

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY



Hines Ward

Things have changed considerably around the NFL since the Steelers won Super Bowl XL. What happened to your favorite team during the summer and what it'll look like on the field? A team-by-team breakdown...

ARIZONA CARDINALS

A great sign for an improving franchise is when star players join up, so the arrival of Edgerrin James in is the best sign yet for this team. The running game was the Cards' Achilles heel in '05, but James alone provides major help. Coupled with an improving defense, things are looking up in 'Zona.

Go-to Guy: Larry Fitzgerald, WR.

Breakout player: Karlos Dansby, LB.

Sleeper: Leonard Pope, TE.

On the bubble: Eric Edwards, TE.

Hotshot rookie: Matt Leinart, QB.

Next in Line: Taitusi Lutiu, OG.

Key Arrivals: Edgerrin James, RB; Mark Brown, LB; Troy Walters, WR; Kendrick Clancy, DT; Milford Brown, OG.

Key Departures: Josh McCown, QB; Reggie Swinton, KR; WR Russell Davis, DT; Teyo Johnson, TE; Ross Kolodziej, DT.

Outlook: The Cards should have been better than 5-11 in '05, and likely will be in '06. James is a huge upgrade at RB, but will the offense use him enough? This team really needed to add some O-line help, but didn't do much there. They'll improve, but may still miss the playoffs.

Camp Battles: Leonard Pope vs. Eric Edwards for TE; J.J. Arrington vs. Marcel Shipp for No.2 RB; Milford Brown vs. Fred Wakefield for Left Guard; Jeremy Bridges vs. Elton Brown and Reggie Wells for Right Guard; Gerald Hayes vs. James Darling for middle LB; Bryant Johnson vs. Damien Anderson for KR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Kurt Warner	71
RB	Edgerrin James	78
FB	Obafemi Ayanbadejo	-
WR	Larry Fitzgerald	98
WR	Anquan Boldin	92
TE	Eric Edwards	-
LT	Leonard Davis	-
LG	Milford Brown	-
C	Nick Leckey	-
RG	Taitusi Lutui	-
RT	Oliver Ross	-
Defense		FV
LE	Chike Okeafor	78
LT	Darnell Dockett	70
RT	Kendrick Clancy	62
RE	Bertrand Berry	80
SLB	Orlando Huff	66
MLB	Gerald Hayes	-
WLB	Karlos Dansby	82
LCB	Antrel Rolle	65
RCB	David Macklin	72
FS	Robert Griffith	58
SS	Adrian Wilson	98
Special Team		FV
K	Neil Rackers	99
P	Scott Player	74
KR	Bryant Johnson	-
PR	Bryant Johnson	-

ATLANTA FALCONS

A very good Falcon defense got even better since last season. A solid offense (again) preaches they'll do the same. So why are some fans in Atlanta still holding their breath? Maybe because this team underachieved so badly in 2005. The pieces are all there, but it's time for them to start working together.

Go-to Guy: Michael Vick, QB.

Breakout player: Michael Jenkins, WR.

Sleeper: Roddy White, WR.

On the bubble: Brian Finneran, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Jimmy Williams, CB.

Next in Line: Jerious Norwood, RB.

Key Arrivals: Lawyer Milloy, SS; John Abraham, DE; Wayne Gandy, OT; John Leake, LB.

Key Departures: Todd Peterson, PK; Dez White, WR; Brady Smith, DE; Ty Detmer, QB; Bryan Scott, SS; Barry Stokes, OL; Keion Carpenter, FS; Antuan Edwards, SS.

Outlook: Was last year's flop a fluke? Not really. The Falcons look good on paper, but in practice they run the ball too much and don't stop the run enough. Michael Vick has vowed to throw more, but made similar promises last year. In a tough NFC South, this team could either explode or implode.

Camp Battles: T.J. Duckett vs. Jerious Norwood for back-up RB/FB; Roddy White vs. Brian Finneran for No.2 WR; Wayne Gandy vs. Frank Omiyale for Left Tackle; Michael Boley vs. Keith Brooking for LB; Edgerton Hartwell vs. Keith Brooking for middle LB ; Zac Derr vs. Tony Yelk for PK; Allen Rossum vs DeAndra Cobb for KR and PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		
		FV
QB	Michael Vick	81
RB	Warrick Dunn	74
FB	Justin Griffith	64
WR	Michael Jenkins	69
WR	Roddy White	69
TE	Alge Crumpler	79
LT	Wayne Gandy	-
LG	Matt Lehr	-
C	Todd McClure	-
RG	Kynan Forney	-
RT	Todd Weiner	-
Defense		
		FV
LE	Patrick Kerney	74
LT	Rod Coleman	75
RT	Chad Lavalais	-
RE	John Abraham	90
SLB	Keith Brooking	82
MLB	Edgerton Hartwell	-
WLB	Demorrio Williams	88
LCB	DeAngelo Hall	82
RCB	Jason Webster	72
FS	Chris Crocker	79
SS	Lawyer Milloy	95
Special Team		
		FV
K	Zac Derr	-
P	Michael Koenen	73
KR	Allen Rossum	-
PR	Allen Rossum	-

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Welcome, Steve McNair. The Ravens have been good for years but have suffered from not having an elite quarterback. If McNair can stay healthy, the Ravens may soar in 2006.

Go-to Guy: Steve McNair, QB.

Breakout player: Mark Clayton, WR.

Sleeper: Kyle Boller, QB.

On the bubble: Jamal Lewis, RB.

Hotshot rookie: Haloti Ngata, DT.

Next in Line: Chris Chester, C.

Key Arrivals: Steve McNair, QB; Mike Anderson, FB; Trevor Pryce, DE/DT; Leo Araguz, P; Justin Bannan, DT; Gerome Sapp, SS.

Key Departures: Chester Taylor, RB; Deion Sanders, CB; Anthony Weaver, DE/DT; Dale Carter, CB; Will Demps, S; Orlando Brown, OT; Ma'ake Kemoeatu, DT; Tommy Polley, LB; Anthony Wright, QB; Dave Zastudil, P/PK.

Outlook: Is the signing of McNair overrated? Probably a little. Young Kyle Boller came on strong last year, and the team's swiss-cheese O-line may hang both QB's out to dry. Much more depends on whether RB Jamal Lewis can bounce back to his 2003 form. If he does, a long playoff run is very possible.

Camp Battles: Kyle Boller might push Steve McNair at QB; Jamal Lewis vs. Mike Anderson at RB; Alan Richard vs. Mike Anderson for FB; Brian Rimpf vs. Keydrick Vincent for RG; Leo Araguz vs. Sam Koch for P.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		
		FV
QB	Steve McNair	72
RB	Jamal Lewis	72
FB	Mike Anderson	70
WR	Derrick Mason	77
WR	Mark Clayton	69
TE	Todd Heap	83
LT	Jonathan Ogden	-
LG	Edwin Mulitalo	-
C	Mike Flynn	-
RG	Keydrick Vincent	-
RT	Tony Pashos	-
Defense		
		FV
LE	Jarret Johnson	66
LT	Kelly Gregg	75
RT	Trevor Pryce	62
RE	Terrell Suggs	76
SLB	Adalius Thomas	81
MLB	Ray Lewis	88
WLB	Bart Scott	-
LCB	Chris McAlister	62
RCB	Samari Rolle	57
FS	B.J. Ward	-
SS	Ed Reed	78
Special Team		
		FV
K	Matt Stover	99
P	Leo Araguz	67
KR	B.J. Sams	-
PR	B.J. Sams	-

BUFFALO BILLS

Everything old is new again in Buffalo. The return of onetime coach Marv Levy to call the personnel shots gives a disappointing team a little bit of its mojo back. Interestingly, the aging Levy has put much stock in young players, especially on defense. Does Marv still have the old magic?

Go-to Guy: Willis McGahee, RB.

Breakout player: Lee Evans, WR.

Sleeper: Ko Simpson, S.

On the bubble: J.P. Losman, QB.

Hotshot rookie: Donte Whitner, S.

Next in Line: John McCargo, DT.

Key Arrivals: Dick Jauron, head coach; Peerless Price, WR; Andre' Davis, WR; Robert Royal, TE; Anthony Thomas, RB; Larry Tripplett, DT; Courtney Watson, LB; Tutan Reyes, OT.

Key Departures: Mike Mularkey, Head coach; Mike D. Williams, OT; Sam Adams, DT; Mark Campbell, TE; Lawyer Milloy, SS (FA-Atl); Eric Moulds, WR.

Outlook: The influx of rookie defenders is impressive, but this team lost a LOT of veteran leadership. Buffalo's big problem last season, besides at QB, was line play. They didn't add major upgrades on either the O-line or D-line, so a return to mediocrity is likely unless the kids can play like veterans.

Camp Battles: Kelly Holcomb vs. J.P. Losman for starting QB; Ryan Denney vs. Chris Kelsay for Left DE; Donte Whitner vs. Matt Bowen for SS; Roscoe Parrish or Nate Clements for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		
		FV
QB	Kelly Holcomb	60
RB	Willis McGahee	76
FB	Daimon Shelton	-
WR	Lee Evans	85
WR	Peerless Price	64
TE	Robert Royal	68
LT	Mike Gandy	-
LG		-
C	Melvin Fowler	-
RG	Chris Villarrial	-
RT	Jason Peters	-
Defense		
		FV
LE	Chris Kelsay	-
LT	Larry Tripplett	71
RT	Tim Anderson	61
RE	Aaron Schobel	97
SLB	Jeff Posey	63
MLB	London Fletcher	93
WLB	Takeo Spikes	78
LCB	Terrence McGee	76
RCB	Nate Clements	94
FS	Troy Vincent	73
SS	Matt Bowen	-
Special Team		
		FV
K	Rian Lindell	99
P	Brian Moorman	98
KR	Terrence McGee	-
PR	Roscoe Parrish	-

CAROLINA PANTHERS

A dominant young offense. A dominant young defense. A brilliant coach. So what else do the Panthers need to get to the Super Bowl. Just a little more time, it seems. This great team upgraded in the offseason, bringing in Keyshawn Johnson and others. Is 2006 the year they finally get their rings?

