphia's Cleveland Franklin recovered a fumble from Billy Ryckman on a punt return at the Falcons 13-yard line, setting up wide receiver Harold Carmichael's 13-yard touchdown reception from Ron Jaworski. However, Michel missed the ensuing extra point, which would later prove to be costly. Neither team would score again until the third quarter when the Eagles took advantage of another Atlanta special teams miscue, this time a dismal 17-yard punt by John James that gave them a first down on their 40-yard line.

Ron Jaworski was roughed up and the Falcons were called on it, The penalty plus two nice receptions by Charlie Smith, helped Jaworski lead the team 60 yards to score on Wilbert Montgomery's 1-yard rushing touchdown. Michel's extra point was partially deflected, but still went in to give the Eagles a 13–0 lead. Later in the period, Michel had a chance to put the team up by three scores, but he missed a 42-yard field goal attempt, the first field goal kick of his career.

Nonetheless, Philadelphia was apparently in control of the game as the fourth quarter approached. Then, with 9:52 left in 4Q, things got to look even better as Eagles cornerback Bobby Howard intercepted Falcons QB Steve Bartkowski's pass. This was the 5th turnover of the day for Atlanta. The Eagles moved the ball to Atlanta's 15-yard line, and were ready to take it in to ice the game. However, with 8:16 to go, linebacker Fulton Kuykendall recovered a fumble from fullback Mike Hogan on the 13. A few plays later, faced with second down and 10 on the 26, Bartkowski launched a deep pass to Wallace Francis, who was tightly covered by defensive back Herm Edwards. Both players went up for the ball and both came down with it, resulting in a simultaneous catch between each of them.

Under NFL rules, a simultaneous catch goes to the receiver, so Atlanta kept the ball and gained 49 yards on the play. It was devastating. Three plays later, Bartkowski, on target, hit tight end Jim Mitchell wide open in the end zone for a 20-yard touchdown pass, cutting the score to 13–7 with 4:56 remaining.

The Eagles went three-and-out were forced to punt the ball back to the Falcons. The Eagles' Franklin tackled Ryckman for a 5-yard loss on the return, but he committed a 15-yard facemask penalty in so doing and this put Atlanta in a great position on their 49-yard line. After 5 plays, the Falcons were on the 37. They had moved just 12 yards and were faced with a 3rd and 10. Bartkowski came through again with a deep toss to Francis again.



He outran safety Randy Logan to score on a 37-yard touchdown completion. With Mazzetti's extra point, the Falcons grabbed their first lead of the game, 14–13, with 1:37 left in the game. Now it was the Eagles turn. The Birds had one last shot to win the game as Jaworski completed four passes to get them to Atlanta's 16-yard line with just 13 seconds remaining. Vermeil called for a 34-yard field goal attempt, which failed, and the Falcons ran out the rest of the clock.

Wild Card Playoffs—Bears v Eagles

It was the first NFL postseason game played in Philadelphia since the 1960 NFL Championship Game. In a 1979 Wild-Card game Eagles QB Ron Jaworski was on the mark. He threw for 204 yards and 3 touchdown passes as Philadelphia wiped out a 17–10 Bears halftime lead. The Eagles got on the board first when Jaworski threw a 17-yard TD to wide receiver Harold Carmichael. Chicago came right back with an 82-yard drive. The score came from a 2-yard rush from Walter Payton.



Philadelphia soon added a Tony Franklin field goal to the mix and then Walter Payton scored again on a 1-yard TD scamper. In the second quarter, Bears lineman, the immortal Alan Page recovered a fumble from Jaws on the Eagles 16-yard line, and Bob Thomas chipped in a 30-yard field goal that gave Chicago their 17-10 halftime lead.

Starting off the third quarter, Payton ripped off a powerful 84-yard run on his first carry. But, there was an illegal motion penalty against receiver Brian Baschnagel and the play was called back. , but it was called back by an illegal motion penalty against receiver Brian Baschnagel. The Bears did not move the ball and punted. After the punt, The Eagles roared back with a Jaworski's 29-yard touchdown pass to Carmichael. Chicago drove to the Philadelphia 9-yard line, but defensive back Bob Howard ended the scoring threat by intercepting Mike Phipps in the end zone. Several plays later, Jaws threw a 63-yard touchdown to running back Billy Campfield to take the lead for good.

When there were twelve minutes left, the Bears could only manage one first down during this time. With 7:31 left, Eagles defensive tackle Jerry Robinson recovered a fumble from Bears receiver Dave Williams and Franklin popped in his 34-yard field goal.

Chicago did have one last chance to score when linebacker Gary Campbell recovered a fumble from Eagles running back Wilbert

Montgomery on the Philadelphia 28. But the drive ended with another turnover, this time an interception by defensive back Herm Edwards.

Along with Jaworski, Harold Carmichael was hot finishing the game with 6 receptions for 111 yards and two touchdowns. The Eagles beat the Bears 17-27 and moved to the Division Championships

Divisional Playoffs

The Buccaneers started by jumping to a 17-0 lead and held the Eagles to just 48 rushing yards. Ricky Bell clocked in with 142 rushing yards and 2 touchdowns.

Tampa Bay marched down the field with some consistent play -- an 18-play, 80-yard opening drive. It took 9:25 off the clock and set the tone for the game. They scored on a Bell 4-yard touchdown run. Philadelphia responded with a drive into scoring range, but when they attempted a fake 47-yard field goal, they failed to snap the ball before the play clock ran out. Then Tony Franklin's 52-yard field goal was thus declared no good.



The Buccaneers stopped Eagles rushing play--1979 NFC Divisional Playoffs.

Tampa drove to a 10-0 lead on Neil O'Donohue's 40-yard field goal. Then on the Eagles next drive, Wilbert Montgomery lost a fumble

that nose tackle Randy Crowder recovered on the Philadelphia 5-yard line. Three plays later, Bell was in the end-zone. on a 1-yard fourth down run. The Bucs led 17–0 with 5:12 left in the half. Ron Jaworski's 11-yard touchdown pass to Charlie Smith, made the score 17–7 by halftime.

The Eagles got the kickoff to begin the 2nd half and then drove 45 yards to score on Franklin's 42-yard field goal. The deficit was now 17–10. There was no more scoring until 7:08 left in the game.

Williams then threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jimmie Giles. Down 24–10, Philadelphia made a desperate comeback attempt, driving 80-yards in 9 plays with the score coming on Jaws' 37-yard bomb to Harold Carmichael. Their defense then forced a punt with 2:11 left in the game, giving them one last chance for a tying touchdown.

In the 4Q, Jaworski's completions to Carmichael and Smith for gains of 16 and 25 yards moved the ball to the Bucs 45-yard line. But his next four passes were incomplete, enabling the Buccaneers to take over and run out the clock. The Eagles were eliminated 17-24/

The 1980 Philadelphia Eagles football team were again led by Dick Vermeil in his fifth of seven seasons as head coach. The owner was Leonard Tose. The Eagles were playing great football under Dick Vermeil and the fans were enjoying the performances. The Birds won one more game than in 1979. At 12-4-0, with this improvement, the team came in first place and qualified for the third in a row for the playoffs. And, so, at the end of the season, they Birds won the Divisional Playoffs and the NFC Championship and got their first chance at a Super Bowl Ring.

Divisional Playoffs: Philadelphia Eagles 31, Minnesota Vikings 16

This game was played at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 3, at 12:30 p.m. EST to a crowd of 70,178 under cloudy skies and 29 degree weather.

The Eagles were on their game as they forced eight turnovers, with seven in the second half, rolling to a 31–16 victory, while holding the Vikings to just 215 total yards, with a mere 36 yards on the ground. The Eagles had shellacked the Vikings 42-7 during the regular season and so this smaller loss was little consolation,



NFC Championship: Philadelphia Eagles 20, Dallas Cowboys 7

This is One of the Eagles Greatest Games Ever

This game was played at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 11, at 12:30 p.m. EST to a crowd of 71,522 under sunny skies and 17 degree breezy weather.



1980 NFC Championship Game.

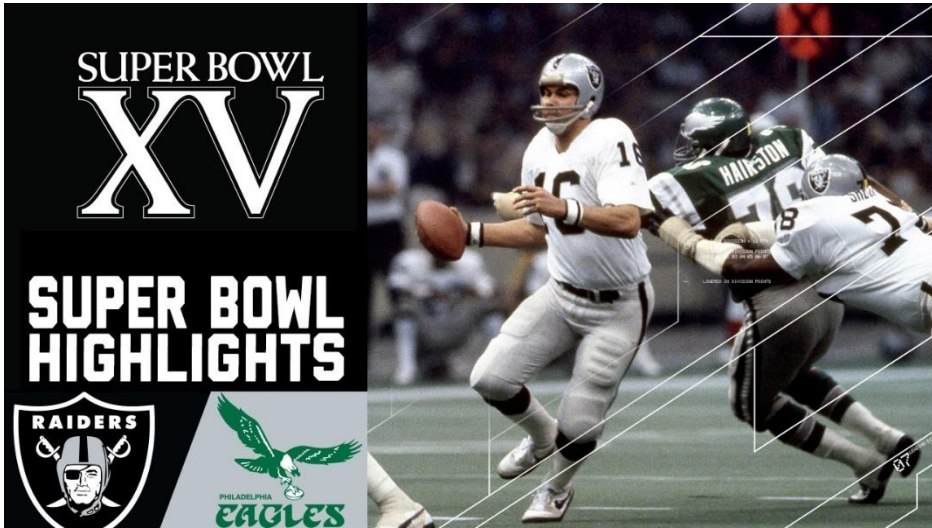
Philadelphia quarterback Ron Jaworski had a tough day completing only nine of 29 passes for 91 yards and he was intercepted twice. Nonetheless, running back Wilbert Montgomery led the Eagles to a victory by rushing for 194 yards and a touchdown. Dallas had a great season as the highest scoring team in the NFL during the regular season.

Super Bowl XV

Philadelphia Inquirer BUD SHAW, Daily News Staff Writer
(Article was first published on January 26, 1981.)

Please enjoy this review of Super Bowl Fifteen by Bud Shaw, Daily News Staff Writer for the Philadelphia Inquirer. This had to hurt to write. The days headline was

“Super Bowl XV: After big break, QB Jim Plunkett leads Raiders in rout of Eagles.” After Kenny Stabler Got Hurt, it was all Plunkett. It’s one game the Eagles would love to have to play again.



...

Super Bowl XV stiffed the Eagles. It left them feeling ugly and unwanted.

The Eagles had taken 20 years of frustration and stuffed it down the Cowboys' throats two weeks ago; they swallowed a whole new kind of frustration last evening.

They'll have a hard time digesting a 27-10 loss to the Oakland Raiders. The numbers must be gnawing at their insides. It was a day that'll cry out for retribution with tears as salty as the ones drenching living rooms back in Philly yesterday.

The No. 1 defense in the league came snorting out of the tunnel early yesterday and three hours later it limped back in. It was hard to distinguish the burn marks from open wounds.

The Eagles weren't playing the Pittsburgh Steelers of a couple years ago. This game was supposed to be a coin toss, an arm wrestling match between two teams that claimed destiny as their coach.

Fate held both of them at arm's length and let them go at each other like two bulldogs fighting in a pit. The Raiders were the only ones growling when it was all over.

"I hated to see us go out like this," said Frank LeMaster. "I would've rather seen it be a situation where we get beat by one point or lose in the last couple minutes of a game.

"It hurt to see our defense end the season this way. I can't use the word 'embarrassed.' All I can say is we didn't play up to our capabilities. Not at all.

"I really don't have an answer either. We'll all be searching for a reason. We'll be thinking back on it and trying to find an explanation."

The Eagles got here because they generally treated every week like a street fight. They were the guy you wanted breathing at your side when you walked down a dark alley.

THERE WAS NEVER any reason to question their mood. It was always intense and nasty, but yesterday they sagged like a wet dishrag.

"We seemed fired up at the start of the game," said Ron Jaworski, "but I sensed a lack of emotion during the game and it never seemed to get stronger.

"We usually have a strong second half, a snowball emotional effect, but it just didn't swell up in the second half of this game."

The Eagles got here because their defense swallowed whole teams and spit out fragments. They got there because they rushed quarterbacks and bruised running backs, but yesterday Jim Plunkett and Mark van Eeghen looked like they spent the afternoon at a cocktail party.

The Eagles had sacked Plunkett eight times back in their 10-7 win in November. The Raiders' equipment people had seven less turf stains to wash away when it was all over yesterday.

"We let him stand back there all day and pick us apart," said LeMaster. "They were the same team they were last time, but we weren't anywhere near the same. It's a hard thing to explain."

Plunkett sat back and threw passes like he was dropping stones into a lake. He was 13 of 21 for 261 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The Eagles had given him one big play the last time, an 86-yard bomb to Cliff Branch, but yesterday there were enough to make into a 60-minute highlight film.

The Eagles made it to the Super Bowl, and it had been an orgy of a season until yesterday.

They had their biggest date in 20 years and got stiffed. It hurt like hell. There was very little etiquette involved in the way they got stood up.

1981 Dick Vermeil #14

The 1981 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their forty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football.

The Eagles had a good year but not as good as the 12-4 year in 1980. At 10-6-0, the team came in 2nd in the NFC East. and qualified for their fourth in a row run in the playoffs.

In the post-season, the best the Birds could do was lose to the Giants in the Wild Card Playoffs (21–7). Eagles fans thought Dick Vermeil was a miracle worker and he sure was after taking over for Mike McCormack, but no coach can work miracles all the time.

Wild Card Playoffs Eagles v Giants

Even without starting quarterback Phil Simms and linebacker Brad Van Pelt, the Giants were off to the races from the kickoff. They grabbed a 20–0 lead in the first quarter and withstood an Eagles comeback at the end to hold on to a 27–21 win.

The Eagles made up for the Giants injuries by making mistakes on the field. In the first quarter, for example, Eagles kick/punt returner Wally Henry fumbled a punt after a big hit from Lawrence Taylor.

Beasley Reece recovered the ball for the Giants on the Philadelphia 26-yard line. A few plays later, QB Scott Brunner threw a 9-yard TD to running back Leon Bright. They missed the extra point.



Vermeil must have used some choice words on the D at halftime as New York was shut out in the second half. Meanwhile the Eagles opened the third quarter by marching 82 yards in 15 plays with an 8 minute drive in which Wilbert Montgomery crossed the goal line at the end on a nice six-yard run.

Late in the fourth quarter, New York drove inside the Eagles 20 and had a chance to put the game away, but Joe Danelo missed a 32-yard chip-shot field goal attempt. Philadelphia then drove 80 yards, 44 of them coming from 3 Giants penalties, in 9 plays to score on Montgomery's 1-yard touchdown run. Now it was 27-21 with 2:51 left in the game. The Eagles had to get the ball back, but the Giants would not give it up.

The Giants ran out the clock, picking up gains of six, three, and five yards on runs by Carpenter for a key first down. The Giants got their first postseason victory since 1956.

The next year's players strike contributed to the demise of the Vermeil era as the coach was gone after the 1982 season. The Eagles would sorely miss him.

The 1982 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their fiftieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Dick Vermeil in his last of seven seasons as head coach. The owner was Leonard Tose. The Eagles had played great football under Dick Vermeil and the fans had been enjoying some great performances. The Birds had made the playoffs again and lost a nail-biter to the Giants in the Wild Card game. There were many looking for a repeat performance in 1981. The Eagles had a very poor year (3-6) after a 10-6-0 just one year before. The Eagles did not make the playoffs.

