



# Training Camp Update

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Training Camps are in full swing and we want you to feel like you have attended every practice and seen every preseason game.

To keep all our Footballguys subscribers on top of everything, we've created our incredibly detailed Camp Updates. They're an exhaustive look each week covering every bit of news you need to know to stay completely on top of every team. Quite simply, they're the key to Dominating Your Draft.

This is the third of five training camp updates from us. We'll break down every team's skill positions and position battles. It's the stuff you'd see if you were there at every camp. This Camp Update was created by our own Bob Henry and reflects the most up-to-date info regarding each of these teams.

Happy reading and let's have a great 2006 season,

Joe Bryant and David Dodds  
Owners, Footballguys.com

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**Special note:** A hearty thanks goes out to Jason Wood, Chase Stuart, Aaron Rudnicki, David Dodds, Bob Magaw, Cecil Lammey, John Norton and Mike Herman for their assistance with this week's Training Camp Updates. My return trip from London on Friday was *only a little* more eventful than originally planned. Next time, I'll try to avoid selecting the same airline and destination as terrorists. After a 24+ hour return trip, no sleep, a failed connection in Washington-Dulles and long hours of lines and delays, it was difficult to get the energy back up to produce this week's Camp Updates. Without the assistance of the kind souls mentioned above, it would've been a monumental task. My sincere gratitude goes out to all of you. Now, as Joe likes to say, let's get to it...

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## Arizona Cardinals

**QB:** The Cardinals opened up the preseason in their new stadium Saturday night as Kurt Warner played most of the first half. Warner completed 9-of-13 for 118 yards with a pair of touchdowns – the first going to Bryant Johnson on the first possession. Warner made some key plays on that drive – converting four third downs, including a 20-yarder to Larry Fitzgerald on 3rd and 13, and another to Johnson. The 35-year-old former NFL and Super Bowl MVP even ran for five yards. On the second drive, Warner led the team to another TD finishing with a short pass to Obafemi Ayanbadejo, who rambled 15 yards for the score. “For the most part I thought it

was really good for the first preseason game,” Warner said. “We're so much farther along from where we were last year.”

Rookie Matt Leinart finally ended his contract impasse on Monday, agreeing in principle to a six-year, \$50 million deal that includes \$14 million in guarantees. Leinart's absence left John Navarre as the primary backup in the preseason opener. It might as well have been a negotiating ploy on Leinart's behalf, as Navarre did not play well. He was intercepted twice – both by Steelers rookie safety Anthony Smith. Navarre finished 11-of-15 for 60 yards. “Just OK,” Coach Dennis Green said of Navarre's performance, “He did some good things, made one real blunder and I think that always taints it a little bit.” Even though Leinart has now signed, he's missed a lot of training camp, and it will be difficult to pass Navarre on the depth chart. Navarre has gotten all the second string reps. “I don't want to look at, because someone isn't here, that's the reason I am playing,” Navarre said. “I want to be the reason I am playing, because I have been playing well and the coach has confidence in me to back Kurt up.”

**RB:** The Cardinals first exhibition game was uneventful for the team's running game. Edgerrin James played briefly before turning over the reigns to J.J. Arrington and the team's other backs. James ran twice for -2 yards, but don't read anything into the subpar box score. “We got out in one piece,” running back Edgerrin James said, “and that should be the main thing. This wasn't a debut, this was just an obligation,” James said referring to the preseason action. “Not to worry,” said James, who would rather sit out games like this in the preseason. “I kind of went through the motions. I just wanted to get off the field healthy,” he said. “I did my job.”

Meanwhile, FB Obafeji Ayanbadejo scored a 15-yard TD to put the Cardinals up 14-3 before the half. Diamond Ferri ran five yards for Cardinals third touchdown in the fourth quarter. Ferri finished with 17 yards on six carries. Arrington ran six times for 11 yards and Marcel Shipp ran six times for 13 yards. Several New York media outlets reported that the Jets may be interested in acquiring Shipp as Curtis Martin's future continues to remain in question. “Wow,” said Shipp, who hadn't heard the rumors. “It doesn't surprise me. There have been trade rumors since we signed Edgerrin (James). I am happy here, I want to play here, I want to make the best of my situation. If a trade does happen, those are the cards I am dealt.”

**WR:** The Cardinals featured a three WR formation for much of their first preseason game with Larry Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin and Bryant Johnson in the lineup. Boldin had missed some practice time during the week with a sore hamstring, but he played Saturday night and caught two balls for 24 yards. Fitzgerald and Warner appeared in mid-season form connecting on a couple nice plays. Fitzgerald caught two balls for 33 yards before leaving the game. The star was Bryant Johnson, who caught a 5-yard pass for a touchdown and finished with three receptions for 42 yards. “No, I didn't have to pay Kurt anything for the pass,” Johnson said of the first score. “It just so happened that the coverage was that way and he kind of put it on my back shoulder to keep me away from the cornerback.” Johnson also made a nifty one-handed catch

for 20 yards in the second quarter. “I tried to get my hand on it and pull it back in,” Johnson said of the grab. “Making a catch like that is kind of like a basketball player. He hits three jump shots in a row, he feels like he can shoot from anywhere.”

Warner said, “I’ve seen that from him since I’ve been here. It’s such a blessing because we obviously have the two guys everyone knows about (in Boldin and Fitzgerald), but if you want to try taking them away... ”...then Johnson is there to pick up the slack as he did in this game. Don’t sleep on Johnson. He may not be a major factor in fantasy leagues, but with injuries a distinct possibility, he could be a factor given his 6-foot-3 frame, 38-inch vertical jump and 4.38 speed. Of course, Johnson needs to stay healthy as well, something that has sidetracked him many times since entering the league. LeRon McCoy contributed 29 yards on three catches.

**TE:** The Cardinals tight ends didn’t play a major role in the opening game. Rookie Leonard Pope managed one catch for 4 yards. Otherwise, this position will be a competition throughout camp with Pope looking to start immediately over Adam Bergen and Eric Edwards.

**Defense:** The linebacking corps is one of the focal points of camp. Standout Karlos Dansby has undergone physical therapy on his sore big toe. He hopes to avoid surgery, as the therapy has helped while Dansby remains out of practice. He left camp early last week and the team was worried that overcompensating for the toe injury has led to a groin injury. Meanwhile, converted DE Calvin Pace is working with the starters on the strongside in Dansby’s absence. The coaches like what they see of Pace and would like to keep him there. That means Dansby might start at weakside linebacker once he’s healthy. Dansby would challenge current starter Orlando Huff for the job with Darryl Blackstock becoming the primary backup at SLB behind Pace. HC Dennis Green was asked about Pace remaining the starter at SLB with Dansby moving to WLB. “That might be the way we are going to go,” Green said. “Right now we don’t have a clue of when Karlos will be back, so there is no sense in speculating.” Pace added, “Karlos is versatile enough to play all three linebacker spots. You have to have the best people out there. If it is Karlos, James (Darling) and Orlando (Huff), I can’t be mad at that. But I want to be in the mix.” Also in the mix is backup MLB Gerald Hayes, who was on IR last year with a knee injury. Hayes could displace Darling at MLB at some point, but right now he’s just glad to be back on the field. “It feels good just to get back out there and more importantly I feel good,” said Hayes. Backup LB Lance Mitchell left the game early on Saturday due to injury.

For the Cardinals defense to reach its potential, they need a big season from last year’s top pick Antrel Rolle. Rolle’s knee is healthy again and he’s having perhaps the best camp of anybody on the team. “Antrel makes a play every day, and he makes a big play,” HC Dennis Green said. According to defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast, Rolle reminds him of Deion Sanders as far as his work ethic goes, only he tackles better. “He’s very instinctive, and he’s a football junkie,” said Pendergast. “Antrel knows the game. He just needs to get out

and play. What makes a great corner is great anticipation. He has that. The more he plays, the better he will get.”

**Special Teams:** Kicker Neil Rackers hit every 50+ and 60-yard field goal attempt in Saturday’s practice. In Sunday’s game against Pittsburgh, the Cardinals scored only two touchdowns. This was a stark contrast to last year, when they scored primarily field goals. Rackers scored two PATs, and reached the end zone on all three of his kickoffs. Kicker Jeff Chandler also added a PAT. Two of the three returner candidates handled punt returns in the game. WR Troy Walters looked very good on punts, averaging 15.3 yards on three returns. Rookie WR Micheal Spurlock had a six-yard punt return. The third candidate, WR Bryant Johnson, did not have any returns. The mild surprise in the game was RB J.J. Arrington, who had both the kickoff returns, averaging 24.0 yards. Whether he’ll join Walters, Johnson, and Spurlock as a candidate for the job remains to be seen.

## Cardinals Depth Chart

**QB** Kurt Warner, Matt Leinart, John Navarre

**RB** Edgerrin James, J.J. Arrington, Marcel Shipp, Damien Anderson, Diamond Ferry

**FB** Obafemi Ayanbadejo, James Hodgins, John Bronson

**WR** Larry Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin, Bryant Johnson, LeRon McCoy, Troy Walters, Todd Watkins, Carlyle Holiday, Michael Spurlock (QB), Greg Lee

**TE** Leonard Pope, Adam Bergen, Eric Edwards, Alex Shor

**K** Neil Rackers, Nick Novak

**DE** Chike Okeafor, Bertrand Berry (inj), Anton Palepoi, Antonio Smith, A.J. Schable, Garrett McIntyre

**DT** Darnell Dockett, Kendrick Clancy, Tim Bulman, Langston Moore, Gabe Watson, Kenny King (inj), Jon Lewis

**MLB** Gerald Hayes, James Darling (W), Lance Mitchell

**OLB** Karlos Dansby (S) (inj), Orlando Huff (W), Calvin Pace (S), Darryl Blackstock (W), Mark Brown, Isaac Keys,

Brandon Johnson, Lawrence Pinson

**CB** David Macklin, Antrel Rolle, Eric Green (inj), Robert Tate, Dyshod Carter, Lamont Reid, Darrell Hunter, Jay

McCareins, Damarius Bilbo, Justin Wyatt

**S** Adrian Wilson (SS), Robert Griffith (FS), Aaron Francisco, Ernest Shazor, Jack Brewer, Chris Harrell

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## Atlanta Falcons

**QB:** Michael Vick played one series in the Falcons preseason opener completing 3-of-4 passes for 26 yards and running once for 16 yards setting up the first of four Michael Koenen field goals. Backup Matt Schaub followed Vick completing 7-of-13 for 102 yards including a 21-yard TD to Michael Jenkins and one interception. Bryan Randall entered the game next. He threw for 82 yards on 5-of-9 passing with a 34-yard TD pass to Jerious Norwood while also adding a 29-yard run. Rookie D.J. Shockley entered the game last and he was cheered loudly by the fans who remember him as the former Georgia Bulldogs star quarterback. Shockley did a nice job to get the Falcons into position for a game-winning field goal. He completed 4-of-10 passes for 40 yards while rushing for 12

yards. Two of his incompletions were spikes to stop the clock on the team's final drive. "I wondered if I would be nervous," Shockley said. "I was pleased."

**RB:** Warrick Dunn and T.J. Duckett looked great against the Patriots. Dunn played sparingly running for 20 yards on three carries while catching two passes for 11 yards. Duckett carried 10 times for 59 yards, breaking one run for 20 yards. One of the game's stars was rookie Jerious Norwood, who scored on a 34-yard pass from Bryan Randall in the 3rd quarter. Norwood also broke a screen pass for 37 yards to setup a Michael Koenen 50-yard field goal. Norwood also ran seven times for 22 yards. Norwood's 34-yard score came after he made a great move to shake one defender and then he turned on the afterburners. "Whatever it takes," Norwood said. "If I have to run over somebody, I'll do that. If I have to juke somebody, I'll do that." DeAndra Cobb ran for 26 yards on seven attempts. Last week, Butchie Wallace suffered an Achilles tendon injury that would end his season. "It could be serious," head coach Jim Mora said. "I was fired up about watching him play Friday, but it doesn't look good."

**WR:** The Falcons took a 10-3 lead in the first quarter Saturday night when Matt Schaub found Michael Jenkins in the end zone for a 21-yard score. Jenkins had 36 yards on two catches. Fellow starter Roddy White returned to practice last Wednesday after missing several sessions with a hamstring injury. Rookie Kevin Youngblood made a leaping catch over the middle to keep the team's final drive alive. Youngblood finished with three receptions for 23 yards.

**TE:** Alge Crumpler remains out of action and he is expected to sit out all of the team's preseason games. The Falcons want Crumpler to be healthy for the regular season opener. Against the Patriots Saturday night, Daniel Fells caught two balls for 38 yards while Dwayne Blakley had two catches for 19 yards. Jason Randall, an undrafted rookie from Michigan State, had two catches for 17 yards.

**Defense:** Rod Coleman returned to the practice field last Wednesday after sitting out several practices with a knee problem. Darrell Shropshire is performing well since being promoted into the starting lineup at nose tackle ahead of Chad Lavalais. The team has recently talked to free agent Brentson Buckner's agent about joining them, but for now HC Jim Mora wants to see how his current players do in their first couple of preseason games before making such a move. Lawyer Milloy is enjoying a productive camp and Jim Mora couldn't be happier. "He is a better player, at this point of his career, than I thought he'd be," Mora said. "I don't mean that to take anything away from what I thought of him. I always thought he was a really good player. He is a really good player." The biggest acquisition of the offseason was John Abraham. He played well against the Patriots finishing with 4 solo tackles a sack and a forced fumble. LB Keith Brooking left the game in the first quarter with a sprained right ankle and did not return.

**Special Teams:** Carlos Martinez's stay with the Falcons was very brief. He was released after eight days. Kicker Tony Yelk's stay atop the depth chart was only slightly longer than

eight days. Punter/kickoff-specialist/placekicker Michael Koenen was named the starter for Atlanta's first preseason game, and he definitely made a statement. He was 4-of-4 on FGs, and none of them were chip shots (40, 44, 45, and 50 yards). The 40-yarder was the game winner against the Patriots as time expired. But that still doesn't guarantee that he'll be handling the placekicking in the regular season. HC Jim Mora noted, "I have reservations about it. I can't say he won the job. I liked what I saw tonight, but I'm concerned about having a guy do all three jobs. I'll take another week or so to see how he is, see how he feels. The last thing I want to do is wear him out. But with his ability to affect the game, like he did tonight, it's something we have to think long and hard about."

Kicker Tony Yelk handled a PAT and three kickoffs. One option the Falcons are considering is giving Yelk a shot at the punting job, which he has experience from his days at Iowa State. Rookie WR Adam Jennings handled returns in the game as planned, averaging 23.0 yards on two kickoffs, and fair catching one punt. RB DeAndra Cobb reminded us that he can still return kickoffs, averaging 29.3 yards on three returns. The only punt return went for six yards by rookie WR Robert Redd, who is unlikely to make the final roster. Two returner candidates that did not have any returns in the game were veteran CB Allen Rossum and rookie RB Jerious Norwood. CB DeAngelo Hall could have been a candidate, however Mora prefers to use him elsewhere, "We might be able to get him eight to nine offensive plays a game. It's not that DeAngelo is asking for this. I simply believe he can do so many special things when he has the football. And using him as a receiver, you can control more of what he's going to do as opposed as to using him as a punt returner. A lot of bad things can happen on punts."

## Falcons Depth Chart

**QB** Michael Vick, Matt Schaub, D.J. Shockley, Bryan Randall  
**RB** Warrick Dunn (3RB), T.J. Duckett (SD), Jerious Norwood, Deandra Cobb (KR), Butchie Wallace (inj)  
**FB** Justin Griffith, John Pannozzo  
**WR** Michael Jenkins, Roddy White, Jerome Pathon, Adam Jennings, Cole Magner, Troy Bergeron, Jamin Elliot, Javarus Dudley, Kevin Youngblood, Brian Finneran (inj)  
**TE** Alge Crumpler, Dwayne Blakely, Eric Beverly, Daniel Fells, Jason Randall, Boone Stutz  
**K** Michael Koenen, Tony Yelk  
**DE** Patrick Kerney, John Abraham, Chauncey Davis, Constantin Ritzmann, Paul Carrington  
**DT** Rod Coleman, Darrell Shropshire (NT), Chad Lavalais (NT), Jonathan Babineaux, Antwan Lake (NT), T.J. Jackson  
**MLB** Edgerton Hartwell, Jordan Beck  
**OLB** Keith Brooking (W), Michael Boley (S), Demorrio Williams (W), Ike Reese (S/W), Artie Ulmer, Travis Williams  
**CB** DeAngelo Hall, Jimmy Williams, Jason Webster, Allen Rossum (KR), Leigh Torrence, Kevin Mathis  
**S** Lawyer Milloy (SS), Chris Crocker (FS), Omare Lowe (FS), Chris Reis, Nick Turnbull

## Baltimore Ravens

**QB:** Steve McNair had a rousing debut with the Ravens moving the team 80 yards in 12 plays on the opening drive of their preseason opener against the NY Giants on Friday night. He went 4-for-5 for 45 yards before scampering for the 6-yard touchdown to cap the drive. On his rushing TD, McNair said, "I had an opportunity, I got flushed out of the pocket, I saw the end zone and I just tried to make the best out of something. This is my style of play. I play to win, regardless of it's a preseason or a regular-season game. Once the blood gets flowing, you can't shut it off." HC Brian Billick chuckled and then added, "I told him he and I are both too old to do a whole lot of that, but it's what he does. He's an incredible competitor." McNair was asked what he thought of his debut, "It was what we were looking for, offensively, to start us out. That's the kind of drive we want to establish during the course of the season." Kyle Boller took over for McNair and looked about the same as he has in the past, which certainly isn't a ringing endorsement. He completed 12-of-18 passes for 100 yards and he was sacked three times. Brian St. Pierre finished off the game throwing six times completing three passes for 33 yards.

**RB:** Jamal Lewis took the handoff on the Ravens first offensive play for a 5-yard gain up the middle to put to rest concerns about his recovery from a dreadful 2005 season. He finished with 34 yards on six rushing attempts as the Ravens lost 17-16 to the Giants. "We seem more balanced out there," said Lewis. "We moved the ball well and had a good drive. That was huge for us." Brian Billick commented, "He obviously was very physical tonight. We just have to continue to progress. The soreness that he has is moving down his leg and eventually out. So he's battling that a little bit, but he ran with some real authority tonight, and that's good to see."

Musa Smith looked good in his return to action following a broken leg and knee injuries that sidelined him for most of his brief career. Smith combined for 76 yards in the game. He ran four times for 61 yards – including a 37-yard jaunt down the right sideline – while catching four balls for 15 yards. "The line, they had some great blocks," said Smith. "In camp, we've been stressing the run game, and we wanted to come out here and establish that. Jamal set it off, and I just followed him." Backup Mike Anderson, fresh off a concussion a week ago, ran five times for 17 yards. Rookie P.J. Daniels gained 14 yards on six carries, but fumbled twice losing the first one. "This is not what I do," said Daniels, who took responsibility for the miscues. "I don't fumble, but I get out here and fumble two... like the veterans said, it's another day, another opportunity. I'll learn from it and build from that."

**WR:** Derrick Mason sustained a mild concussion during Friday evening's preseason opener against the Giants. He caught one pass for 4 yards before leaving the game after the first series. Rookie Demetrius Williams produced 43 yards on three catches in his Ravens debut. Travis LaTendresse caught two balls for 11 yards. Mark Clayton had two receptions for 29 yards. Devard Darling didn't produce any catches, but he was on the receiving end of a nice play in practice last

Thursday. Darling caught a Boller pass for a 35-plus yard play.

**TE:** Todd Heap caught two balls for 34 yards against the Giants while rookie Quinn Sypniewski produced a 26-yard reception – the biggest of the game for the Ravens. Daniel Wilcox also caught a ball for 8 yards. Sypniewski, the team's fifth round selection, had a rough week of practice. He was drafted primarily for his blocking prowess, but he surprised the staff by catching the ball well in the opening week. Unfortunately, he began the week with a few drops. "When you have some drops, it's all mental," said Billick of Sypniewski. "He knows that and he's working through it. I'm impressed with the way he's rebounded from some drops." On Wednesday, he was awoken from his slumber by a bone-jarring hit from Jerome Sapp. Shortly after the hit, Sypniewski leapt to catch a touchdown from Boller just after making a diving, rolling reception that put the team into the red zone. "Just about the time I'm about to stick my size 12's up his private parts, he goes and makes 3 or 4 phenomenal catches, which is good," Billick admitted. "He's a sharp kid and he has the maturity to fight through it."

**Defense:** Ray Lewis was held out of Friday's game. Billick felt that Lewis was ready for game action, but Lewis did not dress along with Samari Rolle, who was held out due to a heel injury. The Ravens had two injuries last week during practice along the defensive front. NT Haloti Ngata did not play against the Giants after he sprained his medial collateral ligament in his left knee during Saturday's scrimmage against Washington. He was held out of practice all week. LB Dan Cody suffered a sprained ankle, but played against the Giants, finishing with three tackles and a sack. Jarrett Johnson had the team's other sack and forced a fumble. Dawan Landry got the start at safety alongside Ed Reed as the Ravens faced their former teammate Will Demps, who is now a member of the NY Giants.

**Special Teams:** In the Ravens' first preseason game, the offense did what they do best...set up kicker Matt Stover. He was good on all three field goal attempts (27, 43, and 43 yards). Although to be fair, the Titans did score a TD with Steve McNair at the helm, before he gave way to Kyle Boller. Stover discussed the evolution of his game over the years, "In technique, I've changed quite a bit because I had to learn no longer do I have to kick the ball 60 yards. I need to kick the ball from where I'm at, which is 48, 50, 51 yards at the longest, and make sure you make everything inside of that." Kicker Aaron Elling handled all the kickoffs, putting three of four into the endzone, with two for touchbacks. He continues to compete in practice with punters Sam Koch and Leo Araguz for the kickoff specialist job. Starting return specialist B.J. Sams returned one kickoff 31 yards and one punt nine yards in the game. His challenger, rookie Cory Ross, averaged 22.0 yards on two kickoff returns and 13.5 yards on two punt returns. It's still a long uphill battle for him, especially since he's had occasional ball-handling issues in practice, while Sams has not. WR Mark Clayton and rookie WR Tres Moses have also been practicing on punt returns.

## Ravens Depth Chart

**QB** Steve McNair, Kyle Boller, Brian St. Pierre, Drew Olson

**RB** Jamal Lewis, Mike Anderson (FB), Musa Smith, P.J.

Daniels, B.J. Sams (KR/PR), Cory Ross

**FB** Justin Green, Ovie Mughelli

**WR** Derrick Mason, Mark Clayton, Clarence Moore, Demetrius Williams, Devard Darling, Travis LaTendresse,

Brian Bratton, Ronald Bellamy, Romby Bryant, Rufus

Skillern, Tre Moses, Matt Cherry

**TE** Todd Heap, Daniel Wilcox, Quinn Sypniewski

**K** Matt Stover, Aaron Elling

**DE** Terrell Suggs, Trevor Pryce, Jarrett Johnson, Roderick Green, Gary Stills

**DT** Kelly Gregg, Haloti Ngata, Dwan Edwards, Aubrayo

Franklin, Justin Bannan, Cedric Hilliard, Remi Ayodele

**MLB** Ray Lewis, Mike Smith

**OLB** Adalius Thomas (S), Bart Scott (W), Dan Cody (S/DE) (inj), Dennis Haley, Ryan LaCasse, Tim Johnson

**CB** Chris McAlister, Samari Rolle, Corey Ivy, David Pittman, Evan Oglesby, Derrick Martin, Ronnie Prude

**S** Ed Reed (SS), Dawan Landry (FS), Gerome Sapp (FS), B.J. Ward (FS)

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## Buffalo Bills

**QB:** The Dick Jauron era officially began for the Bills on Saturday night in their preseason opener against the Carolina Panthers and the QB competition was the main focus for many Bills observers. Kelly Holcomb got the start but struggled badly against the Panthers first team defense. He completed just 2-of-4 passes, was sacked once, and threw an interception to Ken Lucas that was returned 23 yards for a TD. Holcomb has been more accurate than JP Losman in training camp, but his lack of arm strength really hurts him in this offense that wants to attack downfield.

Losman took over to begin the second quarter and finished 15-of-24 for 144 yards with no touchdowns and no interceptions. He was inaccurate early and held onto the ball too long at times – he was sacked 5 times - but eventually settled down and led the Bills on three consecutive scoring drives. Losman played almost three full quarters and seemed to take a commanding lead in the Bills QB competition, as even Holcomb conceded, “J.P. did some good things,” said Holcomb. “He came in and managed the game, so yeah I'm behind the eight ball.” Losman still needs to make quicker decisions and improve his overall consistency, but his arm strength and mobility give the Bills offense more options. Craig Nall has fallen behind in the competition after missing two weeks of practice with a hamstring injury, but he's expected to return this week and could see time in the Bills next game. Kliff Kingsbury came in with just 3 minutes remaining and went 2-for-5 for 15 yards.

**RB:** Willis McGahee started the game but didn't get much work as the offense failed to generate a single first down until the second quarter. He had a nice reception for 7 yards on the first drive and finished with 3 carries for 5 yards. There have

been reports that the Bills plan to get him more involved in the passing game this year, so that reception was nice to see. Lionel Gates has been having a strong camp for the second year in a row and wound up getting the most work Saturday night with 8 carries for 31 yards. He was mostly kept in check early by the Panthers defense but got some room to run in the 3rd quarter and scored the team's only TD on a 3-yard run. Anthony Thomas had a 7-yard run to the outside for a first down and looked quick, but he only finished with 3 carries for 8 yards. Shaud Williams finished with 12 yards on 4 carries and added a reception for 4 yards. At this point, Gates appears to be winning the competition for the backup RB job, but Thomas and Williams are still in the mix.

**WR:** Lee Evans and Josh Reed started the game, but given Holcomb's struggles they didn't see much action. Evans finished with no receptions on zero targets and was out of the game by the time the passing game started clicking late in the first half. Roscoe Parrish, Josh Reed, and Andre Davis all made nice receptions on the Bills first scoring drive. Sam Aiken showed impressive speed and stood out with 4 catches for 73 yards. He was also wide open on a fly pattern late in the 4th but the pass from Losman was overthrown. Aiken has been overlooked by most people in the competition for the starting WR spot opposite Evans, but he could surprise with more strong performances like this. Peerless Price was considered the favorite in that competition but finished with no receptions in the game.

**TE:** Robert Royal started the game but didn't make much of an impact. He was Holcomb's intended target on the interception return, but he didn't get his head turned around. Kevin Everett finished with two catches for 10 yards. He appears to be getting a lot of work as a pass catching TE in camp. He should be more productive than Brad Cieslak, even though Cieslak began camp at #2 on the depth chart.

**Defense:** The Bills are implementing a new system this year on defense so most of the focus is on getting all the players comfortable with their new roles. SS Donte Whitner was taken with the #8 overall selection and wasn't expected to play much this week after a contract holdout forced him to miss the early part of training camp. After Matt Bowen left the game with a knee injury, however, Whitner was forced into action and wound up leading the team in tackles with 4 solos and 1 assist. Whitner is a film room junkie with an excellent football IQ so he should be able to get caught up quickly, and could definitely wind up beginning the season as a starter given Bowen's past injury history. At linebacker, the team released former starting SLB Jeff Posey on Monday since he wasn't a great fit for the new system and had lost his starting job. Taking his place in the starting lineup is Angelo Crowell, who has been taking snaps at the playmaking WLB spot and could be an excellent value in IDP leagues this year. Takeo Spikes is one of the team's most vocal leaders but is still recovering from his torn Achilles and may not be ready for the beginning of the season. Up front, the team is hoping that a rebuilt group of defensive tackles can help solidify a run defense that collapsed last season. 1st round pick John McCargo got some penetration on several plays, and 5th round pick Kyle

Williams did an excellent job of shutting down DeShaun Foster on short yardage plays.

The Bills have brought in a lot of quality players on defense this offseason, so the key to their success is learning the new system and working together as a group. The defense has been dominant in training camp but had some problems slowing down the Panthers first team offense as Jake Delhomme picked them apart and DeShaun Foster had 25 yards on five carries. After falling behind 14-0, the defense toughened up and did a great job shutting down the Panthers reserves for the rest of the game. There is solid depth at almost every position, and the return of a healthy Spikes would provide a huge boost to this unit's overall effectiveness.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Rian Lindell knows he has to pace himself in camp, "It'd be great to be out there, kicking field goals all day long and being on the field. But after a little while my leg would fall off. You've got to be smart about it." In the first preseason game at Carolina, his leg definitely looked fresh, as he was good on his two field goal attempts from 45 and 50 yards. The concerns from two years ago that he couldn't hit the long ball are now ancient history. Top kickoff returner, CB Terrance McGee, didn't have any returns in the game. One of the backups, RB Shaud Williams, handled all three kickoff returns, averaging 18.3 yards. Williams is also a candidate for the punt returner job, although he didn't have any in the game. The lead punt returner candidate, WR Roscoe Parrish, was limited in the game due to a mild groin strain. The third candidate, WR Jonathan Smith, average 6.7 yards on three returns. S Jim Leonhard also had a punt return for no gain along with a fair catch, and WR George Wilson also had a fair catch.

