

# The Eagles: How They Got Here

The Eagles were 7-9 last year in the first season under coach Doug Pederson — hardly an impressive start to his tenure with promising quarterback Carson Wentz also in his rookie season with Philadelphia.

Expectations were low entering 2017, with many experts projecting the team to be around the .500 mark yet again. But some strategic roster moves in the offseason proved to be instrumental in helping the Eagles make the 2016 season a distant memory.

## KEY ADDITIONS

Veteran running back LeGarrette Blount and defensive end Chris Long joined the Eagles after winning Super Bowl rings with the Patriots last year.

“I chose the Eagles for the reason of me fitting in really good here, having a championship run, having a banner season,” Blount told the Associated Press after he signed. “And they’re a really good team. They’re a really good team before I came. I just want to fit in.”

The Eagles also added receivers Alshon Jeffery and Torrey Smith, and traded for defensive tackle Tim Jernigan.

The moves didn’t gain a lot of media attention but quietly set the Eagles up for a successful campaign with Wentz leading the squad in his second season.

## NEXT MAN UP

Quarterback Nick Foles has proven the importance of having a quality backup quarterback in today’s National Football League. When starter



Carson Wentz went down with a torn ACL in week 14 of the regular season, the Eagles turned to Foles to pick up the slack.

He delivered.

Foles will now try to become the first backup quarterback to

win a Super Bowl since Tom Brady in 2002.

## UNDERDOGS

On Jan. 22 — the day after the NFC and AFC title games, The Westgate SuperBook in Las Vegas installed the Patriots

as 5-and-a-half-point favorites in Super Bowl LII. That’s nothing new for the Eagles. They were the first No. 1 seed in NFL history to be underdogs in their opening playoff game but came away with a win over the Atlanta Falcons.

The Eagles also were three-point underdogs in the NFC title game against the Minnesota Vikings. Now the underdog masks sported by many fans throughout the playoffs will be in full force for Super Sunday.

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