As noted, Vermeil had another fine year in 1981 and his 10-6 record gave him a shot in the playoffs. However, as reported, the Eagles lost the Wild Card game in a close match against the Giants L (21-27).

In the shortened (by player strike) season of 1982, the Eagles struggled with various players to achieve their 3-6 record. It took the stride out of Dick Vermeil's step. This was it for this fine coach much to the bleeding Eagles' fans lament. Vermeil stepped down and the Eagles were coach shopping again for 1983.

Chapter 9 Five Coaches Campbell through Rhodes 1983 to 1995

Coach #15 Marion Campbell

Coach #16 Fred Bruney

Coach #17 Buddy Ryan

Coach #18 Rich Kotie

Coach #19 Ray Rhodes

| Year | Coach | Conf | Div | Place | Record |
|------|-----------------|------|------|------------|--------------|
| 1983 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 4th | 5-10-0 |
| 1984 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 5th | 6-9-1 |
| 1985 | Marion Campbell | NFC | East | 4th | 7-9-0 |
| 1985 | Fred Bruney | NFC | East | 4th | 1-0-0 (wk16) |

1983-1985 Marion Campbell final record (17-29-1)

1985-1985 Fred Bruney final record (1-0-0)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Record</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|--------------|---|
| 1986 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 4th | 5-10-0 — |
| 1987 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 4th | 7-8-0, — |
| 1988 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6-0 |
| | • | | | | Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Bears) 12–20 |
| 1989 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0, |
| | • | | | | Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Rams) 7–21 |
| 1990 | Buddy Ryan | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| | • | | | | Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Redskins) 6–20 |

1986-1990 Buddy Ryan final record (43-38-1)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|---|
| 1991 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 3rd | 10-6-0 |
| 1992 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
| | • | | | | Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Saints) 36–20 |
| | • | | | | Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Cowboys) 10–34 |
| 1993 | Rich Kotite | NFC | East | 3rd | 8-8-0 |
| 1994 | Rich Kotite, | NFC, | East | 4th | 7-9-0 |

1991-1994 Rich Kotite final record (37-29-0)

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|------|-------|------------|---|
| 1995 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East, | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| | • | | | | Won Wild Card Playoffs(Lions) 58–37 |
| | • | | | | Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Cowboys) 11–30 |
| | • | | | | Ray Rhodes Coach of the year |
| 1996 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East, | 2nd | 10- 6- 0, |
| | • | | | | Lost Wild Card Playoff s (at 49ers) 0–14 |
| 1997 | Ray Rhodes | NFC | East | 3rd | 6-9-1 |
| 1998 | Ray Rhodes, | NFC, | East | 5th | 3-13-0 |

1995-1998 Ray Rhodes final record (30-36-1)



Coach Marion Campbell with Eagles Players

1983-1985 Marion Campbell #15

Marion Campbell did not move the championship needle or the almost championship odometer even a little with a 17-29-1 record in three years. The fans cheered as Buddy Ryan replaced him in 1986.

1986 – 1987 Buddy Ryan #17

The 1986 and 1987, with two poor records, Buddy Ryan brought in two fourth place finishes. It's funny that the Eagles kept him on. He got another chance and brought in three fine years of Eagles Football before making his exit. .



1988 Buddy Ryan #17

The 1988 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Buddy Ryan in his third of five seasons as head coach. The owner was Norman Braman. This year's 10-6 record brought the Eagles a first-place finish in the NFC East. The team broke the five-streak of playoff misses and the Eagles earned the right to compete in the NFL playoffs this year.

The Eagles won the NFC East for the first time in seven seasons, but lost to the Chicago Bears in the NFC Divisional round during the Fog Bowl. That was one game that should not have been played... IMHO.

On the final day of the regular season, Philadelphia dumped Dallas, 23-7, but had to wait for the end to the Jets-Giants game at Giants Stadium to learn if they had clinched the division or not. The Jets won the game, 27-21, on a late TD strike from Ken O'Brien to Al Toon, giving the Eagles the NFC East crown on the tiebreaker of having beaten the Giants in both regular-season meetings. Buddy Ryan had delivered a playoff berth in his third season.

The Divisional Playoffs Philadelphia v Chicago

Due to Christmas, 1988, the two wild card playoff games were held in a span of three days. The Eagles were not part of the Wild Card weekend as the Birds had won the Divisional Championships.

In a game affectionately known as the Fog Bowl, the Bears defeated the Eagles 20-12, in a contest in which a heavy, dense fog rolled over Chicago's Soldier Field during the second quarter and cut visibility to about 15-20 yards for the rest of the game. The only fair thing about the game was that both teams experienced the same conditions.

I watched the game from my new home, where I had lived for just a year at the time. And though I was cozy, it was a tough game to watch as all the Eagle's talent was minimized by the fog and the game was tough to see on TV or anyplace for that matter.



It seemed like the fates were against Philadelphia from the beginning of the game. Chicago scored first with quarterback Mike Tomczak's 64-yard touchdown pass to Dennis McKinnon. The Eagles responded by driving to the Chicago 26-yard line, but kicker Luis Zendejas missed a 43-yard field goal attempt. Philadelphia quickly got the ball back after linebacker Seth Joyner intercepted a pass from Tomczak, and this time they managed to score with Zendejas' 42-yard field goal, but only after committing two costly mistakes.

Two times on the drive, Philadelphia had seven-point touchdowns (the only kind that count) nullified by penalties. The Bears then drove to the Eagles 33-yard line on their next drive. It stalled right there and Bears kicker Kevin Butler missed his shot at a 51-yard field goal. The Eagles to the ball back with great field position.

QB Randall Cunningham then led the Eagles inside Chicago's 20-yard line where Zendejas kicked a 29-yard field goal to cut the deficit to 7-6.

After a punt exchange, the Bears drove 44 yards and scored with Neal Anderson's 4-yard touchdown run, giving them to give them a 14-6 lead. The teams then traded field goals before halftime, and they went into their locker rooms with Chicago leading 17-9. Mike

Ditka had to be thrilled especially being ahead with a fig that made everything a secret.

By the time the second half began, the heavy fog made it extremely difficult for the teams to see the snap and move the ball. Each team could only score a short field goal in the second half.

Randall Cunningham, who was off and on throughout the season looked good, finishing the game with 407 passing yards, but he was unable to take control of the game. He could not lead the Birds to a single TD and he was intercepted three times. Other than the 64-yard touchdown pass, which occurred when the field was clearer, Tomczak was dominated the rest of the game by the Eagles defense, completing only 10 of 20 passes for 174 yards with a touchdown and three interceptions.

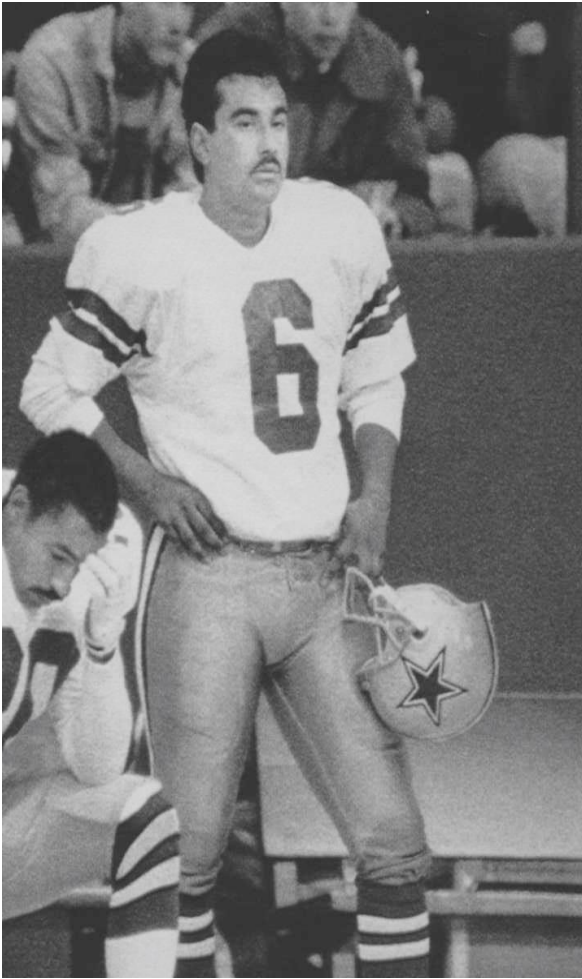
McKinnon finished the game with four receptions for 108 yards and a touchdown. Eagles fullback Keith Byars rushed for 34 yards and caught nine passes for 103 yards. Tight end Keith Jackson caught seven passes for 142 yards. Even the beers after that game did not taste good. The Eagles bit the dust again on the way to the Super Bowl

1989 Buddy Ryan #17

The 1989 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Buddy Ryan in his fourth of five seasons as head coach. The owner was Norman Braman. This year's 11-5 record brought the Eagles a second-place finish in the NFC East. The team earned the right to compete in the NFL Wild Card Playoffs this year. They lost to the Rams L (7-21)

The Bounty Bowls

Late in November 1989, Eagles coach Buddy Ryan made his mark on two Dallas / Philly football games. Ryan was accused by first-year Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson, the coach many fans in the country loved to hate after his years of controversy at Miami coaching the "thugs," of offering bounties to Eagles if they injured Cowboys players.



Jimmy Johnson was not quiet about it. After the Eagles made a run out of the Cowboys, Johnson was livid, and he said Ryan had bounties of \$500 on Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman and \$200 on placekicker Luis Zendejas, who had been an Eagle just three weeks earlier.

In the Irving Texas game, the Eagles (8-4) looked as good as they had in years. Randall Cunningham had his most productive day in two months. Cris Carter made two acrobatic touchdown catches and the Eagles' defense posted its first shutout since 1986.

The fan action came

after the game when the postgame interviews were a hundred times more exciting than the game play. It all seemed to begin when placekicker Luis Zendejas threatened to deck a portly, peaceful man named Buddy Ryan.

One comment of note was "Hey, they played a football game, and WrestleMania IV broke out." "I congratulate them," Johnson said before storming out of the interview room, "but I have absolutely no respect for the way they played the game...having bounties on opposing players is not the way it's supposed to be done. "

Zendejas was leveled by linebacker Jessie Small on the second-half kickoff, and wobbled in the general direction of Ryan before gravity and better sense directed him elsewhere.

He said that if he could have stood up straight, he would have tried to slug Ryan right then and there. "The fat little guy. He can't take you out himself, so he pays somebody else to do it for him," Zendejas said. Ryan took the charges in stride, shrugged his shoulders and denied the accusations. "I didn't send anybody after anybody, That's ridiculous... "Maybe he just saw all the friendly faces and thought he was still with us," Ryan deadpanned.

1990 Buddy Ryan #17

The 1990 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Buddy Ryan in his last of five seasons as head coach. The owner was Norman Braman. This year's 10-6 record brought the Eagles a second-place finish in the NFC East. The team earned the right to compete in the NFL Wild Card playoffs again this year.

The Wild Card Playoffs 1991

The Eagles drew first blood against Washington with a Roger Ruzek in Veterans Stadium on January 5. The Eagles held the lead for the entire first quarter and then upped the ante in the second quarter with another Ruzek field goal—this one of 28-yards. Eagles fans wanted more but were ok that the Eagles were winning. But it would be short-lived. The Eagles were defeated 6-20 and eliminated again from the Playoffs.

Before halftime, Washington would score twice to first take the lead and then add to it. Redskins Art Monk caught a 16-yard TD pass from Mark Rypien and Chip Lohmiller added the kick, putting Washington up 7-6. From then, Redskins would shut out the Eagles.

In the third quarter, with the lead well assured, the Redskins Chip Lohmiller connected on two goals. One was 20-yards, and the other 10-yards, Near the end of Q3, the Redskins wrapped up their scoring when Mark Rypien connected with Gary Clark on a two-yard TD pass after a nice drive. Lohmiller added the point. Game over. 20-6



Randall Cunningham off with the ball in the Wild Card Game v Washington

The next Coach – Rich Kotite



Coach Rich Kotite taking it seriously

1991 -1994 Rich Kotite #18

The 1991 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their fifty-ninth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) This year's 10-6 record brought the Eagles a third-place finish in the NFC East. The team did not make the playoffs

The 1992 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their sixtieth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Rich Kotite in his second of four seasons as head coach. The owner was Norman Braman. This year's 11-5 record brought the Eagles a second-place finish in the NFC East. They made the playoffs; won in the Wildcard game; but lost the Divisional playoffs.

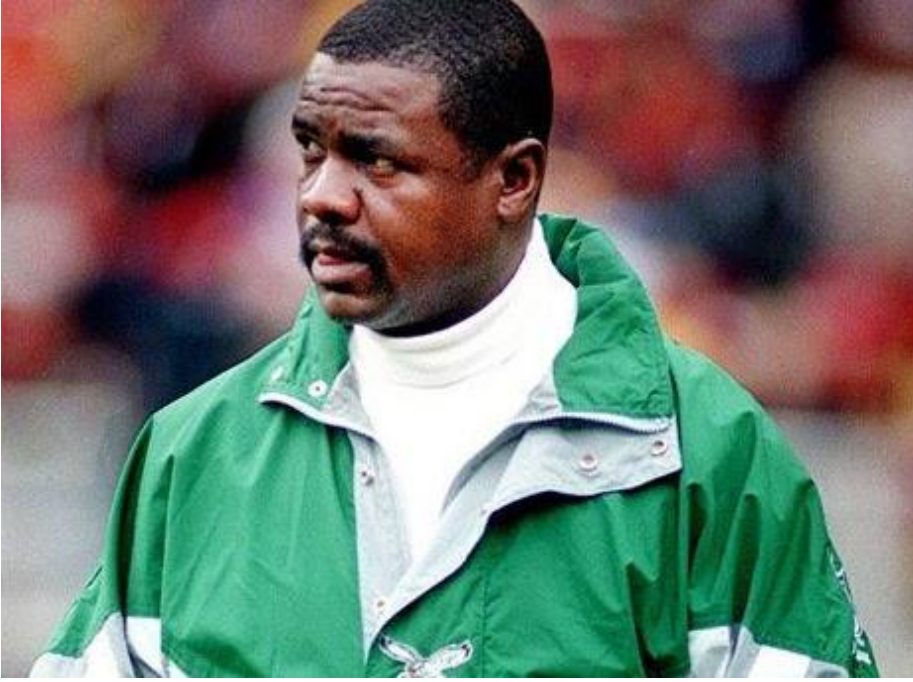
The 1993 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their sixty-first season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Rich Kotite in his third of four seasons as head coach. The owner was Norman Braman. This year's 8-8 record brought the Eagles a third-place finish in the NFC East. The team did not make the playoffs.

The 1994 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Rich Kotite in his last of four seasons as head coach. The prior owner Norman Braman sold the team to Jeffrey Lurie this year before the season. This year's 7-9 record brought the Eagles a fourth-place finish in the NFC East. The team did not make the playoffs.

1995-1998 Ray Rhodes #19

In 1995 and 1996, the Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their sixty-third & sixty-fourth seasons of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. Ray Rhodes had two great years with identical 10-6 records before, just like Rich Kotite, he struggled his last two years and was replaced. In 1995, Ray Rhodes had done such a fine job in his first Eagles season he was named coach of the year.

Both 10-6 records in 1995 & 1996 brought the Eagles second-place finishes in the NFC East. The team made the playoffs in 1995 and won a wild-card berth game. Always a bridesmaid and never a bride. Close but no cigar. The Eagles appeared hapless to fans. As many fans expected, the Eagles lost in the Division Championship game.