Go-to Guy: Steve Smith, WR.

Breakout player: DeShaun Foster, RB.

Sleeper: Jordan Carstens, DT.

On the bubble: Keary Colbert, WR.

Hotshot rookie: DeAngelo Williams, RB.

Next in Line: Richard Marshall, CB.

Key Arrivals: Keyshawn Johnson, WR; Shaun Williams, SS (FA-NYG); Keith Adams, LB (FA-Phi) ; Na'il Diggs, LB (FA-GB); Ma'ake Kemoeatu, DT; Reggie Howard, CB; Justin Hartwig, C/OG; Damione Lewis, DT.

Key Departures: Stephen Davis, RB ; Ricky Proehl, WR; Will Witherspoon, LB; Rod Smart, RB; Tutan Reyes, OG/OT; Idrees Bashir, FS; Ricky Manning, CB; Marlon McCree, FS.

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY

Carolina Panthers (continued)

Outlook: It's hard not to see the Panthers as Super Bowl favorites. Much of the NFC got better in the offseason, but so did Carolina. They kept much of their core intact, and have several young stars on the verge of dominating. Anything less than a deep playoff run would be surprising.

Camp Battles: Brad Hoover vs. Nick Goings vs. Eric Shelton for FB; Damione Lewis vs. Jordan Carstens for RT; DeAngelo Williams vs. Richard Marshall vs. Steve Smith for KR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Jake Delhomme	90
RB	De'Shaun Foster	78
FB	Brad Hoover	-
WR	Steve Smith	98
WR	Keyshawn Johnson	70
TE	Kris Mangum	64
LT	Travelle Wharton	-
LG	Mike Wahle	-
C	Justin Hartwig	-
RG	Evan Mathis	-
RT	Jordan Gross	-
Defense		FV
LE	Julius Peppers	93
LT	Ma'ake Kemoeatu	64
RT	Damione Lewis	-
RE	Mike Rucker	79
SLB	Na'il Diggs	58
MLB	Dan Morgan	68
WLB	Thomas Davis	-
LCB	Chris Gamble	77
RCB	Ken Lucas	80
FS	Mike Minter	67
SS	Shaun Williams	57
Special Team		FV
K	John Kasay	99
P	Jason Baker	78
KR	DeAngelo Williams	-
PR	Steve Smith	-

CHICAGO BEARS

You already know they can play defense—but can these Bears score enough? Veteran QB Brian Griese thinks so, and so does emerging young running back Cedric Benson. With Brian Urlacher and company shutting down opponents, can the veteran passer and super-soph runner carry Chicago to the next step?

Go-to Guy: Brian Urlacher, LB.

Breakout player: Cedric Benson, RB.

Sleeper: Adrian Peterson, RB.

On the bubble: Justin Gage, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Danieal Manning, S.

Next in Line: Dusty Dvoracek, DT.

Key Arrivals: Brian Griese, QB; Ricky Manning, CB; Dante Wesley, CB; Alex Bannister, WR.

Key Departures: Jerry Azumah, CB; Daven Holly, CB; Aaron Gibson, OG/OT; Michael Green, S; Qasim Mitchell, OT/OG; Bobby Gray, SS.

Outlook: The Bears surprised the NFL last season, but that won't happen again. Regardless, they still should be seen as the class of the NFC North, despite their questionable attack. Griese is a big upgrade at QB and Benson will be a star, but don't be shocked if there's a minor fallback for the Bears.

Camp Battles: Brian Griese vs. Rex Grossman vs. Kyle Orton for No.1 QB; Thomas Jones vs. Cedric Benson for No.1 RB; Justin Gage vs. Mark Bradley for No. 2 WR



Rex Grossman

JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Rex Grossman	49
RB	Thomas Jones	70
FB	Bryan Johnson	-
WR	Muhsin Muhammad	76
WR	Justin Gage	55
TE	Desmond Clark	62
LT	John Tait	-
LG	Ruben Brown	-
C	Olin Kreutz	-
RG	Terrence Metcalf	-
RT	Fred Miller	-
Defense		FV
LE	Adewale Ogunleye	83
LT	Tommie Harris	65
RT	Ian Scott	56
RE	Alex Brown	77
SLB	Lance Briggs	78
MLB	Brian Urlacher	90
WLB	Hunter Hillenmeyer	64
LCB	Charles Tillman	76
RCB	Nathan Vasher	79
FS	Chris Harris	-
SS	Mike Brown	73
Special Team		FV
K	Robbie Gould	99
P	Brad Maynard	76
KR	Devin Hester	-
PR	Devin Hester	-

CINCINNATI BENGALS

For several seasons the Bengals have been a team on the rise. Is it finally their time to dominate? Much depends on knee of rising star QB Carson Palmer after major surgery. The defense should be somewhat improved, but in Cincinnati's pass-first attack, all eyes will be on Palmer's knee.

Go-to Guy: Carson Palmer, QB.

Breakout player: David Pollack, LB.

Sleeper: Chris Perry, RB.

On the bubble: Chris Henry, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Johnathan Joseph, CB.

Next in Line: Frostee Rucker, DE.

Key Arrivals: Sam Adams, DT; Anthony Wright, QB; Antonio Chatman, WR; Dexter Jackson, FS.
Key Departures: Jon Kitna, QB; Matt Schobel, TE; Duane Clemons, DE; Ifeanyi Ohalet.

Outlook: Cincy excels at two things: Throwing the ball, and intercepting the ball. They needed to improve their run-stop and while big Sam Adams helps, he may not be enough. As mentioned, whether this team improves depends on Palmer. If he bounces back they go deeper into the playoffs.

Camp Battles: Anthony Wright vs. Doug Johnson for No.2 QB; Dexter Jackson vs. Madiou Williams vs. Kevin Kaesviharn for S; Chris Perry vs. Tab Perry for slot receiver.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Carson Palmer	86
RB	Rudi Johnson	80
FB	Jeremi Johnson	-
WR	Chad Johnson	92
WR	T.J. Houshmandzadeh	76
TE	Reggie Kelly	63
LT	Levi Jones	-
LG	Eric Steinbach	-
C	Rich Braham	-
RG	Bobbie Williams	-
RT	Willie Anderson	-
Defense		FV
LE	Justin Smith	92
LT	Sam Adams	57
RT	John Thornton	64
RE	Robert Geathers	59
SLB	David Pollack	64
MLB	Odell Thurman	86
WLB	Brian Simmons	70
LCB	Deltha O'Neal	74
RCB	Tory James	65
*FS	Madiou Williams	68
SS	Dexter Jackson	52
Special Team		FV
K	Shayne Graham	99
P	Kyle Larson	76
KR	Tab Perry	-
PR	Keiwan Ratliff	-

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sometimes it takes an overhaul before a team can succeed. That has happened under Romeo Crennel the past two offseasons, so are the Browns ready to start being good? The season-ending summer injury to newcomer LeCharles Bentley doesn't bode well, but otherwise, things are looking up in Cleveland.

Go-to Guy: Reuben Droughns, RB.

Breakout player: Kellen Winslow, Jr.

Sleeper: Lee Suggs, RB.

On the bubble: Frisman Jackson, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Kamerion Wimbley, DE.

Next in Line: D'Qwell Jackson, LB.

Key Arrivals: Joe Jurevicius, WR; LeCharles Bentley, C/OG; Willie McGinest, LB/DE; Ken Dorsey, QB; Daven Holly, CB; Kevin Shaffer, OT; Ted Washington, NT; Dave Zastudil, P.

Key Departures: Antonio Bryant, WR; Trent Dilfer, QB; Jeff Faine; Kenard Lang, LB; L.J. Shelton, OT; Ross Verba, OT; Kyle Richardson.

Outlook: The Browns' defense was surprisingly good last season, so it's time for the offense to catch up. Jurevicius, TE Kellen Winslow, and improving QB Charlie Frye will help but the loss of Pro Bowler Bentley hurts. The defense will be even better, so expect the Browns to be in the hunt.

Camp Battles: Reuben Droughns vs. Lee Suggs for No. 1 RB; Kellen Winslow may actually battle Joe Jurevicius and Braylon Edwards for a starting WR spot, leaving his tight end spot open for Steve Heiden; Gary Baxter vs. Leigh Bodden for RCB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Charlie Frye	72
RB Reuben Droughns	66
FB Terrelle Smith	-
WR Braylon Edwards	77
WR Joe Jurevicius	75
TE Kellen Winslow	76
LT Kevin Shaffer	-
LG Joe Andruzzi	-
C Bob Hallen	-
RG Cosey Coleman	-
RT Ryan Tucker	-

Defense	FV
LE Orpheus Roye	93
NT Ted Washington	58
RE Andrew Hoffman	-
LOLB Matt Stewart	49
LILB Andra Davis	94
RILB Chaun Thompson	81
ROLB Willie McGinest	63
LCB Daylon McCutcheon	77
RCB Gary Baxter	69
FS Brian Russell	72
SS Sean Jones	56

Special Team	FV
K Phil Dawson	99
P Dave Zastudil	67
KR Josh Cribbs	-
PR Dennis Northcutt	-

DALLAS COWBOYS

Everything is always big in Big D. So it's no shocker that colorful owner Jerry Jones went out and got the biggest wideout talent (and biggest ego and biggest problem) in the NFL in Terrell Owens. When added to a solid offense and improving

defense, does T-O make the 'Boys a Super contender? That depends on another big ego, coach Bill Parcells.

Go-to Guy: Terrell Owens, WR.

Breakout player: DeMarcus Ware, DE/LB.

Sleeper: Marion Barber, RB.

On the bubble: Patrick Crayton, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Bobby Carpenter, LB.

Next in Line: Anthony Fasano, TE/FB.

Key Arrivals: Terrell Owens, WR; Mike Vanderjagt, PK; Akin Ayodele, LB; Kyle Kosier, OT; Marcus Coleman, FS/ CB; Jason Fabini, OT.

Key Departures: Larry Allen, OG; Keyshawn Johnson, WR; Scott Fujita, LB; Billy Cundiff, PK; La'Roi Glover, DT; Peerless Price, WR.

