



MONDAY NIGHT NOTES

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
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IT'S A RIVALRY REKINDLED IN PHILADELPHIA AS COWBOYS VISIT EAGLES

It's the "City of Brotherly Love," but that will be in short supply!

The Dallas Cowboys visit the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday night (ABC, 9:00 PM ET) in the latest installment of an intense rivalry that dates back to 1960. The NFC East rivals last met on October 9, with the Cowboys earning a 33-10 win at Texas Stadium. Now the Eagles are seeking to return the favor.

A 17-10 loss at Washington last week has left Philadelphia at 4-4 and in an unfamiliar position -- last place in what some consider to be the NFL's toughest division. But Eagles head coach **ANDY REID** knows there is plenty of football remaining.

"We're 4-4, the season's not over," says Reid. "There is still a lot of season to play, including a bunch of NFC games."

Since 2000, no NFL team has rebounded from a loss quite like Reid's Eagles. Philadelphia has won 18 of its past 22 games following a loss.

A look at the NFL's best in games following a loss since 2000.

Team	Record Following Loss
Philadelphia Eagles	18-4 (.818)
Denver Broncos	24-8 (.750)
Baltimore Ravens	24-12 (.667)
Pittsburgh Steelers	18-9 (.667)
Green Bay Packers	20-12 (.625)
Seattle Seahawks	25-15 (.625)

An appearance on *ABC's NFL Monday Night Football* might be just what the Eagles need to get back on track. Philadelphia has won eight of its past 11 Monday night contests and six in a row at home overall against the Cowboys.

Both teams feature quarterbacks who have shown the ability to take over a game. Philadelphia's **DONOVAN MC NABB** ranks second in the league with 16 touchdown passes and first with 2,338 yards. His projected passing yardage total of 4,676 would be the 10th-most in a season all-time.

For the Cowboys, **DREW BLEDSOE** ranks in the NFL's top 10 with a 97.4 passer rating (No. 4); 13 touchdown passes (No. 8); 2,019 yards (No. 7) and an average gain per pass of 8.27 yards (No. 3).

With 234 career TD passes, Bledsoe is also taking aim at a historical milestone. He needs four more to surpass **GEORGE BLANDA** (236) and **JIM KELLY** (237) for 15th place all-time.

The top 15 quarterbacks in career touchdown passes (* Active):

Quarterback	TD Passes	Quarterback	TD Passes
Dan Marino	420	Dave Krieg	261
Brett Favre *	391	Sonny Jurgensen	255
Fran Tarkenton	342	Dan Fouts	254
John Elway	300	Boomer Esiason	247
Warren Moon	291	John Hadl	244
Johnny Unitas	290	Len Dawson	239
Joe Montana	273	Jim Kelly	237
Vinny Testaverde *	268		

MONDAY NIGHT MUSINGS – DALLAS COWBOYS AT PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

SCHOOL DAYS

- Eagles quarterback **DONOVAN MC NABB** and Cowboys tight end **JASON WITTEN** recently participated in the NFL's "Take a Player to School" program. The sweepstakes, which encourages children ages 6-13 to stay in school and become involved in after-school programs, randomly selects one winner in each of the 32 NFL cities and two non-NFL cities. The chosen students ride to school in a limo and spend the day side-by-side with an NFL star as he speaks to their class about the importance of education while offering football instruction.

McNabb escorted sixth-grader **JOHN PAUL ZAPATA** of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, who proudly sported his No. 5 McNabb jersey. When they arrived at Carusi Middle School, a frenzy erupted in the hallway as students and staff, clad in team attire, screamed their approval and shouted hopes for a Super Bowl XL victory this February.

"We are all big Eagles fans, but it was my son's idea to enter the contest," said John Paul's father, **JUAN**.

Among other activities, McNabb read the day's announcements and led the Pledge of Allegiance. But his primary message was about school.

"I enjoy reading and my favorite subject in school was math," said McNabb. "You always have to challenge yourself in each subject. And if you are a guy or girl that knows what you're doing, please aid and assist the ones that need help. That's half the battle."

Meanwhile, Witten picked up fifth-grader **MARCUS CASHAW** and took him to Shawnee Trail Elementary School in Frisco, Texas. They arrived to a scene similar to McNabb's visit as students dressed in Cowboys jerseys lined the halls and chanted "Jason! Jason! Jason!"

In class, Witten helped students on a math worksheet on fractions, gave each student the opportunity to catch a pass and participated in a lengthy Q and A. Before leaving, he also visited with several special needs children and posed for photos.

"It was great to spend the day with Marcus," said Jason. "I enjoy spending time with kids and even more so when I get a window to share the importance of school and emphasize the need for them to make good choices when faced with bad influences. I want kids to know that I've been in their shoes and it pays off to work hard and make good decisions."

WORKING NINE-TO-FIVE

- Eagles tight end **L.J. SMITH** may have his dream job now, but he has always known the value of a hard day's work.

"Growing up I liked the idea of being independent," says Smith. "There were things that I wanted to provide for myself and my family. I never wanted to trouble my mother with little things."

To make ends meet in Highland Park, New Jersey, Smith held a number of part-time jobs throughout his youth, including painting fences for \$5.00 an hour, working in the produce section at a grocery store, delivering books to New York City libraries and working at a bagel shop named "The Bagel Bazaar."

THE IRVING COWBOY

- In addition to the distinction of making the team this year as a free agent out of San Jose State, Cowboys running back **TYSON THOMPSON** holds another notable aspect to his background – where he comes from.

Thompson is the first Cowboys player ever to hail from Irving, Texas, where the team's headquarters is based. As a senior at Irving High School, he was a semifinalist for the Texas Class 5A Player of the Year Award.

When told by Dallas head coach **BILL PARCELLS** that he had made the team, Thompson said he was "overwhelmed. I felt like I was floating a little bit."

"Quite a story," says Parcells. "I'm proud of him."

