



Partners: [NCAA.com](#) [CSTV.com](#) [MaxPreps.com](#)

Web  CBSSports  Search powered by Google

**CBS SPORTS**  
**AS SEEN ON TV**

Track your favorite teams and players.  
Free membership, [Register Now](#)  
Already a member, [Log In](#)

[Community](#) | [Help](#)



[Home](#) [Fantasy](#) [NFL](#) | [MLB](#) | [NBA](#) | [NHL](#) | [College FB](#) | [College BK](#) | [Golf](#) | [Auto Racing](#) | [Tennis](#) | [Horses](#) | [SPiN](#) | [MMA & Boxing](#) | [More](#) [Mobile](#) | [Shop](#)

[CBS Sports Home](#) | [NFL Today](#) | [CBS Sports Team](#) | [Schedules](#)

**McNabb vs. Manning: Call it the Beleaguered Bowl**



Dec. 4, 2007  
By **Lesley Visser**  
CBS Sports

[Print](#) [Send](#) [RSS](#) [+Share](#)

**Related Links**

[Cassery: Reconstructing Eli](#)

**Headlines**

- [Rallying point](#) <sup>34</sup>
- [Golf on CBS: FBR Open preview](#)
- [College hoops on CBS: Week 7 preview](#)
- [Nantz named sportscaster of the year](#)
- [CBS' NFL ratings end on high note](#)
- [CBS Sports: College basketball schedule](#)
- [CBS Sports: Golf schedule](#)

[More Headlines](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#)

It sounds like a prestigious law firm -- Manning and McNabb. But these two quarterbacks are better suited for the NFL's beleaguered bowl.

When [Eli Manning](#) and [Donovan McNabb](#) face off Sunday in Philadelphia, there will be little good will toward either of them from their fan bases.



Two weeks ago, Manning threw four interceptions against the Vikings, three returned for touchdowns, and fans were whispering that maybe Manning should be traded. The talk-show chatter ranged from horror to rage, especially when Eli calmly said, "I treat this like any other loss."

Against Chicago last week, channeling his brother, he led the winning drive, but people are still wondering if he's overrated.

"He's not a bust," said one NFL scout, "but he's not a No. 1 pick either."

Michael Lewis, author of *Moneyball*, wrote of Eli, "Giant fans are understandably worried that the kid might be overpaid. But because he's the son of a legendary quarterback and the brother of another, people wonder if got here on his own merits, or is he the NFL's first legacy admission?"

"I still like what I originally saw in him," said Ernie Accorsi, the former Giants GM who gave Manning a \$54 million contract in 2004. "I felt he had the intangibles that separate a good quarterback from a great one."

Some fans in Philly seem to have turned their backs on Donovan McNabb. (Getty Images)

The question is still to be answered. Is Manning a Tim Couch, Akili Smith or Rick Mirer? Or is he on his way to greatness?

Two weeks ago, [Eagles](#) backup A.J. Feeley threw for a career high 345 yards and three touchdowns and played even with -- or maybe better than -- New England's Tom Brady.

Coach Andy Reid said this week that McNabb will return to play against the Giants, which is partly the result of Feeley's broken dream vs. Seattle, against whom he threw four interceptions. He now has seven in the past two games.

**Poll**

**Which QB would you rather have?**



Total Votes: 3868

McNabb, then, might be welcomed back to Lincoln Financial Field as the Eagles, hard as it is to imagine, are still in the hunt for a wild-card spot.

"We're not thinking of that right now," said Reid. "We're just focusing on the Giants."

Who would you rather have for this game, Eli or Donovan?

McNabb is the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback who led his team to the Super Bowl, but injuries the past two years have limited his mobility, once the hallmark of his career.

McNabb had such unusual mobility that defensive coordinators would stay up all night devising game plans to contain him. But the cruelest constants in football, injury and age, have changed him. He's not the multidimensional threat he used to be.

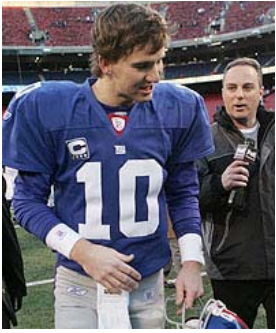
McNabb has 16 touchdowns and six interceptions this year for a quarterback rating of 87.3.