Outlook: On paper Owens is a fantastic addition, but he's as risky as they come. New PK Mike Vanderjagt is also a loose cannon, but with the two the offense should be as good as anyone's. The whole season should come down to how coach Tuna manages the personalities, so prepare for some fireworks.

Camp Battles: Julius Jones vs. Marion Barber for No. 1 RB; Despite his big contract extension, Jason Witten may need to hold off Anthony Fasano at TE; Anthony Fasano vs. Lousaka Polite for FB; Kyle Kosier vs. Stephen Peterman for LG ; Jason Fabini vs. Rob Pettiti for RT; Greg Ellis vs. Chris Canty for Right DE; Rocky Boiman vs. Kevin Burnett vs. Ryan Fowler for Left Inside LB; Marcus Coleman vs. Keith Davis for FS; Akin Ayodele vs. Alshermund Singleton vs. Kevin Burnett for Right Outside LB; Skyler Green vs. Tyson Thompson for KR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Drew Bledsoe	85
RB Julius Jones	72
FB Anthony Fasano	61
WR Terrell Owens	88
WR Terry Glenn	74
TE Jason Witten	77
LT Flozell Adams	-
LG Kyle Kosier	-
C Al Johnson	-
RG Marco Rivera	-
RT Rob Pettiti	-

Defense	FV
LE Marcus Spears	65
NT Jason Ferguson	83
RE Chris Canty	-
LOLB Demarcus Ware	93
LILB Kevin Burnett	-
RILB Bradie James	76
ROLB Akin Ayodele	72
LCB Terence Newman	76
RCB Anthony Henry	-
FS Keith Davis	-
SS Roy Williams	88

Special Team	FV
K Mike Vanderjagt	99
P Mat McBriar	80
KR Skyler Green	-
PR Skyler Green	-

DENVER BRONCOS

Everyone knows the Broncos are a running team. Yet, 2006 should come down to how their passing game sorts itself out. If Jake Plummer can prove 2005 was no fluke, if Javon Walker is healthy, and if Ashley Lelie isn't a distraction, this team will be good. A lot of ifs, but also a lot of potential.

Go-to Guy: Rod Smith, WR.

Breakout player: Tatum Bell, RB.

Sleeper: Elvis Dumervil, DE.

On the bubble: Ashley Lelie, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Jay Cutler, QB.

Next in Line: Tony Scheffler, TE.

Key Arrivals: Javon Walker, WR; Kenard Lang, LB/ DE; Willie Middlebrooks, FS; Nate Webster, LB.

Key Departures: Mike Anderson, FB; Trevor Pryce, DE/ DT; Jeb Putzier, TE; Marco Coleman, DE ; Quentin Griffin, RB (FA-KC); Monsanto Pope, DT.

Outlook: Can Plummer win the big one? Last year's playoffs say no, but to be fair he hasn't had much big-game experience. Walker is an elite addition if his knee holds up, so this team has mostly upgraded from 2006. If the passing game clicks, this could be a Super Bowl team. If not, heads may roll.

Camp Battles: Tatum Bell vs. Ron Dayne for No. 1 RB; Ashley Lelie (if he shows up) vs. Javon Walker vs. Rod Smith for the top two WR spots; Kenard Lang vs. John Engelberger for Right DE; Dominique Foxworth vs. Darrent Williams for Right CB; Darrent Williams vs. Roc Alexander for KR; Darrent Williams vs. Charlie Adams for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Jake Plummer	85
RB Tatum Bell	76
FB Kyle Johnson	64
WR Rod Smith	71
WR Javon Walker	78
TE Stephen Alexander	60
LT Matt Lepsis	-
LG Ben Hamilton	-
C Tom Nalen	-
RG Cooper Carlisle	-
RT George Foster	-

Defense	FV
LE Courtney Brown	66
LT Michael Myers	57
RT Gerard Warren	57
RE Kenard Lang	59
SLB Ian Gold	77
MLB Al Wilson	70
WLB D.J. Williams	65
LCB Champ Bailey	81
RCB Darrent Williams	76
FS John Lynch	74
SS Nick Ferguson	78

Special Team	FV
K Jason Elam	99
P Todd Sauerbrun	93
KR Darrent Williams	-
PR Darrent Williams	-

DETROIT LIONS

Sometimes players and coaches are given one last chance to succeed in a city. That seems to be true in Detroit for team prez Matt Millen. His seeming reign of error brought ridicule last year, but also major changes from top to bottom. Can the new Lions claw to the playoffs and save their boss?

Go-to Guy: Roy Williams, WR.

Breakout player: Kevin Jones, RB.

Sleeper: Corey Bradford, WR.

On the bubble: Charles Rogers, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Ernie Sims, LB.

Next in Line: Brian Calhoun, RB.

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY

Detroit Lions (continued)

Key Arrivals: Rod Marinelli, head coach; Jon Kitna, QB; Josh McCown, QB; Corey Bradford, WR; Jamar Fletcher, CB; Idrees Bashir, FS; Paris Lenon, LB; Barry Stokes, OG/OT; Arlen Harris, RB; Ross Verba, OT.

Key Departures: Joey Harrington, QB; Jeff Garcia, QB; Kyle Kosier, OT; R.W. McQuarters, CB; Wali Rainer, LB; Troy Edwards, WR; Earl Holmes, LB; Bracy Walker, SS

Outlook: It would be easy to criticize the hiring of little-known Marinelli, but he's a D-line expert and the Lions need that. Kitna will be a big upgrade over Harrington/Garcia, and new offensive coordinator Mike Martz will jump-start the attack. Don't be shocked if they squeak into the postseason.

Camp Battles: Jon Kitna vs. Josh McCown for No.1 QB ; Corey Bradford vs. Charles Rogers vs. Mike Williams for No.2 WR; Kevin Jones vs. Arlen Harris vs. Brian Calhoun for No.1 RB; Arlen Harris vs. Cory Schlesinger for FB; Fernando Bryant vs. Kevin Smith for Left CB; Idrees Bashir vs. Terrence Holt vs. Vernon Fox for FS; Eddie Drummond vs. Arlen Harris for KR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Jon Kitna	73
RB	Kevin S. Jones	72
FB	Cory Schlesinger	-
WR	Roy E. Williams	93
WR	Corey Bradford	65
TE	Marcus Pollard	69
LT	Jeff Backus	-
LG	Rick DeMulling	-
C	Dominic Raiola	-
RG	Damien Woody	-
RT	Kelly Butler	-
Defense		FV
LE	Cory Redding	54
LT	Shaun Rogers	70
RT	Shaun Cody	65
RE	James Hall	76
SLB	James Davis	58

MLB	Teddy Lehman	-
WLB	Boss Bailey	70
LCB	Fernando Bryant	-
RCB	Dre' Bly	64
FS	Terrence Holt	52
SS	Kenoy Kennedy	91

Special Team	FV	
K	Jason Hanson	99
P	Nick Harris	92
KR	Eddie Drummond	-
PR	Eddie Drummond	-

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Are the Packers getting older, or getting younger? Both. While aging Brett Favre and Ahman Green are still around, the Pack have added lots of young talent in a busy off-season. That bodes well for the team's future, but this team is hoping Favre still has some magic in that Hall of Fame arm.

Go-to Guy: Brett Favre, QB.

Breakout player: Samkon Gado, RB.

Sleeper: Daryn Colledge, OT.

On the bubble: Rod Gardner, WR.

Hotshot rookie: A.J. Hawk, LB.

Next in Line: Abdul Hodge, LB.

Key Arrivals: Mike McCarthy, head coach; Charles Woodson, CB; Marquand Manuel, FS; Marc Boerigter, WR; Billy Cundiff, PK; Dorsey Levens, RB; Kenderick Allen, DT; Wayne Lucier, C; Ryan Pickett, DT; Dave Rayner, PK; Ben Taylor, LB; Tracy White, LB.

Key Departures: Mike Sherman, head coach; Javon Walker, WR; Ryan Longwell, PK; Mike Flanagan, C; Paris Lenon, LB; Antonio Chatman, WR; Na'il Diggs, LB; Tony Fisher, RB; Craig Nall, QB; Grey Ruegamer, C; Grady Jackson, DT.

Outlook: Believe it or not, Favre statistically may have been the worst QB in the NFL in 2005. He and the equally disappointing Green have a chance to rebound, but at the very least the Pack had a great draft and restocked for the future. They may surprise, but another low finish seems more likely.

Camp Battles: Ahman Green vs. Samkon Gado for No.1 RB; Robert Ferguson vs. Rod Gardner vs. Greg Jennings for No.2 WR; Noah Herron vs. Ahmad Carroll for KR; Noah Herron vs. Ahmad Carroll for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Brett Favre	85
RB	Ahman Green	68
FB	William Henderson	-
WR	Donald Driver	81
WR	Robert Ferguson	65
TE	Bubba Franks	63
LT	Chad Clifton	-
LG	Adrian Klemm	-
C	Scott Wells	-
RG	Will Whitticker	-
RT	Mark Tauscher	-

Defense		FV
LE	Aaron Kampman	95
LT	Ryan Pickett	74
RT	Cullen Jenkins	65
RE	Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila	87
SLB	AJ Hawk	74
MLB	Nick Barnett	90
WLB	Tracy White	-
LCB	Charles Woodson	69
RCB	Al Harris	69
FS	Marquand Manuel	77
SS	Mark Roman	-

Special Team	FV	
K	Billy Cundiff	99
P	B.J. Sander	63
KR	Ahmad Carroll	-
PR	Noah Herron	-

HOUSTON TEXANS

No, Mario Williams isn't Reggie Bush. But draft critics forget just how dominant and promising the Texans' top pick was in college. He gives an immediate boost to a team in need of it, and joins other highly-drafted talents on a team that may be better than many people think in 2006.



Andre Johnson

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Houston Texans (continued)

Go-to Guy: Andre Johnson, WR.

Breakout player: David Carr, QB.

Sleeper: DeMeco Ryans, LB.

On the bubble: Phillip Buchanon, CB.