## Bills Depth Chart

**QB** J.P. Losman, Kelly Holcomb, Craig Nall, Kliff Kingsbury

**RB** Willis McGahee, Shaud Williams, Anthony Thomas, Lionel Gates, Fred Jackson

**FB** Damien Shelton, Alan Ricard, Joe Burns

**WR** Lee Evans, Josh Reed, Peerless Price, Andre Davis, Roscoe Parrish (PR), Sam Aiken, Jonathan Smith, George Wilson, Martin Nance, Chris Denney

**TE** Robert Royal, Brad Cieslak, Kevin Everett, Ryan Neufeld  
**K** Rian Lindell

**DT** Larry Tripplett, Tim Anderson (NT), Lauvale Sape (inj), John McCargo, Jason Jefferson, Kyle Williams

**DE** Aaron Schobel, Chris Kelsay, Ryan Denney, Ryan Neill, Jason Hall, Joshua Cooper

**MLB** London Fletcher, Liam Ezekiel, Courtney Watson (inj)

**OLB** Takeo Spikes (S), Angelo Crowell (W), Josh Stamer (S/W), Mario Haggan (W), Keith Ellison, John Digorgio

**CB** Nate Clements (PR), Terrence McGee (KR), Eric King, Jabari Greer, Ashton Youboty, Kiwaukee Thomas, Eric Bassey

**S** Troy Vincent (FS), Donte Whitner (SS), Matt Bowen (SS), Coy Wire (SS), Ko Simpson (FS), Rashad Baker (FS), Jim Leonhard (SS), James Bethea

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## Carolina Panthers

**QB:** Jake Delhomme didn't need long to shake off the rust in the preseason opener. He looked sharp and led the team on a 7 play, 67 yard drive for a touchdown in the first quarter. Delhomme threw a 14-yard TD pass to Drew Carter to open the scoring as he finished 5-of-6 for 64 yards before giving way to Chris Weinke. Delhomme completed passes on the Panthers first four offensive plays. "Overall, it was nice," Delhomme said. "You love to get the ball, drive down and score and that is what we did. That was encouraging." The first play of the game was an 18-yard completion to free agent pickup Keyshawn Johnson.

**RB:** In Saturday's game, DeShaun Foster started and looked good running five times for 25 yards. Rookie first-round pick DeAngelo Williams carried eight times for 21 yards. The team was hoping for a big splash from Williams, but he got off to a slow start as he was held to 1 yard on the first seven carries before taking the eighth one for 20 yards. The coaches keep saying that Eric Shelton is doing better than he did as a rookie, but he didn't look great Saturday night. "He's having a better camp," running backs coach Jim Skipper said. "How much better? Time will tell... He was a little lost," Skipper said referring to Shelton in practices and a scrimmage last week. "Everybody's different. Some catch on quicker than others." Shelton didn't enter Saturday's game until midway into the fourth quarter and he gained 18 yards on 4 carries. "I was waiting," he said with a smile. "It felt pretty good. We got in there and made something happen." Alex Haynes ran twice for 13 yards, logging both of his attempts before Shelton got into the game.

**WR:** Steve Smith did not play against Buffalo, but Keyshawn Johnson, Drew Carter and Keary Colbert all saw action and produced some nice plays. Carter caught the 14-yard TD from Delhomme on the team's opening drive finishing with 3 receptions for 20 yards. Johnson caught two balls for 27 yards and Colbert caught two passes for 23 yards in place of Smith. The addition of Keyshawn Johnson should give the Panthers passing game more balance. Colbert looks like he's rebounding nicely from a sophomore slump caused primarily because of injury problems with his ankle. He had offseason surgery to clean it up and the results are encouraging so far. He appears to be quicker and more explosive. If he and Drew Carter stay healthy, the Panthers suddenly are four deep with playmakers at wide receiver. Taye Biddle is trying to make the roster. He caught five balls for 22 yards, but hurt his cause by losing a fumble. Karl Hankton caught three balls for 26 yards.

As far as Smith's return? Count Keyshawn among those who can't wait for him to get back on the practice field. "I'll be glad when he comes back - then they can make even more out of it," Johnson said when asked of his relationship with Smith. "I think when you look at that situation, you have to report it. It's your job, you have to write newspapers, it's your job, you have to create stories, it's your job. The story that you're creating, it's so fictitious."

**TE:** It's looking more and more like the Panthers will open the season with a new starter at tight end. Even before Kris Mangum got hurt, Michael Gaines was running with the 1s in practice. Mangum has been suffering from plantar fasciitis in his left foot for the past several weeks. Gaines has the better upside of the two players, but he's been inconsistent in practices. Mike Seidman could also see more playing time, but in a backup role. He caught one pass for 8 yards against the Bills. Seidman needs to stay healthy as Jeff King, a rookie, also has potential.

**Defense:** Mike Minter did not play in Saturday's game as he left the team after his mother died suddenly on Thursday. Colin Branch started at free safety in Minter's absence. LB Adam Seward gave the team a boost as he returned to practice last week. He missed time with a groin strain, but he made his presence felt in the second quarter against Buffalo on Saturday night. He blocked a punt and then on the Panthers next punt he dropped Bills returner Jonathan Smith on a dead run. Seward led the team with 6 solo tackles on Saturday night. Here's a nice quote from Seward following the game. "Anytime you can play football, in front of 75,000 people at Bank of America (stadium) or in the backyard, playing two-hand touch, I love football. It's in my blood, I guess," Seward said. "I love to hit." Remember his name knowing Dan Morgan's injury history. Ken Lucas scored on a 23-yard interception return in the first quarter helping the Panthers jump out to a quick 14-0 lead, which proved to be the difference. Kris Jenkins returned to the field and he collected a tackle during the first team's brief appearance.

**Special Teams:** After missing the first part of camp with a sore leg, kicker John Kasay finally returned to practice, and also played in the game against Buffalo. He didn't have much to do, connecting on two PATs. Punter Jason Baker handled all the kickoffs. Camp leg kicker MacKenzie Hoambrecker was active for the game, but did not play. Quietly assisting Kasay as always is long snapper Jason Cole, who has not made a bad snap in his five years with the Panthers. WR/PR Steve Smith continued to miss practices and the game, but he's getting closer to returning. He's no longer listed on the punt returner depth chart, as the team wants to keep him solely on offense. At the start of camp, CB Chris Gamble was considered to be the most likely replacement. Lately WR Efram Hill has been getting the first shot at the job. He had plenty of opportunities in the game but failed to impress with a 3.0-yard average on five returns plus one fair catch. He also fumbled on an offensive play, further hurting his chances. Incumbent kickoff returner RB Jamal Robertson got the opportunity to play in the game, and stake his claim for a roster spot. He averaged 25.7 yards on three returns. The primary kickoff returner challengers, rookies RB DeAngelo Williams and CB Richard Marshall, will probably get game opportunities before the preseason is over.

## Panthers Depth Chart

**QB** Jake Delhomme, Chris Weinke, Stefan Lefors, Brett Basanez

**RB** DeShaun Foster, DeAngelo Williams, Eric Shelton, Jamal Robertson, Alex Haynes

**FB** Brad Hoover, Nick Goings, Casey Cramer

**WR** Steve Smith (PR), Keyshawn Johnson, Keary Colbert, Drew Carter, Karl Hankton, Jovon Bouknight, Taye Biddle, Daniel Smith, Justin McCullum, Lynzell Jackson, D.J. Smith  
**TE** Kris Mangum (inj), Michael Gaines, Mike Seidman, Jeff King

**K** John Kasay

**DE** Julius Peppers, Mike Rucker, Al Wallace, Jovan Haye, Stanley McClover, Devan Long

**DT** Kris Jenkins (inj), Ma'ake Kemoatu, Damione Lewis, Jordan Carstens, Atiyah Ellison, Tony Brown

**MLB** Dan Morgan, Adam Seward, Vinny Ciurciu

**OLB** Thomas Davis (S), Na'il Diggs (W), Keith Adams (W), James Anderson (W), Chris Draft (S), Sean Tufts

**CB** Chris Gamble, Ken Lucas, Reggie Howard, Richard Marshall, Jermaine Hardy, Marcus Cassel, Jarrett Bush, DeShane Dennis

**S** Mike Minter (SS), Shaun Williams (FS), Colin Branch (FS/SS), Kevin McAdam, Nate Salley (FS)

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## Chicago Bears

**QB:** The Bears opened the 2006 preseason with a road game against the 49ers on Friday night. Rex Grossman started the game and played nearly the entire first half, finishing just 3-for-11 for 47 yards with no touchdowns or interceptions. With its top 2 running backs both shelved with injuries, the Bears came out throwing on six of their first seven offensive snaps but Grossman looked jittery and hurried some of his throws. His WR fumbled a completed pass to end the first series, and then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> series Grossman fumbled after a bobbled snap and the ball was picked up by 49ers LB Jeff Ulbrich and returned 32 yards for a TD. Although Grossman's hold on the starting job is still reasonably secure, his poor performance in this game may have opened up the door for Griese a little bit.

Brian Griese was signed to a multi-year contract by the Bears this offseason to provide insurance against another Grossman injury, but he has a lot of starting experience and it showed on Friday. Griese came into the game with less than 5 minutes left in the first half and the Bears trailing 17-0. He played two full series and led the Bears to touchdowns on both possessions, finishing 6-for-7 for 134 yards and 2 touchdowns. Griese did an excellent job of spreading the ball around and finding WR Rashied Davies for several big gains, including a 41-yard TD pass early in the second half. Kyle Orton came in to finish the game but wasn't very effective completing just 4-for-9 for 42 yards. The Bears offensive line did a good job in protection and didn't allow a sack on the night.

**RB:** Thomas Jones remains out with a hamstring injury but is expected to return to practice this week. Cedric Benson is still out with a shoulder injury and is probably at least another week or two away from returning. Running backs coach Tim Spencer had the following to say about who will be starting. "There has been a lot said about the starting guy, whether it's Thomas or Cedric. It's going to come out. Both guys are hurt now, but eventually the best guy will be clear. It will be out in front of everybody...The places where I played and coached,

it's always been the case where the best players play. That policy is no different here. To me, that's the only way you can win."

Adrian Peterson got the start against the 49ers but wasn't able to get anything going in limited work as he finished with just 4 carries for 3 yards. Rookie P.J. Pope replaced him and showed good all-around ability, finishing with 8 carries for 18 yards and 2 receptions for 25 yards. Since Jones and Benson were not available, the Bears used this game as a chance to work on their passing game and finished with 27 pass attempts compared to just 16 rushing attempts.

**WR:** The starting WRs were Muhsin Muhammad and Mark Bradley, and Bernard Berrian came in as the slot receiver. Grossman completed a 17-yard pass to Bradley on 3<sup>rd</sup> down in the first series, but Bradley fumbled the ball and it was recovered by CB Walt Harris. On their next series, Grossman hooked up with Muhammad for a 22-yard gain but that drive quickly stalled out. Rashied Davis has been working as a slot WR with the first unit during training camp and he had a breakout type of performance with 4 catches for 91 yards and a TD. Davis is a smaller WR (5'9", 183 lbs.) but has excellent quickness and looked very impressive. Justin Gage should also be in the mix for playing time and had a nice 14-yard catch and run on a short pass from Griese.

**TE:** Desmond Clark started the game but wasn't targeted in the passing game. His backup Gabe Reid, however, was involved in the passing game and looked like he could become an effective weapon. He showed good speed and finished with 2 receptions for 38 yards, including a 12-yard TD pass from Griese just before halftime.

**Defense:** The Bears return 11 starters from the league's best defense, but they looked surprisingly soft against the league's worst offense from 2005. Alex Smith and the 49ers offense quickly racked up 7 first downs and 123 yards on just three possessions against the Bears first string defense. Lovie Smith thought the first unit played okay, but was put in a bad position by the offensive turnovers, and they did only give up 3 points despite all those yards against them. This is a deep veteran unit that returns all of its starters and plays in the same exact system so there isn't much cause for concern here. In general, the guys up front did a good job pressuring the 49ers QBs but were unable to come up with any sacks. The coverage in the secondary was too soft at times and Charles Tillman was victimized a couple times by Antonio Bryant. Nathan Vasher left the game temporarily after getting hit in the head but returned and should be alright. One of the few players who stood out for the Bears on defense was DT Antonio Garay who finished with a game-high 8 solo tackles and looked very quick while chasing down plays.

**Special Teams:** Heading into camp the Robbie Gould vs. Josh Huston battle for the kicker job looked very intriguing. So far it's been very one-sided. Gould's two weaknesses last year were kickoffs and inconsistency on 40+ yard FGs. He has shown marked improvement on both so far this year. Meanwhile, Huston has been inconsistent overall. Neither one had any FG attempts in the first preseason game at San

Francisco. On kickoffs, Gould's one attempt went 72 yards, while Huston's went 58 and 52 yards. WR Bernard Berrian has been limited by a hip flexor. He is currently listed as the top punt returner on the depth chart, although everyone knows it is actually rookie CB Devin Hester's job to lose. That includes special teams coordinator Dave Toub, although he puts up a good smokescreen, "He's got a lot to learn. There are so many little intricacies in the punt return. Knowing when to field the ball. Knowing when to set the guy up." Hester had one punt return for 21 yards and two fair catches in the game. He is also working towards the top kickoff returner role. Prior to the game Toub noted, "He can do both. If you can punt return, you can kick return. The thing he's got to learn as a kick returner is you don't have to make a lot of guys miss. It's one move and, boom, up the middle fast. He's always trying to see everything and trying to make people miss that aren't even there at times on kick returns." Hester led the team in kickoff returns against the 49ers, averaging 22.0 yards on three returns. After the game Toub was very pleased, "He has special tools. You see what he did on that last kickoff return and just think, 'Wow.'" CB/WR Rashied Davis averaged 20.0 yards on two kickoff returns, and rookie DB Danieal Manning returned one for 21 yards.

## Bears Depth Chart

**QB** Rex Grossman, Brian Griese, Kyle Orton

**RB** Cedric Benson (inj), Thomas Jones, Adrian Peterson, P.J. Pope, Andre Hall

**FB** Bryan Johnson (inj), Jason McKie, J.D. Runnels

**WR** Muhsin Muhammad, Bernard Berrian, Mark Bradley, Justin Gage, Airese Curry (inj), Alex Bannister, Devin Hester (KR/PR/CB), Rashied Davis (PR), Craig Bragg, Bryan McClendon

**TE** Desmond Clark, Gabe Reid, John Gilmore, Tim Day, Cooper Wallace

**K** Robbie Gould, Josh Huston

**DE** Adewale Ogunleye, Alex Brown, Israel Idonije, Michael Haynes (DT), Jamaal Green, Mark Anderson, Khari Long

**DT** Tommie Harris, Ian Scott (inj), Terry Johnson (inj), Alfonso Boone, Dusty Dvoracek (inj), Delbert Cowsette

**MLB** Brian Urlacher, Jeremy Cain

**OLB** Lance Briggs (W), Hunter Hillenmeyer (S/M), Joe Odom (S), Leon Joe (W), Brendon Ayanbadejo (S), Dwayne Slay, Brandon Marshall, Jamar Williams

**CB** Charles Tillman, Nathan Vasher, Ricky Manning, Dante Wesley, Abraham Elimimian, Carlos Hendricks

**S** Mike Brown (SS) (inj), Chris Harris (FS), Danieal Manning (FS), Todd Johnson (SS), Cameron Worrell (SS), Brandon McGowan (SS) (inj), Dion Byrum, Donnie McCleskey

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## Cincinnati Bengals

**QB:** The Carson Palmer saga continued this week with the coaching staff basically doubling his workload to 80% of the practice snaps at Palmer's request. He continues to look pretty good overall and seems to be regaining the timing with his receivers. He's had no setbacks and continues to gain confidence in the surgically repaired knee. Palmer even worked on the slick, wet grass late in the week when showers

soaked the practice field. Physically everything seems good but Palmer has admitted that the mental aspect of his recovery may be the toughest of all. He is working through drills as if he had never suffered an injury and recently had this to say about his mental recovery, "I feel like I made a lot of progress. I feel like I'm playing football and not thinking of anything other than what's going on in the coverage. I'm not worried about what's going on up in front of me. I'm not worried about stepping on anybody. I kind of got the knee thing out of my head. I feel a lot better, a lot more comfortable." Palmer did some throwing before the Bengals first preseason game against Washington on Sunday night but as expected, did not dress for the game. There is still no guarantee that he will be ready to go in the opener but barring any setbacks coach Lewis still expects Palmer to play in the final two preseason games.

After watching the Bengals offense with Anthony Wright at the helm on Sunday night, Lewis may have gone by the nearest church on his way home to throw in an extra prayer for Palmer's return. Wright showed some mobility but was very indecisive at times and when he did throw he was waiting for the receivers to come open rather than trusting his timing. As a result, defenders were able to recover and break on a lot of throws. Against the Redskins starters in the first quarter Wright threw only two passes that looked good. The first was a flea flicker to T.J. Houshmandzadeh for a big gain and the second a corner fade to Chris Henry for a score. Neither play required Wright to read the defense or throw a timing pass. Wright played through the second quarter and looked much better as the game wore on but it is hard to say if that came as he settled down or as a result of facing the Redskins second team defense. Wright finished the game 9-of-16 for 101 yards and a score. After the game he had this to say, "Overall, it was a good start, considering it was my first time really playing competitively with this offense. Obviously there are always things you can work on and learn from. That's what I look forward to doing."

Doug Johnson played the entire second half and actually looked much sharper than Wright. He was hitting receivers on timing routes while looking much more comfortable and in command of the offense. Granted this was against mostly third team defenders but Johnson finished the game 11 of 14 for 128 yards and led the club on two scoring drives including a 34 yard strike to Kelley Washington.

**RB:** Rudi Johnson has looked great during camp but it didn't carry over to Sunday night's game. He had just three carries and lost yards on two of them finishing with (-8) yards on the night. In his defense, Johnson had very little chance as the Redskins defensive line was on fire. On all three of his carries he was met by, or had to avoid, defenders 3 yards deep in the backfield. Johnson played about 10 snaps before taking his pads off and watching comfortably from the bench.

With Chris Perry still on the PUP list due to an ankle injury, Kenny Watson took over after Rudi was finished but he didn't fare much better. He lost yards on two of his four carries and had negative yards on his only catch, as well. Watson did manage a nice 13-yard gain on one carry but finished the game

with a very weak +10 yards on 5 touches. Quincy Wilson opened the second half at tailback but, like those before him, was ineffective. Wilson finished with five carries for 10 yards. Fortunately the Bengals running game got a boost late in the third quarter when rookie DeDe Dorsey broke a 46-yard run and ended up as the game's leading rusher with 6 carries for 68 yards. Dorsey is competing with Wilson and Terrence Wittehead for the final RB roster spot and has done a great deal to promote his cause of late. Not only has he broken some nice runs in practice but he has been working as a return man, too. He had one return for 12 yards against Washington.

**WR:** Chris Henry returned to action during the week and wasted no time reminding everyone why the Bengals were willing to take a chance on his off the field issues. Henry alternated with Tab Perry as the third receiver with the first team offense and immediately made an impact. After making a nice play on an 8-yard reception, Henry came back on the next possession and scored on an over-the-shoulder catch in the corner of the end zone. Chad Johnson and T.J. Houshmandzadeh played just two series and after that Henry became the Bengals' go-to guy. He didn't disappoint, finishing as the game's leading receiver with 6 catches for 61 yards. If this kid can stay out of trouble he can be a special player.

Against Washington Tab Perry saw a lot of action, including a turn as the third guy with the first team offense, but looked very ordinary. Perry had several balls thrown his way but had trouble getting separation and managed just 1 reception for 8 yards. Kelley Washington worked as the third receiver during the second half and was sharp. He finished with 3 catches for 47 yards including a 34-yard score but it all came against the Redskins third team defense. Washington needs to impress as there are rumors that he is on the bubble. Converted quarterback Reggie McNeal continues to display athletic prowess, speed and versatility. He has made some impressive plays during practice over the past week and against the Redskins had a 15-yard reception and a 9-yard run. Rookie Benny Brazell (leg) and veteran Antonio Chatman (hip) sat out the preseason opener but both are expected back in the near future. It's hardly anything to be concerned about but Chad Johnson and his blond Mohawk weren't targeted in the game.

**Defense:** Defense carried the day for the Bengals against Washington. They dominated from the outset intercepting each of the Redskins three quarterbacks, holding them to just 30 rushing yards, 233 passing yards and 3 points, while recording a safety in the first half. The first team was without four starters as Odell Thurman, Deltha O'Neal, Sam Adams and David Pollack all missed the game. Brian Simmons moved inside replacing Thurman with Landon Johnson handling the WLB duties. Simmons has plenty of experience at MLB and Johnson is versatile enough to play any of the three LB positions so the defense didn't miss a beat. There was some speculation that Ahmad Brooks might get a shot at the SLB job in Pollack's absence but the Bengals instead went with NFL rookie Rashad Jeanty who is a CFL transfer. Jeanty made a couple of nice plays and appears ready to claim a roster spot that will likely come at the expense of veteran

Hannibal Navies. Brooks did see action, but as a middle linebacker recording a tackle, assist and a pass defended.

The star of the game was Keiwan Ratliff who replaced O'Neal as the starting corner and used the opportunity to further advance his bid to break the starting lineup. Ratliff gave up a couple of early receptions but set up the Bengals first offensive points with a big interception return and seemed to be everywhere all night. He continues to officially compete with first round pick Johnathan Joseph for the nickel duties but Ratliff has made it clear since early in the offseason program that his goal is to win a starting job. If he continues to play the way he has throughout camp the coaching staff may have to consider granting his wish. Joseph made a couple of nice plays as well including batting away a pass and putting blitz pressure on Mark Brunell to force the bad throw that Ratliff picked off. The Bengals look both strong and deep at the corner positions. Rookie Domata Peko and veteran Shaun Smith both made a strong showings at DT in place of Sam Adams. The club expects to get some of their injured defenders back over the coming week. Pollack is reportedly very close to making his return from a sore hamstring and Sam Adams could come back at any time now that training camp is over.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Shayne Graham hit a 37-yard field goal and added two PATs in the game against Washington. He also put his first three kickoffs into the endzone. WR Tab Perry reminded us why he is the team's top kickoff returner, going for 27 yards on his one return. RB DeDe Dorsey gained 12 yards on his kickoff return, and CB Keiwan Ratliff gained only nine yards. Ratliff had the games only punt return going for a healthy 14 yards. He serves as a backup to WR Antonio Chatman, who missed the game with a pelvic strain. Two backup returners also missed the game, CB Deltha O'Neal and WR Bennie Brazell. Tab Perry is also getting work as a backup punt returner, and had a fair catch in the game. The Bengals also plan to take a look at WR Reggie McNeal before the preseason is over. RB Kenny Watson remains a likely backup on kickoff returns once the regular season arrives.

## Bengals Depth Chart

**QB** Carson Palmer (inj), Anthony Wright, Doug Johnson, Erik Meyer

**RB** Rudi Johnson, Chris Perry (3RB) (inj), Kenny Watson (3RB), Quincy Wilson, DeDe Dorsey, Terrence Whitehead

**FB** Jeremi Johnson, Naufahu Tahi, Chris Manderino

**WR** Chad Johnson, T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Chris Henry, Antonio Chatman (KR), Tab Perry (KR), Kelley Washington, Reggie McNeal (QB), Benny Brazell, Ethan Kilmer

**TE** Reggie Kelly, Tony Stewart, Darnell Sanders, Ronnie Ghent, David Jones

**K** Shayne Graham

**DE** Justin Smith, Robert Geathers, Bryan Robinson (inj), Jonathan Fenene, Frostee Rucker, Eric Henderson

**DT** John Thornton, Sam Adams, Shaun Smith, Domata Peko, Marcus Lewis

**MLB** Odell Thurman (susp), Brian Simmons (M/W), Ahmad Brooks (S), A.J. Nicholson

**OLB** David Pollack (S/DE) (inj), Landon Johnson (W/M/S), Caleb Miller (W), Marcus Wilkins, Hannibal Navies, Wyatt

Gayer, Kenny Kern

**CB** Tory James, Deltha O'Neal (WR/PR), Johnathan Joseph, Keiwan Ratliff (SS/PR), Rashad Bauman, Greg Brooks, Patrick Body

**S** Madiou Williams (FS/CB) (inj), Dexter Jackson (SS/FS), Kevin Kaesviharn (FS/SS), Anthony Mitchell, Ifeanyi Ohalete (SS), John Busing, Jereme Perry, Blake Ferris

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## Cleveland Browns

**QB:** Starting quarterback Charlie Frye played briefly for the Browns in their season opener going 4 of 7 for 23 yards. It was hard to get a good read on his play knowing how badly the Browns offensive line is unraveling before our eyes. "When you step in that huddle, you want your guys believing in you," he said. "You want them to say, 'Hey, if Charlie thinks it's going to be all right, then it's going to be all right.'" Frye was on the field for only 13 plays against the Eagles and did not look over his head despite the play of the offensive line. He has to scramble frequently and his passes weren't overly sharp, but he escaped unscathed. Backup quarterback Ken Dorsey completed 5 of 10 passes for 48 yards after taking over for Frye. Dorsey has been awful during training camp and it wouldn't be a surprise to see the Browns cut him for Derek Anderson. Browns GM Phil Savage likes Anderson and he brought him over from Baltimore. He has a stronger arm than Dorsey and he could get a longer look if Dorsey doesn't improve. Anderson completed 3 out of 4 passes for 21 yards against Philadelphia. Lang Campbell looked good mopping up in the fourth quarter. He completed 8 of 14 for 77 yards with a touchdown and interception against the Eagles defensive scrubs.

**RB:** Reuben Droughns ran the ball hard. He carried the rock four times for 21 yards including an 11-yard run. Lee Suggs also ran hard. Suggs, Jerome Harrison, William Green and Jerome Harrison all saw action in Droughns' stead. Harrison, a fifth round draft pick, scored the team's only touchdown on an 8-yard pass from Lang Campbell in the fourth quarter. Lee Suggs ran four times for 13 yards while William Green lost a combined three yards on six carries in the fourth quarter. That doesn't bode well for Green, but the team will want to see more of Harrison before making a final decision on Willie Green. The big news of the week was the Browns decision to trade Suggs to the Jets in exchange for defensive back Derrick Strait. Unfortunately, Suggs failed his physical in New York and the trade was rescinded. Whether the Browns will consider an outright release of Suggs now remains to be seen.

**WR:** The team continues to be intrigued by Joshua Cribbs, who Charlie Frye calls "the Michael Vick of the MAC." Cribbs put up 1,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing in three of his four years playing quarterback for Kent State. He caught two balls for 23 yards in the loss to the Eagles. "It may be a little too early to tell right now, but if you went on effort, then you'd say he's going to make it," Browns coach Romeo Crennel said. "He's a better receiver than he was at this time last year. He knows more about the position and how to play

the position.” Cribbs routinely takes extra reps after practice with receivers coach Terry Robiskie, who had the following to say about Cribbs. “I was telling him he’s leaps and bounds above where he was last year, but he still has leaps and bounds to go,” said Robiskie. Cribbs continues to work on his preparation and finishing off his routes, two things that players with more experience at the position do better than he does right now. “(Edwards) just said not to let the offense skip a beat when I come in there and if I wasn’t capable of it, they wouldn’t (be placing) me in that position,” Cribbs said. “I know I’m able, so all I have to do is execute. That’s all it is.” Braylon Edwards returned to practice early last week, but he did not make the trip to play against Philadelphia in the team’s first preseason game.

**TE:** Kellen Winslow, Jr. made his return to the field and caught two passes and had a third called back on a penalty in his preseason debut. “It was really good to get back out there,” said Winslow, whose career was stalled by an in-game leg injury and a motorcycle accident. “I just wanted to get tackled to get some confidence back.” HC Romeo Crennel commented after the game, “He made some plays and looked good making them. He looked like a pretty decent guy running around out there and that was encouraging to see.” Crennel also added, “He will tell you that he’s not 100 percent, and whether he’ll ever be 100 percent is doubtful. But I think that he’ll be good enough to be a functional player for us.”

