

NAFLUstrated

2007 Season Preview Issue

The Excitement of the New

Brett Favre is just one of several starting quarterbacks with a new address. The ageless wonder leaves Green Bay for K.C.

Preseason, 2007.....Vol. 2 Issue 1

- * Off-season recaps of all 32 teams
- * The Commissioner's address
- * Around the League feature

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General Manager
Team Headquarters
Intra-League Mail



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2007

State of the NAFL

by Cuckoo, NAFL Commissioner

Strong. Tell me the truth. That was the first thing that popped into your head once you read the title, right?

"The state of the NAFL is *STRONG*..."

That was what occurred to me as well when NAFlustrated asked me to write a brief letter for their upcoming offseason issue. It was that steely-eyed politician glare, the one that says, "Damn it, I'm going to look optimistic and confident if it gives me hemorrhoids in the process." They all say it, and who knows if they actually believe it. After all, they're politicians.

Well I'm no politician. And it actually pains me to say it. No, the pain is not from clinching false confidence. It's a pain that realizes I've slipped to the cliché'. But I can't help it.

"The state of the NAFL *is* strong."

We now begin the offseason on what is our league's fourth sim-time year of existence. In real time (that often fails to exist when we become entrenched in this undertaking of ours), we are coming upon our illustrious one year anniversary. The end of October, right about the time you're handing out candy to some stranger's kids, the NAFL will turn one. It will do so likely without much fanfare, but I'm glad I have this opportunity to reflect, however briefly, upon our successes.

And let's face it, they are successes. Many of us are familiar with Front Office Football Central, the meeting place of so many disparate individuals united essentially for their enjoyment of a text sim. We have seen the online leagues come and go, languishing because of a lack of attention or a lack of participation, lack of money or lack of effort. However they fail, they too often do. To throw in yet another hackneyed cliché', only the strong survive.

That, of course, is the interesting part. When General Mike and I sat down about a year ago to lay out the basic rules for this NAFL, we really had no idea what to expect. We knew we wanted a realistic NFL sim model with a solid foundation of owners, a few interesting items unique to us, and a consistent and reliable League Office. Beyond that, so much was left to chance.

What transpired was much more than I could have hoped, and the truth is that I had very little to do with it. The league survived and improved because of an amazing group of core owners (over half the league have been with us from the start). And it bettered itself because of some talented and dedicated individuals. From Gottimd's reports to Lonnie's work on the draft room, exports utility and more, the league is truly a group effort.

This past season, Gottimd joined the Commissioner's office, and deservedly so. He has been a great asset and works hard every day for the league. We also saw the creation of a magnificent new feature, the one you're reading right now. Michael Hass showed us that we *can* just hit the jackpot when we welcome a new owner into the league. NAFlustrated has to rank up their with some of the better features in any online league around.

We have the NAFL Insider, FOF_Stats, a bevy of fine league write-ups and mock drafts, as well as at least 12 teams that regularly create articles covering their franchises. The immersion is there; the dedication is there. And the future looks bright.

The group of owners is amazingly stable, and there has rarely been a time in the NAFL's history (if ever at all) that we have had an open team for more than a day or two. Currently, there are people on our waiting list, hoping for the chance to get in our league. All of this makes my original statement less of a cliché' and more of a definitive truth.

So we enter our fourth season, hoping to continually improve. In our future are online box scores and team pages, thanks to the amazing work of Lonnie. There will undoubtedly be more reports from Gottimd himself as I know that if he can think of it, he can create it. And next season will surely contain more football drama, the surprises and collapses that brought us all together in the first place.

Therein lies perhaps the most important thing to say about the "state of our NAFL." We have created a community in the past year, one built on a game but that survives on a common goal of enjoyment. There is a tremendous respect that the members of our league share for each other, one which I think is unfortunately rare in online leagues. It's for all of these reasons that I have no need to be a politician. I don't have to feign confidence or force optimism with red-faced anguish. And I hope that none of you do either. So take a deep breath and say it with me. No need to strain.

"The state of the NAFL is strong."



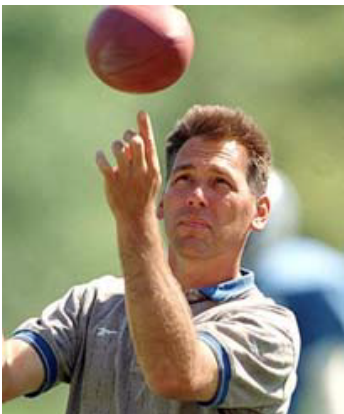
North American Football League

Around the League

CLEVELAND coaches and players were sorry to see offensive coordinator Phil Welch leave town, but are genuinely pleased for his new job as head coach of the **STEELERS**. Welch helped the Browns lead the AFC North in scoring all of his three seasons there while building Travis Henry and the offensive line into powerhouses. Replacing him will be former Seattle coordinator, **Tim Graf**, who led Seattle to 13 wins and 403 points in 2004. His biggest task will be to find and groom a successor to Jeff Garcia ... Graf leaves a **SEA-HAWK** club that was able to bring Shaun Alexander under contract for the rest of his career. New head coach Travis Hodges is a defensive

guy and tough as nails. The new team will be a run-oriented, defensive team in his image, spawned partly out of the maturation of second-year

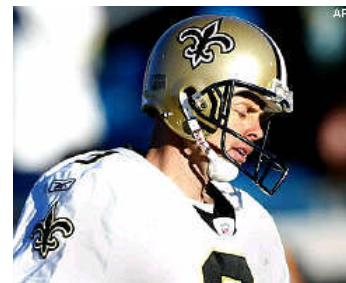
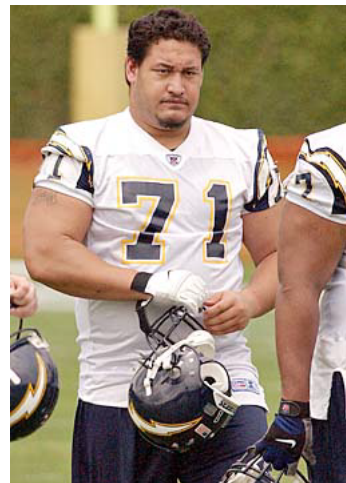
linebacker Hunter Blevins. New offensive coordinator Zach Pettigrew gets the job of re-making the team for ball control. Cutting Matt Hasselbeck was his first move, partly to have the money to spend elsewhere and partly to start fresh under a totally new system. With franchised guard **Steve Hutchinson**, the line has its anchor to build around... Word out of the Ranch in **DALLAS** now is that Alvin Roberts knew long before their playoff loss that the Cowboys wouldn't be inviting him back this year. Reportedly, he'd cleaned out his office even before the playoffs and worked on film study at home. At 63, he's probably nearing the end of his career with his new job in Philly. Dallas has the highest paid coordinator in the league with Ricky Watson on offense, but the defense has taken some heat in the last few years. Corner **Donald Mitchell** got cut, in part, because of the pressure on that side of the ball and Marcelus Wiley got dealt to, if nothing else, make a change. They backed out of the Patrick Surtain talks at the last minute, but were reportedly very close to a deal.



Tom Pidgeon/Getty



TAMPA had the luxury of planning their off-season around depth with 47 players under contract. They did that in a big way with the acquisition of guard **Toniou Fonoti** from San Diego. He's a former All-Pro and won't start training camp in the starting lineup. Part of the surplus in vets was due to LB Donnie Edwards and T Derrick Deese agreeing to return rather than retire. Edwards especially had been a forgone conclusion to retire and may not have a starting job any longer. And at wideout, last year's first round pick, Antonio Sjogren, is fighting to prove he can start. Steady youngster Blake Grzegorzczuk has challenged Sjogren since he showed up... With revenues expected to grow next season due to the new stadium, the **SAINTS** put their cash on the table for newcomer Philip Rivers signing a \$36 million contract. Other rumors around the club say that the front office has taken a hard stand on declining vets and that one or more popular old guys may be let go. Kicker **John Carney** already got booted for demanding too much money and LB Derrick Rodgers isn't assumed to be back. Thus the signing of David Akers and Zeke Moreno. Free agency was not kind to the Saints' offensive line but the draft saw them take four linemen. Guards Lamont Forbes (4.3) and Blake Baker (5.18) will get plenty of playing time simply due to the numbers game. Tackles Clyde Jordan (5.6) and Dale Brady (5.23) need be less impactful behind Jon Stinchcomb and newly acquired John St. Clair, but this depth make GM gottimd quite comfortable. However, the prize of their choices was Tim Apold, the 18th overall choice. Sources say he was a target for months and most of the staff is excited to see him in pads.