Hotshot rookie: Mario Williams, DE.

Next in Line: Eric Winston, OT.

Key Arrivals: Gary Kubiak, head coach; Eric Moulds, WR; Mike Flanagan, C; Jeb Putzier, TE; Antowain Smith, RB; Wali Rainer, LB; Brad Bedell, OT/OG; Sam Cowart, LB; Barrett Green, LB; N.D. Kalu, DE; David Loverne, OG; Ephraim Salaam, OT
Key Departures: Dom Capers, head coach; Corey Bradford, WR; Jabar Gaffney, WR; Jonathan Wells, RB; Tupe Peko, OG / C; Jason Bell, CB; Marcus Coleman, FS/CB; Milford Brown, OG; Tyson Walter, OT.

Outlook: It would be hard for the Texans to be worse than they were in '05, so things have to be looking up. They still did too little to improve the O-line, and that may continue to limit their offensive stars' development. The playoffs seem unlikely, but they may nevertheless turn the corner in '06.

Camp Battles: Jameel Cook vs. Antowain Smith for FB; Antowain Smith vs. Vernand Morency for No.2 RB; Jeb Putzier vs. Mark Bruener for TE; Seth Wand vs. Charles Spencer vs. Chester Pitts for LT; Zach Wiegert vs. Fred Weary for RG; Todd Wade vs. Ephraim Salaam vs. Zach Wiegert for RT; N.D. Kalu vs. Robaire Smith for Right DE; DaShon Polk vs. Morlon Greenwood for LB; Antawn Peek vs. DeMeco Ryans vs. Antawn Peek for LB; Jason Simmons vs. C.C. Brown for FS; Jerome Mathis vs. Vernand Morency for KR; Jerome Mathis vs. Phillip Buchanon for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	David Carr	83
RB	Domanick Davis	78
FB	Jameel Cook	-
WR	Andre Johnson	86
WR	Eric Moulds	68
TE	Jeb Putzier	63
LT	Seth Wand	-
LG	Brad Bedell	-
C	Mike Flanagan	-
RG	Chester Pitts	-
RT	Zach Wiegert	-
Defense		FV
LE	Mario Williams	66
LT	Travis Johnson	-
RT	Robaire Smith	81
RE	N.D. Kalu	56
SLB	Morlon Greenwood	74
MLB	Sam Cowart	68
WLB	DeMeco Ryans	-
LCB	Phillip Buchanon	65
RCB	Dunta Robinson	94
FS	C.C. Brown	79
SS	Glenn Earl	63
Special Team		FV
K	Kris Brown	99
P	Chad Stanley	76
KR	Jerome Mathis	-
PR	Jerome Mathis	-

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Is Peyton Manning cursed? Not really. He just plays in the same conference as Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger. It's hard to believe Manning is only 30 years old, and that's young enough to still be improving. With an exciting speed-based

defense behind him, could this be the year the NFL's best QB wins the big one?

Go-to Guy: Peyton Manning, QB.

Breakout player: Marlin Jackson, CB.

Sleeper: Antoine Bethea, S.

On the bubble: Kendyll Pope, LB.

Hotshot rookie: Joseph Addai, RB.

Next in Line: Freddie Keiaho, LB.

Key Arrivals: Adam Vinatieri, PK; Shaun King, QB.

Key Departures: Edgerrin James, RB; Mike Vanderjagt, PK; Larry Tripplett, DT; Jose Cortez, PK; Martin Gramatica, PK; Gerome Sapp, SS; David Thornton, LB; Troy Walters, WR; Joaquin Gonzalez, OT; Joseph Jefferson, CB; Kurt Vollers, OT.

Outlook: Was their playoff loss to the Steelers the last Super Bowl chance for the battery of Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison? Maybe. It's not fair to call the Colts a team in decline, but they didn't add much help this offseason and they lost Edgerrin James, Mike Vanderjagt, and several other talents.

Camp Battles: Dominic Rhodes vs. Joseph Addai for No.1 RB; James Mungro vs. Bryan Fletcher for FB; Dominic Rhodes vs. Joseph Addai for KR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Peyton Manning	99
RB	Dominic Rhodes	70
FB	James Mungro	-
WR	Marvin Harrison	84
WR	Reggie Wayne	84
TE	Dallas Clark	70
LT	Tarik Glenn	-
LG	-	-
C	Jeff Saturday	-
RG	Jake Scott	-
RT	Ryan Diem	-
Defense		FV
LE	Raheem Brock	62
LT	Corey Simon	61
RT	Montae Reagor	57
RE	Dwight Freenev	80
SLB	Keith O'Neil	-
MLB	Gary Brackett	82
WLB	Cato June	76
LCB	Nick Harper	66
RCB	Jason David	64
FS	Bob Sanders	91
SS	Mike Doss	60
Special Team		FV
K	Adam Vinatieri	99
P	Hunter Smith	90
KR	Dominic Rhodes	-
PR	Jason David	-

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

They say everything is big in Texas... but they should check out Jacksonville. Now that 6-7 rookie TE Mercedes Lewis is in town, he joins 6-6 Matt Jones, 6-4 Ernest Wilford, and 6-5 QB Byron Leftwich is perhaps the biggest passing game ever. Will they make a big splash in 2006?

Go-to Guy: Byron Leftwich, QB.

Breakout player: Matt Jones, WR.

Sleeper: Greg Jones, RB.

On the bubble:

Hotshot rookie: Mercedes Lewis, TE.

Next in Line: Maurice Drew, RB.

Key Arrivals: Mike D. Williams, OT; Stockar McDougale, OT/OG; Brian Williams, CB; Troy Edwards, WR; Toby Gowin, P; Nick Greisen, LB; Wayne Hunter, OT.

Key Departures: Jimmy Smith, WR; Akin Ayodele, LB; Jamie Winborn, LB; Greg Favors, LB; Deke Cooper, FS; Mike Pearson, OT; Ephraim Salaam, OT; Tracy White, LB; Kenny Wright, CB.

Outlook: The biggest need for the Jags heading into this season was the O-line, and with Mike D. Williams and McDougale, they definitely improve there. Their linebacking corps took a bit of a hit, but the defense is still elite and if the young offense can start clicking, watch out. No one will want to play these guys in 2006.

Camp Battles: Ernest Wilford vs. Matt Jones vs. Reggie Williams for the top two WR spots; Fred Taylor vs. Greg Jones for the No.1 RB spot; Mercedes Lewis vs. George Wrihster vs. Lee Webb for TE; Paul Spicer vs. Marcellus Wiley for Left DE; Nick Greisen vs. Pat Thomas for LB; Derrick Wimbush vs. Maurice Drew vs. LaBrandon Toefield for KR; Maurice vs. Alvin Pearman for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Byron Leftwich	83
RB	Fred Taylor	72
TE	Mercedes Lewis	-
WR	Matt Jones	80
WR	Ernest Wilford	84
TE	Kyle Brady	62
LT	Khalif Barnes	-
LG	Vince Manuwai	-
C	Brad Meester	-
RG	Chris Naeole	-
RT	Mike D. Williams	-
Defense		FV
LE	Paul Spicer	72
LT	Marcus Stroud	67
RT	John Henderson	87
RE	Reggie Hayward	74
SLB	Nick Greisen	60
MLB	Mike Peterson	89
WLB	Daryl Smith	75
LCB	Rashean Mathis	80
RCB	Brian Williams	76
FS	Deon Grant	76
SS	Donovin Darius	78
Special Team		FV
K	Josh Scobee	99
P	Chris Hanson	86
KR	Derrick Wimbush	-
PR	Maurice Drew	-

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

It's never wise to take over for a great. That must be daunting for new head coach Herm Edwards as he inherits Dick Vermeil's Chiefs. Then again, Edwards has a great example in front of him of a guy who may surpass a great, as RB Larry Johnson gets set to break Priest Holmes' records.

Go-to Guy: Larry Johnson, RB.

Breakout player: Derrick O. Johnson, LB.

Sleeper: Samie Parker, WR.

On the bubble: John Browning, LT.

Hotshot rookie: Tamba Hali, DE.

Next in Line: Brodie Croyle, QB.

Key Arrivals: Herman Edwards, head coach; Ty Law, CB; Kyle Turley, OT/TE; Lenny Walls, CB; Ian Allen, OT; Ron Edwards, DT; Quentin Griffin, RB; Chris Johnson, SS; James Reed, DT.

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY

Kansas City Chiefs (continued)

Key Departures: Dick Vermeil, head coach; Marc Boerigter, WR; Eric Warfield, CB; Dexter McCleon, CB; John Welbourn, OT/OG; Shawn Barber, LB; Gary Stills, DE; Ed Perry, TE.

Outlook: It's tough to see many coaches being better than Vermeil, but Edwards is no slouch. He would be wise to ride Johnson on offense, since no one could stop the latter last season. The defense is as ever the question mark, but Ty Law and the team's young talents provide hope there. The Chiefs should improve in 2006.

Camp Battles: Casey Printers vs. Brodie Croyle vs. Damon Huard for No.2 QB; Ronnie Cruz vs. Travis Wilson for FB; Samie Parker vs. Dante Hall for WR; Ryan Sims vs. John Browning for LT.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Trent Green	72
RB Larry Johnson	98
FB Ronnie Cruz	-
WR Eddie Kennison	74
WR Samie Parker	70
TE Tony Gonzalez	80
LT Willie Roaf	-
LG Brian Waters	-
C Casey Wiegmann	-
RG Will Shields	-
RT	-

Defense	FV
LE Eric Hicks	69
LT Ryan Sims	-
RT Lionel Dalton	50
RE Jared Allen	86
SLB Derrick O. Johnson	82
MLB Kawika Mitchell	81
WLB Kendrell Bell	59
LCB Patrick Surtain	70
RCB Ty Law	90
FS Greg Wesley	86
SS Sammy Knight	83

Special Team	FV
K Lawrence Tynes	99
P Dustin Colquitt	83
KR Dante' Hall	-
PR Dante' Hall	-

MIAMI DOLPHINS

College coaches aren't always great pro coaches, but Nick Saban may be even better in the NFL than he was at LSU. He turned the Dolphins around in 2005, and now with Daunte Culpepper onboard, he looks ready for the next step. After Miami won the NBA title, could the 'Fins challenge for a title in the same year?

