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2017 eagles schedule playoffs

0 of 8Mark J. Terrill/Associated PressThe Philadelphia Eagles cruised into the postseason thanks to a whirlwind 2017 campaign that promises to go down as one of the best in franchise history. On the heels of Monday's Week 16 victory against the Oakland Raiders, the Eagles are one win away from posting the team's best regular-season record since the NFL merger. More importantly at this point, the victory guarantees that the NFC playoffs will go through Philly's Lincoln Financial Field. The Eagles' season has enjoyed more highs than lows as told by a 13-2 record, but almost every emotion has been felt throughout the first 15 games. While this team will be remembered for how they finished, their miraculous journey through the regular season has left a mark that persists in Philadelphia and the league will be 2018.As head coach Doug Pederson and his team looking forward, let's look back and revive the 2017 season that is about to close. Michael Perez/Associated PressLumping's 1-game winning streak stretching the dominating Eagles game from Weeks 3 to 12 into one moment was a detriment to everything the team did throughout its nine-game winning streak. However, that proved to be the difference between Philly and the rest of the league in 2017.The Eagles were victimized for a strong Kansas City Chiefs team on the road on Sep 17. They didn't lose another game until December in a loss on the road to Seattle. Philadelphia won for two and a half months in a row, and it took a road trip to arguably the two toughest buildings in the league to produce the only stain on the team's record. There were grind-it-out victories, heroic late games and defensive stands, but the explosion began to etch Philly's place at the top of the league. In three consecutive games against Denver, Dallas and Chicago, the Eagles beat their opponents by a combined 119-35 as Carson Wentz threw for nine touchdowns and no choice. Spectacular performances from almost every area of the team played a big part, and they will be dissected as we go along. But you can't start the 2017 Philly recap without acknowledging how great it all came together throughout the middle of the season. Defensive Awakening2 of the 8Chris Szagola/Associated Press Eagles defense has not lacked the skills and potential of the last few seasons, but severe weaknesses in key places have constantly destroyed the unit. Everything has coalesce - for the most part - in 2017.Defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz has set up one of the best defenses in the league this season, with the Eagles defense ranked fifth best in yards allowed per game and 10th in points allowed. Pass rush has consistently dominated take the pressure off a young secondary that has done more than enough to get the Eagles in the win column week after week. Philly doesn't create talent upheaval as it does on offense, but smart draft work some additional keys have made a big difference. Rookies Derek Barnett and Rasul Douglas have been impressive, and offseason acquisitions Chris Long and Timmy Jernigan have helped tie it all together. The authority of the front four in the trenches has forced most eagles opponents to become one-dimensional. The Eagles' defense has allowed nearly 300 fewer yards than any other team in the league on the field. There is undoubtedly room to grow, as the unit has seen a drop-off in the final quarter of the season with questions mounting in the secondary. They need to get back to their midseason form before the playoffs roll. But if they do, the Eagles could become virtually undefeated in the NFC, no matter who leads the offense. Carson Wentz Became the League3 Face of the 8Kelvin Kuo/Associated PressHis the 2017 season didn't end the way he and Eagles fans wanted, but Carson Wentz proved he'll be one of the league's biggest stars for a long time throughout a sophomore-caliber MVP campaign. One year removed from a 16-touchdown rookie season, 14 interceptions, Wentz dazzled with 33 league-leading touchdowns and seven interceptions on 3,296 yards. He threw for several touchdowns in 10 of 13 games, and was the odd MVP according to OddsShark before a torn ACL against the Rams in Week 14 ended his season. Wentz's game in 2017 left the Eagles' fanbase electrified, as told by the league's highest jersey sales ranking through November at the NFL Shop. Far more important was his role in leading the Eagles to 11 wins from 13 that allowed them to reach the NFC East in a game that he suffered from his injury. There were too many heroic sack avoidances, long touchdown passes and bold first runs to count. There are too many near-perfect performances in the key games to call just one or two. But the incredible playing moments from Wentz in 2017 will go down at the Eagles lore, no matter how the season finally ends. It's only natural that Eagles fans are disappointed that Wentz is rehabing while the team sees a postseason run, but the 24-year-old will lead Philadelphia into the playoffs for many, many seasons to come. The future is as bright in the City of Brotherly Love as it is in any other NFL city. Skill-Position Overhaul Reaps Benefits4 from the great 8Seth Wrenig/Associated PressAs like Wentz all season, he wouldn't have enjoyed nearly as much success if it weren't for general manager Howie Roseman's smart offseason. Roseman brought in Alshon Jeffery, Torrey Smith, LeGarrette Blount and a crop of impact starters to inject life into Pederson's offense that didn't have playmaking in the season Wentz. The result has been as positive as Eagles fans had hoped. The one-year gamble on Jeffery, who has since signed a long-term deal, paid off big time as he became the No 1 presence the Eagles fans coveted. Blount appears to appear one of the NFL's leading rushers until a midseason trade for Jay Ajayi shifted the balance