**Defense:** The Browns liked what they saw of rookie first round pick Kamerion Wimbley, who clearly stood out in his first preseason game. Wimbley, who played defensive end at Florida State, played with strength and showed an explosive first step spending a lot of time in the Eagles backfield rushing the passer and chasing down running backs. Wimbley beat his blocker to the outside several times. On a second-and-goal at the 1-yard line, Wimbley shoved an Eagles lineman into the backfield and into RB Reno Mahe to bust up the play. If he can play with strength and speed on the outside then Phil Savage will be a happy man. Savage said, “Wimbley played well, first time out. I think he’s done a really solid job thus far. I don’t think we could have asked for much more than what we’ve seen from him thus far.” The defense overall played reasonably well with LB David McMillan, rookie safety Justin Hamilton, rookie LBs D’Qwell Jackson and Leon Williams all making some plays. Free agent pickup DT Ted Washington will help clog up the middle of the defense. He’s listed at 365 pounds, but he clearly weighs more than that. CB Gary Baxter (shoulder/pec) and DL J’Vonne Parker (foot) left the game early due to injuries. Baxter vowed to be ready for the season opener. “It’s nowhere near last year’s injury,” Baxter said. “I can move my arm. I have full range of motion in it. I have some power in it.” Baxter was having a strong camp before the injury. He is expected to miss three to four weeks.

**Special Teams:** The kickers didn’t get to do very much in the game at Philadelphia. Starter Phil Dawson kicked off 70 yards for a touchback. Backup Jeff Chandler also kicked off 70 yards for a touchback, plus got to kick an extra point late in the game. Starting kickoff returner WR Joshua Cribbs had the only kickoff return of the game for 23 yards. The opportunities were scarce since the Eagles kickers were busy making

touchbacks. Cribbs also saw action on punt returns, averaging 2.5 yards on two returns. Starting punt returner WR Dennis Northcutt ran for 11 yards on his only return. His main challenger, CB Antonio Perkins, averaged only 4.3 yards on three returns. Rookie RB Jerome Harrison did not have any returns in the game, however he could still earn a backup role before the preseason is over.

**Other:** Center Bob Hallen, whom the team was relying heavily upon after LeCharles Bentley’s season ending injury, abruptly retired last week leaving the team’s offensive line in a lurch. The team made a move during the week acquiring Ross Tucker from the Patriots. Further complicating matters, Alonzo Ephraim, the team’s 3<sup>rd</sup> projected starting center in as many weeks, was suspended for the first four games of the regular season due to a violation of the substance abuse policy.

## Browns Depth Chart

**QB** Charlie Frye, Ken Dorsey, Derek Anderson, Darrell Hackney, Lang Campbell

**RB** Reuben Droughns, William Green, Jerome Harrison (3RB), Lee Suggs (3RB), Jason Wright, Chris Barclay

**FB** Terrelle Smith, Corey McIntyre, Lawrence Vickers

**WR** Braylon Edwards (inj), Joe Jurevicius, Dennis Northcutt (PR), Frisman Jackson, Travis Wilson, Josh Cribbs (WR/RB), Brandon Rideau, Kendrick Mosley, Carlton Brewster, Glenn Holt

**TE** Kellen Winslow Jr, Steve Heiden, Darnell Dinkins, Paul Irons

**K** Phil Dawson, Jeff Chandler

**DE** Orpheus Roye, Alvin McKinley, Nick Eason, Simon Fraser, J’Vonne Parker

**NT** Ted Washington, Ethan Kelley, Babatunde Oshinowo, Ja’Waren Blair

**ILB** Andra Davis (L), DQwell Jackson (R), Chaun Thompson (R), Leon Williams (L), Mason Unck

**OLB** Willie McGinest (S/DE), Kamerion Wimbley (S/DE), Matt Stewart (S), David McMillan (W), Nick Speegle (S), Charlton Keith

**CB** Daylon McCutcheon (inj), Gary Baxter, Leigh Bodden, Antonio Perkins (inj), Pete Hunter, DeMario Minter (inj), DeMarcus Rideaux, Ralph Brown

**S** Brian Russell (FS), Brodney Pool (FS), Sean Jones (SS), Antwaan Harris, Justin Hamilton (SS), Jeremy Lasueur (FS)

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## Dallas Cowboys

**QB:** The Cowboys first preseason game should’ve been called the “Tony Romo Show” as the 4<sup>th</sup>-year quarterback played the entire game against Seattle. Better yet, Romo played well completing 19-of-25 passes for 235 yards and a TD with no INTs. In today’s NFL, it’s exceedingly rare to see any player log a full game; unless they’re being showcased. But HC Bill Parcells insists it was simply an important step in understanding what kind of asset Romo is to the team. “You have to coach him all the way through the game,” Parcells said, “that means that you can’t take for granted that just because things are going well, that they’re going to continue to

go well." Drew Bledsoe wasn't injured, but was given the game off explicitly to allow Romo a chance to play with the first team (and against the Seahawks first team). We should note that Romo did fumble two snaps, which drew the ire of Parcells in post-game interviews. Drew Henson is battling rookie Matt Baker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> QB spot, and the competition is far tighter than Henson might have expected. Neither saw action against Seattle, but Baker was expected to get reps ahead of Henson in this week's practice sessions.

**RB:** HC Parcells caused a fantasy stir when he suggested that Marion Barber III was "interchangeable" with projected starter Julius Jones. "I have always been a coach who has a lead back and then a supplemental carrier. Sometimes, I had the advantage of having a third-down guy, too. There were always three guys in the mix: lead runner, changeup runner and third-down guy. "With these two guys I am more inclined to interchange the runners and get Tyson (Thompson) ready to be part of the mix as well. Where maybe he could be the change-up runner. But I'm not sure yet if I can do it," said Parcells. Against Seattle it was Jones who logged the start, netting 100% of the carries in the Cowboys first two drives. Unfortunately Jones didn't do much with his touches, netting just 14 yards rushing on seven carries. Marion Barber replaced Jones but didn't fare much better with seven carries for 20 yards. Backups Tyson Thompson and Keylon Kincade notched 14 carries for 49 yards between them, which in and of itself wasn't impressive as they faced 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> string defenses. The team appears set at the RB position, with Jones and Barber the primary ball carriers, Thompson secure at the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot, and Kincade holding an edge over rookie Demetrius Summers for the final slot.

**WR:** Terry Glenn caught one pass for 20 yards versus Seattle and gave way to the backups. The star of the game was Patrick Crayton, who netted 61 yards on four catches including the game's lone touchdown in the first quarter. Unfortunately Crayton's stellar play was overshadowed by his ankle injury. He limped off the field at halftime and didn't return. The MRI results showed no ligament damage, and he's only expected to miss a week of practice, but we forewarned that it's the same ankle Crayton had surgery on last year. The injury status of the Cowboys receiving corps is a source of growing frustration. Although Glenn played in the preseason game, he's missed practice regularly with blisters, and Terrell Owens missed yet another week of practice due to the sore hamstring. Parcells has been patient, but he may be getting to close to the breaking point, "We need to see something here pretty soon. That's the truth. We've missed a lot of work. But at some point in time he's going to have to practice and play like everybody else. If he doesn't practice, he's not playing." Rookie undrafted free agent Sam Hurd is making the most of his opportunity, catching 4 passes for 40 yards in Saturday's game as well as making plays in practice running with the first team. It wouldn't be a surprise to see Hurd stick on the final roster, which leaves guys like J.R. Tolver and Jamaica Rector fighting for their roster lives.

**TE:** Jason Witten had two catches for 13 yards versus Seattle but was otherwise a non factor. Rookie Anthony Fasano started the game at H-back, but went without a catch. He did

block well, however, and was targeted in the opening drive although the pass went through his outstretched hands. Lousaka Polite, the converted fullback, caught two passes for 9 yards; which probably isn't productive enough if he hopes to make the final roster.

**Defense:** Two converted lineman were the stars of the defense against Seattle. Disgruntled Greg Ellis sacked Matt Hasselbeck in the opening stanza and held his own when singled up on the outside against WR Bobby Engram. While he's still not 100% sold on the move to OLB, if he keeps playing like this it will be hard to justify moving him back to end. Junior Glymph also had a strong outing, albeit against the backup Seahawks. He recorded two sacks and two forced fumbles, which drew the attention of Parcells in the post-game press conference, "'Junior had a good night...Two sacks and two forced fumbles. Not bad." DE Kenyon Coleman and LB Scott Shanle were both in the starting lineup on Saturday, which led some to speculate they were being showcased as potential trade bait. Neither is expected to start this season (Shanle started 8 games last year) as the team has added depth at both positions. CB Terrence Newman, LB Rocky Boiman and DE Marcus Spears continue to be hampered by injury; although they all should be back in action this week.

**Special Teams:** Kickers Mike Vanderjagt, Shaun Suisham, and Tyler Fredrickson have all continued to struggle in practice...really struggle. HC Bill Parcells understated the situation, "I'd say we've been a little inconsistent to this day." Starter Vanderjagt worked on damage control, "We still have a month to go, so I'm not concerned. I'm not too concerned with makes and misses now. I haven't pushed the panic button yet. I'm notoriously bad in practice. I'm notoriously bad in preseason games. I'm notoriously a slow starter." He also noted, "My groin and quad are a little sore." In the game at Seattle, he was good from 21 yards on his only field goal attempt. Suisham was good from 34 yards, however it bounced off the cross bar. Although it's only one preseason game, he looked better on kickoffs than last year, with kicks of 62, 67, 68, and 72 yards. Rookie WR Skyler Green was drafted to hopefully be the return specialist, and he looked good in his first game. He averaged 11.7 yards on three punt returns, and returned a kickoff 29 yards. The only other player with a return in the game was rookie DB Abram Elam with 16 yards on a kickoff. WR Patrick Crayton, a possible punt returner, left the game with a sprained ankle.

## Cowboys Depth Chart

**QB** Drew Bledsoe, Tony Romo, Drew Henson, Matt Baker  
**RB** Julius Jones, Marion Barber III (3RB), Tyson Thompson (KR), Keylon Kincade, Demetrius Summers  
**FB** Lousaka Polite (HB/TE)  
**WR** Terrell Owens, Terry Glenn (inj), Patrick Crayton (PR) (inj), Terrance Copper, Sam Hurd, Skyler Green, Jamaica Rector, J.R. Tolver, LaShaun Ward  
**TE** Jason Witten, Anthony Fasano, Ryan Hannam, Sean Ryan, Erik Jensen  
**K** Mike Vanderjagt, Tyler Fredrickson  
**DE** Kenyon Coleman, Marcus Spears, Chris Canty, Jay Ratliff, Jason Hatcher, Junior Glymph  
**NT** Jason Ferguson, Montavious Stanley, Samuel Taulealea

**ILB** Bradie James (M), Akinola Ayodele (S), Scott Shanle (J), Ryan Fowler, John Aldi  
**OLB** Demarcus Ware (W), Al Singleton, Bobby Carpenter, Kevin Burnett (S), Greg Ellis (DE), Rocky Boiman (inj)  
**CB** Terance Newman, Anthony Henry, Aaron Glenn, Jacques Reeves, Quincy Butler  
**S** Roy Williams (SS), Keith Davis (FS), Pat Watkins (FS), Willie Pile (FS), Marcus Coleman (FS/CB)

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## Denver Broncos

**QB:** The Broncos opened up the 2006 preseason with a game at Ford Field against the Detroit Lions. Jake Plummer had a good showing in limited action. He went 3-of-4 for 33 yards, and basically looked like the Plummer we've all become used to seeing in Denver. He has been having some good days in practice and Coach Mike Shanahan likes what he's been seeing, "Jake hasn't been under the radar for us. He's been great."

Rookie Jay Cutler has been looking really comfortable in his new #2 role. The depth chart was released on Monday, and some were surprised to see the young draft pick ahead of Bradlee Van Pelt. Jay has been taking everything in stride, "It's competition out here, and coach is going to play the best guy. I mean, (running back) Mike Bell is a first-team running back now. No matter where you are drafted or how many years you have been in the league, he's (Shanahan) going to play the best guy and that's what it's all about." In the game on Friday the young phenom from Vanderbilt turned in a solid performance. He was 16/22/192 with 1 TD passing (to David Kircus). This great showing has started a small, mostly media-driven, QB controversy. Some beat writers believe that Cutler has a 60% chance of playing this season. Mike Shanahan provides a word of caution, "He [QB Jay Cutler] played very well; he executed the offense. I think both teams were very vanilla in their approach to it... so you don't get too excited, but a guy's got to go out there and he's got to perform. I thought he showed a lot of poise and did a good job."

Bradlee Van Pelt has not taken his demotion well. Since being relegated to the #3 role in Denver he hasn't done anything in practice to help his move back to the #2 spot. He followed up a bad week of practice with a bad performance in the game against the Lions. He was 4-of-7 for 29 yards with no touchdowns, and one costly interception. The Broncos usually only carry 2 QBs, but many thought Van Pelt would be safe this year, with rookie Jay Cutler just holding a clipboard. Well, with Cutler's big-time ability shining through it looks as though Van Pelt could be headed to a different team.

**RB:** Mike Bell was promoted to first string on the depth chart this week. This was a move that shocked many people, including Tatum Bell and Ron Dayne. Mike Bell looked good in practice all week against the 1st and 2nd string defense and was really excited for the game in Detroit. He had a solid performance in that game, but did what one can't do if they want to win a starting job with Mike Shanahan. He fumbled

the ball when he was hit very hard fighting for extra yardage. The butterflies were obvious, and Bell went 7 for 20 with no receptions. Coach Shanahan was a little critical following the game, "Obviously, with Mike having that fumble, that didn't help his debut. That's difficult for a lot of young guys. This is the National Football League; these guys strip (the ball), these guys are very aggressive to the ball. (It's) very similar to what Clinton Portis went through." The race for the starting job is far from over, and could be closer than some people think.

Tatum Bell is trying to prove that he's more than a situational runner. He also hasn't been taking his demotion very well, "They don't think I can do 25 carries. They don't trust me. I'm going to keep fighting for it, and I've got it in the back of my mind that I'm going to be the man, but in reality, it ain't worked like that in three years." In the game against the Lions Tatum looked determined to win the starting job. He had 5 carries for 26 yards, and added 1 reception for 19 yards. He was very impressive on the field, and he shouldn't be overlooked in this race for the starting job.

Ron Dayne had a poor showing almost all week in practice after word of his demotion got out. He then followed that up by doing nothing notable in the game against the Lions. 5 carries for 12 yards will not win you a starting job anywhere in the NFL. He also missed practice with a bad toe on Sunday. Cedric Cobbs quietly put together a good week in camp. He looked good in the game against the Lions, with 11 carries for 42 yards, which led the team. He ran with good power, and had good "pop" at the point of attack. If he keeps performing well, he might have a spot on this roster, after all.

**WR:** Rod Smith and Javon Walker both nursed injuries all week, and did not play in the game against the Lions. It seems to be more of a precautionary move, and both should be back in the lineup soon. In the meantime, many thought that Brandon Marshall would have a breakout game. He has been having a great camp, and has wowed coaches with his consistency, hands, and route running. But on gameday Marshall was injured after only 1 catch for 9 yards. It turns out to be a "slight" tear of his PCL, and he is expected to miss at least 2 weeks.

That opened the door for the other Broncos WRs to show what they can do. Darius Watts had a good game with 4 catches for 35 yards, but he wasn't the story of the day. That title belongs to David Kircus. In his return to the Motor City, Kircus did a fine job. His performance really made people stand up and take notice. He had 6 catches for 76 yards and a touchdown. He would've had another TD at the end of the game if it wasn't for a bad pass from Van Pelt. Kircus showed great hands and concentration. His route running still isn't what it could be, but he did a nice job of getting open and making plays. Todd Devoe was the only other WR that did anything on Friday, with 2 catches for 23 yards.

**TE:** Rookie Tony Scheffler looked good in what was a homecoming for him in Michigan. He had 4 catches for 54 yards in the game against the Lions. All of his catches were thrown by Jay Cutler, and it's nice seeing those two building rapport on the football field. Coach Shanahan was really impressed, "He played pretty good. It was very good for his

first game in the National Football League. He caught the ball well, and he blocked pretty good." Stephen Alexander is currently the starter for Denver. That may change with the emergence of Scheffler. The Broncos do use a lot of 2-TE formations, so there is room for both to see the field. Alexander only had 1 catch for 8 yards on the day, but he did block well.

**Defense:** DE Courtney Brown had minor knee surgery last Wednesday, but said he expects to be ready for the regular-season opener. DT Gerard Warren dislocated his left big toe on August 5. He's rehabbing in the swimming pool and is on target for opening day. Patrick Chukwurah missed practice on Sunday with an ankle injury and is expected to be out until midweek. Safety Sam Brandon returned to practice on Sunday after missing Friday's game with a hamstring injury. Champ Bailey was held out of Friday's game. Dominique Foxworth intercepted a Dan Orlovsky pass on Friday night and contributed with two tackles. Karl Paymah continues his strong preseason with four solo tackles and a sack.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Jason Elam discussed his field goal practicing, "Every couple of weeks, I'll go back and try some long ones. I don't get a lot of chances [in games]. I make my living between the 30 and 40, and that's where I need to be. I want that swing to be really good." He also continues to take off practice two days before a game. On his day off last week, punter Micah Knorr handled kicking chores, and proceeded to kick a ball through WR Darius Watts' windshield. In the game at Detroit, Elam connected on field goals from 35 and 36 yards. Punter/kicker Paul Ernster handled the kickoffs. None of the incumbent returners, CB Darrent Williams, WR Charlie Adams, or CB Roc Alexander, had any returns in the game. On kickoff returns, rookie WR Brian Clark averaged 24.7 yards on three returns, while WR David Kircus averaged 15.0 yards on two returns. Three different players each had one punt return in double digits, WR David Terrell for 24 yards, David Kircus for 16 yards, and rookie RB Mike Bell for 10 yards. Rookie WR Domenik Hixon continues to mend very slowly, and the rumor of possibly being placed on injured reserve is now circulating.

## Broncos Depth Chart

**QB** Jake Plummer, Jay Cutler, Bradlee Van Pelt

**RB** Mike Bell, Tatum Bell, Ron Dayne (inj), Cedric Cobbs, Damien Nash

**FB** Cecil Sapp, Kyle Johnson, Rashon Powers-Neal

**WR** Rod Smith, Javon Walker (inj), Darius Watts, Brandon Marshall (inj), David Terrell, David Kircus, Charlie Adams, Todd Devoe, Domenik Hixon, Brian Clark, Ashley Lelie

**TE** Stephen Alexander, Tony Scheffler, Nate Jackson, Chad Mustard, Landon Trusty (IR)

**K** Jason Elam

**DE** Courtney Brown (inj), Ebenezer Ekuban, John Engelberger, Kenard Lang, Elvis Dumervil, Randy Garner

**DT** Gerard Warren, Michael Myers, Demetris Veal, D.J. Renteria, Amon Gordon, Antwon Burton, Bryan Save

**MLB** Al Wilson, Nate Webster, Keith Burns

**OLB** Ian Gold (W), D.J. Williams (S), Raymond Wells, Louis Green (W), Patrick Chukwurah, Cameron Vaughn, Kevin Harrison, T.J. Hollowell (inj)

**CB** Champ Bailey, Darrent Williams (PR), Dominique Foxworth, Karl Paymah, Roc Alexander (KR), Willie Middlebrooks

**S** John Lynch (FS), Nick Ferguson (SS), Sam Brandon (FS), Curome Cox, Hamza Abdullah, Tyler Everett

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## Detroit Lions

**QB:** The Lions surprised a few people when Jon Kitna left the team's preseason opener and Dan Orlovsky took the field, not Josh McCown. "Coach Marinelli said, 'You're in,'" Orlovsky said, "I wasn't really surprised." Nor should he be since he's seen a fair amount of practice reps with the second team. He performed well in practice throughout the week. The coaches met Thursday night and they decided to give him a chance. "We said we were going to give him that opportunity," HC Rod Marinelli said. "We made the decision to take a look at him early." Orlovsky played reasonably well (6-of-8 for 54 yards and a TD), but he also made some crucial mistakes including a pass that was easily intercepted by the Broncos Dominique Foxworth. McCown took the field later and played well, too. He scrambled for 15 yards on the first play, hit Arlen Harris for 10 yards on the next play, and then found Mike Williams for a 24-yard completion on the fourth play, which setup a touchdown. McCown also led the team to a field goal later while finishing 4-of-7 for 54 yards, adding 30 yards on four runs. Jon Kitna played briefly completing 2-of-5 for 21 yards while adding 10 yards on the ground.

**RB:** With a new sheriff in town, Kevin Jones truly believes this is going to be his year. Jones carried the ball on the Lions first four offensive plays, perhaps a good sign that the Lions will "pound the rock" under HC Rod Marinelli. The Lions new coach is all about winning, so if running the ball helps the Lions achieve that goal, then that's what they'll do. "I love to win," said Marinelli, the long-time defensive line coach for the Buccaneers. "If we're playing marbles, I'm going to get you." Jones ran seven times for 25 yards.

Arlen Harris took over after Jones left the game. He produced 36 yards on the ground with seven carries while catching three passes for 26 yards including a 20-yard TD pass in the second quarter from Dan Orlovsky. Artose Pinner entered the game last and he ran four times for 12 yards including a 2-yard TD to cap a Lions drive in the third quarter that gave them a 17-13 lead. However, Pinner will have a difficult time making the team. He isn't getting many reps in practice behind Arlen Harris and Brian Calhoun and the team may be trying to showcase him for a potential deal, if another team shows interest.

**WR:** Corey Bradford, Roy Williams, Shaun Bodiford, Mike Williams, Charles Rogers, Eddie Drummond and Glenn Martinez caught one pass each in the Lions preseason opener. The crystal ball continues to be hazy for the Lions WR corps, but the good news is they are just scraping the surface of their offensive potential with Mike Martz now calling the shots. "I can't wait until we can bring out every page of this offense,"

said Roy Williams, who only played two series. "There's nothing simple about it with all of the adjustments that you have to make on the fly. You just got a taste of it tonight."

Last year's surprise player, Scottie Vines, is expected to miss the first six weeks of the season on the PUP list with a sports hernia. That helped drive another surprising shuffle of the deck at wide receiver again giving Shaun Bodiford, an undrafted free agent, reps with the first team last Tuesday. Rod Marinelli said it was a reward for his strong play through the first week or two of camp. "I was surprised," Bodiford said. "I was getting very limited reps. Then, he was like, 'Let's see if you really are that good.'" Overall, The Lions played surprisingly disciplined with just one false start, a definite improvement over seasons past. Unfortunately, the guilty party was Charles Rogers, who Peter King (of SI.com) asserts, "I think the Lions are going to cut Rogers. In fact, I'm pretty sure of it."

**TE:** Marcus Pollard is back with the first team after Casey Fitzsimmons injured his wrist during Friday's game. He's expected to miss about two weeks. Pollard caught two balls for a whopping three yards in the game. Dan Campbell remains on the team's PUP list, so the Lions could be looking for help at this position, as Pollard is currently the only viable option on the roster.

**Defense:** First round pick LB Ernie Sims had a strong debut for the Lions. He was all over the field and his name was called on almost every play. "We will be able to run to the edge," Millen said. "That, you can see right away. I thought Sims' speed really showed up. Bullocks' speed showed up." Safety Daniel Bullocks, another rookie, saw his first extensive action as well. Bullocks was credited with seven solo tackles while Sims chalked up only a 1-1-0 line. Don't be dissuaded though. Sims clearly made his mark on the Lions defense from the get-go. Two defensive linemen fighting for a roster spot produced sacks Friday night. Claude Harriott, a free agent pickup, had a pair of sacks and forced a fumble while Bill Swancutt, a rookie last year, also registered one.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Jason Hanson got a light workout in the game against Denver, kicking a 36-yard field goal and a PAT. Camp leg Matt Prater added a 28-yard field goal and a PAT in the second half. He also handled all the kickoffs throughout the game, ranging from 62 to 71 yards. Hanson will handle kickoffs during the regular season. The Broncos kept return specialist WR Eddie Drummond contained, as he returned a kickoff 19 yards and a punt three yards. He also added an 11-yard reception on offense. Undrafted rookie WR Shaun Bodiford had all the other returns in the game, averaging 23.5 yards on two kickoff returns, plus one punt return for no gain. Despite speculation that Rookie RB Brian Calhoun would be the top backup to Drummond, he did not have any returns in the game and is currently not listed on the special teams depth chart. Bodiford is listed second behind Drummond on both kickoff and punt returns. WR Glenn Martinez is listed third on kickoffs and CB Dré Bly is third on punt returns.

## Lions Depth Chart

**QB** Jon Kitna, Dan Orlovsky, Josh McCown, Joel Klatt  
**RB** Kevin Jones, Arlen Harris, Brian Calhoun (3RB/KR), Artose Pinner  
**FB** Shawn Bryson (3RB), Cory Schlesinger, Will Matthews  
**WR** Roy Williams, Corey Bradford, Glenn Martinez, Mike Furrey, Mike Williams, Shaun Bodiford, Charles Rogers (inj), Eddie Drummond (KR/PR), Scottie Vines (PUP), DeVale Ellis, Brett Fischer  
**TE** Casey Fitzsimmons (inj), Marcus Pollard, Dan Campbell, Sean McHugh, Cole Downer  
**K** Jason Hanson, Matt Prater  
**DE** James Hall, Kalimba Edwards, Cory Redding, Jared DeVries, Bill Swancutt, Claude Harriott, Val Barnaby  
**DT** Shaun Rogers, Shaun Cody, Marcus Bell, Tyoka Jackson, Damian Gregory, Cleveland Pinckney, Lynn McGruder, Marcus Parker  
**MLB** Boss Bailey, Levar Woods, Matt Grootegoed  
**OLB** Ernie Sims (W), Ted Lehman (S) (inj), Alex Lewis (S/W), James Davis (W), Paris Lenon (S), Donte' Curry (S), Anthony Cannon (S), James Hargrave  
**CB** Dre' Bly, Fernando Bryant, Keith Smith, Stanley Wilson, Jamar Fletcher, Alton McCann, LaMarcus Hicks  
**S** Kenoy Kennedy (SS), Terrence Holt (FS), Daniel Bullocks (FS), Jon McGraw (FS), Idrees Bashir (FS), Vernon Fox, Harrison Smith, Marcus Demps

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## Green Bay Packers

**QB:** Brett Favre survived Saturday's game against San Diego, but he knows it wasn't an impressive performance. "We've got a long way to go," Favre said. "We weren't very good." He completed 5-of-10 for 66 yards and he was sacked on consecutive plays in the first quarter before leaving the game early in the second quarter. Aaron Rodgers took over and performed much better. He went 9-of-11 for 124 yards while playing about half of the game. Rodgers also ran for 21 yards on three rush attempts. Ingle Martin got into the game late and he completed 3-of-4 for 13 yards.

**RB:** Ahman Green did not play Saturday night while Najeh Davenport got the start and carried the ball six times for 12 yards while adding one catch for 9 yards. Samkon Gado carried three times for six yards and caught one ball for no gain before leaving the game with a groin injury. Noah Herron saw some action as well running three times for 4 yards and catching one pass. All three are competing for the primary backup spot behind Green, who will be rested regularly this season under HC Mike McCarthy.

The Packers new coach said he's aiming for a 53-47 pass-run ratio this season and he says they'll stick with the run even when it's not producing (like Saturday's game). "You can not be a successful run team and blow out of it all the time, it just doesn't happen," McCarthy said. "It's going to be ugly sometimes. Running the football is commitment. Passes are a lot more fun to call; I'll be the first to admit that. But running the football is essential to your football team, and stopping the run, I surely believe in it. You get in with the big boys, look at the playoff games. You've got to run that ball."

As for trying to keep the pass-run ratio even? "Everybody says they want to be 50-50 (pass-run), but I think if you want to score points in this league, you have to be around 53-47," McCarthy said. "That's ideal. You get about 56 (percent) throwing the ball, 58 (percent), you're kind of getting away, you're putting the stress on the quarterback too much." Davenport appears to be in the lead right now, but he's missed a lot of practice time with his own injuries and only returned on Thursday after being on the shelf for seven days with a calf injury.

**WR:** Donald Driver continues to have a great camp. He's once again in superb condition. Greg Jennings returned to practice on Thursday after missing a few days with a hip flexor. Jennings looked good against the Chargers leading the team with four receptions for 68 yards – including a 47-yarder, but he also dropped a pass from Favre that was right in his hands on fourth-and-2. Rod Gardner caught two balls for 31 yards while Robert Ferguson caught a pass for 28 yards. Marc Boerigter had one reception for 19 yards and Donald Driver had one catch for 7 yards. Others who cracked the box score include Ruvell Martin (1-13-0) and Chad Lucas (1-3-0).

**TE:** The Packers tight ends were quiet in Saturday's game, but David Martin managed to catch one ball for 14 yards. Starter Bubba Franks returned to practice last Monday after missing time with various injuries. Zack Alcorn also managed one catch for 18 yards.

**Defense:** The Packers could move Nick Barnett from MLB to SLB to help make way for rookie Abdul Hodge, who is having a strong camp. Such a move certainly won't make Barnett a happy camper, as he doesn't want to play anywhere but MLB. Barnett implied that a contract extension is in order if the team expects him to move knowing that he won't have as many tackles. Hodge remains his backup at the "Mike" position for now, but the coaches have stressed that the linebackers are interchangeable and they'll do their best to get their three best players on the field. Those three will likely be Barnett, Hodge and first round pick A.J. Hawk (at the Will).