Go-to Guy: Daunte Culpepper, QB.

Breakout player: Ronnie Brown, RB.

Sleeper: Wes Welker, WR.

On the bubble: Marty Booker, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Jason Allen, CB.

Next in Line: Derek Hagan, WR.

Key Arrivals: Daunte Culpepper, QB; Joey Harrington, QB; Will D. Allen, CB; L.J. Shelton, OT; Renaldo Hill, CB; Sedrick Hodge, LB; Keith Newman, LB; Mike Pearson, OT; Deke Cooper, FS; Andre' Goodman, CB.

Key Departures: Junior Seau, LB; Gus Frerotte, QB; David Boston, WR; Bryan Gilmore, WR; Sam Madison, CB; Tebucky Jones, SS; Stockar McDougle, OT/OG; Sage Rosenfels, QB; Kiwaukee Thomas, CB; Matt Turk, P; Lance Schulters, FS; Reggie Howard, CB.



Deion Branch

EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Outlook: After a major knee blowout last season, Culpepper may never regain his incredible form of 2004. He will, however, likely bounce back and he alone makes this a playoff contender. The help they added in the secondary was crucial, so this team looks poised for a long run.

Camp Battles: Marty Booker vs. Derek Hagan vs. Wes Welker for No.2 WR; Channing Crowder vs. Derrick Pope vs. Sedrick Hodge vs. Keith Newman for LB; Andre Goodman vs. Travis Daniels vs. Jason Allen for CB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Daunte Culpepper	89
RB Ronnie Brown	78
FB Fred Beasley	-
WR Chris Chambers	95
WR Marty Booker	72
TE Randy McMichael	76
LT L.J. Shelton	-
LG Jeno James	-
C Seth McKinney	-
RG Rex Hadnot	-
RT Vernon Carey	-

Defense	FV
LE Kevin Carter	77
LT Keith Traylor	55
RT Vonnie Holliday	70
RE Jason Taylor	92
SLB Channing Crowder	74
MLB Zach Thomas	95
WLB Donnie Spragan	-
LCB Travis Daniels	72
RCB Will D. Allen	74
*FS Jason Allen	53
SS Renaldo Hill	-

Special Team	FV
K Olindo Mare	99
P Donnie Jones	80
KR Wes Welker	-
PR Wes Welker	-

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sometimes things need to get bad before they get better. If that's true, this year the Vikes will be better, since not much more could have gone worse for them in 2005. With a new head coach, several new players, and a new attitude, Minny will be looking for major improvement on the field.

Go-to Guy: Brad Johnson, QB.

Breakout player: Troy Williamson, WR.

Sleeper: Ciatrick Fason, RB.

On the bubble: Marcus Robinson, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Chad Greenway, LB.

Next in Line: Cedric Griffin, CB.

Key Arrivals: Brad Childress, head coach; Steve Hutchinson, OG; Chester Taylor, RB; Ryan Longwell, PK; Tank Williams, SS; Dwight Smith, FS/CB; Mike McMahon, QB; Artis Hicks, OG/OT; Ross Kolodziej, DT; DeQuincy Scott, DT.

Key Departures: Mike Tice, head coach; Daunte Culpepper, QB; Nate Burleson, WR; Corey Chavous, SS/CB; Sam Cowart, LB; Michael Bennett, RB; Onterio Smith, RB; Moe Williams, RB; Tionu Fonoti, OG; Melvin Fowler, C; Keith Newman, LB; Brian Williams, CB.

Outlook: The defense had a tough 2005 but should rebound, and the Viking offense has been completely re-tooled. The West Coast system of new head coach Brad Childress should be successful, and on talent alone this is a playoff team. Last year was likely a fluke, so don't underrate this team.

Camp Battles: Chester Taylor vs. Ciatrick Fason vs. Mewelde Moore for No.1 RB and goal-line duty; Koren Robinson vs. Travis Taylor vs. Troy Williamson vs. Marcus Robinson for the top two WR spots; Dwight Smith vs. Darren Sharper vs. Tank Williams for two S positions; Jason Whittle vs. Adam Goldberg for RG; Chad Greenway vs. Dontarrious Thomas vs. Ben Leber vs. Napoleon Harris vs. E.J. Henderson for three LB spots.

Minnesota Vikings (continued)

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Brad Johnson	78
RB Chester Taylor	74
FB Tony Richardson	-
WR Troy Williamson	69
WR Koren Robinson	83
TE Jermaine Wiggins	69
LT Bryant McKinnie	-
LG Steve Hutchinson	-
C Matt Birk	-
RG Adam Goldberg	-
RT Marcus Johnson	-

Defense	FV
LE Darrion Scott	-
LT Pat Williams	70
RT Kevin Williams	76
RE Erasmus James	68
SLB Dontarrious Thomas	55
MLB E.J. Henderson	73
WLB Ben Leber	51
LCB Antoine Winfield	87
RCB Fred Smoot	69
FS Darren Sharper	69
SS Tank Williams	78

Special Team	FV
K Ryan Longwell	99
P Chris Kluwe	73
KR Mewelde Moore	-
PR Mewelde Moore	-

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Are the Patriots still a dynasty? One year doesn't exactly take away that distinction, just as it didn't when the Pats missed the Super Bowl in 2003. That said, if this is still a dynasty, it's not the same group that won in 2002, '04, and '05. Never count them out, but has New England lost too much to get back on top?

Go-to Guy: Tom Brady, QB.

Breakout player: Ben Watson, TE.

Sleeper: Stephen Gostkowski, PK.

On the bubble: Martin Gramatica, PK.

Hotshot rookie: Laurence Maroney, RB.

Next in Line: Chad Jackson, WR.

Key Arrivals: Reche Caldwell, WR; Martin Gramatica, PK; Tebucky Jones, SS; Mel Mitchell, SS; Johnathan Sullivan, DT; Eric Warfield, CB; Barry Gardner, LB.

Key Departures: Adam Vinatieri, PK; Doug Flutie, QB; Willie McGinest, LB/DE; Christian Fauria, TE; David Givens, WR; Bethel Johnson, WR; Tom Ashworth, OT; Chad Brown, LB; Andre' Davis, WR; Tim Dwight, WR; Duane Starks, CB.

Outlook: Many of their Super Bowl core are still there, but many are gone as well. This off-season gutted the Pats of veteran leadership, with the likes of Vinatieri, Fauria, McGinest, Ashworth, and Flutie leaving. The secondary is still a major concern. All in all, a return to the Super Bowl would be extremely surprising.

Camp Battles: Corey Dillon vs. Laurence Maroney for No.1 RB; Chad Jackson vs. Deion Branch vs. Reche Caldwell for the top two WR spots; Patrick Pass vs. Heath Evans for FB; Ben Watson vs. Daniel Graham for TE; Monty Beisel vs. Don Davis vs. Barry Gardner for Right Inside LB; Eric Warfield vs. Randall Gay for Left CB; Stephen Gostkowski vs. Martin Gramatica for PK; Kevin Faulk vs. Troy Brown for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Tom Brady	95
RB Corey Dillon	72
FB Patrick Pass	-
WR Deion Branch	75
WR Reche Caldwell	68
TE Daniel Graham	65
LT Matt Light	-
LG Logan Mankins	-
C Russ Hochstein	-
RG Steve Neal	-
RT Brandon Gorin	-

Defense	FV
LE Ty Warren	77
NT Vince Wilfork	71
RE Richard Seymour	71
LOLB Rosevelt Colvin	67
LILB Tedy Bruschi	68
RILB Monty Beisel	62
ROLB Mike Vrabel	80
LCB Randall Gay	-
RCB Asante Samuel	69
FS Eugene Wilson	-
SS Rodney Harrison	82

Special Team	FV
K Stephen Gostkowski	99
P Josh Miller	85
KR Ellis Hobbs	-
PR Kevin Faulk	-

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

After one of the toughest years in their existence, the Saints needed some good fortune. It arrived on draft day, when Reggie Bush fell to them in the draft. Along with established star Drew Brees, the superstar USC running back brings a new optimism to New Orleans.

Go-to Guy: Drew Brees, QB.

Breakout player: Devery Henderson, WR.

Sleeper: Zach Hilton, TE.

On the bubble: Ernie Conwell, TE.

Hotshot rookie: Reggie Bush, RB.

Next in Line: Roman Harper, S.

Key Arrivals: Sean Payton, head coach; Drew Brees, QB; Scott Fujita, LB; Jeff Faine, C; Jay Foreman, LB; Bethel Johnson, WR; Billy Miller, TE; Tommy Polley, LB; Bryan Scott, SS; Michael Bennett, RB; Jonathan Goodwin, OG.

Key Departures: Jim Haslett, head coach; Aaron Brooks, QB; LeCharles Bentley, C/OG; Wayne Gandy, OT; Darren Howard, DE; Boo Williams, TE; Dwight Smith, LB; Johnathan Sullivan, DT; Antowain Smith, RB; Az-Zahir Hakim, WR; Anthony Thomas, RB; Courtney Watson, LB.

Outlook: Regardless of adding Bush and Brees, this team's biggest need was on defense. Scott Fujita will help a little but they will likely still have trouble stopping the opposition. Expect some high-scoring contests, but don't expect the playoffs just yet for this rebuilding bunch.

