

End of an Era

Donovan McNabb's 11 seasons with the Eagles have mixed glory and grief.



GARY BOGDON / Orlando Sentinel

At the NFL draft in 1999, Eagles fans make their opinion clear on the player the Birds should choose. They booed McNabb.

April 1999

McNabb — the Eagles' No. 1 choice in the NFL draft, and second overall pick — is booed by Philly fans who wanted the team to draft Ricky Williams, the 1998 Heisman Trophy-winning running back for the University of Texas.

1999 season

McNabb wins his first game as a starter, and then starts and loses the next four games before being injured before the final game of the season.

INSTANT REPLAY

Nov. 14, 1999 vs. Redskins: The rookie makes his first start for the 2-7 Eagles, replacing Doug Pederson. Although his passing totals are modest (8 of 21 for 60 yards, 0 TDs, 0 picks, 3 sacks), he rushes 9 times for 49 yards, including a 27-yarder. More importantly, the Eagles snap a three-game losing streak with a 35-28 win.

2000 season

In his second year, McNabb starts every game and passes for 3,365 yards (21 touchdowns), and runs for 629 yards (6 touchdowns). He leads the team to its first postseason in four years, and is selected for the Pro Bowl for the first time.

INSTANT REPLAY

Oct. 1, 2000 vs. Falcons: McNabb surpasses the 300-yard passing mark for the first time (311 yards, 30 for 44, 2 touchdowns, and one interception) in his prime-time television debut, beating the Falcons, 38-10.

2002 season

McNabb breaks his right ankle in the Nov. 17 game against Arizona. Although McNabb finished the game, he is knocked out for the rest of the season.

INSTANT REPLAY

Oct. 28, 2002 vs. Giants: On a day when he completes 14 of 30 passes for 137 yards, McNabb has 8 carries for 107 yards, including a 40-yard touchdown. Eagles win, 17-3.

Nov. 17, 2002 vs. Cardinals: Despite injuring his right ankle in the Eagles' first series, McNabb completes 20 of 25 passes for 255 yards and 4 TDs, and has only 1 pick for a QB rating of 132.1. Eagles win, 38-14. Later, X-rays show a fracture. He misses the rest of the regular season.

2003 season

McNabb comes under attack on ESPN from political commentator Rush Limbaugh, who says McNabb is overrated, and that the news media — anxious to have a black quarterback succeed in the NFL — gives him a pass and overlooks his failings.

INSTANT REPLAY

Jan. 11, 2004 vs. Packers: After going 12-4 in the regular season, the Eagles host the Packers in a divisional playoff. McNabb is 21 of 39 for 248 yards, 2 TDs, 0 interceptions, for a QB rating of 90.5. He rushes 11 times for 107 yards. Even more spectacularly, late in the fourth quarter, the Eagles find themselves on their own 25, trailing 17-14 with 1:12 remaining on the clock and no time-outs facing a fourth down with 26 to go. McNabb hits Freddie Mitchell for a first down to keep the drive alive. Eagles win in overtime, 20-17.

Jan. 18, 2004 vs. Panthers: McNabb follows up his brilliant performance against the Packers with a sub-par outing against the Panthers in the NFC Championship game. He is 10 of 22 for 100 yards, with 0 TDs, and 3 interceptions. He is sacked 4 times and sustains a damaging hit to his ribs that forces him out of the game. He records a QB rating of 19.3, and the Eagles lose, 14-3.



MICHAEL S. WIRTZ / Staff Photographer

2004 season

McNabb and wide receiver Terrell Owens lead the team to the Super Bowl. They lose to New England, 24-21.

INSTANT REPLAY

Sept. 12, 2004 vs. Giants: In the first game of possibly his best season, McNabb completes 26 of 36 passes for 330 yards, 4 TDs, and no picks. It is also his first game with Terrell Owens, who catches 3 TD passes. Eagles win, 31-17.

