

BY PAUL DOMOWITCH

# EAGLES VS. BUCS

**Recent history:** Nick Foles threw a final-play touchdown to Jeremy Maclin to lead the Eagles to a 23-21 victory last Dec. 9. The Eagles lead the series, 9-7.



THE RUNNING GAME

## WHEN THE EAGLES RUN THE BALL

LeSean McCoy was pretty much unstoppable in the first month of the season, averaging 117 rushing yards per game and 6.0 yards per carry. The Eagles' most productive run play in the first four games was the inside zone run. But last week, the Giants effectively took that away, using slanting and angling by the defensive tackles against center Jason Kelce to get penetration and blow up the play. McCoy was held to just 46 yards on 20 carries, including minus-4 yards on seven carries in the second half. McCoy, who had just three runs for negative yards in the first four games, had five Sunday. Kelce and the offensive line likely will see many of the same things from the Bucs' front four. Led by Pro Bowl defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, the Bucs have allowed just 3.7 yards per carry.

**EDGE: Eagles**

## WHEN THE BUCS RUN THE BALL

Greg Schiano favors smash-mouth football, and he's got the perfect running back for it in 5-9, 219-pound Doug Martin. Martin is a strong, tackle-breaking runner who rushed for 1,454 yards and 11 touchdowns as a rookie. His 319 carries last season were the fourth most in the league. He already has an NFL-high 100 in the first four games this season. With a rookie quarterback, Martin likely will continue to get a heavy workload. He's averaging just 3.4 yards per carry, but that won't discourage Schiano from running the ball. The Bucs have a veteran offensive line that has a collective 328 NFL starts. Even without a sun-blocking nose tackle, the Eagles have done a good job against the run. They have held opponents to 3.9 yards per carry and have given up just 12 double-digit runs, none longer than 20 yards.

**EDGE: Even**

THE PASSING GAME

## WHEN THE EAGLES PASS THE BALL

Michael Vick hasn't been ruled out yet, but in all likelihood Nick Foles will start. Foles played well in relief of Vick last week, completing 16 of 25 passes for 197 yards and throwing two touchdowns. Foles had the league's fifth-best interception percentage in six starts last year, and didn't throw a pick against the Giants. He doesn't have Vick's arm strength or running ability. But he's accurate and moves around well in the pocket when he needs to buy time or avoid pressure. Foles completed 6 of 7 third-down passes for 55 yards and five first downs vs. the Giants. The Bucs have an excellent secondary spearheaded by All-Pro corner Darrelle Revis, who likely will spend most of the game shadowing DeSean Jackson. Foles likely will need to rely on other pass-catching options, particularly tight ends Brent Celek and Zach Ertz.

**EDGE: Bucs**

## WHEN THE BUCS PASS THE BALL

Greg Schiano benched, then released, former first-round pick Josh Freeman after three games and has cast his lot with third-round rookie Mike Glennon. Glennon, who is 6-6, is a prototypical pocket passer with a strong arm. He had a tough debut in the Bucs' Week 4 loss to Arizona, completing just 55.8 percent of his passes, throwing two interceptions and averaging just 4.49 yards per attempt. Not surprisingly, the Cardinals blitzed Glennon a lot, sending extra rushers on 48.9 percent of his dropbacks. He struggled against it, completing just 7 of 21 passes and throwing both of his picks vs. the blitz. Wide receivers Vincent Jackson and Mike Williams are big, physical pass-catchers who are dangerous after the catch. Despite notching just one sack, the Eagles' blitz was very effective against Eli Manning last week.

**EDGE: Eagles**

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Eagles are 31st in the league in kickoff coverage, thanks largely to the 105-yard return by the Broncos' Trindon Holliday in Week 4. Kicker Alex Henery has the eighth-lowest touchback percentage (53.3) in the league. Bucs P Michael Koenen has only had five of his 24 punts returned, so Damaris Johnson's PR opportunities likely will be limited. Koenen also handles kickoffs. Eagles P Donnie Jones is 28th in net average (37.3), but has put nine of his 23 attempts inside the 20. After missing a field goal in three straight games, Henery was 5-for-5 against the Giants, though none was longer than 41 yards. Bucs PK Rian Lindell has missed two of five FG attempts, from 38 and 47 yards.

**EDGE: Bucs**

## INTANGIBLES

The Bucs are coming off their bye week, so they will have the benefit of a week's rest. The week off also gave offensive coordinator Mike Sullivan an opportunity to work with Mike Glennon following his first NFL start.

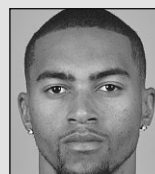
**EDGE: Bucs**

# STATS GLANCE

A look at the factors driving Sunday's game.

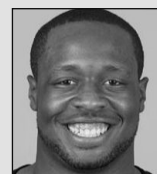
## WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

### HOT



#### EAGLES

**WR DeSean Jackson.** Had his third 100-yard receiving performance in five games.



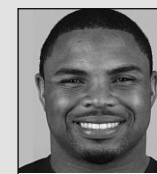
#### BUCS

**Bucs: DT Gerald McCoy.** Has two sacks and 13 hurries in the first four games.



#### EAGLES

**RB LeSean McCoy.** Had minus-4 yards on seven carries in the second half against the Giants.



#### BUCS

**RB Doug Martin.** Is averaging just 3.4 yards per carry on NFL-high 100 rushing attempts.

## KEY MATCHUPS

- Eagles WR DeSean Jackson vs. Bucs CB Darrelle Revis:** Jackson is the Eagles' most dangerous receiving weapon. But Revis held him to two catches for 28 yards the last time they faced off. **Advantage: Bucs**
- Eagles RB LeSean McCoy vs. Bucs MLB Mason Foster:** The Bucs have given up more than 90 rushing yards just once this season. McCoy leads the league in rushing. **Advantage: Eagles**
- Eagles CBs Cary Williams and Bradley Fletcher vs. Bucs WRs Vincent Jackson and Mike Williams:** Jackson and Williams both are big, physical targets and excellent yards-after-the-catch receivers. **Advantage: Bucs**

## BIG CHUNKS

Maybe the reason the Eagles haven't been good in scoring touchdowns once they are in the red zone (7-17, 41.2 percent, 30th in the NFL) is that their big-play offense just needs more room to work. They top all NFL teams in plays that gain at least 20 yards, 30 yards and 40 yards.

The leaders in each of the those categories:

20+ Yards	30+ Yards	40+ Yards
<b>Eagles 38</b>	<b>Eagles 16</b>	<b>Eagles 7</b>
Seahawks 26	Bears 14	Falcons 6
Packers 24	Packers 14	Bears 6
Saints 24	Jets 10	Dolphins 6
Ravens 24	Five tied 9	Vikings 6

## WHERE TEAMS RANK

A look at where the Eagles and Bucs rank:

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rushing	Passing	Total	Rushing	Passing
<b>Eagles</b>	2	1	11	31	17	t-29
<b>Bucs</b>	31	18	32	13	9	15

## WEATHER REPORT

Partly cloudy; wind NNW at 7 mph.

82°

**DOMOWITCH'S PREDICTION: BUCS 17, EAGLES 15**