Rookie safety Tyrone Culver led all defenders with 8 tackles and an assist. Culver is taking advantage of Marquand Manuel's extended absence due to a calf injury. On Wednesday morning last week, Culver made a nice interception showing that he has a nose for the football. Safety Marviel Underwood went out in the first quarter with a serious knee injury that will sideline him for the entire season. Tests on Sunday confirmed a torn ACL/MCL. He will be placed on injured reserve. The team also lost defensive tackle Kenderick Allen to a side muscle injury in the first quarter. DT Ryan Pickett (finger) sustained a minor injury. While not injured, corner Ahmad Carroll may wish he were after being scorched a few times in the game, most notably by the Chargers Vincent Jackson for a touchdown. Carroll is competing for a backup spot, if he's not cut first.

**Special Teams:** The kickers were not very busy for the Packers in the game at San Diego. Billy Cundiff kicked a 23-yard field goal and had a 71-yard kickoff. Dave Rayner had a successful onside kickoff late in the game. Regardless of

which one wins the job, the limited scoring opportunities could be indicative of the upcoming regular season. Cundiff has shown only limited range in practice, while Rayner has been inconsistent. Green Bay could still opt to grab a free agent before the real games begin. As soon as he was drafted, rookie WR Cory Rodgers was the leading candidate to become the Packer's return specialist. During camp however, he's had continued problems catching and holding onto the ball. HC Mike McCarthy notes, "He's young. Part of it, I'm not making excuses for the guy, but I can't tell you how many, those juniors, it just takes time with those guys. It's frustrating, but you have to be patient. Juniors are tough." Rodgers says he's still adjusting to special teams coordinator Mike Stock's way of fielding punts, "It's one of the hardest jobs in football, and people don't realize that. With me, I'm just trying to get more comfortable with the way my coach wants me to do it. Once I do that, I'll be fine." In the game against the Chargers, he fielded every return cleanly. He averaged 16.3 yards on three kickoff returns, and 9.0 yards on two punt returns. CB Charles Woodson gained only three yards on his one punt return after slipping.

## Packers Depth Chart

**QB** Brett Favre, Aaron Rodgers, Ingle Martin

**RB** Ahman Green (inj), Najeh Davenport, Samkon Gado (inj), Noah Herron (FB), Arliss Beach, Shermar Bracey

**FB** William Henderson, Vonta Leach, A.J. Cooper (TE), Ben Brown

**WR** Donald Driver, Robert Ferguson, Greg Jennings, Rod Gardner, Marc Boerigter, Cory Rogers, Will Blackmon (KR/PR) (inj), Chad Lucas, Ruvell Martin, Vince Butler, Calvin Russell, Chris Francies

**TE** Bubba Franks, David Martin, Donald Lee, Zac Alcorn, Tory Humphrey

**K** Billy Cundiff, Dave Rayner

**DE** Kabear Gbaja-Biamila, Aaron Kampman, Mike Montgomery, Kenny Peterson, Corey Williams, Dave Tollefson, Jason Hunter, Montez Murphy

**DT** Ryan Pickett (NT), Cullen Jenkins, Kenderick Allen, Colin Cole (NT), Johnny Jolly, Jerome Nichols

**MLB** Nick Barnett, Abdul Hodge

**OLB** A.J. Hawk (W), Ben Taylor (S/W), Roy Manning (S/M), Brady Poppinga (S), Tracy White (S), Kurt Campbell, Tim Goodwell, Kevin Schimmelmann

**CB** Charles Woodson, Al Harris, Ahmad Carroll, Michael Hawkins, Jason Horton, Patrick Dendy, Jerron Wishom, Antonio Malone

**S** Nick Collins (FS), Marquand Manuel (SS), Tyrone Culver (FS), Jeremy Thornburg, Tra Boger, Atari Bigby, Jeremy Modkins, Marviel Underwood (SS) (IR)

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## Houston Texans

**QB:** It was the Texans first preseason game, but the early indications are positive as they moved the ball well and didn't yield a sack in head coach Gary Kubiak's first game. David Carr finished 3-of-5 for 23 yards while adding 20 yards rushing in the first quarter. On Carr's first two plays, he found Eric Moulds for an 11-yard gain on the right side of the field and then hit him for an 8-yard gain on the next play. "We

didn't have a sack in the game and it's been a while since we've done that here," Carr said. "Keeping the quarterback clean, we're going to be able to score points." While the game resulted in a win, Carr continues to struggle on a multitude of levels in practices often drawing the ire of Kubiak. Most of the time, it is Carr making mental mistakes. "It's just some things that we've covered a few times that we have to get fixed," Kubiak said. "We can't make those mistakes again, and he knows that. That's the way I coach him all the time, and I'll keep coaching him like that. We have to settle down, and we have to be consistent in what we're doing."

Backup quarterback Sage Rosenfels had a 5-yard touchdown run in the second quarter while completing 10-of-18 for 78 yards passing. Undrafted rookie Quinton Porter, competing with Cody Pickett for the third string job, played late in the game finishing 4-for-4 with 51 yards.

**RB:** In Saturday's game against Kansas City, DE Mario Williams didn't have the biggest impact amongst rookies. It was sixth round pick Wali Lundy who turned in the most impressive effort. Lundy ran for 59 yards on nine carries with one reception for 9 yards. "I'm just happy I'm getting an opportunity to play in the NFL," Lundy said. "Anything I can do to help this team ... that's what I'm going to do." The Texans started Antowain Smith with Domanick Davis on the shelf. Smith was ineffective early so the Texans turned to Lundy, who bolted for 25 yards on his first carry. Lundy took another handoff three plays later for a 3-yard TD to open the scoring.

Starter Antowain Smith finished with only 10 yards on five carries. Chris Taylor carried 14 times for 55 yards and Damien Rhodes ran four times for 14 yards extending the Texans lead with a 4-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. Domanick Davis continues to be sidelined with fluid in his knee. Kubiak wouldn't commit to a timetable regarding his return either. With Davis's return in question, the backup picture becomes one of potential significance. Vernand Morency did not play in the game, but he's beginning to run the ball better as he adjusts his shake-and-bake style to fit Kubiak's mantra of getting into the hole, making one cut and running downhill. Morency looms large if he can impress the team over the next few weeks, but after Lundy's performance this competition is becoming a three-back race.

**WR:** The Texans receivers didn't make much of a splash in the team's preseason opener. Andre Johnson was targeted twice in the early going, but both passes were incomplete. Eric Moulds started quickly and finished with 3 catches for 23 yards – all coming in the first quarter. Derrick Armstrong had two receptions for 28 yards. Jake Schifino chipped in with 3 for 26 yards.

**TE:** Jeb Putzier was only joking, but he told his family members not to draft him in fantasy football this year. What, you say? "I keep telling my family to stop picking me in fantasy football. I'll have a game where I score a touchdown and every friend and family member is rushing to the waiver wire, and then they get mad when I don't do it again. It can't be good for your fantasy team if I'm in the starting lineup!"

Bennie Joppru, who had season-ending injuries the past three seasons, appeared in his first NFL game on Saturday. He had a 9-yard reception in the fourth quarter. Rookie Owen Daniels caught four passes for 29 yards.

**Defense:** Mario Williams' debut was uneventful. He played one quarter (11 plays) registering an assisted tackle while being shuffled along the defensive line. "I kind of got too excited and that made me get a little tired," Williams said. "But I was not nervous at all. I have a lot to learn. I was moving up and down the ball. I'm used to just coming off the edge and it's a lot different here." Meanwhile, fellow rookie DeMeco Ryans made the game's first tackle and finished with a team high 6 tackles, including four solos. Ryans started at MLB and was flanked by Shante Orr and Barrett Green.

Safety Kevin Curtis intercepted Chiefs quarterback Casey Printers in the fourth quarter. "Defensively, we didn't show a lot, but neither did Kansas City," defensive end Antwan Peek said. "We're going to be aggressive, and I think we're going to be pretty good, but right now, we've still got work to do."

**Special Teams:** Kicker Kris Brown made a 22-yard field goal in the game against Kansas City, but was wide right from 40 yards. His kickoffs ranged from 65 to 70 yards. With kickoff returner WR Jerome Mathis out for another two months or so, and punt returner CB Phillip Buchanon out at the moment with a hamstring injury, the Texans got to take a look at quite a few youngsters. Rookie RB Wali Lundy returned a kickoff 30 yards, while rookie RB Chris Taylor returned one 24 yards. Lundy commented before the game, "I returned some kickoffs in college [Virginia], so I know how to do it. I'm ready to play against another team and show the coaches what I'm capable of doing." Taylor noted, "Yeah, I've never done it, but I'm fired up to try it. I like to hit people. I like contact. This is another way for me to do it. I'm just looking for any opportunity to make this team." Backup punt returner WR Derrick Lewis had one return for 10 yards, while Wali Lundy had one for 12 yards. Rookie WR David Anderson got the most opportunities, averaging 6.0 yards on three punt returns. Special teams coordinator Joe Marciano put it all in perspective, "Even if Phillip and Mathis weren't injured, this is the first preseason game, and you always give the young guys a chance."

## Texans Depth Chart

**QB** David Carr, Sage Rosenfels, Cody Pickett, Quinton Porter

**RB** Domanick Davis (inj), Antowain Smith, Vernand Morency, Wali Lundy, Chris Taylor, Damien Rhodes

**FB** Jameel Cook, Quadtrine Hill, Nick Luchey

**WR** Andre Johnson, Eric Moulds, Kevin Walter, Derick Armstrong, Jerome Mathis (PR/KR) (inj), David Anderson,

Nick Narcisse, Jake Schifino, Richie Ross, Derrick Lewis  
**TE** Mark Bruener, Jeb Putzier, Benny Joppru, Owen Daniels, Patrick Hape, Scott Weaver, Ben Steele (IR)

**K** Kris Brown

**DT** Anthony Weaver, Robaire Smith, Seth Payne, Travis Johnson (inj), Alfred Malone

**DE** Mario Williams, Jason Babin, Antwan Peek, Jeff Charleston, Darrell Wright

**MLB** DeMeco Ryans, Sam Cowart, DaShon Polk, Dave

Moretti

**OLB** [Kailee Wong \(inj\)](#), [Morlon Greenwood](#), [Shantee Orr](#), [Barrett Green](#), [Charlie Anderson \(inj\)](#), [Kenneth Petway](#), [Saleem Rasheed](#), [Trent Bay](#), [Wali Rainer \(IR\)](#)

**CB** [Dunta Robinson](#), [Phillip Buchanon](#), [DeMarcus Faggins \(inj\)](#), [Lewis Sanders](#), [Dexter McCleon](#), [Kevin Garrett](#), [Tramon Williams](#), [John Walker](#), [Earthwind Moreland](#), [Chris McKenzie \(IR\)](#)

**S** [Glenn Earl \(SS\)](#), [C.C. Brown \(SS/FS\)](#), [Jason Simmons \(FS\)](#) (inj), [Ramon Walker \(SS\)](#), [Michael Stone](#)

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## Indianapolis Colts

**QB:** Peyton Manning's first work of the preseason was about what you would expect. He completed 3-of-5 passes for 50 yards including 11- and 31-yard completions to Reggie Wayne. "I think when you recover (the onside kick), it really gets the whole team fired up and it's nice to take that good field position and turn it into points," Manning said referring to the team's opening drive that he capped with an 8-yard TD pass to tight end Ben Utecht. That drive was all she wrote for Manning, who left along with Marvin Harrison and Wayne. Backup Jim Sorgi was 7-of-17 for 64 yards as he played up through halftime. Shaun King, trying to win the No. 3 job, was 6-of-10 for 122 yards with a 40-yard TD pass to Levon Thomas in the fourth quarter. He was intercepted once.

**RB:** Neither of the Colts top two backs was impressive in the preseason opener against the Rams. Dominic Rhodes, currently the starter on the team's depth chart, carried four times for 10 yards while 1<sup>st</sup>-round pick Joseph Addai ran for 3 yards on three attempts. Kory Chapman carried four times for 13 yards and James Mungro added six yards on four carries. Tony Dungy didn't seem too concerned about the team's lack of a running game this early in the preseason. "The thing people say (is), 'Well, they didn't get the chance to run,'" Dungy said Saturday. "We know these guys can run and they're going to make yards running the ball... (But) it was really a good game for us to see Dominic and Joseph running pass routes, picking up (blitzes). They did a lot of blitz protection, pick-ups that they had to do. We got to see a lot of things we needed to see. All of the guys did well."

**WR:** Reggie Wayne led all receivers with 42 yards on two catches; all coming on the team's opening drive. Brandon Stokley landed awkwardly in the back of the end zone on Sunday colliding with a defensive player. Stokley was taken off the field in a cart and has since been diagnosed with a severely sprained left ankle. Coach Dungy left the door open for Stokley to miss the regular season opener, "There is a chance. (With) ankle sprains, you never know. We'll take it day-to-day and see what happens." Backups Levon Thomas and John Standeford each made a big play. Thomas caught a 40-yard TD while Standeford produced a 34-yard catch. Aaron Moorehead had a catch for 14 yards. Terrence Wilkins and Ed Hinkel had one catch each.

**TE:** Dallas Clark caught two balls for 22 yards while Ben Utecht caught a 8-yard TD for the Colts on Friday night against the Rams.

**Defense:** Reserve DE Marcus West led the team with 10 solo tackles in the team's first game. Rookie LB Freddie Keiaho and OLB Tyjuan Hagler each had seven tackles.

Unfortunately, Keiaho may miss some time this week due to a knee injury. Pro Bowl DE Dwight Freeney sat out of the game with a sore shoulder as did S Bob Sanders (shoulder), DT Montae Reagor (knee), DT Corey Simon (knee), S Mike Doss (calf) and CB Jason David (groin). Bob Sanders returned to practice on Sunday making his first appearance on the field during training camp. "Man, I feel great. I'm excited to get back out there, running around. I did a little bit extra running after practice just to make sure I'm ready," said Sanders. "Going in pads and doing a lot of back-to-back stuff was kind of tough."

The Colts starting safety tandem may finally be back on the field together as Mike Doss also returned on a limited basis Saturday morning. "We'll see how they do. We've got a long week and we'll have a chance to get some work. We're obviously not going to rush them back. We'll see. We'll probably have a better idea about Friday," said Tony Dungy.

Backup linebacker Kyle Killion suffered a hamstring injury that is not believed to be serious. Kelvin Hayden intercepted a David Ragone pass. Safety Dexter Reid suffered a shoulder injury against the Rams, but should be ready for the start of the season. Gary Brackett also left the game after hurting his knee, but managed to practice on Saturday. "I just banged it," Brackett said. "There's a nerve that goes through the knee and I hit that, so the knee was a little numb. I'm a little sore, but it feels like a deep bruise now."

**Special Teams:** Kicker Adam Vinatieri opened the game at St. Louis with a successful onside kick. He booted the next kickoff 75 yards for a touchback. He was also good on a 53-yard field goal. Vinatieri feels he's quickly acclimated to his new kicking crew, "He's [Hunter Smith] an awesome holder. He does a great job and Justin [Snow] does a great job as the long snapper. There are a lot of things that have to go right to be successful, but those two guys, and the great guys we have on the offense line blocking, they make my job easier by doing such a good job." Camp leg Shane Andrus handled the kicking in the latter part of the game. After missing several days of practice, rookie CB T.J. Rushing took the early lead for the kickoff returner job, with a 63-yard return. He didn't fare as well on punt returns, with no gain on his only return. Another competitor, rookie WR Ashlan Davis had a 25-yard kickoff return and fair caught a punt. The only other return was 18 yards on a kickoff by RB James Mungro. The third candidate for the return specialist role, WR Terrence Wilkins, did not have any returns in the game, nor did long-shot candidate WR Dan Sheldon.

## Colts Depth Chart

**QB** **QB** [Peyton Manning](#), [Jim Sorgi](#), [Shaun King](#), [Josh Betts](#), [David Koral](#)

**RB** [Dominic Rhodes](#), [Joseph Addai](#), [Kory Chapman](#), [Tony](#)

Hollings

**FB** James Mungro

**WR** Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne, Brandon Stokley (inj), Aaron Moorehead, Terrence Wilkins (KR), Levon Thomas, Ed Hinkel, John Standeford

**TE** Dallas Clark, Bryan Fletcher, Ben Utecht, Ben Hartsock, Joey Hawkins, Corey Roberts (res)

**K** Adam Vinatieri

**DT** Corey Simon, Montae Reagor, Vincent Burns, Darrell Reid, Tom Johnson, Kader Drame

**DE** Dwight Freeney, Raheem Brock (DT), Robert Mathis, Josh Thomas, Jonathan Welsh, Javor Mills, Marcus West, George Gause, Gabe Nyenhuis (IR)

**MLB** Gary Brackett (W/M), Rob Morris

**OLB** Cato June (W), Gilbert Gardner (S/W), Freddie Keiaho, Keith O'Neil, Deryck Toles (W), Tyjuan Hagler (W), Brandon Hoyte, Kyle Killion (IR), Dale Robinson, Kendyll Pope (susp)

**CB** Nick Harper, Jason David, Marlin Jackson (CB/FS), Kelvin Hayden, Tim Jennings, Von Hutchins, T.J. Rushing, Shannon Fitzhugh

**S** Bob Sanders (FS), Mike Doss (SS), Matt Giordano (FS), Dexter Reid, Antoine Bethea (FS), Daryl Dixon (FS), Tanard Davis, Jammal Lord (FS), Jahmile Addae (FS), Wayne Bacon

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## Jacksonville Jaguars

**QB:** David Garrard provided two of the highlights from Saturday's game against the Dolphins connecting for 55- and 62-yard touchdowns while throwing for 172 yards going 6-of-11. The Jaguars threw for 321 (net) yards combined, but they didn't start the game quickly. Byron Leftwich, playing for the first time since he was sidelined last season with a broken ankle, threw a 50-yard TD to Matt Jones, but it came after the Dolphins began substituting on defense. "We didn't start very well," Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said. "We settled down a little bit at the end of the half and got some things going and looked a little bit better."

Leftwich was under pressure and he was knocked down several times by the Dolphins starting defense. He was also intercepted on the Jags second series. "We have a lot of work to do on offense, but it was great to get that much work," Leftwich said, who played most of the first half, finishing 6-of-12 for 100 yards. Quinn Gray finished out the game with 60 yards going 2-of-4 but connecting with TE George Wrihster for what proved to be the winning TD. The Jags released undrafted rookie Paul Pinegar.

**RB:** The Jaguars have no shortage of depth behind Fred Taylor. In Saturday's game, second round pick Maurice Drew exploded on a spectacular catch-and-run where he weaved then accelerated through the Dolphins defense for a 55-yard TD. Drew also ran four times for 16 yards. "You just have to go out there, have fun and try to make plays to make guys go 'ooh' and 'ahh,'" said Drew, who also returned a kickoff 20 yards. "I don't have to worry about the coach [standing] behind me telling me to move right or move left," he said. "I'm just out there doing what I want to do." Taylor started the

game and he ran three times for 11 yards, also catching a pass for 22 yards.

Greg Jones produced 15 yards on five carries. LaBrandon Toefield only carried two times for 2 yards and Rich Alexis got four attempts for 12 yards. Toefield had a good offseason, but he could be squeezed for a roster spot making him a trade possibility. "Everybody knows that they can't keep all of us," said Toefield. "Somebody is going to have to go. Whether it's me or someone else, I'm prepared." Toefield didn't help his cause when he dropped a pass right in his hands in Saturday's game, drawing the ire of Del Rio.

Alvin Pearman could also be in the one squeezed along with Alexis. Drew is a player to watch. He's thickly built; super-fast and he catches the ball very well. He could play a pivotal role in the Jags offense as a potential third down back and change-of-pace behind Taylor, who also had a strong offseason. Taylor has traditionally given way to other backs on third down and Greg Jones could vie for goal line carries once again. There is a role for Taylor, Drew and Jones, but Toefield, Pearman and Alexis might be competing for only one roster spot.

**WR:** Matt Jones had a wild game against the Dolphins Friday night. The first ball thrown his way was picked off by Eddie Jackson. The second ball was knocked away as he was blasted by Zach Thomas. On the third pass, Jones beat Will Allen on a deep post and hauled in a 50-yard TD from Byron Leftwich. "It was good to get the ball down field to Matt [Jones]. He's our 'X' factor," Leftwich said. "He's the guy that is going to make big plays for us this year." HC Jack Del Rio added, "We feel like we're going to be able to have some big-play opportunities with Matt. Certainly, Byron can get it there."

If Leftwich can't, then David Garrard can. Garrard hit Chad Owens deep for a 62-yard TD. Owens finished with 86 yards on two catches. Chad Owens is like Tim Dwight's younger brother. Cortez Hankton caught a couple balls for 20 yards, Ernest Wilford has one catch for 10 yards, and Randy Hymes had one for 11 yards. Jones and Wilford are currently starting. Reggie Williams is competing with Wilford for a starting job, but he will probably end up as the team's no. 3. Also, last week the team waived WR Felton Huggins.

**TE:** In the first half of Saturday's game, rookie Mercedes Lewis suffered a high ankle sprain. He'll miss several weeks at least, but typically a high ankle sprain takes up to six weeks to properly heal. His right leg is in a boot and he's on crutches. While Lewis is sidelined, veteran George Wrihster could take advantage. Wrihster scored the Jaguars final touchdown on Saturday when and Quinn Gray connected for a 51-yard TD pass. Brian Jones didn't dress against Miami. Wrihster seems to have a couple solid games each year, but his best chance comes if Lewis is injured. Lewis was in line for a big rookie season since he was already a favorite target of Leftwich in camp, but now look for Wrihster to potentially emerge if he finishes camp strong.

**Defense:** DT John Henderson injured his ankle in practice late last week and didn't play against the Dolphins. Rookie 3rd

string DB Jamaal Fudge had a big game with a 11 combined tackles and a sack. LB Pat Thomas had seven combined tackles. He's competing for the starting WLB job. Safety Gerald Sensabaugh (ankle) didn't play. LB Clint Ingram suffered a calf contusion and will be out "a while" according to Del Rio.

**Special Teams:** The Jaguars signed kicker Seth Marler after Josh Scobee strained his leg last Thursday. HC Jack Del Rio gave a rundown on the situation, "Josh has a minor strain and if he tried to kick through it then he could have a problem. We'll keep him out of the game and bring Seth back and give him a chance to kick some balls for us. If this was a regular season game, he'd be kicking." In the game at Miami, Marler made a 21-yard field goal and added four PATs. WR Chad Owens continues his quest for redemption after a very disappointing rookie year. Against the Dolphins he returned a kickoff 24 yards, a punt four yards, plus a fair catch on another. A 62-yard touchdown catch on offense also helps his job security. Rookie RB Maurice Drew had a 20-yard kickoff return, and Rookie DB Trestin George a 29-yarder. Owens is currently atop the punt return depth chart. Atop the kickoff return depth chart is RB Derrick Wimbush, who led the team last year. Drew is listed second, but could get just as many returns as Wimbush.

## Jaguars Depth Chart

**QB** [Byron Leftwich](#), David Garrard, Quinn Gray

**RB** [Fred Taylor \(inj\)](#), [Maurice Drew \(KR/3RB\)](#), [Alvin Pearman \(3RB/PR\)](#), [LaBrandon Toefield](#), Rich Alexis, Montell Owens

**FB** [Greg Jones \(SD\)](#), Derrick Wimbush (KR)

**WR** [Matt Jones](#), [Ernest Wilford](#), [Reggie Williams](#), [Cortez Hankton](#), Randy Hymes, Troy Edwards, Kyle Brown

**TE** [Kyle Brady](#), [Marcedes Lewis \(inj\)](#), [George Wrihster](#), Brian Jones, Todd Yoder

**K** [Josh Scobee](#), Seth Marler

**DE** [Reggie Hayward](#), [Paul Spicer](#), [Bobby McCray](#), [Marcellus Wiley](#), Brent Hawkins, James Wyche

**DT** [Marcus Stroud](#), [John Henderson](#), [Anthony Maddox](#), [Martin Chase](#)

**MLB** [Mike Peterson](#), Tony Gilbert

**OLB** [Daryl Smith \(S/W\)](#), [Nick Greisen \(W\)](#), [Pat Thomas \(W\)](#), [Jorge Cordova \(W/S\)](#), [Clint Ingram \(W\)](#), Brian Iwuh

**CB** [Rashean Mathis](#), [Brian Williams](#), [Terry Cousin](#), David Richardson, Scott Starks, Demetrice Webb, Trestin George

**S** [Donovan Darius \(SS\) \(inj\)](#), [Deon Grant \(FS\)](#), Gerald Sensabaugh (SS), Jamaal Fudge, Chris Roberson (FS/CB), Nick Sorenson (FS) (inj)

"It was the first time he had played that many snaps (in the NFL.) To his credit he kept battling and hit a long pass there at the end (of the game.) It's kind of a shame when we got the ball back on the onsides kick but didn't establish possession. Those are things that we have to work on."

Edwards was asked if he thought about pulling Printers from the game. "Nah, he's got to go through that. I know that first-hand, believe me, after last year (in New York.) And I think he's going to learn a lot. He's got to play and was a little jittery at times. He made a great throw on the go-route. There's a process with a young quarterback." Damon Huard and Brodie Coyle should see more action in the next few games. The Chiefs signed Jeff Smoker to a 2-year contract over the weekend.

**RB:** Against Houston, Larry Johnson ran for 30 yards during the first quarter. "Larry Johnson did a good job," said HC Herm Edwards. "He was supposed to come out of the game, but he wanted to stay out there a couple of more times." Tony Gonzalez commented that LJ is becoming a true leader going on to say, "He's more vocal in the locker room. The way he's playing on the field, he's picked up right where he left off. Actually, I think he's gotten better. I think if he keeps up what he's doing in camp, and it's early in camp, but I think you learn from the best. Learning from guys like Priest Holmes and Tony Richardson."

Backup Michael Bennett, who was recently acquired from the Saints, did not play as he struggles with a sore hamstring. Dee Brown got the snaps running five times for 23 yards including a 12-yard TD run in the second quarter. McKenzie Smith ran for 21 yards on seven attempts and Quentin Griffin scored on a 1-yard TD in the 4th quarter and also caught a pair of balls for 7 yards. Ronnie Cruz appears to be the frontrunner to start at fullback, but he's being pushed by J.R. Niklos.

**WR:** Eddie Kennison started and caught two balls for 19 yards. Nate Curry had a 10-yard catch and rookie Chris Hannon, out of Tennessee, caught a 44-yard pass. Samie Parker got the start opposite Kennison but wasn't targeted in the passing game. He had one notable block on a Larry Johnson run that, if replicable, all but assures he'll fit in quite well with Herm Edwards and his offensive philosophy.

**TE:** Might Tony Gonzalez be getting a contract extension? His agent, Tom Condon, was in town to this week and Gonzalez was hoping he'd be able to sit down with GM Carl Peterson to talk about an extension. Gonzalez said, "Oh, I don't know. He's my agent. He's a good agent. He's come to say hello. Obviously he's not working with Matt Leinart, so he's down here hanging out with us and Kyle Turley. So we're all going to go to dinner, and if he and Carl have a chance to sit down, I'm sure they will. But if they don't, they'll do it back in Kansas City. Sooner or later, it'll get done." Gonzo has two years left on his current deal, but he wants to finish his career as a Chief. Backup Kris Wilson had a 6-yard catch against the Texans on Saturday.

**Defense:** The defensive tackle rotation is shaping up. Ron Edwards and James Reed are starting with Ryan Sims and

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## Kansas City Chiefs

**QB:** Trent Green was 5-of-6 for 34 yards before leaving after the first quarter in the Chiefs preseason opener Saturday. Casey Printers took over and played the rest of the game completing 6-of-12 for 71 yards and no touchdowns. He was intercepted once and had a rough night overall. HC Herm Edwards commented on Printers in the post-game interview,

Lional Dalton providing the second wave. Edwards can clog the middle at 315 pounds (at least) and he's also showing some quickness. "He's a powerful man and he's just getting his strength back," said Herm Edwards. "We are looking forward to seeing him on the field more for us." Reed played for Edwards back in New York. "He's quick, he understands the position and he's a full-effort guy," said Edwards. "The other thing I like about him is he can also help you out on special teams. He's on our kickoff-return team and he's also done some kickoff coverage. He understands his role."

Rookie safety Jarrad Page continues to excel in training camp. Defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham said, "I've never seen a safety have seven interceptions (in training camp) like Jarrad Page has had. The things he has are range and instinct. I think it's probably his baseball background. He plays it like a center fielder. He really breaks on deep balls." The Chiefs released defensive back Julian Battle on Friday. Herm Edwards was asked why Battle was cut, "Just not good enough. We did it now so he would have a better opportunity of catching on somewhere else." Among the Chiefs defenders who did not play Saturday were DT John Browning, DE Tamba Hali, DE Carlos Hall, DE Jimmy Wilkerson, S William Barteel, CB Lenny Walls and DT Junior Siavii.