Mixed Signal (CALLERS)

Don't feel alone if you don't recognize the quarterback of some of the teams in the first few weeks of the season. The odds are better than ever that your team and the one it's playing is fielding a new signal caller. In part, a weak draft class for QB's contributed to the upheaval. Even the top guy in the draft was rapped for being too raw (he ended up with the Cowboy, the only QB to go in Round 1).

It all started with the late-2006 rumors of Philip Rivers being dealt from the Chargers to the Saints. Coincidentally, Saint start Aaron Brooks is a backup in San Diego this year. Anyway, a series of trades, cuts and signings ensued and now as many as 13 teams will have new starters.

Perhaps most shocking was the release of Brett Favre by the Packers (he's in Kansas City now) who will hand the ball to Bryant Flowers now. Also shaking the NFL earth was Cincinnati's trade of Carson Palmer to Arizona (for Jake McCown and others). The Bengals then signed Kurt Warner from New York. And speaking of New York, they traded the #2 overall pick in the draft to Chicago for Rex Grossman. Late in the period, Tampa traded their young starter Leo Coppa to Miami.

Plus Dallas will start Tommy Maddox for injured Drew Henson and Tennessee let Steve McNair walk and will start Todd Collins. Confused?

Draft Day Diary

San Diego GM Michael Hass and Day 1 of the Draft

12:00am - We're sitting in a meeting with the defensive coaches reviewing secondary prospects, namely corners. The meeting was supposed to be over at 9:30, but the whole day has been running behind.

12:34am - The defensive meeting breaks up and I sit with Dean Spanos and Teddy Duncan reviewing our first round strategy. For the fortieth time in three days we agree that guard Dusty Bates from Georgia Tech will be our target for the #6 pick, if he's still around. From there we list QB Seth Alexander from Washington State and tackle Albert Mathis from LSU as fall-backs. We retire to our respective rooms, mine being the one adjoining our meeting room and, thereby, the lingering smell of 22 men in a cramped, stressful, tight space.

3:08am - Unable to sleep, I'm pondering Bates and Alexander. Something about each bothers me, especially Alexander. He's just too... raw. And Bates played the right side in college which is where our new free agent Chris Naeole is slotted. Having not slept at all, I get up and shower.

6:00am - I'm sitting in the conference room reviewing film of wide receivers, mainly looking at blocking technique. For about three weeks our attention has drifted towards wide receiver and forgoing QB altogether. The staff that made the trip to New York files in for a scheduled meeting and we video-conference with a group in San Diego who look more tired than I since it's 3:00 there. I voice my concerns with Bates and Alexander. The responsible position coaches discuss what they've seen. I'm overruled on Bates, but the staff agrees Alexander probably isn't worth the #10 pick, let alone #6.

6:49am - I corner Emmanuel Gallant ask him about defensive ends since he's yet to commit to a favorite. It's unlikely that Jason Mireles will be around so we talk mostly about Artis Chapman from Alabama, a player I see as viable for the #16 choice. Manny's been studying film of linemen for three months now and hates Chapman's pass rush technique. We need a pass rusher to replace Joe Johnson and agree Chapman isn't our guy. After that it falls off a bit, but Manny likes Clyde Tollefson from Virginia. I make a note and we agree to talk again before the #10 pick.

7:27am - The five guys that will man the booth at the draft itself leave for the Javits Center and I do a phone interview with a sports station in San Diego. They make it clear they think we should take Shane Calmus, a highly-rated safety from Cal State Northridge. He's a SoCal guy with lots of ties to San Diego and has an unreal ability to find the ball. I'm certainly interested, but safety isn't really of "first-round" concern to me. I don't tell them that we've talked about taking him and trying him at corner.

8:11am - Dean and I pepper Teddy about his "most impressive" list. He's enamored with Calvin Bauer, a cornerback out of Virginia Tech who impressed us all at the combine and in interviews. Our plan is not to take a corner until round 2, but Bauer will be long gone by then. He presses us but agrees that guard and tackle are bigger needs. If the cupboard is bare at those spots when we pick, we agree to look at Bauer.

9:23am - I get a call from another GM about a trade. It would net us a bundle of picks plus a big name offensive tackle while moving down, but it falls apart when Ricky Schroeder's name comes up - just no depth there.

9:54am - Dean, Teddy, Manny, G.C. Phil Balogh, Lead Scout Chet Myers and about 10 others are settled into what the media would call our "war room" and prepared to start the draft. I dispatch two personnel guys to chat up familiar agents for the current buzz and for a ballpark on our first round picks' contract values. Dean is pacing. Teddy, Manny and Phil are huddled in the corner. Chet and I make some adjustments to our board in the sixth round area, namely a totally unheralded RB from Alcorn State named Randal Meadows who'd been stuck on the bench behind Bob McNally.

10:08am - The draft begins and Baltimore wastes little time in taking Richie Jeffries, a kid that looks like an All-Pro in the making. ESPN reports a rumor somewhat resembling one of the trades I mentioned. They get most of it wrong including the pick involved on our end (it was the #16, not the #6).

10:56am - With Mireles, Bates, Fidrych, and Bullock gone, we aren't surprised to be deciding between Archie Caldwell and Albert Mathis. The scouts agree that Mathis has more upside but also is more risky. We need this pick to be rock solid so I make the call to go with Caldwell. Our team plane leaves San Diego for Red Wing, MN to pick him up. On board is the owner, Alex Spanos, our Media Relations Director and the beat reporter for *The Bolt Report*.

11:17am - Teddy is quietly smirking and nodding at the scouting reports now that the top of our board has dwindled and Calvin Bauer remains. Even Artis Chapman is gone here. Duncan gets his man. It's a short hop over to Watertown, SD for the plane to bring him to San Diego with Caldwell. We're watching Antione Upshaw and Vince Powell closely from here.

1:22pm - With Powell going one spot ahead of us, we take Upshaw who, at one point a month earlier, was the #5 player on our entire board. The team pilot gets another break, having to fly back to the Dakotas to get him. After the choice, I congratulate the staff on a nice first round and head for JFK with Dean and we board a Gulfstream V belonging to a close friend of Alex Spanos in the entertainment industry. Five hour flight to review the picks.

3:30pm - We get a call on the plane from another GM who wants to move out of the first round. He's looking to acquire our second round pick and a first next year. But I don't see much left to jump up for this year so we pass. Meanwhile, Dean wishes we had taken a defensive end to replace Joe Johnson. I'm more disappointed that we didn't get a wide receiver since we really need two. Round two talks continue in San Diego and New York.

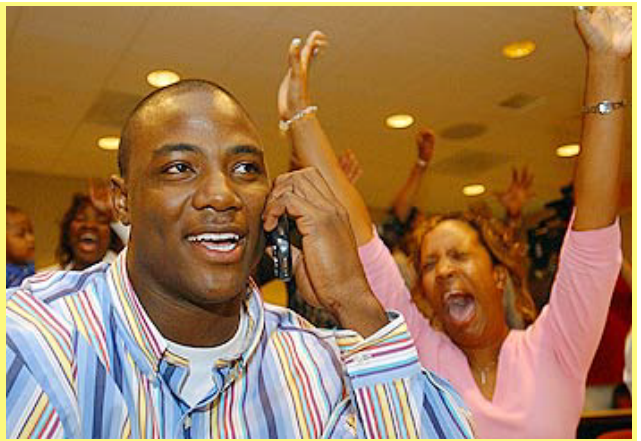
4:34pm - As we approach our second round choice, little has surprised us. Teddy calls three picks before we're up and lays out the top of our board. I had hoped to take a receiver in the first but the pieces didn't fall that way. The clear elites in the class are gone but I'm interested in a strider-type tight end from Illinois named Jared Steinhurst who the coaches believe can be turned into a wide-out. He has sure hands, runs great routes and is 6'4". I tell Teddy to take him as a complement to Ricky Schroeder. The contingency plan is Issas Jurkovic, a less sound receiver from Virginia.

