

profootballsidekick.com GIANTS PRE/POST BARKLEY ANALYSIS

Updated: January, 2026

Barkley 2021-23 w/Giants vs 2024 Giants RB's

				RUSHING			RECEIVING		
YEARS PLAYED	GIANTS RUNNING BACKS	2024 SALARY	PERCENT GAMES MISSED	YARDS	AVERAGE PER RUSH	TD	RECEPTIONS	YARDS PER RECEPTION	TD
2021-23	Saquon Barkley	13.9 million	24%	955.7	4.1	6.0	46	6.37	2.0
2024	Tracey/ Singletary	6.7 million	0%	1,276.0	4.4	9.0	59	6.83	1.0

2025 Barkley Versus Giants Running Backs

2025	Saquon Barkley	12.6 million	0%	1,140	4.1	7	37	7.4	2
2025	3 Giants RB's	6.63 million	0%	1,587	4.0	12	78	8.3	4

CONCLUSION

- 1) The stats prove the Giants were much more productive at running back without Barkley.
- 2) The Giants paid \$6.7 million for better RB productivity than Barkley's \$12+ million.
- 3) NFL executives widely believe extending a great running back on a team with a weak offensive line is not smart noting the money saved should be invested in the offensive line.
- 4) The Giants used the \$7 million in savings to sign 3 offensive linemen which elevated their o-line rank from 31st in 2023 to 27th in 2024 (despite major injuries) and 15th in 2025.
- 5) Casual fans and media pundits usually misjudge real player value by listening to each other too much without statistical evidence or NFL GM accumen. This leads to lazy, ridiculous conclusions like "the Giants should have kept Barkley because he ran for 2,000 yards". Virtually nobody has mentioned Barkley went from the 31st ranked offensive line to the NFL's best in 2024 and uncharacteristically avoided injury.
- 6) NFL analysts Greg Olsen (1/28/25), then Dan Orlovsky/Ryan Clark (1/26/25) noted point #5 above.
- 7) More pundit poppycock: "The Giants let Barkley go to the Eagles". Teams losing free agents don't decide where they go. Two teams offered Barkley more money than Philly. The Giants told Barkley to "test the market and come back for an offer from us". He didn't do so for whatever reason.
- 8) Barkley was unusually healthy in 2024 & 2025 after he missed 24% of his games with the Giants.
- 9) One thing some pundits got right is that the Giants lost some team culture value losing Barkley. He has been a very positive, supportive, team player his entire career.

TEAM GRADES

- Giants: B+: Improved o-line, rushing attack and running back receiving at half the price of Barkley.
- Eagles: A+: Barkley mediocre in 2025, but 2,000 rush yards and a Super Bowl win in 2024.