**Special Teams:** After some off-field troubles last year, kicker Lawrence Tynes is playing it safe this year. A typical training camp evening included a little television and then to bed at 8:45. He noted, "I didn't want to put myself in any kind of position. Not that I have a problem with it, it's just better safe than sorry. There's nothing out there." In the game at Houston he hit two PATs and had no field goal attempts. WR/KR/PR Dante Hall fair caught a punt while the others battled to be his backup. One of the backup candidates is WR Nate Curry, who led NFL Europe in kickoff returns this year, and who is impressing in camp. Against the Texans he averaged 25.5 yards on two kickoff returns, returned a punt three yards, and fair caught another. RB Quentin Griffin averaged 28.0 yards on two kickoff returns, while rookie WR Chris Hannon returned one 20 yards.

**Other:** Kyle Turley is playing well in his comeback with the Chiefs. "I think the more he practices, the more he plays, the closer he gets to where he was two years ago before the injury," said Edwards. "That's a long layoff for any player, but especially that one. He plays left tackle and that spot doesn't always get a lot of help." With Willie Roaf's sudden retirement, the Chiefs hope Turley holds up for the entire season. So far, Roaf hasn't been coaxed to "unretire" but the Chiefs players continue to hold out hope they can persuade him back for another season. For his part, Roaf 'finalized' his decision this week saying, "If I felt I could play like I used to play, I'd play again. I started running around and my legs were bothering me. I kind of knew right then that I would need to do this. I'm 36. I have to face that fact."

## Chiefs Depth Chart

**QB** Trent Green, Damon Huard, Brodie Croyle, Casey Printers, Jeff Smoker

**RB** Larry Johnson, Michael Bennett, Dee Brown, McKenzie Smith, Quentin Griffin, De'Arrius Howard, Derrick Ross,

Priest Holmes (inj)

**FB** Ronnie Cruz, J.R. Niklos, Travis Wilson

**WR** Eddie Kennison, Samie Parker, Dante Hall (KR/PR), Craphonso Thorpe, Jeris McIntyre, Jeff Webb, Nate Curry, Chris Hannon, Terrance Metcalf, Scott McCready, Darrell Hill  
**TE** Tony Gonzalez, Kris Wilson (HB), Jason Dunn, Aaron Golliday, Bob Docherty

**K** Lawrence Tynes

**DE** Jared Allen, Eric Hicks (inj), Tamba Hali, Carlos Hall, Jimmy Wilkerson (DT)

**DT** Ryan Sims (NT), Lional Dalton, Ron Edwards, Junior Siavii, John Browning (inj), James Reed, Alex Guerrero, Shane Burton, Steve Williams

**MLB** Kawika Mitchell, Rich Scanlon, Boomer Grigsby

**OLB** Derrick Johnson (R), Kendrell Bell (L), Keyaron Fox (S/W), Kris Griffin, Nick Reid, William Kershaw, Brandon Guillory

**CB** Patrick Surtain, Ty Law, Lenny Walls, Benny Sapp, Chris Johnson, Alphonso Hodge, Marcus Maxey, Justin Perkins, Jerald Brown

**S** Sammy Knight (SS), Greg Wesley (FS), Bernard Pollard (SS), Jarrad Page (FS), Gabriel Helms

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## Miami Dolphins

**QB:** The Dolphins season opener was all about Daunte Culpepper, who tested his surgically repaired knee by playing the opening series. He threw two passes, directing the Dolphins to a field goal. "It felt great," said Culpepper. "You get those first little jitters out after the first play, and you're back into the game situation and game mold. It felt good to get my feet wet a little bit." Still in the first quarter, Joey Harrington completed his first pass to Randy McMichael for an 18-yard touchdown, but he later fumbled twice and bobbled a snap. "We did some good things, and we did some first-game things," Harrington said. He finished 10-of-19 for 99 yards.

Cleo Lemon, the team's third stringer, led the team on a 15-play drive on his first series that led to a FG. He later threw a 21-yard touchdown to Jason Willis. Lemon completed 11-of-15 passes for 104 yards. "I want to prove to the fans that I do belong," Lemon said. "I don't want them to look at me as a clipboard-holding quarterback. I can get the job done." Brock Berlin finished the game throwing a 5-yard TD to Fred Gibson with 9 seconds on the clock. Berlin was 6-of-12 for 104 yards in garbage time.

**RB:** Ronnie Brown carried the ball eight times for 29 yards before leaving the game. Kay Jay Harris carried seven times for 29 yards and Travis Minor scampered for 20 yards on two runs. Rookie free agent Gerald Riggs, Jr. ran three times for 9 yards. Sammy Morris carried four times for just six yards.

**WR:** Rookie Derek Hagan ran with the first team during practice before the Dolphins played Saturday. He replaced Marty Booker, who was sidelined with a left calf injury suffered last Tuesday in practice. Undrafted rookie Marcus

Vick has impressed his teammates and coaches so far in training camp, declining reporter's interviews and opting to focus solely on football. Vick caught two passes for 12 yards in his first preseason game, both from Cleo Lemon.

"He has done extremely well," HC Nick Saban said. "We're pleased with the progress that he's making, but I can't tell you we're surprised by it. We thought he was a good athlete." Tight end Randy McMichael was glowing with praise. "This guy is unbelievable. To say this guy is a quarterback who never got a chance to play receiver is mind-boggling to me, because the guy does all the things that a receiver does. He knows how to get open, he knows how to run routes and he's very patient, which is rare for a young receiver. I'm excited to see him in a game situation."

Fred Gibson cleaned up at the end of Saturday's game catching three balls for 84 yards including a 5-yard TD. Cliff Russell caught three balls for 47 yards and Jason Willis had three catches for 45 yards including a 21-yard TD from Lemon. Kelly Campbell, on the other hand, might not make the team's roster if he doesn't get healthy soon. "Kelly's problem has never been talent," Dolphins head coach Nick Saban said. "He needs to stay healthy and prove he's durable enough to play in this league."

**TE:** Randy McMichael set some clear goals for himself this season. He wants to have the best season a tight end has ever had for the Miami Dolphins. "If you want to compare last year's camp to this year's camp, I think he's light years [ahead] in terms of his consistency and performance as a receiver as well as a blocker," said Nick Saban. McMichael caught three balls for 33 yards on Saturday, including an 18-yard TD in the first quarter from Joey Harrington. Justin Peelle caught two balls for 21 yards.

**Defense:** Veteran free agent DT Dan Wilkinson signed a 3-year contract with the team on Monday. He'll work his way slowly into the team's practices, but initially he was working on the side of the field Monday. "We're going to give him a little time to evaluate his conditioning and not just throw him to the wolves," Saban said. DE Jason Taylor, limited in practice this week because of a sore back, was among those who did not dress on Saturday. Seventh-round pick Fred Evans continues to bolster his stock with a strong performance against the Jags. He dropped Greg Jones in the backfield on one play and sacked David Garrard later on another play. Cornerback Eddie Jackson intercepted a Byron Leftwich pass in the first half.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Olindo Mare has been looking good in practice. In the game against Jacksonville, he made a 52-yard field goal, but was wide right on a 48-yard attempt off the infield dirt. Both his kickoffs resulted in touchbacks. Camp leg Ola Kimrin made a 20-yard field goal, but was wide left on a 47-yard attempt. Just about everybody had a decent kickoff return in the game. Rookie WR Devin Aromashodu had one for 30 yards, WR Wes Welker for 28 yards, rookie QB/WR Marcus Vick for 28 yards, WR Cliff Russell for 28 yards, and WR Frank Murphy for 23 yards. On punts, the incumbent Wes Welker had a seven yard return, while challenger Marcus Vick

had no gain on his one return. Welker also started at wide receiver, in place of injured Marty Booker.

**Other:** Starting right guard Seth McKinney could be out for as long as three months. McKinney had surgery to repair a disk in his neck, and he's out until the Dolphins ninth game of the season, at least.

## Dolphins Depth Chart

**QB** [Daunte Culpepper \(inj\)](#), Joey Harrington, Cleo Lemon, Brock Berlin

**RB** [Ronnie Brown](#), [Sammy Morris](#), [Travis Minor](#), Kay Jay Harris, Gerald Riggs Jr., Ricky Williams (susp)

**FB** [Fred Beasley](#), [Darian Barnes](#)

**WR** [Chris Chambers](#), [Marty Booker](#), [Wesley Welker \(KR/PR\)](#), [Derek Hagan](#), [Devin Aromashodu](#), Kelly Campbell, Marcus Vick (QB), Kendall Newson, Fred Gibson, Jamal Broussard (KR), Eric Kimble, Frank Murphy (KR)

**TE** [Randy McMichael](#), [Justin Peelle](#), [Keith Heinrich](#), Jason Rader

**K** [Olindo Mare](#)

**DE** [Jason Taylor \(OLB\) \(inj\)](#), [Kevin Carter \(DT\)](#), [Matt Roth](#), [David Bowens](#), Ben Ishola

**DT** [Keith Traylor \(NT\)](#), [Dan Wilkinson](#), [Vonnie Holiday](#), [Jeff Zgonina](#), [Fred Evans](#), Manuel Wright (NT), Josh Shaw, Kevin Vickerson, Steve Fifita, Rodrique Wright (inj)

**MLB** [Zack Thomas](#), Lester Towns

**OLB** [Channing Crowder \(W/M\)](#), [Donnie Spragan \(S\)](#), [Sedrick Hodge \(S\)](#), [Derrick Pope \(W\)](#), [Keith Newman](#), Sam McGrew, Travis Harris

**CB** [Travis Daniels \(inj\)](#), [Will Allen](#), [Renaldo Hill](#), [Andre Goodman](#), [Eddie Jackson](#), Shirdonya Mitchell, Chris Thompson

**S** [Travares Tillman \(SS\)](#), [Jeremiah Bell \(SS\)](#), [Jason Allen \(FS\)](#), [Deke Cooper](#), Michael Lehan, Norman LeJeune

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## Minnesota Vikings

**QB:** Head coach Brad Childress announced before the Vikings MNF appearance that the quarterback rotation would look like this: Brad Johnson would get the start and play the first quarter, Mike McMahon a portion of the 2nd quarter, Tarvaris Jackson would finish the 2nd and play the 3rd, and J.T. O'Sullivan would mop up in the fourth. McMahon and Jackson are locked into a somewhat unexpected competition for the No. 2 job. Childress wouldn't dismiss Jackson from winning the No. 2 role on Thursday. "It just depends on how hard he pushes, how much he can do," Childress said. "I imagine there'll be one of these preseason games, we sit a quarterback and let another one play so that more can play. I think that's a good way... to watch a guy play for an extended period of time."

Veteran fullback Tony Richardson talked about Jackson before the game on Monday, "One thing I've been impressed about Tarvaris – it doesn't seem like the game is too big for him. A lot of times with rookie quarterbacks their mind is spinning, but he seems like a guy that can go in there and just

execute a game plan. I'm excited to see him play ... He's a pretty big guy, and he can actually run. We might see a couple of scrambles."

In Monday night's game, Brad Johnson went 5-of-6 for 32 yards leading the team on a TD drive capped by Tony Richardson's 3-yard run. Tavaris Jackson took over in the second quarter. Jackson was poised, efficient and showed the fans why the team was so high on him on draft day. Jackson ran for 36 yards on three attempts while completing 7-of-13 passes for 60 yards. Mike McMahon went 1-of-4 for 9 yards. J.T. O'Sullivan finished the game going 8-of-17 for 100 yards with an interception.

**RB:** Chester Taylor is on a mission to be a star in the league. "I spent all that time learning from Jamal [Lewis], waiting for this opportunity," said Taylor. "I'm ready to be a star." Brad Childress has to like his back's confidence, but he was a bit more cautious. "Chester has got to go out and carry the ball 24 times and then work his tail off to get back to Wednesday," Childress said. "Get in the hot tub, get in the weight room. Recover. Get back on the field and do it again." As a Raven, Taylor carried the ball 15 times or more in eight games, four of those he topped 20+ carries. On Friday, Ciatrick Fason returned to the field after missing a few practices due to a concussion he suffered on Wednesday of last week. Both players were on the field Monday night for the Vikings preseason debut. Taylor ran for 18 yards on nine attempts. Fason ran seven times for 15 yards while Mewelde Moore caught two balls for 24 yards and ran 5 times for 10 yards. Rookie Wendell Mathis also caught two balls for 17 yards.

**WR:** The Vikings were dealt a major blow early this week when Koren Robinson was arrested on multiple counts including DUI and fleeing an officer. While the details are pending, this could well lead to a full-season suspension for Robinson given his history of substance abuse. The Vikings will rely on 2<sup>nd</sup> year Troy Williamson in Robinson's absence; and were already hoping for a breakout from the former Gamecock. On Friday, he was on the receiving end of the "hit of the day" in practice. Safety Dwight Smith drilled Williamson near the sideline, and impressively, Williamson held on to the ball. Marcus Robinson sat out of practice last week with a minor neck injury. In game action, Ryan Hoag caught one ball for 11 yards, Chris Jones had one for 9 yards and Troy Williamson had one for 8 yards, but also lost a fumble.

**TE:** Neither Jermaine Wiggins nor Jim Kleinsasser caught a ball in Monday's game, but backup Richard Angulo snared two balls for 12 yards.

**Defense:** The biggest loser in Monday's game was clearly rookie OLB Chad Greenway, who was lost for the season with a knee injury. Greenway broke through the wedge while covering a kickoff, but grabbed his knee and eventually walked off the field on his own power. His loss is a big blow to the Vikings LB corps as he was expected to contribute immediately and start eventually. The Vikings defense played well in the game registering five sacks and forcing three turnovers. LB Heath Farwell led the team with nine solo

tackles and safety Greg Blue pitched in with six tackles and a sack.

Two defensive players enjoying strong training camps are fourth-year LB E.J. Henderson and third-year DE Kenechi Udeze. "I've been with the ones every day," said Henderson, who teammates expect to fill the playmaking role in the Vikings new Tampa Cover-2 system. Henderson will be asked to roam the field from sideline-to-sideline as a tackling machine. Udeze spent last year on IR with a knee injury. Before that, he was asked to play at 290 pounds by former coach Mike Tice to help him stop the run. The new staff wants him lighter and leaner, and he is just that. He reported to camp under 270 pounds. "He's been quick from Day One," says Henderson. "He's going to get pressure on the quarterback."

The Vikings have also toyed around with a 4-4-3 defensive alignment. Presumably, it would be used to counter formations with multiple tight ends and clear running situations. Brad Childress said it would only be situational, since four linebackers would be a liability on pass plays or against spread formations.

CB Fred Smoot returned to practice on Saturday after claiming a neck stinger he received in Friday's practice was "no big deal". CB Charles Gordon underwent surgery last Monday to repair a cartilage problem in his left knee. He may only miss three weeks after the team originally thought he would miss more than a month.

**Special Teams:** Punter/holder Chris Kluwe and kicker Ryan Longwell have been working on holding in practice. Longwell noted, "We really spent the first week just getting it on the spot. There's been a lot of progress there, and we're starting to see the ball fly the way we want to." Kluwe noted, "An inch either way, and he might hook it. I'm just trying to learn the minute, little things that spell the difference between making a 50-yard field goal and missing it two feet to the right." In the game against Oakland, Longwell made field goals from 28 and 41 yards, but was wide right from 55 yards. Special teams coordinator Paul Ferraro indicated that Longwell has done well so far on kickoffs, "I think he's doing a good job with his kickoffs, getting some good hang time and some distance on it."

Although this may be a moot point now that he's been arrested for DUI and resisting arrest, Koren Robinson was a topic of conversation this past week. HC Brad Childress discussed using Robinson on kickoff returns during the preseason, "Are we going to rep him a lot in the preseason? Probably not. He's kind of a known entity, and with his added responsibilities this year, we just want to see if there is anybody else that will step to the surface and have that ability. But you know that Koren can do it at a Pro Bowl-type level." WR Troy Williamson returned the first kickoff for 17 yards, but fumbled it away. WR Kevin Kasper showed the ability against the Raiders and improved his chances of making the final roster, averaging 35.5 yards on four returns with a long of 64 yards. Starting punt returner RB Mewelde Moore had an 11-yard punt return. Most of the punts were handled by rookie WR Jason Carter,

who averaged 9.7 yards on three returns, although he probably won't make the final roster.

## Vikings Depth Chart

**QB** Brad Johnson, Tarvaris Jackson, Mike McMahon, J.T. O'Sullivan

**RB** Chester Taylor, Mewelde Moore (PR/KR), Ciatrick Fason, Joe Echemandu, Wendell Mathis

**FB** Tony Richardson, Richard Owens, Steven Jackson, Brandon Jones, Joey Goodspeed (inj)

**WR** Koren Robinson, Troy Williamson, Travis Taylor, Marcus Robinson, Billy McMullen, Aaron Hosack, Ryan Hoag, Kevin Kasper, Josh Davis, Jason Carter

**TE** Jermaine Wiggins, Jim Kleinsasser (FB), Richard Angulo, Jeff Dugan

**K** Ryan Longwell

**DE** Erasmus James, Kenechi Udeze, Darrion Scott, DeQuincy Scott, Ray Edwards, Jayme Mitchell, Khreem Smith

**DT** Pat Williams (NT), Kevin Williams (DE), Spencer Johnson (DT), C.J. Mosley, Eric Taylor, Manase Hopoi, Ross Kolodziej

**MLB** Napoleon Harris (M/S), Dontarrious Thomas (W/M), Rod Davis, Kyle McKenzie

**OLB** Ben Leber (S), E.J. Henderson (M/W), Heath Farwell (S), Marcus Lawrence, Chad Greenway (W) (inj)

**CB** Antoine Winfield, Fred Smoot, Devonte Edwards (KR), Cedric Griffin, Dustin Fox (FS), Will Hunter, Ronyell Whittaker, Tony Beckham, Ahmad Treaudon, Charles Gordon (inj)

**S** Darren Sharper (FS), Dwight Smith (SS/FS), Willie Offord (SS), Greg Blue (FS/SS), Tank Williams (IR)

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## New England Patriots

**QB:** Tom Brady played just one series in the team's preseason opener against Atlanta. Brady completed 3-of-4 passes for 24 yards before handing over the reins to backup Matt Cassel, who played the rest of the game with mixed results. He lost a fumble in the early going, but he bounced back against the second and third team defense completing 13-of-26 for 229 yards with a TD. Cassel also showed his wheels by rushing for 32 yards on six carries. "I need to play a lot better," Cassel said. "I left a lot of throws out there."

**RB:** The Patriots running game looked good against the Falcons. Corey Dillon looked strong carrying the ball five times for 27 yards. He had one long run called back due to a clip by right guard Stephen Neal, otherwise, his numbers would've looked even better. "Hey, I mean, we've been working very hard as an offense getting things straightened out and it's showing up," Dillon said. "Last year wasn't that productive and everyone took it on themselves to get better and try to make this thing work."

Despite Dillon's performance, rookie Laurence Maroney's play was the main story. He finished with 66 yards on only nine carries. Maroney showcased his explosiveness nearly every time he touched the football. He broke off the right side

of the line on his first carry for 12 yards, but slipped on FB Heath Evans or he may have gone the distance. The next carry was probably his best as he went 27 yards on a draw play on third and 18; catching the defense on its heels. He showed balance, power and speed breaking tackles and rarely went down on the first contact. "He's pretty fast," said Belichick about Maroney. "I don't think you're going to be writing that this guy is slow."

Patrick Cobbs and Heath Evans also carried the rock – Cobbs finished with 25 yards on five carries while Evans gained 12 yards on six carries. Cobbs scored on a 57-yard pass play from Cassel in the third quarter and Evans found the end zone in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard run. Cobbs finished with 80 yards receiving on three catches.

**WR:** The Deion Branch watch continues. According to sources close to Branch, his holdout could extend into the regular season. "People don't understand how committed he is to this," the source said. "He's not going to come in until he gets something he feels that is fair." Branch already has accumulated more than \$250,000 in fines, but he may be looking to report to the team and play only the minimum number of games necessary to be eligible for free agency following the season. In Friday's game, Reche Caldwell dropped a well-thrown slant pass from Tom Brady in the end zone during the first quarter. The receivers had a light game catching only three passes for 28 yards before the Falcons defense took out all of their regulars. Earlier last week, the Patriots signed free agent WR Eddie Berlin.

**TE:** Ben Watson didn't take long to put his unique physical skills on display hauling in a 44-yard catch from backup QB Matt Cassel on Friday night. Daniel Graham did not play as he continues to recover from a shoulder injury. Rookie Garrett Mills made a big splash catching five balls for 75 yards. Fellow rookie David Thomas caught two balls for 9 yards.

**Defense:** Minus Tedy Bruschi in the middle and DE Richard Seymour, the Patriots defense looked porous against the Falcons. "To be a good defense in this league, you've got to play more consistent," said linebacker Rosevelt Colvin. "We weren't getting that done. There were breakdowns either at the point of attack, downfield, inside, outside." Safety Rodney Harrison is close to returning from his broken leg, but he didn't dress against the Falcons. He says that he'll only play with a brace this year. He and the team are unsure just how much the brace will affect his speed.

Undrafted rookie LB Pierre Woods had four tackles and a sack in Friday's game, while Mike Vrabel and Tully Banta-Cain also registered sacks for the Patriots. Asante Samuel had an interception and rookie LB Jeremy Mincey led the team with five solo tackles. The Patriots re-signed CB Gemara Williams, who had previously been cut by the team on July 25. Over the weekend, the Patriots brought in free agent veteran linebackers Chris Claiborne and Orlando Ruff for workouts with Bruschi sidelined for the rest of the preseason.

**Special Teams:** The kicking competition between Martin Gramatica and rookie Stephen Gostkowski looks like it will go

right down to the wire. They've both shown some strengths and weaknesses in practice, but overall are pretty even right now. In the game at Atlanta, Gostkowski made a 34-yard field goal, while Gramatica was good from 26 and 30 yards. Gostkowski was a little stronger on kickoffs of 71, 77 (touchback), and 73 yards as compared to Gramatica's 69, 71, and 64 yards.

The Patriots signed free agent WR Eddie Berlin, who could join the already crowded field of returner candidates. Rookie CB Willie Andrews leads the pack, and fared well against the Falcons, averaging 21.0 yards on three kickoff returns and 16.0 yards on two punt returns. HC Bill Belichick provided a dissertation on practice, "You try to make special teams' practice plays as close to game situations to evaluate, but there's clearly a difference. We don't tackle the returner and a big part of the returner's skill is being able to break tackles or get away from guys in an open field. The ball-handling is certainly different in a game when somebody is going to come down and blow you up, whereas in practice, you're pretty confident that's not going to happen. It's different. Having been a special teams' coach, you do everything to simulate it, but it's a different speed in the game. That's one of the things we tell our rookies. I tell them every year that there's certainly a difference in speed between practice and games, but there's a greater differential in the kicking game than there is on offense and defense. It's like going from 30 miles per hour to 95. It's a totally different speed."

## Patriots Depth Chart

**QB** Tom Brady, Matt Cassel, Corey Bramlet

**RB** Corey Dillon, Laurence Maroney, Kevin Faulk (3RB), Patrick Cobbs

**FB** Patrick Pass (3RB), Heath Evans

**WR** Deion Branch, Reche Caldwell, Chad Jackson, Troy Brown, Bam Childress, Erik Davis, Michael McGrew, Zuriel Smith, John Stone, Rich Musinski, Keron Henry, Eddie Berlin, Matt Shelton (IR)

**TE** Daniel Graham, Ben Watson, David Thomas, Garrett Mills (HB/FB), Matt Brandt, Walter Rasby

**K** Martin Gramatica, Stephen Gostkowski

**DE** Richard Seymour (DT), Ty Warren (DT), Jarvis Green, Marquise Hill, Ifo Pili

**NT** Vince Wilfork, Mario Monds, Dan Klecko, Johnathan Sullivan, Le Kevin Smith

**MLB** Tedy Bruschi (inj), Monty Beisel, Chad Brown, Larry Izzo, Don Davis, Barry Gardner, Fred Roach

**OLB** Rosevelt Colvin (W/DE), Mike Vrabel (S/I), Tully Banta-Cain (S), Pierre Woods, Jeremy Mincey

**CB** Asante Samuel, Ellis Hobbs (KR), Randall Gay, Chad Scott, Eric Warfield, Hank Poteat, Willie Andrews, Antwain Spann, Vernell Brown, Gemara Williams

**S** Eugene Wilson (FS/CB), Rodney Harrison (SS), Tebucky Jones (SS/FS), James Sanders (SS), Artrell Hawkins (SS), Guss Scott, Mel Mitchell (IR)

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## New Orleans Saints

**QB:** The Saints got their first look at Drew Brees on Saturday night against the Titans. He looked a little rusty early, but then he settled down nicely completing 5-of-9 for 60 yards. "I like what I saw, and it was important for Drew to get back on the field," Head coach Sean Payton said. Brees tossed a 9-yard pass to Reggie Bush on one play that got an assist from Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, who drew a 15-yard flag for jawing at Bush on the sidelines.

In a bizarre twist, the athletic and elusive Adrian McPherson couldn't evade a golf cart driven by Titans mascot T-Rac as he was exiting the locker room at half time. McPherson was clipped in the leg as the mascot was driving the cart and throwing items into the crowd. McPherson was checked out by a trainer before he left the field. "He got run over by the mascot," coach Sean Payton said. "I don't know what to do. We've got to play the Titans. The mascots and all the other stuff going on, it's crazy."

McPherson's injury and Reggie Bush's dramatic plays overshadowed Todd Bouman's 22-yard touchdown pass to WR Lance Moore with 3:30 left as the team secured a victory in Payton's coaching debut. Jamie Martin got the bulk of the playing time against Tennessee completing 13-of-22 for 143 yards, but he was intercepted twice and failed to throw a touchdown. Bouman finished 5-of-8 for 77 yard and the game-winning toss to Moore. Adrian McPherson and Jason Fife did not take any snaps during the game.

**RB:** Any questions regarding the impact that Reggie Bush might have in the NFL were sufficiently answered on Saturday. Bush took his second handoff to his left, stopped as the field became congested with nowhere to run, then he reversed field and outran the entire defense to the corner while making some adjustments on his way to a 44-yard run. He finished with 59 yards on six carries and two catches for another 10 yards. Not one for hyperbole, HC Sean Payton commented, "He can bring big plays, and he had a couple of nice runs." Indeed, he did.

Deuce McAllister was given the game off to rest as he continues his comeback from offseason knee surgery, but count him among those impressed by Bush. "The kid has been doing that all his college career. He came out tonight and showed the ability that he has...He can be going full speed and just stop because of that change of direction...Those first three or four steps, he's at full acceleration. I think he's going to make a few more of those type plays," said McAllister.

Aaron Stecker carried the ball six times for 20 yards before he suffered a high ankle sprain during the third quarter. X-rays came back negative, but Stecker will probably be out for a several weeks. Jamal Branch, a 5-11, 230-pound rookie out of Colgate, turned in a solid performance carrying the ball 11 times for 47 yards, also producing a 24-yard catch.

**WR:** Joe Horn played briefly with the first team as he caught two balls for 40 yards. He looked good as both of his catches were exactly 20 yards. Lance Moore led all receivers with 4 receptions for 57 yards and the 22-yard TD pass from Todd Bouman in fourth quarter to seal the victory. The competition for the last few roster spots is heating up. Moore, Devery Henderson, Bethel Johnson, Mike Hass, Michael Lewis, Marcus Colston, Chris Horn, Jamal Jones and Chase Lyman are all in the mix. Chances are only four will make the roster. Colston is getting some looks at tight end as well as receiver. He caught two balls for 25 yards, while Jamal Jones finished with three catches for 37 yards. The sure-handed Hass caught three balls for 28 yards and Lyman had two for 25 yards. Jones, Hass and Colston all played with the second team offense. Lyman worked with the third team. The starters were Joe Horn and Devery Henderson with Chris Horn working in on three-WR sets. Donte Stallworth (groin) and Michael Lewis (knee) did not play.

**TE:** The Saints have a number of players competing for roster spots at tight end. They certainly didn't sit idle with Zach Hilton and Ernie Conwell on the roster. Mark Campbell, Tim Euhus, Nate Lawrie and Billy Miller were all added to the roster and are in the mix. Lawrie had a 13-yard catch on Saturday night and Billy Miller had a 7-yard catch in an otherwise quiet game for the Saints TEs. Ernie Conwell didn't dress as he continues his comeback from offseason surgery. Conwell is running with the first team in practice with Mark Campbell No. 2 and Hilton running third. Campbell started the game and Lawrie was the second player to enter the game.

