

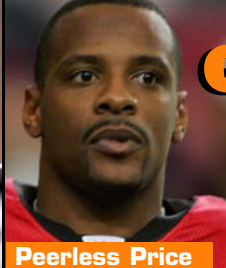
September 5, 2005

UPDATED

- Camp Developments
- Projected Starters
- Fantasy Values



Terrell Owens



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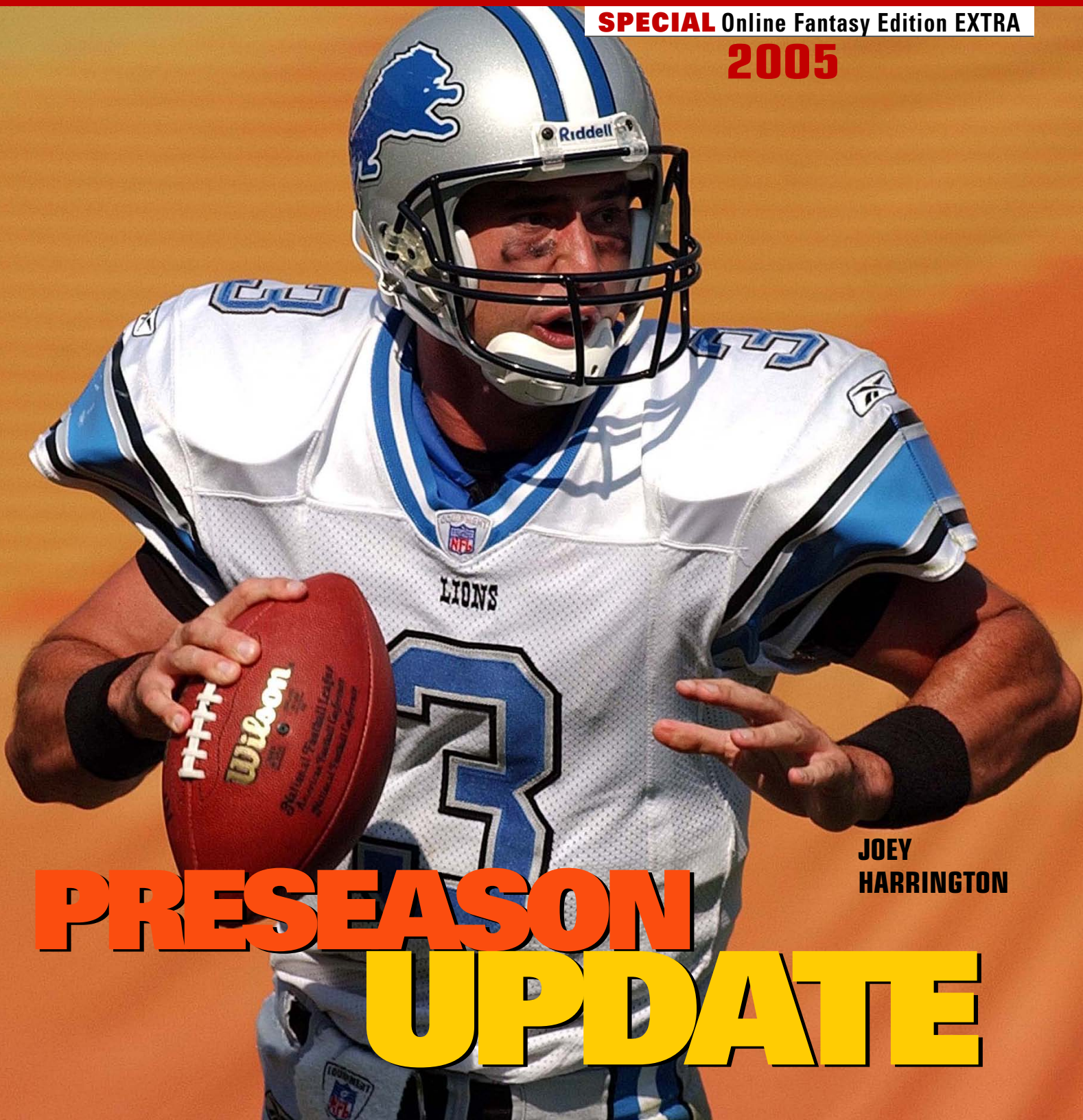
Kyle Orton

**THE
SPORTS**

FORECASTER™

SPECIAL Online Fantasy Edition EXTRA

2005



**JOEY
HARRINGTON**

PRESEASON UPDATE

ARIZONA CARDINALS

NFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Kurt Warner	73	LE	Chike Okeafor	76
RB	J.J. Arrington	61	LT	Darnell Dockett	-
FB	James Hodgins	-	RT	Russell Davis	-
WR	Anquan Boldin	86	RE	Bertrand Berry	77
WR	Larry Fitzgerald	86	SLB	Orlando Huff	-
TE	Eric Edwards	70	MLB	Gerald Hayes	-
LT	Leonard Davis	-	WLB	Karlos Dansby	67
LG	Reggie Wells	-	LCB	Antrel Rolle	61
C	Alex Stepanovich	-	RCB	David Macklin	69
RG	Elton Brown	-	FS	Robert Griffith	-
RT	Oliver Ross	-	SS	Adrian Wilson	89

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Neil Rackers	76	KR	Bryant Johnson	-
P	Scott Player	81	PR	J.J. Moses	-

KEY NOTES

The shaky play by the offensive line is the team's only major concern, and their inability to protect Warner had the veteran having to run around more than he'd like. That could affect the production of young receivers Anquan Boldin, Larry Fitzgerald, and Bryant Johnson... Cornerback David Macklin has struggled in camp and that might be a problem for an improving defense... Even though the RB situation hasn't been fully sorted out, the team did release veterans Troy Hambrick and Josh Scobey early on...

Yes Kurt Warner, there is a Santa Claus. His name is Dennis Green, and he just gave you your career back. It's hard not to root for Warner, the ultimate underdog good guy success story who has been given little respect the past two seasons after his MVP glory. But Green has handed the Arizona offense over to the deep-throwing QB in the warm Arizona climes and told him to air it out to a trio of the NFL's finest young receivers. The only problem is, the weak Arizona O-line could keep Warner's revival from reaching its full potential. Whatever the case the Cards will be much improved and should make a push for the playoffs.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

That Kurt Warner is definitely the full-time quarterback. The Josh McCown experiment from last season is officially over, and Warner once again has a full-time job without worry of losing it (for the first time in three years). Warner didn't exactly turn back the clock in camp, but he was solid and his only problems came from lack of protection from the Arizona front five.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who will carry the ball for the Cardinals. J.J. Arrington was named the starter early by head coach Dennis Green, but he was outplayed by Marcel Shipp in exhibitions and Shipp has proven he's healthy and hungry. This wasn't supposed to be a point of controversy heading into the season but don't be surprised if Shipp is the main man after a few weeks of play.

CAMP STAR

Antrel Rolle. The rookie cornerback helps address a team need and has stepped up to the challenge, proving he'll be able to handle being a starter right away.

ATLANTA FALCONS

NFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Michael Vick	77	LE	Patrick Kerney	91
RB	Warrick Dunn	74	LT	Rod Coleman	73
FB	Justin Griffith	-	RT	Chad Lavalais	-
WR	Michael Jenkins	56	RE	Brady Smith	-
WR	Dez White	49	SLB	Demorrio Williams	-
TE	Alge Crumpler	84	MLB	Ed Hartwell	-
LT	Kevin Shaffer	-	WLB	Keith Brooking	76
LG	Matt Lehr	-	LCB	DeAngelo Hall	63
C	Todd McClure	-	RCB	Jason Webster	-
RG	Kynan Forney	-	FS	Keion Carpenter	-
RT	Todd Weiner	-	SS	Bryan Scott	98

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Todd Peterson	73	KR	Allen Rossum	-
P	Michael Koenen	-	PR	Allen Rossum	-

KEY NOTES

Despite the lack of a step-up receiver in camp, the Falcons have said they want to throw more and that means Vick must learn to pick his spots better in the offense. But in exhibition play he didn't show he's ready to rely more on his arm... Defensive end Brady Smith is still coming back from a neck injury, but the team hopes he can be back to full speed early in the season... Rookie pass rusher Chauncey Davis has been a nice addition to the improving and formidable defense...

Is it time to stop believing the hype about Michael Vick? Not exactly. But if training camp made something clear, it's that the world is beginning to realize Vick needs to work on his throwing. Usually that's the worst thing one can say about a quarterback, but Vick is such a special athlete--with such great wheels--that he can get away without passing much. Still, as long as he's pretending he's a running back on an option play, the contributions of the rest of Atlanta's talented players--including Warrick Dunn and receivers Michael Jenkins and Roddy White--will continue to diminish.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The backfield pecking order. Warrick Dunn has re-established his No. 1 role again with T.J. Duckett shifting into a more traditional blocking role. Dunn has been bothered by aches and pains but should be ready to go once the season starts and follow up on last year's excellent season.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The wide receiver rotation. Now that Peerless Price has finally been released by the team it's even less clear who will step up and catch Michael Vick's occasional passes. Rookie Roddy White was expected to be a regular target but hasn't emerged, while Michael Jenkins, Dez White, and Brian Finneran are all still around. Expect tight end Alge Crumpler to see even more passes than ever, and Vick to likely return to his run-first ways.

CAMP STAR

Michael Jenkins. As the best of a bad bunch of receivers, sophomore Jenkins looks to make the biggest step up after a solid camp and the knowledge he'll likely start the season as the No. 2 receiver behind Dez White.

BALTIMORE RAVENS

AFC NORTH



Everybody talks about the big, bad D. Which can only mean that all eyes were on Kyle Boller and the offense during camp, waiting to see if the Ravens can catch up offensively and become an elite team this year. The jury is still very much out, but the early rumblings are that it will take awhile for Boller and his new receivers to click.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The Peter Boulware situation. The veteran linebacker was finally brought back after being released by the team, mostly because rookie Dan Cody was knocked out for the season following blowing out his knee on the first day of camp. Boulware had considered playing for other teams, but the four-time Pro Bowler will return to help shore up the Ravens' new 4-3 defense. Also, Matt Stover held off kickoff specialist Wade Richey, who was released late in training camp.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether quarterback Kyle Boller is ready to step up and lead an improved offense. He only managed to lead the offense to double-figures (14 points against the Eagles) once in the first three pre-season games. This, despite the fact having better receivers in Derrick Mason and rookie Mark Clayton. Boller has taken responsibility for the slow start, but the offense looks like it may once again be a concern heading into 2005.

