

NFL Notes

Eagles bring new offense to Meadowlands

By TOM CANAVAN
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.— Just when the New York Giants thought they'd seen everything the West Coast offense has to offer, now they get the Philadelphia Eagles' version.

As opposed to the West Coast attacks the Giants (2-4) faced vs. Kansas City, Green Bay and San Francisco, the Eagles (3-3) present a bigger concern, because they've combined the run well in this short-pass offense.

In fact, the Eagles hit on all cylinders last weekend in a 37-34 overtime win over Washington, gaining 524 yards, their best since 1981. Ricky Watters gained 139 yards and Charlie Garner 120 as Philadelphia rushed for 274 yards, its most since 1990. Watters also caught 11 passes for 90 yards and Fred Barnett had six catches for 56 and a TD.

Those numbers don't bode well for the Giants, who gave up 431 yards in a 27-21 overtime win over the Arizona Cardinals last weekend.

Even more discouraging is the common

thread linking New York's performances against teams running the West Coast offense.

"There's no advantage because we haven't won against it," Giants middle linebacker Michael Brooks said. "If we were winning against it, it would give us an advantage. We haven't won against it, so it's giving us problems. We've played well against it, but not well enough to win."

The Giants lost to Kansas City 20-17 in overtime, dropped a 14-6 decision to Green Bay and were beaten 20-6 by the 49ers in games against the West Coast attack.

"We know they've played a lot of teams with similar offenses, but when it comes down to Sunday's game I think it's going to be the Eagles and the Giants playing, regardless of who they've played or we played," Eagles coach Ray Rhodes said. "It's not going to matter on Sunday, because I don't think they'll see the same things or we'll see the same things."

The Giants have tried different schemes to disrupt the offense. Against the 49ers, backup safety Tito Wooten played linebacker most of the game, because San Francisco uses more

"No team has really dominated them. They play hard and physical. That's what stands out."

— Rodney Peete
Eagles quarterback

finesse than brute strength running the ball.

The Eagles are bigger on the offensive line, so it's more likely Marcus Buckley, given the strong-side linebacker job this week, will play.

"Their whole package is good," said Giants cornerback Phillippi Sparks, who is nursing a bruised arm. "You can't concentrate on (Calvin) Williams and Barnett and leave Ricky Watters and Garner."

There's also Rodney Peete to worry about. Peete, who replaced Randall Cunningham as the starter two games ago, hit 30 of 45 last weekend for 256 yards and one touchdown.

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