The Divisional Playoff Game

The results of the 1995/1996 NFC: Divisional Playoff game is already posted in history as Dallas Cowboys 30, Philadelphia Eagles 11. The Eagles would entice their fans but when it time to claim the big cigar, they were MIA. So too in 1995/1996.



1996 Ray Rhodes #19

This year's 10-6 record brought the Eagles a second-place finish in the NFC East. The team made the playoffs and lost the wild-card berth game, thereby eliminating them from the rest of the playoffs and the Super Bowl.

Eagles fans were continually thinking that their coaches could not make it to the big games and win them. Results such as losing the 1996 Wild Card game would not be forgotten by the fans nor the power brokers in Philadelphia.

1996 Wild Card Playoffs

One of the ironies in this Wild Card game was that the Eagles gained more yards than the 49ers. Nonetheless a game is more than just yardage.



Candlestick Park – Gone but not forgotten

Philadelphia was shut out though not shut down in a rain-soaked, muddy game with 62 miles per hour winds at Candlestick Park. Everybody who ever watched a Giants baseball game, or a 49ers football game knows about the winds of Candlestick Park, aka, "The Stick." The 49ers left Candlestick Park (later 3Com Park) after the 2013 season for a new \$1.2 billion stadium in Santa Clara. The Stick was demolished in February 2015 and is no longer visible from the major highways from the airport to downtown.

With Candlestick Park doing its best to help the 49ers, San Francisco won 14-0 in what coach George Seifert called "the swampy tundra of Candlestick." (A reference to John Facenda's famous description of Lambeau Field as "the frozen tundra") Despite the poor weather, San Francisco finished the game without losing any turnovers.

To say that Philadelphia had bad luck, would imply that the Birds actually had any luck. They did not. It began with Gary Anderson missing a 40-yard field goal attempt on the Eagles' first possession. In the second quarter, 49ers QB Steve Young completed 6/7 passes for 60 yards on a 74-yard drive and finished it off with a 9-yard TD.

The Eagles then showed signs of life as they reached the San Francisco 8-yard line. Luck came into play again as quarterback Ty Detmer threw an interception to defensive back Marquez Pope. The 49ers punted, and the Eagles were back at it on the San Francisco 5-yard line.

However, 49ers defensive end Roy Barker intercepted Detmer with just 43 seconds left in the half, and the Eagles would never seriously threaten again. They could have packed up at halftime and left for the East Coast.

Detmer was knocked out of the game in the third quarter with a hamstring injury, and his replacement Mark Rypien, a one-time accomplished QB for Washington, completed only five of 12 passes in the wind and rain for 77 yards, including an interception to Tim McDonald on the last play of the game.

Meanwhile, the great Jerry Rice stood up again and was counted with a one handed 36-yard reception, which set up the final score of the game, a 3-yard touchdown catch from Young, finishing off a 61-yard drive in the third quarter. This was the lowest scoring wildcard playoff game in NFL history.

Steve Young finished the game 14/21 for 161 yards and a touchdown, while also rushing for 65 yards and another score. 49ers defensive lineman Bryant Young had two sacks. The plague of Eagles not converting in playoff games continued.

1997 1998 Ray Rhodes #19

This year's 6-9-1 record brought the Eagles no accolades in a poor third place finish in the NFC East. The team had a losing record with no chance of making the playoffs. They had imploded in 1996 and carried the implosion into the 1997 season. In 1998, it got worse at 3-13 record bringing the Eagles no accolades in a very poor last place finish in the NFC East. Ray Rhodes was signed out from the locker room permanently after this season. Next up was Andy Reid, a great coach.

Andy Reid's good fortune

Unfortunately, Andy caught the Eagles affliction and in fourteen years, he was close but no cigar. Ironically, as I am tidying up this book and preparing it for print, today is January 28, 2020. My brother and his wife Diane and my wife Pat, and my sister Mary and her husband Bill are getting together on February 2, in Orlando (Kissimmee) for the Super Bowl this Sunday. We'll all be arriving Sunday and since Mary has a whole house, we will be celebrating the game there.

Andy Reid's Kansas City Chiefs team with the great Patrick Mahomes at QB are playing the San Francisco Forty Niners in the Super Bowl. If I bring this book back for some extra editing after submitting it tomorrow, I will post the game score below. Until Sunday, the Kelly's are praying for nice weather and a great game. Go Andy!

Now, let's look at Andy Reid's 14 seasons with the Eagles in the next chapter.

Chapter 10 Coach Andy Reid 1999 to 2012

Coach #20 Andy Reid

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Pl</u> | <u>W-L-T</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---|
| 1999 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 5th | 5-11-0 |
| 2000 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 11- 5- 0, |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers) 21–3 |
| | | | | | • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Giants) 10–20 |
| 2001 | Andy Reid | NFC | East, | 1st | 11-5-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers) 31–9 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs (at Bears) 33–19 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship (at Rams) 24–29 |
| 2002 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0, |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons) 20–6 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship(Buccaneers) 10–27 |
| | | | | | • Andy Reid, Coach of year |
| 2003 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 12-4-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Packers) 20–17 (OT) |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship(Panthers) 3–14 |
| 2004 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 13-3-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs(Vikings) 27–14 |
| | | | | | • Won NFC Championship(Falcons) 27–10 |
| | | | | | • Lost Super Bowl XXXIX (vs. Patriots) 21–24 |
| 2005 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 6-10-0 |
| 2006 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6-0 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs(Giants) 23–20 |
| | | | | | • Loat Divisional Playoffs (at Saints) 24–27 |
| 2007 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 8-8-0 |
| 2008 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 9-6-1 |
| | | | | | • Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Vikings)26–14 |
| | | | | | • Won Divisional Playoffs (at Giants) 23–11 |
| | | | | | • Lost NFC Championship (at Cardinals) 25–32 |
| 2009 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 11-5-0 |
| | | | | | • Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Cowboys) 14–34 |
| 2010 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 1st | 10- 6-0 |
| | | | | | • Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Packers) 16–21 |
| 2011 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 2nd | 8-8-0, |
| 2012 | Andy Reid | NFC | East | 4th | 4- 12-0 |

1999-2012 Any Reid final record (140-102-1)



Coach Andy Reid from the sidelines—One heck of a record.

It seems to Eagles fans that in Philadelphia football history, there was Andy Reid in the beginning and then just a few coaches after him. If having one of the best win-loss records in the regular season and getting into the big games was all that was important, Andy Reid seemingly would be renowned more than Knute Rockne.

But, unfortunately for Andy, Eagles fans were looking to win all the marbles once or twice or more during his fourteen year career--kinda like Bill Belichick. The Philly fans were not happy with being Division champs six times and runners up four times in fourteen years. If Andy had delivered he would not be in Kansas City today.

1999, 2005, 2007, 2012 Andy Reid #20

After a fifth place finish in 1999, Andy Reid's Eagles had ten great seasons of either #1 or #2 finishes. In 2005, 2007, and 2012, the team finished in fourth place. The 2012 4th place finish coupled with the 4-12 record is the one that did ole Andy in.

Andy Reid is now competing in the Super Bowl again this Sunday, Feb 2 five days from today with the Kansas City Chiefs. We will see in that game on Feb 2, game if it were Donovan McNabb as the tepid Eagles QB who feared the big games or it was Andy Reid, the coach who could not bring in the big ones. Good luck Andy! We're rooting for you!

Eagles Great Coaches--Andy Reid

When Andy Reid was hired from Green Bay, Packers coach Mike Holmgren was viewed as a master and Reid, one of his protégé's was quite welcome in Philadelphia. As way of an introduction, this piece was in the Philadelphia Inquirer announcing the great happening for Philadelphia readers. Thank you to Phil Sheridan and the Inquirer:

Eagles hire Packers assistant Andy Reid as new head coach

Updated:

DECEMBER 30, 2012 — 1:50 PM EST

REPRINTS

by Phil Sheridan, Inquirer Staff Writer

Originally published on Monday, Jan. 11, 1999.

After a courtship of four days, the Eagles will introduce Andy Reid as their 20th head coach today.

The former Green Bay Packers assistant is something of an unknown, but his strong interview and enthusiasm impressed the Eagles, who were not thrilled with remarks made last week on the West Coast by Reid's primary competitor for the job, Pittsburgh's Jim Haslett.



Andy Reid and Mike Holmgren trademark glasses

Reid, 40, is making the rare jump from position coach to head coach. He will be the second-youngest head coach in the NFL,

behind only Oakland's Jon Gruden, a former Eagles assistant coach.

--

Check out his record at the beginning of this chapter and you will know that Andy is quite a coach. He simply never brought in a Super Bowl for Eagles' fans. And so, now, he is coaching, and doing quite well in KC.

The Eagles, under former coach Ray Rhodes, finished in a three-way tie for the NFL's worst record at 3–13 the season before Reid took over. They improved two games in 1999 to finish at 5–11 (including the team's first road victory in 19 games, a 20–16 win over the Bears at Chicago on October 17. This was the first time the Philadelphia franchise had won an away game over the Bears since 1933.

2000 Andy Reid #20

This year's 11-5 record was very positive and a look at things to come bringing a second-place finish in the NFL East. The Eagles made the playoffs and won their Wild Card Match but failed to win the Divisional Championship

Wild Card Playoffs

NFC: Philadelphia Eagles 21, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 3

The game was played at Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The game time was 4:00 p.m. EST Dec 31, 2000. The weather was 35° and cloudy. It was played before an attendance of 65,813



Divisional Playoffs

The game began with the Eagles kicking to the Giants. It all might have been OK except the Eagles could not stop the return. Ron Dixon returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for a TD to set the Eagles back on their heels. They never recovered and lost to the Giants 10-20

For the rest of the game, Philadelphia gained only 186 yards and scored 10 points, despite forcing three Giants' turnovers. Philadelphia failed to get a first down on their first three possessions. Then on the Eagles fourth drive, Torrance Small fumbled and Dave Thomas recovered the loose ball for the Giants to set up Brad Daluiso's 37-yard field goal.

2001 Andy Reid #20

The 2001 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Andy Reid in his third of fourteen seasons as head coach. Jeffrey Lurie was the owner. Knowing that I wonder how Andy got any wins.

This year's 11-5 record was equal to the prior year's very positive showing. The Eagles looked strong and they grabbed a second-place finish in the NFL East. The Eagles made the playoffs and won their Wild Card Match and they also won the Divisional Championship

The 2001 season was the first of five Conference Championship appearances for the Eagles with Donovan McNabb as starting quarterback and Andy Reid as head coach.

Wild Card Playoffs January 12, 2002

At 11-5, the Eagles made the Wild Card tournament. It was a fine game for the Eagles as QB Donovan McNabb threw for 194 yards and two touchdowns, while also rushing for 54 yards. The Eagles dominated the Bucs from the opening whistle. Tampa Bay QB Brad Johnson threw four interceptions. Two were grabbed by Eagles' Damon Moore. This was the second consecutive season in which Philadelphia eliminated Tampa Bay from the playoffs during the wild card round, and two days later, Buccaneers coach Tony Dungy was fired.

The 2001/2002 NFC Championship

St. Louis Rams 29, Philadelphia Eagles 24

Philadelphia had a tough time with the really big games. They had gained a 17-13 lead by halftime, and had not allowed more than 21 points per game during the season and the playoffs. But the Rams were not ready to turn in the towel.

They roared back thanks to Kurt Warner completing two-thirds of his passes for 212 yards and Marshall Faulk's 159 yards rushing and two touchdowns to earn their second trip to the Super Bowl in three years. Again, the Eagles had misfired in the clutch. Andy Reid was already beginning to get the reputation that he cannot bring in the big games.

2002 Andy Reid #20

The 2002 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Andy Reid in his fourth of fourteen seasons as head coach. Jeffrey Lurie was the owner. This year's 12-4 record was the best yet for the Eagles. They looked strong and they grabbed a first-place finish in the NFL East. The Eagles made the playoffs but lost the NFC Championship to the Buccaneers, a team they had bullied the prior two years.

The Eagles' record tied for the best record in the NFL, and due to tie-breakers, gave them the number-one seed in the NFC, a first-round bye, and home field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. The Eagles had it all. This would be their year. All they had to do was execute.

At 12-4, the Eagles were in the favorite's slot and got to play in the NFC Championship game.

2003 Andy Reid #20

This year's 12-4 record was the best yet for the Eagles and it equaled the stellar performance of the Birds in 2002. The Eagles looked strong and they grabbed a "two-in-a-row" first-place finish in the NFL East. The Eagles won the Divisional Playoffs v the Packers but lost the Conference Championship to the Packers

2003 – 2004 Playoffs

The suspicions all came back when the playoffs came, as the Eagles found themselves needing another miracle to survive the Green Bay Packers on a 4th and 26. Unfortunately, good, consistent play wins games and depending on miracles is an iffy strategy. They got their miracle but the magic had run out by the next week as the team dropped a 14-3 decision to the Carolina Panthers at Lincoln Financial Field in the NFC Championship Game. Another season ended short for the top winner in the NFL. The suspicions were daunting.

NFC Championship: vs Carolina Panthers January 18

In another aggravatingly disappointing result for Philadelphia, the Eagles lost the NFC Championship 14–3 to the Carolina Panthers. Andy Reid was slowly collecting a reputation that he could not bring in the big games. It was their third straight championship game defeat, and second in a row at home.

2004 Andy Reid #20

The 2004 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their seventy-second season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Andy Reid in his sixth of fourteen seasons as head coach. Jeffrey Lurie was the owner. This year's 13-3 record was the best ever for the Eagles and it bettered the stellar 12-4 back-to-back performances of the Birds in 2002 and 2003. The had first place locked as they won their first thirteen games in a row and then sat around waiting for the season to end of some fans seemed to think.

The Eagles should have won it all. Fans such as I believed they should have continued trying to win after they had locked up first place and home field advantage. The decision to lay down for three games sure seemed to take the edge off a team that was steamrolling one opponent after another until they got a huge break in the action. When the real Eagles finally came back, it was like pre-season again. The Birds were too rested and too complacent. They had lost their fire. For some, it is why Andy Reid had some problems even when the Eagles record was outstanding.

There is no denying that the Eagles had been one of the most successful teams in the league after the Andy Reid and Donovan McNabb era began in 1999, making it to the playoffs for four straight seasons and to the NFC Championship Game in 2001, 2002, and 2003. However, the team could not reach the Super Bowl, despite being favored in the final two NFC title games. This was quite disconcerting to Eagles' fans.

In the offseason, this already championship-level team was reinforced on both sides of the ball by the free agent additions of

wide receiver Terrell Owens, defensive end Jevon Kearse, and middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter, their third round draft pick in 1998.

The Eagles had far and away the best team in the NFC and proved that right from the start. Possessing a high-powered offense which featured McNabb, Owens, and Brian Westbrook, as well as a bruising defense led by Pro Bowlers Trotter, Brian Dawkins, Lito Sheppard, and Michael Lewis, they steamrolled opponents on the way to a 13–1 start to the season. After resting starters for the final two games, the 13–3 Eagles soared past the Minnesota Vikings and the Atlanta Falcons in the playoffs, earning a trip to Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville against the defending champion New England Patriots.

The Super Bowl game was hard fought, but the Eagles fell short at 24–21, ending their magical season one score short of the ultimate goal. This season was considered the franchise's most successful until their Super Bowl LII-winning 2017 season.

