

## = History of the New York Giants =

The history of the New York Giants , an American football team which currently plays in the NFL 's National Football Conference , comprises more than 80 seasons . The Giants were founded in 1925 by Tim Mara in the then five @-@ year @-@ old NFL . Mara owned the team until his death in 1959 , when it was passed on to his sons , Wellington and Jack . During their history , the Giants have won eight NFL championships , four of which came in Super Bowls .

In just its third season , the team finished with the best record in the league at 11 ? 1 ? 1 and was awarded the NFL title . In a 14 @-@ year span beginning in 1933 , New York qualified to play in the NFL championship game eight times , winning twice ( 1934 and 1938 ) . They did not win another championship until 1956 , aided by several future Hall of Fame players such as running back Frank Gifford , linebacker Sam Huff , and offensive tackle Roosevelt Brown . From 1958 to 1963 , the Giants played in the NFL championship game five times , but failed to win . The 1958 NFL Championship game , in which they lost 23 ? 17 in overtime to the Baltimore Colts , is credited with increasing the popularity of the NFL in the United States .

The Giants registered just two winning seasons from 1964 to 1980 and were unable to advance to the playoffs . From 1981 to 1990 , the team qualified for the postseason seven times and won Super Bowls XXI and XXV . The team 's success during the 1980s was aided by head coach Bill Parcells , quarterback Phil Simms and Hall of Fame linebackers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson . New York struggled throughout much of the 1990s as Parcells left the team , and players such as Simms and Taylor declined and eventually retired . They returned to the Super Bowl in 2000 , but lost to the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV . The Giants upset the heavily favored New England Patriots in Super Bowls XLII and XLVI .

## = = Timeline = =

Season by season timeline of the New York Giants franchise including the team name , changes of Home Field , Postseason Championships Seasons , and coaches throughout the years .

## = = Birth and success : 1925 ? 1930 = =

The Giants were founded in 1925 by original owner Tim Mara with an investment of \$ 500 . Legally named " New York Football Giants " ( which they still are to this day ) to distinguish themselves from the baseball team of the same name , they became one of the first teams in the then five @-@ year @-@ old National Football League . In 1919 , Charles Stoneham , the owner of the New York Giants baseball team , had organized and promoted a professional football team to be called the New York Giants . The team folded before its first game .

The New York Football Giants played their first game against All New Britain in New Britain , Connecticut on October 5 , 1925 .

Although the Giants were successful on the field in their first season , going 8 ? 4 , their financial status was a different story . Overshadowed by baseball , boxing , and college football , professional football was not a popular sport in 1925 . They were in dire financial straits until the eleventh game of the season , when Red Grange and the Chicago Bears came to town , attracting over 73 @,@ 000 fans . This gave the Giants a much needed influx of revenue , and perhaps altered the history of the franchise .

New York finished 11 ? 1 ? 1 in 1927 . Their league @-@ best defense posted 10 shutouts in 13 games . New coach Earl Pottenger led the team into a late @-@ season game against Chicago with first place on the line . New York won 13 ? 7 in what lineman Steve Owen called " the toughest , roughest football game I ever played . " Then they won their final two regular season games to secure their first championship .

Following a disappointing 4 ? 7 ? 2 season the next year , Pottenger was replaced by LeRoy Andrews . Before the 1929 season , Mara purchased the entire squad of the Detroit Wolverines , including star quarterback Benny Friedman . The Wolverines had finished in third place the year

before . Led by Friedman , New York 's record soared to 13 ? 1 ? 1 . However , their lone loss was a 20 ? 6 setback in November to the Green Bay Packers , and by virtue of this win , and their 12 ? 0 ? 1 record , won the NFL title . Following the season , Mara transferred ownership over to his two sons to insulate the team from creditors . At the time , Jack was just 22 , and Wellington only 14 .

In 1930 , the quality of the professional game was still in question , with many claiming the college " amateurs " played with more intensity . In December 1930 , the Giants played a team of Notre Dame All @-@ Stars at the Polo Grounds to raise money for the unemployed of New York City . It was also an opportunity to establish the superiority of the pro game . Knute Rockne reassembled his Four Horsemen along with other Notre Dame legends , and told them to score early , then defend . But from the beginning , it was a one @-@ sided contest , with Benny Friedman running for two Giants touchdowns and Hap Moran passing for another . Notre Dame failed to score . When it was over , Rockne told his team , " [ t ] hat was the greatest football machine I ever saw . I am glad none of you got hurt . " The game raised \$ 115 @,@ 183 for the homeless , and is often credited with establishing the legitimacy of the professional game .

= = Steve Owen era : 1931 ? 1953 = =

The Giants hired All @-@ Pro offensive tackle Steve Owen to be their new player @-@ head coach prior to the 1931 season . He coached the team for the next 23 years , including two NFL championships , and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1966 . Owen never had a contract with the Mara family ; he coached his entire tenure on a handshake basis .

Before the 1931 season , New York acquired center Mel Hein , who also played the linebacker position . He would go on to a fifteen @-@ year NFL career in which , as a center , he became an All @-@ NFL First Team selection eight times , and the only offensive lineman ever named league MVP . Friedman quit the team following the season when Mara denied him an ownership stake , telling him " I 'm sorry ... but the Giants are for my sons . " New York struggled in 1931 and 1932 , finishing with a combined record of 11 ? 12 ? 3 .

The Giants acquired University of Michigan All @-@ American quarterback Harry Newman and versatile free agent halfback Ken Strong before the 1933 season . New York finished 11 ? 3 , first in the new Eastern Division . Newman led the NFL in passes completed ( 53 ) , passing yards ( 973 ) , touchdown passes ( 11 ) , and longest pass completion ( 78 yards ) , with his passing yardage total setting an NFL record . New York 's resurgence was led by some of the league 's best linemen , such as Ray Flaherty and future Hall of Famers Red Badgro , and Hein . They advanced to play in the league 's first official championship game in Chicago 's Wrigley Field versus the Bears , where they lost 23 ? 21 in a game which had six lead changes .

