

SUPER BOWL 52 PREDICTION REPORT



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Prediction



Figure 1

Methodology

This prediction was determined through the instinctive combination of three types of predictive/analytical resources. The first resource used was the Prometheus NFL Stat Program provided by Dr. Carl Rebman, Jr. The second resource used was publically available expert predictions. The third resource used was a combination of multiple light-hearted game predictions.

Prometheus NFL Stat Program

The Prometheus NFL Stat Program is an Excel-based program was developed and provided by Dr. Carl Rebman, Jr. The program description is given as:

[The] program utilizes the variable statistical ranking of each team in order to produce a percentage differential between the two teams. The larger the percent difference equates towards a larger point spread and vice versa for smaller point spreads.¹

The input data used was the 2018 NFL Regular season statistical rankings available at NFL.com. The program also accounts for home-team advantage; however, this Super Bowl was played in a stadium which did not belong to either team. To account for this, the Prometheus NFL Stat Program was executed for two iterations, substituting each team as the “home-team”. Both outcomes favored the New England Patriots, as shown in Figure 2.

¹ Carl Rebman, Jr., *ITMG 350 Prediction Report 2014*, 2014, p. 3.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1	Prometheus NFL Stat Program																
2																	
3																	
4	Team	prediction	%	off	or	op	def	dr	dp	ven	omo	ormor	opmop	defmdef	drmdr	dpmdp	
5	Eagles	Loss	50.53%	7	3	13	4	1	17	0	6	-7	11	-25	-19	-13	
6	Patriots	Win	51.73%	1	10	2	29	20	30	1	-6	7	-11	25	19	13	
7																	
8	Team	prediction	%	off	or	op	def	dr	dp	ven	omo	ormor	opmop	defmdef	drmdr	dpmdp	
9	Eagles	Loss	27.93%	7	3	13	4	1	17	1	6	-7	11	-25	-19	-13	
10	Patriots	Win	73.86%	1	10	2	29	20	30	0	-6	7	-11	25	19	13	

Figure 2

“Expert Predictions”

85 NFL “expert’s predictions” were compiled by ESPN.com². These individuals are known NFL commentators, writers, pundits, and analysts who provide publically available opinions in print and online. Each prediction included the winner and score for each team. This data was compiled in a spreadsheet, which resulting in data shown in Figure 3.

Winner	Number of Picks	Average Patriots Score	Average Eagles Score
Eagles	24	21.6	27.1
Patriots	61	27.3	20.9

Figure 3

² ESPN, “ESPN Super Bowl LII expert picks,” http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/22190604/super-bowl-lii-predictions-espn-staff-picks-new-england-patriots-philadelphia-eagles, accessed February 2, 2018.

Other Predictions

Many other predictions were available at the time of analysis; a few of the more light-hearted analyses were included into the prediction discussed in this report.



Figure 4

The Tonight Show: “Puppies Predict the Winner of Super Bowl LII”³

The Tonight Show host Jimmy Fallon used a litter of eleven puppies to predict the outcome of the Super Bowl by releasing them toward two bowls of food, one labeled “Patriots” and the other labeled “Eagles.” The New England Patriots were predicted to be the winner.

³ The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, “Puppies Predict the Winner of Super Bowl LII,” Video, Posted February 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAJ28SMedUw>.



Figure 5

Clearwater Marine Auditorium: “Nicholas the Dolphin Predicts Super Bowl 2018 Winner”⁴

Nicholas the Dolphin was rescued in 2002 near Gibsonton, Florida by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Since then, he has a record of 6 for 7 correct sports predictions, including a correct prediction for the outcome of Super Bowl 51 in 2017. A themed football was placed for each team in the bottom a pool and Nicholas dove to retrieve one ball. The ball chosen by Nicholas was that of the New England Patriots.

⁴ Clearwater Marine Aquarium, “Nicholas the Dolphin Predicts Super Bowl 2018 Winner,” Video, Posted January 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K45X1hgeRFc>.



Figure 5

“Madden NFL 18 - Super Bowl 52 Prediction - Patriots Vs Eagles”⁵

Madden NFL 18 is a video game based on the NFL developed and published by EA Sports, which is available for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One. It features a simulation mode which allows the AI to play against itself to generate a viewable game complete with simulated statistics. The New England Patriots were simulated to win, 24-20.

⁵ EA SPORTS, “Madden NFL 18 - Super Bowl 52 Prediction - Patriots Vs Eagles,” Video, Posted January 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWdE0vpIdgc>.

Postgame Analysis

Prediction Machine⁶ was avoided in the course of the prediction. Their service provides some free content; however, they use a subscription-based business model which the author avoided to maintain a sense of “fun” for this analysis. Nevertheless, their prediction of Eagles +5, OVER 48 would have beat the Las Vegas sportsbook betting for the point spread and total points. The Nevada Gaming Control Board released tallies of ~\$1.2 million in profit for Super Bowl 52, as compared to ~\$9.8 million in profit from the previous Super Bowl, proving Prediction Machine’s accuracy.