5:55pm - We're over Las Vegas when the Asst. GM calls to update the board for me. Nearly everyone I hoped to take in the fourth is gone and they're only through the middle of the third. He and I start flooding other teams with calls in search of an offer to trade out of the fourth. We get it when Tampa offers up Antonio Sjugren, a former first-rounder, for all but one of our remaining picks. I'm nervous since we have to add another tight end and could use a safety, but end up agreeing to the trade to solidify the receiver group.

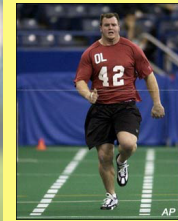
7:45pm - I spend a little time with the three first round guys in my office. We eschew the tour since all three have been there for interviews. All three are excited and appear to be in football shape.

8:31pm - The three picks and I step to a podium at headquarters and address the media. I express my pleasure in bringing them all in and not-so-gently remind them to be in rookie camp in 51 days.

11:59pm - I'm sitting with several local business leaders in a reception our corporate sponsors throw each year on draft day. They seem excited about the draft and off-season in general. My first draft day concludes the way it began - me drinking coffee in an effort to stay awake and loads of work waiting for me in the next 24 hours.



Left: First overall pick Richie Jeffries, also the strongest man in the draft, will change the Baltimore front seven right away. **Above:** Darryl Troy, as expected, got a first-round phone call. Detroit took him at #11. **Below:** Guard Dusty Bates impressed the Bengals enough to go #3 overall. **Bottom:** The Washington contingent had to split up via various luxury aircraft to pick up their plethora of draft picks.



Improved:

Bills
Jets

Dolphins

Regressed:

Patriots

Top rookie:

Jake Bullock
Buffalo

Top off.:

Patriots

Top def.:

Jets



Buffalo Bills

2006: 5-11 Third place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Lonnie Whiting, 2nd year

Offensive Star: QB Clifton Huffman **Defensive Star:** LB Takeo Spikes
Arrivals: FS Todd Johnson (trade Bears), RB Rod Smart, WR Issac Bruce, K Paul Edinger, DT Rob Meier, LB Adrian Ross, LB Torrance Marshall, LB Anthony Simmons, LB James Farrior, CB Bhawoh Jue, S Tony Dixon
Departures: TE Mark Campbell (trade Pitt), DE Keith McKenzie (retired), DT Pat Williams (trade Oakland), K Rian Lindell (trade Bears), QB Todd Collins, WR Antwaan Randle-El, WR Eric Moulds
Biggest Addition: LB Jake Bullock. They filled the biggest hole in the roster and Bullock will benefit from newly acquired Rob Meier in front of him.
Outlook: They had a great draft and good free agency. They certainly don't look like 3rd place.

2007 Draft
1. LB Jake Bullock, 5' 11" 226 lbs, Wisconsin
2. RB Alvin Carlisle, 6' 1" 226, Mississippi State
3. RT Moe Whiting, 6' 5" 312 lbs, Minnesota
5(17) TE Teddy Idomir, 6' 2" 236 lbs, Miami (FL)
5(19) G Jimmy Sisson, 6' 0" 312 lbs, Georgia Tech
6(5) CB Dexter Hayes, 5' 8" 187 lbs, Virginia Military Institute
6(17) CB Phillip Mays, 5' 11" 194 lbs, Houston



Miami Dolphins

2006: 4-11-1 Fourth place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Jon Kosderka, 3rd year.

Offensive Star: WR Chris Chambers **Defensive Star:** LB Zach Thomas
Arrivals: QB Leo Coppa (trade Tampa), RB J.R. Redmond, DT Damione Lewis, DT John Parrella, S Sam Garnes
Departures: S Doug Evans (retired), DT Jeff Zgonina (retired), CB Patrick Surtain (trade Tampa), QB AJ Feeley, DE William Burnett, DT Justin Bannan, K Olindo Mare
Biggest Addition: QB Leo Coppa. With Fidrych and Chambers, Coppa can develop into a franchise cornerstone.
Outlook: The Dolphin GM is taking small but steady steps to improving this team. Their draft class is quite good

2007 Draft
1. WR Lester Fidyrych, 5'9" 191 lbs, Monmouth College (NJ)
2. T Cary Heath, 6' 0" 282 lbs, Eastern Michigan
3(4) T Lester Rivers, 6' 7" 328 lbs, Nebraska
3(16) S Kelvin Armtt, 6' 0" 198 lbs, Pittsburgh
4(4) DE Terrell Roberson, 6' 0" 260 lbs, Purdue
4(15) RB Austin Fry, 5' 9" 211 lbs, Tennessee
5. S Xavier Sanderson, 5' 9" 200 lbs, Eastern Kentucky
6. DE Willie Broemer, 6' 8" 275 lbs, Kutztown



New England Patriots

2006: 14-2 first place, NFL champions.
Head Coach: Mo Cantor, 4th year.

Offensive Star: QB Tom Brady **Defensive Star:** DE Richard Seymour
Arrivals: FB Thomas Tapeh (trade Phil.), T Jon Jansen (trade Wash), S Will Demps (trade Saints), CB Ricardo Colclough (trade Pitt), S Sean Taylor (trade Wash), G Victor Leyva
Departures: NT Jarvis Green (trade Saints), CB Tyrone Poole (retired), C Tim Provost (trade Pitt), G Tupe Peko (trade Phil.), T John St. Clair (trade Saints), TE Christian Faura (trade Wash), S Rodney Harrison
Biggest Addition: Safeties Demps and Taylor. It almost isn't fair but the backfield is better.
Outlook: Back from salary cap hell, they still have a good shot at this division.

2007 Draft
3. G Howard Flowers, 6' 5" 317 lbs, Auburn
4. C Carlton Gaither, 6' 2" 274 lbs, Washington
5. DE Brent Beeston, 6' 8" 280 lbs, Penn State
6. WR Morris Soileau, 5' 8" 180 lbs, Minnesota



New York Jets

2006: 11-5 second place, Wild Card berth.
Head Coach: Drew Ciaccio, 1st year (Oakland, 4th overall)

Offensive Star: RB Jamal Lewis **Defensive Star:** LB Jonathan Vilma
Arrivals: LB LaVar Arrington (trade Wash), CB Mike Rumph (trade Car), G Chad Ward, T Stockar McDougle, DT Ian Scott, LB Dominique Stevenson
Departures: LB Victor Hobson (trade Car), QB Kliff Kingsbury, RB Chad Morton, DT Rien Long, CB Donnie Abraham
Biggest Addition: LB LaVar Arrington. The rich get richer.
Outlook: With a new coach, you could pole holes in their prospects, but Randy Moss skip town.

2007 Draft
1. TE Edwin Curry, 6' 4" 253 lbs, Navy
3. FB Leon Hendrickson, 6'1" 248 lbs, Fresno St
4. CB F. Cunningham, 5' 10" 181 lbs, SF Austin
5. G Alvin Herrington, 6'4" 309 lbs, GA Southern
7. S Emmitt England, 6' 4" 204 lbs, Tennessee



Dallas Cowboys

2006: 9-7 second place, Divisional round.
Head Coach: Chester McKenzie, 2nd year

Offensive Star: WR Hines Ward **Defensive Star:** LB Bradie James
Arrivals: RB Adrian Peterson, WR Charles Rogers (trade Lions), WR Hines Ward, CB Ike Taylor & TE Matt Schobel (trade Pitt), T Tyrus Marschaik, DE Kenny Mixon
Departures: WR Keyshawn Johnson (retired), RB Willis McGahee, DE Marcellus Wiley, TE Dan Campbell (trade Pitt)
Biggest Addition: WR Hines Ward. He knows Tommy Maddox and will take enough attention from the other weapons to make this team potent.
Outlook: The big trade with the Steelers created an uncommon energy. Charles Rogers added to that. As goes Maddox, so goes the Cowboys.