Camp Battles: Reggie Bush vs. Deuce McAllister for No.1 RB; Donte Stallworth vs. Devery Henderson for No.2 WR; Zach Hilton vs. Ernie Conwell for TE; Jermaine Mayberry vs. Montrae Holland for RG; Jamar Nesbit vs. Ben Archibald for RT; Josh Bullocks vs. Bryan Scott for FS.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Drew Brees	78
RB Deuce McAllister	70

FB Mike Karney	-
WR Joe Horn	76
WR Donte' Stallworth	83
TE Zach Hilton	65
LT Jammal Brown	-
LG Jonathan Goodwin	-
C Jeff Faine	-
RG Jermaine Mayberry	-
RT Jon Stinchcomb	-

Defense	FV
LE Will Smith	85
LT Brian Young	64
RT Hollis Thomas	62
RE Charles Grant	83
SLB Scott Fujita	75
MLB Alfred Fincher	-
WLB Colby Brockwoldt	69
LCB Mike McKenzie	62
RCB Fred Thomas	77
FS Josh Bullocks	-
SS Jay Bellamy	83

Special Team	FV
K John Carney	99
P Mitch Berger	88
KR Michael Lewis	-
PR Michael Lewis	-

NEW YORK GIANTS

They got back to the playoffs. They have a Manning at QB. They have one of the NFL's best tailbacks in Tiki Barber, and one of the league's most underrated defenses. So is this a team on the rise? The potential is there, but unless you're Joe Namath, nothing is ever guaranteed in New York.

Go-to Guy: Tiki Barber, RB.

Breakout player: Brandon Jacobs, FB.

Sleeper: David Tyree, WR.

On the bubble: Amani Toomer, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Mathias Kiwanuka, DE.

Next in Line: Sinorice Moss, WR/KR.

Key Arrivals: LaVar Arrington, LB; Will Demps, FS; Sam Madison, CB; Brandon Short, LB; R.W. McQuarters, CB; Grey Ruegamer, C; Boo Williams, TE; Rob Johnson, QB.

Key Departures: Shaun Williams, SS; Brent Alexander, FS; Kendrick Clancy, DT; Jay Foreman, LB; Lamont Brightful, CB; Terrell Buckley, CB; Will D. Allen, CB; Roman Phifer, LB / DE; Mike Cloud, RB.

Outlook: The step-ups by both the offense and defense suggest this team is ready for contention. That said, there are some major issues. Key vets Michael Strahan and Barber aren't getting any younger, Manning is still very erratic, the secondary is still shaky, and big egos abound. Otherwise, this is a team on the rise.

Camp Battles: Sinorice Moss vs. Amani Toomer for No.2 WR; Brandon Jacobs vs. Jim Finn for FB; Sam Madison vs. Will Peterson vs. R.W. McQuarters for two CB spots; Brandon Short vs. Carlos Emmons for LB; Willie Ponder vs. Sinorice Moss for KR; R.W. McQuarters vs. Sinorice Moss for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB Eli Manning	90
RB Tiki Barber	79
FB Jim Finn	-
WR Plaxico Burress	89
WR Amani Toomer	65
TE Jeremy Shockey	86

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY

New York Giants (continued)

LT	Luke Petitgout	-
LG	David Diehl	-
C	Shaun O'Hara	-
RG	Chris Snee	-
RT	Kareem McKenzie	-
Defense		FV
LE	Michael Strahan	89
LT	William Joseph	54
RT	Fred Robbins	61
RE	Osi Umenyiora	98
SLB	LaVar Arrington	71
MLB	Antonio Pierce	76
WLB	Carlos Emmons	64
LCB	Sam Madison	67
RCB	-	-
FS	Will Demps	70
SS	Gibril Wilson	98
Special Team		FV
K	Jay Feely	99
P	Jeff Feagles	83
KR	Willie Ponder	-
PR	Sinorice Moss	-

NEW YORK JETS

It goes without saying that NFL players wear hard hats. That said, this year's Jets will wear hard hats in the sense that they'll work hard and play no-nonsense ball. New head coach Eric Mangini has already set that tone, and the team's new players fit that philosophy. Now, time to construct some wins.

Go-to Guy: Chad Pennington, QB.

Breakout player: Cedric Houston, RB.

Sleeper: Doug Jolley, TE.

On the bubble: Derrick Strait, CB.

Hotshot rookie: D'Brickashaw Ferguson, OT.

Next in Line: Nick Mangold, C.

Key Arrivals: Eric Mangini, head coach; Anthony Clement, OT; Tim Dwight, WR; Andre Dyson, CB; Alonzo Jackson, DE; Brad Kassell, LB; Ray Mickens, CB; Monsanto Pope, DT; Patrick Ramsey, QB; Trey Teague, C; Kimo von Oelhoffen, DE.

Key Departures: Herman Edwards, head coach; John Abraham, DE; Ty Law, CB; Jay Fiedler, QB; Vinny Testaverde, QB; Kenyatta Wright, LB; James Reed, DT; Barry Gardner, LB; Jerald Sowell, FB; Lance Legree, DT; Jonathan Goodwin, OG; Kevin Mawae, C.

Outlook: It's fair to say this year's Jets are in transition. Several new faces will get early chances to impress, but that process doesn't often result in big winning streaks. Chad Pennington may provide some nice moments, but there will be some growing pains. The playoffs aren't inconceivable, but aren't likely.

Camp Battles: Trey Teague vs. Nick Mangold for C; Ray Mickens vs. Derrick Strait for Right CB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Chad Pennington	72
RB	Curtis Martin	69
FB	B.J. Askew	-
WR	Laveranues Coles	86
WR	Justin McCareins	71
TE	Chris Baker	64
LT	D'Brickashaw Ferguson	-
LG	Pete Kendall	-
C	Nick Mangold	-
RG	Brandon Moore	-
RT	Adrian Jones	-

Defense		FV
LE	Shaun Ellis	61
NT	Dewayne Robertson	70
RE	Kimo von Oelhoffen	62
LOLB	Victor Hobson	72
LILB	Brad Kassell	67
RILB	Jonathan Vilma	98
ROLB	Eric Barton	70
LCB	Andre Dyson	63
RCB	Derrick Strait	-
FS	Erik Coleman	88
SS	Rashad Washington	-
Special Team		FV
K	Mike Nugent	99
P	Ben Graham	81
KR	Justin Miller	-
PR	Tim Dwight	-

OAKLAND RAIDERS

The Raiders had talent last year, but only won four games. They have talent this year too. But now they also have Art Shell. The NFL legend looks to reinstall some old-school team and work ethics into this group of underachievers, and that should give Raider Nation reason for optimism.

Go-to Guy: LaMont Jordan, RB.

Breakout player: Fabian Washington, CB.

Sleeper: Anttaj Hawthorne, DT.

On the bubble: Sebastian Janikowski, PK.

Hotshot rookie: Michael Huff, DB.

Next in Line: Thomas Howard, LB.

Key Arrivals: Art Shell, head coach; Aaron Brooks, QB; Lance Johnstone, DE; Tyrone Poole, CB; Duane Starks, CB; Robert Thomas, LB; ReShard Lee, RB; Rod Smart, RB.

Key Departures: Norv Turner, head coach; Charles Woodson, CB; Kerry Collins, QB; Renaldo Hill, CB; Ted Washington, NT; Cameron Spikes, OT/OG; Lenny Walls, CB; Rob Johnson, QB; Calvin Branch, FS; Reggie Tongue, SS.

Outlook: Change is never easy, and so far it looks like change may cost the Raiders Jerry Porter. The star wideout apparently wants out now that Shell is in town, which isn't a good early sign for success. Regardless, expect Shell to work this bunch into shape and turn things around. A rebound by Randy Moss would help.

Camp Battles: Anttaj Hawthorne vs. Terdell Sands for LT; Duane Starks vs. Nnamdi Asomugha for Left CB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Aaron Brooks	72
RB	LaMont Jordan	84
FB	Zack Crockett	62
WR	Randy Moss	86
WR	Jerry Porter	72
TE	Courtney Anderson	67
LT	Robert Gallery	-
LG	Langston Walker	-
C	Adam Treu	-
RG	Brad Badger	-
RT	Barry Sims	-
Defense		FV
LE	Bobby Hamilton	70
LT	Anttaj Hawthorne	-
RT	Warren Sapp	65
RE	Derrick Burgess	96
SLB	Tyler Brayton	-
MLB	Danny Clark	80
WLB	Kirk Morrison	81



Lorenzo Neal

DONALD MIFALLE/GETTY IMAGES

LCB	Nnamdi Asomugha	65
RCB	Fabian Washington	63
FS	Michael Huff	65
SS	Jarrod Cooper	-

Special Team		FV
K	Sebastian Janikowski	99
P	Shane Lechler	96
KR	Chris Carr	-
PR	Chris Carr	-

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

That which does not kill you can only make you stronger. With that in mind, the Eagles are still alive and kicking after 2005's autumn of discontent. Now that Terrell Owens is gone and most of the team's injured stars are healthy again, is a return to greatness far behind for Philly?

Go-to Guy: Donovan McNabb, QB.

Breakout player: Reggie Brown, WR.

Sleeper: Hank Baskett, WR.

On the bubble: Todd Pinkston, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Broderick Bunkley, DT.

Next in Line: Winston Justice, OT.

Key Arrivals: Darren Howard, DE; Jeff Garcia, QB; Matt Schobel, TE; Shawn Barber, LB; Jabar Gaffney, WR.

Key Departures: Terrell Owens, WR; Hollis Thomas, DT; Artis Hicks, OG/OT; Lamar Gordon, RB; Sean Landeta, P; Chad Lewis, TE; Keith Adams, LB; N.D. Kalu, DE; Dorsey Levens, RB; Mike McMahon, QB; Billy McMullen, WR.

Outlook: The T-O Experiment is done. The injury-plagued season is over. And with the 2006 campaign soon to start, the Eagles look ready to bounce back. Most of their star core is still intact, and the team shored up a rare weakness on the

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY



Marc Bulger

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

defensive line. A Super Bowl may be wishful thinking, but do expect a rebound.

