

vick's redemption

by Mary Elchert

Second chances; the base of our society. If one looked at American history and culture, one will find the America is the land of opportunity and second chances. As Americans, we root for the comeback kid, the underdog. When a child falls off a bike while trying to learn how to ride, the parents do not reprimand or discourage the kid; rather they help and support the child into getting back on the bike and trying again. If a student is failing a class or flunks a test, the teacher will help the student as much as possible; sometimes giving the student extra credit, also known as a second chance to boost their grade. In fact, one of the most famous quotes in our society is simply put "If you didn't do something right the first time, try, try again." Now ask this: should a "second chance" be allowed for an NFL player?

I believe yes. But when Michael Vick signed with the Philadelphia Eagles, chaos swept the nation. Everyone from football fans to PETA advocates voiced their opinions, most negative. The Eagle administration was targeted with harsh criticism and Vick was quickly put in the line of fire. "How could they let Vick back in the NFL? He tortured animals! Why let him back? He doesn't deserve it"

Andy Reid, the head coach of the Eagles, understands what it means to have a second chance. Not too long ago, Reid's family went through an uphill battle with his sons. His sons were arrested under drug and gun allegations. Although the after shocks of those events are in the past, they will never be forgotten.

Vick deserves a second chance. He has served eighteen months in prison for dog-fighting. He has been working with the Humane Society for three months and is on a campaign to terminate dog fighting and other forms of animal abuse. Vick has also been talking to children all over the nation, urging them to work as hard as they can on their education and telling them about his life and the troubles he's overcome, both recent and in the past. "Use me as an example," Vick stated at North Philadelphia Nueva Esperanza charter school in North Philadelphia as he told them about himself. "It is easy to make the wrong decision and it's hard to make the right decision. I made the wrong decision."

This NFL player has paid overtime for his mistakes. Some NFL players have paid very little for much greater mistakes. Donte Stallworth, a prior Eagles player and now Browns wide receiver, was driving home, under the influence, from a Miami hotel. Things took a turn for the worse when Stallworth hit a person and killed them. He served two years behind bars for cruelty to animals. Since when are animal lives more important than human lives? Stallworth was also placed on house arrest and has lost his driver's license.

We talk about second chances and how most people don't seem to get them but Vick isn't like most people. He was a great player and in 2004 he was on the cover of Madden Football. He was also the face of the Atlanta Falcons team and the NFL franchise during his prime. As an Eagle fan, I'm personally happy to see Vick join the roster. He's a great addition to the team and he makes our offense diverse in play tactics. Vick deserves this chance to prove he isn't a has been and is still a great quarterback. Like Rocky, the famous spokesperson of Philadelphia. He was the comeback king and so is Vick.

Vick's NFL Stats

- Completed 930 passes out of 1,730 attempts
- Threw 71 touchdowns but had 52 interceptions
- Career passer rating 75.7
- Rushed for 3,859 yards in 529 attempts
- Averaged 7.3 yards per carry and scored 21 touchdowns



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who let the dog out?

by Nathan Teada

In the spring of 2007 the news came out that star quarterback, of the Atlanta Falcons, Mike Vick was involved and running a dog fight club called "Bad Newz Kennels." The aftermath against Vick was something no one was truly ready for. Half the country was fuming over this and the other half were forgiving and willing to forget. At that time our area was widely against Vick and hated him for everything and shunned him from the kids sight. Now Vick has signed with the Eagles and has been granted permission to play again, however now there is a wide range of people in this same area ready to embrace him and neglect his past. What happened in between? Senior Mike Nasatka simply said, "He became an Eagle."

What happened in between was that the Eagles quarterback struggled and was benched mid season and then lost to the Cardinals in the playoffs. It is funny how people are so ready to forgive and forget when it comes to winning at anything in life. Why does winning or lack there of forgive all? I believe people deserve second chances when it makes sense and it fits. That being said, Vick coming back is a no win situation for both sides.

The Eagles offense is a very pass heavy offense. Logically you would need a good throwing quarterback to have the offense work at its highest potential, which they do in McNabb. This is a problem though for Vick. Throughout his career, Vick has always struggled with reading and breaking down defenses and making the correct throw to an open receiver. So combining the two things makes it a fantastic fit right? In Vick's last season his highest passing yards in a game was 291, while McNabb last season averaged close to that with 261.06 passing yards a game and a high of 361 passing yards. Numbers do not tell the whole story. Nothing good can come from a lazy quarterback in a timing oriented offense. Senior Alex Wallace might have said it best "I feel he should've went to a team that he could have made a bigger impact on the field with.

Despite all of these red flags, the Eagles could not resist him and signed him to a one year deal with a team option for the second. Maybe the worst part of bringing in Vick is the effect on the Eagles current starting quarterback, McNabb. McNabb is the third best quarterback of the last ten years. That being said he does not do well when his job is threatened. McNabb led the Eagles to four straight conference championships despite not having a running game. However when his job was threatened by a solid back-up Jeff Garcia, he had his worst season of his career. So instead of reassuring their franchise quarterback they bring in former number one pick overall and pro-bowler Mike Vick.

Vick coming back is great for the league. I think he deserves a second chance, just not here, not now. If someone is going to get a second chance it should be because he deserves it and not because you need to stir up some media coverage or be pictured as some kind of savior. Ideally Vick would have and should have gone somewhere where the team needs him and has been supportive of him throughout the whole situation.

Facts about Mike Vick

- Plead Guilty to Dogfighting on August 24, 2007
- Killed approximately 6-8 dogs
- Served a two years prison sentence
- Paid \$350,000 dollars in fines
- Upon release openly apologized to public
- Suspended from NFL for 1 year and 2 games



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