2007 Draft

1. QB Seth Alexander, 6' 2" 214 lbs, Washington State
- 3(17) DE Justin Gray, 6' 0" 260 lbs, San Diego State
- 3(20) WR Jumbo Nejedly, 6' 0" 199 lbs, Central Missouri State
4. LB Tyrus Durham, 6' 2" 247 lbs, Arkansas
5. DT Quentin Rodgers, 6' 4" 316 lbs, Texas A&M
6. DE Dusty Hughes, 6' 2" 259 lbs, Florida
7. T Jerald Bovin, 6' 6" 328 lbs, Kentucky

Improved:
Cowboys
Giants

Regressed:
Eagles
Redskins

Top rookie:
Jose Scott
Giants

Top off.:
Cowboys

Top def.:
Cowboys



New York Giants

2006: 4-12 third place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Juan Beisel, 4th year.

Offensive Star: RB LaBrandon Toefield **Defensive Star:** S Shaun Williams
Arrivals: QB Rex Grossman (trade Chicago), WR Rod Smith, LB Shawn Barber, CB Roderick Hood, K John Carney
Departures: WR Jimmy Smith and Amani Toomer (retired), QB Kurt Warner, WR Chas Gessner, DE Keith Washington, DE Eric Hicks, LB London Fletcher, CB Sammy Davis, S Shaunard Harts
Biggest Addition: CB Roderick Hood. Grossman is nice, but Hood was a prize in this free agent class and the Warner-for-Grossman change will take time to vet.
Outlook: The pieces are coming together for this team and they're getting younger and better at the same time. Still a long ways from Philly, but they can win more than four.

2007 Draft

1. WR Jose Scott, 5' 7" 183 lbs, Wake Forest
2. LB Raymond Underwood, 6' 0" 230 lbs, Illinois
3. WR Roosevelt Crane, 6' 0" 192 lbs, Arkansas
4. FB Tony Boyer, 6' 1" 244 lbs, Kentucky
- 5(2) C Billy Ah Yat, 6' 3" 293 lbs, Boise State
- 5(13) FB Bert Hecht, 5' 9" 233 lbs, Fresno State
7. S Donald MacBeth, 6' 2" 217 lbs, Temple



Philadelphia Eagles

2006: 11-5 first place, Divisional round.
Head Coach: Lincoln Herrod, 4th year.

Offensive Star: QB Donovan McNabb **Defensive Star:** DE Jevon Kearse
Arrivals: G Tupe Peko (trade NE), QB Kliff Kingsbury, RB Lamar Gordon, G Adam Timmerman, T Specer Folau
Departures: DE Hugh Douglas (retired), WR Antonio Freeman (retired), FB Thomas Tapeh (trade NE), RB Brian Westbrook, G Tyson Walter, T Bob Whitfield, K David Akers, CB Roderick Hood
Biggest Addition: RB Bob McNally. The linemen looked to be big until they traded up for McNally. He's a feature back that can replace Brian Westbrook sooner than later.
Outlook: This year won't be the runaway last year was, but they're still king of the East hill. The McNally pick is make-or-break and is the barometer.

2007 Draft

1. RB Bob McNally, 5' 11 217 lbs, Alcorn State
3. K Julio Parrish, 5' 7" 188 lbs, Florida
4. DE Steven Wagner, 6' 4" 272 lbs, Mississippi State
5. CB Jeff Hittle, 5' 10" 184 lbs, Alabama
- 6(28) WR Ronald Borczon, 5' 7" 190 lbs, UCLA
- 6(32) T Billy Joe Blades, 6' 5" 321 lbs, Houston
7. FB Greg Nieman, 5' 10" 223 lbs, Kansas State



Washington Redskins

2006: 4-12 fourth place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Raymond Glaze, 1st year (no experience)

Offensive Star: T Jonathan Ogden **Defensive Star:** NT Cornelius Griffin
Arrivals: TE Christian Fauria (trade Pats), QB AJ Feeley
Departures: LB Mike Barrow (retired), LB LaVar Arrington (trade Jets), LB Edge Hartwell (trade Oak), WR Rod Gardener (trade Seattle), T Jon Jansen (trade Pats), S Sean Taylor (trade Pats), RB Lamar Gordon, RB Leon Johnson, C Cory Raymer, LB Eric Westmoreland
Biggest Addition: DE Shawn Walters. With some nurturing, he could be a long-term All-Pro.
Outlook: They're rebuilding in DC if you didn't notice. The bottom of the down swing is now. This rookie crop has to pan out for the movement to continue.

2007 Draft

1. S Clarence Dayne, 6' 4" 219 lbs, Texas Tech
- 2(1) S Ron Williams, 6' 2" 215 lbs, LA-Monroe
- 2(8) C Andy Babinchak, 6' 6" 309 lbs, Oklahoma
- 2(10) T Jason Kemp, 6' 2" 302 lbs, Arizona
- 2(19) DE Shawn Waters, 6'3" 253 lb, E. Carolina
- 2(32) WR Issac Jurkovic, 5' 10" 186 lbs, Virginia
- 3(1) NT Allen Earp, 5' 10" 296 lbs, Florida State
- 3(24) CB Dean Hancock, 6'0" 201 lb, Not. Dame
- 4(1) LB Harvey Walters, 5' 10" 217 lbs, Colorado
- 4(31) DE Matt Cushing, 6' 4" 272 lbs, Arizona



Baltimore Ravens

2006: 8-8 second place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Mitch Beyer, 3rd year.

Offensive Star: QB Drew Brees **Defensive Star:** S Quintin Mikell
Arrivals: CB Dre Bly (trade Lions), C Cory Raymer
Departures: FB Ovie Mughelli, LB Warrick Holdman
Biggest Addition: DT Richie Jeffries. He's a rookie but he looks to be a beast.
Outlook: If they can continue the play of the over-achieving defense with Jeffries and Holdman, they look to be incrementally better. That means playoffs.

2007 Draft

1. DT Richie Jeffries, 6' 4", 312 Wisconsin
3. FB Glenn Jacobs, 6' 4" 272 lbs, Georgia Southern
4. LB Rusty Poffenroth, 6' 0" 230 lbs, Houston
5. RB Phillip Levine, 5' 10" 203 lbs, Michigan
- 6(6) T Stanley Deering, 6' 5" 316 lbs, Oklahoma
- 6(12) G Charles Moylan, 6' 5" 311 lbs, Illinois
- 6(18) CB DJ Rodgers, 6' 1" 203 lbs, Tulsa



Cincinnati Bengals

2006: 4-11-1 Fourth place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Sammie Siddiqui, 2nd year.

Offensive Star: WR Chad Johnson **Defensive Star:** S Safety Knight
Arrivals: QB Josh McCown and DE Kenny King (trade Arizona), C Casey Wiegmann, QB Kurt Warner, RB Brian Westbrook, DE Mike Rucker, LB Jeremiah Trotter, S Sammy Knight
Departures: QB Carson Palmer (trade Arizona), DE Justin Smith, DE Elton Patterson, LB Adrian Ross, LB Orlando Huff, WR Pat Johnson, TE Reggie Kelly, C Rich Braham, G Victor Leyva, T Lawrence Smith
Biggest Addition: DE Mike Rucker. The two first-rounders are nice additions, but they lost a lot of defenders. Rucker needed a change of scenery and could dominate with a 2nd chance.
Outlook: A great draft, big trades and nice free agent signings make for the best off-season in the league. If they can make all the new parts work together, sky's the limit.