There are a number of the suspicious who think that the Eagles had lost just enough of an edge from sitting its starters for the last two games that it could not get a few more points against New England to take home the prize. Having a 15-1 record was a prize in itself that was given up for no prize at all. Just saying.

Super Bowl XXXIX: v New England Patriots

Being in the Super Bowl was not something that was an every-day deal for the Eagles. No karma was lost but the Reid Eagles did not win, Their first and last trip had been Dick Vermeil's Super Bowl XV (15), in 1981 with a loss to Oakland. When the Eagles met more than twenty years later against the New England Patriots on February 6, 2005 at ALLTEL Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida, there was nobody left on the prior team who was in that game.

The Patriots were just beginning their Super Bowl dynasty. Led by Tom Brady, they had won two of the past three Super Bowls and a win against the Eagles would likely assure their dynasty status. Like

the Eagles at 13-3, the Pats had a great record and the games they played were tough. Brady and company had gotten their 14-2 regular season record, and they had taken down the Indianapolis Colts and the 15-1 Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC playoffs.



Tedy Bruschi gets a big hit on Donovan McNabb in Super Bowl XXIX

Meanwhile, partially because Andy Reid had never gotten this far, ever, the Eagles were considered heavy underdogs. Terrel Owens, who played great football when his head was on right was miraculously going to be available from injury for the game, though it was against doctor's orders, from injury.

As the game fired up, nerves seemed to have attacked the Eagles before the Patriots got their chance. A third-down sack and subsequent fumble by Donovan McNabb on the Eagles' first possession nearly led to a turnover in Eagles' territory, but Andy Reid saw something and he challenged the play. Instead of being pinned back, the Eagles got to get back some yardage by being able to punt.

Both offenses struggled in general until McNabb hit Owens on a 30-yard catch and run to inside the New England 10-yard line. A little more McNabb nerves and Patriot safety Rodney Harrison picked off McNabb's pass to the end zone. New England went no place and after a punt, the Eagles had good field position. However, L. J.

Smith was hit hard and he fumbled after a completion, turning the ball over to the Patriots.

The Patriot offense continued to struggle and the Eagles took back over, with McNabb finding wide receiver Todd Pinkston for a 17-yard completion then a spectacular leaping 40-yard catch. On third and goal, McNabb hit Smith in the end zone and the Eagles drew first blood 7–0. This action woke up the Patriots and soon, they were on the move.

Brady drove the Patriots to the Eagles 4-yard line, but he was sacked and fumbled. Darwin Walker recovered for the Eagles and things began to look good for the Birds. But, they could not keep it going and they went three and out, giving New England the ball back at the Eagles' 37-yard line. Brady took advantage of this opportunity, and led the Patriots to a touchdown with 1:21 left in the first half, with David Givens catching a 4-yard scoring strike and celebrating by mocking Owens' wing flap celebration.

The Patriots were feeling good in the second half with Brady connecting with eventual game MVP Deion Branch four times on the opening drive of the third quarter. Mike Vrabel caught the short touchdown pass and New England had its first lead, 14–7. In the middle of the third, the Eagles drove to the New England 10-yard line, before McNabb fired a bullet to Brian Westbrook between two Patriot defenders for a game-tying score.

The Patriots came right back with their own scoring drive topped off by two-yard touchdown rush by Corey Dillon early in the fourth quarter. The Pats were back in the lead 21–14. On their next possession, the Patriots got field position and ended the drive with a short Adam Vinatieri field goal, pushing the lead to 24–14. This field goal would be the margin of victory.

Teddy Bruschi stole one in the air from McNabb on the next series and it looked like the Eagles might be finished. However, they forced a three-and-out and with 5:40 left Philadelphia had the ball, down by two scores. They moved down the field, despite a patented Andy Reid “alarming lack of urgency with the clock kept ticking.” They finally scored on a sudden 30-yard touchdown pass from

McNabb to Greg Lewis. The Eagles had new life, but the Reid-style drive had eaten clock so there was just two minutes remained.

The Eagles tried and failed on an onside kick. Then, with defense confidence, they burned their timeouts on New England's possession. With 96-yards to go, the Eagles got the ball back at their 4-yard line with :46 seconds left. They needed just three points with the game at 24–21, but Rodney Harrison ended all hopes when he stole his second interception from McNabb three plays later and the Philadelphia season was *puff* over. McNabb threw for 357 yards and three touchdowns, but his three nervous interceptions were devastating.

Owens did well with nine catches and 122 yards on his partially healed ankle, while Pinkston hauled in 82 receiving yards. The Eagles had done better than most thought they would and were in the game until the last bell. Unfortunately, they had made too many first half mistakes, when the Patriots were playing poorly, and the team left too many points on the field. Nevertheless, the 2004 Eagles had done better than any Eagles team had ever done since the 1960 NFL Championship.

2005 Andy Reid #20

This year's 6-10 record was a throwback to when the Eagles could not put up winning seasons. It was a terrible showing this year, especially after being in the Super Bowl the prior year.

2006 Andy Reid #20

This year's 10-6 record brought the Eagles back to pre-Super Bowl form and a first-place finish in the NFC East.

The Eagles won the Wildcard match but were aced out in a Divisional Round playoff loss to the New Orleans Saints. Nonetheless because of the poor prior years and having overcome an injury to McNabb in week 11, the season was viewed as a success by fans and pundits, and the suspicion idea was not as prevalent. Nonetheless, the Eagles did not make it again.

2007 Andy Reid #20

The Eagles finished in fourth place and did not qualify for the playoffs.

2008 Andy Reid #20

This year's 9-6-1 record was much better than the 8-8 record the prior year. The team earned the 6th seed in the NFC Playoffs. They lost in the Conference Championship game.

2009 Andy Reid #20

This year's 11-5-0 record was much better than the 9-6-1 record the prior year. The team earned 2nd place in the NFC. They lost in the Conference Championship game.

This season marked the end of the Donovan McNabb era in Philadelphia as he was traded to the rival Washington Redskins in the 2010 off-season.

2010 Andy Reid #20

This year's 10-6-0 record was very respectable and good enough to gain first place in the NFC East. Reid really did know how to win the big ones but, according to some fans, sometimes he seemed to forget. They lost the Wild Card playoffs v the Packers L (16-21).

Yes, all that distance and no ticket to the dance. The Eagles lost again to the eventual Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers in the Wild Card playoffs. The Eagles played all of their home games at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, an, enjoyable, and comfortable venue.

2011 Andy Reid #20

This year's 8-8 record was atypical of the great years that Andy Reid had delivered for the Eagles. The team finished second in the NFC East but did not qualify for the playoffs.

The Eagles had stocked the team well with several notable offseason player acquisitions. This was another year in which the Eagles had high hopes of competing for a Super Bowl. However, they had some problems with winning during the season and they ultimately failed to make the playoffs for the first time since 2007. They had a miserable start and things would have been much worse if they had not won their last 4 games.

2012 Andy Reid #20

This year's 4-12 record was the final straw for Andy Reid who did a great job at Philadelphia overall but had a tough time with the big games. This year's team finished last in the NFC East and did not qualify for the playoffs.

Having started the 2012 season with a respectable, 3-1 record, and having won all four of their pre-season games, the Eagles had a jump start on a great season. But, they fell apart after beating the Giants on September 30, and then they lost eight in a row.

After a win on Dec 9 against the Buccaneers, they lost their last three games finishing with a very "blittin" 4-12-0 record. Philadelphia suffered their worst season since 1998 when they had won only three games. Andy Reid was fired on December 31, after fourteen seasons at the helm.

Chapter 11 Coach Chip Kelly 2013 to 2015

Coach Chip Kelly # 21

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Record</u> |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2013 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 1st | 10-6-0 |
| | • | Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Saints) 24–26 | | | |
| 2014 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 2nd | 10-6-0 |
| 2015 | Chip Kelly | NFC | East | 2nd | 7-9-0 |
| <u>2013-2015 Chip Kelly final record (26-22-0)</u> | | | | | |



Coach Chip Kelly on the Eagles' sidelines

The Eagles fans were suffering from *almost fever*. Andy Reid brought in a ton of great *almosts* but not championships. Chip Kelly came in like a breath of fresh air but he went out like a lot of bad Eagles coaches before him.

2013 Chip Kelly #21

This year's 10-6 looked like one of the great Andy Reid's seasons of the 2000's. This year's team finished first in the NFC East with a 10-6 record and qualified for the playoffs. The world, including Eagles

fans thought for a very short time that the old Eagles might be back. How soon we forgot that 10-6 was a typical Andy Reid season.

Like many new coaches, Chip Kelly's arrival came at a time when anybody who came across the Schuylkill River to address a throng of awaiting fans could have talked about *walking* across the turbid waters hoping not to be late for the intros.

We all know only one deity walked across the water but when Kelly arrived, since Andy had promised big, delivered much, but had become unreliable, a little walk on top of the water surely would have helped the shroud of uncertainty about the future of the franchise. Confidence in the team by fans was at a low. Love was still the high point.

Being named Brian Kelly, for real, with a W middle name from Confirmation, that I once told potential girl-friends stood for *Wart*, I already thought the Kelly's were taking over football when my namesake Brian Kelly from Notre Dame took over that Catholic College from the Midwest. Chip sounded like a good name, so I was for him too and for the Eagles' success in the future. Things looked great if not OK for most of us Kellys in year one.

Chip Kelly did a fine job in this, his first year for the Eagles and my family and I were quite pleased. Controversy would come but not this year. For now, it seemed the Eagles had once again found its karma.

With Kelly as coach, the Eagles improved on Andy Reid's last 4-12 record from 2012, clinching the NFC East division title and getting to the playoffs for the first time since 2010. However, after a close game, the Birds lost to the New Orleans Saints in the Wild Card round of the playoffs, by a score of 26-24. Chip Kelly made it seem like *almost* Andy Reid was again directing the playoffs.

The season gained honors for LeSean McCoy winning the NFL rushing title. Nick Foles, who everybody knows now from 2017's Super Bowl, engineered the success in this season producing 27 touchdowns to only 2 interceptions. Foles somehow did not get to hang around the Eagles to continue his success. He was later brought back.

Foles did tie a record in 2014 when he threw 7 touchdowns against the Oakland Raiders. This was the NFL record for most touchdowns in a single game. Foles now holds part of this record. Why he went on the trading block is anybody's guess. Chip Kelly did not answer to the fans.

Who do you make your QB? This was Chip Kelly's dilemma as the Eagles had two other quarterbacks competing with Nick Foles--Michael Vick and Matt Barkley. Somehow Vick won the job. After Vick got injured, however, Foles took over again as quarterback, now lacking confidence as a dethroned starter. He was eventually named the new starting quarterback even after Vick returned. It did not convince Nick Foles as he was looking to bail.

NFC Wild Card: Eagles v New Orleans Saints



This Wild Card game was played at 8:10 PM EST on January 4, 2014 at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania against the New Orleans Saints before 69144—a packed house at the Linc. The TV announcers were (NBC): Al Michaels, Cris Collinsworth and Michele Tafoya. The Birds lost the game in a tight match L (24-26)

2014 Chip Kelly #21

This year's 10-6 brought the Eagles a second place NFC finish but not good enough for the playoffs.

The same Nick Foles who was recently the big hero in the 2018 Super Bowl, led the Eagles to a 6-2 start of what looked like it would be a great season. Even during the first eight games, however, the team struggled with turnovers more so than in 2013.

For example, Foles threw just 2 interceptions and lost 1 fumble in 2013. In 2014, Foles was injured in week 9, and that was the end. This brought former USC star Mark Sanchez off the bench to take over as starting quarterback. Eagles fans felt the good vibes – perhaps it was karma, escaping. Sanchez brought no Karma to the field.

Under Sanchez, the Eagles were 4-4. They continued to lead the NFC East until week 15, when they lost to their rivals, the Dallas Cowboys. With a loss to the 3–11 Washington Redskins in Week 16, and the Cowboys defeating the Indianapolis Colts, the Eagles were eliminated from playoff contention a week after they lost control of their division.

The Kelly Eagles suffered one of the worst collapses in NFL history starting the season 9-3 before going 1-3 in the last four games with two losses against their division rivals, the Cowboys and Redskins.

Clearly the QB spot made the difference. They could not blame it on the injured Foles but he would not survive. Despite missing the playoffs, they had 9 selections for the 2015 Pro Bowl, second only to the Denver Broncos, who had 11.

2015 Chip Kelly #21

Kelly had traded away a lot of Philly favorites, The team had an unexpected losing year at 7-9, but even with a losing record, they managed to snag second place in the NFC East. Kelly had

masterminded a number of trades which the fans did not like. Kelly was fired after the season

Many fans did not understand why Chip Kelly needed all that power that he got from Jeffrey Lurie, a guy with no karma, at Philadelphia when all the fans wanted was a great player coach, not a GM, who would consistently win games.

Nonetheless, Kelly got his way and became the de facto General Manager. Eagles fans did not find a problem with Kelly's coaching but were very upset when he cut or traded several prominent and well-liked starters. Out of the mist, Nick Foles was gone.

Hard as it was to believe at the time but the names on Kelly's hatchet list were key starters such as Nick Foles, Evan Mathis, Trent Cole, and even the 2013 rushing champion LeSean McCoy.

He also left the Eagles leading receiver Jeremy Maclin in free agency status. He brought in new players like Sam Bradford, Byron Maxwell, Kiko Alonso, and 2014 rushing champion DeMarco Murray, who he thought fit his system of coaching.

The Eagles did poorly with Kelly at both helms, and Kelly's manipulation of the team took a lot of the blame for the poor results. The new guys were not exceptional. Some are not willing to go so far as to blame Kelly and they suggest that the NFC East as a whole had a terrible season, meaning that the Eagles with a poor record, were still in playoff contention for most of the year.

However, no matter how you shake it, the Birds did not perform well. The Eagles hung on until week 16 with fans thinking they would get in the playoffs. But, in almost a mirror image of 2014, the Eagles were eliminated from playoff contention in a Week 16 in a Saturday Night Football loss to the Washington Redskins. It did not take long for the Eagles Jeff Lurie to take action. Lurie at this point had eked out the karma prize from Chip Kelly. Fans were glad when Kelly got the axe.

On December 29, 2015, Chip Kelly was abruptly fired by the Eagles. The respected Eagles' offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur (later

became NY Giants Head Coach) would take over as interim head coach for the final week of the 2015. Chip Kelly went from favorite to goat almost overnight. That's fate.

Chapter 12 Coach Doug Pederson 2016 to ...

Coach Doug Pederson # 22

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Coach</u> | <u>Conf</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Place</u> | <u>Record</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--|
| 2016 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 4 th | 7-9-0 |
| 2017 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 1 st | 13-3-0 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons) 15–10 • Won NFC Championship(Vikings) 38–7 • Won Super Bowl LII (vs. Patriots) 41–33 • Nick Foles (SB MVP) |
| 2018 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 2 nd | 9-7 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won Wild Card Playoffs (at <u>Bears</u>) 16–15 • Lost Divisional Playoffs (at <u>Saints</u>) 14–20 |
| 2019 | Doug Pederson | NFC, | East | 1 st | 9-7 |
| | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Sea Hawks) 17–9 |
| <u>2016-2018 Doug Pederson record through 2018 season (38-27-0)</u> | | | | | |



Coach Pederson & the 2017/2018 Eagles Super Bowl Champions

New coach: fans new hope again

With the arrival of Doug Pederson, Eagles fans felt that the karma was back again. After a weak 7-9 start and no playoff bid in 2016, the fans may have given up . But Pederson was living the Chip Kelly

lie at the time. No coach becomes the best in his first year, Pederson was not fired by Jeffrey Lurie because Kelly had screwed up the team.

