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Pederson was Reid's first starting quarterback in Philadelphia back in 1999 when he groomed rookie Donovan McNabb. Then Pederson served as an assistant coach under Reid for seven seasons with the Eagles and Chiefs.

Adam Gase and Ben McDoo were popular choices during the 2016 coaching search <http://www.coltsauthorizedshops.com/authentic-kemoko-turay-jersey> , but Gase went to Miami and McDoo stayed with the Giants. The Eagles even considered Tom Coughlin, but chose Pederson instead.

Gase is 16-17 in two seasons in Miami. McAdoo was fired already. Other coaches hired that year: Hue Jackson is 1-31 in Cleveland; Dirk Koetter is 14-18 in Tampa Bay; Tennessee fired Mike Mularkey on Monday; and San Francisco fired Chip Kelly after one season.

Even longtime NFL executive Mike Lombardi was critical of Pederson after he led the Eagles to a 7-9 record in his first season.

Everybody knows Pederson isn't a head coach, Lombardi said before this season started. He might be less qualified to coach a team than anyone I've ever seen in my 30-plus years in the NFL.

Lombardi finally admitted he was wrong, but it wasn't until Pederson guided the Eagles to a 15-10 victory over Atlanta in the divisional playoff game.

I m wrong, Lombardi said on his podcast afterward. Doug Pederson was way better than I thought he was going to be in terms of his ability to lead that team. &. For me, when you win a playoff game and you beat a team you re an underdog to, and you beat Matt Ryan and Nick Foles played well, I think you deserve it. I think I was wrong on how far I went with Doug. I m not sure if he s a great coach, but I was wrong in terms of how far I went with it.

Pederson lost MVP candidate Carson Wentz, nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Jason Peters, playmaking linebacker Jordan Hicks Youth Josh Allen Jersey , return specialist Darren Sproles, and special-teams captain Chris Maragos. Yet his team tied a franchise record with 13 wins, earned the NFC s No. 1 seed, and now is one win away from the Super Bowl.

The Eagles (14-3) host the Minnesota Vikings (14-3) on Sunday in the NFC championship game. Once again, Philadelphia is a home underdog.

Pederson doesn't care about public opinion.

I don't pay much attention to it, he said earlier in the season. I'm focused on this football team, this roster, these guys.

Pederson is popular in the locker room. He spent 10 seasons in the NFL mainly as a backup quarterback with Miami, Green Bay, Philadelphia and Cleveland. He consults with a council of players to make sure any issues are handled. After holding walk-through practices before the final regular-season game, players wanted to put pads on during the bye week. They told Pederson and he quickly agreed.

He relates to us <http://www.49ersauthorizedshops.com/authentic-kentavious-street-jersey> , safety Corey Graham said. He knows exactly what we re going through in certain situations. We want to play for a guy like that who understands you and wants to help you.

Pederson didn't have much of a coaching pedigree before owner Jeffery Lurie took a chance on him. He was the offensive coordinator his last three seasons in Kansas City, but Reid usually called the plays. Pederson, unlike Reid, prefers a more-balanced offense. The Eagles run the ball more now than they did under Reid. Pederson also is aggressive. He likes to go on fourth down. Against the Falcons, LeGarrette Blount ran in from the 1 on fourth down to give the Eagles a 6-3 lead early in the second quarter.

He's unorthodox at times in a good way, offensive coordinator Frank Reich said. There is an art to play calling and Doug has had a phenomenal year calling plays.

AP NFL website:

CLEVELAND Cody Allen is one of the least acclaimed yet most productive closers in the major leagues. On Friday night, when the Cleveland Indians open a three-game series with the Oakland A s, Allen will be in uniform at Progressive Field for the first time as the Indians' career saves leader.

In pitching the ninth inning of a 3-2 Cleveland win in Kansas City on Wednesday, Allen posted his 140th career save, breaking Bob Wickman's franchise record of 139, which had stood since 2006.

He means so much to all of us, Cleveland manager Terry Francona said of Allen. This is a kid who was drafted in the 16th round Authentic Sam Darnold Jersey , but through being a consummate professional, he's now the Indians' all-time leader. That's pretty awesome. It's a big accomplishment, and he's not close to being done.

Allen (2-3, 3.38 ERA) ranks seventh in the American League this year with 18 saves, but his year-in, year-out consistency has been his trademark. He has had at least 30 saves in each of the last three seasons. Only two other closers in the majors can say that: the Los Angeles Dodgers' Kenley Jansen and Boston's Craig Kimbrel.

This is something I'm extremely proud of, Allen said of passing Wickman as the club's saves leader. It's something I get to hang my hat on for my career. It's very cool.

The A's (48-39) come to Cleveland with nearly the same record as the Indians (48-37), but what a difference a division makes. The first-place Indians lead the AL Central by 11 1/2 games. The A's are in third in the AL West, 8 1/2 games behind the first-place Houston Astros.

The A's won two of three games from the Indians last weekend in Oakland. That was part of a longer streak in which the A's have won eight of their last nine. Since June 16, Oakland is 14-3.

I think we're having a lot of fun, A's third baseman Matt Chapman told MLB.com P.J. Hall Color Rush Jersey , and no matter what the score is, I don't think we count ourselves out. There's no panic in the dugout. We just keep playing our game. We trust that we're a good team.

On Friday night, the A's will send Paul Blackburn (2-2, 6.46 ERA) to the mound. In his last start on June 29 in Oakland, Blackburn baffled the Indians, pitching 6 1/3 scoreless innings and giving up just three hits in a 3-1 victory.

Blackburn has started five major league games this year. In the one against Cleveland, he is 1-0 with a 0.00 ERA and an opponents' batting average of .150. In the other four starts, he's 1-2 with an 8.83 ERA and an opponents' batting average of .324. In two career starts against the Indians, Blackburn is 1-0 with a 2.19 ERA.

Cleveland will counter with Carlos Carrasco (8-5, 4.24), who will make his first start since June 16 Troy Apke Color Rush Jersey , a 9-3 loss to Minnesota in which he was knocked out of the game in the second inning after getting hit in the right arm by a line drive off the bat of Joe Mauer.

Carrasco was placed on the 10-day disabled list the next day with a right elbow contusion. He made one rehab start at Double-A Akron on June 30, pitching four scoreless innings and giving up one hit with four strikeouts and one walk.

Carrasco's last legitimate start was his best start of the year, a 4-0 win over the Chicago White Sox on June 11. In that game, he pitched seven scoreless innings and gave up two hits and one walk with 11 strikeouts.

In six career appearances, including five starts, against Oakland, Carrasco is 3-1 with a 2.61 ERA.

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