2007 Draft

- 1(3) G Dusty Bates, 6' 5" 339 lbs, Arkansas Tech
- 1(7) T Albert Mathis, 6' 3" 301 lbs, L.S.U.
- 2(3) G Tyrell Sander, 6' 3" 285 lbs, Kansas
- 2(23) LB Ronnie Hamilton, 6' 2" 237 lbs, Michigan State
3. TE Calvin Truong, 6' 5" 258 lbs, UNLV
- 4(5) WR Reggie Arnold, 6' 1" 207 lbs, Louisiana Tech
5. RB Bob Wilkins, 5' 11" 212 lbs, Nicholls State
6. T Levon Wagner, 6' 2" 322 lbs, Indiana

Improved:
Browns
Ravens
Steelers

Regressed:
Bengals

Top rookie:
Richie Jeffries
Baltimore

Top off.:
Cleveland

Top def.:
Cleveland



Cleveland Browns

2006: 14-2 first place, Divisional round.
Head Coach: Carlton Worrell, 4th year.

Offensive Star: RB Travis Henry **Defensive Star:** LB Ray Lewis
Arrivals: WR Eric Parker (trade Chargers), WR Pat Johnson, DT Chad Eaton, LB Dashon Polk
Departures: DT Orpheus Roye (retired), WR Justin Craig (trade Chargers), T Ryan Tucker
Biggest Addition: WR Eric Parker. Adding passing weapons to this offense bodes well for the Browns. Travis Henry is the star, but Parker can lighten his load.
Outlook: This is still the best team in the division though Baltimore is charging hard. The draft bolstered an already good defense. It will take the Browns to beat the Browns once again.

2007 Draft

1. NT Max Mayes, 6' 1" 290 lbs, Notre Dame
- 2(18) DE Clyde Tollefson, 6' 1" 264 lbs, Virginia
- 2(30) RB Jimmie Baicy, 5' 7" 212 lbs, Maryland
4. LB Renaldo Ward, 6' 0 221 lbs, Georgia Tech
5. LB Barry Hennessey, 6' 0" 236 lbs, UCLA
7. WR John Godfrey, 5' 11" 195 lbs, Oregon



Pittsburgh Steelers

2006: 8-8 third place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Phil Welch, 1st year (Cleveland OC)

Offensive Star: QB Ben Roethlisberger **Defensive Star:** DT Casey Hampton
Arrivals: C Tim Provost (trade Patriots), RB Willis McGahee, TE Dan Campbell and DE Marcellus Wiley (trade Dallas); TE Mark Campbell (trade Buffalo), RB Tony Fisher, WR Antwaan Randle-El, TE OJ Santiago, G Eric Steinbach, LB Warrick Holdman, LB Mark Simoneau, LB Eric Barton, CB Donald Mitchell, S Jay Bellamy
Departures: DT Brentson Buckner (retired), LB Kevin Hardy (retired), CB Ricardo Colclough (trade Patriots), RB Adrain Peterson, WR Hines Ward, CB Ike Taylor and TE Matt Schobel (trade Dallas); DE Aaron Schobel, DT Luis Almanzar, S Shawn Wooden, S Nick Sorensen, C Jeff Hastings, TE Jay Riemersma
Biggest Addition: G Eric Steinbach. Add McGahee and subtract Hines Ward and now they're a rushing team.
Outlook: Taking Phil Welch out of Cleveland might have been the best move they made this off-season. The Dallas trade netted them some solid talent that will make this the tightest division in football.

2007 Draft

2. CB Blake Sheaffer, 6' 1" 195 lbs, Nebraska
4. RB Bryant Blakely, 5' 6" 208 lbs, Kansas
7. WR Erik Battle, 5' 7" 187 lbs, Washington State

Improved: Lions
 Regressed: Bears, Packers, Vikings
 Top rookie: Justin Mireles, Chicago
 Top off.: Vikings
 Top def.: Lions



Chicago Bears

2006: 7-9 third place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Tracy Junkin, 1st year (New York A, 4th overall)

Offensive Star: RB Brock Forsey **Defensive Star:** LB Brian Urlacher
Arrivals: K Rian Lindell (trade Bills), G Grant Williams, CB Joseph Jefferson
Departures: QB Rex Grossman (trade Giants), FS Todd Johnson (trade Bills), WR Charles Lee, G Rex Tucker, K Paul Edinger
Biggest Addition: DE Justin Mireles. His small stature and small college will quickly be forgotten with huge plays. If not for Jeffries, Mireles would be mentioned among the best ever.
Outlook: New GM means big changes and letting Grossman go was definitely big. But the two first-round picks are quite good and they didn't take much of a step backwards.

2007 Draft
 1(2) DE Justin Mireles, 6' 2" 254 lbs, Clarion College
 1(15) WR Vince Powell, 5' 7" 182 lbs, GA Tech
 2. G Dwight Burroughs, 6' 4" 315 lbs, Indiana
 3. QB Rich Crawford, 6' 1" 211 lbs, Texas
 5(5) S Brandon Magnotta, 5' 9" 197 lbs, Indiana
 5(15) CB Gino Ellis, 6' 1" 207 lbs, Northeastern
 6(15) RB Jorge Lang, 5' 11" 215 lbs, Tennessee
 6(19) T Darren Thornhill, 6' 7" 348 lbs, Vanderbilt



Detroit Lions

2006: 9-7 second place, Wild Card round.
Head Coach: Thomas Mason, 4th year.

Offensive Star: WR Roy Williams **Defensive Star:** LB Boss Bailey
Arrivals: RB Stacey Mack, WR David Givens, DE Aaron Schobel, DT Chartric Darby, CB Demarcus Faggins, S Rodney Harrison, K Olindo Mare, P Chad Stanley
Departures: CB Dre Bly (trade Pitt), T Stockar McDougale, WR Charles Rogers (trade Dallas), LB Torrance Marshall, S Tony Dixon
Biggest Addition: CB Darryl Troy. A small but physical corner, he'll fit in nicely and should start right away.
Outlook: Perhaps the only team that improved, the draft puts this team on top of the North.

2007 Draft
 1. CB Darryl Troy, 5' 6" 188 lbs, Oklahoma
 2(6) G Derrick Burroughs, 6' 2" 311 lbs, Virginia Tech
 2(20) DT Dwight Pierce, 6' 2" 279 lbs, Missouri
 3. WR Kirk McDonald, 6' 1" 207 lbs, Kansas State
 6. P Cary Lindsay, 6' 2" 204 lbs, Iowa



Green Bay Packers

2006: 10-6 first place, Wild Card round.
Head Coach: Nick Lane, 4th year.

Offensive Star: RB Ahman Green **Defensive Star:** S Darren Sharper
Arrivals: QB Mark Brunell, WR Jabar Gaffney, DE William Burnett, CB Donnie Abraham, CB Juran Bolden
Departures: QB Brett Favre, WR Juan Bradley, WR Joe Jurevicius, G Ron Stone, DE Kenal Campo, DT Luther Eliss, DT Rien Long, DT John Parrella, DT Justin Bannan, CB Ahmad Carroll, CB Fred Weary
Biggest Addition: CB Donnie Abraham. This was an otherwise unimpressive backfield.
Outlook: Finally breaking away from Brett Favre was bigger than just a player moving on. It signals the start of something large and new. In other words, they're rebuilding.

2007 Draft
 1. WR Corry Sivigny, 5' 11" 177 lbs, Michigan
 2. WR Chris Wisne, 5' 7" 186 lbs, Kent
 3. RB Darrell Irwin, 5' 9" 206 lbs, Notre Dame
 4. DT Cornell Hoffer, 6' 0" 271 lbs, Washington State
 5. QB Kim Clinton, 6' 1" 202 lbs, Duke
 6. DE Eddie Farr, 6' 3" 275 lbs, Indiana
 7. LB Eddie Money, 6' 4" 256 lbs, Utah



Minnesota Vikings

2006: 4-12 fourth place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Joel Madison, 4th year

Offensive Star: QB Daunte Culpepper **Defensive Star:** DE Kevin Williams
Arrivals:
Departures: P Darren Bennett (retired), WR Reggie Barlow (retired), RB James Stewart (retired), DE Kenny Mixon, LB Dominique Stevenson
Biggest Addition: CB Stan Wells. Without an elite corner, this was a very nice draft pick.
Outlook: A quiet off-season might be what this club needed to gel and take the next step.