Doug Pederson proved that he had the stuff that greats are made of in both 2017 and in 2018 with a first and second place finish. In 2019, with a 9-7 record, Pederson's Eagles came in first again. OK, his league was weak but his coaching was strong.

In 2017 the Eagles were riding high on adrenalin and good karma. It looked like they could not be beaten. As we all know by now, Pederson engineered the Eagles first Super Bowl Championship. It was the first NFL Championship since Buck Shaw's 1960 Eagles.

2016 Doug Pederson #22

As much as Eagles fans were originally pleased when Chip Kelly, a different kind of thinker, came in to become Andy Reid's replacement, the good feelings waned quickly. By the time that year-three came, even though his last name was Kelly, he was not only not doing the job for the Eagles he was hurting the longevity of the team with haphazard trading deals. There have been many Chip Kelly autopsies since he was fired but the best one I heard was written by NFL.com

It was titled, "The 3 main ways Chip Kelly failed the Eagles" The piece was for NBCS Philadelphia December 30, 2015 at 10:30 AM. Here is the beginning with no editing:

"Chip Kelly failed as a personnel evaluator, failed as a game manager and failed as a leader.

"Had he excelled in any one of those areas, he probably would still be employed by the Eagles.

"But instead, it's three strikes and you're out.

"The problems caused by Kelly's personnel decisions have been well-documented. From DeMarco Murray to Kiko Alonso to, perhaps most importantly, the inexplicable decision to neglect the offensive line, Kelly has left a mess for his successor. How

you trade for a quarterback recovering from two straight ACL injuries and sign a running back coming off a historic workload, yet you fail to strengthen the O-line is baffling.

For years we listened to Andy Reid preach about the importance of the line, and Kelly's at times was impotent. That offense was fireable in itself.

Kelly the head coach was maddening too. It's only fitting that the turning point in his final game was a botched pitch to Murray, the North-South downhill runner Kelly supposedly coveted.”

That's enough. Let's move on to a coach who is a young man and an unexpected and refreshing hero. If you like the Eagles, you like Doug Pederson as he delivered the goods for a fan base that was looking for the best for years. We got it in 2017 and the SuperBowl game in 2018.

Thank you, Doug Pederson. In all fairness to Pederson, after injuries hit the Eagles big time in the last two years, and Jeffrey Lurie added bad karma after the White House snub, Pederson, operating under duress, still brought the team some success, just no playoff victories.

A closer look at Doug Pederson

Doug Pederson was born in Bellingham, Washington, in 1968. He is forty years old as of 2018. Pederson was a Ferndale High School graduate from nearby Ferndale, Washington. Pederson and his wife, Jeannie, have three sons: Drew, Josh and Joel. Jeannie played basketball at Louisiana College.

He was an athlete in high school and starred (All-starred) as an All-State selection in football, basketball, and baseball. After high school he graduated from Northeast Louisiana University. He was the QB from 1987 through 1990. Pederson still holds multiple passing records at the school.

He was good enough as a QB to make the Eagles as a player. He signed a three-year, \$4.5 million contract with the Philadelphia Eagles on February 18, 1999, to become the team's starting QB under new head coach Andy Reid, who was Pederson's quarterbacks coach at Green Bay from 1997–1998. Andy Reid is a good teacher.

He had some pretty good games as QB for the Eagles, but Donovan McNabb was earmarked for the position by Andy Reid. Pederson was to be the starting QB after he was asked to take the team while McNabb was getting accustomed to the pros. Pederson later went on to play for the Browns and he got a lot of playing time at Green Bay before he retired. He also played for the Miami Dolphins at quarterback. Like many great players, where he was when hurt his opportunities to grab a starting QB job in the NFL.

Pederson could handle big games when called upon as a QB. In a 1993 contest against the Eagles, for example, Pederson was pressed into duty when Dolphins starter Scott Mitchell left the game with a shoulder injury. In the second half, he helped guide Miami to a 19-14 win that marked Don Shula's 325th career victory.

Doug Pederson was coached by three of the most successful coaches in NFL history: Don Shula, Mike Holmgren and Andy Reid. Additionally, Pederson played alongside Pro Bowl quarterbacks Brett Favre, Dan Marino, Donovan McNabb and Jim McMahon. No wonder he is so good a coach himself.

Pederson began his coaching career at Calvary Baptist Academy, a private Christian high school in Shreveport, Louisiana. He had a great record there and brought them to the State playoffs each year.

On January 29, 2009, Pederson was back at the Eagles, hired as the offensive quality control coach. Andy Reid was still head coach. He was promoted to quarterbacks' coach on February 8, 2011. Andy Reid then asked him to go to KC with him on January 11, 2013, and Pederson had the great skills to serve as offensive coordinator for the Chiefs.

During Pederson's first season as an NFL coach (2009), the Eagles offense recorded the fifth-most passing yards in team history (4,089), which at the time ranked second in club annals.

Pederson had a great record as QB coach for the Eagles. For example, in his first season as the Eagles quarterbacks coach, Pederson helped QB Michael Vick become the second quarterback in NFL history to top the 3,000-yard passing and 500-yard rushing plateaus in consecutive seasons. That year, under Pederson's direction, Vick set career highs in completions (253) and passing yards (3,303) while throwing the third-most touchdowns of his career (18).

Vick's yards through the air, combined with his 589 rushing yards, helped Philadelphia's offense record a then-franchise-record 6,386 net yards (now the second-highest total) and notch a team-record 356 first downs. Additionally, the 2011 Eagles offense ranked second in the league in plays of 10-plus yards (258) and tied for second in plays of 20-plus yards (84).

After a three-year run with the Chiefs under his mentor, Andy Reid, Doug Pederson got the job as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles on January 18, 2016. Pederson is nothing less than a phenomenon. In just his second season as an NFL head coach, he led Philadelphia to a 13-3 regular-season record, an NFC East title, the No. 1 seed in the NFC playoffs and a berth in Super Bowl LII as an underdog. After all that, he finally coached the Eagles to become Super Bowl Champions. Not a bad record for a forty-year-old or a man of any age.

In 2016 with the Eagles, Coach Pederson helped develop rookie quarterback Carson Wentz, his # 2-overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft, and he prepared Carson to start the regular-season opener vs. the Cleveland Browns. Wentz was a great find and surprised Eagle fans with his first three victories in 2016. Eagles' fans had gotten accustomed to bad luck at times when good luck was expected.

Under Pederson's tutelage, Wentz went on to set a team and all-time NFL rookie record with 379 completions, while posting franchise rookie records in pass attempts (607), passing yards (3,782), passing touchdowns (16) and completion percentage (62.4%). Wentz also produced the 4th-most passing yards (3,782) in single-season team history and NFL rookie history. Carson Wentz started all 16 games

in his rookie season, becoming the first Eagles quarterback to start all 16 regular-season games since Donovan McNabb in 2008.

Carson Wentz, who was the 2nd overall draft pick for the Eagles was selected by coach Pederson to be the Eagles starting quarterback for Week 1 against the Cleveland Browns. The Eagles looked invincible with their new rookie quarterback as they got off to a 3–0 start including a 34–3 blowout win over the vaunted and always contenders, Pittsburgh Steelers.

The bye in week 4 somehow changed the Eagles but nobody knows why. Following their bye week, the Eagles lost nine of their final 13 games, including a 2–4 record against their divisional rivals. After losing to the Ravens, they were eliminated from playoff contention for the third consecutive season and fourth time in five seasons. But...see 2017

Another look at Carson Wentz

Carson James Wentz was not born a quarterback, but he might as well have been. He is that good. He was born December 30, 1992.

My wife Pat and I have three children just over thirty years of age, Brian, Mike, and Katie, and we know that in today's age, it is tough for anybody to bust through the ranks and work your way to the top. Our "kids" are all doing great, I am very pleased to say.

Carson Wentz is a phenomenon. Yet, he has remained humble. He made it big right out of the shoot, and some, including EF Hutton, would say--He earned it. He sure did. He is one of few.

After his college years, he found himself as the starting QB of the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League (NFL) in his first year out of college.

He played his college football at North Dakota State University (NDSU) and was selected by the Eagles with the second overall pick of the 2016 NFL Draft. This was the highest selection ever for an FCS player (a player not in the best of Division I).

Wentz had an impressive College record at NDSU, The team won five NCAA FCS national championships. In his first year with the Eagles, Wentz looked unstoppable after winning the first three regular season games as a rookie. He was tucking a lot of NFL and Eagles rookie records into his personal archives. These included the most pass attempts by a rookie quarterback and the most pass completions by a rookie.

The 2016 season finish was not as good as the beginning and the Eagles did not make the playoffs, but Wentz was out there every day helping the Eagles be as good as the team could possibly be. Coach Doug Pederson was right there with him.

In his second season, aka the 2017 season, nobody could believe there had ever been a setback after the first three games of 2016. Wentz was unbelievable at the helm as a second-year player. He was crucial to the strong and powerful start, which brought the Eagles to an 11-2 record, when the 6'5" QB was injured and went down. Well; sorta!

Let's go back again in time to the Wentz beginning before we review the great seasons Carson Wentz had in both 2016 and 2017.

Carson Wentz was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. He moved to North Dakota with his family at the age of three. In High School. He played QB and defensive back for his football team at Century High School in Bismarck, ND. At 6'5 and a fine athlete, he was a shoe in for the basketball team. He also played baseball for the Patriots.

As a freshman, Wentz was not yet a skyscraper. He was just 5 ft 8 in (1.73 m) in height, but he grew to be 6 ft 5 in (1.96 m) as a senior. Wentz was familiar with good bookwork and he graduated in 2011 as valedictorian of his HS class.

Not ready to move to the big cities, all of whom surely were looking for great QB's, he chose to attend North Dakota State, where he was redshirted his first season with the Bison as they won their first FCS title under ninth-year head coach Craig Bohl.

While Nick Foles was working to make the Eagles, Wentz was hoping to lock up the starting QB job for the Bison after playing behind Brock Jensen. Wentz played in his first collegiate game on September 22, 2011.

A very accurate passer who is not prone to be intercepted, Carson completed all eight of his passes in his first game for 93 yards. He later threw his first touchdown in relief of Jensen in a 66–7 blowout victory over the Prairie View A&M Panthers. Wentz finished the season completing 12-of-16 pass attempts for 144 passing yards and two touchdowns.

Jensen was still around in 2013 and Wentz would again not be the starter. That's how it is in College. So, he accepted his job as second-string quarterback in 2013 and he appeared in 11 games. He had his best game that season on October 13, against Delaware State, completing 10-of-13 attempted passes for 105 passing yards and a touchdown. Wentz ended his redshirt sophomore season completing 22-of-30 passes for 209 yards and a touchdown.

Wentz earned the right to be the Bison starting quarterback during his junior year in 2014. In his first start in the opener at Iowa State of the Big 12 Conference, he completed 18-of-28 pass attempts for 204 yards in a 34–14 victory on August 30. During a game at Western Illinois on October 10, Wentz caught a 16-yard touchdown pass from running back John Crockett and helped lead the Bison to a 17–10 comeback victory. Statistically, his best game that season was at Missouri State, where he threw for 247 yards and five touchdowns.

Wentz did good. He led NDSU to a 15–1 record. On January 10, 2015, he started in his first national championship game against Illinois State and passed for 287 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 87 yards and scored a touchdown on a five-yard run to give North Dakota State the lead with 37 seconds left. NDSU won their fourth consecutive NCAA Division I Football Championship game, 29–27.

Wentz started all 16 games in College in 2014, completing 228 of 358 passes for 3,111 yards with 25 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He was also the team's second leading rusher, with 642 rushing yards and six rushing touchdowns.

As a fifth-year senior in 2015, in his least year of eligibility, Wentz had one of the best games of his career on October 10 against Northern Iowa, when he passed for a career-high 335 yards. The following week against South Dakota, Wentz suffered a broken wrist in the first half but managed to complete the game with 16-of-28 completions, 195 passing yards, and two touchdown passes as the Bison lost 24–21.

After starting the first six games of the season and completing 63.7 percent of his passes for a total of 1,454 yards and 16 touchdowns, he missed the next eight weeks of the season.

He returned to practice in the beginning of December and was cleared to play in the national championship. On January 9, 2016, Wentz led the Bison to its fifth straight FCS title, running for two touchdowns and throwing for a third. He was named the NCAA Division I-AA Championship Game Most Outstanding Player for the second straight year.

What a football talent and a talent as an academic. Carson Wentz graduated from NDSU with a degree in health and physical education, finishing with a 4.0 GPA and twice earning recognition as Academic All-American of the Year by the College Sports Information Directors of America, first for Division I football and later for all Division I sports.

Though we would all like to credit the Eagles for being smart in snagging Carson Wentz as the Eagles franchise QB of the future. We must ask, “How could the Eagles say “no”?” Once they had the opportunity to place Wentz on the team, it was a given.

When push comes to shove, those that can push or shove the hardest often win. In February 2016, in the NFL Draft, even though Wentz was not from Division I, most analysts and pundits had him projected to be selected in the mid-first round of the draft.

However, as NFL teams began to look at his record in depth, Wentz began to be regarded as a Top 10 prospect after his pro-day tryout. What was there not to like? On January 30, 2016, he chose to play

in the 2016 Reese's Senior Bowl and he finished the game completing 6 of 10 pass attempts for 50 yards.

At the NFL Scouting Combine, Wentz showcased his athleticism as he was in the top three in the 40-yard dash, the broad jump, and the three-cone drill among all quarterbacks. And so, on April 28, 2016, the Philadelphia Eagles decided to select Wentz in the first round with the 2nd overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft.

Good they did!

Carson Wentz thus became the first QB, which the Eagles ever selected in the first round of an NFL Draft since Donovan McNabb in 1999. McNabb was also taken second overall.

Carson Wentz is also the first FCS quarterback taken in the first round since Joe Flacco was taken with the 18th overall selection in 2008, and the highest FCS quarterback taken in draft history.

How did the Eagles snag Wentz?

Nothing good in life happens without proper planning. The Eagles had a reserve of trades that they were willing to put up in the ante. So, they traded three top 100 picks in 2016, a first round pick in 2017, and a second round pick in 2018 in order to move up in the draft order so they could claim Carson Wentz.



<< Left—picture of Wentz playing against the Washington Redskins in 2016

Wentz became an immediate millionaire and good for him.

On May 12, 2016, Wentz signed a four-year deal worth \$26.67 million, fully guaranteed, featuring a \$17.6 million signing bonus.

He suffered a rib injury in the team's first preseason game of 2016, but was fully healthy for the beginning of the 2016 regular season.

Pederson originally intended to have Wentz sit and learn for the 2016 season, but those plans changed on September 3, 2016,

when the former QB Pederson OK's the Eagles trading the still unproven Sam Bradford to the Minnesota Vikings.

To make it easy on an already steady Carson Wentz, the rumors reported that the Eagles planned to start Wentz for the 2016 season as soon as he became healthy. No kidding! On September 5, 2016, Wentz was officially named the starter for the Eagles' 2016 season opener against the Cleveland Browns.

Nobody could believe how good Wentz was right out of the gate. But, I bet you folks, who have now read about his early years do know why he was so good. He was born a quarterback. It sure seems so, don't you think. I don't know anybody watching him for two years now with me on Sundays and beyond, that is not pleased that Carson Wentz plays for the Philadelphia Eagles. Bravo Carson Wentz!