Oct. 24, 2004 vs. Browns: McNabb is 28 of 43, for 376 yards, 4 TDs and 1 interception. He also runs 2 times for 28 yards. Eagles win, 34-31.



JERRY LODRIGUSS / File

The Eagles' Top 10 Quarterbacks

McNabb is the all-time leading Eagles quarterback in each of the following categories:

Rank	Name	Years with Eagles	G	Cmp	Att	Cmp%	Passing Yards	TD
1	Donovan McNabb	1999-2009	148	2,801	4,746	59.0	32,873	216
2	Ron Jaworski	1977-86	142	2,088	3,918	53.3	26,963	175
3	Randall Cunningham	1985-95	122	1,874	3,362	55.7	22,877	150
4	Norm Snead	1964-70	85	1,154	2,236	51.6	15,672	111
5	Tommy Thompson	1941-50	88	723	1,396	51.8	10,240	90
6	Roman Gabriel	1973-77	53	661	1,185	55.8	7,221	47
7	Bobby Thomason	1952-57	68	556	1,113	50.0	8,124	57
8	Sonny Jurgensen	1957-63	83	602	1,107	54.4	9,639	76
9	Norm Van Brocklin	1958-60	36	542	998	54.3	7,497	55
10	Adrian Burk	1951-56	70	457	960	47.6	6,203	55

SOURCE: pro-football-reference.com

Dec. 5, 2004 vs. Packers: McNabb is 32 of 43, for 464 yards, 5 TDs, 0 picks, for a QB rating of 147.8. Eagles win, 47-17.

Feb. 6, 2005, Super Bowl XXXIX: McNabb's stats are all over the place against the Patriots. He is 30 of 51 for 357 yards. He throws 3 touchdown passes and 3 disastrous interceptions. He is sacked 4 times and misses several open receivers. And his handling of the team in the last few minutes of game is puzzling. Eagles lose, 24-21.

2005 season

After Owens criticizes McNabb's performance in the Super Bowl, the two have a falling out — and a media circus ensues. Owens is suspended. McNabb plays in nine games before being sidelined by a sports hernia.

INSTANT REPLAY

Sept. 18, 2005 vs. 49ers: McNabb has one of his finest games as a passer. He's 23 of 29 for 342 yards, with 5 TDs, and no picks for

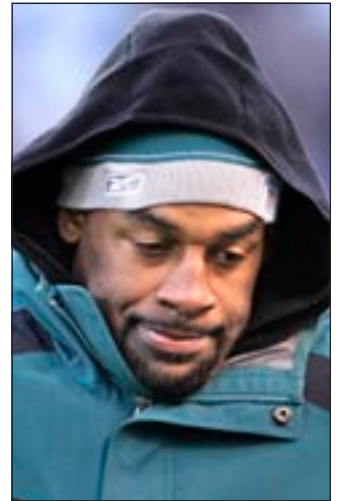
a QB rating of 155.4. Eagles win, 42-3.

2006 season

McNabb tears the ACL on his right knee in the 10th game, against the Titans. He sits out the rest of the season. Under McNabb's replacement, Jeff Garcia, the 5-5 Eagles flourish, finishing 10-6 and winning the division.

2007 season

The Eagles' 75th-anniversary season starts with a record of 1-3 — the only offensive fireworks coming in a blowout of the abysmal Detroit Lions. McNabb and Co. struggle back to a 5-5 record, but not before McNabb goes down with a sprained ankle in the second quarter against the Dolphins. A.J. Feeley starts, and loses, the next two games, taking the Birds out of playoff contention. This is also the year that McNabb's future replacement, Kevin Kolb, was drafted by the Eagles in the second round (36th overall).



RON CORTES / Staff Photographer

of 37 for 281 yards and 1 touchdown for a QB rating of 99.0), running (5 rushes for 20 yards) and is sacked 4 times, but what people will remember is a long pass play from the Eagle 25-yard line, when McNabb hits DeSean Jackson with a spiral for a 60-yard gain. Despite having a 28-14 lead when that pass was completed, the Eagles lost, 41-37.