**Defense:** The Saints defense was paced by sacks from DE Will Smith and backup SLB Terrence Melton while LB Colby Bockwoldt led the team with 5 combined tackles and veteran safety Jay Bellamy finished with three tackles. The Saints were without DTs Willie Whitehead (knee) and Rodney Leisle (knee), LB Tommy Polley (shoulder) and CB Mike McKenzie. Bockwoldt started the last 23 regular season games for the Saints at the "Will" linebacker, but during the offseason the team moved him to the middle, or "Mike". Now, Bockwoldt is back in the starting lineup having been moved to WLB again. Alfred Fincher got the start at MLB with Scott Fujita opposite Bockwoldt. The Saints placed DE Tommy Davis on injured reserve once he cleared waivers last week. They also waived LB Cie Grant and signed DE Javon Nanton and DT Josh Williams.

**Special Teams:** The Saints' kickers continue to be on target. John Carney made field goals of 26 and 40 yards in the game at Tennessee. Connor Hughes was good from 28 and 42 yards. HC Sean Payton discussed the topic of return specialist Michael Lewis making the final roster, "If you ultimately can't make it back on the field, how are you going to play then? He's got some skins on the wall. He's been a good returner. We're pulling for him and he knows that, so he's feeling better. He's moving around a little bit better. Hopefully we can get him healthy for the last half of the preseason, get a chance to evaluate him and make a decision based on the evaluation we saw in the weeks he can get healthy. But if he can never get healthy again...It's real tough." He also addressed the possible use of rookie RB Reggie Bush on returns in the preseason, "If

we do it in the season there is certainly always that risk and the risk in the preseason exists as well... Now I know that risk exists all the time and this is a rookie player that we haven't seen a lot from but we will see enough from him in the running game and we will see enough from him in the return game in regards to whether it is punt or kickoff. We will have him prepared but there are a bunch of other young guys I am anxious to see do that and they will have a chance to." In the game against the Titans, they got a chance to see the following: WR Bethel Johnson averaged 25.5 yards on two kickoff returns, WR Jamal Jones averaged 7.3 yards on three punt returns, WR Lance Moore returned a punt 10 yards and rookie DB Grant Mason had no gain on his one return. QB Adrian McPherson did not have any returns in the game, after getting run over by the Titans mascot's golf cart during halftime. Potential kickoff returner RB Aaron Stecker left the game with a high ankle sprain.

## Saints Depth Chart

**QB** Drew Brees, Jamie Martin, Todd Bouman, Adrian McPherson (inj), Jason Fife

**RB** Deuce McAllister (inj), Reggie Bush (KR/PR), Aaron Stecker (3RB/KR) (inj), Jamal Branch, Ray Hudson

**FB** Mike Karney, Fred McAfee

**WR** Joe Horn, Donte Stallworth, Devery Henderson, Bethel Johnson, Chris Horn, Mike Hass, Michael Lewis (KR/PR), Chase Lyman, Lance Moore, Jamal Jones

**TE** Ernie Conwell, Mark Campbell, Zach Hilton, Tim Euhus, Nate Lawrie, Marcus Colston, Billy Miller, Wesley Dukes

**K** John Carney, Connor Hughes

**DE** Charles Grant, Will Smith, Tony Bryant, Rob Ninkovich, Javon Nanton, Tommy Davis (IR)

**DT** Brian Young, Willie Whitehead, Hollis Thomas, Rodney Leisle, Brandon Villareal, Joe Minucci

**MLB** Alfred Fincher, Tommy Polley (W) (inj)

**OLB** Scott Fujita (S), Colby Bockwoldt (W), Jay Foreman, Terrence Melton (W), Nate Wayne, E.J. Kule, James Allen (S) (inj)

**CB** Mike McKenzie, Jason Craft, Fred Thomas, Joey Thomas, Josh Lay, Grant Mason, Anwar Phillips, Ray Williams

**S** Josh Bullocks (FS), Bryan Scott (SS/FS), Jay Bellamy (SS), Roman Harper (FS), Steve Gleason (FS)

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## New York Giants

**QB:** Eli Manning was without his star RB and his star TE against the Ravens, but went 4-of-7 for 74 yards on three drives. The highlight was a 43-yard pass to Plaxico Burress, which set up the only score of the half for New York. The Giants offense did little against the Baltimore first team defense, and looked out of sync after being whistled for a delay of game in the first quarter. Tim Hasselbeck was 7-for-13 for 79 yards, and Jared Lorenzen was 4-of-8 for 34 yards.

**RB:** Tiki Barber doesn't need much game action to get ready for an NFL season, so he sat out the Giants preseason opener and shouldn't be taxed much next week either. Barber's trying to stay healthy and has spent the past few years bulking up to

handle heavier workloads. "I knew I needed to reinvent myself some way," Barber said. "Even though I'm small in stature (5-10, 205 lbs.), I've become a powerful back. It's revolutionized my body and my strength." Brandon Jacobs got the start against the Ravens, and opened the game with a 14-yard run. Jacobs also scored from the one yard line, which is where Jacobs earns his salary. Rookie James Sims had a 25-yard reception and an 8-yard run, but rushed for (-11) yards on his other six carries.

**WR:** Amani Toomer's been one of the most consistent performers so far in camp. After playing the flanker position for the first time in 2005 (Toomer was a split end for the first nine seasons of his career), Toomer looks much more comfortable this time around. QB Eli Manning said that Toomer's "got to be a big part of the offense for us to do well. We put him in different spots, move him around a lot, and you trust he'll get open. You can really read his body well." The Giants also might send Toomer deep a bit more this year, which would only increase his fantasy value. In the game, Plaxico Burress had two receptions for 48 yards, including a 43-yard reception. He also was targeted twice in the red zone, and drew a pass interference call on one throw, setting up Brandon Jacobs' TD.

Michael Jennings had an excellent punt return for a TD, and made some nice moves to break several tackles for the score. Rookie Sinorice Moss (quad) and David Tyree (sprained ankle) should both return soon. Tim Carter's had a great camp so far, and his stellar play continued as his three receptions for 36 yards led all Giants receivers against Baltimore.

**TE:** Jeremy Shockey (concussion) was held out of the game against Baltimore. Visanthe Shiancoe got the start, but no Giants TE recorded a reception in the preseason opener. Shiancoe, the Giants blocking TE, is also battling a cyst in his knee. It's not considered severe, but it has been inhibiting him during practice.

**Defense:** The Giants first round pick, DE Mathias Kiwanuka, looked sharp recording 1.5 sacks for 17 yards lost in one series against the Ravens. Tom Coughlin said that Kiwanuka's "game was very typical of the way he practices ...he's resilient as can be. He keeps on coming." With DE Michael Strahan out, that was one of the few bright spots for the team. The Ravens marched down the field on their opening possession, and the Giants rush defense looked bad as Jamal Lewis had 34 yards on six carries. New York still hasn't found a good replacement for DT Kendrick Clancy, and head coach Tom Coughlin is worried. "I still think [the interior defense] was soft. I don't think there's any question that the thing we'll be working on the most is shoring up the run defense. We didn't get anybody in real good position to stop them."

LBs LaVar Arrington (knee) and Carlos Emmons (neck burner) are also set to return. Arrington vociferously claims he's fine, and that the team is just being cautious. "I know I'm not in any danger zones health-wise," Arrington said. "This is the course the training staff, the coaching staff has chosen. They saw how hard I was working, how much I was doing and they're forcing me to pace myself. If it was a real trouble spot

right now, I'd maybe be looking at it in a different way. I'm not injured. I'm telling you guys the 100-percent truth. We're just making sure that I'm healthy by the time we touch down with Indy."

**Special Teams:** Kicker Jay Feely has learned to adapt his training routine, "What I've learned to do is come in with my body in shape, and then ramp up my leg strength. For instance, Sunday night was the first time I felt that I was really popping the ball." In the game at Baltimore, he popped a 44-yard field goal attempt wide left. He atoned later by making a 29-yard game winner as time expired. Punter Jeff Feagles serves as the holder for Feely. The 40-year old tried to retire after last season, but HC Tom Coughlin had other ideas, "I was hoping that at the end of the season, that I could just slow him down a bit from his radical decision, because he's young and he had a really good year last year." Return specialist RB Chad Morton is shooting for the Pro Bowl this year after being runner-up last year, "It hurts more being that close because you're only one person away from being there. That's definitely one of my goals and that's one reason why I dropped a lot of weight this year to try to become a lot faster." First he'll have to make sure he retains his job, because he has many talented teammates. Against the Ravens, CB R.W. McQuarters returned a kickoff 25 yards and a punt six yards. WR Willie Ponder snuck out of the doghouse for a little bit and returned a kickoff 26 yards. WR Michael Jennings was one of the stars of the game, and instantly improved his stock with his impressive 57-yard punt return for a score. Rookie WR Sinorice Moss (quad) did not play in the game.

## Giants Depth Chart

**QB** Eli Manning, Tim Hasselbeck, Rob Johnson, Jared Lorenzen

**RB** Tiki Barber, Brandon Jacobs (SD), Derrick Ward (inj), Chad Morton (PR), Little John Flowers, James Sims, Mike Jemison

**FB** Jim Finn

**WR** Plaxico Burress, Amani Toomer, Tim Carter, Sinorice Moss (inj), David Tyree, Willie Ponder (KR), Anthony Mix, Harry Williams

**TE** Jeremy Shockey, Vishante Shiancoe, Tony Jackson, Boo Williams, Darcy Johnson

**K** Jay Feely

**DE** Michael Strahan, Osi Umenyiora, Justin Tuck, Mathias Kiwanuka, Eric Moore, Willie Evans, Thomas Carroll

**DT** William Joseph, Fred Robbins, Damane Duckett, Barry Cofield, Jonas Seawright, Ahmad Childress, Junior Ioane, Marcus Green

**MLB** Antonio Pierce (W/M), Gerris Wilkerson, Kevin Lewis, Chase Blackburn

**OLB** Lavar Arrington (S) (inj), Carlos Emmons (W), Reggie Torbor (S), Brandon Short (S), Nick McNeil

**CB** Sam Madison, Corey Webster, R.W. McQuarters (FS/PR), Frank Walker, Curtis Deloatch, Jason Bell, Brandon Williams, Gerrick McPhearson, E.J. Underwood, Kevin Dockery

**S** Gibril Wilson (SS), Will Demps (FS), Quentin Harris, Charlie Peprah (SS), James Butler (inj)

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## New York Jets

**QB:** In his first NFL game in over 10 months, Chad Pennington had an even performance against one of the best pass defenses in the NFL. Pennington was 9-for-14 for 54 yards, but didn't make any difficult throws. He was able to run the offense well and remains accurate, but his passes lacked zip. The balls would float high on some passes, which made it difficult for the receivers to gain yards after the catch. He also fumbled twice, although neither were the type that plagued him in 2005. On one play, Dewayne White made a great play and hit the ball as Pennington was preparing to throw. On the other, Tampa Bay blitzed seven (and the Jets had only the five lineman and the RB in on protection), and Calvin Pearson came at Pennington's blindside untouched, after RB Cedric Houston whiffed on the block. Most importantly, Pennington took a series of hits but seemed to escape the game unscathed. Rich Cimini of the New York Daily News had speculated that Pennington was injured by Pearson's hit, but Pennington has practiced since the game and has shown no ill effects.

Rookie Kellen Clemens showed off his arm by delivering a 19-yard strike to WR Jericho Cotchery late in the second quarter against the Bucs. Clemens was 10/14 for 94 yards, including one official spike to stop the clock, and one unofficial one. That "unofficial" spike occurred when the Jets called for a roll-out on third down from the Tampa Bay two-yard line with six seconds left in the half. No receiver was open, so Clemens threw a pass near the goal line to stop the clock and let the Jets line up for a FG before the half ended. Clemens ran the two minute drill flawlessly, although it was in a low-pressure game against a second-string defense. Clemens appears to have lost any chance to win the starting job from Chad Pennington, but is a lock to make the roster. Brooks Bollinger and Patrick Ramsey will fight it out for the last roster spot, unless the Jets keep four QBs; a rarity in this league. Ramsey was 2-for-3 for 9 yards against Tampa Bay, while Bollinger did not play.

**RB:** Curtis Martin didn't play against the Bucs, of course, and he still hasn't taken a handoff in 2006. But Eric Mangini wasn't describing a player getting ready to retire when asked about Martin on Wednesday. "Curtis is such a unique and special guy. I can tell you each morning, Curtis comes in and he does his rehab at the mandatory rehab time like everybody else. Then he goes to my meeting. After my meeting, he heads to [offensive coordinator] Brian's [Schottenheimer] meeting. After Brian's meeting, he heads into [running backs coach] Jimmy Raye's meeting. He's been to every weigh-in, every mandatory dinner, and every curfew. He's doing everything we ask him to do. In terms of not seeing him on the field – each program is designed for that athlete, to give him the best chance to get healthy as quickly as possible. The exercises that he does aren't really exercises that he can do on the field. That's really where he is."

Derrick Blaylock was given the first shot to replace Martin, starting the game and playing the first two series with the first

team offense. Blaylock didn't break any tackles or make any defenders miss, while amassing 12 yards on six carries. Blaylock also had three receptions, and he's got the best hands of all the running backs on the team. Cedric Houston showed more burst than he did as a rookie last year, and in limited carries looked more effective than Blaylock. Houston, however, did not take any snaps against the Bucs first team defense. Perhaps most important, Houston completely blew his block on Pennington's last snap of the game, when Pearson forced the fumble. The Jets had an agreement in place to acquire Lee Suggs from Cleveland, but rescinded the trade upon Suggs' failing the team physical. Clearly this sends the message that the Jets aren't 100% comfortable with the current RB corps.

Fullback B.J. Askew had a four yard run against the Tampa first team defense on a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1, and may be the Jets main short-yardage runner. The Jets also claimed FB Jamar Martin off waivers, formerly of the Saints.

**WR:** While the Jets have question marks at every other position, Laveranues Coles remains the team's most reliable player. Coles caught five of Pennington's passes on six targets (the one incomplection was a poor pass), including two third down targets. Coles has the best hands on the team and showed the ability to catch the ball in traffic, along with being the go-to receiver on third down.

The big surprise has been Tim Dwight, who caught all three passes Pennington threw his way, and also ran an end around. Dwight showed his signature speed and not surprisingly, demonstrated a good understanding of the offense. Head coach Eric Mangini talked about him glowingly before the preseason game, saying "Tim has been really good for us. He has played in this system before in San Diego, so that has been valuable to the whole receiving corps and even to some degree the QBs and to myself, because anytime you have a player who is familiar with the system and understands expectations, it helps. Tim also played in New England, so he's seen philosophically some of the things I believe in. It's beneficial on both of those fronts." While Dwight has only started four games in the past three seasons, he should see an increase in playing time now that he's in New York. The Jets lack playmakers, and Dwight's ability to make the big play and stretch the defense could help earn a starting role.

Justin McCareins started the game, but he did not catch a pass. The new coaching staff appears very down on McCareins, and he seems likely to lose a significant amount of playing time to both Dwight and Jericho Cotchery. Cotchery showed a strong rapport with Clemens, and almost made a spectacular grab for a TD. Clemens' lob pass was overthrown, but Cotchery showed great body control and hands while holding on to the fade pass out of the side of the end zone. Cotchery had three catches for 36 yards and looked good in camp this past week. Rookie Brad Smith had 3 catches for 13 yards against Tampa Bay, after making a sensational leaping grab for a 40-yard catch in practice Tuesday morning.

**TE:** Chris Baker seems entrenched as the starter, although he only had one reception in the preseason opener. Second-year

TE Joel Dreessen has been impressive in camp, and may even push Doug Jolley for a roster spot. Neither TE had a catch against Tampa Bay.

**Defense:** The Jets defense looked sharp against Tampa Bay, holding the Bucs to just three points in the first half and forcing a Michael Pittman fumble. Like every other position, it was unclear who would start where at LB for the Jets. Eric Barton and Jonathon Vilma were the starting ILBs, and Bryan Thomas and Victor Hobson were the two outside backers. Hobson and Barton were both 4-3 OLBs in 2005, while Thomas was a DE and Vilma was a MLB. CB Ray Mickens, on his second go around with the team, made the most costly blunder. On a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 21 from inside the Bucs' ten yard line, Mickens was flagged for pass interference on an under thrown, six-yard pass. There has been concern about where the Jets would get a pass rush with John Abraham now in Atlanta, and the preseason opener did nothing to assuage those fears: the Jets did not record a sack.

Derrick Strait, the former star at Oklahoma, had been moved to free safety, but was then traded to the Cleveland Browns for RB Lee Suggs. Unfortunately, the trade was rescinded after Suggs failed his physical, returning Strait to the Jets. Whether he figures into the team's plans at this point is in question. With FS Erik Coleman still recovering from an appendectomy, the Jets thought Strait could be more useful than at safety than at cornerback. DT Sione Pouha has been placed on injured reserve and is lost for the season.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Mike Nugent is focused on improving his kickoffs this year, "Definitely, I'm getting a little more pop on it [his kickoffs], just hitting it harder but with the accuracy as well. This season, I'm just really getting after it more, not holding anything back, and being under control so the ball goes where I want it to go. If you can average on the goal line, that's a great goal to get after. You have to kind of push yourself to see how far you can get. That's one thing I want to do more, get more touchbacks. I want to help my team out with that and make [opposing] teams get the ball on the 20-yard line." He only had one kickoff opportunity at Tampa Bay, but he hit it 70 yards for a touchback. He also was good from 20 yards on his only scoring attempt. WR Tim Dwight averaged 7.0 yards on his two punt returns. CB Justin Miller, one of the favorites for the kickoff returner role, averaged 27.0 yards on two returns. Dark horse candidate rookie RB Leon Washington averaged 20.0 yards on his two kickoff returns.

## Jets Depth Chart

**QB** [Chad Pennington](#), Patrick Ramsey, Kellen Clemens, Brooks Bollinger

**RB** [Cedric Houston](#), [Derrick Blaylock](#), [Leon Washington](#), Stacy Tutt (QB/WR), Curtis Martin (inj)

**FB** [B.J. Askew](#), [Jamar Martin](#)

**WR** [Laveranues Coles](#), [Justin McCareins](#), [Jerricho Cotchery](#), [Tim Dwight](#) (PR), Brad Smith, Reggie Newhouse, Dante Ridgeway, Maurice Avery, Phil Silva, Chris Baker, Mario Hill, Curtis Williams

**TE** [Chris Baker](#), [Doug Jolley](#), Joel Dreessen, Jason Pociask (IR)

**K** [Mike Nugent](#)

**DE** [Shaun Ellis](#), [Kimo Van Oelhoffen](#), [Trevor Johnson](#), Dave Ball, Darrell Adams

**NT** [Dewayne Robertson](#), [Monsanto Pope](#), Matt McChesney, Titus Adams, Brennan Schmidt, Sione Pouha (IR)

**ILB** [Jonathan Vilma](#), [Brad Kassell](#), [Anthony Schlegel](#)

**OLB** [Eric Barton](#) (W) (inj), [Victor Hobson](#) (S), [Bryan Thomas](#) (DE), [Matt Chatham](#) (S), Darrell McClover, Craig Bailey, Blake Costanzo, Alonzo Jackson

**CB** [David Barrett](#), [Andre Dyson](#), [Justin Miller](#) (KR), [Ray Mickens](#), [Derrick Straight](#) (FS), Andrew Davison, Roosevelt Williams, Lamont Reid, D.J. Johnson, Drew Coleman (inj), Rayshun Reed

**S** [Erik Coleman](#) (SS) (inj), [Kerry Rhodes](#) (FS), [Rashad Washington](#), [Eric Smith](#) (SS), James Taylor, Andre Maddox, Jamie Thompson, Jovon Johnson

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## Oakland Raiders

**QB:** Aaron Brooks didn't give the boost that the team had envisioned when acquiring him this offseason. He completed just one pass in six attempts for 16 yards and was sacked twice. Brooks is just 2-for-9 for 28 yards, one TD and one interception in Oakland's first two preseason games. "Obviously we'd like to have some more productivity out on the field, but it's still preseason, and it's a new system for pretty much all of us," Brooks said. "It's going to take time. I have patience." Andrew Walter led the team to its first score in the 2nd quarter hooking up with Johnnie Morant on a 67-yard TD pass. Walter finished 10-of-19 for 148 yards, but he threw two interceptions. Marques Tuiasosopo completed 3-of-5 passes for 36 yards while running once for six yards.

**RB:** LaMont Jordan got in some work Monday night, running six times for 21 yards before leaving the game with the first team. Justin Fargas, Rod Smart and ReShard Lee all got some work once Jordan left the field. Smart ran for 23 yards on seven carries, Lee 34 yards on 10 carries and Fargas 6 yards on three carries. HC Art Shell is pleased with Jordan's efforts in training camp and had the following to say following the team's first preseason game the week prior. "RB LaMont [Jordan] really ran hard the other night, which is what I was looking for... He ran with a lot of authority... That's a good attitude. Now he'll set'em up. They'll think he's going to take'em on, and he'll make a move and then make'em miss."

**WR:** Randy Moss had a frustrating night in his return to the Metrodome as he caught just one pass for 16 yards. "I just wanted to come in and see the fans and give them something really to scream about because I've had my fun here in this Metrodome and they've had theirs, too," Moss said. "That's one thing I really just wanted to come back and just give back to the fans. The organization? To hell with them." Instead of Moss making big plays, it was Johnnie Morant providing a spark. Morant caught the 67-yard TD from Walter and produced five catches for 108 yards. Rookie receiver Will Buchanan caught four balls for 30 yards. Fellow rookies Rick Gatewood and Burl Toler also caught one pass apiece. The Raiders are unlikely to deal Jerry Porter, who didn't play

Monday night due to a calf injury, despite all of the rhetoric coming from Porter and his agent.

**TE:** Courtney Anderson hopes this is the year where his numbers finally match his potential. "We want to throw the ball to our tight ends," Raiders HC Art Shell said. "If you're throwing the ball to the tight end, that opens up the outside for the other receivers. You won't be able to cover them all." Anderson just wants the ball more consistently: "In the opener last year (against New England), I had two touchdowns, and the next game I didn't have the ball thrown my way... It was frustrating, but I didn't take it personally. This year, I think the tight end is going to get some looks every game."

Marcellus Rivers might have a slight edge to be Anderson's backup. Randal Williams bulked up in the offseason as a converted wide receiver, but he's battled through a bad back in camp. John Madsen is an undrafted rookie free agent who impressed early before he was slowed by an oblique strain. Madsen is recovered now and he caught a 40-yard touchdown pass in a two-minute drill in Friday's practice. James Adkisson was good in the mini-camps, but he's been out in training camp with an injured knee. "It's going to be hard to pick who is going to stay and who is going to go," Anderson said. "All you can do is put your best foot forward and hopefully you make the team."

**Defense:** The Raiders are hoping their defense finally takes shape after two failed years under DC Rob Ryan. In 2004, the team tried a 3-4 alignment and last year they used more of a 4-3 hybrid. Ryan thinks he's finally got it right this year, and so does veteran DT Warren Sapp. "This is the year to show up. We're not going to talk about it, we're just going to play great ball." "We've got great personnel," Ryan said, "and we can play pretty much anything we want." Sapp is also more confident, especially since he's seeing more similarities between Ryan's defense this year and the defense he played in Tampa under Monte Kiffin. "You've got a guy that's living and loving," Sapp said. "I'm living and loving it myself, so you go with them. You trust that they watch way more film than you do and they game plan way more than you do, so you're hoping they put you in the right position to make plays. It didn't go too well for us the first two years, but I'll bet on this one."

First round pick Michael Huff, projected as the Raiders' starting strong safety, was also working at left cornerback on Saturday with the second-team defense. "I'm trying to learn it all," Huff said. "You never know what will happen as far as injuries and stuff like that. Hopefully I can stay flexible where I can play both during the season."

**Special Teams:** Kickers Tim Duncan and David Kimball were both active for the game at Minnesota, but neither one played. The Raiders probably want to take a very close look at Sebastian Janikowski in game situations after his very rough 2005. He responded very well, again going 3-for-3 on field goals (27, 27, and 55 yards). Janikowski discussed the past, present, and future, "I'm not predicting anything this year. Whatever happens, happens. After last year, I'm disappointed, obviously, but I'm not going to say anything. I'm just going to

keep kicking, just keep doing the best I can. I don't doubt my ability. I'm as confident as I've ever been. Sometimes, the ball just doesn't go where you want it to. It's nothing for me to worry about." Return specialist CB Chris Carr saw the majority of the returns in the game. He averaged 40.5 yards on two kickoff returns, and averaged 10.0 yards on two punt returns. RB ReShard Lee added a 26-yard kickoff return, while WR Doug Gabriel had no gain on a punt return.

## Raiders Depth Chart

**QB** Aaron Brooks, Andrew Walter, Marques Tuiasosopo, Kent Smith

**RB** LaMont Jordan, Justin Fargas, Rod Smart (KR), ReShard Lee, DeJuan Green

**FB** Zack Crockett (SD/3RB), Joe Hall

**WR** Randy Moss, Jerry Porter (inj), Doug Gabriel, Ron Curry (PR) (inj), Alvis Whitted, Johnnie Morant, Carlos Francis (KR), Kevin McMahan, Rick Gatewood

**TE** Courtney Anderson, John Paul Foschi (FB), Randal Williams, Marcellus Rivers, O.J. Santiago, James Adkisson, John Madsen, Derek Miller

**K** Sebastian Janikowski

**DE** Derrick Burgess, Tyler Brayton, Bobby Hamilton, Grant Irons, Lance Johnstone, Bryant McNeal, Ryan Riddle

**DT** Warren Sapp (inj), Tommy Kelly, Ed Jasper, Terdell Sands (NT), Anttaj Hawthorne, Kenny Smith, Donnell Washington

**MLB** Kirk Morrison (I/W), Danny Clark (I)

**OLB** Sam Williams (S) (inj), Thomas Howard (S), Robert Thomas (S/W), Darnell Bing (S/W), Isaiah Ekejiuba, Henri Crockett

**CB** Nnamdi Asomugha, Fabian Washington, Stanford Routt, Tyrone Poole, Duane Starks

**S** Stuart Schweigert (FS), Derrick Gibson (SS), Michael Huff (S/CB), Chris Carr (PR), Calvin Branch, Keyon Nash

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## Philadelphia Eagles

**QB:** Much like the first preseason game, Donovan McNabb's stay on the field but short but efficient. He played two series and completed 7-of-9 passes for 78 yards; leading the team to a field goal. Clearly McNabb is healthy and feels confident in the state of things. "We were able to execute when we needed to," McNabb said. "We've still got some work to do, but it's a great beginning." Jeff Garcia took over and played quite well, albeit against the Browns 2<sup>nd</sup> team primarily. He completed 8-of-11 passes for 125 yards including a 32-yard TD strike to Darnerien McCants. Timmy Chang, the NCAA record holder from the University of Hawaii, got the mop up duty in place of long-time backup Koy Detmer. Chang completed his one pass attempt, but has been playing well enough in camp to put Detmer on the hot seat.

**RB:** The Eagles running back situation is uncertain. Offensive MVP Brian Westbrook continues to miss time with a sprained foot. The Eagles have set no formal timetable for his return but he will certainly not play against Baltimore in this week's preseason game; and isn't likely to play for the rest of the

preseason. Ryan Moats (Knee), Bruce Perry (Concussion), and Correll Buckhalter (Knee) were also sidelined against the Browns, leaving special teams contributor Reno Mahe as the nominal starter. Mahe proved why he's a special teamer, by running 7 times for just 10 yards. The only notable highlight among those RBs likely to make the roster was FB Thomas Tapeh's 4-yard TD run in the third quarter. Waiver wire pickup Marty Johnson paced the RBs with 12 rushes for 47 yards. Both Perry and Buckhalter are expected to play in next week's preseason action, with Perry returning to practice this past Saturday.

**WR:** The Eagles only have one lock at wide receiver, and that's 2<sup>nd</sup>-year Reggie Brown. Brown didn't have a catch against the Browns, but has returned to practice following his calf strain and has shown enough in camp thus far to engender the confidence of his QB. "It is not unrealistic," McNabb said, "for Reggie Brown to have 70 catches this season..." Perhaps more surprising is McNabb's contention that Hank Baskett could have "50 catches." Baskett, an undrafted rookie acquired from the Vikings in a trade, has played himself into not only a roster spot, but a potential starting job to open the season. Whether that becomes a reality is partly determined by when Todd Pinkston gets back on the field. Pinkston continues a slow recovery from knee surgery and could be in danger of being waived. Andy Reid was asked if WR Todd Pinkston (Achilles') would play Thursday, Aug. 17. Reid said, "I've just got to see how Todd does here over the week, see how he feels tomorrow. We pushed him pretty good today. So, we'll see how he does tomorrow."

**TE:** L.J. Smith caught 2 passes for 20 yards against the Browns and Matt Schobel added a nice 34-yard grab. The Eagles haven't had a TE duo like this since Chad Lewis was on the team alongside Smith. Backups Andy Thorn and Stephen Spach each had one reception in the game; the team probably will keep only one of them on the active roster.