CAMP STAR

Chester Taylor. The reserve running back was the only bright spot on offense for the Ravens and showed that, even if Jamal Lewis gets off to a slow start Baltimore will have a solid running game. Taylor was signed to a relatively fat contract in the off-season and may find himself carrying the offense early on in the season.

projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Kyle Boller	72	LE	Anthony Weaver	-
RB	Jamal Lewis	84	LT	Kelly Gregg	-
FB	Alan Ricard	-	RT	Dwan Edwards	-
WR	Derrick Mason	83	RE	Terrell Suggs	60
WR	Clarence Moore	59	SLB	Tommy Polley	-
TE	Todd Heap	79	MLB	Ray Lewis	89
LT	Jonathan Ogden	-	WLB	Adalius Thomas	-
LG	Edwin Mulitalo	-	LCB	Chris McAlister	-
C	Mike Flynn	-	RCB	Samari Rolle	46
RG	Keydrick Vincent	-	FS	Will Demps	-
RT	Orlando Brown	-	SS	Ed Reed	83

special teams		Fantasy Value	special teams		Fantasy Value
K	Matt Stover	88	KR	B.J. Sams	-
P	Dave Zastudil	79	PR	B.J. Sams	-

KEY NOTES

Top running back Jamal Lewis was back with the team after spending the summer in jail on drug charges, but barely played in pre-season due a problem with his surgically-repaired ankle. Taylor, will likely see lots of action this season helping out in the backfield, especially since fellow reserve Musa Smith broke his leg in an exhibition game against the Cowboys...Clarence Moore looks like he'll start the season alongside Mason, probably as flanker. Clayton will likely begin as third receiver for the Ravens...

BUFFALO BILLS

AFC EAST



It doesn't seem fair to put so much pressure on a quarterback who has never started an NFL regular-season game. But that's what Buffalo's doing with J.P. Losman, who hopes to jump-start the Bills' offense and help the team avoid last year's 1-5 start. The defense looks better than ever and will keep the Bills in every game, but whether the 24-year-old Losman can get the most out of emerging stars Willis McGahee and Lee Evans--and whether head coach Mike Mularkey can get the most out of Losman--is the burning question in Buffalo.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense, which looks better than ever. They didn't have many spaces up for grabs but so far the entire unit looks to be in almost mid-season form. Over their first three exhibition contests the Buffalo D has yielded just 11.0 points per contest. That includes shutting down high-powered offenses from Indy and Green Bay.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether young QB Losman can handle the full-time duties at quarterback yet. He wasn't terrible over the team's first three exhibition games, but the still-green J.P. wasn't good either. Meanwhile back-up Kelly Holcomb outplayed him with solid decisions and a much better completion rate. The Bills seem committed to Losman for now but don't be surprised if Holcomb takes over a few weeks into the season, especially if they get off to another rough start.

CAMP EYE-OPENER

Star running back Willis McGahee has had a sub-par exhibition season, getting worse every game. It's only training camp and he has complained of a sore right leg, but McGahee has certainly looked average in his time on the field so far. Meanwhile 2005 seventh-

projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	J.P. Losman	56	LE	Chris Kelsay	-
RB	Willis McGahee	88	LT	Sam Adams	-
FB	Daimon Shelton	-	RT	Ron Edwards	-
WR	Eric Moulds	67	RE	Aaron Schobel	80
WR	Lee Evans	88	SLB	Jeff Posey	-
TE	Mark Campbell	72	MLB	London Fletcher	94
LT	Mike Gandy	-	WLB	Takeo Spikes	81
LG	Bennie Anderson	-	LCB	Terrence McGee	-
C	Trey Teague	-	RCB	Nate Clements	83
RG	Chris Villarrial	-	FS	Troy Vincent	-
RT	Mike D. Williams	-	SS	Lawyer Milloy	71

special teams		Fantasy Value	special teams		Fantasy Value
K	Rian Lindell	78	KR	Terrence McGee	-
P	Brian Moorman	83	PR	Nate Clements	-

round draft choice Lionel Gates was solid and should join second-year running back Shaud Williams backing up McGahee.

KEY NOTES

Holcomb has sore ribs and may not be at full strength to start the season...The Bills are pleased with the work of hulking fullback and blocker Daimon Shelton, and recently gave him a contract extension through 2006...Cornerback Nate Clements continues to improve and looks poised for a monster season...

CAROLINA PANTHERS

NFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Jake Delhomme	77	LE	Julius Peppers	98
RB	Stephen Davis	60	LT	Brentson Buckner	-
FB	Brad Hoover	-	RT	Kris Jenkins	-
WR	Steve Smith	80	RE	Mike Rucker	-
WR	Keary Colbert	60	SLB	Will Witherspoon	78
TE	Kris Mangum	69	MLB	Dan Morgan	78
LT	Travelle Wharton	-	WLB	Brandon Short	-
LG	Mike Wahle	-	LCB	Ken Lucas	72
C	Jeff Mitchell	-	RCB	Chris Gamble	81
RG	Tutan Reyes	-	FS	Mike Minter	-
RT	Jordan Gross	-	SS	Thomas Davis	61

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	John Kasay	78	KR	Rod Smart	-
P	Jason Baker	70	PR	Steve Smith	-

Some teams are good, and some teams try to be sneaky. But the Panthers are sneaky-good. They don't seem like much at first glance, but on second glance they're worth yet another look. Jake Delhomme is quietly one of the NFL's best passers; The running back rotation of Stephen Davis, DeShaun Foster, and Nick Goings is possibly the NFL's deepest next to Denver's; The defense is superb and improving, and few teams have better special teams. In short, the Panthers are a going concern who look to rebound in a big way in 2005. Now if they can just stay on the field...

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The running back situation. After a long off-season of rehab following knee surgery, Stephen Davis looks ready to take back his job as the Panthers' top running back. He wasn't dominant in camp, but he did stay healthy enough to keep his spot atop the pecking order. Meanwhile DeShaun Foster--also returned from injury (a broken collarbone) is listed right behind him, with the steady Nick Goings holding down the No. 3 spot.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The wide receiver rotation. Steve Smith has returned from last season's broken leg to once again be the Panthers' No. 1 receiver, and he doesn't seem to have missed a beat. After that, however, things are a little unresolved. This team lost the NFL's most productive wideout in Muhsin Muhammad, so they brought in Ex-Redskin Rod Gardner via trade. Young Keary Colbert is still around as well, but he hasn't been impressive in camp.

CAMP STAR

Tie-Davis and Smith. The two veterans were, before last year, the top go-to guys on a very good offense. Both proved they're ready

to play, the best sign the Panthers are ready to prowl again. Unless major injuries occur, again...

KEY NOTES

Quarterback Jake Delhomme continues to develop into a team leader for the Panthers and may be poised for a career season... Despite minor injuries, Julius Peppers is emerging as a major force at defensive end and leads an improved defense... Star lineman Mike Wahle should make Delhomme even better this year...

CHICAGO BEARS

NFC NORTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Kyle Orton	60	LE	Adewale Ogundipe	86
RB	Thomas Jones	65	LT	Tommie Harris	-
FB	Marc Edwards	-	RT	Ian Scott	-
WR	Muhsin Muhammad	79	RE	Alex Brown	-
WR	Justin Gage	-	SLB	Lance Briggs	79
TE	Desmond Clark	66	MLB	Brian Urlacher	66
LT	John Tait	-	WLB	Hunter Hillenmeyer	-
LG	Ruben Brown	-	LCB	Charles Tillman	-
C	Olin Kreutz	-	RCB	Jerry Azumah	68
RG	Terrence Metcalf	-	FS	Mike Green	-
RT	Fred Miller	-	SS	Mike Brown	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Doug Brien	73	KR	Jerry Azumah	-
P	Brad Maynard	84	PR	Bernard Berrian	-

Who's on first? What's on second? I don't know's in Chicago, playing quarterback. Or, that is, Kyle Orton, an unheralded rookie starting at quarterback for Da Bears. Few teams have as many question marks coming out of camp as does Chicago, with Orton taking over for the injured (again) Rex Grossman, another committee at the running back spot, a cast of thousands catching the ball, and a defense that is quietly one of the NFL's best. In other words, expect a lot of low-scoring games and a lot more talk about whether Lovie Smith is making the right moves in Chi-town.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The quarterback position, and surprise! It's not Rex Grossman behind center. Rookie Kyle Orton enters the season as the team's starter after incumbent Rex Grossman was once again knocked out, this time with a broken ankle. Not that this 'settles' things, since the quarterback spot has been a revolving door since last year and Orton is far from proven.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The running back position. Thomas Jones and Adrian Peterson were very good as a tandem while rookie Cedric Benson held out for more cash, but Benson is hoping to catch up and take over the featured back role soon. That's not exactly a done deal, as Benson hasn't exactly endeared himself to head coach Lovie Smith or his teammates by sitting out almost all of camp. Jones and Peterson have also been solid enough that it could be awhile before Benson steps up and steps in.

CAMP STAR

Peterson. The three-year veteran finally got a chance to shine with Benson holding out, and he proved he has the skills and power to

be a solid option in the backfield. He may not be a star, but he's making Benson a little more sorry he held out so long.

KEY NOTES

Punishing linebaker Brian Urlacher, the defense's leader, looks healthy but the team hopes he won't be distracted by a recent paternity suit... Muhsin Muhammad and Justin Gage are the starters at the receiver spots, but Gage hasn't stepped up in camp yet...

CINCINNATI BENGALS

AFC NORTH



Sometimes hype can hurt as much as help a young team. Maybe that explains why the Bengals are off to a slow start so far. Pundits far and wide have raved about the talent Cincy can field every game, but there's a reason they play the games. If their defeats at the hands of the Patriots and Eagles in pre-season haven't shown them they still have a lot of work to do, they could be on the losing end of several high-scoring games this season.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Very little. The defense hasn't been as good as expected, yielding over 22 points per game in the first three exhibitions. Meanwhile the first-string offense has been struggling. Only the running game, led by returnees Rudi Johnson and Chris Perry, has been solid so far.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether the offense will be as high-powered as the hype. The first-teamers failed to get into the end zone in two of their first three exhibition games, raising questions about whether Carson Palmer is ready for the star turn many have been saying he'll make. Former starter Jon Kitna has been good filling in, and could create a quarterback controversy if Palmer doesn't pick up the pace soon.

CAMP STAR

Kitna. The vet easily outplayed Palmer on the field, and has made the games close for the Bengals. It's just the preseason but if Palmer doesn't have the breakout year everyone is prediction, or gets injured, Kitna looks ready to step in and get the job done.