Wentz made his first regular season start on September 11 against the Cleveland Browns, throwing for 278 passing yards and 2 touchdowns in the 29–10 victory. He was named the Pepsi NFL Rookie of the Week for Week 1. Wentz threw for 190 yards and a touchdown in a 29–14 win over the Chicago Bears in Week 2.

He became the first rookie quarterback since 1970 to win his first two games of the season and not throw an interception. In Week 3 against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Wentz finished with 301 passing yards and 2 touchdowns as the Eagles won 34–3. He was named the NFC Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against the Steelers.

I can recall my brother and I talking about how the Eagles, with this new guy Wentz, had become invincible. We were not the only Eagle fans thinking that. What a treat, to think something good and to believe good was the order of the day. Thank you Mr. Wentz. After all that good stuff, the season became a regular season.

What about Wentz's Super Bowl Season?

In Week 1 v Washington, Wentz had 307 passing yards, two touchdowns, and an interception from a pass tipped at the line of scrimmage as the Eagles won 30–17. In Week 2, Andy Reid was motivated to beat the Eagles. Though Wentz threw for 333 yards, two touchdowns, and one interception, and rushed for 55 yards, Andy Reid still beat the Eagles 27–20. There were a lot of other great games won by the shifty and great work of Carson Wentz. Nick Foles got little to no field time because the starter plays.

During Week 9 against the Broncos, Wentz finished with 199 passing yards and 4 touchdowns as the Eagles won 51–23. Wentz and the Eagles were rolling. During Week 14 against the Los Angeles Rams, Wentz left the game due to an apparent knee injury. Nobody knew how serious it might have been as he finished with 291 passing yards, 4 touchdowns, and an interception as the Eagles won 43–35. Nick Foles finished up the game.



The next day, an MRI revealed that Carson Wentz had a left knee that would not support him for the rest of the season. The diagnosis was a torn ACL. The prognosis was that he would be OK after an operation, but his recovery would keep him out for the remainder of the 2017 season.

In 13 starts, Wentz finished the year with 3,296 passing yards, 33 touchdowns, 7 interceptions, a 60.2 completion percentage, and a 101.9 quarterback rating. On December 13, Wentz underwent surgery on his ACL. All Eagles' fans were thrilled with the successful results. It was just a matter of time but not in 2017.

Wentz had amassed enough great stats that he still could be selected for post-season honors in 2017. These are not reserved for Super Bowl contenders—just for great NFL players who excel compared to other players in the same year.

Carson Wentz was selected to his first Pro Bowl on December 19, but he could not participate due to the aftermath of his recent knee surgery.

The Eagles were very fortunate to have Nick Foles as the backup for Carson Wentz. As the full season went to its natural conclusion, Eagles would go on to defeat the New England Patriots 41–33 in

Super Bowl LII, the first Eagles' Super Bowl win in franchise history. Bravo Carson Wentz! Bravo Nick Foles. Nothing in life worth having is easy. We all look forward to the 2018 season in the fall.

Carson Wentz, when his season ended was already 2nd in the NFL in touchdown passes with 33, as well as being a big favorite in the NFL MVP race. However, he missed the last three games of the season due to a season-ending ACL injury in his left knee, and for 2017, that was that for Carson Wentz.

When did Wentz really get hurt?

After the game in the post analysis of the touchdown that ultimately won this important game, there was more than conjecture about whether the great QB is actually an even greater battler than the original game footage showed him to be -- without expert scrutiny.

Wentz's injury appeared to happen on the 2-yard touchdown scramble late in the third quarter of the Eagles' Sunday win at the Rams. This of course eventually brought Nick Foles off the bench to assure the win. But, did Wentz stay around for a while after he was hurt without making a peep before he was able to score the deciding TD?

It was not a TD!

But, then we found out it was not a TD but it would have been if not called back. Yes, the touchdown Wentz scored did not count. He looked pained, but this could have been disgust that the score did not count. He stayed in the game.

Before exiting the 2017 season for good, Wentz ran four more snaps. You may recall that the first play was a handoff. The second play was another handoff. The third play was an incomplection, on a toss intended for Alshon Jeffery. Now what? If you are watching the game, at the time, you too are saying, Now What? – from the 2 yard line?

The fourth and last play of this series was the last call and the last play for Wentz for the rest of the 2017 season. It was another pass to Jeffery. It came with tons of pressure on a fourth-and-goal at the Rams 2 — the same spot the Eagles snapped from on Wentz’s original TD scramble. The pass was complete for an Eagles TD. It was a great play and a great pass from Wentz to WR Alshon Jeffery.

Wentz played gingerly on each play of the four. In reviews of the series, he was effectively a statue, only moving his feet to reorient himself as he scanned the field. He didn’t look anything like the athletic presence we all had gotten accustomed to watching for 11 games. The plays are captured on the Internet and they do hurt to watch.

Yet, these four plays reveal the solid truth that Carson Wentz still hung in the game despite his season-ending injury to create “two” touchdowns on the final five snaps of his season. The last one counted and proved critical in a 43-35 win.

His backup, Nick Foles, relieved him down the stretch in this game, and got enough help from the Philadelphia’s defense to win.

Wentz’s year was incredible. That it was over right after this game was horrible. He exited in a fitting way, though: pitching a crucial touchdown to help clinch the NFC East. His grit and that of Doug Pederson and Nick Foles motivated all the Eagles not to give up and to give it their best; get to the dance; and then win the biggest dance contest of their lives. What a season for the Eagles and all of us!

We all know the rest of the story. Led by Nick Foles, an able backup, the Eagles rolled on to win Super Bowl LII, the first in franchise history, earning Wentz a championship ring for his great prep work to put the Eagles in position to be champs.

Who is Nick Foles?

Nick Foles has made a quick run from Eagles hero to an injured Eagle to a non-Eagle to a backup Eagle to a Superhero Eagle. What

a great game he played in the Super Bowl and the games leading up to the big dance.

Foles was born on January 20, 1989 in Austin Texas. He turned 30-years-old during the playoffs a few days before Coach Pederson turned 40.

Foles took over for Carson Wentz as Eagles starting quarterback in Week 14 when Wentz suffered a season-ending ACL injury in Philadelphia's 43-35 win over the Rams. Foles finished and won that game in week 13 and he led the Eagles all the way through games 14 to 16 and through the playoffs to the victory over Tom Brady and the Patriots in the Super Bowl. Nobody would have made a bet on that. Yet, it happened.

From the back of the helmet, Foles and Wentz might be almost identical. When Foles and Carson Wentz are under center, they are of similar size, but Nick Foles is an inch taller at 6 ft 6 in (1.98 m). He weighs 243 pounds. Carson Wentz is 6 ft 5 in and weighs 237 pounds. No, I won't give you either my height or weight.

Foles was a third-round draft pick by the Eagles in 2012, he's been released twice, and has played elsewhere. We're all glad he came back. This season his skill and calm demeanor brought Philadelphia its first ever Super Bowl.

The Eagles are World Champions because of the whole team for sure but without Carson Wentz early on and Nick Foles at the end of the season, the Eagles would have had an ordinary close, and nobody would have been lighting big cigars at the big dance.

The underdog Eagles fought through injuries and adversity all season, and on Super Bowl Sunday they defeated the New England Patriots 41-33 in one of the most thrilling Super Bowls we've ever had the pleasure to watch.

Nick Foles came back to the Eagles and began the season as a backup behind star sophomore and what some called the "face of the franchise," Carson Wentz. Foles had one of the greatest postseason runs I've ever seen—ever. Nick Foles was as good as he could have

been. He capped off his performance with three-touchdowns, 373-yards and the MCP crown for his great showing in Minnesota.

When he first played for the Eagles, fans liked him. But, we woke up one day and Foles was gone after having been injured. It was just a short time ago that the talented QB was considering an early retirement after a tough time as a St. Louis Ram.

Then, he got back to the Eagles and he got a chance on the biggest stage, and he did not flinch. It is an understatement to say Foles was cool, calm, and collected under extreme pressure. He is the only person ever to give Philadelphia what we have desired for decades and decades. Thank you, Nick Foles, for being a Philadelphia Eagle at the most opportune time for Eagles fans ever!

Let's look at Foles background for though it appears he came out of nowhere from a magical puff of smoke, before 2017, Foles had led an ordinary life. Like everybody else in life, he graduated from high School.

OK, maybe his life was not so ordinary. At Westlake High School, he was a very accomplished and he was a record-breaking quarterback. They weren't minor records that Foles broke. Nick Foles went to the same high school as Drew Brees and his results surpassed the current Saints superstar with over 5,000 yards and 50 touchdowns for the Chaparrals.

Foles may have out-dueled Brees in high school, but he did not have the same storied college career as the Super Bowl XLIV MVP. Foles found Kirk Cousins in his way at Michigan State University. In case that was not enough, there was New England's Brian Hoyer. So, after sitting on the bench for a brief time, Nick Foles figured a transfer would be a better option. He found the University of Arizona much to his liking for a starting role as QB.

To be drafted in the third NFL round, Foles had to be quite adroit; taking advantage of a great record and a lot of promise. Kirk Cousins from Michigan State, his one-time rival at Michigan State, was taken in the fourth round so that had to make his day. Brian Hoyer, one of the top QBs in his year, who played in front of him,

went undrafted. Foles talent could be described as my friend Randy Carlo would say, “Cream rises to the top!”

At Arizona, Foles was a top player. His production (10,011 yards, 67 touchdowns and a 138.2 passer rating) was about as good as it can get. Unfortunately, Arizona, the team, did not do as well (15-18) when Foles was the QB. It helps to recall there is an O and there is a D., and both have to work well for the team to excel.

When interviewed before going with the Eagles, Foles said the Eagles were the only team that worked him out, and the coach who flew out to Texas to hold the workout was... **Doug Pederson**, the Eagles quarterbacks coach at the time.

When the 2012 NFL Draft rolled around, Foles was recognized as a team player, a person of great character and someone who wasn't fazed by anything. That guy is the guy who won the Super Bowl for the Eagles in February 2018.

Nick Foles had all it should have taken. He had the size and a strong arm, but his supposed lack of mobility and the losing seasons from Arizona pushed him down in a college class with lots of other talented quarterbacks.

Nonetheless, Foles arrived as an Eagle after the third-round selection (88th overall), even though head coach Andy Reid was hoping to snag Russell Wilson instead. The Seahawks took the Super Bowl XLVIII winner one selection before Philadelphia's original pick. Reid's team picked up Foles as a consolation prize and we are so glad that Andy gave us such a fine great parting gift.

Some skeptics, especially those that showed up when Wentz was injured, wanted to suggest that Foles had an unpredictable career and there was a “good Nick, and a bad Nick.” After Reid was fired at the end of Foles' rookie season and Chip Kelly took over, the QB was as good as it gets. He was on fire. No lesser QB stood between him and success.

Nick Foles, before Carson Wentz made it to the roster after college. He found himself setting a new NFL record for TD-INT ratio with

27 passing touchdowns compared to just two interceptions, surpassing the previous record held by none other than Tom Brady.

At 6'6", Foles was a very good basketball player and in HS was recruited by a number of colleges to play basketball.

In that same Eagles' season, 2014, Foles became the first quarterback ever to throw seven touchdowns and post a perfect passer rating in a game against the Raiders in a 49-20 win. Despite a strong playoff performance (two touchdowns and a 105.0 passer rating), the Eagles fell just short in a 26-24 loss to New Orleans. Maybe Chip Kelly blamed Foles, Kelly and I are not related so I was not privileged to ask.

Eagles fans did not blame Foles nor did they blame Chip Kelly for that season but the Eagles fan set have been down the road to the dance too many times to not get into the dance once and a while so the Eagles can show off their stuff. It takes its toll on a loyal fan.

Kelly's offense had a tough time the next year as did Nick Foles. His 2014 production dipped from the prior year. He also sustained an injury and was traded to the St Louis Rams for Sam Bradford. As a Ram in 2015, he did not regain his early career form, and between the two seasons, he threw for the same number of scores as he did picks (20-20).

Foles had no major advocates on the Rams like he did with the Eagles—Doug Pederson, and he began to doubt himself. He and his wife talked about his football future more at the Rams than in the early years. They are both kids and Foles already had a few bucks so if football was no longer going to be productive and fun, why do it?

When the Rams drafted Jared Goff in 2016, Foles became *persona non-grata* and soon found himself released from the team. He had the rare privilege of entering the pool of career backups in the league. There were many in the pool so if he were a commiserater, he had many others in similar plight to speak with.

Foles did not do that. He signed up with Andy Reid in Kansas City for the 2016 season, though he did consider seriously getting out of

the game. He came back to Philadelphia at the start of 2017 to back Carson Wentz. Foles is a pro. He knew there were no guarantees. But, he wanted to be back in Philadelphia.



Nick Foles finally got in when it counted, and despite many thinking that nobody could be ready so quickly, Foles stepped in for the injured Carson Wentz in Week 14 and he did well.

Nick Foles played well enough to secure the road win against the Rams. Wentz had gone down but knew how to get back up. In his first start the next week, he threw four touchdown passes and got the Eagles another road win.

The ‘Good Nick’ was alive and well.

However, in Weeks 16 and 17, since the Eagles were assured of the playoffs, there was not much real game time to be had. Foles was re-learning the system. The offense seemingly collapsed as the coaches thought it was OK for the team to rest for the playoffs. I have a personal feeling about football teams not always going for the gold but I am rarely consulted, and my opinions at this juncture, would not help in the story we are all enjoying.

The Eagles all knew they were in the playoffs. Why with an injury-riddled lineup should the coach risk injuring others? OK, I am done with that.

Against Oakland for example, Foles completed only 50% of his passes and had just 163 yards on 38 attempts. In the regular season finale against the Cowboys, the backup QB played just one quarter, and he posted a terrible 9.3 passer rating as the Eagles were shut out. This had some seeing that the ‘bad Nick’ was back. Not me! None of the Eagles were doing their best when they knew the playoffs were already theirs. We’ll talk about that another time.

When it is all counted, the residue of a regular season meant nothing compared to what needed to be achieved in the playoffs—where Nick Foles reigned supreme. In the 15-10 win over Atlanta for example, Foles did not throw any touchdowns, but he completed 23 of his 30 passes (76%) for 246 yards and a 100.1 quarterback rating. He won the game for Philadelphia.

In the NFC Championship game, Foles took down the NFL’s #1 defense. He topped his completion percentage again (26-of-33, 78%), yards (352) and also tossed three touchdowns. His 141.4 passer rating made him the first player in NFL history with a mark of 100 or more in his first three playoff games. Nick Foles had shown up to play ball. And play ball quite well, he did. Something says that the combination of Carson Wentz and Nick Foles has changed the luck of the Philadelphia Eagles and its fans, hopefully forever and for good.

2017 Doug Pederson #22

The 2017 Philadelphia Eagles football team competed in their eighty-fifth season of Professional National Football League (NFL) football. They were led by Doug Pederson in his second year as head coach of the Eagles. Jeffrey Lurie was the owner. The team had a great winning record in the regular season of 13-3, the best since Andy Reid’s great 2004 season.

Nick Foles came back to the Eagles this year to be Carson Wentz’s understudy but was needed more than anybody ever imagined. He came through big time. The Birds finished first in the NFC East then won it all, including their first ever Super Bowl victory

- Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons) 15–10
- Won NFC Championship(Vikings) 38–7
- Won Super Bowl LII (vs. Patriots) 41–33

For all his great work, Nick Foles was announced as the Super Bowl MVP)

The Eagles tied their 2004 season for the highest winning percentage in franchise history. Their win in week 14 against the Los Angeles Rams won the team the division title for the first time since 2013, but it came with the loss of Carson Wentz who was injured with a torn ACL.

