

## **My Drift**

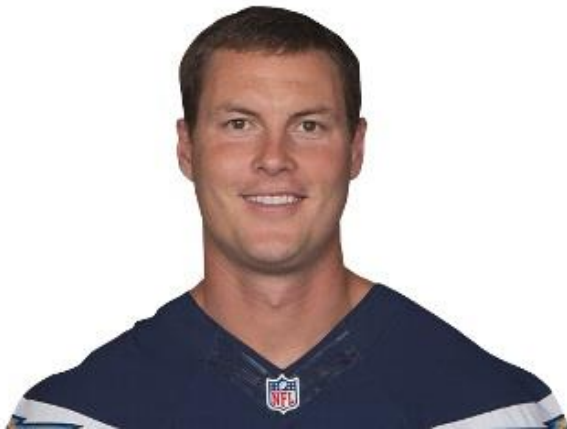
**Title: A Tale of Two Quarterbacks**



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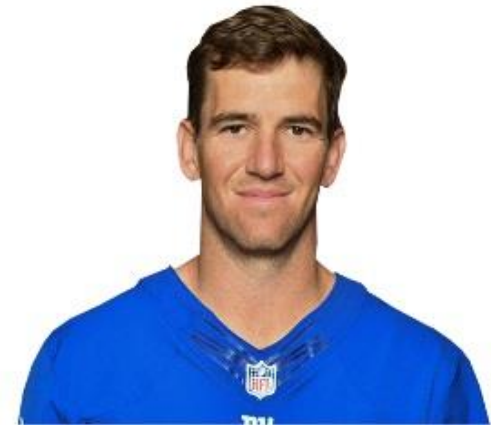
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**Philip Rivers**

**The Quarterbacks we will  
be talking about and  
comparing are Philip  
Rivers and Eli Manning.**

**The reason I picked these  
two quarterbacks will  
become clear soon.**



**Eli Manning**

**Philip Michael Rivers**  
**El Capitan**

**December 8, 1981 (age 38)**

**Decatur, Alabama**

**Decatur, Alabama**

**Steve Rivers**

**Joan Rivers**

**Brother: Stephen and Sister: Anna**

**Tiffany (married in 2001)**



**Eight – 6 girls and 2 boys**

**(They are expecting their 9<sup>th</sup> in March)**

**6 ft 5 in**

**228 Pounds**

River's father, Steve, was the head coach of Decatur and Athens High's football teams and his mother, Joan, was a teacher. Rivers went to Decatur then moved to Athens to play for his father. He has worn the number 17 jersey since the ninth grade; it is in honor of his father, who wore

### **General Info**

**Full Name:**

**Nickname:**

**Born:**

**Birth City:**

**Home Town:**

**Father:**

**Mother:**

**Siblings:**

**Wife:**

**Children:**

**Height:**

**Weight:**

### **Early Life and High School**

**Elisha Nelson Manning IV**

**Easy**

**January 3, 1981 (age 38)**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Archie Manning**

**Olivia Williams Manning**

**Brothers: Cooper and Peyton**

**Abby McGrew (married in 2008)**



**Three girls**

**6 ft 5 in**

**218 Pounds**

The youngest of Archie and Olivia Manning's three children, Eli entered the world with two older brothers already in tow, Cooper and Peyton. Like all the men in his family, he was destined to be a football star.

the same number in high school. Rivers' first start in an official game came in the seventh grade, in 1994. He would not see the bench again until his rookie season in the NFL.



**Philip Rivers – Athens High School**

**A Philip Rivers little known fact:**

We know that Rivers was a star quarterback in high school, but he also played defensive back. He had several interceptions and enjoyed hitting people. He was a complete football player.

**Note:**

I don't know if they kept high school football stats back then in Alabama, but I can't find any of Rivers' Athens High School statistics.

As Rivers' senior season unfolded, he established himself as the best prep passer in the state of

Eli's father Archie began the family's great gridiron tradition at the University of Mississippi. An Ole Miss legend, he played quarterback for the Rebels from 1967 to 1970. In 1971, the New Orleans Saints made him the second overall pick in the NFL draft.

Living up to his father's and older brother's reputation was no easy feat. Peyton had been Louisiana's top prep signal caller. However, Eli establish his own identity as a sophomore completing 139 of 245 passes for 2,340 yards and 24 TDs. The following year, he bettered those marks and led Newman High School to a 9-1 record and the state playoffs.



