

Between the hashmarks



Associated Press

San Francisco's Frank Gore, third from left, is stacked up by Eagles defenders, from left, Mike Patterson, Juqua Parker, Stewart Bradley and Quintin Mikell Sunday at Candlestick Park.

Game balls



Donovan McNabb

Two TD passes after just two in the last three games. He's 1-0 after calling a players-only meeting.



Juqua Parker

Interception return for a score, two tackles for loss and one sack should make him NFC defensive player of the week.



David Akers

Four field goals made up for blocked 54-yard attempt the Niners returned for a TD.

Goat horns



J.T. O'Sullivan

Three fourth-quarter turnovers cost the Niners.



Mike Nolan

Challenging one of Akers' technically unchallengeable field goals cost him the challenge he needed on a borderline O'Sullivan fumble.



Takeo Spikes

Intercepting McNabb after dropping four or five picks with the Eagles last season was too convenient.

The clipboard

■ **Dan Klecko's** two-yard reception on the first Eagles series was the sixth catch of his career and first since a one-yard scoring pass helped the Colts beat the Patriots two years ago in the playoffs. Klecko's season stats: two sacks, six tackles and one reception.

■ Rookie **Quintin Demps** gave the Birds a lift with a career-best 63-yard kickoff return to set up their first TD. Demps, fined \$10,000 last week for an illegal celebration, ironically may have cost Niners kicker **Joe Nedney** a \$5,000 fine. Nedney looked like he tried to horse-collar Demps.

■ Referee Ron Winter let stand Eagles rookie **DeSean Jackson's** 26-yard reception in the second quarter after Niners head coach **Mike Nolan** challenged the receiver didn't have possession and both feet down. Nolan lost twice; replays were inconclusive and the catch stood and Jackson was given a 27-yard grab when Winter moved the ball ahead one yard.

■ **Donovan McNabb** has won his last three starts versus the Niners, having thrown nine TD passes and one interception. McNabb established Eagles career records in pass attempts and yardage.

■ **Correll Buckhalter** needs seven rushing yards for 2,000 in his career. The Eagles are just 2-2 when Buck gets 100 rushing yards but 15-2 when he scores a touchdown, as he did Sunday.

■ The Eagles improved to 34-9 since 2000 when scoring on their opening drive.

■ The Eagles now are 46-17 when McNabb completes 20 or more passes and 22-6 when he takes fewer than two sacks. McNabb wasn't sacked.

■ **David Akers** has connected on 33 straight field goal attempts inside of 40 yards. His 54-yard attempt snuffed, Akers is just 1-for-5 in field goal attempts from 40 or more yards this year and has missed 12 of his last 15 attempts from 40 and out over two seasons. Akers is 7 of 9 at Candlestick Park with a long of 43 yards.

Injuries

■ **Eagles offensive tackle Tra Thomas:** Left foot strain.

■ **Eagles guard Max Jean-Gilles:** Left shoulder stinger.

■ **Eagles cornerback Lito Sheppard:** Hamstring.

■ **Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson:** Bruised hip.



BOB GROTZ



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View from the Pressbox

While the players start the bye week, the Eagle coaching staff has a lot of work to do on the third-down offense.

The Eagles still cannot convert a third down to save themselves in the second halves of games.

Entering the 49ers game the Eagles had converted just three of 19 third downs in the second halves of their last three games.

That's just one third own in each half of the last three games.

Donovan McNabb hasn't thrown a TD pass in those halves, either.

After going for 5 of 7 on third down in the first half Sunday, the Eagles went just 1-for-5 the rest of the way.

Had it not been for a determined defense forcing three fourth-quarter turnovers, it would have been same old, same old Eagles.

One of the weapons the Eagles should be able to use in those situations is tight end L.J. Smith, who caught just one pass, albeit for a touchdown.

Smith has been getting open; it's obvious watching the game.

"If I'm not going to get a lot of opportunities," Smith said, "I just have to make the most of the ones I do get."

It's up to the Eagles to call his number.

Drive Charts

Eagles					
Start Time	Time Poss	Drive Began	# of Plays	Yards Gained	Result
15:00	1:06	EAG 20	3	2	Punt
12:34	3:26	SF 37	7	37	Touchdown
04:25	5:19	EAG 22	10	78	Touchdown
07:44	3:14	EAG 36	8	63	Field Goal
00:29	0:29	EAG 20	5	44	Blocked FG
11:14	2:00	EAG 33	5	19	Punt
03:01	2:39	EAG 23	5	62	Interception
14:22	2:44	SF 38	5	38	Touchdown
10:34	2:48	EAG 49	6	31	Field Goal
06:09	0:55	SF 7	4	0	Field Goal
03:11	2:01	SF 20	4	9	Field Goal

San Francisco					
Start Time	Time Poss	Drive Began	# of Plays	Yards Gained	Result
13:54	1:20	EAG 18	4	4	Field Goal
09:08	4:43	SF 27	9	54	Field Goal
14:06	6:22	SF 11	7	25	Punt
04:30	4:01	SF 28	10	37	Field Goal
15:00	3:46	SF 22	6	78	Touchdown
09:14	6:13	SF 12	11	77	Field Goal
00:22	1:00	SF 12	3	-9	Punt
11:38	1:04	SF 27	3	-7	Punt
07:46	1:37	SF 38	3	-8	Interception
05:14	2:03	SF 19	3	1	Fumble
01:10	0:32	SF 25	3	25	Interception
00:38	0:38	SF 23	2	-9	End of Game

Quotables

"I was proud of our football team for finding a way to win on the road in an adverse situation"



— ANDY REID