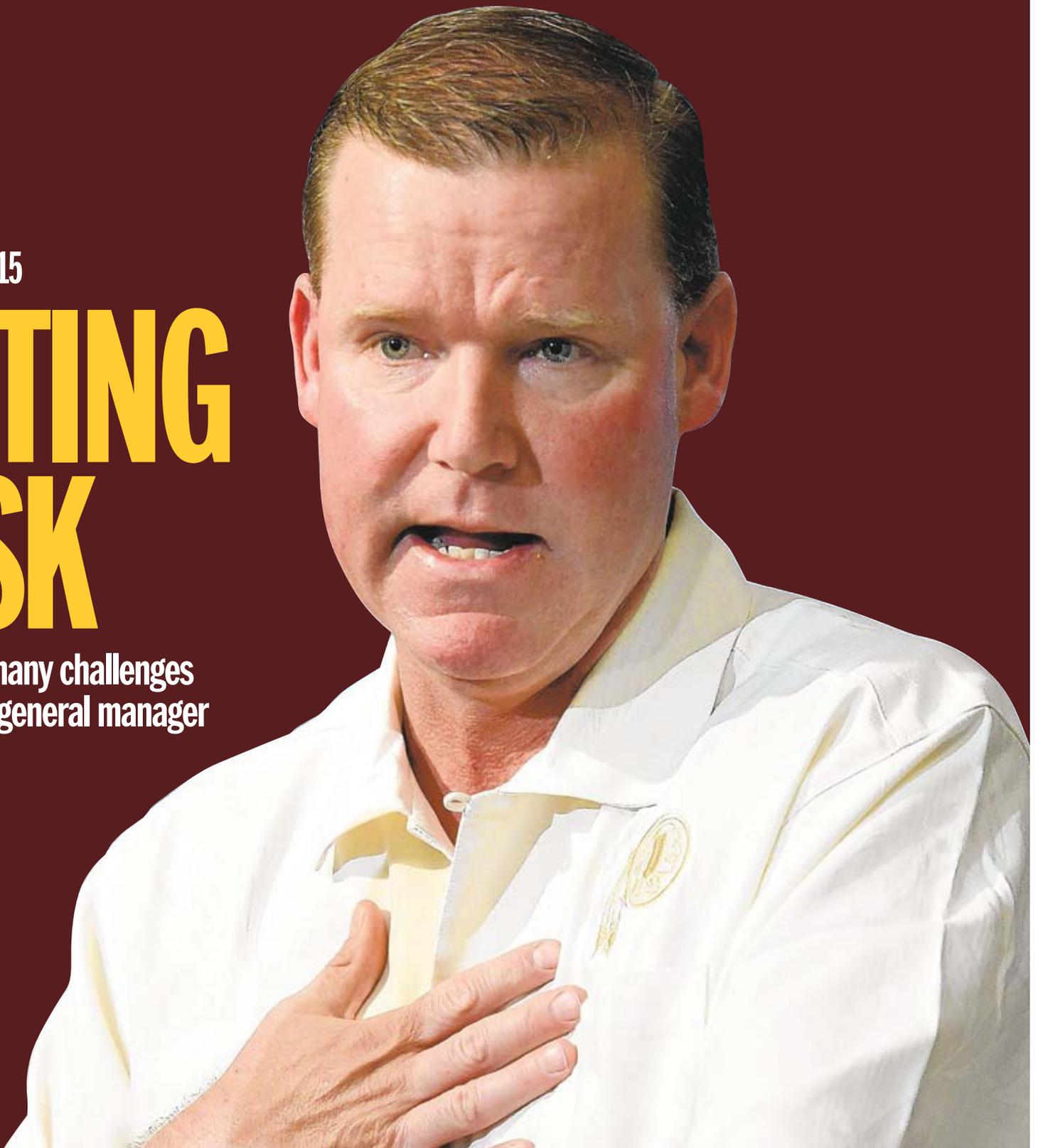


NFL 2015

DAUNTING TASK

McCloughan faces many challenges as the Redskins new general manager



INSIDE



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- ▶ **Coach Jay Gruden believes he has team on the right path**
- ▶ **Rookie running back Matt Jones may be right complement**



Also: Depth chart, schedules, predictions

REDSKINS SCHEDULE

Sun., Sept. 13
vs. Dolphins
1 p.m., CBS



Rookie Brandon Scherff will quickly find out what it's like being a guard in the NFL when he's tasked with slowing down Miami's prized free agent, Ndamukong Suh. The combination of Suh and Cameron Wake gives the Dolphins the foundation for a formidable defensive front, and the Redskins' offensive line will have their hands full trying to keep Kirk Cousins off the turf.