Camp Battles: Reggie Brown vs. Todd Pinkston vs. Jabar Gaffney vs. (possibly) Hank Baskett for the top two WR spots; Broderick Bunkley vs. Darwin Walker for RT; Todd Herremans vs. Adrien Clarke vs. Max Jean-Gilles for LG.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Donovan McNabb	88
RB	Brian Westbrook	74
FB	Josh Parry	-
WR	Reggie Brown	78
WR	Todd Pinkston	68
TE	L.J. Smith	74
LT	Tra Thomas	-
LG	Todd Herremans	-
C	Hank Fraley	-
RG	Shawn Andrews	-
RT	Jon Runyan	-
Defense		FV
LE	Jevon Kearse	79
LT	Mike Patterson	76
RT	Darwin Walker	54
RE	Darren Howard	68
SLB	Shawn Barber	-
MLB	Jeremiah Trotter	80
WLB	Dhani Jones	63
LCB	Lito Sheppard	66
RCB	Sheldon Brown	68
FS	Brian Dawkins	83
SS	Michael M. Lewis	88
Special Team		FV
K	David Akers	99
P	Dirk Johnson	69
KR	Roderick Hood	-
PR	Reno Mahe	-

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

It took him awhile, but Steeler coach Bill Cowher finally got his ring in 2005. Then Jerome Bettis retired and Ben Roethlisberger got in a motorcycle accident. Still, with many of his Super players returning, can Cowher avoid a Super letdown and lead Pittsburgh back to the title?

Go-to Guy: Hines Ward, WR.
Breakout player: Cedrick Wilson, WR.
Sleeper: Verron Haynes, RB.
On the bubble: Duce Staley, RB.
Hotshot rookie: Antonio Holmes, WR.
Next in Line: Willie Reid, WR/KR.
Key Arrivals: Rodney Bailey, DE; Ryan Clark, FS.
Key Departures: Jerome Bettis, RB; Kimo von Oelhoffen, DE; Antwaan Randle El, WR; Chris Hope, FS; Tommy Maddox, QB; Russell Stuvaints, SS; Willie Williams, CB.

Outlook: While Bettis was great, the Steelers can still be great without him. A much bigger issue is Roethlisberger, who escaped major injuries in an offseason accident but was still hurt badly. Losing Randle El and von Oelhoffen will hurt. Regardless, they're still a contender.

Camp Battles: Duce Staley vs. Verron Haynes for goal-line RB; Cedrick Wilson vs. Antonio Holmes for No.2 WR; Chris Hoke vs. Casey Hampton for NT; Antonio Holmes vs. Cedrick Wilson vs. Willie Reid for KR; Antonio Holmes vs. Willie Reid for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
QB	Ben Roethlisberger	81
RB	Willie Parker	73
FB	Dan Kreider	-
WR	Hines Ward	86
WR	Cedrick Wilson	70
TE	Heath Miller	76
LT	Marvel Smith	-
LG	Alan Faneca	-
C	Jeff Hartings	-
RG	Kendall Simmons	-
RT	Max Starks	-
Defense		FV
LE	Aaron Smith	64
*NT	Casey Hampton	63
RE	Travis Kirschke	-
LOLB	Clark Haggans	68
LILB	James Farrior	80
RILB	Larry Foote	76
ROLB	Joey Porter	76

LCB	Ike Taylor	81
RCB	Deshea Townsend	66
FS	Ryan Clark	61
SS	Troy Polamalu	91

Special Team		FV
K	Jeff Reed	99
P	Chris Gardocki	75
KR	Cedrick Wilson	-
PR	Willie Reid	-

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

GDid Drew Brees make the Chargers look good, or was it the other way around? San Diego will find out in 2006, as they introduce raw but talented new QB Philip Rivers as their new starter behind center. Is he ready to lead an offense that already boasts superstars in LaDainian Tomlinson and Antonio Gates?

Go-to Guy: LaDainian Tomlinson, RB.
Breakout player: Philip Rivers, QB.
Sleeper: Vincent Jackson, WR.
On the bubble: Quentin Jammer, CB.
Hotshot rookie: Antonio Cromartie, CB.
Next in Line: Marcus McNeill, OT.
Key Arrivals: Rashaun Woods, WR; Aaron Shea, TE; Marlon McCree, FS; Raymond Walls, CB; Andre Lott, FS; Brandon Manumaleuna, TE.
Key Departures: Drew Brees, QB; Jamar Fletcher, CB; DeQuincy Scott, DT; Reche Caldwell, WR; Sammy Davis, CB; Ben Leber, LB; Justin Peelle, TE; Jerry Wilson, FS/CB.

Outlook: They won 10 games last season, but the Chargers were doomed by an inability to stop other teams from passing on them. The new help in the secondary will go a long way to remedying that, and the offense is potent. Expect some growing pains from Rivers, but for the team to make the playoffs.

Camp Battles: Eric Parker vs. Vincent Jackson for No.2 WR; Antonio Cromartie vs. Quentin Jammer vs. Blawhoh Jue vs. Drayton Florence for the two CB spots; Eric Parker vs. Darren Sproles for PR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense		FV
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QB	Philip Rivers	73
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson	88
FB	Lorenzo Neal	-
WR	Keenan McCardell	71
WR	Eric Parker	61
TE	Antonio Gates	98
LT	Roman Oben	-
LG	Kris Dielman	-
C	Nick Hardwick	-
RG	Mike Goff	-
RT	Shane Olivea	-

Defense	FV
LE	Luis Castillo 74
NT	Jamal Williams 69
RE	Igor Olshansky 62
LOLB	Shawne Merriman 81
LILB	Donnie Edwards 95
RILB	Randall Godfrey 63
ROLB	Steve Foley 60
LCB	Quentin Jammer 65
RCB	Drayton Florence 61
FS	Andre Lott -
SS	Terrence Kiel 78

Special Team	FV
K	Nate Kaeding 99
P	Mike Scifres 85
KR	Darren Sproles -
PR	Eric Parker -

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

There are good drafts. And then there was the draft the Niners had in April. Sad-sacks in 2005, San Fran added players in TE Vernon Davis and LB Manny Lawson who could be cornerstones for the next decade. But will the kids be enough to help the team compete in 2006?

Go-to Guy: Antonio Bryant.

Breakout player: Frank Gore, RB.

Sleeper: Brandon Williams, WR.

On the bubble: Anthony Adams, DT

Hotshot rookie: Vernon Davis, TE.

Next in Line: Manny Lawson, LB.

Key Arrivals: Larry Allen, OG; Antonio Bryant, WR; Trent Dilfer, QB; Sammy Davis, CB; Bryan Gilmore, WR; Walt Harris, CB; Shaun Hill, QB; Tom Rouen, P; T.J. Slaughter, LB; Chad Williams, FS.

Key Departures: Julian Peterson, LB; Brandon Lloyd, WR; Ken Dorsey, QB; Rashaun Woods WR; Willie Middlebrooks, FS; Johnnie Morton, WR; Ahmed Plummer, CB; Fred Beasley, FB; Andre Carter, LB/DE; Anthony Clement, OT; Chris Cooper, DE; Marques Anderson, SS; Travis Hall, DE/DT.

Outlook: Very quietly, the 49ers made some very cagey moves over the offseason. Bringing in Allen was a masterstroke and both Dilfer and Bryant will help stabilize the offense. Frank Gore may be a star, and rookie Davis and Lawson should help out right away. They're not contenders, but should be much better.

Camp Battles: Trent Dilfer vs. Alex Smith for No.1 QB; Frank Gore vs. Kevan Barlow for No.1 RB; Manny Lawson vs. Jim Maxwell for ROLB; Tom Rouen vs. Andy Lee for P; Moran Norris vs. Chris Hetherington for FB; Arnaz Battle vs. Brandon Williams for No.2 WR.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB	Alex D. Smith 60
RB	Frank Gore 72
FB	Chris Hetherington -

WR	Antonio Bryant	84
WR	Arnaz Battle	60
TE	Vernon Davis	76
LT	Jonas Jennings	-
LG	Larry Allen	-
C	Jeremy Newberry	-
RG	David Baas	-
RT	Kwame Harris	-

Defense	FV
LE	Bryant Young 69
NT	Anthony Adams 67
RE	Marques Douglas 72
LOLB	T.J. Slaughter -
LILB	Brandon T. Moore 77
RILB	Derek M. Smith 76
ROLB	Manny Lawson 60
LCB	Walt Harris -
RCB	Sammy Davis 63
FS	Chad Williams 74
SS	Tony Parrish 75

Special Team	FV
K	Joe Nedney 99
P	Andy Lee 66
KR	Maurice Hicks -
PR	Rasheed Marshall -

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Finally, they made it to the Super Bowl. Riding a dominating D, a step-up by QB Matt Hasselbeck, and an MVP season by Shaun Alexander, Seattle dominated in 2005. But was this franchise's first appearance at the big dance just a taste, or a prelude to a return for more?

Go-to Guy: Shaun Alexander, RB.

Breakout player: LeRoy Hill, LB.

Sleeper: Peter Warrick, WR.

On the bubble: Bobby Engram, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Kelly Jennings, CB.

Next in Line: Darryl Tapp, DE.

Key Arrivals: Julian Peterson, LB; Nate Burleson, WR; Tom Ashworth, OT; Russell Davis, DT.

Key Departures: Steve Hutchinson, OG; Joe Jurevicius, WR; Marquand Manuel, FS; Jamie Sharper, LB; Tom Rouen, P; Andre Dyson, CB; Leo Araguz, P.

Outlook: It would be hard to see the offense play any better than they did in 2005, especially with the loss of all-world lineman Hutchinson. That said, the defense may actually be getting better. That combination makes the Seahawks the team to beat once again in the NFC.

Camp Battles: Nate Burleson vs. Bobby Engram for No.2 WR; Rocky Bernard vs. Chartric Darby for RT; LeRoy Hill vs D.D. Lewis for LB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB	Matt Hasselbeck 91
RB	Shaun Alexander 89
FB	Mack Strong -
WR	Darrell Jackson 69
WR	Nate Burleson 77
TE	Jerramy Stevens 73
LT	Walter Jones -
LG	Floyd Womack -
C	Robbie Tobeck -
RG	Chris Gray -
RT	Tom Ashworth -

Defense	FV
LE	Bryce Fisher 79
LT	Russell Davis -
RT	Rocky Bernard 84

RE	Grant Wistrom	70
SLB	Julian Peterson	77
MLB	Lofa Tatupu	84
WLB	LeRoy Hill	79
LCB	Kelly Herndon	69
RCB	Marcus Trufant	67
FS	Michael Green	-
SS	Michael Boulware	75

Special Team	FV
K	Josh Brown 99
P	-
KR	Josh Scobey -
PR	Peter Warrick -

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Were the Super Bowl days of Dick Vermeil, Kurt Warner, and Marshall Faulk really in this decade? That was 2000, but it somehow seems much farther away. A team in transition, the Rams have a new coach, a new top running back, and QB in Marc Bulger with much to prove.