A close win against the New York Giants in Week 15 helped the Eagles clinch a first-round bye for the first time in 13 years, and a Christmas Night home win over the Oakland Raiders gave the Birds the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs for the first time since 2004.

The Eagles were on key all year. They defeated the Atlanta Falcons 15–10 in the Divisional Round and routed the Minnesota Vikings 38–7 in the NFC Championship. The win against the Falcons in the divisional round was their first playoff win since 2008.

Philadelphia was the first #1 seed in the playoffs since 1980 to be an underdog in the Divisional Round, as well as in the Conference Championship. In total, six Eagles players were selected for the Pro Bowl, including four first-time recipients. However, none of them participated due to preparations for Super Bowl LII.

What a Super Bowl! The Eagles surprised the New England Patriots by a score of 41–33 in Super Bowl LII for their first Super Bowl victory in franchise history. The win came with a trick play right before halftime. It was also their fourth NFL Championship, and their first league title since 1960.

It was the second time the Eagles and Patriots went at each other in a Super Bowl. The last time they met in Super Bowl XXXIX, and the Patriots won 24–21. Backup quarterback Nick Foles was named Super Bowl MVP. He is the first backup to receive this award since his opponent, Tom Brady received the honor in Super Bowl XXXVI.

The Eagles also faced and defeated both Super Bowl teams from the previous NFL season (the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons) in the playoffs. It was a great year indeed for the Eagles.

Before the Eagles could compete for the Super Bowl and all of the playoffs between the regular season and those playoffs, they first had to play the regular season in 2017. Let's take a look at that in summary. Enjoy. This is the season that got the Eagles their Super Bowl dance and their big win.

Games of the 2017 Season

In the season opener on September 10, 2017, at Washington, the Eagles defeated the Redskins W (30–17). Playing Andy Reid's KC Chiefs in week2, the Eagles were surprised with a loss at Kansas City L (20-27) At home on Sept 24, the Eagles got by the Giants with a field goal W (27–24) The game was a lot more exciting than that.

The Eagles defense was playing great the whole game and the Eagles were ahead by two touchdowns. But, for whatever reason, the D broke down in the fourth quarter and the Giants score 21 unanswered points to start the fourth quarter, as quarterback Eli Manning found his all pro wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. twice for touchdowns, and second year wide receiver Sterling Shepard once for a 77-yard touchdown. It was getting dicey out there.

Fletcher Cox had to leave the game with a calf injury. Eagles rookie running back Corey Clement ran for a 15-yard touchdown to tie the score at 21. After exchanging field goals, and time was wearing thin, Wentz and the Eagles offense took over, looking to move into field goal range. It was tougher to do than plan and the Eagles were faced with a fourth down.

Wentz had connected with Alshon Jeffery for a 17-yard pass, but on fourth they were not really in field goal range. They decided to try anyway. They gave rookie Jake Elliott a 61 yard shot hoping to not need OT. In his NFL debut the prior week against the Chiefs,

Elliott, a rookie out of Memphis, missed a 30-yard chip shot. The Eagles knew he had a big toe. Against the Giants he hit a kick twice as long as the one he had missed, nailing a 61-yard, setting the Eagles up to win the game with 1 second remaining... game-winning field goal

Rookie Jake Elliott converted on the 61-yard attempt, the longest in Eagles franchise history as time expired. Wentz was quietly efficient in the game, completing 21 of 31 attempts for 176 yards and one touchdown despite playing behind a struggling offensive line.



Jake Elliott drills 61-yarder

The win came with a high injury expense, as dynamic running back Darren Sproles was ruled out for the remainder of the season with a broken arm and torn ACL, both of which occurred on the same play. Despite this injury, the Eagles ran the ball efficiently through most of the game.

With this close win, the Birds moved ahead to 2–1 tying the Cowboys and the Redskins for first place in the NFC East while the Giants fell to 0–3 in the basement of the division.

On Oct 1 at Los Angeles, the Eagles squeaked by the chargers W (26–24) On Oct 8 at home, the Eagles squashed Arizona W (34-7). At Carolina on Oct 12, the Eagles got by the Panthers W (28-23). At

home on Oct 23, the Birds beat the Redskins W (34–24). At home on Oct 29 at San Francisco, the Eagles slugged the 49ers W (33–10). Then, on Nov 5 at home, the Eagles pummeled the Denver Broncos W (51–23) In week 10, the Eagles took a bye.

In week 11, at Dallas, the Eagles manhandled the Cowboys W (37–9) At home against Chicago, the Eagles shellacked the Bears, W (31–3). On Dec 3, at Seattle. The Eagles, on their way to glory, took a heartbreaking loss to the Seahawks L (10–24). On Dec 10 at Los Angeles, the Birds clinched the title in a tough match against the Rams W (43–35). On Dec 17 at New York, the Eagles barely escaped the Giants (W 34–29). On Christmas Day Dec 25, Santa was with the Eagles on both sides of the line at the Linc as he helped them power over the Raiders W (19–10).

In the final game of the season with all that could be gained having been gained, on Dec 31, the Eagles sat out some starters and lost to the Dallas Cowboys L (0-6)

2017–2018 NFL playoffs

This was a big year for the Eagles in that other than the first round, in which they got a bye for having such a fine record, they played in every round right up to the Super Bowl, and then top off the season they played in the Super Bowl, and they won that game too.

Here is a snapshot of the Eagles 2018 playoff picture:

- Wild Card First-round bye
- Divisional January 13, 2018 4:35 p.m. EST Atlanta Falcons
Lincoln Financial Field
- NFC Championship January 21, 2018 6:40 p.m. EST
Minnesota Vikings Lincoln Financial Field
- Super Bowl LII February 4, 2018 6:30 p.m. EST v New
England Patriots U.S. Bank Stadium

On January 13, 2018, The Philadelphia Eagles took the stage for the first time in a playoff game since 2013, Chip Kelly's first year. The Game was at the Linc in Philadelphia. The Eagles were not favored. They were the first ever # one seed underdog in the divisional round. Following a theme set in the last two games of the regular season, the Eagles relied heavily on their defense, surrendering just 10 points to a strong Falcons offense.



Enjoying being an underdog

The definitive moment of this game came up on the Falcons' final drive when the Eagles defense stopped four Falcons scoring attempts.

On 4th & Goal for example, from the two-yard line, Matt Ryan threw an incomplete pass to Julio Jones, This sealed a 15-10 win for the Eagles. Against many pundit predictions, the top seeded Philadelphia Eagles advanced to the NFC Championship game.

NFC Championship: Eagles v Minnesota Vikings

Underdogs once again, the Eagles out did the pundits. This game was against #2 seeded Minnesota . The Eagles had a bit of drought in this fabled playoff game. It was Andy Reid's team in 2008 when the Eagles broke the Championship glass last. This time the Birds would fare much better.



Foles in action, humbly winning one for the Eagles and Eagles' fans

The Eagles permitted a Vikings touchdown on the opening drive. It served as Philadelphia's wake-up call. There would be no more sleeping. The rest of the game demonstrated total domination from Nick Foles and the Eagles' offense. After 38 unanswered points against one of the league's top defenses, the Eagles accepted their invitation to their 3rd ever Super Bowl berth, and an opportunity to avenge their Super Bowl XXXIX defeat to the New England Patriots. The Eagles could not wait for game day two weeks later. Nor could Eagles' fans.

Super Bowl LII: Eagles vs. New England Patriots

This game was held at U.S. Bank Stadium, in Minneapolis, Minnesota at 6:30 PM on February 4, 2018 before 67, 612 excited fans. With a dome stadium with freezing outdoor weather, this game was played inside the dome. The foes were the perennial Super Bowl contenders, the New England Patriots. The Pats claimed to be ready for anything that former starter, now backup QB, now starter, Nick Foles could throw at them.

I don't think the Pats were expecting the Kitchen Sink—but, they got it and more. It did not bother the Eagles one iota to be 5.5-point underdogs for they knew the pundit's game and the Super Bowl were not being played on the same field. The Eagles beat the Patriots despite the spot. Philadelphia celebrated all week and some of us are still celebrating.

The Eagles got on the board first when Jake Elliott kicked a 25-yard field goal to make the score 3–0. However, the Pats tied it up when Stephen Gostkowski kicked a 26-yarder not too long afterwards.

The Eagles grabbed the lead again when Nick Foles found Alshon Jeffery on a 34-yard pass. The PAT failed but the Eagles held the lead at 9-3 to close out the quarter. The Birds increased their lead in the second quarter when LeGarrette Blount ran for a 21-yard touchdown (with a failed 2-point conversion), making it 15–3.

The Patriots however managed to score twice when Gostkowski kicked a 45-yard field goal and then James White ran for a 26-yard touchdown, making it 15–6 and then 15–12.

The Trick Play book was opened, and Nick Foles scored a receiving touchdown that was thrown by tight End Trey Burton. Everybody was surprised but the one-yard play went off without a hitch. This made the game 22–12 at halftime.

In the third quarter, New England drew closer when Brady found Gronkowski on a 5-yard pass, making the score 22–19. However, the Eagles pulled away again as Foles found Corey Clement on a 22-yard pass giving a ten-point cushion at 29–19. The Patriots got closer

again near the end of the third, when Brady found Chris Hogan on a 26-yard pass to make the score 29–26.

Into the fourth quarter, Philadelphia increased their lead when Elliott kicked a 42-yard field goal (32–26.) The Pats would eventually grab the lead for the first time when Brady found Gronkowski again on a 5-yard pass. The score was then 32–33.



Andy Lyons/Getty Images Malcolm Jenkins of the Philadelphia Eagles tackles Brandin Cooks of the New England Patriots during the second quarter in Super Bowl ...

The Eagles put together a patented 14-play, 75-yard drive which was topped with Foles finding Zach Ertz on an 11-yard pass for the TD. Ahead by 5, at 38-33, New England would need a touchdown to go ahead and to win.



Eagles strip sack on Tom Brady still haunts All-Everything QB

With 2:16 to play, on the Patriots following possession, Brandon Graham drew cheers from Eagles fans as he sacked Tom Brady, who fumbled the ball. The ball was recovered by Eagles' Derek Barnett at the Patriots 31-yard line.

Philadelphia would soon increase its lead after Elliott's 46-yard field goal, making the game score 41–33.

With seconds left, the Patriots were able to move the ball down to midfield. With just under 10 seconds remaining, Tom Brady gave it his best shot with a huge Hail Mary pass that would have sent the game into OT with a touchdown plus 2. However, the Eagles swarmed Gronkowski and the human blanket in the end zone caused a pass with a chance to fall incomplete. This sealed the game and prompted a lot of happy sounds from Eagles and Eagles fans in the stadium and across the world.

The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the 5-time Super Bowl champions by a score of 41–33. Nick Foles also was named Super Bowl MVP after the game. With this win, the Eagles finally won their first Super Bowl, and their first NFL title since 1960. Go Eagles!



2018 -2019 Doug Pederson #22

The 2018 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Doug Pederson in his third year as head coach of the Eagles. Jeffrey Lurie earlier in the year had stolen all the Karma from the Eagles was the owner. He had snubbed the country by giving the White House such a tough time on what was to be a big Super Bowl Victory Party for the Eagles, the WH canceled the Eagles invitation and the bad luck began big time.

The Eagles entered the season as the defending champions of Super Bowl LII, when they defeated the previous defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots 41–33 and attempted to become the first team since the 2004 New England Patriots to repeat as Super Bowl Champions.

They opened the season with the NFL Kickoff Game on September 6, beating the Atlanta Falcons 18–12. A vast majority of their Super Bowl-winning squad from the 2017 season was retained, although

some notable losses included tight end Trey Burton (who contributed to the Philly Special in the Super Bowl), defensive end Vinny Curry, and cornerback Patrick Robinson.

Franchise quarterback Carson Wentz, who had been injured late in the 2017 season, returned as a starter in Week 3, but a back injury would bump him down as the number 3 quarterback instead of being placed on injured reserve,] and Nick Foles would start in his place for the remainder of the season. The Eagles finished at 9-7 and won a Wild Card game but lost in the Division Championship.

The 2019 Philadelphia Eagles football team were led by Doug Pederson in his fourth year as head coach of the Eagles. Jeffrey Lurie had made amends for his White House snub and in fact dug in as a President Trump detractor. The Eagles Karma was still missing and Lurie did not seem to care. The bad luck continued.

The 2019 season was the Philadelphia Eagles' 87th in the National Football League and fourth under head coach Doug Pederson. The Eagles duplicated their 9-7 regular season record from 2018, when they made the playoffs but lost in the NFC Divisional game against the New Orleans Saints. The Eagles won the NFC East in Week 17 with a 34-17 win over the New York Giants and made it to the playoffs for the third consecutive season. However, in the playoffs, the Eagles were defeated in the Wild Card round by the fifth-seeded Seattle Seahawks, 17-9.

Every time my wife sees something bad about the Eagles or in an Eagles game she reminds me that the Eagles lost their Karma and that Jeffrey Lurie is the man responsible.

I hope to write another book very soon about how the Eagles got their Karma back.

For now, let's move on to describe how the Eagles lost their Karma after the 2-17/2018 Super Bowl Victory. If their owner played a respectful hand after the game regarding the White House. This year, 2020, we would have seen the Eagles third Super Bowl victory in a row. I mean that and my wife believes it too.

Chapter 13 The Eagles are Coming Back



"I'm here to save Jack (Pardee's) job, and I'm here to win the Super Bowl this year. If I do that, everybody wins. Jack stays and somebody wants to hire Buddy Ryan." Quote by Buddy Ryan, a great Philly coach with an almost championship season in 1988.

That quote is a classic for the late Buddy Ryan (RIP 2016). Ryan is one of the more quoted of the Eagle's past coaching masters. He had great Karma. It is no wonder why. In his years at the Eagles and elsewhere, Ryan called it as he saw it, and was right most of the time. He was a great coach besides. Ryan is in this book because he brought the Eagles to the Divisional Championship game in 1988. You'll read about how the Eagles lost that one when you hit the middle of the book. Did Buddy Ryan have Karma? Same answer to the question: *Do God's Angles have real wings?*

We all intuitively know that everything that is—can be made better. When the 2017 Eagles season began, everybody thought the Eagles were going to do well but not necessarily win the Super Bowl. The Eagles for years at the end of every season were able to find the garbage dumps of the NFL in which to deposit their overused

negative win-loss records from the Andy Reid decade. Lots of wins but no championships.

In 2017, it smelled different. It smelled good. Carson Wentz, after just a few games, changed a lot of minds and made the smell of victory even stronger. Nick Foles changed a lot of minds also. Once he caught on to all the nuances of the offense, Foles changed a lot of minds about what kind of a football player he had always been. The Eagles won the playoffs and the Super Bowl in 2017. In 2018, at 9-7, the Birds won their Wild Card game but lost in the Divisional Championship game. In 2018 and 2019, the bad Karma of Jeffrey Lurie had killed their chances. I am not kidding. Check the title of this book if you think I might be kidding.

In our family, my wife Pat first noticed that in 2017 after the Super Bowl Win, the Eagles were reluctant to celebrate their victory over the Patriots with their fans. It was obvious. Jeffrey Lurie, the Eagles owner instead of celebrating with the team, decided to take the occasion to show his disdain for President Donald Trump.

