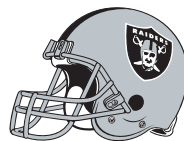


BY PAUL DOMOWITZ



EAGLES VS. RAIDERS

Recent history: The Raiders defeated the visiting Eagles, 13-9, on Oct. 18, 2009. Oakland leads the series, 6-5.



THE RUNNING GAME

WHEN THE EAGLES RUN THE BALL

With the exception of their Week 6 win over the Bucs, the Eagles' ground game has struggled since Michael Vick first injured his hamstring in the second quarter of the first Giants game. Chip Kelly has insisted that not having a mobile quarterback to run the read-option does not impact their ability to run. But in the 14 quarters since Vick went down, LeSean McCoy has averaged just 3.4 yards per carry after averaging 5.7 in the first 18 quarters. He has had just 10 rushing first downs in those 14 quarters, and 32 of his last 65 carries have gained 2 yards or less. The Eagles also have gotten nothing from McCoy's backup, Bryce Brown. Brown, who had two 150-plus rushing performances last season, is averaging just 2.6 yards per carry. Oakland's defense is fourth in the league in yards allowed per carry (3.6) and sixth in rushing yards per game (89.9).

EDGE: Raiders

WHEN THE RAIDERS RUN THE BALL

The fact that quarterback Terrelle Pryor is the Raiders' leading rusher (391 yards) tells you all you need to know about their run game. Darren McFadden is a talented but injury-prone running back who has missed 24 games in the last three-plus seasons. He has just 12 20-carry games in six NFL seasons. Since a 19-carry, 129-yard performance against Jacksonville in Week 2, he's averaged just 2.9 yards per carry. He did have two TDs last week against the Steelers on 7- and 4-yard runs. McFadden's 6-1, 234-pound backup, Rashad Jennings, is a decent short-yardage guy. The Raiders are one of the few teams in the league that still use a fullback fairly regularly (Marcel Reece). Led by d-ends Cedric Thornton and Fletcher Cox and inside linebackers DeMeco Ryans and Mychal Kendricks, the Eagles have done a good job against the run all season. In the last four games, they held opponents to 3.2 yards a carry.

EDGE: Eagles

THE PASSING GAME

WHEN THE EAGLES PASS THE BALL

After replacing injured Michael Vick in Week 5, Nick Foles put together six impressive quarters against the Giants and Bucs. Completed 67.8 percent of his passes, averaged 8.8 yards per attempt and threw five TDs and no interceptions. Then the Cowboys came to town and Foles played like a deer in headlights, completing just 11 of 29 passes before his indecisiveness led to him getting knocked out of the game with a concussion. He will start against a Raiders defense that has been a lot better against the run than against the pass, though they sacked Ben Roethlisberger five times last week and held the Chiefs' Alex Smith to 14 completions in 31 attempts in Week 6. The one thing Foles has been very good at is not turning the ball over. He has no interceptions in his last 127 attempts. DeSean Jackson has averaged just 8.7 yards per catch in the last three games.

EDGE: Even

WHEN THE RAIDERS PASS THE BALL

Quarterback Terrelle Pryor has an impressive 98.5 passer rating against the blitz, which is more of a testament to his ability to escape the blitz and extend plays outside the pocket than it is his ability to get the ball out when opponents send extra rushers. The key to defending the Raiders' passing game is keeping Pryor in the pocket, but that's easier said than done, which means it's imperative that the Eagles' secondary hold its coverage. Pryor has not been particularly sharp the last two games, completing just 52.8 percent of his passes, averaging 5.7 yards per attempt and throwing five interceptions in 53 attempts. The Eagles have focused on not giving up the deep ball and limiting yards after the catch. Last week, they held the Giants' wideouts to a total of 21 yards after the catch. Their pass rush has been just OK. They are 28th in sacks per pass play.