**Eli Manning – Newman High School**

Alabama. Although he had offers from Auburn and Alabama, neither projected him as a starting quarterback. Rivers rejected them in order to go to a program where he would have more playing time. The first college to seriously recruit Rivers as a quarterback was North Carolina State which is in Raleigh. He had a chance to be the starter so that's where he decided to go.

Chuck Amato was the head football coach at North Carolina State University from 2000 to 2006 – Rivers was his QB for the first four years. Rivers beat out the QB competition and was named the starter for the first game of the season and played every game during his college career.



**Philip Rivers – North Carolina State Wolfpack**

### **College Career**

Eli enjoyed a great senior year at Newman High School. Again, he quarterbacked the team to the playoffs. Eli ended his high school career with 7,389 yards and 89 touchdowns (200 yards more than his brother Peyton but three less touchdowns).

Eli decided to follow in his father's footsteps and attend the University of Mississippi.

The hype began as soon as Eli stepped on the Ole Miss campus. The school offered to un-retire Archie's number 18, but Eli declined. Instead, he went with #10.



**Eli Manning - Mississippi Rebels**



As a freshman in 2000, Rivers led NC State to an 8–4 record, including a win against Minnesota in the MicronPC Bowl. In his debut, a 38-31 double-overtime win over Arkansas State, he directed a 74-yard game-tying drive as time expired. A week later, he threw for 401 yards in a 41–38 win against Indiana. For the season, Rivers passed for 3,054 yards and 25 touchdowns. He broke a half-dozen school passing marks, was ACC Rookie of the Week a record eight times and earned honors as the conference Freshman of the Year.

As a sophomore in 2001, Rivers connected for 2,586 yards and 16 touchdowns. His 65.2 percent completion mark led the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). The Wolfpack finished the 2001 campaign at 7–4 and made a trip to the Tangerine Bowl. The quarterback had a great game against Pitt in a losing cause, garnering the game's MVP award for the second year in a row.

In 2002, Rivers led the Wolfpack to victories in their first nine games. It was the best start in the school's history. The season took a disappointing turn however when they lost three consecutive ACC contests, but NC State defeated Florida State in their season finale and received an invitation to play against Notre Dame in the Gator Bowl. Once again, Rivers delivered an MVP performance in the most important game of the year, pacing the Wolfpack to a dominating 28-6 win over Notre Dame.

Eli got his first taste of Ole Miss football in an intersquad scrimmage. While he made a good showing, he was still third on the depth chart and coach Cutcliffe decided not to rush his young quarterback along, so he redshirted Eli for the 1999 season. Manning watched from the sidelines at the Rebels went 8-4 and won the Independence Bowl, led by running back Deuce McAllister.

Eli landed himself in hot water after that campaign when he was arrested and briefly jailed for public drunkenness. Truly embarrassed by the incident, the 19-year-old decided to buckle down and focus on school and football.

As the 2000 season got underway, the Rebels found themselves ranked 18th in the AP poll, thanks in large part to McAllister and Miller, both of whom were back for their senior years. Eli settled in as Miller's backup and saw little playing time. Ole Miss went 7-5 and earned a berth against West Virginia in the Music City Bowl. That's where Eli got his first real chance to shine. Down 49-16 in the fourth quarter, the Rebels needed a spark. Cutcliffe inserted Eli, and he played brilliantly. The redshirt freshman completed 12 of 20 passes for 167 yards and three touchdowns. While that wasn't enough to

As a senior in 2003, Rivers had an outstanding season. In 12 games, he threw for 4,491 yards and 34 touchdowns, capping his career as the most productive and durable quarterback in ACC history. During his four years, he started 51 straight games and completed a conference record 1,147 passes in 1,710 tries, with 95 touchdowns. Rivers' time at NC State had a great ending, leading the Wolfpack to a 56-26 win over Kansas in his third Tangerine Bowl. In the victory, he threw for a career-high 475 yards and five touchdowns. Philip earned his fourth straight bowl MVP award. At the end of the season, Rivers was named ACC Player of the Year for the 2003 football season and ACC Athlete of the Year for 2003-04. He was considered a Heisman candidate by some journalists, but he was not invited to the Heisman Trophy presentation.

