

# Jaxson Dart seems to be the quarterback who finally revitalizes the Giants

By ANTHONY ANGELILLO  
Staff Writer

Being a New York Giants fan has meant living through more frustration than celebration. I grew up watching seasons where hope faded by Halloween. There was no consistency at quarterback with an offense that never seemed to belong.

That history shapes how I see Jaxson Dart now. When the New York Giants selected Dart with the 25th pick of the 2025 NFL draft, I hated the decision.

I did not see why we needed to draft a QB when there was a much better QB class next year, that included Indiana QB Fernando Mendoza, Oregon QB Dante Moore and pre-injury Penn State QB Drew Allar, who had a season ending left ankle injury.

Then you add the NYG signing QBs Russell Wilson and Jameis Winston and it made no sense to me. We could have drafted another defensive player, especially in the secondary, to strengthen our defense even more. Nope, we drafted a QB that no one believed was even a first-round pick to begin with.

However, the front office of the NYG knew something that I did not. General Manager Joe Schoen traded back into Round One after landing outside linebacker from Penn State Abdul Carter at pick No. 3. to take Dart at No. 25, giving up the No. 34 and No. 99 picks and a 2026 third-rounder to Houston.

A four-year, \$16.9 million fully guaranteed contract with the team, which included an \$8.9 million signing bonus, is all that was needed to show that the Giants were all in

on their young QB.

Now fast forward to October 2025, and all my doubts look stupid, and I can admit that I was wrong.

In his first three starts, Dart went 56 of 85 for 508 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions, plus 167 rushing yards and two scores. He ran for at least 50 rushing yards in each of those starts.

He delivered a debut for the ages with a win over the 3-0 Chargers, which was then followed by an awful loss to the New Orleans Saints, where the NYG turned the ball over on five consecutive drives in a 26-14 loss.

Then Dart and the Giants answered three nights later by upsetting the defending Super Bowl champions, the Philadelphia Eagles, 34-17 on Thursday Night Football. Dart threw for 195 and ran for 58 with two total touchdowns.

I was watching that game live and I could not believe we were dominating the Eagles. It felt like a completely different team. I mean, we just lost to the Saints, and then we came off a short rest to beat the Champs — that’s probably why millions of NYG fans and I were going totally nuts.

I say that as someone who lived the quarterback roller coaster after Eli Manning’s retirement, my generation has watched the likes of quarterbacks like Daniel Jones, Colt McCoy, Mike Glennon, Jake Fromm, Tyrod Taylor, Drew Lock, Tommy DeVito and this fall, Russell Wilson grace our screens to see them make a joke out of the position.

None of this ignores the reality that Dart now faces. The Giants lost wide receiver Malik

Nabers to a torn ACL in Week four, which stripped the passing game of its top receiver.

When your WR1 is on the shelf, the quarterback must be the problem solver. Dart has taken that on, and the front office has reportedly explored receiver options because the best way to evaluate a rookie is to give him real help.

What convinces me now is his connection to head coach Brian Daboll. This is the same offensive mind that gave us QB Josh Allen, and he has not been able to work with a QB from the beginning.

Scouting reports of Dart that came out of Ole Miss described him as

a rhythm passer with clean-pocket efficiency and quick decision-making. This is how Daboll runs his offense, making Dart the perfect experiment to

execute Daboll’s vision.

If you have watched this team since 2012, like me, you know the failures that have defined the last decade. So many players and coaches have come and left, and we have missed out on the primes of so many of our past and present players. Dart’s arrival does not fix every issue, but it gives New York something to build around.

I acknowledge that I was quick to hate the NYG for drafting Dart, but after seeing so many bad picks and going all in on the wrong players, just for it to backfire in the worst ways, can you blame me for thinking the same things with Dart?

Now, having seen firsthand what this team has become over the last couple of weeks, I have

confidence that Dart is a rookie who owns the ball, moves the chains when the first read disappears and competes even if he puts himself in harm’s way.

That is why I believe Dart is the future, and that belief comes from the heart of a lifelong fan who wants nothing more than to see his team reach the finish line.



ILLUSTRATION BY MATTHEW NATOP

# Remembering John Candy

## A gentle soul whose heart was as big as the laughter he inspired

By ANTHONY ANGELILLO  
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Amazon Prime Video released “John Candy: I Like Me” on Oct. 10, directed by Colin Hanks and produced by Ryan Reynolds.

John Candy is not as well-known now as he was back in the ’80s and ’90s. I really did not know much about Candy myself, but I knew he was a famous comedian and movie star who was tragically taken from us too soon.

The documentary takes never-before-seen home videos with new interviews from Bill Murray, Steve Martin, Tom Hanks, Catherine O’Hara, Eugene Levy, Dan Aykroyd, Dave Thomas, Macaulay Culkin and more, with participation from the children of Candy, Chris and Jennifer, with wife Rose, who all serve as co-executive producers.

This is not just a film about a comedian — it is a portrait of a man who gave everything to make others happy, even when he struggled to find that happiness for himself.