Sun., Sept. 20
vs. Rams
1 p.m., FOX



In their second home game of the season, the Redskins match up against a familiar foe in Nick Foles. The former Eagles quarterback, now in his first season in St. Louis, threw for 325 yards and three touchdowns last season, as the Eagles came from behind to take a 37-34 win, despite a stellar performance from Cousins. This time, will the Redskins stop Foles and the Rams from doing the same?

Thurs., Sept. 24
at Giants, 8:25 p.m.
CBS/NFLN



The Redskins didn't throw \$32 million at free agent corner Chris Culliver for fun. They have high hopes he can impact the secondary and he'll be in the spotlight against the Giants' human highlight reel, Odell Beckham Jr. In the last three seasons, the Redskins have only beaten the Giants once in six tries, so being able to reduce Beckham's damage is key. Obviously, that's easier said than done. Just ask Dallas.

Sun., Oct. 4
vs. Eagles
1 p.m., CBS



When the Cowboys lost DeMarco Murray to free agency, you'd think the rest of the NFC East would have breathed a collective sigh of relief. Only problem is Murray signed with Philadelphia. Last year's leading rusher returns to terrorize the Redskins, after rushing for 241 yards in two games against Washington, while catching seven passes for 101 yards. Like Culliver, the Redskins signed run stopper Terrance Knighton to bolster the defense and he should help the team fare better against Murray than they have in the past.

Sun., Oct. 11
at Falcons
1 p.m., FOX



The last time the Redskins visited the Georgia Dome in 2013, Santana Moss hauled in a three-yard pass touchdown from Cousins with 18 seconds left, but the two-point conversion attempt came up incomplete in a 27-26 loss. While the Redskins try not to meet the same fate, they'll be challenged by a new-look Falcons team led by new coach Dan Quinn and former Redskins offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan.

Sun., Oct. 18
at Jets
1 p.m., FOX



With the addition of new offensive line coach Bill Callahan, the Redskins project to be a power-running team and they'll need it against the Jets. Last season, the Jets allowed the fifth-fewest rushing yards in the league. Of course, that was under the defensive-minded Rex Ryan, but new coach Todd Bowles and the Jets have a mountain of a rookie in defensive lineman Leonard Williams.

Sun., Oct. 25
vs. Buccaneers
1 p.m., FOX



One of four teams worse than the Redskins last season, the 2-14 Buccaneers drafted Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston. It'll be interesting to see how Winston has developed by the seventh game of the season. A win would be nice here for the Redskins, who are set to induct Jeff Bostic and Monte Coleman into the team's Ring of Fame prior to the game.

Sun., Nov. 8
at Patriots
1 p.m., FOX



Fresh off the bye week, the Redskins visit the defending Super Bowl champion. Angry Tom Brady is the most dangerous Tom Brady, and the Patriots quarterback will be on a mission all season after a Deflategate-filled offseason, which ended with Judge Richard Berman vacating his four-game suspension. The two teams don't match up often, with the Redskins' last win coming in 2003.

Sun., Nov. 15
vs. Saints
1 p.m., FOX



The Saints, usually a lock to make the playoffs, missed out on the postseason for the first time since 2012 with a 7-9 record. They were in the NFL's bottom third in pass defense and are hoping to improve their secondary, starting with the free-agent signing of Brandon Browner. That said, this is a contest where Redskins receiver DeSean Jackson can have one of his patented big-number games.

Sun., Nov. 22
at Panthers
1 p.m., FOX



Like the Saints, the Panthers are another team entering the season with secondary issues that will invite the Redskins to pass the ball in Charlotte. It will also be interesting to see how the Panthers' receiving corps comes together after losing star receiver Kelvin Benjamin, who tore an ACL in a joint practice during the preseason. The question here, of course, is if the Redskins can contain Cam Newton.

Sun., Nov. 29
vs. Giants
1 p.m., FOX



The Redskins wrap up the first of their series against NFC East opponents with this Week 12 matchup against the Giants, who will be fresh off a bye week after playing the Patriots in Week 10. In the last five seasons, Tom Coughlin and the Giants are 4-1 after the bye — so the Redskins will have their work cut out for them.

Mon., Dec 7
vs. Cowboys
8:30 p.m., ESPN



It doesn't get more prime time than playing the Cowboys on Monday Night Football. Callahan helped retool the Cowboys' offensive line last season as Murray became the league's best rusher, and the hope is that he can have the same effect on the Redskins. Callahan gets his first shot at coaching against his former team, which gave up 18 rushing touchdowns in 2014 — the second-most in the NFL.