Nov. 23, 2008 vs. Ravens: McNabb is benched at halftime after throwing two interceptions and going 8 for 18 for only 59 yards. His quarterback rating was 13.2.

2009 season

In a gridiron remake of *Three's Company*, McNabb shares the spotlight with Kolb and newly acquired Michael Vick (though Vick would only see limited play, mostly on Wildcat formations). McNabb injures his ribs in Week 1 against the Panthers, and Kolb starts the next two games — and becomes the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for more than 300 yards in each of his first two starts. McNabb returns and takes the team to the playoffs for the eighth time, where the Eagles lose to the Cowboys in the NFC wild-card game.

INSTANT REPLAY

Oct. 18, 2009 vs. Raiders: McNabb is sacked six times and the Eagles become the first team in three years not to score a touchdown against the Raiders — despite McNabb's 268 yards passing with no interceptions.

Jan. 9, 2010 vs. Cowboys: McNabb caps the 2009 season with an average performance against the Cowboys in an NFC wild-card game. McNabb is 17 of 39 for 230 yards, with 1 TD.

April 2010

The Eagles trade McNabb to the Washington Redskins.



ED HILLE / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Kevin Kolb (4), with Eagles quarterbacks Michael Vick (left) and Donovan McNabb (right).

McNabb's Career Stats

■ Made the playoffs

*Made it to the NFC Championship game

Bold: Made it to the Super Bowl

SOURCE: pro-football-reference.com

Year	G	GS	Record as starter	PASSING STATISTICS										RUSHING STATISTICS								
				Cmp	Att	Cmp%	Passing yards	TD	Int	Yards/comp	Yards/game	Passer Rating	Sacks	Yards lost by sacks	Att	Yds	TD	Long	Yards/att	Yards/game	Att/game	Fmb
1999	12	6	2-4-0	106	216	49.1	948	8	7	8.9	79.0	60.1	28	204	47	313	0	27	6.7	26.1	3.9	8
2000	16	16	11-5-0	330	569	58.0	3,365	21	13	10.2	210.3	77.8	45	262	86	629	6	54	7.3	39.3	5.4	7
2001*	16	16	11-5-0	285	493	57.8	3,233	25	12	11.3	202.1	84.3	39	273	82	482	2	33	5.9	30.1	5.1	8
2002*	10	10	7-3-0	211	361	58.4	2,289	17	6	10.8	228.9	86.0	28	166	63	460	6	40	7.3	46	6.3	6
2003*	16	16	12-4-0	275	478	57.5	3,216	16	11	11.7	201.0	79.6	43	253	71	355	3	34	5	22.2	4.4	9
2004*	15	15	13-2-0	300	469	64.0	3,875	31	8	12.9	258.3	104.7	32	192	41	220	3	28	5.4	14.7	2.7	8
2005	9	9	4-5-0	211	357	59.1	2,507	16	9	11.9	278.6	85.0	19	112	25	55	1	11	2.2	6.1	2.8	8
2006	10	10	5-5-0	180	316	57.0	2,647	18	6	14.7	264.7	95.5	21	140	32	212	3	37	6.6	21.2	3.2	3
2007	14	14	8-6-0	291	473	61.5	3,324	19	7	11.4	237.4	89.9	44	227	50	236	0	40	4.7	16.9	3.6	9
2008*	16	16	9-6-1	345	571	60.4	3,916	23	11	11.4	244.8	86.4	23	149	39	147	2	17	3.8	9.2	2.4	7
2009	14	14	10-4-0	267	443	60.3	3,553	22	10	13.3	253.8	92.9	35	264	37	140	2	27	3.8	10	2.6	11
Career	148	142	92-49-1	2,801	4,746	59.0	32,873	216	100	11.7	222.1	86.5	357	2,242	573	3,249	28	54	5.7	22	3.9	84