2007 Draft
 1. CB Stan Wells, 5' 8" 190 lbs, Houston
 2. RB Mark Coons, 5' 8" 195 lbs, N.C. State
 3. DE Harold Spencer, 6' 0" 277 lbs, Maryland
 4. QB Wayne Norton, 6' 1" 213 lbs, Oregon St.
 6. C JJ Sherman, 6' 2" 281 lbs, West Virginia
 7. S Robbie Givens, 6' 3" 219 lbs, Chadron St.

AFC South

Improved:
Texans

Regressed:
Colts
Jaguars
Titans

Top rookie:
Artis Chapman
Tennessee

Top off.:
Colts

Top def.:
Jaguars



Houston Texans

2006: 9-7 second place, Divisional round.
Head Coach: Bryce Ketteridge, 4th year

Offensive Star: WR Andre Johnson **Defensive Star:** LB Jamie Sharper
Arrivals: S John Howell (trade Tampa), TE Itula Mili (trade Seattle), WR Reche Caldwell, CB Fred Weary, CB David Barrett
Departures: RB Domanick Davis (trade Tampa), LB Steve Foley (trade Seattle), QB Tony Banks, WR Corey Bradford, WR Jabar Gaffney, WR Lee Mays, LB Dashon Polk, CB Aaron Glenn,
Biggest Addition: WR Reche Caldwell will take enough attention off Andre Johnson to expand the offense immensely.
Outlook: The off-season had a distinctly offensive bent. The defense may have suffered because of it. This was a bona fide playoff team last year but will have to stiffen to return.

2007 Draft

1. CB Bennie Howe, 5' 7" 174 lbs, Rice
2. T Brent Newton, 6' 3" 311 lbs, Georgia Tech
3. G Bucky Ratini, 6' 5" 325 lbs, Eastern Michigan
4. LB Nicky Sullivan, 6' 3" 248 lbs, SW Texas State
5. QB Dwight Prior, 6' 4" 223 lbs, USC
6. RB Harold Calderon, 5' 9" 205 lbs, Oklahoma



Indianapolis Colts

2006: 10-6 first place, Wild Card round.
Head Coach: Denny Walton, 4th year

Offensive Star: QB Peyton Manning **Defensive Star:** DE Dwight Freeney
Arrivals: WR Derrick Mason (trade Titans), RB Chris Tatum, RB Jack Atteberry, WR Rob Hudson, WR Calvin Rayburn, S Bryant Crichlow, S Stephen Lang
Departures: WR Marvin Harrison, WR Derrius Thompson, WR Eugene Baker, T Mike Saffer, DT Ian Scott
Biggest Addition: WR Derrick Mason. He's a 1,000-yard guy with Peyton Manning.
Outlook: Houston will continue to challenge, but this is still the top team in the division.

2007 Draft

1. CB Gilbert Pritt, 6' 0" 201 lbs, Oregon State
3. DT Chuck Newton, 6' 1" 299 lbs, Baylor
5. RB Tim Summers, 6' 3" 239 lbs, Minnesota



Jacksonville Jaguars

2006: 9-7 third place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Tracy Brady, 4th year

Offensive Star: RB Fred Taylor **Defensive Star:** DT Marcus Stroud
Arrivals: RB Chad Morton, C David Binn, DE Keith Washington,
Departures: DE Raylee Johnson (retired), WR Brad Pyatt, WR Dez White, C Brad Meester, G Chris Naeole, DT Rob Meier, CB Juran Bolden
Biggest Addition: DE Keith Washington. He'll help stabilize a talented but young D-line. It's all about the front seven with this team and it's good, Washington included.
Outlook: The defense, already good, got younger and better. The offense lost two major cogs on the line but filled one in the draft (center). If Evans pans out at end, this is a 10-win team.

2007 Draft

1. C Jason Garrard, 6' 0" 288 lbs, Georgia
2. DE Brock Evans, 6' 7" 304 lbs, Kansas
3. LB Marlon Givore, 6' 1" 252 lbs, San Jose State
4. WR Luke Griffin, 5' 9" 191 lbs, USC
5. CB Heath Capoccia, 5' 10" 187 lbs, Washington
6. QB Pat Barrett, 6' 0" 214 lbs, Houston
7. WR Todd Hartl, 6' 3" 206 lbs, Minnesota



Tennessee Titans

2006: 6-10 fourth place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Jared House, 2nd year.

Offensive Star: RB Chris Brown **Defensive Star:** CB Andre Dyson
Arrivals: QB Todd Collins, WR Lee Mays
Departures: DT Jason Fisk (retired), C Robbie Tobeck (retired), LB Greg Biekert (retired), TE Erron Kinney and S Lance Schulters (trade Denver), WR Derrick Mason (trade Indy), QB Steve McNair, T Jason Matthews, CB Bhawoh Jue
Biggest Addition: DE Artis Chapman. He's a beast but don't be surprised to see him at DT.
Outlook: Starting a youth movement, they over-achieved last year. If that was for real, watch out.

2007 Draft

1. DE Artis Chapman, 6' 3" 256 lbs, Alabama
- 2(9) C Allen Winters, 6' 5" 291 lbs, Miss. St.
- 2(25) G Dwayne Moline, 6' 1" 317 lbs, Akron
- 2(26) QB Billy Reynolds, 5' 10" 217 lbs, Mich. St
- 3(9) RB Duane Chandler, 6' 0" 219 lbs, Pitt
- 3(25) LB Steven Prestbye, 5' 11" 241 lbs, Miss.
4. QB Kenall McCammon, 6' 0" 212 lb, Nebraska
5. QB Joseph Forbes, 6' 4" 236 lbs, Wyoming
6. CB Sedrick Allen, 6' 0" 198 lbs, Michigan
- 7(9) WR Nate Abreu, 5' 9" 184 lbs, Delaware
- 7(26) TE Alvin Staat, 6' 3" 235 lbs, LSU



Atlanta Falcons

2006: 7-9 third place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Bill Cortez, 4th year.

Offensive Star: QB Mike Vick **Defensive Star:** LB Keith Brooking
Arrivals: LB Kavika Mitchell, LB Ray Shea

Departures:

Biggest Addition: WR Alex Stuart. It's not unfathomable that he become the top receiver in this draft class.

Outlook: No big losses, no big additions. They're hoping that doesn't mean another 7-9 season, but it's hard to see them keeping pace with the revamped Saints and the other two perennial champs.

2007 Draft

- 1(14) DT Korey Sinclair, 6' 1" 280 lbs, Missouri
- 1(17) WR Alex Stuart, 6' 0" 199 lbs, Arkansas
2. CB Ike Benson, 5' 9" 186 lbs, Purdue
4. LB Wayne Anderson, 6' 0" 233 lbs, Virginia
5. FB Sam Carr, 5' 10" 247 lbs, Northern Colorado
6. G Cary Frueler, 6' 4" 344 lbs, Utah
7. G Kenny Hughes, 6' 1" 278 lbs, Missouri

Improved:

Buccaneers
Saints

Regressed:

Falcons
Panthers

Top rookie:

Alex Stuart

Atlanta

Top off.:

Saints

Top def.:

Buccaneers



Carolina Panthers

2006: 10-6 first place, conference title game
Head Coach: Bo Folette, 4th year

Offensive Star: RB DeShaun Foster **Defensive Star:** DT Kris Jenkins

Arrivals: LB Victor Hobson (Trade Jets), TE James Dearth, C Brad Meester, G DeMingo Graham, T Jason Matthews, DE Akbar Gbaja-Biamila, LB Gary Brackett, CB Phillip Buchanon

Departures: CB Mike Rumph (trade Jets), DE Julius Peppers (trade Rams), RB Rod Smart, WR Calvin Rayburn, G Pete Kendall, G Travis Claridge, LB Mark Fields, DE Mike Rucker, DT Chad Eaton, TE Mike Seidman

Biggest Addition: T Teddy Biernoth. He's got the potential to start on the right side this year.