Below are excerpts from several articles which provide some insight and analysis as to why the Philadelphia Eagles won the Super Bowl. To summarize them:

- Tom Brady played exceptionally well, setting passing records for a Super Bowl Quarterback
- In the Regular Season, the Eagles defense was rated above the Patriots defense (Overall/Passing/Rushing) and in the Super Bowl game, the Eagles defense delivered the game winning fumble.
- Early in the 2nd Quarter, the Patriots attempted and failed a trick play with Brady as the receiver, which seemingly foreshadowed the outcome of the game. Nick Foles attempted the same play and succeeded later in the half.

“Tom Brady Had The Best Passing Performance In Super Bowl In History”⁷

Chase Stuart, Football Perspective

February 5, 2018

Tom Brady had a Super Bowl performance for the ages. He completed 28 of 48 passes for 505 yards, with 3 TDs and 0 INTs, while taking only one sack (which, of course, was a strip-sack that ultimately decided the game). That translates to 560 Adjusted Net Yards (giving 20 yards for a touchdown and removing sack yards), which over 49 dropbacks, is 11.43 Adjusted Net Yards per Attempt.

⁶ Paul Bessire, “Prediction Machine: Super Bowl 52: In-Depth Analysis”, <https://www.predictionmachine.com/nfl-picks-super-bowl-52-analysis-in-depth>, accessed February 5, 2018.

⁷ Chase Stuart, “Tom Brady Had The Best Passing Performance In Super Bowl In History,” <http://www.footballperspective.com/tom-brady-had-the-best-passing-performance-in-super-bowl-in-history/>, accessed February 5, 2018.

“The Eagles Beat the Patriots With a Hyper-Modern Offense”⁸

Danny Kelly, The Ringer

February 5, 2018

In the Eagles’ incredible 41-33 Super Bowl LII victory on Sunday, the two teams ran a combined 143 plays, scored 74 points (second most for any Super Bowl), picked up 54 first downs, and set a Super Bowl record for a combined 8.0 yards per play. It was an offensive performance for the ages. Both teams spread the field, used personnel and formations to dictate the way defenses had to line up, and exploited one-on-one matchups in space.

Neither defensive line factored until late in the game—there was just one sack all game—and for the most part, it looked an awful lot like a game of seven-on-seven. While this NFL season represented a reversal of the offense-weighted trend we’ve seen in the league over the past 10-plus years, this Super Bowl was a strong reminder of the direction the league is going. It offered a glimpse into the future of football at the pro level; that is to say, it looked and felt a hell of a lot like a college game.

Super Bowl LII: Tom Brady drops wide-open pass on Patriots’ trick play⁹

Danny Amendola tried throwing to Brady on a wide receiver reverse pass, but the ball clanged off of Brady’s hands.

sports@newsday.com

February 4, 2018

Gisele Bündchen said after Super Bowl XLVI in 2012 that Tom Brady “can’t . . . throw the ball and catch the ball.” The second part of that statement came true six years later on a trick play in Super Bowl LII.

With 12:04 left in the second quarter, Brady handed off to James White out of the shotgun formation on what appeared to be a draw on third-and-5 from the Eagles’ 35-yard line. White then tossed it to Danny Amendola, who was running across the field on a reverse. Meanwhile, Brady slipped out to the right side of the field on a flat route while Eagles defenders keyed in on White and Amendola.

Amendola then did his best Brady impersonation, throwing it to the wide-open 40-year-old quarterback. But the pass clanged off of Brady’s hands and fell incomplete, forcing the Patriots to punt.

Later in the half, the Eagles tried nearly the exact same play on fourth-and-goal from the one-yard line with 38 seconds left. Brady’s Eagles counterpart, Nick Foles, held onto the pass from backup tight end Trey Burton for the touchdown.

⁸ Danny Kelly, “The Eagles Beat the Patriots With a Hyper-Modern Offense,” <https://www.theringer.com/nfl-playoffs/2018/2/5/16972536/eagles-patriots-super-bowl-offensive-explosion>, accessed February 5, 2018.

⁹ Newsday.com, “Super Bowl LII: Tom Brady drops wide-open pass on Patriots’ trick play,” <https://www.newsday.com/sports/football/super-bowl/super-bowl-lii-tom-brady-drop-trick-play-1.16545877>, accessed February 5, 2018.

Battered Eagles defense made late stand¹⁰

By Ed Kracz, Bucks County Courier Times

February 5, 2018

And that was turned in by the Eagles defense. Who would've thunk it?

Well, if you watched this team all season, you saw this defense make plays at timely points in games. And there was no more timely play than the one Brandon Graham turned in with 2:09 to play when he finally got to Brady and forced a fumble that was recovered by rookie Derek Barnett.

It was the only sack the Eagles had all game. It was the only sack for either team, because the Patriots never found Foles in the pocket.

¹⁰ Ed Kracz, "Battered Eagles defense made late stand,"

<http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/sports/20180205/battered-eagles-defense-made-late-stand>, accessed February 5, 2018.