KEY NOTES

The Bengals released talented wideout Peter Warrick, who signed with the Seattle Seahawks. That makes T.J. Houshmandzadeh the de

projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Carson Palmer	79	LE	Justin Smith	81
RB	Rudi Johnson	82	LT	Bryan Robinson	-
FB	Jeremi Johnson	-	RT	John Thornton	-
WR	Chad Johnson	90	RE	Robert Geathers	-
WR	T.J. Houshmandzadeh	74	SLB	Landon Johnson	-
TE	Reggie Kelly	57	MLB	Odell Thurman	-
LT	Levi Jones	-	WLB	Brian Simmons	73
LG	Eric Steinbach	-	LCB	Deltha O'Neal	-
C	Rich Braham	-	RCB	Tory James	61
RG	Bobbie Williams	-	FS	Madieu Williams	-
RT	Willie Anderson	-	SS	Anthony Mitchell	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Shayne Graham	79	KR	Tab Perry	-
P	Kyle Larson	77	PR	Keiwan Ratliff	-

facto full-time starter along with Chad Johnson. Just for the record, Houshmandzadeh is coming off a season during which he caught a career-high 73 passes for 978 yards and four touchdowns...Matt Schobel seems to have slipped down the depth chart at tight end, behind likely starter Reggie Kelly and Tony Stewart...Third-year receiver Kevin Walter has been a pleasant surprise, and was the Bengals' best overall receiver in camp... He could move up the depth chart in the first month of the 2005 campaign...

CLEVELAND BROWNS

AFC NORTH



Don't book tickets for a Super Bowl parade in Cleveland just yet, but also don't expect the Browns to be the NFL's sad sacks anymore. Romeo Crennel has overhauled this team and so far, so good. Two wins in their first two exhibitions show that Cleveland will be competitive in 2005, but just how competitive likely depends on new quarterback Trent Dilfer. The long-time NFL back-up has provided excellent leadership so far and that has fans optimistic about 2005. This is a new team.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The receiving corps. Rookie Braylon Edwards showed enough after finally showing up to camp that the Browns traded veteran wideout Andre Davis, and Antonio Bryant proved he can be a go-to guy for Dilfer. Dennis Northcutt is also still around to spot Edwards until he's ready to start full time.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The running back position. Nothing was decided amongst Lee Suggs, Reuben Droughns, and William Green. All three had their moments during scrimmages but the picture is still muddled after Suggs--the frontrunner--got injured (again) and Green didn't get outplayed by Droughns. This looks to be a three-man committee even when Suggs gets back on the field.

CAMP STAR

Bryant. The ex-Cowboy is likely to emerge as Cleveland's star this year, after a strong finish in 2004. He has been Dilfer's clear go-to guy in camp, and his attitude has been exemplary so far (which was an issue in Dallas; remember his dispute with Bill Parcells?). Bryant has the tools to be a star and should get his chance in 2005. It'll likely be his last chance to shine as a premier receiver.

projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Trent Dilfer	68	LE	Orpheus Roye	-
RB	Lee Suggs	71	NT	Jason Fisk	-
FB	Terrelle Smith	-	RE	Alvin McKinley	-
WR	Dennis Northcutt	60	LOLB	Matt Stewart	56
WR	Antonio Bryant	73	LILB	Andra Davis	78
TE	Aaron Shea	64	RILB	Ben Taylor	-
LT	L.J. Shelton	-	ROLB	Chaun Thompson	-
LG	Joe Andruzzi	-	LCB	Daylon McCutcheon	-
C	Jeff Faine	-	RCB	Gary Baxter	91
RG	Cosey Coleman	-	FS	Brian Russell	-
RT	Ryan Tucker	-	SS	Sean Jones	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Phil Dawson	75	KR	Joshua Cribbs	-
P	Kyle Richardson	81	PR	Dennis Northcutt	-

KEY NOTES

Suggs has an ankle injury but isn't expected to be out long...The rebuilt defense has been solid if unspectacular, a testament to Crennel's excellent approach brought over from New England...Crennel has also stressed physical conditioning with his new charges, and many of the Browns have slimmed down from last year...Rookie Charlie Frye won't challenge Dilfer for the starting job, but has shown promise in his reps in camp. He's the No. 2 QB ahead of Doug Johnson...

DALLAS COWBOYS

NFC EAST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Drew Bledsoe	75	LE	Kenyon Coleman	-
RB	Julius Jones	79	NT	Jason Ferguson	69
FB	Lousaka Polite	-	RE	Greg Ellis	-
WR	Keyshawn Johnson	72	LOLB	Demarcus Ware	-
WR	Terry Glenn	65	LILB	Dat Nguyen	81
TE	Jason Witten	86	RILB	Bradie James	-
LT	Flozell Adams	-	ROLB	Al Singleton	80
LG	Larry Allen	-	LCB	Terence Newman	74
C	Al Johnson	-	RCB	Anthony Henry	-
RG	Marco Rivera	-	FS	Keith Davis	-
RT	Rob Petitti	-	SS	Roy Williams	81

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jose Cortez	74	KR	Tyson Thompson	-
P	Mat McBriar	82	PR	Patrick Crayton	-

KEY NOTES

Dallas acquired linebacker Scott Fujita late in the pre-season from Kansas City in return for future draft picks in 2006 and 2007... The Cowboys also signed wideout Peerless Price, who was released by the Atlanta Falcons... The back-up quarterback to new starter Drew Bledsoe will be Tony Romo, not early favorite Drew Henson... New key offensive lineman Marco Rivera battled back from back surgery but then suffered a hamstring pull that has kept him from playing much...

Patience is a rare commodity in football. Let's hope Bill Parcells has some. The revered coach is coming off one of his most disappointing NFL seasons, and team owner Jerry Jones--not known for his patience--broke the bank to help Tuna get his team back on track. Yet for all the re-tooling, re-thinking and re-winding of game tape, the Cowboys still seem to be a work in progress. They'll be better than in 2004 and have some exciting young players in Julius Jones, Jason Witten, and outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware. They just may not come together as quickly as hoped.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. Rookie outside linebacker DeMarcus Ware was down-right dominant in the preseason, and looks like the real deal. Coach Parcells' switch to a 3-4 set has look good so far.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who the team's primary placekicker will be. Veteran Billy Cundiff was given the boot and then the 'Boys tried to trade for Jacksonville's Seth Marler. The deal fell through, however, because Marler failed his physical. That leaves the strong leg but unpredictable foot of Jose Cortez to start the season. The Cowboys obviously don't have full faith in him (as made clear by the attempt to grab Marler) but they'll keep looking as the season progresses.

CAMP STAR

Julius Jones. The second-year running back came to camp in incredible shape and has looked like he's on the verge of stardom all through camp. The Cowboys are sure to lean heavily on him to set up their less-than-stellar pass attack, so expect Jones to emerge as an elite back this season. Last year, he averaged over 27 carries in each of his last seven games.

DENVER BRONCOS

AFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Jake Plummer	81	LE	Courtney Brown	67
RB	Mike Anderson	77	LT	Michael Myers	-
FB	Kyle Johnson	-	RE	Gerard Warren	-
WR	Rod Smith	66	RT	Trevor Pryce	59
WR	Ashley Lelie	86	SLB	Ian Gold	-
TE	Stephen Alexander	60	MLB	Al Wilson	72
LT	Matt Lepsis	-	WLB	D.J. Williams	83
LG	Ben Hamilton	-	LCB	Champ Bailey	72
C	Tom Nalen	-	RCB	Lenny Walls	-
RG	Cooper Carlisle	-	FS	John Lynch	-
RT	George Foster	-	SS	Nick Ferguson	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jason Elam	89	KR	Darrent Williams	-
P	Todd Sauerbrun	87	PR	Darrent Williams	-

Plummer played within himself and executed throughout August, a sign he might be ready to take the team deep into the playoffs.

KEY NOTES

Legendary wide receiver Jerry Rice signed this off-season, but couldn't earn regular playing time and subsequently retired. This all but cements Darius Watts' status as the No. 3 receiver in Denver... Rookie Maurice Claret was released after playing little due to a groin injury...

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Who's carrying the ball for Denver, and (for now), it's not Tatum Bell. The second-year runner was expected by many to claim the starting tailback job, but he was outplayed by veteran Mike Anderson (back from missing all of last year due to injury) and will now need to wait for Anderson to get injured or (literally) drop the ball. Ron Dayne was also impressive while Quentin Griffin was released. Therefore, Bell needs to start putting up if he wants more touches.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. Overhauled in the off-season, Denver's D yielded at least 21 points in three of four exhibition contests. The Broncos won all four games, but the D-unit hasn't gelled after adding so many new faces.

CAMP STAR

Jake Plummer. The team's quarterback wasn't at all shaky (like last year's training camp) and seems to have finally settled comfortably into his role leading the team. The previously free-wheeling

DETROIT LIONS

NFC NORTH



The talent is there. The coaching is there. Now, it's time for the results to be there. Detroit heads into the 2005 schedule high on potential and low on results, and any change will fall on QB Joey Harrington. The former highly-rated draft pick has yet to live up to the hype, but now he has the starting job all to himself--with possibly the biggest, rangiest group of young wideouts in the NFL.. If the defense can gel and Harrington can get something going, the Lions may get on a roll. If it's going to happen with the current bunch, this is the year.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The quarterback controversy between Joey Harrington and Jeff Garcia. Harrington won the starting gig outright with a fine performance, while Garcia broke his leg and injured his ankle, and appears to be out indefinitely. Harrington himself is nursing a sore groin, but looks to be ready to finally start living up to his potential this season.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether the Lions can stay healthy all season. Last year's biggest problem was constant injuries, and the Garcia incident is a bad omen to start the season. Harrington also isn't fully healthy and Charles Rogers is the poster boy for missing games, so the Lions need to do everything possible to stop that trend from continuing.

CAMP STAR

Mike Williams. The rookie wideout had a strong finish to his first NFL training camp and could see action earlier than expected with Charles Rogers always an injury waiting to happen. For the time being though, Williams is still behind newcomer Kevin Johnson on the depth chart.

projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Joey Harrington	72	LE	Cory Redding	-
RB	Kevin S. Jones	78	LT	Shaun Rogers	-
FB	Cory Schlesinger	-	RT	Dan Wilkinson	-
WR	Roy E. Williams	86	RE	James Hall	79
WR	Charles Rogers	71	SLB	James Davis	-
TE	Marcus Pollard	64	MLB	Earl Holmes	-
LT	Jeff Backus	-	WLB	Boss Bailey	53
LG	Rick DeMulling	-	LCB	Fernando Bryant	-
C	Dominic Raiola	-	RCB	Dre' Bly	55
RG	Damien Woody	-	FS	Terrence Holt	-
RT	Kelly Butler	-	SS	Kenoy Kennedy	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jason Hanson	85	KR	Eddie Drummond	-
P	Nick Harris	77	PR	Eddie Drummond	-

KEY NOTES

Wideout Charles Rogers once again didn't make it through workouts without injury, hurting his ankle. It's not considered serious, but Rogers has proven to be one of the most fragile players in recent NFL memory... Featured back Kevin Jones suffered minor aches and pains in camp, but looks to build on his strong 2004 finish... Linebacker Boss Bailey and kick returner Eddie Drummond are back from injury and were solid in camp, giving the Lions two stars they missed late last season...