In the 1934 NFL Championship Game , the Giants defeated previously unbeaten Chicago 30 ? 13 at the Polo Grounds on an icy field with temperatures peaking at 25 degrees . Before the game , team treasurer John Mara talked with Owen and team captain Flaherty about the field conditions . Flaherty suggested the Giants wear sneakers on the frozen field , as he had played in a game under similar circumstances at Gonzaga , and the sneakers proved to be effective . Mara dispatched equipment manager Abe Cohen to get as many sneakers as he could get . Due to traffic and the inability to find any athletic goods stores open on Sunday , Cohen was unable to return before the game started , and the Giants , wearing conventional footwear , trailed 10 ? 3 at the end of the first half . Realizing time was short , Cohen went to Manhattan College ? where he had a key to the equipment and locker rooms ? and returned to the Polo Grounds at halftime with nine pairs of basketball sneakers , saying that " nine pairs was all I could get . " Players donned the sneakers and New York , after allowing Chicago another field goal late in the 3rd quarter , responded with 27 unanswered points in the 4th quarter to win their first NFL Championship game . The game would come to be known as " The Sneakers Game " , and the 27 points the Giants scored in the 4th quarter set a single ? quarter championship game scoring record that stood for decades . After the game , offensive tackle Len Grant expressed his sincere gratitude by stating " God bless Abe Cohen . "

The Giants were unable to repeat as champions in 1935 , as they fell to the Detroit Lions 26 ? 7 in

the NFL Championship game . The Lion staked a 13 ? 0 lead before the Giants were able to cut the lead to 13 ? 7 in the 3rd quarter . However , the Lions defense helped their team score two late touchdowns with a blocked punt and an interception .

The Giants were so successful from the latter half of the 1930s until the United States ' entry into World War II , that according to one publication , " [ f ] rom 1936 to 1941 the New York Giants annually fielded a collection of NFL all @-@ stars . " They added their third NFL championship in 1938 with a 23 ? 17 win over Green Bay . The Giants blocked two Green Bay punts to establish an early advantage before the Packers came back to take a 17 ? 16 lead . However , in the 4th quarter , Ed Danowski threw a 23 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Hank Soar , and the Giants defense held the Packers scoreless .

The Giants made the championship game again the next year , but lost in a rematch to the Packers , 31 ? 16 . They also advanced to the championship game in 1941 , losing to the Bears 37 ? 9 . Both games were close early before their respective opponents went on an offensive surge to break the game open late . In 1944 , the Giants reached the championship game , where they faced the Green Bay Packers for the third time in ten seasons . They lost again , this time 14 ? 7 as Ted Fritsch scored two touchdowns , and the Packers defense was able to hold on to the lead despite a 4th @-@ quarter touchdown by the Giants . By 1946 , Mara had given over complete control of the team to his two sons . Jack controlled the business aspects , while Wellington controlled the on @-@ field operations . In 1946 , the Giants again reached the Championship game , for the eighth time in 14 seasons . However , they were beaten by the Sid Luckman @-@ led Bears , 24 ? 14 .

Before the 1948 season , the Giants signed defensive back Emlen Tunnell , the first African American player in team history , and later the first African American inducted into the Hall of Fame . They struggled from 1947 to 1949 , never finishing above .500 , but came back with a solid 10 ? 2 record in 1950 . However , they lost to the Cleveland Browns , who they had beaten twice in the regular season , 8 ? 3 in the 1950 divisional playoff game . In 1949 , halfback Gene " Choo @-@ Choo " Roberts scored a league high 17 touchdowns , and in 1950 , he set a team record that would stand for over 50 years , when he rushed for 218 yards on November 12 .

= = Jim Lee Howell and the Hall of Famers : 1954 ? 1958 = =

Following the 1953 season , an important transition in Giants history occurred . After being the team 's coach for 23 years , Steve Owen was fired by Wellington and Jack Mara , and replaced by Jim Lee Howell . Wellington later described the move by calling it " the hardest decision I 'd ever made " . New York went 7 ? 5 in 1954 under Howell . In their 31st and final season playing their home games at the Polo Grounds in 1955 , they went 5 ? 1 ? 1 over their final seven games to finish 6 ? 5 ? 1 . They were led by rejuvenated running back Frank Gifford , who played the entire season solely on offense for the first time in several years .

The Giants won their fourth NFL Championship in 1956 . Playing their home games at Yankee Stadium for the first time , New York won the Eastern Division with an 8 ? 3 ? 1 record . In the NFL Championship Game on an icy field against the Chicago Bears , the Giants wore sneakers as they had 22 years previous . They dominated the Bears , winning 47 ? 7 . The 1956 Giants featured a number of future Hall of Fame players , including Gifford , Sam Huff , and Roosevelt Brown . Equally notable , the team featured as its coordinators future Hall of Fame head coaches Tom Landry ( defense ) and Vince Lombardi ( offense ) .

= = = The Greatest Game Ever Played : 1958 = = =

The Giants had another successful year in 1958 . They tied for the Eastern Division regular season title with a 9 ? 3 record by defeating the Cleveland Browns 13 ? 10 on the last day of the regular season . They beat the Browns again a week later in a one @-@ game playoff to determine the division winner . They advanced to play the Baltimore Colts in the NFL Championship Game . This game , which would become known as " The Greatest Game Ever Played " , is considered a watershed moment in league history , and marked the beginning of the rise of professional football

into the dominant sport in the American market . The game was competitive . The Giants got off to an early 3 ? 0 lead , then the Colts scored two touchdowns to take a 14 ? 3 halftime lead .

In the 3rd quarter , New York 's defense made a goal line stand , which became a turning point in the game . New York , who had trouble mounting drives to that point , then had a 95 @-@ yard drive which culminated in a touchdown , making the score 14 ? 10 . They drove again in the 4th quarter , with quarterback Charlie Conerly throwing a 15 @-@ yard touchdown pass to Frank Gifford to take the lead , 17 ? 14 .

The Colts put together one last drive with less than two minutes left . The standout player was receiver Raymond Berry , who caught three passes for 62 yards , the last one for 22 yards to the New York 13 @-@ yard line . With seven seconds left in regulation , Steve Myhra kicked a 20 @-@ yard field goal to tie the score 17 ? 17 , sending a game to overtime for the first time in NFL history .

After winning the coin toss and receiving the ball , the Giants offense stalled and was forced to punt . From their own 20 , the Colts drove the ball to the New York 1 @-@ yard line , where Alan Ameche ran for a touchdown to give the Colts the championship , 23 ? 17 .

= = More success : 1959 ? 1963 = =

New York 's success continued in the 1960s . They finished 9 ? 3 in 1959 and faced the Colts in a championship game rematch . They lost again , this time in a far less dramatic game , 31 ? 16 . Led by quarterback Y.A. Tittle and head coach Allie Sherman , the Giants won three consecutive Eastern Division titles from 1961 ? 1963 . In 1961 , they were beaten 37 ? 0 by the Packers . In 1962 , they went into the championship game with a league @-@ best 12 ? 2 record and a nine ? game winning streak , but they lost to the Packers again , 16 ? 7 .