During his collegiate career, Rivers shattered almost every NC State and ACC passing record. Rivers finished his career at NC State with 13,484 passing yards, 13th all-time among Division I-A quarterbacks (he was 2nd at the end of his collegiate career). He also threw 95 touchdown passes, which ties him for eighth all-time with Kliff Kingsbury and Brady Quinn. Rivers' number was retired before his final home game at North Carolina State.

secure a victory, Manning's performance was great.

The "Eli Manning Era" officially kicked off at Ole Miss the following fall. Ole Miss surprised many in the SEC by starting 6-1. Then Eli and the Rebels ran into Arkansas. In one of the most memorable games in college football history, they lost 58-56 in seven overtimes. Eli threw for 312 yards and six touchdowns. Ole Miss dropped two of their last three and ended at 7-4. Eli completed 63.5 percent of his passes for 31 touchdowns against only nine interceptions. In all, Eli set or tied 17 school records.

In the 2002 season, the Rebels broke from the gate quickly winning five of their first six. After an upset of 20th-ranked Florida, they looked like a sure bowl contender. But another slow finish spoiled the year, including a heartbreaking loss to Auburn. The Rebels finished the regular season at 6-6, which was good enough for a bid against Nebraska in the Independence Bowl. Their 27-23 victory put a nice spin on an otherwise mediocre season. In 13 games, he passed for 3,401 yards and 21 touchdowns.

Eli stayed for his final season in 2003 with the hope of leading Ole Miss to the SEC Championship Game for the first time in school history. As it turned out, the Rebels had to beat



**Philip Rivers' Best College Game**

North Carolina State beats Notre Dame 28-6 in the Gator Bowl on 1 Jan 2003. Rivers was named the MVP for the game.

**Philip Rivers**

Yr	Gm	Att	Cmp	Pct	Yds	Td	Int	Rat
2000	11	441	237	53.7	3054	25	10	126
2001	11	368	240	65.2	2586	16	7	135
2002	14	418	262	62.7	3353	20	10	141
2003	13	483	348	72.0	4491	34	7	171
Car	49	1710	1087	63.6	13484	95	34	144

**College  
Stats  
Summary**

**Eli Manning**

Yr	Gm	Att	Cmp	Pct	Yds	Td	Int	Rat
2000	6	33	16	48.5	170	0	1	86
2001	11	408	259	63.5	2586	31	9	145
2002	13	481	279	58.0	3353	21	15	126
2003	13	441	275	62.4	4491	29	10	148
Car	43	1363	829	60.8	10119	81	35	138

Florida in the Swamp and LSU to do that. No Manning had ever beaten the Gators on their home turf. Eli played great and Ole Miss won the game but lost to LSU. After that loss, Ole Miss also won out, including a 31-28 victory over Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl. At 10-3, the Rebels posted nine regular-season victories for the first time in 13 years. Eli passed for 3,600 yards and 29 touchdowns during the season.

Eli won a slew of honors including the Maxwell Award as the nation's best all-around player. He also earned the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award and was named the SEC Player of the Year. When it came time for the Heisman balloting, however, he couldn't muster the necessary support. Oklahoma's Jason White walked away with the trophy.

**Comparison:** Both Philip Rivers and Eli Manning grew up and played high school and college football in the South. Both came from football families – Rivers' dad Steve was a high school football coach and Manning's father Archie and older brother Peyton were famous college and pro football stars. Philip Rivers had better college stats (check the charts above) but Eli had the Manning name, played in the SEC, and had more media backing.

## **The 2004 NFL Draft**



**The 2004 draft produced three great QBs -- Eli Manning, Philip Rivers and Ben Roethlisberger – who may all be Hall of Famers someday**

**History remembers the 2004 draft for the forced smile of one Eli Manning, the No. 1 overall pick who said he didn't want to play for the lowly Chargers and prodded a trade from the San Diego Chargers to the New York Giants. The circumstances of that deal were so dramatic -- the Giants drafted Philip Rivers as the No. 4 pick and shipped him to the Chargers -- that you almost forget that another winner of multiple Super Bowls, the Pittsburgh Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger, was drafted as the No. 11 pick. There were two other quarterbacks taken in the 2004 draft – J.P. Losman at No. 22 to the Buffalo Bills and Matt Schaub at No. 90 to the Atlanta Falcons. This quarterback draft class ranks second all-time to the 1983 draft where John Elway (Round 1, Colts), Jim Kelly (Round 1, Bills), and Dan Marino (Round 1, Dolphins) were chosen.**