**Defense:** The Eagles defense is a work in progress, but the first team held the Browns scoreless in the first half of their preseason game. Charlie Frye was ineffective completing only four passes for 23 yards. The pass rush, missing last year, reared its head as Darren Howard, Jerome McDougle and LaJuan Ramsey all had sacks. Jevon Kearse and Brodrick Bunkley nearly recorded sacks of their own, but were effective putting pressure on the Browns QBs. The run defense was less impressive, as Reuben Droughns pounded out 21 yards in his four carries. The battle at strongside linebacker has been decided; unfortunately it was a victory by attrition. Greg Richmond will require back surgery leaving Dhani Jones to retain his job; despite the team's very clear desire to see him relegated to backup duties. McDougle, besieged with injuries throughout his career, broke some ribs and is sidelined again.

**Special Teams:** David Akers kicked a 22-yard field goal in the game against Cleveland. Camp leg E.J. Cochrane added a 24-yarder. The Eagles had no kickoff returns in the game as the Browns had only two kickoffs and sent them for touchbacks. Safety J.R. Reed averaged 2.5 yards on two punt returns, while CB Dexter Wynn had one for no gain. Injuries continue to limit the returner squad: RB Bruce Perry and WR

Jeremy Bloom were inactive, and RB Reno Mahe left the game with a concussion. Special teams coordinator John Harbaugh spoke on Bloom's status for the next game, "That would be up to the trainers, but I'd say we're getting him up to speed right now, he's on the way. He looks better. He did a lot better today than he did yesterday, a little faster, a little quicker. He's been catching punts all along and he's worked really hard at that. So, he looks pretty smooth catching the punts in the one-on-one drills. Now we get him into the team drills; that's kind of another step." J.R. Reed discussed the status of his comeback from last year's injury, "Things are feeling real natural right now. I feel normal. I feel good. I feel like a football player again. I don't feel hurt. I don't feel injured. I just feel regular. I feel perfect. I feel good. I feel blessed." Harbaugh indicated that the kickoff return job is "wide open still."

## Eagles Depth Chart

**QB** Donovan McNabb, Jeff Garcia, Koy Detmer, Timmy Chang

**RB** Brian Westbrook (inj), Ryan Moats (inj), Bruce Perry (KR) (inj), Reno Mahe (PR), Correll Buckhalter (inj), Marty Johnson

**FB** Josh Parry, Thomas Tapeh, Jason Davis

**WR** Reggie Brown, Hank Baskett, Todd Pinkston (inj), Jabar Gaffney, Greg Lewis, Jason Avant, Darnerien McCants, Jeremy Bloom (KR/PR), Carl Ford, Justin Jenkins, Bill Sampy, J.J. Outlaw, Jermaine Jamison

**TE** L.J. Smith, Matt Schobel, Steven Spach, Andy Thorn, Jonas Crafts

**K** David Akers

**DE** Jevon Kearse, Darren Howard, Trent Cole, Jerome McDougle (inj), Juqua Thomas

**DT** Mike Patterson, Darwin Walker, Sam Rayburn, Brodrick Bunkley, Ed Jasper, Keyonta Marshall, LaJuan Ramsey

**MLB** Jeremiah Trotter, Mark Simoneau (W/M), Omar Gaither (W/M)

**OLB** Dhani Jones (S), Shawn Barber (W), Matt McCoy (W), Chris Gocong (S), Jason Short (S), Dedrick Roper (S), Greg Richmond (inj), Torrence Daniels

**CB** Sheldon Brown, Lito Sheppard (inj), Roderick Hood (KR), Donald Strickland, Matt Ware, Dexter Wynn, Joselio Hanson, Mark Clark

**S** Brian Dawkins (FS), Michael Lewis (SS), Quintin Mikell (FS), Sean Considine (SS), J.R. Reed (FS/KR) (inj), Scott Ware (SS)

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## Pittsburgh Steelers

**QB:** Ben Roethlisberger made his return to the field on Friday night as the Steelers helped the Arizona Cardinals open their new stadium. He played just one series that resulted in a missed field goal, but he didn't seem to mind. "It kind of hit me right before the kickoff," Roethlisberger said, "to sit here and say thank you that I'm able to be out here, to put on the jersey, to be in front of people and playing again two months to the day after a pretty bad accident." Big Ben finished 3-of-4 for 29 yards with his longest reception being an 11-yard screen pass to RB Verron Haynes. On the drive,

Roethlisberger took the Steelers to the Cardinals 26-yard line before he escaped a near-sack by safety Adrian Wilson, scrambled and then threw the ball away. "I just told him in the future that considering where we are right now, I would rather have him go down rather than trying to fight to get free," Head coach Bill Cowher said. The drive ended when Bertrand Berry sacked Roethlisberger on third down and Jeff Reed's 54-yard FG was wide left. "We came away with nothing on that first drive, but I'm glad from Ben's perspective," Cowher said. "He was able to get out there and I thought he made some plays."

The Steelers got a look at Shane Boyd and rookie fourth-round pick Omar Jacobs along with veteran backup Charlie Batch, who completed 3-of-4 for 27 yards. Jacobs was 5-of-7 for 61 yards with a 1-yard TD to Isaac Smolko in the fourth quarter. Shane Boyd threw 16 passes completing 8 of them for 67 yards, but he was intercepted once and ran for 16 yards.

**RB:** The Steelers didn't establish much of a ground game as Duce Staley managed only 14 yards on seven carries looking rather lethargic and slow on his feet. Willie Parker gained 12 yards on three carries; rookie Cedric Humes had four yards on three attempts while Verron Haynes ran three times for just one yard. Humes did have a nice 33-yard catch and Willie Parker caught a 7-yard pass. Haynes and Staley are competing for the backup job, but perhaps more importantly for the goal-line and short-yardage role vacated by Jerome Bettis. Haynes seems to be the leader so far. The winner has obvious fantasy potential, but Willie Parker could also win the goal-line job. In that event, Parker could become a top-10 fantasy back providing he stays healthy with the extra beatings that come with short-yardage duty.

**WR:** Rookie first round pick Santonio Holmes made his debut catching four balls for 32 yards. Willie Reid, another rookie, also had 4 catches for 30 yards. Veteran special teamer Sean Morey caught three balls for 27 yards. Hines Ward remains limited with a slight hamstring injury, but he's not expected to miss any serious time. The team is playing it safe so he doesn't have a lingering, more serious injury during the regular season. Nate Washington looked good starting for Hines Ward in Saturday's game. He had 10-yard gain on a reverse on the team's first drive, and then made a nice adjustment on a deep ball as he accelerated to catch up to it, almost bringing it in for a score. He has turned in a decent training camp so far. Cedrick Wilson and Quincy Morgan also caught one ball each – Wilson's for 18 yards and Morgan's for 13 yards.

**TE:** Heath Miller is progressing nicely in his second season. "The biggest issue you had with TE Heath [Miller] last year was his ability to block an NFL player," OC Ken Whisenhunt said. "We always knew he could be a good receiver. Now we have a better idea of how we can use him...He's a good receiver. He's a good blocker. I don't know if there is a perfect tight end, but he is a good fit in both areas of our game." Miller made a brief appearance with the team's starting unit catching one ball for 11 yards against Arizona. Rookie Isaac Smolko caught a 1-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter for

his only catch. Fellow rookie Jon Dekker also had a 1-yard catch.

**Defense:** The team likes what they're seeing from LB Richard Seigler in camp. The linebacker had four tackles and a sack against the Cardinals. Rian Wallace also had four tackles as did fellow linebacker Clint Kriewaldt. New addition FS Ryan Clark, signed to replace Chris Hope, led the team with five combined tackles. Rookie safety Anthony Smith, who the team hopes to eventually start at free safety, picked off two passes in the game. Veteran LB Joey Porter did not play against the Cardinals on Saturday, but he was activated off the team's PUP list on August 8th.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Jeff Reed has been practicing with free agent punter Mike Barr as his holder. Barr is competing for a job with the incumbent punter/holder, Chris Gardocki. In the game at Arizona, Reed connected on a 48-yard field goal, while camp leg Mark Brubaker was good from 24 yards. The Cardinals effectively kicked away from rookie WR Willie Reid on punts. He had only one return for eight yards. On the bright side, that means opponents are already respecting him despite not having played a single down in the NFL. On kickoff returns he averaged 15.5 yards on two returns, while fellow rookie WR Santonio Holmes had a 25-yard return. CB Ricardo Colclough lined up deep on kickoffs, but did not have any returns. He noted, "I prefer to return kickoffs. I prefer to stay out of the line of fire. As a kickoff returner, it's a little easier than returning punts. There's not as much hang time, and you don't have to worry about people being in your face." Unfortunately for Colclough, he's had troubles hanging onto both kickoffs and punts in practice. He's put a lot of balls on the ground. If the rookies don't pan out on returns, the Steelers could resort to WR Quincy Morgan on kickoffs and WR Cedrick Wilson on punts.

## Steelers Depth Chart

**QB** Ben Roethlisberger, Charlie Batch, Omar Jacobs, Shane Boyd

**RB** Willie Parker, Verron Haynes (FB), Duce Staley, Cedric Humes

**FB** Dan Kreider, John Kuhn, Doug Easlick

**WR** Hines Ward, Cedrick Wilson, Santonio Holmes, Quincy Morgan, Nate Washington, Willie Reid (KR/PR), Sean Morey, Lee Mays, Walter Young, Marvin Allen

**TE** Heath Miller, Jerame Tuman, Charles Davis, Jonathan Dekker, Isaac Smolko

**K** Jeff Reed, Mark Brubaker

**DE** Aaron Smith, Brett Keisel, Travis Kirschke, Rodney Bailey, Shaun Nua, Orien Harris

**NT** Casey Hampton, Chris Hoke, Scott Paxson

**ILB** James Farrior, Larry Foote, Rian Wallace, Richard Seigler, Clint Kriewaldt

**OLB** Joey Porter, Clark Haggans, James Harrison, Andre Frazier, Arnold Harrison, Lee Vickers

**CB** Deshaea Townsend, Ike Taylor, Bryant McFadden, Ricardo Colclough (PR/KR), Chidi Iwuoma, Anthony Madison

**S** Troy Polamalu (SS), Ryan Clark (FS), Tyrone Carter (FS), Mike Logan (SS), Anthony Smith (FS), Zack Baker, Mike Lorello

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## St. Louis Rams

**QB:** Mark Bulger didn't appear to suffer any lingering effects from the shoulder injury that caused him to miss the second half of last season Thursday night against the Colts. He did throw a few uncharacteristically errant passes and is still shaking off the rust, but his quick release remains intact. New head coach Scott Linehan's playbook is more simplified than Mike Martz's, which helped as the team played the game free of any false start penalties.

While there has been no official word from the coaching staff, Ryan Fitzpatrick looked better than Dave Ragone and may have taken the early lead in the battle for QB3. Gus Frerotte is firmly entrenched as Bulger's backup in his third stint with Linehan from when he was the OC of the Vikings and Dolphins. Gus Frerotte went 2-of-3 for 32 yards and led a first-quarter scoring drive capped by Tony Fisher's 7-yard run. In the battle for the No. 3 quarterback job, Ryan Fitzpatrick was 8-for-11 for 51 yards, and Dave Ragone was 7-for-11 for 80 yards and an interception.

**RB:** For a change, the Rams ran more than they passed against the Colts. HC Scott Linehan didn't question a call and his game plan was balanced with 40 running plays and 31 passing plays. Steven Jackson played the first two series, carried five times for 41 yards, with two nice runs of 16 and 23 yards. "Coach wants us to be a team that protects the ball, takes the ball away and plays smarter," Jackson said. "I think we did all three tonight." Jackson is primed for a big year if he can stay healthy. The Rams backups played well, too. Tony Fisher ran five times for 33 yards and Fred Russell had a 54-yard run in the third quarter. Moe Williams had seven carries for 17 yards including a 1-yard TD in the 2nd quarter.

**WR:** Torry Holt is the only WR in league history to have 1,300+ receiving yards in six consecutive seasons... something Moss, Owens, Harrison and even Jerry Rice never accomplished. No WR in the NFL has more catches in the last three years. Why doesn't he get more recognition as a top three WR? "He's not a self-promoter," Linehan said. "He's very secure. He doesn't need the spotlight. He doesn't need all the attention. But there is little doubt that he plays at the highest level in this league." Holt played briefly against Indy, catching one ball for 15 yards, while the ageless Isaac Bruce looked sharp catching 2 balls for 36 yards. Brad Pyatt made a nice 40-yard catch. Dominique Thompson caught three balls for 31 yards and Dane Looker had 29 yards on four catches.

**TE:** Neither second rounder Joel Klopfenstein nor third rounder Dominique Byrd saw the ball much against the Colts, but all the latest news seems to point to Klopfenstein maintaining and even extending his lead for the starting TE position that was vacated by the trade of the incumbent, Brandon Manumaleuna to the Chargers during the draft. The rookies are going in opposite directions as Byrd has slipped to third team behind Aaron Walker. Linehan likes to integrate the TE into the offense much more so than ex-HC Mike Martz

(see Jermaine Wiggins in MIN and Randy McMichael in MIA), and was looking for a more athletic TE capable of stretching the defense and getting open on the seam route. So far, Klopfenstein has also helped his cause by developing as a blocker. This is of pivotal importance in the new scheme with a greater emphasis placed on both running more often and protecting Bulger.

**Defense:** The Rams could have as many as six new starters on defense this season, and the new coaching staff seems to have a need for speed. "Man I'm tellin' you this is the fastest defense I've ever been on in my life," said Pro Bowl DE Leonard Little. "I'm tellin' you, man, it's different around here. Real different." The Rams only allowed 38 yards on the ground to the Colts on Thursday night. Free agent Fakhir Brown has been the Rams best CB in camp. Fluid in coverage and aggressive in run support, he sacked the Colts Jim Sorgi on a corner blitz. Former starter Jerametrious Butler reagravated a hamstring injury after missing all of the 2005 season with an ACL injury. At this point the spot opposite Brown is Travis Fisher's if he can stay healthy (he has been unable to the past two seasons). He has lost weight, reportedly is playing faster and is throwing his body around in run support again in a contract year.

Physically gifted first rounder Tye Hill is raw but he isn't acting like the game is too big for him as a rookie. He looks like he will be able to help in the dime and possibly the nickel D right away. Hill just missed on two interceptions and made a special teams tackle in Thursday's game. He should eventually start over Fisher, though it may not be until late in the season. Ron Bartell was shifted from CB to FS. Oshiomogho Atogwe is running with the first team at FS alongside SS Corey Chavous. DE Anthony Hargrove suffered a knee injury in Thursday's game, but it isn't thought to be serious. It did allow fourth rounder Victor Adeyanju a chance to shine. He has outstanding size and strength along with deceptive speed and athleticism and flashed the ability to be disruptive. He could be the successor to Leonard Little or possibly talented enough to supplant Hargrove. Controversial third round DT Claude Wroten got a tremendous push up the middle and is already in the base nickle defense in place of run stuffer Jimmy Kennedy.

**Special Teams:** Camp leg Remy Hamilton handled all the kicking in the game against Indianapolis. He hit a 33-yard field goal, but was wide left from 48 yards. HC Scott Linehan indicated it was their plan to rest kicker Jeff Wilkins early in the preseason, "He's at a point in his career where he needs to wait to really start getting it going until the third or fourth preseason game." Several of the competitors for the returner roles saw action in the game. Rookie WR Marques Hagans got the most work, averaging 23.5 yards on two kickoff returns, and averaging 10.5 yards on two punt returns along with two fair catches. WR Shaun McDonald had a seven yard punt return, and WR Kevin Curtis had a 27-yard kickoff return. The only primary contender that didn't have a return was WR Brad Pyatt, although he did have a 40-yard reception late in the game. He remains confident, "Every time I'm in there, I've been able to make plays. But I can't get over the injury bug. Hopefully, this year will be one of those years where I can

make plays and can stay healthy. I've established my numbers in this league. So I know I can play in this league, it's just a matter of staying healthy. I'm not really worried about who they have in there. If they give me my opportunity, they'll see what I can do." Linehan indicated there was no favorite, "We've still got a lot of questions about how it's going to end up. But that's the fun part about what we do. The cream's going to rise to the top before it's all said and done. I think you've got to really look at this with an open mind, and be very objective. I think that's what's great about preseason games."

## Rams Depth Chart

**QB** [Marc Bulger](#), Gus Frerotte, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Dave Ragone

**RB** [Steven Jackson](#), [Tony Fisher](#), [Moe Williams](#), John David Washington, Fred Russell, Antoine Bagwell, Marshall Faulk (IR)

**FB** [Madison Hedgecock](#), Paul Smith

**WR** [Torry Holt](#), [Isaac Bruce](#), [Kevin Curtis](#), [Shaun McDonald](#) (PR), Dane Looker, Brad Pyatt, Marques Hagans, Taylor Stubblefield, Dominique Thompson, Clinton Solomon

**TE** [Joel Klopfenstein](#), [Aaron Walker](#), [Dominique Byrd](#), [Jerome Collins](#), Alex Holmes, Landon Trusty (IR)

**K** [Jeff Wilkins](#), Remy Hamilton

**DE** [Leonard Little](#), [Tony Hargrove](#), [Brandon Green](#), Clifford Dukes, Victor Adeyanju, Matthew Rice

**DT** [Jimmy Kennedy](#) (NT), [La'Roi Glover](#), [Claude Wroten](#), [Brian Howard](#), [Jason Fisk](#), Jeremy Calahan, Tim Sandidge

**MLB** [Will Witherspoon](#) (W/M), [Tim McGarigle](#)

**OLB** [Pisa Tinoisamoa](#) (W), [Brandon Chillar](#) (S), [Dexter Coakley](#) (S) (inj), [Raonall Smith](#), Jon Alston, Drew Wahlroos (S) (inj)

**CB** [Tye Hill](#), [Jerametrious Butler](#), [Travis Fisher](#), [Fakhir Brown](#), [DeJuan Groce](#), Kevin Timothee

**S** [Corey Chavous](#) (SS), [Oshiomogho Atogwe](#) (FS), [Ronald Bartell](#) (FS), Jerome Carter (SS), Dwaine Carpenter (FS)

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## San Diego Chargers

**QB:** All the reports have been positive regarding the ascendance of Philip Rivers as the Chargers starting quarterback going into the 2006 season. On Saturday night, Rivers didn't disappoint as he threw for 169 first-half yards leading the team to two early scoring drives in a 17-3 win against the Green Bay Packers. "I thought he played excellent," Schottenheimer said. "He played pretty much like I expect him to." Rivers was poised and accurate with his passes completing 15-of-21 passes while playing almost the entire first half (save for one play). He threw a 17-yard TD pass to Vincent Jackson on a fade route to the corner of the end zone, but it was ruled out of bounds. After a 5-yard penalty was assessed, the Chargers went right back to the exact same play. Once again, Rivers put the ball right on the money, and this time, Jackson was in bounds as the two players connected on a 22-yard TD, executing both plays almost perfectly. "The throw was better on the first one," Rivers said. "The catch was better on the second one."

"Nobody in the huddle had any doubt. He gave you all what you wanted to see," said veteran WR Keenan McCardell. "We threw a lot of completions, threw a touchdown pass," Rivers said. "It was a good start. We had some things we didn't do well, but it's early. It's just what you want to do in the first preseason game." In the second half, the Chargers gave the ball to backup A.J. Feeley and rookie Charlie Whitehurst. Feeley went 5-of-10 for 49 yards while Whitehurst finished 6-of-12 for 50 yards.

**RB:** Michael Turner handled the bulk of the Chargers rushing duties, as LaDainian Tomlinson did not play in Saturday's game. He rarely plays during the preseason, so that's par for the course. Turner ran nine times for 43 yards including a nice 13-yard TD run where he got to the corner on the right side of the field avoiding defenders for the score. Ray Perkins saw some action, too. He rushed eight times for 28 yards. Darren Sproles ran once for 4 yards before he sprained his left ankle during the first quarter. It was later determined that Sproles broke his leg and is now lost for the season.

**WR:** Vincent Jackson looked great. He caught "touchdown passes" on two straight plays only to have the first one taken away as he stepped out of bounds. The super-sized 2nd year receiver continues to look good during training camp and it's evident that he and Rivers have spent a lot of time playing together over the last year. Jackson finished with four catches for 46 yards. With starter Eric Parker out for the next seven days with a sprained thumb ligament, Jackson might get some extra work with the starting unit. "We actually got lucky because he sprained the ligament but there was no fracture," HC Marty Schottenheimer said. "We might have played him a few snaps (Saturday), but it wouldn't have been a whole lot." Keenan McCardell caught two balls for 22 yards.

**TE:** Philip Rivers made great use of his tight ends in Saturday's game as Antonio Gates, Brandon Manumaleuna and Ryan Krause combined for nine catches. Stating the obvious, HC Marty Schottenheimer weighed in, "We got good production out of the tight end position." Krause led all receivers with six catches for 64 yards, while Gates caught one pass for 17 yards putting a nice move on rookie LB A.J. Hawk. Manumaleuna caught four balls for 45 yards.

**Defense:** The Chargers defense was firing on all cylinders against the Packers. They sacked Favre on back-to-back plays while finishing with 5 sacks and stuffing the Packers attempts to run the ball consistently all night. Tim Dobbins, Stephen Cooper, Shaun Phillips, Matt Wilhelm and Marques Harris all had sacks from the LB position. Rookie corner Antonio Cromartie had an interception on Aaron Rodgers while Shaun Phillips forced a fumble after sacking Rodgers on another play. Cromartie's play was nice, especially coming after Marlon McCree had a 78-yard fumble return for a TD reversed by replay. "When I looked up the ball was there, and I came up with the interception," Cromartie said. "I just try to make plays." Defensive back Markus Curry led the team with five combined tackles. Overall, the Packers went three-and-out on their first three possessions, totaling 6 yards. "That's our No. 1 goal as a defense – to stop the run," LB Stephen Cooper

said. Veteran LB Donnie Edwards remains out of action with a bad back.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Nate Kaeding spent the offseason studying and tweaking his leg swing with the help of a PGA instructor, just as a golfer would study their club swing. He also added 15 pounds and worked on improving his kickoffs. He's ready for 2006, "I think the biggest thing that builds your confidence is your comfort level. I feel a lot more comfortable here going into my third year than I did, say, going into my first year when everything was so new and then even going into the second year and coming off that playoff game. That shook me a little bit like I think it would anybody. They gave me the leeway to work through it, and it's definitely paid off." In the game against Green Bay he made a 23-yard field goal, and had kickoffs of 63 and 65 yards. Kicker Kurt Smith kept his hopes of making the final roster as a kickoff specialist alive with kickoffs of 71 and 72 yards. RB Darren Sproles spent the off-season working on fielding punts and studying blocking schemes in order to bring his punt returns up to the level of his kickoff returns. Against the Packers he averaged 7.0 yards on three punt returns, but suffered what was thought to be a high ankle sprain and did not return to the game. The injury turned out to be a broken leg, for which he underwent surgery and will now be out for the season. In Sproles' absence WR Eric Parker will likely handle punt returns while RB Michael Turner will likely handle kickoff returns, according to HC Marty Schottenheimer. Parker will miss the next week or so with a sprained thumb. Rookie CB Cletis Gordon had the remainder of the returns in the game, with nine yards on a punt and 23 yards on a kickoff.

## Chargers Depth Chart

**QB** Philip Rivers, A.J. Feeley, Charlie Whitehurst, Brett Elliott

**RB** LaDainian Tomlinson, Michael Turner, Larry Croom, Ray Perkins, Tyrone Gross, Bryson Sumlin, Darren Sproles (IR)

**FB** Lorenzo Neal, Andrew Pinnoch, Jonathan Evans, Shawn Willis

**WR** Keenan McCardell, Eric Parker (inj), Vincent Jackson, Kassim Osgood, Malcolm Floyd, Mark Simmons, Sean Coffey (inj), Gerran Walker, Robert Ortiz

**TE** Antonio Gates, Brandon Manumaleuna, Aaron Shea, Ryan Krause

**K** Nate Kaeding, Kurt Smith

**DE** Igor Olshansky, Luis Castillo (NT), Jacques Cesaire, Derrick Robinson, Chase Page (inj), Patrick Massey

**NT** Jamal Williams, Ryon Bingham, Brandon McKinney, Alvin Smith

**ILB** Donnie Edwards (inj), Randall Godfrey, Matt Wilhelm, Stephen Cooper, Tim Dobbins, Carlos Polk

**OLB** Steve Foley (W), Shawne Merriman (S), Shaun Phillips (S), Marques Harris (W), Jonathan Pollard

**CB** Quentin Jammer, Drayton Florence, Antonio Cromartie, Markus Curry, Cletis Gordon, Steve Gregory, Anthony Mims

**S** Marlon McCree (FS), Terrence Kiel (SS), Bhawoh Jue (SS/FS), Clinton Hart (FS/SS), Hanik Milligan (FS), Andre Lott (FS), Richard Yancy

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## San Francisco 49ers

**QB:** Did Alex Smith turn the corner? It's only one preseason game, but he looks good so far. We've all been tricked by the Joey Harrington's of the world, but Smith threw for 137 yards on 16-of-21 passing with no interceptions. Smith led the 49ers to a 17-0 lead before leaving the game. "He's a grown man now," said Frank Gore, who rushed for 49 yards and a score. "I looked in his eyes last year, and his eyes were like this." Gore widened his eyes until his lids disappeared, suggesting fear and uncertainty. "Now, he's a grown man," Gore concluded. "Alex wants it. That's what I respect about him. He wants to be great."

The 49ers moved Smith around in the pocket with play action and rollouts as he led the 49ers offense down the field consistently against the Bears defense. "It was a ton of fun," said Smith. "I had so much anxious energy to go out and get something done. We worked really hard during this offseason and camp, and it's starting to show up." HC Mike Nolan liked Smith's performance, too. "He was very efficient, the tempo and pace of his play were very good, and he looked very sure of himself," Nolan said. Jesse Palmer and Shaun Hill took over after Smith departed. Hill scrambled for a 3-yard TD run in the fourth quarter while completing all four of his passes for 46 yards. Palmer went 5-of-7 for 64 yards. Trent Dilfer didn't play as he's still not 100% after arthroscopic knee surgery in February.

**RB:** The 49ers game was the latest indication that Frank Gore is taking over as the team's starting running back. Kevan Barlow had just one carry before leaving the game with a bruised thigh. Barlow also missed practice on Sunday. Gore took over and ran 10 times, mostly with the first-team, for 49 yards including a 1-yard TD run. He also caught five passes for 32 yards. Rookie Michael Robinson showed his athleticism and versatility rushing 11 times for 31 yards and catching 2 balls for 26 yards. Maurice Hicks got eight carries, ran for 27 yards, and caught a 24-yard pass. On Sunday, Hicks was held out of afternoon practice after straining his abs in the morning session.

**WR:** Free agent pickup Antonio Bryant was in sync with Alex Smith as he caught five balls for 54 yards against Chicago. Rookie Delanie Walker caught five balls, also for 54 yards, and he ran the ball once for 16 yards. Arnaz Battle caught two balls for 26 yards and Brian Gilmore had three catches for 20 yards. The team waived Derrick Hamilton on Thursday after coming to an injury settlement, and added former Florida Gator Taylor Jacobs from the Redskins via trade. Jacobs, a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick a few years ago, could contend for the WR3 role immediately and eventually push Battle for a starting job.

**TE:** Vernon Davis and Eric Johnson both got the start against the Bears, but Davis didn't catch a pass and Johnson only caught one ball for two yards. "It was a chance to finally knock the cobwebs out," said Johnson, who missed last season with a foot injury. "The foot feels fine... I'm optimistic about

the depth we're going to have at tight end this year." The 49ers will likely use plenty of two tight end sets to maximize their talent providing Davis is able to make an immediate impact and Johnson can stay healthy.

**Defense:** Jeff Ulbrich and Walt Harris both recovered fumbles in Friday's game; Ulbrich returned his 32 yards for a TD in the first quarter. CB Mike Rumph spent extra time working on his tackling of all things at Sunday's practice. He missed four tackles in the game, including one that allowed a receiver to score a touchdown. "I went out today to get better and I did get better," Rumph said. "I was the first one to go in tackling drills and I did a little extra in practice. I've just got to get back into it." Apparently his attempts fell on deaf ears as the 49ers traded Rumph to Washington in exchange for WR Taylor Jacobs. DL Jerry DeLoach is out for 2 to 3 weeks after spraining his MCL in Thursday's practice. Outside LB Andre Torrey went on IR after an MRI revealed a torn ACL in his left knee.

Rookie first-round pick OLB Manny Lawson is going against fellow first-round pick TE Vernon Davis daily in practice. The two players have a friendly rivalry going already. "He's just making me better," said Lawson, who thinks he probably won't face another tight end with Davis' physical gifts. "You fast? Vernon's fast. You strong? Vernon's strong. I've got that right here in San Francisco." David chimed in, "We've got a little friendly competition going."

