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New York Giants 2006 Preview

By Jason A. Martin

The New York Giants were 11-6 last season and made it to the playoffs as the NFC East

champions. All year long the talk was about quarterback Eli Manning. Was he just like his more successful brother Payton? That question was answered in the playoffs when, just like his brother, Eli failed to show up. The Giants were absolutely destroyed in their lone playoff game. Eli was nowhere to be found. They are hoping to turn things around this season.

Quarterback

Eli Manning is starting to mature. Initially, he had real problems with road games. He's starting to get over his infancy in the NFL and become a more stable quarterback. Manning still has issues with completing passes, but he's expected to grow more this season. If he stays healthy and improves his play, he will be a good asset for the team. As quarterbacks go, he's about middle of the pack.

Running Back

It's no surprise that the backfield is the strength of this team. Last season Tiki Barber had a tremendous year. He rushed for 1,860 yards and gave Sean Alexander a run for his money. Blocking for him is Jim Finn. The Giants have one of the better backfields in the league. It's not the best, but it's darn close.

Receiving Core

Any receiving crew that has tight end Jeremy Shockey is bound to be at least decent. He's a monster tight end that forces better coverage than a defensive end or linebacker. The Giants added speedster Sinorice Moss. He was drafted this year in the second round. The Giants are hoping that he adds a bit of flash and helps stretch the defense even more. The receiving core of the Giants is definitely above average. If Manning can start putting together the pieces, the Giants have an offense that can score and run time off the clock.

Defense & Special Teams

The defense of the Giants was so-so last season. They really didn't show up in the playoffs at all. To help shore up the defense, the Giants have added LaVar Arrington, who played in Washington last season. They did lose their big nose tackle Kendrick Clancy. This key loss might kill them against the run. We will have to see how the replacement does. Still, the Giants figure to be right above average for defense. I don't think they will crack the top 10 in defense, but they shouldn't be too far below that overall. The Giants have a great special teams unit and that won't change in 2006.

2006 Prediction

The Giants are going to have to battle for the NFC East this season. The Cowboys are expected to fight for it. The NFC East could be one of the better divisions in football. Look for them to make another trip to the playoffs. Hopefully Eli Manning will show up this time and Giants fans can enjoy a real playoff performance. The Giants have potentially a tough schedule. They could wind up 10-6.

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NFL Week Two Part Two

By Sebastien Veilleux

In part two of our NFL week two preview, we will look at four NFL games. I'll review the following games: Texans at Colts, Saints at Packers, Giants at Eagles and Raiders at Ravens. The Giants at Eagles will be the matchup of the week out of this group. Let's take a look.

Houston Texans at Indianapolis Colts

Are Texans fans wishing they had Reggie Bush yet? The Texans offense was stifled when they played the Eagles. Ten points and no rushing attack won't get the job done in the NFL. The Colts are coming off a major win in New York against the Giants. It was the Manning Bowl. Now, they get a cupcake in Houston. For the Colts, it's time to go 9-0 against the Texans.

Pick: Colts Why? Colts are 8–0 against the Texans and beat them by an average of 15 points per game.

New Orleans Saints at Green Bay Packers

If not for Reggie Bush, this game would have about 6 people watching it—all fans. The Packers were shutout last week and looked like one of the worst teams in the league. This is no surprise. The Saints looked improved against the Browns, but they still have work to do. Neither of these teams will be going to the playoffs this season, but it's worth watching, because Reggie Bush will get about 20 or so touches again. Last season the Packers destroyed the Saints, but this Saints team has some new key players.

Pick: Saints Why? Despite their horrible record in Green Bay, I think the addition of Drew Brees and Reggie Bush will help get the job done.

New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles

The New York giants are in a must win situation. They are 0–1 after their loss to the Colts and they play in what many regard as the toughest division in the NFC. If they go down 0–2, they might not be able to recover. Their schedule is brutal. The Eagles will have their first real test this week. Sure, they beat up the Texans, but who doesn't these days? The Giants have won three straight in Philly, but this game could be different.

Pick: Giants Why? I think both of these teams will be in the playoffs, but the Giants have too many weapons.

Oakland Raiders at Baltimore Ravens

To say that the Raiders looked disgusting in their Monday night opener against the Chargers would be a grave understatement. They are one of the worst teams in the league. It's hard to imagine them putting up a good fight in Baltimore. The Ravens have their defense working again. They shut down Tampa Bay and should have no trouble marching to 2–0.

Pick: Baltimore Why? Because I'm not crazy.

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