**Since the big draft swap, Philip Rivers has played every season for the San Diego/LA Chargers and Eli Manning has played every season for the New York Giants.**





**Philip Rivers – San Diego/LA Chargers**

Rivers began the season as the San Diego Chargers' third quarterback, behind starter Drew Brees and backup Doug Flutie. Brees went on to have a great year and was named to the NFL Pro Bowl while winning the NFL Comeback Player of the Year Award. Rivers received very limited playing time, playing in only two games. He only threw passes in the second half of the last game (a win over Kansas City), by which time the Chargers had already clinched a home playoff spot and the AFC West division title. He threw his first touchdown pass to fellow rookie Malcom Floyd. He was not on the active roster for San Diego's playoff loss to the New York Jets.

## **Pro Football**



**Eli Manning – NY Giants**

## **2004 Season**

Manning made his NFL rookie debut in Week 1 against the Philadelphia Eagles. He came into the game toward the end the fourth quarter in relief of Kurt Warner. He finished the 31–17 loss 3-of-9 for 66 yards. Manning made his first career regular season start against the Atlanta Falcons at Giants Stadium on November 21, 2004. In his fourth start, against the Baltimore Ravens at M&T Bank Stadium on December 12, 2004, he ended the day with a 0.0 passer rating and was benched in the second half in favor of Warner but remained the Giants starter through the end of the season. The Giants finished with a 6–10 record and were 1–6 in games that Manning started in.

Rivers was promoted to second on the Chargers quarterback depth chart after Flutie was released. Rivers was unable to beat out Brees for the starting quarterback job. In the Chargers' final game of the season, at home in Qualcomm Stadium, Rivers entered the game after Brees dislocated his right shoulder late in the second quarter due to a hit from Denver Broncos safety John Lynch. Rivers completed 12 of 22 passing attempts for 115 yards with one interception and two fumbles. The Chargers lost to Denver, 23–7.

Brees was not re-signed and went to the New Orleans Saints. On Sep 11, 2006, Rivers made his first NFL start against the Oakland Raiders and won the game 27-0. After the first week, Rivers led the NFL with a QB rating of 133.9. He went on to have a great 14-2 season. The Chargers had home field advantage but lost to Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in the divisional round of the playoffs.

Norv Turner took over as the head coach and the Chargers finished 11–5 winning the AFC West for the second straight year. The Chargers also won their first two playoff games since the 1994 season, beating the Tennessee Titans and the Indianapolis Colts before falling to Tom Brady and Patriots in the AFC Championship Game 21–12.

### **2005 Season**

Warner left the Giants and Manning was named the starter. Chargers fans did not forget the snub, when Manning and the Giants made the trip to San Diego for their first game since that draft day - the crowd booed Manning loudly every time he touched the ball. San Diego defeated the Giants, 45–23. Manning's performance for the rest of the season was good and he finished among the top five quarterbacks in both passing yards and touchdown passes. The Giants won the NFC East with an 11–5 record but lost to the Carolina Panthers, 23-0 in the Wild Card Round.

### **2006 Season**

Manning's second full season was reminiscent of his 2005 season. He started off playing well but the Giants ended up with a 8-8 records. They did qualify for the postseason as the #6-seed and met the Eagles. Manning was significantly better than he was in the 2005 playoff game, but the Giants lost to the Eagles on a last-second field goal.

### **2007 Season**



**Manning and the Giants win Super Bowl XLII  
beating the New England Patriots 17-14**

The Chargers made the playoffs but in the divisional round 35-24 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, Rivers played well, throwing for over 300 yards and 3 touchdowns, but was sacked 4 times and threw an interception. They possessed the ball for only 17 seconds during the third quarter and had only 15 yards rushing.

Rivers signed a 6-year, \$92 million contract extension with the Chargers. They made the playoffs again with a 13-3 record, tied for second best in the NFL. In the divisional round, Rivers was 27-40 for 298 yards but was intercepted twice and the Chargers lost 17-14 to the New York Jets.

Rivers led the league in passing yards, throwing for a career-high 4,710 yards - 10 yards more than second-place finisher, Peyton Manning. The Chargers finished a disappointing 9-7 and their four-year reign as AFC West champions ended while they missed the playoffs.