The title comes from a defining moment in “Planes, Trains and Automobiles.” After Steve Martin’s character, Neal Page unleashes a cruel rant, Candy’s character, Del Griffith, responds with: “I like me.” That line becomes the heartbeat of the documentary. It reminds viewers that Candy’s humor came from a place of empathy, not ego. It is a statement of self-worth from someone who often doubted his own.

“He carried the weight of his father passing almost every day. Those things were in his mind, in his heart, and he carried them,” says Dave Thomas, who was an actor and a close friend of Candy, in one of the most emotional interviews.

That fear of running out of time drove Candy

to work relentlessly, but it also fueled anxiety that never fully left him. Hearing that made me see his performances differently. Behind every laugh was a man racing against something he could not control.

Candy’s father’s death is mentioned frequently throughout the film because it shaped Candy as a person.

Having your father die on your fifth birthday, and your family never talking about it, is something that no person should ever experience, and Candy dealt with it every day. His son Chris said it best: “If he was five when his father died, and then you grow up with a group of people who do not for a second want to even acknowledge it? Well, yeah, no shit, I’d have anxiety, too.”

What struck me most was how much love surrounds this story. Candy’s children, Chris and Jennifer, share memories that feel very different when you

understand that they have lived a majority of their lives without their father.

Candy gave so much of himself to the world that he sometimes forgot to save enough for home.

His children cherish every moment with him, and he truly was an amazing father who tried to be involved. After all, he was trying to be the father that his father never had a chance to be.

The film does not shy away from the darker side of fame. Archival clips show interviewers who fixated on Candy’s size, turning his body into a punchline.

It was also revealed that Candy continued to be overweight because that’s what people wanted him to be. That constant scrutiny pushed Candy toward unhealthy habits.

That really pissed me off. He deserved better and yet even in those

moments, his resilience is why he remains so beloved.

Candy died in 1994 at 43 while filming “Wagons East.” The documentary handles that moment with honesty but not despair. It honors his legacy without letting grief overshadow the joy he brought.

As someone who grew up loving Candy’s movies, this documentary felt personal. It reminded me why his work mattered then and why it matters now. He was not perfect, and the film does not pretend he was. But it shows a man who cared deeply, who made people feel seen, and who believed — at least sometimes — that liking yourself is enough. That message feels more important than ever.

This documentary does John Candy justice. If you don’t know him, I couldn’t give a bigger recommendation to watch this film — this documentary will introduce you to the heart behind the humor.

After two hours, you will cry happy tears, knowing that you have experienced the warmth, joy and happiness that Candy provided so many people throughout his life.

“I Like Me” does not just tell John Candy’s story; it lets him tell it one more time in his own way. It comes from countless home videos where John looks into the camera and beams at the people he loves.

This heartfelt tribute to Candy is a powerful and emotional farewell to a truly irreplaceable talent. This film lets Candy say, one more time and without apology, “I like me.”

This is a beautiful tribute to a legend whose legacy of love, laughter and kindness continues to inspire us all.

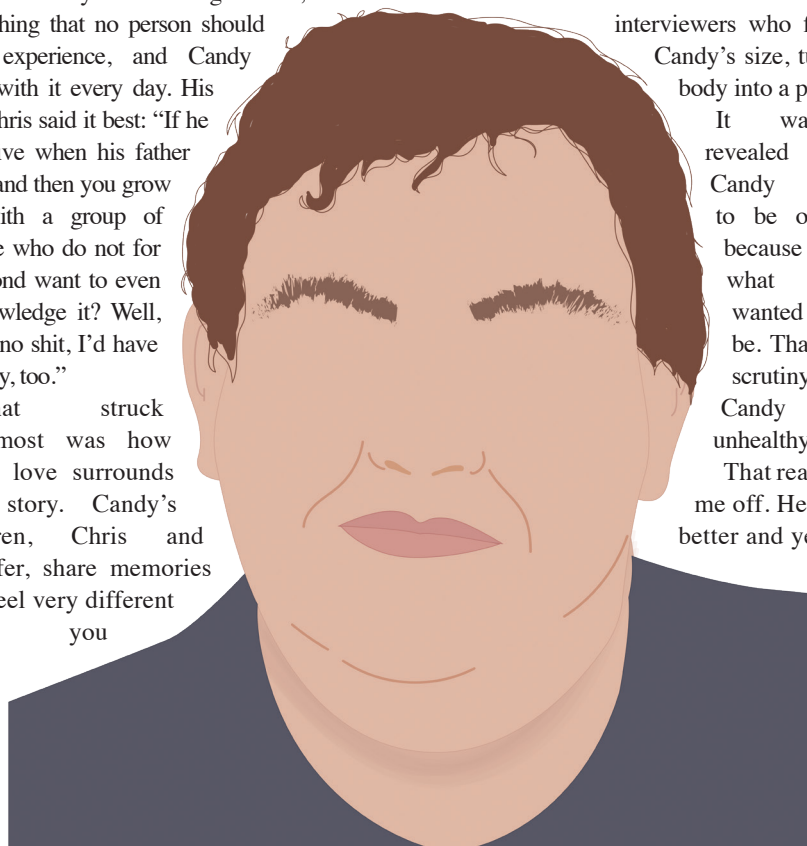


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