



EAGLES VS. COWBOYS

Recent history: The Eagles won at Dallas on Dec. 16, 10-6. The Cowboys lead the all-time series, 54-43.



522 yards per game (1st)

Donovan McNabb hasn't had a lot of success against the Cowboys. In his last six starts against them, he's got a 55.8 completion percentage, has averaged just 6.27 yards per attempt and has five TDs and five interceptions. His numbers in the first halves of those six games are even worse.

The Cowboys and their 3-4 scheme generally have been able to keep Brian Westbrook in check as a runner. He's only had one plus-90-yard game vs. Dallas in the last four seasons. But he's been much more effective vs. them as a receiver. Look for Andy Reid to flex out Westbrook and Lorenzo Booker a lot.

WR DeSean Jackson not only has given the Eagles a genuine deep threat, but his speed also has opened things up inside for TE L.J. Smith. Donovan McNabb threw to Smith 10 times in Week 1. Smith had five catches and a touchdown, including four receptions in the red zone.

This unit notched only its second sack shutout in the last 23 games Sunday. But the Cowboys' rush will be much more formidable. Eagles yielded seven sacks in last year's meetings vs. Dallas. It will be crucial for C Jamaal Jackson not to allow rotating nose tackles Jay Ratliff and Tank Johnson to get inside push.

116 yards per game (2nd)

The Cowboys will focus their pass protection on RE Trent Cole, who is a tough matchup for 6-7 LT Flozell Adams. That means the Eagles' LEs — Juqua Parker, Darren Howard and Chris Clemons — must win their share of one-on-one matchups. Eagles must stay in their rush lanes and not allow Tony Romo to escape the pocket.

Even though this unit has a combined total of only 5 years of NFL experience, the three starters don't act their age. They have a complete grasp of Jim Johnson's defense and have the talent to play it well. MLB Stewart Bradley, making only his second pro start, had a team-high nine tackles and a sack in Week 1.

Jim Johnson usually has his corners play sides rather than individuals. But in the Eagles' Week 15 win over the Cowboys last year, he had Lito Sheppard shadow Terrell Owens. Sheppard held Owens to two catches for 37 yards. Johnson said he may do the same thing tonight, with Asante Samuel likely drawing Owens.

Rookie returners DeSean Jackson and Quintin Demps give the Eagles two dangerous field-position weapons. Jackson had three double-digit punt returns last week as the Eagles started four of their 12 possessions beyond their own 35.

OFFENSE

487 yards per game (2nd)

Quarterback



ADVANTAGE: EAGLES

Tony Romo threw 36 TD passes last season, but finished 24th in the league in interception percentage (19 in 520 attempts). You've got to pressure him to beat him. Eagles didn't in first meeting last year and he threw just five incompletions. They did in second meeting and he was 13-for-36 with three picks.

Running back



ADVANTAGE: EAGLES

Marion Barber and rookie Felix Jones combined for 142 rushing yards and three TDs in Week 1. Jones is a much more dangerous perimeter threat than his predecessor, Julius Jones. Barber tore rib cartilage vs. Browns, but is expected to play. He's one of the best short-yardage and goal-line backs in the league, with 24 rushing TDs the last two seasons.

Receiving



ADVANTAGE: COWBOYS

Terrell Owens gets most of the headlines, but TE Jason Witten probably is the most important receiving weapon. Last week, he converted first downs twice on the Cowboys' first scoring drive and had a 19-yard, third-down catch in the third quarter to set up another touchdown. Depth is a concern at wideout.

Offensive line



ADVANTAGE: COWBOYS

Cowboys are without starting LG Kyle Kosier (foot). But his backup, Cory Proctor, played well vs. Browns as Cowboys rolled up 487 yards in total offense. Dallas likes to run the ball behind Pro Bowl RG Leonard Davis and RT Marc Colombo. Twenty of their 31 rushing attempts were behind them in Week 1.

DEFENSE

205 yards per game (4th)

Defensive line



ADVANTAGE: COWBOYS

Jay Ratliff and Tank Johnson give the Cowboys an excellent nose tackle rotation that can wear down opposing centers. Their ability to get inside push makes it difficult for opposing quarterbacks to set up in the pocket. They combined for four hurries last week vs. the Browns.