His political venom came before the team's honor of being invited to the White House. For his own reasons, Lurie made the team visit to the White House optional. My wife was more upset than I and she immediately said "That's Bad Karma! It's not good to insult somebody wanting to honor you."

The Eagles supposedly were in discussions with the White House for several months about a potential trip to Washington D.C. to be honored by the nation

Note from Eagles: We have been in contact with White House representatives and are currently discussing the logistics of an upcoming visit to Washington, a spokesman for the Eagles said on Monday, acknowledging publicly for the first time that the team had been invited. We are honored to receive this invitation and view this not only as an opportunity to be recognized for our on-field accomplishments, but also as an opportunity to engage in productive dialogue with the leaders of our country.

Note from the White Houses side:

We have been in conversations with the Eagles about timing and are working with them to make it happen, said Sarah Huckabee

Sanders, the White House press secretary. We hope to have something finalized in the next couple of weeks.

Eventually, the President smelled the rat, Jeffrey Lurie and his political bias. The President got fed up with the Eagles continual snub and he rescinded the invitation to the ingrate team owner.

The Philadelphia Eagles have been disinvited from their Super Bowl celebration at the White House. At roughly 7 p.m. on a Monday night, long after the issue should have been over, President Donald Trump canceled the visit that was planned for the next day (Tuesday.). Eagles fans and Americans were disappointed.

This is some of the President's polite statement:

"The Philadelphia Eagles are unable to come to the White House with their full team to be celebrated tomorrow. They disagree with their President because he insists that they proudly stand for the National Anthem, hand on heart, in honor of the great men and women of our military and the people of our country. The Eagles wanted to send a smaller delegation, but the 1,000 fans planning to attend the event deserve better.

These fans are still invited to the White House to be part of a different type of ceremony — one that will honor our great country, pay tribute to the heroes who fight to protect it, and loudly and proudly play the National Anthem. I will be there at 3:00 p.m. with the United States Marine Band and the United States Army Chorus to celebrate America."

It's no secret that many members of the Eagles oppose Trump and his policies. Before and after beating the Patriots in the Super Bowl, players like Chris Long, Torrey Smith, Malcolm Jenkins, and LeGarrette Blount indicated that they would pass on the trip. In April, it was reported that the Eagles were discussing a possible visit with the White House, but hadn't committed to going. In May, the two sides finally scheduled the visit for June 5. As of today, only Malcolm Jenkins remains on the Eagles roster.

With no karma left, the Eagles are just another team. The Eagles seemed to take their only Super Bowl victory ever for granted. They chose to make a political statement rather than respect all of their fans. It's not that the Eagles are the Patriots with tons of Super Bowl Wins. Who knows what they will have to do to get back their karma. It is not a good thing to snub your fans and America

They got cocky. My wife's perception was that the team thumbed their noses at America by being too big to thank Eagles' fans for supporting them during their **one** Super Bowl season. Team management apparently took Collin Kaepernick's side in the US Flag dispute when the NFL also took the dissident's side.

The White House did not cover up the Eagles' disrespect. Instead they reported the truth. The bulk of the Eagle's fans were on the side of America. The WH press dept reported: "Philadelphia Eagles 'Unable' to Attend Super Bowl Celebration Because They 'Disagree' With Trump on the National Anthem"

We all live in America. Though the Eagles did not hit rock bottom after they snubbed the nation, for those that believe that God owns and gives out karma as He sees it as needed, the Eagles luck (karma) was nowhere close to the time when Nick Foles helped them win the Super Bowl at the peak of their karma.

So, the Eagles traded Foles as his final thank you from management to their fans. They could have used Foles' talents a number of times over the last few non-karma years, especially when Carson Wentz went down again in the 2020 WildCard playoffs.

Championship NFL teams traditionally visit the White House for an annual event honoring their Super Bowl win. But in 2018, the ongoing controversy over whether NFL players can kneel during the National Anthem engulfed the league in a political firestorm.

Our family's observations (we're all lifetime Eagle's fans but moreso, we are lifetime fans of America, our country.) after that big snub was that the Eagles had lost its karma and we saw bad things happen instead of good. Since they got too big for their britches, the Eagles became a different team. They are still not the same team that won it

all in 2017-2018. The recent wild card defeat to Seattle was further proof that the Birds have lost their Karma.

Every time I see a bum play or a player injured and out for the season, I think back when the Birds had a chance to thank America and fans like my wife and my family for our support. Is it too late for the Eagles? What must they do to change their Karma? Can they recover? I say “no” unless Jeffrey Lurie stops getting his signals from individuals such as Collen Kaepernick, who do whatever they can to slur America.

I don't care what anybody's opinion is of President Trump. As a registered Democrat, I happen to believe that in my lifetime, he is the best president even before John Fitzgeral Kennedy, my once favorite, and even before (by a slim margin) Ronaldus Magnus –the Great Ronald Reagan, who espoused values that were people oriented. (Reagan was a Union Leader) .

Other Democrats hated Ronald Reagan and treated him like he was a stupid ox, except before his presidency when he got Hollywood the best union deals as their union president. Now, Democratic Leaders (Let me repeat I am a registered Democrat) care nothing about our country and want to replace the finest president since Reagan, shall we say, and perhaps of all time, simply because they do not like him.

Looking back in history as we do at times in this book, we find a ton of great coaches out of the 22 whose football card pictures are on first page after the outside cover. Yet, the Eagles have an overall losing record.

Why? Could it be that they got cocky and lost their karma at other times in the past? Well, in many ways, the excellent coaches had winning percentages that were very good but not every year, and the poor and so-so coaches dragged their records downward like a ton of rocks. Take a look at the season one-liner summaries at the beginning of the book and you will see what I mean.

The Eagles were so close to pay-dirt in the past, having had coaches get them into the playoffs—even before the Super Bowl era. They had achieved the ultimate success a few times with NFL

championships in 1948, 1949 (Greasy Neale), and 1960 (Buck Shaw).

However, once the Super Bowl was the target of the big dance, the Eagles were mostly MIA, though the Birds won their division numerous times. Over the years, the playoffs were not kind in bringing the Philadelphia Eagles to a Super Bowl encounter. For the Eagles to snub the White House visit was like begging its newly found karma to hit the bricks.

Though there were times before 2017 that the Eagles got it all together for a fine season, they rarely got all the marbles. This all changed in the fall of 2017. Looking at this team and may I repeat the word, TEAM. There are some wild pundits who are still out there suggesting the Pederson Eagles could recover from whatever adversity was thrown at them.

Throughout the season after there were so many injuries to so many great Eagles players on both sides of the ball—Darren Sproles, Jordan Hicks, Fletcher Cox, etc. and so many more that the theme of a book about champions and karma would have to change just to list them all.

The wild pundits, however were so pro-Eagle in 2017, when the Eagles last won everything, I am convinced that after all the recovering the Eagles did to win, that if the whole team got sick for one game, and they put in fresh replacement players, the wild supportive Eagles pundits would believe that Pederson would squeeze a win out of them. That's a positive feeling for sure. But once they snubbed America, that "LUCK" was gone.

When it seemed everybody on the team was on the injured list in 2017, Carson Wentz, the brightest light on the Eagles in 2017, suffered a season-ending hit. In 2019, the Eagles, sans Karma could not come all the way back.

In 2017, some think Wentz was so good for so long that if he were in the game, he could actually light up the entire Lincoln Financial Field with his raw talent in the event of a stadium-wide power outage. Now, that is a phenomenally bright light. But no longer. Karma feeds energy.

I think you get what I mean. What a pleasure to have seen the Eagles that season after so many seasons of dry holes. At 9-7 the following year 2018, the Birds had some feathers of karma left and so they came back to make the playoffs. But, their snub of America by refusing to honor themselves and the country from their 2017 season Super Bowl Win stayed with them and the record got worse in 2019.

The Eagles were at their almost best. Thank you, Coach Doug Pederson, and a spirited group of great Birds. For the last two years we have been witnessing the new karma-less Eagles. Don't expect much change unless Jeffrey Lurie resigns or apologizes to America.

Other Books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

- Cancel All Student Debt Now!** Good for America, Good for the Economy.
- Trump Hate** They hate Trump Supporters; Trump; & God—in that order
- Christmas Wings for Brian** A heartwarming story of a boy whose shoulders kept growing
- Merry Christmas to Wilkes-Barre** 50 Ways” for Mayor George Brown to Create a Better City.
- Air Force Football Championship Seasons** From AF Championship to Coach Calhoun’s latest team
- Syracuse Football Championship Seasons** beginning of SU championships; goes to Dino Babers Era
- Navy Football Championship Seasons** 1st Navy Championships to the Ken Niumatalolo Era
- Army Football Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football championships to Jeff Monken Era
- Florida Gators Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football through championships to Dan Mullen era
- Alabama’s Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football past the 2017/2018 National Championship
- Clemson Tigers Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football to the Clemson National Championships
- Penn State’s Championship Seasons** PSU’s first championship to the James Franklin era
- Notre Dame’s Championship Seasons** Before Knute Rockne and past Lou Holtz’s 1988 undisputed title
- Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The New York Giants** Many championships of the Giants.
- Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: New England Patriots** Many championships of the Patriots.
- Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The Pittsburgh Steelers** Many championship of the Steelers
- Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The Philadelphia Eagles** Many championships of the Eagles.
- The Big Toxic School** Wilkes-Barre Area’s Tale of Corruption, Deception, Taxation & Tyranny
- Great Players in New York Giants Football** Begins with great players of 1925 to the Saquon Barqley era.
- Great Coaches in New York Giants Football** Begins with Bob Folwell 1925 and to Pat Shurmur in 2019.
- Great Moments in New York Giants Football** Beginning of Football to the Pat Shurmur era.
- Hasta La Vista California** Give California its independence.
- IT’s ALL OVER!** Mueller: “NO COLLUSION!”—Top Dems going to jail for the hoax!
- Democrat Secret for Power & Winning Elections** Open borders adds millions of new Democrat Voters
- Hope for Wilkes-Barre—John Q. Doe—Next Mayor of Wilkes-Barre**
The John Doe Plan & WB Plan will help create a better city!
- Great Moments in New England Patriots Football Second Edition**
This book begins at the beginning of Football and goes to the Bill Belichick era.
- The Cowardly Congress** Corrupt US Congress is against America and Americans.
- Great Players in Air Force Football** From the beginning to the current season
- Great Coaches in Air Force Football** From the beginning to Coach Troy Calhoun
- Help for Mayor George and Next Mayor of Wilkes-Barre** How to vote for the next Mayor Council
- Ghost of Wilkes-Barre Future:** Spirit’s advice for residents how to pick the next Mayor and Council
- Great Players in Air Force Football:** Air Force’s best players of all time
- Great Coaches in Air Force Football:** From Coach 1 to Coach Troy Calhoun
- Great Moments in Air Force Football:** From day 1 to today
- Great Players in Navy Football:** Navy’s best including Bellino & Staubach
- Great Coaches in Navy Football:** From Coach 1 to Coach #39 Ken Niumatalolo
- Great Moments in Navy Football:** From day 1 to coach Ken Niumatalolo 1
- No Tree! No Toys! No Toot!** Heartwarming story. Christmas gone while 19 month old napped
- How to End DACA, Sanctuary Cities, & Resident Illegal Aliens** . best solution remove shadowsAmerica.
- Government Must Stop Ripping Off Seniors’ Social Security!:** Hey buddy, seniors can’t spare a dime?
- Special Report: Solving America’s Student Debt Crisis!:** The only real solution to the \$1.52 Trillion debt
- The Winning Political Platform for America** Unique winning approach to solve big problems in America.
- Lou Barletta v Bob Casey for US Senate** Barletta’s unique approach to solve big problems in America.
- John Chrin v Matt Cartwright for Congress** Chrin has a unique approach to solve big problems in America.
- The Cure for Hate !!!** Can the cure be any worse than this disease that is crippling America?
- Andrew Cuomo’s Time to Go?** "He Was Never that Great!": Cuomo says America never that great
- White People Are Bad! Bad! Bad!** Whoever thought a popular slogan in 2018 *It’s OK to be White!*
- The Fake News Media Is Also Corrupt !!!:** Fake press / media today is not worthy to be 4th Estate.
- God Gave US Donald Trump?** Trump was sent from God as the people’s answer
- Millennials Say America Was "Never That Great":** Too many pleased days of political chumps not over!
- It’s Time for The John Q. Doe Party...** Don’t you think? By Elephants.
- Great Players in Florida Gators Football...** Tim Tebow and a ton of other great players
- Great Coaches in Florida Gators Football...** The best coaches in Gator history.
- The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, et al.** The Real Constitution
- The Constitution Companion.** Will help you learn and understand the Constitution
- Great Coaches in Clemson Football** The best Clemson Coaches right to Dabo Swinney
- Great Players in Clemson Football** The best Clemson players in history
- Winning Back America.** America’s been stolen and can be won back completely
- The Founding of America...** Great book to pick up a lot of great facts

Defeating America's Career Politicians. The scoundrels need to go.
Midnight Mass by Jack Lammers... You remember what it was like Great story
The Bike by Jack Lammers... Great heartwarming Story by Jack
Wipe Out All Student Loan Debt--Now! Watch the economy go boom!
No Free Lunch Pay Back Welfare! Why not pay it back?
Deport All Millennials Now!!! Why they deserve to be deported and/or saved
DELETE the EPA, Please! The worst decisions to hurt America
Taxation Without Representation 4th Edition Should we throw the TEA overboard again?
Four Great Political Essays by Thomas Dawson
Top Ten Political Books for 2018... Cliffnotes Version of 10 Political Books
Top Six Patriotic Books for 2018... Cliffnotes version of 6 Patriotic Book
Why Trump Got Elected!.. It's great to hear about a great milestone in America!
The Day the Free Press Died. Corrupt Press Lives on!
Solved (Immigration) The best solutions for 2018
Solved II (Obamacare, Social Security, Student Debt) Check it out; They're solved.
Great Moments in Pittsburgh Steelers Football... Six Super Bowls and more.
Great Players in Pittsburgh Steelers Football ..Chuck Noll, Bill Cowher, Mike Tomlin, etc.
Great Coaches in New England Patriots Football... Bill Belichick the one and only plus others
Great Players in New England Patriots Football... Tom Brady, Drew Bledsoe et al.
Great Coaches in Philadelphia Eagles Football.. Andy Reid, Doug Pederson & Lots more
Great Players in Philadelphia Eagles Football Great players such as Sonny Jurgenson
Great Coaches in Syracuse Football All the greats including Ben Schwartzwalder
Great Players in Syracuse Football. Highlights best players such as Jim Brown & Donovan McNabb
Millennials are People Too !!! Give US millennials help to live American Dream
Brian Kelly for the United States Senate from PA: Fresh Face for US Senate
The Candidate's Bible. Don't pray for your campaign without this bible
Rush Limbaugh's Platform for Americans... Rush will love it
Sean Hannity's Platform for Americans... Sean will love it
Donald Trump's New Platform for Americans. Make Trump unbeatable in 2020
Tariffs Are Good for America! One of the best tools a president can have
Great Coaches in Pittsburgh Steelers Football Sixteen of the best coaches ever to coach in pro football.
Great Moments in New England Patriots Football Great football moments from Boston to New England
Great Moments in Philadelphia Eagles Football. The best from the Eagles from the beginning of football.
Great Moments in Syracuse Football The great moments, coaches & players in Syracuse Football
Boost Social Security Now! Hey Buddy Can You Spare a Dime?
The Birth of American Football. From the first college game in 1869 to the last Super Bowl
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