**Special Teams:** In the game against Chicago, kicker Joe Nedney was good on field goals of 23 and 33 yards and added two PATs. He twisted his ankle on a kickoff and is expected to miss several days of practice. Backup punt returner Arnaz Battle is also expected to miss a few practices with a chest contusion. Backup kickoff returner RB Maurice Hicks strained his abdomen in practice. Rookie WR Brandon Williams is healthy and hopes to return both kickoffs and punts this year, "I'm confident with both of them. They're somewhat different. I think I accelerate more at punt return because of agility and quickness. Kickoff return is just a burst of speed." His numbers in the game weren't very impressive. He returned a kickoff 18 yards, and on punts had a two yard return and two fair catches. WR Otis Amey looked better on punts, averaging 13.0 yards on two returns. On kickoffs, WR Rasheed Marshall had a 19-yard return and rookie TE Delanie Walker had one for 38 yards.

**Other:** Center Jeremy Newberry will miss the season because he needs microfracture surgery in his knee. HC Mike Nolan said he would be placed on the Injured Reserve list. C David Baas will take over as the starting center. With Newberry's injury aside, the 49ers are quite happy with the progress they've made during the offseason regarding the line's play. "We have good personnel up front," LT Jonas Jennings said. Having newcomer LG Larry Allen next to Jennings will go along way towards shoring up the left side. "In the first game, it's something to build on. You see what you did well and build on that." Mike Nolan expects better production as well. "Our line is vastly improved. I like the direction we're going," said Nolan.

## 49ers Depth Chart

**QB** Alex Smith, Trent Dilfer, Jesse Palmer, Shaun Hill  
**RB** Frank Gore, Kevan Barlow (inj), Maurice Hicks, Michael Robinson (QB/WR), Zak Keasey  
**FB** Chris Hetherington, Moran Norris  
**WR** Antonio Bryant, Arnaz Battle (inj), Bryan Gilmore, Brandon Williams, Delanie Walker, Taylor Jacobs, Rasheed Marshall, Jason McAddley, Otis Amey (PR), Marcus Maxwell, C.J. Brewer  
**TE** Vernon Davis, Eric Johnson, Billy Bajema, Terry Jones, Onye Ibekwe  
**K** Joe Nedney, Andrew Jacas, Luis Berlanga  
**DE** Bryant Young, Marques Douglas, Jerry DeLoach, Melvin Oliver, Lance Legree  
**NT** Anthony Adams, Isaac Sapoga, Ronald Fields, Bobby Payne  
**ILB** Derek Smith, Jeff Ulbrich, Brandon Moore, Renauld Williams, Zak Keasey  
**OLB** Manny Lawson, Corey Smith (S), Parys Haralson (DE), T.J. Slaughter, James Maxwell, Bobby Iwuchukwu, Andre Torrey (IR)  
**CB** Shawntae Spencer (inj), Walt Harris, Derrick Johnson, Sammy Davis, B.J. Tucker  
**S** Tony Parrish (SS) (inj), Mike Adams (FS), Mark Roman (FS), Keith Lewis (FS), Chad Williams (FS), Marcus Hudson (FS), Vickiel Vaughn (FS)

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## Seattle Seahawks

**QB:** Seneca Wallace played the bulk of the game on Saturday night against Dallas going 11-of-17 for 117 yards while being sacked four times. Starter Matt Hasselbeck worked briefly going 4-of-6 for 43 yards. David Greene finished off the game completing 7-of-11 for 53 yards and a lost fumble. For Seneca Wallace, his goal this year is to prove to his doubters that he can be an efficient pocket passer. "That's the thing now, just trying to be poised in the pocket and make plays with my arm," Wallace said. "Everybody knows I'm capable of scrambling and making plays that way." Quarterbacks coach Jim Zorn agreed. "Seneca is determined, with the work he did in the offseason and up to this first game, to make a difference when he gets on the field," said Zorn. "He is really paying attention to detail. He's been up for every practice. The thing that can distinguish a good quarterback versus just an average guy is one that will be able to concentrate for a long period of time. Seneca has done a nice job of that."

**RB:** Shaun Alexander got a little work Saturday running six times for 13 yards before leaving early in the second quarter. Maurice Morris ran 10 times for 25 yards while fellow backups Leonard Weaver and Marquis Weeks each had one carry for three yards. Rookie fullback David Kirtman caught three balls for 21 yards while running once for 3 yards. Weaver is a dynamic player that the team really likes. He can play fullback, a little tailback and catch the ball well earning him an opportunity to vie for a possible third down role to supplant Alexander at times. However, if he's to earn any significant role he'll need to continue working on his blocking to eventually replace All-Pro FB Mack Strong. That part of his

game remains a work in progress. "Any time you're a fullback, the first thing you always want to improve on is blocking -- making sure the guys behind you can run the ball and making sure the quarterback is protected," he said. "I could have done a better job tonight."

**WR:** Seattle native Nate Burleson started in front of the home crowd for the first time as a Seahawk. He and Hasselbeck nearly produced a couple of big plays, but Burleson wasn't able to control a 38-yard pass along the sideline that would've put the team on the Cowboys 10-yard line. "It was a great ball by Matt," said Burleson, "I actually came to the sideline and told him, 'There was no way I should have let that one go.' Hopefully, he'll have faith in me to come back and throw that ball to me again." Later, on third-and-2 from the Dallas 22, Hasselbeck was rolling to his right and motioning for Burleson to break outside in the end zone, but Burleson broke inside. "He pointed one way, I thought he pointed the other," said Burleson, whose view of Hasselbeck was obscured by the defender. "We just kind of got mixed up. We'll get back to camp and get it down. It's all about getting to know each other and trial by error."

Maurice Mann led the receivers with four receptions for 49 yards as he worked with the 1st and 2nd team on offense as the No. 3 receiver. His four catches produced three first downs, helping his chances of making the final roster. Peter Warrick produced 41 yards on three catches. C.J. Jones, trying to earn a roster spot, caught 3 balls for 21 yards. Bobby Engram caught one ball for 9 yards. Receivers Darrell Jackson (knee), D.J. Hackett (hamstring), Skyler Fulton (shoulder) and Keenan Howry (hamstring) did not play Saturday.

**TE:** In Saturday's game, Itula Mili hauled in one pass for 21 yards while Matt Murphy caught 2 balls for 23 yards. Will Heller had one catch for 9 yards. Starter Jerramy Stevens practiced for the first time since April on Wednesday, roughly four months following surgery on his left knee. The Seahawks waived TE Mike Gomez on Thursday after acquiring guard Jason Murphy off waivers from San Diego.

**Defense:** Saturday's game against Dallas included safety Ken Hamlin's first hitting since he fractured his skull last October. He came in late on a pass intended for Cowboys rookie TE Anthony Fasano and pushed his hands and head at the rookie's face. "I'm all right," Hamlin said. "I was fooling around, having fun. This was just a tease for the regular season." On one play Julian Peterson, the Seahawks' top free-agent acquisition during the offseason, had Cowboys RB Julius Jones wrapped up for no gain on a pass over the middle, or so it seemed. Peterson whiffed and Jones ran for 10 yards. "I left my feet too early," Peterson said. "If I could rewind the hands of time I would have just kept running through and made a better tackle than I did. My technique was bad. That's what the preseason is for, to work off the rust."

DE Chris Cooper led all tacklers with six while safety Mike Green and rookie corner Kelly Jennings chipped in with five solo tackles apiece. Green has been playing with the starters as Michael Boulware continues his comeback from offseason knee surgery. New addition Oliver Celestin had four tackles

and forced a fumble. Several players did not play Saturday including SS Michael Boulware (knee), CB Jimmy Williams (ankle), LB Isaiah Kacyvenski (quad), DE Joe Tafoya (shoulder), DT Marcus Tubbs (Achilles), DE Grant Wistrom (shoulder) and DT Rocky Bernard (knee).

**Special Teams:** In the game against Dallas, kicker Josh Brown made a 40-yard field goal, but was short on a 55-yard attempt. He's now the only kicker in camp, since Ryan Killeen was released last week. Killeen is now implementing his contingency plan, "Just constantly stay fresh. Kick three times a week, run as much as I can, and that way if I get a call from another team, then I'm ready to go." He was waived to make a roster spot for rookie WR Justin Surrency, who saw action in the game. He didn't fare very well on punt returns, averaging only 2.5 yards on two returns, and fair catching another. Starting punt returner Peter Warrick looked better, averaging 8.0 yard on his two returns. Several players got a look on kickoff returns in the game. RB Marquis Weeks averaged 21.0 yards on two returns. FB Leonard Weaver and WR C.J. Jones each had a 23-yard kickoff return. RB Josh Scobey remains atop the kickoff returner depth chart. Two potential backups on returns did not play in the game: WR Keenan Howry and CB Jimmy Williams.

## Seahawks Depth Chart

**QB** Matt Hasselbeck, Seneca Wallace, David Greene, Gibran Hamdan, Travis Lulay

**RB** Shaun Alexander, Maurice Morris, Marquis Weeks, Josh Scobey

**FB** Mack Strong, Leonard Weaver, David Kirtman

**WR** Darrell Jackson (inj), Nate Burleson, Bobby Engram, Peter Warrick, D.J. Hackett (inj), Ben Obomanu, Keenan Howry, Tony Brown, Maurice Mann, C.J. Jones

**TE** Jerramy Stevens (inj), Itula Mili, Will Heller, Caleen Powell, Matt Murphy

**K** Josh Brown

**DE** Grant Wistrom, Bryce Fisher, Darryl Tapp, Joe Tafoya, Ronald Flemons, Kemp Rasmussen, Chris Cooper, John Syptak

**DT** Marcus Tubbs, Chartric Darby, Rocky Bernard, Craig Terrill, Russell Davis, Ron Smith

**MLB** Lofa Tatupu, Niko Koutouvides

**OLB** Leroy Hill (W), Julian Peterson (S), Kevin Bentley (W), D.D. Lewis (S/W), Isaiah Kacyvenski (S), Cornelius Wortham, Lance Laury, Evan Benjamin

**CB** Marcus Trufant, Kelly Herndon, Kelly Jennings, Jordan Babineaux, Jimmy Williams, Kevin Hobbs, Gerard Ross

**S** Michael Boulware (SS), Ken Hamlin (FS), Oliver Celestin, Mike Green (FS)

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## Tampa Bay Buccaneers

**QB:** Chris Simms started for the Bucs on Friday night against the NY Jets. He played just one series completing 2-of-3 passes for 8 yards before giving way to Tim Rattay, who directed a field goal drive. "Of course we had some mistakes, but you expect that in the first preseason game," said Simms.

“We did some things well, too. It is a good building block.” Nearly all of the Bucs starters were out of the game by the second series.

Rookie Bruce Gradkowski, a sixth-round pick, played most of the second half and threw touchdown passes of 11 yards to Paris Warren and 2 yards to third-round draft pick Maurice Stovall. The rookie QB threw up before he threw his first pass, but he went on to complete 11-of-13 passes for 104 yards against the Jet's reserves. “The nerves were running a little bit, but I was mostly excited, anxious,” Gradkowski said. “I hate sitting around waiting. Simms was giving me a hard time, but I used to do it in college. Every time I did it, I knew it was going to be good.” If Gradkowski continues to shine as he has throughout training camp, Tim Rattay could be squeezed from the roster. The Bucs would potentially keep Simms, Gradkowski and either Rattay or Jay Fiedler.

**RB:** Cadillac Williams did not play in Friday's game, but the Bucs running game looked good overall. They rushed for 167 yards, with Earnest Graham gaining 69 yards on 17 carries and Carey Davis gaining 67 yards on 14 attempts – along with 2 catches for 12 yards. Graham also produced 37 yards on two catches including one that went for 26 yards. Michael Pittman lost a fumble on the Bucs 42-yard line on one drive. The play was first ruled down by contact, but was later over-ruled by replay. Fortunately, the Bucs retained possession because the refs couldn't determine who recovered the football. Pittman ended up with 14 yards on six carries, and two catches for 8 yards. Mike Alstott ran once for 8 yards. FB Jerald Sowell caught a pass for 17 yards.

**WR:** Paris Warren and Maurice Stovall took center stage for the Bucs receivers. Each had a TD catch in the second half. Joey Galloway did not play against the Jets on Friday. Warren finished with 22 yards on two catches; Stovall had 21 yards on three catches. The 6-foot-5 Stovall is an intriguing player for the Bucs once they get into the red zone. He was a touchdown machine at Notre Dame. “Our players are impressed,” coach Jon Gruden said. “If you just go in the locker room and (ask) who caught their attention, I think they'd say No. 85.” On Stovall's touchdown, he snatched the ball out of the air by reaching up and over cornerback Rayshaun Reed producing one of the night's highlights. Stovall also set up the touchdown with a 12-yard reception that advanced the ball to the New York 6-yard line, shaking a defender along the way. “Maurice is a monster out there,” said Gradkowski, who threw the touchdown to Stovall. “He's like a big giraffe. That guy, he blocks, he catches, he runs. He's going to do whatever you ask of him and has a great attitude while doing it.”

In addition to being a red zone threat, Stovall is proving to be a tenacious blocker using his 6-foot-5, 220-pound frame to his advantage. “I just think it's something that you have to want to do,” said Stovall. “You can be coached to do it, but if you don't really want to go out and block somebody and bump heads with the safety or corner, it won't happen.” Gruden also loves Stovall's size, saying, “He's 6-5. I stand on the sideline next to him I feel like I'm standing next to (defensive end) Simeon Rice.” With Stovall, Galloway, Michael Clayton and TE Alex Smith, the Bucs suddenly have a wealth of red zone

weapons for Chris Simms. Veteran Edell Shepherd, trying to make the roster, caught one pass for 15 yards.

**TE:** The tight ends were quiet in the first preseason game, but Tim Massaquoi, a rookie out of Michigan, caught one pass for 6 yards. Anthony Becht knows his role very well. “In my mind, I believe I'm one of the best blockers -- if not the best -- in the NFL at my position,” said Becht. “Whether that speaks to my abilities, I don't know. But it definitely means something to me.” Gruden added, “Conventional tight ends can be prototypes, too. That's what Becht is for us.” The Bucs signed free agent TE Leonard Stephens last Wednesday, waiving WR Terrence Stubbs.

**Defense:** The Bucs pulled their first-team defense after Chad Pennington kept them on the field for a few more plays than the coaches would have liked in the first quarter. “We didn't give up any points,” Derrick Brooks said. “But obviously we would like to get off the field a little sooner.” Juran Bolden led the team with 6 combined tackles while Torrie Cox and Jamie Winborn each had four solos. Safeties Steve Cargile and Calvin Pearson each had a sack. Pearson's sack was a key play that came as the Jets were third-and-goal from the Bucs 5. He also forced a fumble on the play. Cornerback Brian Kelly was missing on defense after being excused to attend to a personal matter.

**Special Teams:** Kicker Matt Bryant was successful from 25 yards on his only field goal attempt in the game against the NY Jets. Kicker Xavier Beitia continues to have an excellent camp, although he committed the ultimate kicker no-no towards the end of the Jets game. His PAT attempt failed after hitting the upright. Neither starting kickoff returner RB Michael Pittman, nor anyone, had a kickoff return in the game, as the Jets only kickoff went for a touchback. Starting punt returner WR Mark Jones return work in the game was limited to a fair catch. Rookie CB Justin Phinisee had a nine yard punt return. A potential backup kickoff returner, CB Torrie Cox left the game with an ankle injury and did not return.

## Buccaneers Depth Chart

**QB** Chris Simms, Jay Fiedler (inj), Bruce Gradkowski, Tim Rattay, Luke McCown (inj), Jared Allen

**RB** Cadillac Williams, Michael Pittman (3RB), Earnest Graham, Derek Watson

**FB** Mike Alstott, Jerald Sowell, Rick Razzano, Robert Douglas

**WR** Joey Galloway, Michael Clayton, Ike Hilliard, David Boston, Maurice Stovall, Mark Jones (KR), Edell Shepherd, J.R. Russell, Paris Warren, Chas Gessner, Ben Nelson

**TE** Anthony Becht, Alex Smith, Dave Moore, Tim Massaquoi, T.J. Williams (IR)

**K** Matt Bryant

**DE** Simeon Rice, Greg Spires, Dewayne White (DT), Julian Jenkins

**DT** Anthony McFarland, Chris Hovan (NT), Ellis Wymys, Jon Bradley, Anthony Bryant, Kevin Lewis

**MLB** Shelton Quarles, Barrett Ruud

**OLB** Derrick Brooks (W), Ryan Nece (S), Jamie Winborn (S), Marquis Cooper (S), Wesly Mallard (W), Jermaine Taylor (W), Charles Bennett, Anthony Trucks

**CB** Ronde Barber, Brian Kelly, Juran Bolden, Torrie Cox, Alan Zemaitas, Justin Phinisee, Dwight Ellick  
**S** Jermaine Phillips (SS), Will Allen (FS) (inj), Donte Nicholson (SS), Kalvin Pearson (SS), Steve Cargile (SS), Eli Ward (FS), Blue Adams

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## Tennessee Titans

**QB:** Billy Volek made his first start as the Titans quarterback since the departure of Steve McNair. He played into the second quarter before leaving the game with a 10-6 lead. He finished 4-of-7 for 55 yards. Of course, the team's future is Vincent Young. Young showed flashes of his strong arm on Saturday when he threw a 50-yard pass to Roydell Williams, who could not hold on to the ball. Young finished 4-of-11 for 56 yards, adding 28 yards on the ground on four carries. On two occasions, Young didn't get rid of the football as he took a pair of sacks. On the second sack, Young was yanked from behind by Saints DL Javon Norton and he stayed on the ground before walking gingerly to the bench. He did not return to the game, but the injury is not serious. Young says he is fine. Third-stringer Matt Mauck played briefly completing his only thrown pass for three yards.

**RB:** Despite the rumors emanating from Chris Brown's agent, who has threatened a walkout without a trade or extension, Brown carried nine times for 47 yards. He looked in mid-season form as he rambled up the middle of the field for 21 yards on one nice run. Travis Henry got plenty of action as he gained 23 yards on 10 carries. He scored on a 1-yard run, but it wasn't enough since the Titans defense couldn't stop the Saints in the second half. Jarrett Payton carried the ball six times for 20 yards and rookie Quinton Gaither chipped in 6 yards on three carries.

LenDale White didn't dress after being suspended for the game following a practice brawl on Thursday, but HC Jeff Fisher indicated that White will return to work Monday. "I respect coach Fisher's decision for not playing me tonight. I don't like it just because I like competing... I understand what's going on," White said after the game. He was involved in a fight with safety Donnie Nickey, when he reportedly spit in Nickey's face after some bumping between the two. "Donnie understands, and LenDale understands he crossed the line. You just don't do that. It will not happen again. I assure you it will not happen again," HC Fisher told the media.

**WR:** Bobby Wade led the Titans receivers with two receptions for 20 yards. Courtney Roby, Roydell Williams, Drew Bennett and O.J. Small each had one catch. Tyrone Calico didn't play as he remains sidelined with a hamstring problem. David Givens was slowed throughout last week with a tight groin.

**TE:** Ben Troupe worked briefly in Saturday's game catching a 26-yard pass while backup Jamie Petrowski also caught one pass for 14 yards. Erron Kinney (knee), Bo Scaife (quad) and Greg Guenther (hip flexor) remain sidelined with injuries.

Kinney says he's improving, but it's a slow process. "I'm not sure if I will play any preseason games," Kinney said. "I would probably guess no. It probably won't take me long to knock the dust off."

**Defense:** The Titans defense got two interceptions in Saturday's game off Saints backup QB Jamie Martin – one by Andre Woolfolk and the other by Vincent Fuller. Travis LaBoy beat Jammal Brown to the edge to record a sack, as well. Reynaldo Hill, Woolfolk and free agent pickup Chris Hope paced the Titans with four solo tackles apiece. Rookie DT Jesse Mahelona, who the team is counting on more heavily with Rien Long out for the season, contributed three tackles and an assist. Pacman Jones had three tackles, but was flagged for a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after getting into Reggie Bush's grill following a short pass play along the sideline. LB Rob Reynolds sat out of the game with a chest contusion. DT Randy Starks missed the game after he turned himself in 90 minutes before the game following a charge that he assaulted his fiancée.

**Special Teams:** Rob Bironas is still the only kicker on the Titans roster, despite the coaches' threat of bringing in competition. Bironas noted, "I'm kicking the ball well right now. I've got good leg strength going this year and I had a little rest in the offseason, so things are going well. It would be nice to have someone in here to take some reps. If they're going to bring somebody in, then that's the decision they'll make." In the game against New Orleans, he was good on field goals from 28, 38, and 48 yards. He was short on a 56-yard attempt at the end of the half after a bad snap from Ken Amato. Heading into camp, the plan was for CB Adam "Pacman" Jones to handle kickoff returns and WR Bobby Wade to handle punt returns. That has now been switched around, and both are happy about the change. HC Jeff Fisher is also happy, "We have returners. I haven't been able to say that for a number of years. We have three guys that can do it, probably more than that. So, I am encouraged. He [Jones] really likes the punt return game. Bobby really looks forward to kickoff returns. I think we have a good thing going." Wade averaged 28.7 yards on three kickoff returns in the game. Jones officially had only one yard on his lone punt return, after a penalty negated the actual 26 yard return. The third player to which Fisher referred is WR Courtney Roby, who averaged 26.3 yards on three kickoff returns in the game. He'll serve as a backup to Jones and Wade.

### Titans Depth Chart

**QB** Billy Volek, Vince Young, Matt Mauck, Cody Hodges

**RB** Chris Brown, LenDale White (inj), Travis Henry, Jarrett Payton

**FB** Troy Fleming (inj), Ahmard Hall, Quinton Ganther

**WR** Drew Bennett, David Givens, Bobby Wade, Tyrone Calico (inj), Courtney Roby, Brandon Jones, Roydell Williams, Jonathan Orr (inj), Sloan Thomas, Jason Anderson, O.J. Small, Tramain Hall

**TE** Ben Troupe, Erron Kinney (inj), Bo Scaife (inj), Greg Guenther (inj), Jamie Petrowski, Ben Hall

**K** Rob Bironas

**DE** Kyle Vanden Bosch, Travis LaBoy, Antwan Odom, Bo Schobel, Copeland Bryan, Sean Conover, Tim Thompson

**DT** Albert Haynesworth, Randy Starks, Jesse Mahelona, Jared Clauss, Daleroy Stewart, Marcus White, Wayne Dickens, Jeff Littlejohn, Chris Herring, Rien Long (inj)  
**MLB** Peter Sirmon (M/S), Stephen Tulloch  
**OLB** Keith Bulluck (W), David Thornton (S), Cody Spencer (W), Robert Reynolds (S/M), Jared Newberry (S), Marcus Randall, Terna Nande, Spencer Toone  
**CB** Pacman Jones, Reynaldo Hill, Andre Woolfolk, Rich Gardner, Michael Waddell (inj), Cedric Holt  
**S** Chris Hope (SS), Lamont Thompson (FS), Vincent Fuller (FS), Donnie Nicky (SS), Calvin Lowry (SS), Cortland Finnegan (FS)

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## Washington Redskins

**QB:** Al Saunders' vaunted passing offense stumbled out of the gate against the Bengals, as all three quarterbacks played poorly. Mark Brunell started the game and went 4-for-9 for 66 yards with no TDs but one INT. Both backups, Todd Collins and Jason Campbell, also threw interceptions but failed to find the end zone. Todd Collins is a journeyman, but he could play an important role this year if Mark Brunell gets hurt. Collins apprenticed behind Trent Green in KC and was hand-picked by OC Al Saunders to come to D.C. with him; as Collins knows the ins and outs of Saunders system.

**RB:** Clinton Portis is the new torchbearer for an abbreviated preseason schedule. On his first carry of Saturday's game against the Bengals, he suffered a shoulder injury and left the game. It was later diagnosed as a shoulder dislocation and he's not expected to play or practice for the remainder of training camp. Whether he'll be available for Week One remains in question, although he and team official are hopeful. The injury news didn't end there, as backup Kerry Carter suffered a season-ending knee injury in the game. The Redskins will have to count more on Ladell Betts and Rock Cartwright, and it appears the coaching staff is OK with that. "With RB Ladell Betts and RB Rock Cartwright, and the way things are set up, we can definitely have success with them," running backs coach Earnest Byner said. Because when RB Clinton Portis does return, it's unlikely he will stay 100 percent for long. And Byner said discussions already are under way to create ways to limit Portis' punishment. "That's one of the aspects we have to consider," Byner said. "We have to look at the other guys stepping in even more so and possibly taking some of the pounding off him." There has been preliminary discussion about signing Betts to an extension, don't discount his opportunity as the work horse if Portis is sidelined.

**WR:** Something had to give as the Redskins were too deep at the position to reasonably keep all the able-bodied receivers past final cut downs. This week the Redskins helped alleviate the bottleneck by trading former 2<sup>nd</sup> rounder Taylor Jacobs to the 49ers in exchange for defensive back Mike Rumph. The team's top three receivers are set with Santana Moss, Brandon Lloyd and Antwaan Randle El. Two veterans, James Thrash and David Patten are the likely 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> receivers, but youngster Mike Espy is making the coaches think twice. For

the second consecutive preseason game, Espy led the way with 4 catches and 56 yards.

**TE:** Chris Cooley played sparingly against Cincinnati, catching one pass for 4 yards. But it was Cooley's off-the-field revelation which made headlines this week. Cooley is a fantasy football player, and an unlucky one at that. In a recent interview Cooley admitted losing his fantasy league thanks to himself. As Chris Cooley was helping the Redskins beat Dallas in Week 15 with 3 TD receptions, he was costing himself as his opponent that week owned and started Cooley as his fantasy tight end. Will wonders never cease?

**Defense:** The Bengals first team offense couldn't muster anything against the Redskins 1<sup>st</sup> team defense. In 10 plays where the 1s faced the 1s, the Bengals has negative 19 yards. Unfortunately the 1<sup>st</sup> team defense suffered a major blow, as CB Shawn Springs had surgery on an abdominal tear and is now questionable for the start of the season. Veteran Kenny Wright will get first crack at replacing him. To add depth, the Redskins acquired CB/S Mike Rumph from the 49ers in exchange for WR Taylor Jacobs. The Redskins may not be done adding bodies to the secondary; according to several reports. At linebacker, Chris Clemons hurt his knee against the Bengals and was given an injury settlement and his release. The team added Jeff Posey as a replacement.

**Special Teams:** Kicker John Hall was on the field only once during the game at Cincinnati. He made a 38-yard field goal. Kicker Tyler Jones didn't significantly help himself to secure a kickoff specialist role. His two kickoffs went 60 and 69 yards. The teams' top returners did not see any return work in the game. RB Ladell Betts did not play at all with a minor injury, and WR Antwaan Randle El didn't handle any punts. WR Ataveus Cash saw the most work on returns. He returned a kickoff 26 yards along with two kneel downs for touchbacks, and averaged 6.0 yards on three punts returns plus had a fair catch. RB Rock Cartwright handled the backup returner role for the game, with a 21-yard kickoff return and a fair catch on a punt.

## Redskins Depth Chart

**QB** Mark Brunell, Jason Campbell, Todd Collins

**RB** Clinton Portis (inj), Ladell Betts (3RB), Rock Cartwright, Nehemiah Broughton (FB), Jesse Lumsden, Joe Rubin, A.J. Harris

**FB** Mike Sellers, Manuel White

**WR** Santana Moss (PR), Brandon Lloyd, Antwaan Randle El (KR/PR), David Patten, Jimmy Farris, Andrae Thurman, Mike Espy, Richard Smith

**TE** Chris Cooley, Christian Fauria, Robert Johnson, Jared Hicks, Buck Ortega, Dustin Denning, Brandon Sebald

**K** John Hall, Tyler Jones

**DE** Philip Daniels (inj), Andre Carter, Renaldo Wynn, Demetric Evans, Manaia Brown

**DT** Cornelius Griffin, Joe Salave'a, Cedric Killings, Ryan Boschetti, Anthony Montgomery, Kedric Golston, Chris Mineo

**MLB** Lemar Marshall (S/W), Robert McCune (S/M)

**OLB** Marcus Washington (S), Warrick Holdman (W), Rocky McIntosh (W) (inj), Jeff Posey (S), Khary Campbell

(S/M), Kevin Simon, Spencer Havner (S)

**CB** Shawn Springs (inj), Carlos Rogers, Kenny Wright, Mike Rumph (inj), Ade Jimoh, Dmitri Patterson, Christian Morton, Julian Battle

**S** Sean Taylor (FS), Adam Archuleta (SS), Pierson Prioleau (SS), Antuan Edwards (SS), Curry Burns (FS), Reed Doughty (SS), Bobby Godinez