GREEN BAY PACKERS

NFC NORTH



Never, ever count out a team led by Brett Favre. That being said, don't count on a return to the Super Bowl for the Packers' superstar. Playing behind a depleted offensive line and alongside a very shaky defense, the Pack just don't have the horses to sustain a long run. Favre will always play and always get his, and he has a deep and talented group of receivers in Javon Walker, Donald Driver, Robert Ferguson and tight end Bubba Franks. But running back Ahman Green doesn't seem to be getting any better and Favre may not have the ball much due to swiss cheese(-head) defense.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The Javon Walker kerfuffle. After constant controversy caused by Walker and his agent about his contract, last year's breakout receiver finally showed up and showed he's ready to play. A minor finger injury slowed Walker down but he looks ready to pick up where he left off last season.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether running back Ahman Green will be able to rebound from last season. The veteran star suffered through a down season in 2004 and a domestic violence case against him has distracted Green since then. Add to that the major depletion of the Green Bay O-line and the emergence of back-up Najeh Davenport, and Green doesn't look like a great bet to bounce back strongly. He didn't have a great camp.

CAMP STAR

Brett Favre. Besides showing excellent off-field leadership with the New Orleans natural disaster tragedy, Favre looked good in camp. He didn't light things up but he should be ready to post a big season for the Pack now that he's decided not to retire.

projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Brett Favre	81	LE	Aaron Kampman	76
RB	Ahman Green	74	LT	Grady Jackson	-
FB	William Henderson	-	RT	Corey Williams	-
WR	Javon Walker	91	RE	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	83
WR	Donald Driver	79	SLB	Roy Manning	-
TE	Bubba Franks	75	MLB	Nick Barnett	91
LT	Chad Clifton	-	WLB	Na'il Diggs	-
LG	Adrian Klemm	-	LCB	Joey Thomas	-
C	Mike Flanagan	-	RCB	Al Harris	-
RG	Will Whitticker	-	FS	Nick Collins	-
RT	Mark Tauscher	-	SS	Mark Roman	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Ryan Longwell	80	KR	Robert Ferguson	-
P	B. J. Sander	75	PR	Antonio Chatman	-

KEY NOTES

Favre will likely have a strong season, but he might take more of a pounding than ever because of the losses of top offensive linemen Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle... Bubba Franks signed a contract extension to keep him with the team... Wideout Robert Ferguson has been strong in workouts and hopes to challenge Donald Driver for a starting wide receiver spot... Najeh Davenport is finally healthy and has the potential for a breakout if Green doesn't stay on the field...

HOUSTON TEXANS

AFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	David Carr	78	LE	Gary Walker	-
RB	Domanick Davis	80	NT	Seth Payne	-
FB	Moran Norris	-	RE	Robaire Smith	-
WR	Andre Johnson	87	LOLB	Jason Babin	-
WR	Corey Bradford	53	LILB	Kailee Wong	65
TE	Mark Bruener	62	RILB	Morlon Greenwood	-
LT	Victor Riley	-	ROLB	Antwaan Peek	-
LG	Chester Pitts	-	LCB	Phillip Buchanon	68
C	Steve McKinney	-	RCB	Dunta Robinson	95
RG	Zach Wiegert	-	FS	Marcus Coleman	-
RT	Todd Wade	-	SS	C.C. Brown	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Kris Brown	73	KR	Jerome Mathis	-
P	Chad Stanley	79	PR	Phillip Buchanon	-

KEY NOTES

Corey Bradford will be the No. 2 receiver behind rising star Andre Johnson, meaning a healthy Jabar Gaffney starts the season as the third option... Carr looked good early on but fell down late in the pre-season, raising questions about whether he is indeed ready to post the breakout season everyone has been expecting lately ... The release of Billy Miller has opened the door for Mark Bruener to be the clear No. 1 TE... An ankle sprain sidelined Robinson late in training camp, and he may get off to a slow start as a result...

The Texans can only get better, right? Well... maybe. Yes, they're stocked with high-upside youngsters from years of solid drafting. Yes, they have key players at key positions on both offense and defense now. But don't be surprised if the Texans keep spinning their wheels a bit, at least to start the upcoming season. They just don't have much veteran on-field leadership, and some glaring holes may keep them from moving forward the way many are hoping. Then again, their 1-3 exhibition season may not mean anything... but it's not very encouraging.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. New additions Phillip Buchanon from Oakland and rookie Travis Johnson are the two most notable additions to the improving D, and both are proving themselves early. Both still make youthful mistakes, but their athleticism and energy is a big boost to a group that already boasts rising star Dunta Robinson.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The offensive line. They remain one of the NFL's worst, and are a major reason the Texans haven't quite managed to play as well as they should, especially considering their exciting offensive trio of quarterback David Carr, wide receiver Andre Johnson, and running back Domanick Davis. Over the off-season the Texans did all they could to lure Orlando Pace, but their inability to do so--or find another top lineman--could be a major problem this season.

CAMP STAR

Vernand Morency. While not setting the world on fire, rookie Morency was very good in camp and is an excellent third-down running-back option who gives the Texans insurance should Davis go down with an injury.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

AFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Peyton Manning	99	LE	Raheem Brock	-
RB	Edgerrin James	86	LT	Montae Reagor	-
FB	James Mungro	-	RT	Corey Simon	79
WR	Marvin Harrison	78	RE	Dwight Freeney	76
WR	Reggie Wayne	92	SLB	David Thornton	-
TE	Dallas Clark	72	MLB	Rocky Calmus	75
LT	Tarik Glenn	-	WLB	Cato June	76
LG	Ryan Lilja	-	LCB	Nick Harper	-
C	Jeff Saturday	-	RCB	Donald Strickland	61
RG	Jake Scott	-	FS	Bob Sanders	-
RT	Ryan Diem	-	SS	Mike Doss	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Mike Vanderjagt	82	KR	Troy Walters	-
P	Hunter Smith	83	PR	Brad Pyatt	-

camp with the full-year suspension of outside linebacker Kendyll Pope. The second-year top reserve has been banned by the league for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy for the third time... Sack master Dwight Freeney will be ready to play, but seems a little slowed recovering from his 2004 shoulder injury... Last year's breakout player, receiver Brandon Stokley, says he might be ready for the season opener after dislocating his shoulder... Rookie kick-off man Dave Rayner has looked solid for the Colts and should help them this season. It was a sore point in 2004...

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The fact that defense is still this team's Achilles heel. Heading into their final exhibition game, the Colts had lost all four of their other contests with the starters getting the minutes. In three of those losses the Colts yielded 24 or more points. Remember the good ol' days when head coach Tony Dungy was actually considered a defensive guru?

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who will be Manning's top receiving option. Reggie Wayne has youth and a breakthrough 2004 on his side but Marvin Harrison is Marvin Harrison and tight end Dallas Clark finally gets his position all to himself now that Marcus Pollard has left for Detroit. None of the three stood out in August.

CAMP STAR

Rookie cornerback Marlin Jackson, if anyone. Before a hip problem slowed him down, he was wowing the coaching staff by proving he can cover top wideouts and being disruptive in the secondary.

KEY NOTES

The defense got a big boost late in camp with the signing of Corey Simon and trade for Rocky Calmus... The defense took a hit late in

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

AFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Byron Leftwich	69	LE	Paul Spicer	-
RB	Fred Taylor	69	LT	John Henderson	77
FB	Greg Jones	-	RT	Marcus Stroud	-
WR	Jimmy Smith	69	RE	Reggie Hayward	82
WR	Reggie Williams	52	SLB	Akin Ayodele	-
TE	Kyle Brady	61	MLB	Mike Peterson	86
LT	Mike Pearson	-	WLB	Daryl Smith	-
LG	Vince Manuwai	-	LCB	Rashean Mathis	71
C	Brad Meester	-	RCB	David Richardson	-
RG	Chris Naeole	-	FS	Deon Grant	-
RT	Maurice Williams	-	SS	Donovin Darius	77

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Josh Scobee	72	KR	David Allen	-
P	Chris Hanson	90	PR	David Allen	-

It's not often the Jags get mentioned in the same breath as the Patriots or Eagles. But on the defensive end, their young group of players is as talented as any in the NFL and will only get better. Players such as new pass-rusher Reggie Hayward are plentiful in Jacksonville and the offense isn't too shabby, either. The Jags legitimately have a chance to surprise everyone this year, much like the San Diego Chargers did in 2004. Don't be shocked if they beat some of the league's elite, and if young and emerging QB Byron Leftwich leads them to a playoff berth.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The running back and placekicking positions. After major doubts about whether Fred Taylor can return to form after a major knee injury, the veteran tailback was solid in workouts and looks ready for the season. Meanwhile sophomore Josh Scobee beat out Seth Marler for the placekicking duties, leading the Jags to trade Marler (unsuccessfully as Marler failed the physical) to the Dallas Cowboys.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who will be Manning's top receiving option. Reggie Wayne has youth and a breakthrough 2004 on his side but Marvin Harrison is Marvin Harrison and tight end Dallas Clark finally gets his position all to himself now that Marcus Pollard has left for Detroit. None of the three stood out in August.

CAMP STAR

Chad Owens. The rookie wideout was only expected to compete for a job returning kicks this year, but he was so good in camp that the coaching staff is seriously considering making him a regular part of the receiver rotation. Not too shabby for a sixth-round draft pick.

KEY NOTES

Reggie Williams, last year's heralded draft pick who was a big disappointment as a rookie, finally seems to have figured out the offense. He had a strong camp and is a likely starting receiver along with aged wonder Jimmy Smith. The Jags also hope he emerges as their top red-zone target... Defying doubters, running back Fred Taylor has seemingly recovered from knee surgery and will once again be the team's featured back... Improving QB Byron Leftwich looks to make big strides in his third NFL season...