Outlook: The division is always competitive but it got better in leaps and bounds in the past few months. The Panthers unloaded a lot of expensive vets, but there was a pile of talent in there. It may take a year to adjust.

2007 Draft

1. T Teddy Biernoth, 6' 8" 351 lbs, Memphis
2. S O.J. Meyers, 5' 9" 190 lbs, Notre Dame
- 3(30) CB Friendship Peterson, 5' 11" 191 lbs, Arizona
- 3(31) LB John Wolf, 5' 11" 224, Cal-Northridge
- 4(20) TE Corwin Lawton, 6' 6" 264 lbs, Oregon State
- 4(24) WR Jay Madison, 5' 11" 194 lbs, California
- 5(1) WR Clyde Robinson, 5' 11" 187 lbs, Michigan
- 5(24) FB JT Bonar, 5' 8" 241 lbs, South Carolina
- 6(1) C Steve Franklin, 6' 5" 320 lbs, Temple
- 6(24) LB AJ Meert, 6' 0" 247 lbs, Mississippi State
- 7(1) G Kim Jacobs, 6' 6" 346 lbs, UCLA
- 7(20) DE Lonnie Lester, 6' 5" 300 lbs, Oregon
- 7(24) QB Matthew Walton, 6' 2" 227 lbs, West Virginia Tech



New Orleans Saints

2006: 6-10 fourth place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Vinny Williams, 3rd year.

Offensive Star: QB Philip Rivers **Defensive Star:** LB Kendrell Bell

Arrivals: QB Philip Rivers (trade SD), T John St. Clair (trade Pats), NT Jarvis Green (trade Pats), FB Ovie Mughelli, K David Akers, LB Zeke Moreno

Departures: FB Sam Gash (retired), T Wayne Gandy (trade SD), S Will Demps (trade Pats), QB Aaron Brooks, TE James Dearth, LB Gary Brackett, S Jay Bellamy, K John Carney

Biggest Addition: QB Philip Rivers. Duh.

Outlook: With Rivers and his receivers, they are counting on a plus .500 record. Can do.

2007 Draft

1. DE Tim Apold, 6' 6" 278 lbs, Western Illinois
4. G Lamont Forbes, 6' 2" 283 lbs, Slippery Rock
- 5(6) T Clyde Jordan, 6' 4" 285 lbs, Central Arkansas
- 5(18) G Blake Baker, 6' 0" 301 lbs, St. Francis (IL)
- 5(23) T Dale Brady, 6' 3" 286 lbs, Northwestern
7. S Chuck Ferreira, 6' 0" 202 lbs, Washington



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

2006: 8-8 second place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Nate Maloney, 2nd year.

Offensive Star: WR Michael Clayton **Defensive Star:** LB Derrick Brooks

Arrivals: G Tionu Fonoti (trade Chargers), CB Patrick Surtain (trade Miami), RB Domanick Davis (trade Texans), RB Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, WR Derrius Thompson, TE Brandon Manumaleuna, C Rich Braham, G Tyson Walter, G Will Shields, G Terrence Metcalf, T Pita Elisara, DT Robaire Smith, LB Mark Fields,

Departures: QB Leo Coppa (trade Miami), WR Antonio Sjogren (trade SD), FB Richie Anderson (retired), TE Mark Bruener (retired), DE Ray Lee Johnson (retired), S John Howell (trade Texans), WR Tai Streets, T Spencer Folau, DT Chartric Darby, LB Kavika Mitchell, LB Gerald Hayes,

Biggest Addition: CB Patrick Surtain. One of the best in the game, he's All-Pro power right now.

Outlook: The few bold moves will get the attention, but the Rich Brahams and Will Shields may do more for this team than Fonoti and Surtain.

2007 Draft

2. S Mo Harvey, 6' 1" 211 lbs, Minnesota-Duluth
4. RB Dominic Gulley, 6' 1" 245 lbs, Michigan
5. DT Jimmy Houston, 6' 2" 283 lbs, Kentucky
- 6(16) C Thurman Cassidy, 6' 3" 301 lb, Houston
- 6(29) QB Tyrone Carlisle, 6' 3" 243 lbs, East New Mexico
- 6(30) LB Kirk Carlson, 6' 2" 236 lbs, Virginia



Denver Broncos

2006: 10-6 first place, Wild Card round.

Head Coach: Brett Gaylor, 3rd year.

Offensive Star: QB Jake Plummer **Defensive Star:** DE Trevor Pryce

Arrivals: TE Erron Kinney and FS Lance Schulters (trade Titans), RB Leon Johnson, C Jeff Hartings, LB Eric Westmoreland

Departures: S John Lynch (retired), WR Rod Smith

Biggest Addition: S Lance Schulters has already begun mentoring young players like Louie Prior. He's a hawk that will more than replace John Lynch. And that's saying something.

Outlook: They were the best team in the division for the second year in a row. More of the same is a pretty good thing.

2007 Draft

4. FB Donovan Bolin, 5' 10" 223 lbs, Vanderbilt
5. S Lewis Bensen, 6' 4" 212 lbs, Boston College
6. P Spencer Winger, 5' 9" 208 lbs, Kutztown
7. LB Kent Terry, 6' 1" 253 lbs, Virginia

Improved:

Broncos
Raiders

Regressed:

Chiefs
Chargers

Top rookie:

Alfred Perrigo
Kansas City

Top off.:

Broncos

Top def.:

Chiefs



Kansas City Chiefs

2006: 7-9 third place, no playoffs.

Head Coach: Floyd Stargell, 4th year.

Offensive Star: WR Dante Hall **Defensive Star:** S Lyle West

Arrivals: WR Corey Bradford, TE Ken Dilger, T Matt Joyce, LB Orlando Huff, LB Tony Gilbert,

Departures: T Willie Roaf (retired), DE Lamar King, DT Robaire Smith, LB Shawn Barber, LB Gerald Hayes, LB Mark Simoneau, QB Matt Hasselbeck, RB Tony Fisher, TE Tony Stewart, C Casey Wiegmann, G Will Shields,

Biggest Addition: G Pete Rhodes is going to be asked to fill Will Shields' shoes. He'll get the shot right away and if he succeeds he'll be a hero for life.

Outlook: They got younger but a lot of the veterans that are gone were major pieces. Give this team a year or two to gel and then it's back to the top of the heap.

2007 Draft

1. G Pete Rhodes, 6' 6" 352 lbs, Massachusetts-Lowell
2. S Alfred Perrigo, 5' 8" 202 lbs, Nebraska
- 3(6) FB Mercury Legay, 5' 9" 236 lbs, San Diego State
- 3(11) RB Ross Lofton, 6' 0" 241 lbs, Rice
4. TE Glen Floyd, 5' 11" 253 lbs, Michigan State
6. QB Tyrell Hampton, 5' 11" 223 lbs, Minnesota-Duluth
- 7(5) CB Bob Hovan, 6' 0" 199 lbs, LSU
- 7(11) S Sean Sharber, 6' 0" 198 lbs, Temple
- 7(23) T Shane Phillips, 6' 7" 345 lbs, Notre Dame



Oakland Raiders

2006: 8-7-1 second place, no playoffs.

Head Coach: Richard Webb, 1st year (Miami DC)

Offensive Star: WR Jerry Porter **Defensive Star:** DE Tyler Brayton

Arrivals: LB Edge Hartwell (trade Wash), DT Pat Williams (trade Bills), WR Dez White, WR Eddie Drummond, DE Brandon Mitchell, DT Monsanto Pope, CB Mike Echols, S Damien Robinson

Departures: DT Ted Washington (retired), S Bobby Gray (trade SD), WR David Givens, DE Derrick Burgess, DE Akbar Gbaja-Biamila, LB Travian Smith, CB Phillip Buchanon,

Biggest Addition: LB Edgerton Hartwell. He's a giant upgrade over Travian Smith and makes the front seven quite good with Brayton and Boulware.

Outlook: Oh so close down the stretch last year, health will be a focus. They improved more than any team in the division this off-season. The playoffs are a minimum goal this year.