The Giants finished with an 11 ? 3 record in 1963 and faced the Bears in the NFL championship game . On an icy field in Chicago , the Giants ' defense played well , but the Bears newly invented zone defense intercepted Tittle five times and battered him throughout the game . Sherman resisted calls from players such as linebacker Sam Huff to replace the struggling Tittle . The Giants defense held the Bears in check , but they lost 14 ? 10 , their third straight NFL Championship Game defeat .

The Giants ' run of championship game appearances combined with their large market location translated into financial success . By the early 1960s , the Giants were receiving \$ 175 @, @ 000 a game under the NFL 's television contract with CBS ? four times as much as small @-@ market Green Bay , which was one of the most successful teams of the era . However , in the league 's new contract , the Maras convinced the other owners that it would be in the best interest of the NFL to share television revenue equally , a practice which is still current , and is credited with strengthening the league .

= = Wilderness years begin : 1964 ? 1972 = =

After the 1963 season , the team fell apart . A roster filled with mostly older veterans plus some bad personnel moves ( e.g. the dispatching of Rosey Grier , Sam Huff , and Don Chandler ) lead to a quick exit from the top of the standings . The Giants finished 2 ? 10 ? 2 in 1964 , beginning an 18 @-@ season playoff drought .

The seasons of 1964 through 1980 in team history have often been referred to as " the wilderness years " for several reasons : 1 ) The franchise lost its status as an elite NFL team by posting only two winning seasons , against twelve losing and three .500 seasons during this span ; 2 ) The Giants became a " team of nomads , " calling four different stadiums home in the 1970s ( Yankee Stadium , the Yale Bowl , Shea Stadium , and finally Giants Stadium in 1976 ) ; 3 ) New York tried several head coach and quarterback combinations during this period , but with almost no success ( from 1964 to 1983 , no coach or starting quarterback could boast even a .500 record ) . The team rebounded with a 7 ? 7 record in 1965 , ( mostly due to the acquisition of quarterback Earl Morrall during the offseason ) before compiling a league @-@ worst 1 ? 12 ? 1 record and allowing over 500 points on defense in 1966 . This season also included a 72 ? 41 loss to the rival Washington

Redskins at D.C. Stadium in the highest @-@ scoring game in league history . Interest in the team was waning , especially with the rapid rise of the New York Jets , with their wide @-@ open style of play and charismatic quarterback Joe Namath .

The Giants acquired quarterback Fran Tarkenton from the Minnesota Vikings before the 1967 season in exchange for their 1st- and 2nd @-@ round draft picks , and showed improvement . They finished 7 ? 7 in 1967 and were 7 ? 3 through ten games in 1968 . Leaving them one game behind Capitol Division leader Dallas . However , New York dropped its final four games to again finish 7 ? 7 . Notably , in 1968 , one of Tarkenton 's favorite targets , wide receiver Homer Jones made the Pro Bowl ; it wasn 't until 2010 that another Giants receiver , ( Steve Smith ) , would make the Pro Bowl . Through the 2007 season , no other Giants receiver has been selected for the Pro Bowl . Jones ' average of 22 @. @ 3 yards per reception for his career is still an NFL record .

During the 1969 preseason , the Giants lost their first meeting with the Jets , 37 ? 14 at the Yale Bowl in New Haven , Connecticut . Following the game , Wellington Mara fired coach Allie Sherman and replaced him with former Giants fullback Alex Webster . On opening day of the 1969 regular season , Tarkenton led New York to a 24 ? 23 victory over his former team , the Vikings , by throwing two touchdown passes in the 4th quarter . The Giants went 6 ? 8 that season . They showed marked improvement in 1970 ; after an 0 ? 3 start , they rebounded to finish 9 ? 5 , narrowly missing the playoffs by losing their final game to the Los Angeles Rams . Tarkenton had one of his best seasons as a Giant and made his fourth straight Pro Bowl . Running back Ron Johnson was also selected to the Pro Bowl ; the halfback ran for 1 @, @ 027 yards , becoming the first Giant to gain 1 @, @ 000 yards rushing in a season .

In 1971 , Johnson missed most of the season with a knee injury , and New York dropped to 4 ? 10 , resulting in Tarkenton being traded back to the Vikings . The Giants rallied somewhat in 1972 to finish 8 ? 6 . Journeyman quarterback Norm Snead ( acquired in the trade for Tarkenton ) led the league in completion percentage and had his best season . Other standouts and Pro Bowl selections that year were running back Johnson , who rushed for 1 @, @ 182 yards ( breaking his own team record ) and caught 45 passes , tight end Bob Tucker , who followed up his 1971 NFC @-@ leading 59 @-@ catch season with 55 in 1972 , and defensive stars Jack Gregory and John Mendenhall . The Giants boasted the top offense in the NFC and after a season @-@ finishing 23 ? 3 win at Dallas to secure their second winning campaign in three years , the future looked bright . However , after the 1972 season , New York would endure one of the worst periods in its history .

= = Leaving New York : 1973 ? 1978 = =

Desiring their own home stadium , in 1973 , the Giants reached an agreement with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to play their home games at a new , state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art , dedicated football stadium . Later named Giants Stadium , it was to be built at a new sports complex in East Rutherford , New Jersey .

As the complex was being built , and their current home at Yankee Stadium was being renovated , they would be without a home for three years , and dubbed " the orphans of the NFL . " Their final full season at Yankee Stadium was 1972 . After playing their first two games there in 1973 , the Giants played the rest of their home games in 1973 , as well as all of their home games in 1974 , at the Yale Bowl in New Haven , Connecticut . This was done out of a desire to have their own home field , as opposed to having to share Shea Stadium with the Jets . However , between access problems , neighborhood issues , the fact that the Yale Bowl was not ideally suited for pro football ( the stadium did not have lights , nor does it today ) , the age of the stadium ( built in 1914 ) , and the lack of modern amenities , the Giants reconsidered their decision and agreed to share Shea Stadium with the Jets in 1975 . New York left the Yale Bowl after losing all seven home games played there in 1974 and compiling a home record of 1 ? 11 over that two @-@ year stretch .

One of the bright spots in this era was tight end Bob Tucker . From 1970 through 1977 , Tucker was one of the top tight ends in the NFL . He amassed 327 receptions , 4 @, @ 376 yards , and 22 touchdowns during his years as a Giant .