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

AFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Trent Green	74	LE	Eric Hicks	-
RB	Priest Holmes	87	LT	Ryan Sims	-
FB	Tony Richardson	-	RT	Lional Dalton	-
WR	Samie Parker	61	RE	Jimmy Wilkerson	-
WR	Eddie Kennison	72	SLB	Derrick O. Johnson	54
TE	Tony Gonzalez	88	MLB	Kawika Mitchell	-
LT	Willie Roaf	-	WLB	Kendrell Bell	73
LG	Brian Waters	-	LCB	Patrick Surtain	65
C	Casey Wiegmann	-	RCB	Dexter McCleon	-
RG	Will Shields	-	FS	Greg Wesley	-
RT	Kevin Sampson	-	SS	Sammy Knight	85

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Lawrence Tynes	77	KR	Dante' Hall	-
P	Dustin Colquitt	77	PR	Dante' Hall	-

Pre-season records sometimes don't mean much. Other times, they mean everything. So how do we interpret KC's 0-4 exhibition season record? Tough to say. The offense, with the exception of Larry Johnson, seems to be getting older and more run down. Meanwhile the defense is getting younger and better. Can the D improve enough and the O perform enough to head back to the playoffs?

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense, finally. With Rookie Derrick O. Johnson leading the way the Chiefs had a solid defensive showing in August, and have been bolstered by the additions of fellow linebacker Kendrell Bell and top cornerback Patrick Surtain. Of course, they didn't win a pre-season contest and allowed at least 23 points in every exhibition game, but the signs of improvement are there.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The offense, for a change. Quarterback Trent Green has long been a stalwart for the Chiefs but a problem with circulation in his leg sidelined him this summer and has some observers worried about his immediate future. For his part, Green says he'll be just fine. Meanwhile the running back situation is suddenly a happy source of controversy for the Chiefs, as Larry Johnson had such a good camp he's forcing coach Dick Vermeil to admit he'll share carries with Priest Holmes this season. Meanwhile the receiver rotation gets very cloudy after veteran Eddie Kennison, now that Freddie Mitchell has been released and Johnnie Morton is gone. Samie Parker seems to be the consensus No. 2.

CAMP STAR

Larry Johnson. The third-year tailback has said he wants to start, and it's impossible to ignore what he did in camp and on the field. He

far outperformed the aging Holmes and in one game gambolled for 147 yards on just nine carries. Even if Holmes doesn't get injured, keep Johnson on the radar; He'll be a factor

KEY NOTES

Further settling the defense, the Chiefs traded veteran starting linebacker Scott Fujita to the Cowboys late in camp for a 2006 sixth-round draft pick and a conditional pick in 2007... Along with Surtain, Sammy Knight will be a starter in the secondary...

MIAMI DOLPHINS

AFC EAST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Gus Frerotte	56	LE	Kevin Carter	57
RB	Ronnie Brown	79	LT	Keith Traylor	-
FB	Heath Evans	-	RT	Vonnie Holliday	-
WR	Chris Chambers	81	RE	Jason Taylor	85
WR	Marty Booker	51	SLB	Junior Seau	-
TE	Randy McMichael	73	MLB	Zach Thomas	92
LT	Damion McIntosh	-	WLB	Donnie Spragan	-
LG	Jeno James	-	LCB	Reggie Howard	-
C	Seth McKinney	-	RCB	Sam Madison	-
RG	Rex Hadnot	-	FS	Yeremiah Bell	-
RT	Vernon Carey	-	SS	Tebucky Jones	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Olindo Mare	77	KR	Wes Welker	-
P	Matt Turk	82	PR	Wes Welker	-

The Nick Saban era is under way in Miami. And like any new era, things have started with a certain amount of chaos, confusion, and even a little conflict. While Saban has laid down the law and even made one rookie cry in practice, his charges have been pushing each other hard to win jobs at several key positions...

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

That it will likely be a long first season for new head coach Nick Saban. The offense has more talent than last season, but still hasn't gelled, and the defense that was the team's only strong point last season seems to be declining. Lance Schulters is hurting and hasn't been his former Pro Bowl self and the secondary is also suffering from the loss of Patrick Surtain. The 'Fins have allowed at least 17 points in all three of their exhibition contests and many of the losses have come because of preventable mistakes and turnovers.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The quarterback situation between Gus Frerotte and A.J. Feeley, whether Ricky Williams can still be a dominant runner, or whether young tailback Ronnie Brown can handle the starter's load in the backfield. Frerotte has had his moments but hasn't been outstanding, while Feeley was beaten out of the No. 2 job by Sage Rosenfels. Meanwhile, Williams has mixed both strong performances with weak ones, and Brown is still trying to catch up with the offense--after missing time with his holdout.

CAMP EYE-OPENER

The surprisingly impressive and professional camp performance of David Boston. The one-time Pro Bowler is coming off a major knee injury and last year's allegations of steroid use, but he seems to be the picture of composure. He has quietly moved his way up the

depth chart at wide receiver and now sits behind only Chris Chambers and Marty Booker.

KEY NOTES

Long-time Dolphin and expected starting long snapper Ed Perry was a late cut... Also late in camp, they traded for tight end John Owens. It cost them Pro Bowl special teams player Brendon Ayanbadejo, but the team felt they needed a better blocker at TE. Randy McMichael is still atop the depth chart, however...

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NFC NORTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Daunte Culpepper	94	LE	Kenechi Udeze	-
RB	Michael Bennett	63	LT	Pat Williams	-
TE	Jim Kleinsasser	-	RT	Kevin Williams	89
WR	Nate Burleson	91	RE	Darrion Scott	-
WR	Marcus Robinson	73	SLB	E.J. Henderson	-
TE	Jermaine Wiggins	-	MLB	Sam Cowart	-
LT	Bryant McKinnie	-	WLB	Napoleon Harris	67
LG	Adam Goldberg	-	LCB	Antoine Winfield	79
C	Melvin Fowler	-	RCB	Fred Smoot	62
RG	Marcus Johnson	-	FS	Darren Sharper	70
RT	Mike Rosenthal	-	SS	Corey Chavous	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Paul Edinger	60	KR	Mewelde Moore	-
P	Chris Kluwe	60	PR	Keenan Howry	-

Much has been said about the loss of Randy Moss. But not much has been said about another fact: The Vikings are a better football team in 2005 than in 2004. The beefed up defense and a deeper, more balanced group on offense leave the Vikings with few major holes and a chance to dominate their division. Daunte Culpepper is the world's best regular-season quarterback not named Manning, and he will have a healthier Michael Bennett helping out along with an improving Nate Burleson catching passes. If head coach Mike Tice can keep from doing anything crazy and hold this team together down the stretch, expect big things.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The new defense. New cornerback Fred Smoot and veteran linebacker addition Sam Cowart have emerged as early leaders on the much-improved Viking D, while young linebacker Napoleon Harris--acquired in the Randy Moss deal--has stepped up his game and is looking more consistent. The Minny defense was solid at times last year, but looks to become vaunted in 2005.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The running game, but what else is new. Michael Bennett and Mewelde Moore have traded turns as the expected starter for the Vikes, but each has battled nagging injuries and neither seems ready to step up and take over. With Onterio Smith out for the year on a drug suspension, don't be surprised if dependable Moe Williams once again finds himself sneaking up the middle between Moore and Bennett to claim touches--along with rookie Ciattrick Fason.

CAMP STAR

Fred Smoot. The free agent cornerback has added a frenetic pace and electricity to the defense that hasn't been there in recent years.

He'll help the high-powered offense get the ball back more often, which could lead to even bigger numbers for Culpepper.

KEY NOTES

Nate Burleson looks to take over as Daunte Culpepper's top receiver and has embraced the role. Expect him to be among the league leaders in receptions and touchdowns... Rookie wideout Troy Williamson may become a regular on kick-off returns, and should be in the mix among receivers behind Burleson...

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AFC EAST



projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Tom Brady	77	LE	Ty Warren	-
RB	Corey Dillon	84	NT	Vince Wilfork	-
TE	Ben Watson	73	RE	Richard Seymour	57
WR	Deion Branch	66	LOLB	Willie McGinest	43
WR	David Givens	70	LILB	Chad Brown	-
TE	Daniel Graham	73	RILB	Monty Beisel	-
LT	Matt Light	-	ROLB	Mike Vrabel	61
LG	Logan Mankins	-	LCB	Randall Gay	52
C	Dan Koppen	-	RCB	Asante Samuel	50
RG	Steve Neal	-	FS	Eugene Wilson	-
RT	Brandon Gorin	-	SS	Rodney Harrison	-

special teams		Fantasy Value	special teams		Fantasy Value
K	Adam Vinatieri	98	KR	Patrick Pass	-
P	Josh Miller	82	PR	Tim Dwight	-

KEY NOTES

Rookie offensive lineman Logan Mankins has been very solid in camp and looks like he'll be a starter this year...Outside linebacker Mike Vrabel has been sidelined with a leg injury but it's not considered to be serious...42-year-old New England fan favorite Doug Flutie is the clear-cut winner of the job to be Brady's back-up, and the Pats have released former understudy Rohan Davey despite his excellent season last year in NFL Europe...WR and KR Bethel Johnson is on the Physically Unable to Perform list (foot injury)...

Sometimes nothing hurts a team like success. But are three Super Bowls in four seasons enough to bring down the Patriot dynasty? Not quite. Even though their offensive and defensive coordinators have both left and they're missing defense leader Tedy Bruschi, the Pats have shown in the pre-season that they still have enough for another serious title run.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether the defense can survive without Bruschi. The answer is a resounding 'yes.' Newcomers Monty Beisel and former Pro Bowler Chad Brown have been very solid taking over for Bruschi in the line-backing corps, and with Richard Seymour back in the fold the vaunted Patriot D is still humming along as well as ever. The secondary has also been strong, holding Brett Favre and the Packers to just three points in an exhibition loss.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who Tom Brady's 'go-to' wideouts will be. No one amongst their group of thousands at the receiver position was a clear-cut favorite target, but that's probably by coach Bill Belichick's design. Tim Dwight and David Givens saw lots of ball, but so did several other receivers. Newcomer Andre' Davis hasn't seen many touches yet, but is expected to be in the mix at some point during the season. David Terrell was released.

CAMP STAR

Tight end Ben Watson may be emerging as a prime player in the offense. The second-year receiver made six catches in the Pats' 27-3 win over the Packers and may have the edge over Daniel Graham as the team's top tight end option this season. Vet Christian Fauria is still around but is behind Watson and Graham on the depth chart.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

NFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Aaron Brooks	69	LE	Charles Grant	92
RB	Deuce McAllister	82	LT	Johnathan Sullivan	-
FB	Mike Karney	-	RT	Brian Young	-
WR	Joe Horn	90	RE	Darren Howard	-
WR	Donte' Stallworth	70	SLB	Sedrick Hodge	-
TE	Ernie Conwell	57	MLB	Courtney Watson	-
LT	Wayne Gandy	-	WLB	Coby Bockwoldt	-
LG	Kendyl Jacox	-	LCB	Mike McKenzie	52
C	LeCharles Bentley	-	RCB	Fakhir Brown	-
RG	Jermame Mayberry	-	FS	Dwight Smith	-
RT	Jammal Brown	-	SS	Jay Bellamy	68

special teams		Fantasy Value	special teams		Fantasy Value
K	John Carney	77	KR	Michael L. Lewis	-
P	Mitch Berger	88	PR	Michael L. Lewis	-

KEY NOTES

Veteran wide receiver Joe Horn has been a vocal leader in supporting the victims of Hurricane Katrina... Aaron Brooks didn't do a lot to suggest he's ready to bounce back from last season's down year... Star running back Deuce McAllister signed a big contract extension this summer... Rookie right tackle Jammal Brown suffered a minor shoulder injury that has limited him somewhat...