**Chargers lose to the New England Patriots**

## **2008 Season**

After becoming the No. 1 seed in the NFC with a 12-4 record, the Giants had a bye and home field advantage through the rest of the playoffs. They faced the Philadelphia Eagles at Giants Stadium in windy conditions. The Eagles won the game 23-11. Manning completed 15 out of 29 passes for 169 yards with no touchdowns and two interceptions.

## **2009 Season**

Eli Manning signed a 6-year \$97.5 million contract extension. The Giants finished with an 8-8 record and missed the playoffs. Eli ended the season with career highs including 4,021 passing yards, 27 touchdowns, and a 62.3 completion percentage.

## **2010 Season**

The Giants ended the season with a 10-6 record but missed the playoffs because of Green Bay Packers 10-3 win over the Chicago Bears. The Packers went on to win Super Bowl XLV.



**Giants lose to the Houston Texans**



**Rivers and the Chargers missed the playoffs with a 8-8 record. At this point in his career, Rivers' passer rating was the highest in league history, and he had the second-best touchdown-to-interception ratio of all-time (136/58).**

**The Chargers' 7-9 record was the first losing season in Rivers' career, and the team's first since 2003. They missed the playoffs for the third straight season, leading to the firing of Turner and general manager A. J. Smith**



**Rivers and the Chargers had a good season going 9-7. He led the Chargers to a 27-10 win in the wildcard playoffs against Cincinnati before losing to Denver in the divisional playoffs, 24-17. He was named Comeback Player of the Year.**

### **2011 Season**

**Eli Manning's second Super Bowl XLVI championship! Manning and the Giants had a second trip in five years to the Super Bowl, setting up a highly anticipated Super Bowl XLII rematch against Tom Brady and the New England Patriots. Manning once again led the Giants to an upset victory over the favored Patriots 21-17.**

### **2012 Season**

**The Giants would endure a disappointing season following up their Super Bowl run in 2011. Although the Giants did not qualify for the playoffs with a 9-7 season, Manning was selected to his third Pro Bowl.**



### **2013 Season**

**The Giants finished the season 7-9, their first losing record since Manning's rookie year. Manning passed Phil Simms to become the franchise's all-time leader in yards passing.**



The Chargers lost their final game of the season when a win would have qualified them for the playoffs. For the season, he was voted by the Chargers as their MVP after finishing with 4,286 yards, 31 touchdowns, and 18 interceptions.

Rivers agreed to a 4-year \$84 million contract extension. On September 20, Rivers threw his 255th touchdown passing Dan Fouts as the franchise leader in touchdown passes. The Chargers finished with a 4–12 record, last in the AFC West.

Rivers passed Fouts to become the Chargers' all-time passing yards leader. Despite throwing for 33 touchdowns, Rivers threw a career-high and league-leading 21 interceptions and completed only 60.4 of his passes, the second worst of his career. Rivers posted a rating of 87.9, also the second worst of his career. These struggles resulted in the Chargers finishing 5–11 and last in the division for the second straight year.

The Chargers moved to Los Angeles and become the LA Chargers. Rivers had a good season with 4,515 passing yards, 28 touchdowns, and ten interceptions. He helped lead the Chargers to a 9–7 season. But, despite having their first winning record since the 2014 season, the Chargers failed to make the playoffs.

#### **2014 Season**

The Giants won three of their last four games to end the season with a 6–10 record. Manning finished the season with 30 touchdown passes, 14 interceptions, and 4,410 passing yards.

#### **2015 Season**

Manning signed a four-year, \$84 million extension with the Giants. After starting the season 5-5, Giants fell to 1-5 the rest of the way to finish 6-10 for the second straight season.

#### **2016 Season**

The Giants' record was 11-5 (their first winning season since 2012). Manning and the Giants faced the Green Bay Packers in Lambeau Field in the Wild Card Round. Manning had a good game completing 23 of 44 of his passes for 299 yards, but was let down by numerous drops by Odell Beckham Jr. Aaron Rogers and the Packers would eventually rout the Giants 38-13, ending the Giants season.

#### **2017 Season**

After a 2–9 start to the season, Manning was benched and replaced by Geno Smith ending Manning's streak of 210 consecutive regular season games started. The streak was second all-time for quarterbacks behind Brett Favre's 297. Geno was bad and Eli got his starting job back but the Giants ended their disappointing season with a 3–13 record.