Despite their new home and heightened fan interest , New York still played subpar football in 1976

and 1977 . In 1978 , the Giants started the year 5 ? 6 and on November 19 , 1978 , played the Philadelphia Eagles at home with a chance to solidify their playoff prospects . However , the season imploded in one of the most improbable finishes in NFL history . The Giants led 17 ? 12 and had possession of the ball with only 30 seconds left . They had to just kneel the ball to end the game , as the Eagles had no time outs . However , instead of kneeling the ball , offensive coordinator Bob Gibson ordered New York quarterback Joe Pisarcik to hand the ball off to fullback Larry Csonka . Csonka was unprepared to receive the handoff , and the ball rolled off his hip and bounced free . Eagles safety Herman Edwards picked up the loose ball and ran , untouched , for a score , giving the Eagles an improbable 19 ? 17 victory . This play is referred to as " The Miracle in the Meadowlands " among Eagles fans , and " The Fumble " among Giants fans .

In the aftermath of the defeat , Gibson was fired , and the Giants lost three out of their last four games to finish out of the playoffs for the 15th straight season , leading them to let coach John McVay go as well . However , following the 1978 season came the steps that would , in time , return New York to the pinnacle of the NFL .

= = Building a champion : 1979 ? 1985 = =

New York decided to hire a general manager for the first time in franchise history following the 1978 season . The search grew contentious and fractured the relationship between owners Wellington and Tim Mara . Finally , the Maras asked NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle to step in with a recommendation . Rozelle recommended George Young , who worked in personnel for the Miami Dolphins and had been an assistant coach for the Baltimore Colts . Young was hired , but the rift between the Maras lasted for several years .

Young hired San Diego Chargers assistant Ray Perkins as head coach and drafted unknown quarterback Phil Simms from Morehead State to the surprise of many . New York continued to struggle , finishing 6 ? 10 in 1979 and 4 ? 12 in 1980 . With the 2nd overall pick in the 1981 draft , the Giants selected linebacker Lawrence Taylor . The impact that Taylor had on the Giants ' defense was immediate . He was named the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year and NFL Defensive Player of the Year , becoming , to date , the only rookie to ever win the NFL Defensive Player of the Year award . His arrival raised the Giants linebacking corps ? which already included future Hall of Famer Harry Carson and Pro Bowler Brad Van Pelt ? into one of the NFL 's best . It also predicated New York 's transformation from allowing 425 points in 1980 to 257 in 1981 . They went 9 ? 7 and defeated the Eagles in the first round of the playoffs , 27 ? 21 , then lost to the eventual Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers 38 ? 24 in the divisional playoffs .

In the strike @-@ shortened 1982 season , the Giants lost their first two games before the strike , and their first game upon returning . They won their next three games to even their record at 3 ? 3 . Perkins then announced that he was leaving to take the head coaching job at Alabama after the season , and the team lost the next two games , effectively eliminating them from the playoffs ( despite defeating the Eagles in the season finale to go 4 ? 5 ) . Taylor remained a bright spot , repeating as the league 's Defensive Player of the Year . Young chose Bill Parcells , the Giants ' defensive coordinator , as the team 's new head coach .

Parcells first year proved difficult . In his first major decision , he named Scott Brunner as his starting quarterback over Phil Simms . At first , it appeared his decision was justified , especially after a 27 ? 3 Monday night victory over Green Bay gave New York a 2 ? 2 record . But then they lost 10 of their final 12 games . Parcells ignored fans ' protests and stuck with Brunner for most of the year , although Jeff Rutledge saw considerable late @-@ season action . Simms finally played in a week six game against the Eagles , only to suffer a season ? ending thumb injury .

Simms won the starting job back in 1984 , and Brunner was traded . The Giants had a resurgent season , highlighted by a second @-@ half stretch where they won five of six games . Despite losing their last two to finish 9 ? 7 , they still made the playoffs . In the first round , they defeated the highly favored Los Angeles Rams 16 ? 13 on the road before losing 21 ? 10 to the eventual Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers . Simms threw for 4 @,@ 044 yards , making him the first Giant to pass for 4 @,@ 000 yards in a season .

The Giants success continued in 1985 by going 10 ? 6 . The defense carried the team and led the NFL in sacks with 68 . They won their first @-@ round playoff game , 17 ? 3 over the defending champion 49ers . It was New York 's first postseason win at home since 1958 , and their first ever at Giants Stadium . In the divisional playoffs , they lost 21 ? 0 to the eventual Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears . Many of the players that would play key roles on New York 's Super Bowl teams emerged in 1985 . Joe Morris became the feature back , running for 1 @,@ 338 yards , scoring 21 touchdowns , and making the Pro Bowl . Second @-@ year receiver Lionel Manuel led the Giants with 49 receptions , and rookie tight end Mark Bavaro had 37 catches . Simms threw every pass for New York for the second consecutive season , and passed for over 3 @,@ 800 yards . Defensive end Leonard Marshall recorded 15 @.@ 5 sacks , and Taylor added 13 .

= = Back on top : 1986 ? 1990 = =

= = = 1986 : Super Bowl Champions = = =

New York entered the 1986 season as one of the favorites to win the Super Bowl . They had their first test in a Monday Night game against the defending NFC East champion Dallas Cowboys . They lost at Texas Stadium , 31 ? 28 . However , they won their next five in a row and 14 of their last 15 , to finish the season with a 14 ? 2 record . One of the signature plays of the season occurred during a Monday Night game in December . Here is a description of the play taken from a Monday Night Football broadcast in 2005 : " On December 1st , 1986 ... with the Giants trailing , ( Mark ) Bavaro catches an innocent pass from Phil Simms over the middle . It takes nearly seven 49ers defenders to finally drag him down , some of which are carried for almost 20 yards , including future Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott . Bavaro ? s inspiring play jump starts the Giants , who win the game and eventually the Super Bowl . " New York 's defense allowed 236 points during the season , second fewest in the NFL , and Taylor set a team record with 20 @.@ 5 sacks . He won a record third Defensive Player of the Year Award , and was named league MVP .

The Giants defeated San Francisco 49 ? 3 in the NFC Divisional Playoffs , then Washington 17 ? 0 in the NFC Championship Game . The Giants advanced to play the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXI in front of 101 @,@ 063 fans at the Rose Bowl . After falling behind 10 ? 9 at halftime , they came back to beat the Broncos 39 ? 20 . Simms was named the game 's MVP after completing 22 of 25 ( 88 % ) of his passes ? a Super Bowl record .