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The team's secondary. Rookie Josh Bullocks has looked more promising than consistent, and he joins veteran Dwight Smith and strong safety Jay Bellamy in giving the Saints secondary more hope.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

What the near future holds for the Saints in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. With New Orleans and the Superdome devastated and nowhere near in shape to host football games, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue has said the team isn't likely to play in their home city this season. There is some talk that team owner Tom Benson is considering moving the Saints to San Antonio permanently.

CAMP STAR

Stallworth. Is this the year he finally has the breakout everyone's been expecting? The speedy Stallworth is entering his fourth full season and at 24 looks finally ready to start living up to the hype after a solid pre-season performance.

NEW YORK GIANTS

NFC EAST



projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Eli Manning	67	LE	Michael Strahan	69
RB	Tiki Barber	88	LT	Kendrick Clancy	-
FB	Jim Finn	-	RT	Fred Robbins	-
WR	Plaxico Burress	81	RE	Osi Umenyiora	82
WR	Amani Toomer	52	SLB	Barrett Green	-
TE	Jeremy Shockey	82	MLB	Antonio Pierce	77
LT	Luke Petitgout	-	WLB	Carlos Emmons	-
LG	David Diehl	-	LCB	Will D. Allen	-
C	Shaun O'Hara	-	RCB	Will Peterson	-
RG	Chris Snee	-	FS	Brent Alexander	-
RT	Kareem McKenzie	-	SS	Gibril Wilson	79

special teams		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jay Feely	77	KR	Willie Ponder	-
P	Jeff Feagles	75	PR	Chad Morton	-

KEY NOTES

Plaxico Burress has emerged as the team's regular split end, shifting Amani Toomer to flanker... Tiki Barber isn't expected to carry nearly the load he did in 2004 now that most of the offense is healthy, Manning has a year under his belt, and Burress is in town... Tight end Jeremy Shockey finished a solid camp and hopes to return to his one-time dominant form... Massive rookie running back Brandon Jacobs has shown some skills and potential, but may not be ready for a regular role...

Yes, they will be better. But how much better? The biggest addition to this team is wide receiver Plaxico Burress, and he in many ways embodies the team's chances this year. He's got talent, he has attitude, but he doesn't have a proven track record. Along with Jeremy Shockey and Tiki Barber he gives young Eli Manning some nice tools to work with, but Manning--again--has yet to demonstrate he's ready to win. The defense should keep things close for them, but time will tell whether this group may, indeed, be Giants.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. After a slow start, defensive end Michael Strahan came on strong and showed he may be poised for a strong comeback season. He was back to his blitzing, havoc-creating self in camp after a slow start and seems recovered from last year's injuries and off-field problems.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

How well the offense will click. The offensive line has been a major concern and second-year quarterback Eli Manning still doesn't seem 100 percent after spraining his right (throwing) elbow. The rest of the pieces seem to be in place but the Giants don't have a back-up QB who has proven he can get the job done yet. Tim Hasselbeck has shown he can keep the team afloat, but not lead it to much success. Jesse Palmer was released.

CAMP STAR

David Tyree. With a solid camp, he seems to have beaten out Jamaar Taylor and Tim Carter for the Giants' third wide receiver spot. Late last season, the Syracuse product did well with 10 receptions for 155 yards and one touchdown in only three games. Tyree was a sixth-round pick in the 2003 draft.

NEW YORK JETS

AFC EAST



projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Chad Pennington	71	LE	Shaun Ellis	77
RB	Curtis Martin	79	LT	Dewayne Robertson	-
FB	Jerald Sowell	-	RT	James Reed	-
WR	Laveranues Coles	79	RE	John Abraham	73
WR	Justin McCareins	68	SLB	Victor Hobson	-
TE	Chris Baker	72	MLB	Jonathan Vilma	85
LT	Jason Fabini	-	WLB	Eric Barton	76
LG	Pete Kendall	-	LCB	Ty Law	68
C	Kevin Mawae	-	RCB	David Barrett	-
RG	Brandon Moore	-	FS	Erik Coleman	-
RT	Adrian Jones	-	SS	Oliver Celestin	-

special teams		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Mike Nugent	75	KR	Justin Miller	-
P	Benjamin Graham	-	PR	Justin Miller	-

KEY NOTES

Further muddying the defense picture, strong safety Andre Maddox tore ligaments in his knee and has been placed on injured reserve... At least the D will have cornerback Ty Law outside this season to help shore up the secondary... Reigning Defensive Rookie of the Year Jonathan Vilma has been excellent in camp, and is displaying even more confidence now... Laveranues Coles seems well on track to becoming the clear go-to guy at WR, while Doug Jolley has lost the starting TE job to Chris Baker...

Are the Jets getting better or getting worse? It's even harder to tell now than at the beginning of training camp. There is definitely talent on the roster, but some of it's very young and some of it's getting old and it's not terribly clear what kind of team coach Herm Edwards and the Jet brass are trying to build. In other words, the Jets still seem like a team in search of clear identity.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Certainty that Chad Pennington will be ready to go, and the team's starting punter job was won. Pennington had a very shaky outing against the New York Giants in exhibition but seems to be alright after off-season shoulder surgery. The Jets' punting duties have been handed to former Aussie rules football player Benjamin Graham, after he beat out a struggling Micah Knorr with several booming drives.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. Despite having a solid core, several things have kept the Jets from sorting out their unit. The very late arrival to camp of pass rusher John Abraham didn't help in that area, and the merry-go-round in the secondary has also been an ongoing issue. James Reed seems to have won a starting job at defensive tackle now that Jason Ferguson is gone. Defensive tackle Dewayne Robertson broke his hand, but may be able to play with the injury.

CAMP EYE-OPENER

The kicking game. Rookie Mike Nugent seems to have maturity well beyond his years and is holding down the place-kicking duties as the replacement for the departed Doug Brien, while new punter Graham has wowed the team and fans with his long bombs and athleticism.

OAKLAND RAIDERS

AFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Kerry Collins	82	LE	Bobby Hamilton	-
RB	LaMont Jordan	80	LT	Ted Washington	-
FB	Zack Crockett	-	RT	Warren Sapp	48
WR	Randy Moss	92	RE	Tommy Kelly	-
WR	Jerry Porter	82	SLB	Tyler Brayton	-
TE	Courtney Anderson	67	MLB	Danny Clark	88
LT	Barry Sims	-	WLB	Grant Irons	-
LG	Langston Walker	-	LCB	Nnamdi Asomugha	-
C	Jack Grove	-	RCB	Charles Woodson	73
RG	Brad Badger	-	FS	Stuart Schweigert	-
RT	Robert Gallery	-	SS	Derrick Gibson	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Sebastian Janikowski	86	KR	Doug Gabriel	-
P	Shane Lechler	98	PR	Doug Gabriel	-

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The running game. After last year's woeful performance by a cast of thousands, LaMont Jordan looks ready to give the Raiders a steady and sometimes dominant carrier to establish the run--and control the game.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether Kerry Collins will really lead a resurgent Oakland offense. He and new star target Randy Moss didn't look bad during the pre-season, but they also didn't set the league on its ear with offensive fireworks. The attack managed over 20 points just once in four games, and hasn't exactly been clicking. The defense wasn't much better, but to their credit haven't been as woeful as many expected.

CAMP STAR

Jordan. The team's new featured back didn't blow away the competition, but his mere presence reminded teammates they no longer need to worry about the running game. Besides being a punishing battering ram, Jordan showed he can catch passes out of the back-field as well. Expect a big year, since the offense hinges more on Jordan than any other player.

KEY NOTES

The team's move to a 4-3 defense from a 3-4 is expected to improve the play of defensive tackle Warren Sapp, who should be able to line up more on the edge rather than straight up against O-lines... Despite his blazing wheels, rookie cornerback Fabian Washington hasn't been quite ready to step up and take over in the secondary yet. He won't likely start for the Raiders... Receiver Doug Gabriel will miss up to a month after surgery to repair his left middle finger...

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

NFC EAST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Donovan McNabb	91	LE	Jevon Kearse	60
RB	Brian Westbrook	76	LT	Hollis Thomas	-
FB	Josh Parry	-	RT	Darwin Walker	-
WR	Terrell Owens	98	RE	N.D. Kalu	-
WR	Greg Lewis	62	SLB	Keith Adams	-
TE	L.J. Smith	75	MLB	Jeremiah Trotter	68
LT	Tra Thomas	-	WLB	Dhani Jones	-
LG	Artis Hicks	-	LCB	Lito Sheppard	71
C	Hank Fraley	-	RCB	Sheldon Brown	-
RG	Shawn Andrews	-	FS	Brian Dawkins	68
RT	Jon Runyan	-	SS	Michael M. Lewis	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	David Akers	87	KR	Roderick Hood	-
P	Dirk Johnson	80	PR	Dexter Wynn	-

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Donovan McNabb and Terrell Owens will still connect on the field, if not off it. Owens finally got into camp after his controversial sit-out for more cash, and while he's reportedly fast becoming a man alone in the Philly dressing room for his 'me-first' attitude, he showed in camp he's still ready to play at his usual elite level.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who the second receiver behind Owens will be. With Todd Pinkston out for the season due to a ruptured right Achilles' tendon and Freddie Mitchell gone, it looks like the Eagles might need to turn to Reggie Brown as their flanker. The team recently added Redskins castoff Darnerien McCants to the mix, but it could be a while before they find a possession receiver they can depend on. Until then, expect RB Brian Westbrook to be leaned on more than ever to make key receptions.

CAMP STAR

Stephen Spach. The un-drafted rookie has been strong enough to win a job as the top backup for starting tight end L.J. Smith. He played college at Fresno State but slipped under the radar of most

teams on draft day because he didn't play much there, but the Eagles like what they see in him so far.