EDGE: Eagles

SPECIAL TEAMS

Damaris Johnson hasn't had a kickoff return longer than 33 yards this season and has just four double-digit-yard punt returns, none longer than 21 yards. With the exception of a 40-yard return by the Bucs in Week 6, the Eagles' punt coverage has been very good, but the kickoff coverage has been inconsistent. They've given up three returns of 39 or more yards, including a 105-yard touchdown return by the Broncos' Trindon Holliday. PK Alex Henery has converted 14 of 18 field-goal attempts. Raiders KR Jacoby Ford is averaging just 23.0 yards per return. PR Phillip Adams is averaging just 7.4. Marquette King is a strong-legged punter who is first in the league in gross average (48.9) and 10th in net (41.3). PK Sebastian Janikowski only has had 11 field-goal attempts, converting seven.

EDGE: Raiders

INTANGIBLES

The Raiders are coming off a big win over the Steelers and have two victories in their last three games. They also are a little fresher than the Eagles, having had their bye week before the Pittsburgh game. The Eagles never have won in Oakland. They are 0-3. The Eagles are winless at home this season, but are 3-1 on the road.

EDGE: Raiders

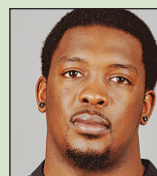
DOMOWITZ'S PREDICTION: RAIDERS 13, EAGLES 9

STATS GLANCE

A look at the factors driving Sunday's game.

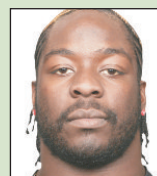
WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

HOT



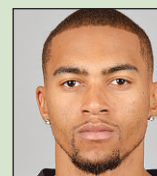
EAGLES

DE Cedric Thornton. Had six tackles vs. Giants and has been instrumental in the success of the run defense.



RAIDERS

DE Lamarr Houston. Had a sack, seven hurries and two tackles for losses in win over Pittsburgh.



EAGLES

WR DeSean Jackson. Has 17 catches in last three games, but averaged just 8.7 yards per catch.



RAIDERS

QB Terrelle Pryor. Has thrown five interceptions in 53 attempts in the last two games.

KEY MATCHUPS

- Eagles LT Jason Peters vs. Raiders LE Lamarr Houston:** Peters has been inconsistent as a run-blocker this year, but has been solid as a pass-blocker. Houston is a very good, 302-pound pass-rusher who leads the Raiders in sacks (4). **Advantage: Eagles**
- Eagles ILB Mychal Kendricks vs. Raiders QB Terrelle Pryor:** Pryor leads the Raiders in rushing. And the Eagles need to contain him. Kendricks' athleticism will be an asset against Pryor. **Advantage: Eagles**
- Eagles WR DeSean Jackson vs. Raiders CB Tracy Porter:** Jackson is one of the league's most dangerous deep threats, but has averaged just 8.7 yards per catch the last three games. **Advantage: Eagles**

ARMED TO RUN

Two of the five longest runs in the NFL this season have been by quarterbacks — the Eagles' Michael Vick and the Raiders' Terrelle Pryor.

Pryor set an NFL record last week for longest run by a QB (93) and Vick set the team mark for the Eagles (61) earlier this season.

Here are the five longest NFL runs this season (all were on first-and-10; *denotes touchdown):

PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	OPP.	LINE	RUN
Terrelle Pryor	Raiders	Oct. 27	Steelers	Own 7	*93
Andre Ellington	Cardinals	Oct. 27	Falcons	Own 20	*80
Adrian Peterson	Vikings	Sept. 8	Lions	Own 22	*78
Randall Cobb	Packers	Oct. 6	Lions	Own 11	67
Michael Vick	Eagles	Sept. 19	Chiefs	Own 13	61

WHERE TEAMS RANK

A look at where the Eagles and Raiders rank:

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rushing	Passing	Total	Rushing	Passing
Eagles	5	2	15	31	9	31
Raiders	25	5	32	10	6	17

WEATHER REPORT
Partly sunny

65°