= = = 1987 ? 1989 = = =

In 1987 , the Giants lost their first two games before the players strike . Unlike the players strike five years previous , NFL owners made a decision to use replacement players , but still lost all three replacement games , putting them at 0 ? 5 when the strike ended . Though the Giants went 6 ? 4 over their final 10 games , they finished out of the playoffs at 6 ? 9 . Bright spots for the season included tight end Mark Bavaro , who led the team in catches with 55 , and three New York 's linebackers making the Pro Bowl ? Taylor , Carson , and Carl Banks .

New York 's 1988 season got off to a turbulent start due an offseason scandal involving Taylor . Taylor had abused cocaine , violating the NFL 's substance abuse policy and was suspended for the first four games of the season . Taylor 's over @-@ the @-@ edge lifestyle was becoming an increasing concern for fans and team officials . After his return , however , Taylor recorded 15 @.@ 5 sacks in 12 games . The intense worry and scrutiny would prove to be for naught as for the rest of his career Taylor would pass his drug tests .

Predictably , the Giants struggled to start the season . They were 2 ? 2 when Taylor returned from his suspension . With Taylor back and playing well , however , they won six out of their next eight games . After two straight losses , the Giants won their next three contests to set up a win @-@ or @-@ go @-@ home game against the Jets in the season finale . The Jets defeated the Giants 27 ? 21 . When the Eagles beat the Cowboys , and the 49ers lost to the Rams later that night , the

Eagles won the NFC East and the Rams clinched the final Wild Card berth . The Giants finished on the outside looking in despite a 10 ? 6 record , because in the tiebreakers , they were swept in the season series by Philadelphia and had a worse conference record than the Rams .

The Giants ' 12 ? 4 record in 1989 was the NFC 's second @-@ best ( only to San Francisco 's 14 ? 2 record ) They lost their divisional playoff game in overtime to the Rams , 19 ? 13 . The highlight of the game was wide receiver Flipper Anderson 's catch of the game winning touchdown pass . After catching the ball , Anderson made a long run to the end zone , silencing the crowd in attendance . In 1989 , free @-@ agent acquisition Ottis Anderson ran for 1 @,@ 023 yards and caught 28 passes . Rookie Dave Meggett also emerged as a threat on third downs and special teams , catching 34 passes for 531 yards , and making the Pro Bowl .

= = = 1990 : Champions again = = =

The Giants won their first 10 games of the 1990 season , setting a record for the best start in the team 's history . The San Francisco 49ers also got off to a strong start , matching New York with their own 10 ? 0 start . Although both teams lost their next game , their Week 13 matchup was still eagerly anticipated . The Giants held the 49ers ' vaunted offense to seven points , but scored just three themselves .

New York won the following week against Minnesota before facing the Buffalo Bills in their regular season home finale . Despite holding a significant advantage in time of possession , they lost 17 ? 13 , for their third loss in four games . To compound New York 's problems , Phil Simms went down with an injury that would sideline him for the rest of the year . His replacement , Jeff Hostetler , was an unproven career backup , who had thrown a mere 68 passes coming into the season .

The Giants won their final two games to secure a 13 ? 3 record and a first @-@ round playoff bye as the NFC 's # 2 seed . They defeated Chicago 31 ? 3 in the Divisional Playoffs , setting up a rematch with the 49ers in San Francisco for the NFC Championship . As they had in Week 13 , the Giants ' defense held San Francisco 's offense in check . In the game 's waning moments , nose tackle Erik Howard caused a Roger Craig fumble , and Taylor recovered it . New York drove downfield into San Francisco territory , and on the game 's last play , kicker Matt Bahr hit a 42 @-@ yard field goal to defeat the 49ers , 15 ? 13 .

The win set up another rematch , this time in the Super Bowl against the Buffalo Bills .

= = = = Super Bowl XXV = = = =

Super Bowl XXV took place amidst a background of war and patriotism . The Persian Gulf War had begun less than two weeks previous , and the nation rallied around the Super Bowl as a symbol of America . The Giants got off to a quick 3 ? 0 lead ; however , the Bills scored the next 12 points . The Giants responded by running a nearly eight @-@ minute drive , which culminated in a 14 @-@ yard touchdown pass from Hostetler to Stephen Baker .

The Giants received the second @-@ half kickoff and mounted a record @-@ setting drive . The opening drive ran for over nine minutes ( a Super Bowl record ) and culminated in a 1 @-@ yard touchdown run by Ottis Anderson , giving the Giants a 17 ? 12 lead . On the first play of the 4th quarter , the Bills ' Thurman Thomas ran for a 31 @-@ yard touchdown that put Buffalo back in front , 19 ? 17 . On the ensuing possession , the Giants drove down to the Buffalo 4 @-@ yard line , and Bahr made a 21 @-@ yard field goal , which gave the Giants a 20 ? 19 lead . Both teams exchanged possessions before the Bills began one final drive , driving down to the Giants 29 @-@ yard line to set up what would be a potential game @-@ winning 47 @-@ yard field goal attempt by Scott Norwood . In what would become the game 's signature moment , Norwood 's attempt missed wide right , and the Giants won their second Super Bowl , 20 ? 19 .

The Giants set a Super Bowl record for time of possession with a mark of 40 : 33 , and Ottis Anderson was named MVP of the game after rushing for 102 yards and a touchdown .

= = = End of an era = = =



The 1990 season marked the end of an era . After the Super Bowl , defensive coordinator Bill Belichick left to become head coach of the Cleveland Browns . Parcells also decided to leave the Giants in the spring of 1991 to pursue a career in broadcasting . In addition , there was an ownership change in what had been one of the most stable front offices in professional sports . In February 1991 , Tim Mara was diagnosed with cancer , and he sold his 50 % interest in the team to Bob Tisch for a reported \$ 80 million . This marked the first time since their inception in 1925 that the Giants had not been wholly owned and controlled by the Mara family .

= = After Parcells ? The Handley era : 1991 ? 1992 = =

Following the departure of Parcells and Belichick ? who many people saw as the likely successor to Parcells ? the surprise choice as head coach was running backs coach Ray Handley . Handley , however , was a somewhat reluctant coach , whose approach stood in stark contrast to the passionate and emotional style employed by Parcells .