of power in the back line. Nelson Agholor has been a revelation all his third season, and undrafted rookie back Corey Clement forced his way into the crowded back line that ranks in the top five in the league in rushing yards. Just one season ago, the Eagles could barely find a reliable positioning player to switch to. This year, they get big-time performances from different players week in and week out. Next Man Up5 of 8Matt Rourke/Associated PressLong before injury fate Week 14, the Eagles are forced to become a formidable team with a man-up mentality next if they are to continue a strong start to 2017.Darren Sproles suffered two serious injuries in the same game early in Week 3, ending the veteran return men's season and offensive weapons. Left tackle Jason Peters and center fielder Jordan Hicks each suffered season-ending injuries in Week 7, undoubtedly the two most important players for their respective units. But the Eagles constantly get strong performances from substitutes and see games elevated across the board to hide gaps. Halapouliuaat Vaitai has filled in well in the left tackle, while the impact of Nigel Bradham and Malcolm Jenkins in the middle of defence has flourished in Hicks' absence. Ronald Darby's Week 1 injury, which kept the No. 1 corner out for eight games, could have exposed one of the team's weaker units, but the young cornerback had stepped in to prevent the collapse. Injuries are an inevitability in the NFL, but it's rare to see the course of a devastating end-of-season injury fail to derail a team's season. The Eagles will have plenty of reasons to fold, but they seem to be leveling up their game with every injury. Wentz's Torn ACL in the NFC East Clinching Win6 from 8Michael Perez/Associated PressIf you've asked Eagles fans going into Week 14 what could ruin the atmosphere of a team that reaches the NFC East with a month to go this season, a serious injury to their signal caller is likely to be the only answer. Their worst nightmare came late in the third quarter of a 43-35 victory over the Rams, when Wentz suffered a torn ACL diving into the end zone on a touchdown run that wouldn't count. Nick Foles came to the rescue of the day and grabbed the division for Philly, but the news that Wentz would be missing for the season was met by some as a funeral for the 2017 season. Soon after, few people around the league, Eagles fans or not, remained hopeful that Philadelphia could march to the Super Bowl quarterbacks are their MVP candidates. To his credit, Foles is one of the better reserves in the league, and his track record of success in Philly has revitalized his fanbase. They're 3-0 since Wentz went down, but the attack is against the counter The Raiders in Week 16 have left plenty of room for doubt about the Eagles' chances of navigating through the NFC without Wentz.The Eagles are certainly capable of crafting a run to the Super Bowl without Wentz, thanks to a dominating defense and plenty of attacking skill players. But if the Eagles go down thanks to a thumping offense, fans will always be left wondering what could happen in 2017. Top-seeded Resilient Eagles Clinch NFC7 from 8Chris Szagola/Associated PressThe Eagles were forced to find new ways to win games following Wentz's injury, but they have shown their resilience more than ever since their leader went down. Foles orchestrated a late comeback to beat the Rams after Wentz left the game, and the team needed all four of its touchdown passes along with several special teams assists to beat the big day from Eli Manning's Giants in Week 15. They returned to base in Week 16, winning an ugly Christmas Eve game 13-10 over the No. 1-seeded Oakland Raiders in the NFC playoff hunt. At the very least, the Eagles will tie their franchise record for the best regular season in the modern era with a 13-3 record. If they reign supreme against the Cowboys, their 14-2 record would be the best in franchise history since the merger. Of course there are issues left for the Eagles to exercise before the playoffs, but they assured themselves of an enviable two-week break and the ability to play the entire January at Lincoln Financial Field. The Eagles can use a meaningless Week 17 fight with Dallas to be healthy with the promise that they won't have to hit the road unless they reach the Super Bowl.All that extra time off won't bring Wentz, Peters, Hicks or Sproles back for the playoffs, but it does give the rest of the roster a banged-up chance to be at 100 percent when the winner of the wild-card round visits South Philly in mid-January. To Continue... 8 of the 8Michael Perez/Associated PressAs is magical and full of emotion because the 2017 season has been for the Philadelphia Eagles, the best may yet come. Even the most pessimistic Eagles fans should acknowledge the importance of Philly's Week 16 win that grabbed an edge on the home field throughout the playoffs. The Eagles' defense has to deal with some potent offense in the NFC, but doing so at home gives them the best chance to dominate on that side of the ball and take offense out of their comfort zone. Playoff challengers like the Panthers and Saints will feature star quarterbacks who can't be matched by the Eagles, but their fearsome pass rush and running defense have proven that he can stand up any attack. They found a way to win games against good teams without Wentz, and there's no reason to doubt their chances of doing so several more times in the postseason. The road will be difficult, and demands big-time performances from players who previously did not count. Calculated. things haven't been easy for the Eagles at any point this season, and they've found a way to go 13-2 and announce themselves as NFC class. People around the league can count the Eagles all they want as the postseason draws closer. Eagles fans won't have it any other way. Way.

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