

DeSean Jackson's triumphant return to Philadelphia

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so triumphant [Youth Wayne Gallman Jerseys](#) , because Jackson hasn't been playing. It's still unclear when he'll play again. The Eagles receiver had a major impact in Week One, catching eight passes for 154 yards and two touchdowns. Before he could catch a pass in Week Two against the Falcons, Jackson exited. As noted by Jeff McLane of the , the team called it a groin injury during the game. On the ensuing Wednesday injury report, the team changed it to an abdomen injury. In the three games since then, Jackson hasn't played. There are signs he could be moving closer to a return from an injury that still hasn't specifically been identified by the Eagles. "I'm not familiar with the injury that he has," coach Doug Pederson said this week when asked about potential benchmarks for Jackson's return, "but I would think with a guy like DeSean who's a track guy, he's a runner, obviously he has to have a level of comfort with that injury. All the stopping and starting and things of that nature." On Friday, Pederson said Jackson has "progressed each day" this week in rehab sessions, and that the "key is for him to make sure there is not a lot of soreness or pain dealing with after a workout." Though Pederson didn't say much

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, Jackson's long-time trainer did. Gary Cablayan, who has come to Philadelphia to work with Jackson, told McLane that Jackson is trying to get to faster speeds as he slowly recovers from the injury. Cablayan said it's not a hernia (as many have speculated), but that Jackson has a "small tear." "You're always keeping that area [of the body] tense to make changes to accelerate, so it's something you use a ton, which is the reason why it's taking so long," Cablayan said, via McLane. "It's hard to take off. You sit down to get back up, and you use it just for those two things. If you sneeze, you feel it." The goal is to get back on the field but also to give the injury enough time to heal so that the tear doesn't get worse. Jackson's age (32) could be a factor in the time it's taking his body to fully recover, but his skills are still present and he will help the Eagles offense reach a new level whenever he returns. It won't be this weekend against the Vikings, but maybe we'll see Jackson next Sunday night

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, when the Eagles and Cowboys get together for the first of their two annual games. **BBV mailbag:** Fullback, Jonathan Stewart, roster choices among this week's questions Let's open up the Big Blue View mailbag and see what is on the mind of New York Giants fans with a Week 2 game against the Dallas Cowboys looming. Ed says: Fullback Shane Smith played only 5 snaps in Week 1 against the Jacksonville Jaguars. There might be weeks where Smith sees a few more snaps than that, but I really don't think you will see a heavy dose of Barkley running behind a fullback. He didn't do that at Penn State. Against Jacksonville the Giants showed a willingness to use an extra offensive lineman or even a third tight end at times instead of the pure fullback. I'd expect to see them continue to mix their personnel groups. Ed says: I can't answer that definitively. I'm not in the meeting rooms and don't know the game plan. I do think, though, that if Jonathan Stewart is going to have a regular role in the offense that eventually it will be as a short-yardage and goal line specialist. He is a 240-pound guy who has been good in that role throughout his career. Here is a chart that gives an indication of Stewart's success in that role over the years. As long as Wayne Gallman is healthy, it looks like he will be the guy who comes in occasionally to give Barkley a breather for a full series. Stewart, if he is really going to contribute on the field, is going to have to be the short-yardage hammer. Ed says: Coach Pat Shurmur was asked indirectly about that this week. Here is what he said: "I try to change the protections in a lot of ways. It's not always obvious schematically. You change the protections, you provide chips. That's just part of what we do." In regards to DeMarcus Lawrence, who will likely line up against Ereck Flowers most of the time, Shurmur also said "the guy assigned to block him has to block him." That doesn't mean it's always going to be Flowers. It doesn't mean the Giants will leave Flowers isolated 1-on-1 vs. Lawrence

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, Dallas's best pass rusher. A variety of things can be done. Backs can chip. You can leave a tight end on that side at times. You can leave a back in and have him favor that side. You can move the pocket on occasion. The Giants did all of those things at times against the Jacksonville Jaguars. They will do all of

them at times against Dallas. You just can't line up, though, and protect one guy on every play. That leave you incapable of even trying to run big chunks of your offense. At times, as Shurmur said, whether it's Flowers or the rest of the offensive linemen, these guys are just going to have to lineup and block the guy they are assigned to block. It's what they are in the NFL for. Daniel Badillo asks: [Saquon] Barkley and [Odell] Beckham are both electric with the ball in their hands. Do you think either will have a chance to return punts going forward? If so, who would you prefer? Ed says: Punts? That has to be Beckham? Barkley has never returned punts. I have never seen him practice catching them — which isn't easy. Beckham has done it in the past and Shurmur continues to say that he would consider using him to do so in the right situation. Both Beckham and Barkley have returned kickoffs in the past. I think there could come a time when either, or both, are options there. CTscan123 asks: Here is a hypothetical based on my nagging feeling that perhaps our new leadership is throwing the baby out with the bathwater a bit with respect to personnel. Who, if anyone, no longer on the team do you think the Giants should have held onto from last year's roster? Jpp, Webb

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, Darkwa? Somebody else? And no copping out with "the new leadership has the right to bring in its own players!?" Who do YOU think played well enough to stick based on your observations? Ed says: First of all, when you go 3-13 and bring in a new coach and general manager of course there is going to be massive change. I think, by the way, that you are seeing that NFL teams are not exactly banging down doors to sign most of the players the Giants let go. That tells you what they think of the talent the Giants had. That said, there are a couple of players I wish were still Giants. I think Weston Richburg is a good player and, while I absolutely understand the salary cap ramifications and the fact that re-signing him for what he got in San Francisco was never going to happen, the Giants have downgraded at center. I'm not sure Patrick Omameh over D.J. Fluker is an upgrade. Also, I once again understand the monetary aspects of it and agree with the Giants' decision to ask Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie to take a pay cut, but I would feel better about their cornerback situation had they been able to work something out with him. Didn't happen, though, and both sides moved on.

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