Go-to Guy: Steven Jackson, RB.

Breakout player: Kevin Curtis, WR.

Sleeper: Madison Hedgecock, FB.

On the bubble: Isaac Bruce, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Tye Hill, CB.

Next in Line: Joe Klopfenstein, TE.

Key Arrivals: Scott Linehan, head coach; Corey Chavous, SS/CB; Will Witherspoon, LB; Gus Frerotte, QB; La'Roi Glover, DT; Jason Fisk, NT; Todd Steussie, OT; Matt Turk, P; Tony Fisher, RB; Andy Groom, P; Remy Hamilton, PK; Dave Ragone, QB.

Key Departures: Mike Martz, head coach; Adam Archuleta, SS; Chris Claiborne, LB; Kyle Turley, OT; Tom Nutten, OG; Brandon Manumaleuna, TE; Arlen Harris, RB; Jamie Martin, QB; Ryan Pickett, DT; Bryan Barker, P; Aveion Cason, RB.

Outlook: New head coach Scott Linehan won't be a downgrade from Mike Martz on the offensive side of the ball, but this team's defense remains the big issue. There is some promise in that area with Witherspoon, Fisk, and Glover, but there will also be some growing pains. The playoffs would be a surprise.

Camp Battles: Isaac Bruce vs. Kevin Curtis vs. Shaun McDonald for No.2 WR; Joe Klopfenstein vs. Dominique Byrd for TE ; Ryan Fitzpatrick vs. Gus Frerotte vs. Dave Ragone for back-up QB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV
QB	Marc Bulger 70
RB	Steven Jackson 84
FB	Madison Hedgecock -
WR	Torry Holt 90
WR	Isaac Bruce 63
TE	Joe Klopfenstein 63
LT	Orlando Pace -
LG	Claude Terrell -
C	Andy McCollum -
RG	Adam Timmerman -
RT	Alex Barron -

Defense	FV
LE	Leonard Little 72
LT	Brian Howard -
RT	La'Roi Glover 67
RE	Anthony Hargrove 80
SLB	Will Witherspoon 78
MLB	Trev Faulk -
WLB	Pisa Tinoisamoa 78
LCB	Jerametrius Butler 70

TEAM-BY-TEAM SKINNY

San Francisco (continued)

RCB	Tye Hill	-
FS	O.J. Atogwe	65
SS	Corey Chavous	74

Special Team	FV	
K	Jeff Wilkins	99
P	Matt Turk	71
KR	Tony Fisher	-
PR	Shaun McDonald	-

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

What happens when you mix one of the NFL's oldest defenses with one of its youngest offenses? The Bucs will find out again this year, as they did in 2005. Both units have talent, but one wonders if the D's band of 30-somethings can still bring it every Sunday.

Go-to Guy: Cadillac Williams, RB.

Breakout player: Michael Clayton, WR.

Sleeper: Edell Sheppard, WR.

On the bubble: Ike Hilliard, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Davin Joseph, OG.

Next in Line: Maurice Stovall, WR.

Key Arrivals: Jamie Winborn, LB; Jay Fiedler, QB; David Boston, WR; Toniou Fonoti, OG; Jerald Sowell, FB; Torrin Tucker, OG.

Key Departures: Brian Griese, QB; Dexter Jackson, FS; Todd Steussie, OT; Matt Stinchcomb, OG/OT; Torrie Cox, CB; Jeff Gooch, LB.

Outlook: They're too good to start rebuilding, but the Bucs may be on the verge of that. This is a team that start looking its age very fast, but if the aging defense can hold on for one more good run, this is a dangerous team. The Cadillac-led offense is fast-improving, so a return to the playoffs is a good bet.

Camp Battles: Anthony Becht vs. Alex Smith for TE; David Boston, Michael Clayton, and Edell Sheppard for No.2 WR; Toniou Fonoti vs. Dan Buenning vs. Davin Joseph vs. Sean Mahan for two OG spots; Jermaine Phillips vs. Calvin Pearson for SS.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV	
QB	Chris Simms	78
RB	Cadillac Williams	79
FB	Mike Alstott	66
WR	Michael Clayton	70
WR	Joey Galloway	85
TE	Anthony Becht	-
LT	Anthony Davis	-
LG	Dan Buenning	-
C	John Wade	-
RG	Sean Mahan	-
RT	Kenyatta Walker	-

Defense	FV	
LE	Greg Spires	69
LT	Chris Hovan	61
RT	Anthony McFarland	58
RE	Simeon Rice	81
SLB	Derrick Brooks	81
MLB	Shelton Quarles	80
WLB	Jamie Winborn	53
LCB	Brian Kelly	65
RCB	Ronde Barber	82
FS	Will Allen	65
SS	Jermaine Phillips	60

Special Team	FV	
K	Matt Bryant	99
P	Josh Bidwell	89
KR	Edell Shepherd	-

TENNESSEE TITANS

Who is Billy Volek? He's one of the most under-rated quarterbacks in the NFL. Some will miss Steve McNair and others will eagerly wait for Vince Young, but Volek has shown in spot duty he's probably a better option than either this year. That gives the young Titans a chance to surprise in 2006.

Go-to Guy: David Givens, WR.

Breakout player: Billy Volek, QB.

Sleeper: Travis Henry, RB.

On the bubble: Tyrone Calico, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Vince Young, QB.

Next in Line: LenDale White, RB.

Key Arrivals: David Givens, WR; Chris Hope, FS; Kevin Mawae, C; David Thornton, LB.

Key Departures: Steve McNair, QB; Tank Williams, SS; Brad Hopkins, OT; Brad Kassell, LB; Rocky Boiman, LB; Justin Hartwig, C/OG; Tony Beckham, CB; Jon Dorenbos, C.

Outlook: All the cost-cutting might gut other teams, but the Titans have quietly assembled some impressive young depth and talent. Not a lot of it is proven, but the battles for playing time will only spur this young team to improve. They may lose 12 games, but they also may make some noise this season.

Camp Battles: Chris Brown vs. LenDale White vs. Travis Henry for No.1 RB; Ben Troupe vs. Erron Kinney for TE; Drew Bennett vs. Roydell Williams vs. Tyrone Calico vs. Brandon Jones vs. Courtney Roby for the top two WR spots; David Stewart vs. Daniel Loper for LT; Michael Roos vs. Jacob Bell for RT; Reynaldo Hill vs. Andre Woolfolk for Left CB; Justin Sandy vs. Donnie Nickey for SS.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV	
QB	Billy Volek	78
RB	Chris R. Brown	71
FB	Troy Fleming	-
WR	Drew Bennett	77
WR	David Givens	74
TE	Ben Troupe	73
LT	Michael Roos	-
LG	Zach Piller	-
C	Kevin Mawae	-
RG	Benji Olson	-
RT	Jacob Bell	-

Defense	FV	
LE	Kyle Vanden Bosch	86
LT	Randy Starks	74
RT	Albert Haynesworth	68
RE	Antwan Odom	-
SLB	David Thornton	68
MLB	Rob Reynolds	-
WLB	Keith Bulluck	93
LCB	Reynaldo Hill	69
RCB	Pacman Jones	72
FS	Chris Hope	89
SS	Lamont Thompson	76

Special Team	FV	
K	Rob Bironas	99
P	Craig Hentrich	77
KR	Pacman Jones	-
PR	Pacman Jones	-

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

GThings finally clicked for Joe Gibbs in Washington in 2005. A trip to the playoffs has only

led to more optimism, and the addition of some talented veterans makes this a team on the rise. Are Washington and Gibbs on course for a return to glory days?

Go-to Guy: Santana Moss, WR.

Breakout player: Brandon Lloyd, WR.

Sleeper: Demetric Evans, DE.

On the bubble: David Patten, WR.

Hotshot rookie: Rocky McIntosh, LB.

Next in Line: Kevin Simon, LB.

Key Arrivals: Brandon Lloyd, WR; Antwaan Randle El, WR; Adam Archuleta, SS; Christian Fauria, TE; Kenny Wright, CB; Andre Carter, LB/DE; Mike Pucillo, OG.

Key Departures: LaVar Arrington, LB; Patrick Ramsey, QB; Robert Royal, TE; Walt Harris, CB; Ryan Clark, FS; Tom Tupa, P; Andy Groom, P.

Outlook: Heading into the offseason the Redskins needed veteran depth, and they added it. Their defense is young and on the verge of being an NFL elite, while the offense gets a major boost with the new wideouts and new offensive coordinator Al Saunders. Expect a big year.

Camp Battles: Brandon Lloyd vs. Antwaan Randle El vs. David Patten for No.2 WR; Mike Pucillo vs. Derrick Dockery for G; Demetric Evans vs. Renaldo Winn vs. Phillip Daniels vs. Andre Carter for two DE spots; Rocky McIntosh vs. Warrick Holdman for LB.

PROJECTED STARTERS

Offense	FV	
QB	Mark Brunell	74
RB	Clinton Portis	80
TE	Chris Cooley	77
WR	Santana Moss	93
WR	Brandon Lloyd	68
TE	Christian Fauria	-
LT	Chris Samuels	-
LG	Mike Pucillo	-
C	Casey Rabach	-
RG	Randy Thomas	-
RT	Jon Jansen	-
E	Renaldo Winn	-
LT	Cornelius Griffin	67
RT	Joe Salave'a	55

Defense	FV	
RE	Phillip Daniels	67
SLB	Andre Carter	62
MLB	Lemar Marshall	77
WLB	Marcus Washington	74
LCB	Carlos Rogers	68
RCB	Shawn Springs	65
FS	Sean Taylor	75
SS	Adam Archuleta	75

Special Team	FV	
K	John Hall	99
P	Derrick Frost	69
KR	-	-
PR	Antwaan Randle El	-