KEY NOTES

The defense was in flux much of August with injuries and cuts. Pro Bowl defensive tackle Corey Simon was let go after a contract stalemate. He signed with Indy.. The team also released veteran defensive end Hugh Douglas... Rookie defensive tackle Mike Patterson has been solid in his debut...

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

AFC NORTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Ben Roethlisberger	79	LE	Aaron Smith	61
RB	Jerome Bettis	68	NT	Casey Hampton	-
FB	Dan Kreider	-	RE	Kimo von Oelhoffen	-
WR	Hines Ward	85	LOLB	Clark Haggans	48
WR	Antwaan Randle El	60	LILB	James Farrior	78
TE	Jerame Tuman	62	RILB	Larry Foote	-
LT	Marvel Smith	-	ROLB	Joey Porter	49
LG	Alan Faneca	-	LCB	Ricardo Colclough	-
C	Jeff Hartings	-	RCB	Deshea Townsend	-
RG	Kendall Simmons	-	FS	Chris Hope	-
RT	Max Starks	-	SS	Troy Polamalu	97

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jeff Reed	86	KR	Ricardo Colclough	-
P	Chris Gardocki	77	PR	Antwaan Randle El	-

KEY NOTES

Rookie tight end and top draft pick Heath Miller hasn't seen much action yet but the Steelers say his time will come as he gains a little experience. For now, he'll need to watch and learn from Jerame Tuman although he is expected to take a few snaps on opening week... Big things will be expected this upcoming season from Randle El, a shifty, slot-type receiver who is lethal on kick returns. Last year, he averaged over 25 yards per return...

Ever heard the expression, 'nowhere to go but down'? It seems to apply to the Steelers this season, especially after a training camp that seemed to raise more questions than it answered. Last year's 15-1 record almost certainly won't be matched, mostly because the offense likely won't be as good. Super-soph Ben Roethlisberger was made to look better than he was by a running game that let him pick his spots, but he won't have that luxury early on with Jerome Bettis and Duce Staley out. Big Ben was shaky in camp, so expect some low-scoring games early on for Pittsburgh.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The receiver picture. Antwaan Randle El will be a starter in the receiving corps alongside Hines Ward after newcomer Cedrick Wilson has disappointed early on. Ward finally showed up to camp after holding out for contract reasons, but the Steelers will miss Plaxico Burress if training camp is any indication.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The running back situation. Jerome Bettis is back, but the Bus is in the shop after a calf injury and Duce Staley is also on the shelf (following knee surgery). That means the team will turn to unproven Willie Parker, who has some skills but may not be suited to Pittsburgh's inside power game. Staley and Bettis should be back early in the season, but Parker will start the season as the Steelers' No. 1 back.

CAMP STAR

The defense. They showed they're still capable of keeping the Steelers in most games when the offense isn't clicking, and that looks like it may be the case more often than not early in the regular season.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

AFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Drew Brees	82	LE	Jacques Cesaire	-
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson	95	NT	Jamal Williams	-
FB	Lorenzo Neal	-	RE	Igor Olshansky	-
WR	Eric Parker	64	LOLB	Ben Leber	-
WR	Keenan McCardell	56	LILB	Donnie Edwards	82
TE	Antonio Gates	98	RILB	Randall Godfrey	-
LT	Roman Oben	-	ROLB	Steve Foley	52
LG	Toniu Fonoti	-	LCB	Quentin Jammer	69
C	Nick Hardwick	-	RCB	Drayton Florence	-
RG	Mike Goff	-	FS	Jerry Wilson	-
RT	Shane Olivea	-	SS	Terrence Kiel	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Nate Kaeding	83	KR	Darren Sproles	-
P	Mike Scifres	88	PR	Eric Parker	-

this year behind Drew Brees and Philip Rivers but may be one to watch down the road.

KEY NOTES

Merriman hurt his knee, and while it's not considered serious, may not be ready to start the season... Rookie DT Luis Castillo was also injured, nursing an ankle injury... LaDainian Tomlinson barely played in preseason, an indication of just how much the Chargers want to make sure he's healthy all season...

Was 2004 a fluke? Probably not. Will the Chargers surprise anyone in 2005? Definitely not. Still, even if they are now on other teams' radar, they're still a team on the rise and are loaded with talented and intriguing youngsters. Despite the suddenly efficient arm of young Drew Brees, they still don't pass enough and, despite all the pub LaDainian Tomlinson gets, he still only rushed for 3.9 yards per carry last year. Of course, the defense is only getting better and so are the Chargers. Once Antonio Gates gets back on track and everything clicks, they could make a nice run in the regular season and playoffs.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Some nasty contract disputes. The Chargers started the month still seriously at loggerheads with star tight end Antonio Gates and top draft pick Shawne Merriman (a defensive lineman/outside linebacker). Both eventually signed long-term pacts.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The receiving corps. Veteran Keenan McCardell is back to lead an underrated group, but it's uncertain how much ball he'll see or who the clear No. 2 guy is. Eric Parker is at the front of the line after a strong showing but is somewhat unproven, and massive rookie Vincent Jackson could see some goal-line duty because of his amazing reach and leaping skills. Reche Caldwell is also in the mix of what is a talented but under-utilized group.

CAMP STAR

Cleo Lemon. Cleo who? Lemon, the Chargers' third-string quarterback, was impressive in limited action, leading the Chargers down the field and helping them win their final preseason game in dramatic fashion against San Francisco. He won't likely see much time

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

NFC WEST



After a season of renewed hopes and major tweaking, what's really new in San Fran? Not an awful lot on the field. Despite adding promising rookie Alex Smith and Frank Gore, the 'Niners will continue to march out Tim Rattay and Kevan Barlow as their top offensive options, with Brandon Lloyd (again) the likely candidate to claim the No. 1 receiver position. The only major difference will be a beefed up offensive line and head coach Mike Nolan, who isn't likely to put up with much more mediocrity. The playoffs? No. But this will be a better team whose players might finally start giving 100 per cent.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Who's starting at quarterback--and it's not Alex Smith. It's Tim Rattay, the veteran holdover who was excellent in training camp and takes over as the starter. Smith showed leadership in the locker room but wasn't as polished on the field, so it's Rattay's job until Smith can get up to speed on the NFL game.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Who's going to step up to catch Rattay's passes. Brandon Lloyd is the obvious go-to guy but more was expected out of Johnnie Morton in camp. 2004 top draft choice Rashaun Woods was solid in workouts and games and could still challenge for a spot, but the position seems to still be wide open heading into the regular season. Arnaz Battle could sneak into the No. 2 role before long.

CAMP STAR

Rattay. He needed to step up and show he's willing to battle for a job and he left no doubt he's ready to hold the fort until Smith is ready. That should come as a relief to the 'Niner staff, who can now groom Smith more slowly without throwing him to the wolves.

projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Tim Rattay	49	LE	Bryant Young	-
RB	Kevan Barlow	63	NT	Anthony Adams	-
FB	Fred Beasley	-	RE	Marques Douglas	77
WR	Brandon Lloyd	77	LOLB	Julian Peterson	61
WR	Arnaz Battle	59	LILB	Derek M. Smith	75
TE	Eric M. Johnson	76	RILB	Jeff Ulbrich	-
LT	Jonas Jennings	-	ROLB	Jamie Winborn	-
LG	Justin Smiley	-	LCB	Ahmed Plummer	-
C	Jeremy Newberry	-	RCB	Shawntae Spencer	-
RG	Adam Snyder	-	FS	Mike Rumph	-
RT	Kwame Harris	-	SS	Tony Parrish	85

special teams		Fantasy Value	Fantasy Value		
K	Joe Nedney	75	KR	Maurice Hicks	-
P	Andy Lee	75	PR	Arnaz Battle	-

KEY NOTES

The offensive line was banged up during the off-season, including newcomer Jonas Jennings (who needed surgery to repair a broken index finger)... Kevan Barlow hasn't exactly won over new head coach Mike Nolan, who has criticized the starting tailback's work ethic. Rookie Frank Gore has been good enough to challenge him for some of his carries... Star linebacker Julian Peterson looks relatively healthy and is said to be pleased the team's new 3-4 defense...

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

NFC WEST



You know how some things are greater than the sum of their parts? The opposite is true of the Seahawks. Simply stacked with talent and no obvious holes, Seattle's team just can't seem to put it all together and win. Head coach Mike Holmgren has gone from being one of the NFL's golden coaches to one of its most dubious play-callers and motivators. Above all, the Seahawks seem to need an identity, but Shaun Alexander could help. He's quietly the NFL's most well-rounded running back, and he's entering a contract season after signing a one-year pact. Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck will also want to do well, so the two of them could join forces to become one of the league's best duos.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Shaun Alexander's contract mess. It took a while but Alexander is finally back in the fold, and he should be ready to have a huge season because his deal is for just one year. In other words, he's suddenly in a contract year again during the prime of his career.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether anyone can catch Matt Hasselbeck's good passes. What is it about the 'Hawks that they seem to drop or miss so many catchable balls? And even if they do get a handle on things, who will be the No. 2 receiver behind Darrell Jackson? The starter so far is Bobby Engram, but ex-Bengal Peter Warrick and ex-Buccaneer Joe Jurevicius are also around to share touches.

CAMP STAR

Jerramy Stevens. The huge tight end had a huge camp and is emerging as a playmaker for them early on. Whether he can finally live up to all the hype is yet to be seen, but so far things are looking up. He'll continue to challenge Itula Mili for the starting job.

projected starters

offense		Fantasy Value	defense		Fantasy Value
QB	Matt Hasselbeck	77	LE	Bryce Fisher	70
RB	Shaun Alexander	98	LT	Chuck Darby	-
FB	Mack Strong	-	RT	Marcus Tubbs	-
WR	Darrell Jackson	79	RE	Grant Wistrom	-
WR	Bobby Engram	69	SLB	D.D. Lewis	-
TE	Itula Mili	75	MLB	Lofa Tatupu	-
LT	Walter Jones	-	WLB	Jamie Sharper	85
LG	Steve Hutchinson	-	LCB	Andre Dyson	53
C	Robbie Tobeck	-	RCB	Marcus Trufant	91
RG	Chris Gray	-	FS	Ken Hamlin	85
RT	Floyd Womack	-	SS	Michael Boulware	-

special teams		Fantasy Value	Fantasy Value		
K	Josh Brown	82	KR	Josh Scobey	-
P	Leo Araguz	61	PR	Peter Warrick	-

KEY NOTES

With troubled and troubling wideout Koren Robinson released, the Seahawks picked up promising receiver Warrick after he'd been let go by the Cincinnati Bengals. The early word is that he'll start the season as the tentative No. 3 receiver--behind Jackson and Engram... The defense had a few uncommon lapses during camp, driving head coach Mike Holmgren a wee bit batty at times. They could have used veteran Peter Boulware, but he re-signed with the Baltimore Ravens after flirting with joining the 'Hawks...