And McNabb knows that his injuries (broken ankle, severely sprained ankle, sports hernia and a serious knee injury) have helped swirl the rumors of this being his last year in Philadelphia.

"I can't control what happens later," he said. "I can only control what happens now."



'07 Football League  
Champ Tee  
CASHAW LEE  
ALL ABOUT FOOTBALL



The New York media gets on Eli Manning for his less-than-fiery demeanor. (Getty Images)

Manning is the reluctant star, with that unassuming droop of his shoulders and quiet manner. After his interception disaster against Minnesota, the media was appalled over his lack of passion or disappointment.

He was described as a human backboard, deflecting any question with a one-size-fits-all answer. His effort against the Vikings, one of the worst performances in league history, dropped him to 18th in the league.

But his composure against Chicago in the final minutes might be the flip side of his reticent nature, and, barring a collapse of epic proportions, he will lead the Giants into the playoffs.

This year, Manning has 17 touchdowns and 17 interceptions for an uninspiring 74.2 rating.

McNabb is facing competition from Feeley and knows that the Eagles have high hopes for rookie Kevin Kolb. But McNabb doesn't want to hear rumors that have him traded to his hometown Bears for Rex Grossman.

"People have short memories here in Philadelphia," he said. "I still think I can do some good things."

Manning and McNabb, mix and match, or send them to the scrap heap?

ADS BY GOOGLE

**Free Xbox 360**  
Get Free Xbox Elite + \$50 for Games Limited Time Offer: Ends Today!  
[www.GetFreeXbox.net/FreeXbox](http://www.GetFreeXbox.net/FreeXbox)

**Free Xbox 360 Elite + \$50**  
Get a Free Xbox 360 Elite Today Guaranteed Free Limited Time Offer!  
[www.FreeGameConsoles.net/FreeXbox](http://www.FreeGameConsoles.net/FreeXbox)

**Game Copy Pro Ver. 2008**  
Copy Virtually Any Video Game PS3, Xbox 360, PSP, Wii Plus More  
[www.gamecopypro.com](http://www.gamecopypro.com)

SHOPPING

Giants vs Patriots  
Get ready for the Big Game  
**Shop today!**

- Patriots AFC Champs Gear
- Giants NFC Champs Gear
- Fantasy Football Champ Tees

CBS Sports Store

<b>CBSSPORTS.com</b> <a href="#">SPIN</a> <a href="#">CBS Sports TV</a> <a href="#">Video</a> <a href="#">Community</a> <a href="#">Mobile</a> <a href="#">TV Listings</a> <a href="#">Weather</a> <a href="#">Shop</a> <a href="#">Ringtones/Wallpapers</a> <a href="#">Tickets</a> <a href="#">My Profile</a> <a href="#">My Scores</a> <a href="#">Westwood One</a>	<b>CBS SPORTS TV</b> <a href="#">NFL Today</a> <a href="#">CBS Sports Team</a> <a href="#">Schedules</a>	<b>EXCLUSIVE FEATURES</b> <a href="#">News Archive</a>	<b>FEATURED LINKS</b> <a href="#">Alerts</a> <a href="#">Blogs</a> <a href="#">Columns</a> <a href="#">Contests</a> <a href="#">Message Board</a> <a href="#">Newsletters</a> <a href="#">Photos</a> <a href="#">Podcasts</a> <a href="#">RSS Feeds</a> <a href="#">Widgets</a>	<b>HELPFUL LINKS</b> <a href="#">CBS Eye-Iert</a> <a href="#">CBS Cares</a> <a href="#">Help</a> <a href="#">User Comments</a> <a href="#">Privacy Policy</a> <a href="#">About Us</a> <a href="#">Terms of Use</a> <a href="#">Advertise With Us</a> <a href="#">Site Index</a>
---	---	---	---	---

[CBS.com](#) · [CBS News](#) · [The ShowBuzz](#) · [CBS Games](#) · [StarTrek.com](#) · [The INSIDER](#) · [Entertainment Tonight](#) · [Wallstrip](#) · [Last.fm](#) · [CBS Corporation](#)  
© MMVIII, CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved. CBS Sports is a registered trademark of CBS Broadcasting Inc. SportsLine is a registered service mark of SportsLine.com, Inc.  
CBS "eye device" is a registered trademark of CBS Broadcasting Inc.