On December 13 in a Thursday Night Football game against the Chiefs, Rivers led the Chargers back from a 14-point deficit to win the game on a 2-point conversion to wideout Mike Williams. It was the Chargers first win against the Chiefs after 9 straight losses and secured their first playoff berth since 2013. In the Wild Card Round, Rivers and the Chargers beat the Baltimore Ravens 23-17. In the Division Championship Round, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots beat the Chargers 41-28.

**DARN - I bet on the Chargers!**

**2018  
Season**

Following speculation that Eli Manning would be released, new Giants head coach Pat Shurmur put these rumors aside by naming him the starter in week 1. Eli had a couple of good games, but the Giants had another disappointing season going 5-11 and missing the playoffs again. Manning's football playing future remains in doubt at this writing.

**Eli Manning's greatest moments were beating Tom Brady and the New England Patriots twice in the Super Bowl!**





**Philip Rivers San Diego Home**

**Rivers' 2018 salary was \$20.8M. Rivers is #6 on the all-time career NFL earning list with \$202.9M. His highest single-season earnings (includes the bonus) was \$32 million in 2015.**



## **More Interesting Information**

### **Career Pro Football Earnings**

### **Vehicles**



**Eli and big brother Peyton Manning**

**Eli Manning's 2018 salary was \$22.2 million.**

**Eli is #2 on the all-time career NFL earning list with \$235.3 million dollars. Guess who is #1 on the list?? Yes, you got it right! Peyton Manning is #1 on the all-time career NFL earning list with \$249 million dollars.**



**Hey, Eli drives a Toyota Truck just like me!**



**The Chargers may have relocated to Los Angeles, but Philip Rivers didn't make the move with them. The quarterback still calls San Diego home, which means his commute (5-hour 240 miles roundtrip) is immeasurably worse. Except that unlike the average commuter who spends hours a day on the road, Rivers will travel in a luxurious mobile office. The vehicle is a gutted SUV transformed to include two seats, a 40-inch screen, WiFi, satellite TV and a refrigerator. Rivers has a chauffeur so he can sit and study game films.**

**Rivers makes about \$500K a year endorsing such products as DirectTV.**

**Philip Rivers supports the following charities and causes:**

- **Ronald McDonald House Charities**
- **The Rivers Foundation**
- **Under privileged youth**
- **Veterans**

### **Endorsements**



**Eli makes \$8 million endorsing various product such as Toyota and Gatorade**

**Eli Manning supports the following charities and causes:**

- **Eli Manning Children Clinics**
- **Red Cross**
- **March of Dimes**
- **St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters**

### **Charities and Causes**

**So, did you figure out why I picked these two quarterbacks to write about? Let's do a quick recap.**

**Eli Manning was drafted as the number 1 pick by the San Diego Chargers. Philip Rivers was drafted as the number 4 pick by the New York Giants. Eli didn't want to play for the lowly Chargers, so he forced a trade to the Giants for Philip Rivers.**



**Manning become a starter in mid-season of this 2004 rookie season – he has been a starter for 230 games and has a record of 116 wins and 114 loses. Rivers was a backup to Drew Brees for two years before Brees went to the New Orleans Saints – he has been a starter for 208 games and has a record of 118 wins and 90 loses.**

**Both quarterbacks have been extremely durable and have not missed a game due to injuries.**

**Manning has thrown 7972 passes and completed 4804 of them (60.3%) – Eli has thrown 360 touchdowns and has had 239 interceptions for a passing rating of 84.1. Rivers has thrown 7000 passes and completed 4518 of them (64.5%) – Rivers has thrown 374 touchdowns and has had 178 interceptions for a passing rating of 95.6.**

**Neither Manning or Rivers are very mobile – both are pocket passers. Manning has rushed 311 times for 360 yards in his career. Rivers has rushed 353 times for 560 yards in his career.**

**Rivers had one of his best seasons in 2018 making the playoffs whereas Manning and the Giants only won 5 games and Eli Manning's future is in doubt.**

**Eli Manning has won two Super Bowls beating Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in both. Philip Rivers never made it to the Super Bowl losing to Tom Brady and the Patriots three times in the playoffs.**

**My conclusion:** Philip Rivers is the better quarterback. However, both should make the NFL Hall of Fame.

**I'm writing this article in January 2019 during the NFL Playoffs and will publish it before the Super Bowl. My pick to win the Super Bowl is the Los Angeles Rams (who beat the New Orleans Saints in OT 26-23) over the New England Patriots (who beat the Kansas City Chiefs in OT 37-31) by 7 points.**

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