ST. LOUIS RAMS

NFC WEST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Marc Bulger	74	LE	Leonard Little	68
RB	Steven Jackson	85	LT	Ryan Pickett	-
FB	Chris Massey	-	RT	Jimmy Kennedy	-
WR	Torry Holt	95	RE	Tony Hargrove	-
WR	Isaac Bruce	66	SLB	Dexter Coakley	67
TE	Roland Williams	58	MLB	Chris Claiborne	55
LT	Orlando Pace	-	WLB	Pisa Tinoisamoa	66
LG	Ton Nutten	-	LCB	DeJuan Groce	-
C	Andy McCollum	-	RCB	Travis Fisher	-
RG	Adam Timmerman	-	FS	Michael Hawthorne	-
RT	Rex Tucker	-	SS	Adam Archuleta	-

special teams			Fantasy Value		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
K	Jeff Wilkins	79	KR	Aveion Cason	-
P	Reggie Hodges	67	PR	Terry Fair	-

It seems not long ago that Kurt Warner and Marshall Faulk were winning MVPs, and Mike Martz was just arriving on the scene. Just a few short years later, Martz is on the early hot seat (sort of) and the Rams' hopes are in the hands of Marc Bulger, running back Steven Jackson, and a rebuilt defense. Jackson looks the most improved of the three and if he stays away from injuries could look like a modern-day Eric Dickerson. Bulger hopes to rebound from a shaky season and the defense will be much better, so it's safe to say the Rams may be on the rise.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The new-look defense. Some of the camp experiments ended without much success (case in point: Adam Archuleta needing to be moved back to strong safety after showing he wasn't suited to free safety). But all in all, the defensive unit appears improved. New line-backers Dexter Coakley and Chris Claiborne have helped shore up a group that was full of holes last season.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The offensive line. It's mostly Marc Bulger's fault he gets sacked so much because he's so stiff and immobile in the pocket, but he could use more help. Rookie Alex Barron was supposed to be able to step in right away, but he held out for part of camp wanting a better contract and once he did arrive was dressed down by head coach Mike Martz for not being prepared. He doesn't look ready to start, and that leaves the Orlando Pace-led group very thin.

CAMP STAR

Steven Jackson. Yes, Marshall Faulk is still around. But the veteran has conceded his starting role to Jackson, who looks on the verge of a breakthrough season for St. Louis. Jackson showed enough in

camp to have Martz designing the offense around him, which can only help take pressure off Bulger.

KEY NOTES

Bulger has been solid so far and has been helped by the improved running game, keeping opposing pass rushers guessing... Last year's starting fullback Joey Goodspeed was outplayed by massive rookie Madison Hedgecock, leading to Goodspeed's release by the Rams...

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

NFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Brian Griese	59	LE	Greg Spires	70
RB	Michael Pittman	67	LT	Chris Hovan	-
FB	Mike Alstott	61	RT	Anthony McFarland	60
WR	Michael Clayton	85	RE	Simeon Rice	62
WR	Joey Galloway	-	SLB	Derrick Brooks	79
TE	Anthony Becht	58	MLB	Shelton Quarles	65
LT	Anthony Davis	-	WLB	Ryan Nece	-
LG	Matt Stinchcomb	-	LCB	Brian Kelly	-
C	John Wade	-	RCB	Ronde Barber	87
RG	Sean Mahan	-	FS	Dexter Jackson	-
RT	Kenyatta Walker	-	SS	Jermaine Phillips	-

special teams			Value		
		Value			Value
K	Matt Bryant	73	KR	Torrie Cox	-
P	Josh Bidwell	71	PR	Torrie Cox	-

Not that they're rebuilding, but it's safe to say the Bucs are a team in transition. With a green offense and an aging defense, Tampa Bay is one of those teams that seem to have equal chances at being much improved or much worse. Brian Griese may be better behind center than many people think and he'll have young bucks Michael Clayton and Carnell 'Cadillac' Williams to help him succeed. Still, head coach Jon Gruden still doesn't seem to put much emphasis on offense, and that could mean another long season in Tampa Bay.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Health issues. Anthony 'Booger' McFarland seems finally healthy and ready to help the defense at tackle and wideout Joey Galloway seems back to his old self, so at least the Bucs will start the season with mostly able bodies.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

Whether Cadillac Williams is ready to take over in the backfield. The promising rookie tailback had a good (not great) camp but he didn't see much playing time from head coach Jon Gruden. It looks like the rookie will share carries with veteran Michael Pittman to begin the season.

CAMP STAR

If anyone, Chris Simms. The son of Phil closed out camp with a strong showing and appears to have won the back-up job to Brian Griese.

KEY NOTES

With Williams set to eventually take over at running back, the Bucs said goodbye to veteran tailback Charlie Garner, who last season was at the top of their depth chart until getting injured... Third-

string running back Earnest Graham has been very good and did much of the running for the team in the preseason... The aging Tampa Bay defense looked solid much of training camp and didn't yield more than 20 points in any of their four tune-up games... Luke McCown hoped to back up Griese this year but has seemingly fallen behind Simms on the depth chart... Matt Bryant has won the placekicking job over Todd France... Michael Clayton will continue to lead the receiving corps but will get help from veterans Galloway and Ike Hilliard...

TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC SOUTH



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Steve McNair	58	LE	Antwan Odom	-
RB	Chris R. Brown	81	LT	Randy Starks	61
FB	Troy Fleming	-	RT	Albert Haynesworth	-
WR	Drew Bennett	92	RE	Kyle Vanden Bosch	-
WR	Tyrone Calico	57	SLB	Peter Sirmon	-
TE	Erron Kinney	70	MLB	Brad Kassell	-
LT	Brad Hopkins	-	WLB	Keith Bulluck	98
LG	Zach Piller	-	LCB	Tony Beckham	-
C	Justin Hartwig	-	RCB	Andre Woolfolk	-
RG	Benji Olson	-	FS	Lamont Thompson	67
RT	Michael Roos	-	SS	Tank Williams	65

special teams			special teams		
		Value			Value
K	Rob Bironas	-	KR	Michael Waddell	-
P	Craig Hentrich	91	PR	Michael Waddell	-

It's hard to lose almost all of your best veterans and improve, but the Titans may do just that. The young core remaining in Tennessee (with the exception of QB Steve McNair) is filled with players on the rise. But of course, how they play will have much to do with McNair, a quarterback who seems much older than his 32 years due to seemingly constant injuries. The Titans will be overlooked by many but young talents such as running back Chris Brown and receivers Drew Bennett, Tyrone Calico, and tight end Ben Troupe all have star potential.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

Most of Tennessee's major health issues. Although he hasn't been 100 per cent, Steve McNair seems to be making progress with his sternum injury and featured back Chris Brown has been healthy. His main competition in the backfield, Travis Henry (also known to be injury prone) has missed exhibition games with turf toe but is expected to be ready for the season. Receiver Tyrone Calico has stayed in one piece, and it looks like the only question mark remaining is tight end Ben Troupe, still recovering from a broken foot.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The placekicking situation. Favorite Ola Kimrin was released by the Titans during camp, leaving them with Rob Bironas as the top contender for the job. Word is they're not entirely comfortable with giving him the job outright, so expect the team to be scouting for a veteran boot early on.

CAMP STAR

Norm Chow. He's not a player, he's the new offensive coordinator. Seen as a mastermind at the college level with USC, Chow is expected to cobble the remaining talent in Tennessee into a dynamic

offense. The exhibition results were mixed, but Chow has impressed the team with his approach.

KEY NOTES

The offensive line, like much of the team, remains in flux and hasn't been able to keep McNair as safe as he needs to be... With Troupe still not ready, Erron Kinney is expected to play more of a role in the offense... The Titans signed wideout Troy Edwards late in camp, and expect him to be in the receiver mix...

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

NFC EAST



projected starters

offense			defense		
		Fantasy Value			Fantasy Value
QB	Patrick Ramsey	56	LE	Renaldo Wynn	-
RB	Clinton Portis	81	LT	Cornelius Griffin	69
H-B	Chris Cooley	73	RT	Joe Salave'a	-
WR	Santana Moss	80	RE	Phillip Daniels	-
WR	David Patten	68	SLB	LaVar Arrington	70
TE	Robert Royal	-	MLB	Lemar Marshall	-
LT	Chris Samuels	-	WLB	Marcus Washington	78
LG	Derrick Dockery	-	LCB	Walt Harris	-
C	Casey Rabach	-	RCB	Shawn Springs	81
RG	Randy Thomas	-	FS	Sean Taylor	83
RT	Jon Jansen	-	SS	Matt Bowen	-

special teams			special teams		
		Value			Value
K	John Hall	74	KR	Antonio Brown	-
P	Andy Groom	-	PR	Antonio Brown	-

The good news: Once again, the Redskins have been named by Forbes Magazine as the NFL's most valuable franchise. The bad news: That doesn't have anything to do with wins and losses. Not that they are without talent; the defense is arguably the NFL's most exciting young group. The offense also has some weapons and a new look at wide receiver with newcomers Santana Moss and David Patten. Yet young QB Patrick Ramsey still hasn't proven he can emerge as an above-average passer and Clinton Portis has almost as much to prove coming out of the backfield. This team could either make the playoffs or finish at the bottom of their division.

WHAT GOT SETTLED AT CAMP

The defense. With the improvement of such talented players as Lemar Marshall, the Redskin D is seemingly the one thing Joe Gibbs doesn't have to worry about much. Pro Bowl linebacker LaVar Arrington is getting healthy and looks like he wants to get back on track following major injuries, and he settled his distracting contract dispute with the team.

WHAT DIDN'T GET SETTLED AT CAMP

The passing game. Patrick Ramsey was named the new full-time starter over veteran Mark Brunell heading into camp--thus defusing any competition or controversy--but Ramsey hasn't exactly justified the decision in pre-season action. The Redskins are hoping Ramsey isn't the kind of quarterback who plays well when he's trying to win a job, but falls back to earth when he isn't worried about his job.

CAMP STAR

Chris Cooley, H-back. The sometimes-fullback, sometimes-tight end came to camp with a funky hairdo and a more polished game than he had as a rookie. He's emerging as a major red zone target in the

Redskin offense and could be a sleeper for 2005. Another big back, rookie Nehemiah Broughton, has also impressed and has the versatility to play a role in this year's offense.

KEY NOTES

Clinton Portis was quiet in preseason, but is looking to rebound after a disappointing inaugural season with the Redskins... New top receiver Santana Moss looks healthy and flashed some of his blazing quickness with a few big plays in exhibition games...