Linebacker



ADVANTAGE: COWBOYS

The two big guns in the Cowboys' pass rush are OLBs DeMarcus Ware and Greg Ellis, who combined for 26 1/2 of the defense's 46 sacks last season. Ellis wasn't used much as a pass rusher in Week 1, though, as the Cowboys often had him covering Browns TE Kellen Winslow. ILB Zach Thomas was a nice offseason pickup.

Secondary



ADVANTAGE: EAGLES

Terence Newman missed the entire pre-season with a groin injury, and was a late scratch last week. He may play this week, but won't be 100 percent. It's going to take a while for Adam Jones to get the rust off his coverage skills. Cowboys likely will try to slow up Eagles WR DeSean Jackson at the line of scrimmage.

Special teams



ADVANTAGE: EAGLES

While it may take Adam Jones a little time to return to form at cornerback, his punt-return skills should come back to him much faster. The loss of KR Miles Austin hurts, but rookie Felix Jones also is a home-run threat.

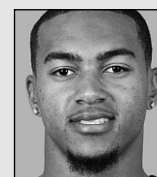
DOMOWITCH'S PREDICTION: COWBOYS 13, EAGLES 10

STATSGLANCE

A look at the factors driving this week's game.

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

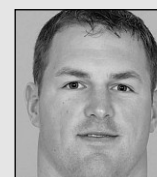
HOT



EAGLES

WR DeSean Jackson

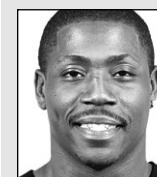
Had six catches for 106 yards and a 60-yard punt return vs. Rams.



COWBOYS

TE Jason Witten

Had six catches for 96 yards in win over Cleveland.



EAGLES

RB Correll Buckhalter

Had just two carries for 5 yards, and no receptions vs. Rams.



COWBOYS

PR/CB Adam Jones

Jones returned two punts for a total of 8 yards vs. Browns.

KEY MATCHUPS

Eagles SLB Chris Gocong and FS Brian Dawkins vs. Cowboys TE Jason Witten: Gocong and Dawkins likely will spend the most time with Witten, who had 96 receptions last season. Advantage: Cowboys.

Eagles RDE Trent Cole vs. Cowboys LT Flozell Adams: Adams has struggled with the smaller Cole, who probably also will be chipped by an RB or TE. Advantage: Eagles

Eagles WR DeSean Jackson vs. Cowboys CB Anthony Henry: Henry is no match for Jackson's downfield speed, but has the size to slow him up at the line of scrimmage. Advantage: Eagles

THE RETURN OF THE RETURN

Here's a list we're fairly certain to see DeSean Jackson join shortly — all 22 of the punt-return touchdowns in Eagles history:

Date	Player (Yds.)	Date	Player (Yds.)
10/25/42	Ernie Steele (*80)	12/03/61	Timmy Brown (66)
10/22/44	Steve Van Buren (55)	12/19/65	Bob Shann (63)
12/08/46	Steve Van Buren (50)	11/06/66	Aaron Martin (67)
11/23/47	Pat McHugh (69)	10/06/68	Alvin Haymond (54)
10/31/48	Bosh Pritchard (55)	09/03/78	Wally Henry (57)
10/30/49	Clyde Scott (70)	11/30/86	Gregg Garrity (76)
12/04/49	Frank Reagan (41)	11/22/92	Vai Sikahema (87)
10/26/52	Bibbles Bawel (52)	09/24/00	Brian Mitchell (72)
11/09/52	Don Stevens (56)	11/25/02	Brian Mitchell (76)
10/04/59	Tommy McDonald (81)	10/19/03	Brian Westbrook (84)
10/11/59	Art Powell (58)	12/21/03	Brian Westbrook (81)

*With lateral.

WHERE TEAMS RANK

A look at where the Eagles and Cowboys rank among the 32 NFL teams:

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rushing	Passing	Total	Rushing	Passing
Eagles	1	T-17	1	2	2	6
Cowboys	2	6	3	4	10	2

WEATHER REPORT

Clear

75°

