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Ripe for the picking



By [Rich Eisen](#)
Special to [NFL.com](#)

(Nov. 8, 2005) -- So, the Colts slay the Patriots dragon for all primetime eyes to see and the Eagles fire [Terrell Owens](#).

Now, as for the Eagles, I'm loath to write anything for fear of it being dated the minute it gets posted. But, it appears that despite a real apology from a surprisingly contrite Owens on Tuesday afternoon, the Eagles will stay the course and go without their Hall of Fame receiver forevermore. As Adam Scheffer reported on NFL Network moments after the press conference in front of Owens' home, the Eagles had already removed all pictures of and testimonials to Owens from their facility "like an old girlfriend who was now out of their lives." If only Owens had read the heartfelt apology that included "respect" for [Donovan McNabb](#) back on Friday rather than "making it short and sweet" as he did (reportedly clutching a statement of apology to McNabb that he refused or neglected to read), then Owens would have been the one galloping through the Redskins secondary Sunday night instead of rookie [Reggie Brown](#). Owens would be the one getting ready for the Cowboys rather than, as Terrell Davis said, hanging ATC -- at the crib. There's only one person to blame for that, and it's Owens.

His agent, Drew Rosenhaus, can point the finger at others until he's blue in



the face. He can say that Owens did everything in his power to apologize to the Eagles previously and the Eagles decided it just wasn't good enough, but we all know that's a sham. Rosenhaus' rant at the media, claiming its mistreatment of his client, smacks of a 10-pack-a-day smoker bitching about the tobacco industry. The media choices Owens made in the past few months have been mind-boggling, to say the least: From crying about his contract to Donnie Deutsch on CNBC in April to doing sit-ups and lay-ups in front of the Philly media throng moments after being suspended in August to his

final, last-straw interview as an Eagle -- baring his soul to an incredibly intrepid 18-year-old freshman at Syracuse University named Graham Bensinger, who got Owens to publicly knock his quarterback and organization (no tough feat) just one day after getting into a training-room fight with Hugh Douglas. In each case, a legitimate question in regards to Owens could be: What's he thinking?

As far as I can recall, no one in the media put a gun to T.O.'s head in each of those instances. When Owens read his statement of apology Tuesday, it was his finest hour. Too bad that hour came way too late, coming only when the Eagles took him out of the sandbox and took away all his toys. Now, the recognition for his 100th career touchdown doesn't seem so important to him anymore.