2007 Draft

1. G Roosevelt Beckinsale, 6' 5" 316 lbs, Vanderbilt
- 3(10) DT Aaron Sage, 6' 1" 275 lbs, South Carolina
- 3(19) S Cory Leblond, 5' 8" 193 lbs, USC
- 4(19) CB Dennis Prescott, 5' 7" 188 lbs, Florida
- 4(26) K Corey Hutchins, 5' 10" 186 lbs, East Carolina



San Diego Chargers

2006: 6-10 fourth place, no playoffs

Head Coach: Teddy Duncan, 4th year

Offensive Star: RB LaDainian Tomlinson **Defensive Star:** DT Jamal Williams

Arrivals: S Bobby Gray (trade Oak), T Wayne Gandy (trade NO), WR Justin Craig (trade Browns), WR Antonio Sjogren (trade Tampa), QB Steve McNair, QB Aaron Brooks, G Chris Naeole, G Ron Stone, T Lawrence Smith, DE Lamar King, DE Eric Hicks, DT Luis Almanzar, CB Aaron Glenn,

Departures: QB Philip Rivers (trade NO), WR Eric Parker (trade Browns), DE Joe Johnson (retired), G Toinu Fonoti (trade TB), TE Justin Peelle, WR Reche Caldwell, C David Binn, G Chad Ward, T Roman Oben, T Tra Thomas, LB Zeke Moreno, CB Demarcus Faggins, S Sammy Knight

Biggest Addition: QB Steve McNair. Without Rivers, this was a must. But only one year?

Outlook: Trading Rivers was at the very least risky and was more likely stupid. That meant that they had to have a great offseason just to get back to par. Didn't happen. The O-line is better and the secondary is younger, but losing Parker, Caldwell and Rivers will kill them. This is probably the last chance for this coaching staff.

2007 Draft

- 1(6) G Archie Caldwell, 6' 3" 283 lbs, Georgia Tech
- 1(10) CB Calvin Bauer, 6' 1" 206 lbs, Virginia Tech
- 1(16) LT Antoine Upshaw, 6' 4" 300 lbs, Duke
2. WR Jared Steinhorst, 6' 4" 221 lbs, Illinois
6. TE Phillip Cunningham, 6' 8" 253 lbs, Texas A&M



Arizona Cardinals

2006: 6-10 fourth place, no playoffs.
Head Coach: Conrad Delvalle, 2nd year.

Offensive Star: QB Carson Palmer **Defensive Star:** DE Bert Berry
Arrivals: QB Carson Palmer (trade Cincy), FB Greg Comella, WR Chas Gessner, TE Tony Stewart, DE Derrick Burgess
Departures: DE Kenny King & QB Josh McCown (trade Cincy), QB Mark Brunell, TE Ken Dilger, T Matt Joyce
Biggest Addition: QB Carson Palmer. The combination of he and Anquan Boldin is terrifying.
Outlook: Palmer will certainly help this team. He could be the difference in this division.

- 2007 Draft**
2. FB Terrell Ragland, 6' 2" 247 lbs, Pittsburgh
 3. LB Artie Gredzinski, 5' 11" 237 lbs, Washington State
 4. C Rufus Schwartz, 6' 3" 288 lbs, Georgia Tech
 - 5(7) T Shannon Agree, 6' 8" 318 lbs, Tennessee State
 - 5(20) CB Terrance Austin, 5' 7" 173 lbs, Illinois
 6. DE Grant Horn, 6' 7" 285 lbs, Wake Forest
 - 7(3) CB Fernando Compton, 5' 10" 185 lbs, Iowa
 - 7(7) DT Rob Winfield, 5' 10" 287 lbs, Nicholls State

Improved:

- 49ers
- Cardinals
- Seahawks

Regressed:

- Rams

Top rookie:

- Kennedy Charron
- Seattle

Top off.:

- Cardinals

Top def.:

- Cardinals



San Francisco

2006: 7-9 second place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Brad Morris, 4th year

Offensive Star: WR Rashaun Woods **Defensive Star:** CB Chris McAlister
Arrivals: T Mike Saffer, DE Justin Smith, S Shaunard Harts
Departures:
Biggest Addition: FS Shane Calmus. He's a complete, solid safety and joins Chris McAlister in an elite secondary. With the front four of this team, the defense is very solid.
Outlook: Internally, the 'niners have to be moderately pleased with their progress this off-season. This kind of quiet improvement can lead to big things.

- 2007 Draft**
1. FS Shane Calmus, 5' 9" 204 lbs, Cal.-Northridge
 2. QB Tyrone Carlson, 6' 5" 239 lbs, Utah
 3. WR Wesley Stone, 5' 11" 187 lbs, Utah State
 - 4(12) P Rodney Bynum, 5' 11" 206 lbs, Slippery Rock
 - 4(18) CB Dominic Kobeck, 5' 11" 202 lbs, Oregon State
 5. T Bart Rivera, 6' 5" 309 lbs, West Virginia
 6. T Daryl Shelton, 6' 7" 317 lbs, SF Austin
 7. CB Juan Lane, 5' 10" 186 lbs, Texas



Seattle Seahawks

2006: 6-10 third place, no playoffs
Head Coach: Travis Hodges, 1st year (no experience)

Offensive Star: RB Shaun Alexander **Defensive Star:** S Derrick Tatum
Arrivals: WR Rod Gardener (trade Wash), LB Steve Foley (trade Texans), QB Tony Banks, RB Ron Dayne, TE Mike Seidman, TE Jay Riemersma, G Travis Claridge, G Pete Kendall, Ryan Tucker, LB Travian Smith, CB Dejuan Groce,
Departures: TE Itula Mili (trade Texans), QB Matt Hasselbeck, WR Eddie Drummond, TE OJ Santiago, G Terrence Metcalf, DE Brandon Mitchell
Biggest Addition: LB Kennedy Charron. In a division with Carson Palmer and Marc Bulger, defense looks pretty important.
Outlook: With a first-year coach the expectations will be lowered, but third place won't cut it with the talent they added. If the skill positions perform well, third place will be a distant memory.

- 2007 Draft**
1. LB Kennedy Charron, 6' 0" 243 lbs, Tuskegee
 2. C Trent Hartman, 6' 1" 279 lbs, Minnesota
 3. LB Quentin Kelly, 6' 1" 229 lbs, Washington State
 4. CB Kendrick Saylor, 5' 10" 181 lbs, UTEP
 5. CB Bob Hanks, 5' 8" 186 lbs, Wake Forest
 6. CB William Holmes, 5' 9" 179 lbs, Clemson
 7. QB Darrin Bowyer, 6' 0" 206 lbs, Texas Christian



St. Louis Rams

2006: 14-2 first place, lost in Super Bowl
Head Coach: Glen Craig, 4th year.

Offensive Star: QB Marc Bulger **Defensive Star:** DE Grant Wistrom
Arrivals: DE Julius Peppers (trade Car), WR Marvin Harrison, WR Brad Pyatt, WR Terrence Wilkins, WR Eric Moulds, WR Eugene Baker, WR Tai Streets, WR Charles Lee, TE Reggie Kelly, G Chad Slaughter, G Rex Tucker, T Bob Whitfield, DE Elton Patterson, LB London Fletcher, CB Sammy Davis, CB Ahmad Carroll, S Shawn Wooden
Departures: RB Marshall Faulk (retired), RB Ron Dayne, WR Issac Bruce, TE Brandon Manumaleuna, G Adam Timmerman, G Grant Williams, DT Damione Lewis, LB Jeremiah Trotter, CB Dejuan Groce
Biggest Addition: DE Julius Peppers. He and Leonard Little make quite a combination in the trenches.
Outlook: This won't be a 14 win year and Arizona got much better this year. But they still own the West.

- 2007 Draft**
1. S Shaun Giles, 6' 1" 208 lbs, North Carolina
 2. G Lenny Hairston, 6' 6" 338 lbs, Stanford
 5. T Ronald Dilger, 6' 4" 295 lbs, Pitt
 6. CB Frank Hymes, 5' 7" 179 lbs, Auburn
 7. T Ricardo Sirmon, 6' 9" 340 lbs, Clark