As with Parcells eight years previous , one of Handley 's first major decisions involved replacing Phil Simms as starting quarterback . Jeff Hostetler was named the team 's starter . Though the Giants won their opening game in an NFC Championship Game rematch against the 49ers , 16 ? 14 , they lost three out of their next four games to drop to 2 ? 3 . Though they rallied to finish the season 8 ? 8 , and Simms reclaimed his starting job later in the year , the excitement that surrounded the Giants the previous year was gone . One of the few promising young players to emerge on the team was second ? year running back Rodney Hampton , who led the Giants in rushing with 1 @, @ 059 yards .

Through the 1991 season , it was clear that the team 's core players on defense had aged quickly . This deterioration continued in 1992 , when Lawrence Taylor ruptured his Achilles tendon in the team 's tenth game , and the Giants promptly lost six out of their last seven games to finish the year 6 ? 10 . The defense continued its descent , finishing 26th in the league in points allowed after leading the league in that category in 1990 . Handley , who had become unpopular with both players and fans , was fired after the end of the regular season .

= = Dan Reeves takes over : 1993 ? 96 = =

Handley was replaced by former Denver Broncos head coach Dan Reeves , who led the Broncos to three Super Bowls in four years , one against the Giants . After his dismissal from the Broncos , Reeves took the unusual step of lobbying for the job . After being rebuffed by a number of candidates , George Young was pleased that someone with Reeves 's credentials wanted the job .

Reeves ' impact was immediate . As Parcells had done in 1984 , Reeves named Simms his starting quarterback . The defense returned to form , and allowed more than 20 points once all season . With two regular season games left , the Giants were 11 ? 3 and appeared poised for a first @-@ round playoff bye . They were upset by a Phoenix Cardinals team , who came into the game with just five wins , 17 ? 6 , in the next @-@ to @-@ last week of the season , setting up a winner ? take ? all contest against Dallas in the final regular season game . Though the Giants played well , it was Emmitt Smith 's memorable performance with a separated shoulder that led the Cowboys to a 16 ? 13 overtime win , giving the Cowboys a sweep of the season series and home @-@ field advantage throughout the NFC Playoffs . Despite the loss , the Giants made the playoffs as a Wild Card and won their first @-@ round game , 17 ? 10 over the Vikings . However , they were defeated by the San Francisco 49ers 44 ? 3 in the divisional playoffs . Simms played in all 16 games , completing nearly 62 % of his passes , and threw for over 3 @, @ 000 yards and 15 touchdowns . Simms , Hampton , offensive linemen Jumbo Elliot and center Bart Oates made the Pro Bowl , and Reeves was named Coach of the Year by the Associated Press . After the season , Lawrence Taylor and Phil Simms , the two biggest figures of the late 1980s and early 1990s Giants teams , retired .

Before the 1994 season , Reeves named Dave Brown , who had been a # 1 supplemental draft choice in 1992 , the Giants starting quarterback . Though Brown led the Giants to wins in their first

three games , they lost their next seven . The Giants recovered to win their last six games of the season , but missed the playoffs . During the winning streak , they never allowed more than 20 points in a game .

The Giants regressed to a 5 ? 11 record in 1995 . Much of the blame for the Giants ' poor performance was placed on Brown . He put up lackluster numbers for the second straight year . Though the Giants defense still played well , and young players like Michael Strahan and Jessie Armstead began to emerge , the Giants inspired tepid interest league @-@ wide and sent no players to the Pro Bowl for the second straight year .

The Giants had another losing season in 1996 , finishing 6 ? 10 . Though Brown again started every game for the Giants , he turned in one of the worst seasons of any starting quarterback in the NFL , throwing for just 12 touchdowns against 20 interceptions . The Giants ' offense was one of the worst in the NFL and , unlike in previous years , the defense was unable to carry the team . After missing the playoffs for three consecutive seasons , Reeves was fired .

= = Jim Fassel era = =

= = = 1997 ? 1999 = = =

The Giants hired former Arizona Cardinals offensive coordinator Jim Fassel as their head coach before the 1997 season . With the team 's offense floundering once again and a 2 ? 3 record after five games , Fassel turned to inexperienced Danny Kanell as the starting quarterback over Dave Brown . The Giants experienced a resurgent season , finishing 10 ? 5 ? 1 and winning the NFC East . They hosted a first ? round playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings . The Giants led the Vikings for most of the game , including 22 ? 13 in the 4th quarter , but following a muffed onside kick , the Vikings booted a last @-@ second field goal to win 23 ? 22 . Following the season , George Young left the Giants . He was replaced by Ernie Accorsi , a veteran general manager who had successful stints building the Baltimore Colts and Cleveland Browns .

The Giants regressed to an 8 ? 8 record in 1998 . The strength of the team during the season was their defense , which featured two Pro Bowlers in Armstead and Strahan . However , the offense continued to struggle . Dave Brown had been released before the season and replaced by Kanell and Kent Graham . However , neither quarterback provided Pro Bowl @-@ caliber play . Before the 1999 season , the Giants signed quarterback Kerry Collins . Collins had been the first ? ever draft choice of the Carolina Panthers , and in his second season , led them to the NFC Championship game . However , problems with alcohol abuse , conflicts with his teammates , and questions about his character led to his release from the Panthers . Although many people questioned the wisdom of Accorsi and the Giants giving Collins a \$ 16 @. @ 9 million contract , Accorsi was confident in Collins ' abilities .

In 1999 , Tiki Barber emerged as a solid pass ? catching running back , catching 66 passes . Wide receiver Amani Toomer also had a breakout season , accumulating over 1 @, @ 100 yards receiving and six touchdowns , and Ike Hilliard finished just shy of 1 @, @ 000 yards receiving . The defense rebounded , ranking 11th in the league , and Armstead and Strahan again were selected to the Pro Bowl . Though the Giants stood at 7 ? 6 and poised for a playoff berth , they lost their final three games to miss the playoffs .

= = = 2000 : Super Bowl season = = =

The 2000 season was considered a make @-@ or @-@ break year for Fassel . The conventional wisdom was that Fassel needed to have a strong year and a playoff appearance to save his job . After back @-@ to @-@ back losses at home against the St. Louis Rams and Detroit Lions , the Giants fell to 7 ? 4 , and their playoff prospects were in question . At a press conference following the loss to Detroit , Fassel guaranteed that " [ t ] his team is going to the playoffs . " The Giants responded , winning the next week 's game against Arizona and the rest of their regular season

games to finish the season 12 ? 4 and earn a bye and home @-@ field advantage as the NFC 's top seed .

The Giants won their first playoff game against the Eagles , 20 ? 10 , and then defeated the Vikings 41 ? 0 in the NFC Championship game . They advanced to play the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV . Though the Giants kept the game close early and went into halftime down only 10 ? 0 , the Ravens dominated the second half . The Ravens ' defense harassed Kerry Collins all game long , and he had one of the worst games in Super Bowl history . Collins completed only 15 of 39 passes for 112 yards and four interceptions , and the Ravens won the game , 34 ? 7 . The Giants ' only score came on a Ron Dixon 97 @-@ yard kickoff return for a touchdown late in the 3rd quarter . On the ensuing kickoff , the Ravens ' Jermaine Lewis scored a touchdown on an 84 @-@ yard return .

= = = 2001 ? 2003 = = =

The Giants were unable to build on their Super Bowl appearance . They ended the 2001 season 7 ? 9 and out of the playoffs for the third time in four seasons . Collins continued his success as the team 's quarterback , throwing for over 3 @, @ 700 yards and 19 touchdowns , and Strahan broke the NFL record by recording 22 @. @ 5 sacks In 2002 , Collins had one of the best seasons of his career , throwing for over 4 @, @ 000 yards , and Barber rushed for 1 @, @ 386 yards and caught 69 passes for 597 yards . Rookie tight end Jeremy Shockey caught 74 passes for a total of 894 yards . The team started 6 ? 6 , but made the playoffs as a wild card by winning their last four regular season games .

In the wild card playoffs , the Giants built a 38 ? 14 3rd @-@ quarter lead against San Francisco . However , the 49ers rallied , scoring a field goal , and three touchdowns to take a 39 ? 38 lead with a minute left in the game . Collins then drove the Giants down to the 49ers 23 @-@ yard line with six seconds left , setting up a potential game winning 41 @-@ yard field goal attempt for Matt Bryant . On the final play of the game , 40 @-@ year @-@ old long snapper Trey Junkin ? who had just been signed for this playoff game ? snapped the ball low , and punter Matt Allen could not spot the ball properly for the attempt . Allen picked the ball up and threw an unsuccessful pass downfield to offensive lineman Rich Seubert as time expired , and the Giants lost 39 ? 38 .

The Giants started the 2003 season 4 ? 4 , but lost their final eight games . With two games remaining in the season , Jim Fassel requested a meeting with team management , and asked , if he was to be fired , that they do so now rather than wait until the end of the season . Management complied with his request , formally firing Fassel on ( or around ) December 17 , 2003 , but allowing him to coach the team 's final two games .

= = Eli Manning and Tom Coughlin era : 2004 ? Present = =

= = = 2004 ? 2006 = = =

After a brief search , Ernie Accorsi hired former Jacksonville Jaguars coach Tom Coughlin to be the Giants ' head coach . Coughlin was considered a disciplinarian , in contrast to the departed Fassel , whose lenient style was criticized in his final years with the club . Accorsi coveted quarterback Eli Manning , brother of Peyton and son of Archie , in the 2004 NFL Draft . Manning had indicated before the draft that he did not want to play for the San Diego Chargers , who held the top pick . The Chargers drafted him nonetheless , and then traded him to the Giants for their first round picks in 2004 and 2005 . The Giants released Kerry Collins , who was unhappy with a backup role , and signed veteran quarterback Kurt Warner . The plan was for Warner to be the starter , while the team groomed Manning to ultimately take over the job . After losing to the Eagles in the 2004 season opener , the Giants , with Warner at quarterback , won five of their next six games , making them 5 ? 2 . After losing two close games , to the Bears and Cardinals , to drop to 5 ? 4 , Coughlin announced that Manning would start the rest of the season . Manning struggled , and the Giants did not score more than 14 points in their next four games . He performed better later in the season , but the

Giants finished the season 6 ? 10 . Barber established a career high in rushing with 1 @,@ 518 yards . He also had 52 catches and a total of 15 touchdowns .

The Giants started 4 ? 2 in 2005 . Then , on October 25 , patriarch Wellington Mara died after a brief illness at the age of 89 . Mara had been involved with the Giants since he was nine years old , when he worked for them as a ball boy . Except a tour of duty in the military during World War II , Mara spent his entire adult life with the team . He was beloved by many of the players , and was noted for making an effort to get to know each of them . The Giants dedicated their next game to Mara , and defeated the Redskins 36 ? 0 . Just twenty days after Mara 's death , on November 15 , the other Giants Executive Officer , Bob Tisch , died at the age of 79 . The Giants honored Tisch by defeating the Eagles 27 ? 17 in their next game . Barber set a new team single @-@ game rushing record with 220 yards , and the team 's single @-@ season record with 1 @,@ 860 yards in a victory over the Kansas City Chiefs . The Giants finished 11 ? 5 and hosted the Carolina Panthers in the wild card playoffs , but lost 23 ? 0 .

The Giants regressed to an 8 ? 8 record in 2006 . The season was characterized by inconsistent play , criticism of the coaching by the media and players , and Manning 's struggles . They won five straight following a 1 ? 2 start , giving them a two @-@ game lead in the NFC East , but they lost six of their last seven games , and the players publicly clashed with Coughlin . One of the team 's worst losses was a 24 ? 21 defeat to Tennessee , in which the team surrendered a 21 @-@ point 4th @-@ quarter lead . Following a season @-@ ending win at Washington , the Giants made the playoffs as a wild card in spite of their record , but were defeated 23 ? 20 by Philadelphia .

Barber led the Giants with 1 @,@ 662 yards rushing and over 2 @,@ 000 yards from scrimmage , Manning threw for 3 @,@ 244 yards and 24 touchdowns , and Jeremy Shockey led the team in receptions . Defensively , the team struggled against the pass ( 28th in the league ) and gaining a consistent pass rush ( tied for 23rd in the league in sacks ) .

= = = 2007 : Third Super Bowl Championship = = =

In 2007 , the Giants made the playoffs for the third consecutive season . In a September game against the Eagles , they tied the NFL record for most sacks in a game by sacking Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb 12 times , with Osi Umenyiora recording six of those sacks . They became the third NFL franchise to win 600 games when they defeated the Atlanta Falcons 31 ? 10 in October . That same month , they also played in the NFL 's first regular season game outside of North America , in London 's Wembley Stadium , where they beat Miami 13 ? 10 . They ended the regular season 10 ? 6 and defeated Tampa Bay 24 ? 14 in the first round of the playoffs , earning Manning and Coughlin their first playoff victories with the Giants . The next week , the Giants won their ninth consecutive road game by beating the top @-@ seeded Dallas Cowboys 21 ? 17 . In the NFC championship game , Lawrence Tynes kicked an overtime field goal to give them a 23 ? 20 road victory over the Green Bay Packers .

In Super Bowl XLII , the Giants defeated the previously unbeaten New England Patriots 17 ? 14 . The signature play of the game came on a 3rd @-@ and @-@ 5 , with the Giants on their own 44 @-@ yard line , down 14 ? 10 , and 1 : 15 remaining in the 4th quarter . Manning dropped back to pass , but was surrounded by New England pass rushers . Escaping three tackles , he threw a long pass to David Tyree , who caught the ball against his own helmet , while being covered by Patriots safety Rodney Harrison . Four plays later , Manning threw the game @-@ winning touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left . Manning won the game 's MVP award by completing 19 of 34 passes for 255 yards and two touchdowns . The Giants ' win is considered one of the biggest upsets in Super Bowl history .

Michael Strahan retired after the game as the team 's all @-@ time leader in sacks .

= = = 2008 ? 2015 = =

The Giants ' 12 ? 4 record in 2008 earned them a first @-@ round bye in the playoffs . They won 11 of their first 12 games before stumbling to lose four of their last five , including a 23 ? 11 loss to the Eagles in the NFC Divisional Playoffs . Manning threw for 3 @,@ 238 yards , 21 touchdowns , and 10 interceptions , and was named to the Pro Bowl after the season . Other standouts included

Brandon Jacobs and Derrick Ward who both rushed for 1 @, @ 000 yards ( who helped the Giants lead the NFL in rushing yards ) ; Justin Tuck , who led the team with 12 sacks ; and Antonio Pierce , who was the team 's leading tackler . The Giants featured a balanced offense with no receiver topping 600 receiving yards .

The Giants won their first five games in 2009 , but lost their next four . After beating the Atlanta Falcons in overtime , they lost badly to Denver on Thanksgiving . They defeated Dallas 31 ? 24 in Week 13 , then lost 45 ? 38 to Philadelphia the next week . At 8 ? 6 , they still had a chance to make the playoffs , but losses to Carolina and Minnesota to finish the season left them out of the playoffs at 8 ? 8 .

In the spring of 2010 , construction on the New Meadowlands Stadium ( now MetLife Stadium ) was completed , and the Giants and Jets opened it in August with their annual preseason game . In the regular season , they won their home opener against Carolina , 31 ? 18 , avenging their late @-@ season loss from the previous year . They went on the road to play Indianapolis in the second " Manning Bowl " in Week 2 . Peyton outplayed Eli ( who threw for just 161 yards ) in a 38 ? 14 Colts victory . Discipline became a growing problem for the Giants during the season . In the Colts game , Jacobs threw his helmet into the stands , and in the next game , offensive tackle David Diehl ripped off the helmet of Tennessee Titans cornerback Cortland Finnegan .

During the 2011 preseason , the Giants lost tight end Kevin Boss , wide receiver Steve Smith , guard Rich Seubert , linebacker Keith Bulluck , wide receiver Derek Hagan , and Pro Bowl center Shaun O 'Hara to free agency . However , the 2011 season also saw the emerging of second @-@ year wide receiver Victor Cruz and second @-@ year tight end Jake Ballard . The Giants opened the season against the Washington Redskins on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks , with both New York City and Washington being a target of the attacks . The Redskins beat the Giants 28 ? 14 , but the Giants won their next three games , against the Rams , Eagles , and Cardinals . After a loss against the Seattle Seahawks because of an Eli Manning interception , they went on another three @-@ game winning streak . A key victory was an upset of the New England Patriots 24 ? 20 at Gillette Stadium . The victory ended the Patriots ' NFL record home @-@ game winning streak , after a touchdown pass from Manning to Ballard with 15 seconds left . However , the Giants seemed to hit a wall after the midpoint of the season . Marred by inconsistent game play , questionable play @-@ calling , and injuries , the team struggled and lost their next three games . The Giants broke their losing streak and regained their position atop the NFC East with a tightly contested 37 ? 34 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on December 11 . Soon after , the Giants lost to the Redskins again , but they avenged their defeat by beating their cross @-@ town rival New York Jets , also knocking the Philadelphia Eagles out of playoff contention , leaving them with a tiebreaker versus the Cowboys . On a cold night in New Jersey , the Giants defeated the Cowboys 31 ? 14 in Week 17 to clinch the NFC East and thus their NFL record 31st playoff appearance , breaking their tie with the Cowboys at 30 .

In the first round of the playoffs , the Giants defeated the Atlanta Falcons 24 ? 2 . After giving up an early safety in the first half , Eli Manning threw three consecutive touchdowns . Running backs Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon Jacobs combined for 172 yards rushing , a season @-@ high for the Giants . With the victory , the Giants advanced to the second round against the top @-@ seeded Green Bay Packers .

The following week , the Giants defeated the Packers 37 ? 20 . Manning threw for 330 yards and three touchdowns , two of them to wide receiver Hakeem Nicks . This earned the Giants a spot in the NFC Championship Game against the San Francisco 49ers . They won that game in overtime , 20 ? 17 with Lawrence Tynes scoring the game @-@ winning field goal as he did four years earlier in the same game against the Green Bay Packers .

The New York Giants won Super Bowl XLVI against the New England Patriots by a score of 21 ? 17 . The winning touchdown drive began with a 38 @-@ yard reception by receiver Mario Manningham . As in Super Bowl XLII , Eli Manning was the game 's MVP , defeating Tom Brady for a second time in the Super Bowl .

= = = 2012 ? present = = =

Despite winning 2 Super Bowl championships in 5 years , the 2012 ( 9 @-@ 7 ) , 2013 ( 7 @-@ 9 ) , and 2014 ( 6 @-@ 10 ) seasons saw the Giants missing the playoffs 3 years in a row . A bright spot of the 2014 season was rookie Odell Beckham Jr . , who burst onto the scene catching 91 passes on 132 targets , for 1 @,@ 305 yards and 12 touchdowns , and in doing so winning Offensive Rookie of the Year .

The Giants struggled in 2015 , finishing 6 @-@ 10 again and third in the NFC East . Quarterback Eli Manning threw for a career high 35 touchdown passes and also set career highs in attempts and completions . After the season , head coach Tom Coughlin resigned after 12 seasons .