Sun., Dec. 13
at Chicago
1 p.m., FOX



It's a showdown of newly-appointed general managers with Scot McCloughan and the Bears' Ryan Pace. The 5-11 Bears were just a tick above the 4-12 Redskins in 2014, and it'll be interesting to see where the two have directed their respective clubs by Week 14. The Redskins have a five-game win streak against the Bears, last losing in 2003.

Sun., Dec. 20
vs. Bills
1 p.m., CBS



The Redskins face the Bills in their last non-division game of the season, and it'd be helpful to pick up some momentum before closing the season against Philadelphia and Dallas. For what it's worth, the Redskins have only seen the Bills 12 times in franchise history and haven't won since 1992, losing the last six contests. It won't be any easier this year against Rex Ryan and his new club, which projects to be competitive in a much-improved AFC East.

Sat., Dec. 26
at Eagles
8:25 p.m., NFLN



Not even Santa Claus is welcome in Philadelphia on Christmas and neither will the Redskins be when they visit the not-so-friendly streets the day after. By this juncture, the Eagles and Cowboys should be fighting for the NFC East title and the Redskins will have a chance to play spoiler. The Redskins stunned the Eagles with a 27-24 win in the same week last year, as Philadelphia ultimately missed the playoffs.

Sun., Jan. 3
at Cowboys
1 p.m., FOX



The Redskins ring in the new year and the end of their season with a trip to Jerry's World. Washington ended the 2014 season in crushing fashion, as the Cowboys rumbled to a 44-17 win. Hopefully the Redskins' 2015 New Year's resolution was to be more competitive in this game this season. And of course, will Kirk Cousins still be the starting quarterback by then?



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BROKEN PROMISES

Team decision-makers offer fans hope each year, but none deliver

It's a new season, a new dawn, and even in the chaotic, dysfunctional universe that surrounds the Washington Redskins, the fact remains that they have not lost a game yet.

Hope may exist only until the third quarter of the first regular season game on Sept. 13 at FedEx Field against the Miami Dolphins, but the reality is that this is the window of time where hope has not been crushed like a first-round offensive lineman.

Hope, though, may be the bane of the existence of Redskins fans.

Hope, in the case of this franchise, gets in the way of real change — true change.

With the arrival of every new decision-maker at Redskins Park, fans are sold the illusion of hope. Every single key decision-maker now at Redskins Park — the ones who have contributed to making this team the laughingstock of the NFL — arrived with the promise



THOM LOVERRO

of hope.

All of them stood before Redskins fans and said, "Believe in me — I am the future."

In May 1999, Dan Snyder told reporters after he was approved as the new owner of the franchise that he was "not focused on the money. I'm focused on the opportunity and the dream."

"Hundreds of fans have written to me with their support and suggestions. ... Your most pressing issue is no different than mine. You want to win, we want to win, and we're going to deliver that."

Not focused on the money? That was in 1999.

More than 10 years later, the son of the great George Allen — who promised hope when he arrived as the Redskins' coach in 1971 and promptly delivered it with an NFC championship the following season — stood before Redskins fans and also, like his father, promised hope.

"It's exciting because of the history, the tradition, the comfort about coming home," Bruce Allen said. "Everybody who knows me — and hopefully, you'll get to know me better — knows that the principles of football, in my mind, are simple. It's a team. It's 53 men, the entire staff, everybody in the building, going in the same direction for one common goal."

It's a team. That was in 2010.

Four years later, after Mike Shanahan, who also arrived at Redskins Park with two Super Bowl rings and a suitcase full of hope, was fired, someone else addressed Redskins fans with the promise of hope.

"Talking to Mr. Snyder — Dan Snyder — and Bruce, I just have a firm belief everything they were saying



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Since 1999, Redskins decision-makers have stood before the public at the start of each season to offer fans the promise of hope. But from one losing season to another, that promise of hope has gotten in the way of real change.

and their passion for the team and the city, the fan base, is legitimate," Jay Gruden said. "I'm a pretty good reader of people and I can tell when I'm being lied to, and I could honestly tell you this: Dan Snyder and Bruce Allen have the fans' best interests at heart and the players' best interests at heart, and all they want to do is field a winning team. They're giving me an opportunity to take this team to a great level, and I'm going to do everything I can to prove them right."

Take this team to a great level. That was 2014.

Then, there was the arrival of the Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse this past January — another layer of hope 12 months after Gruden told Redskins fans, "We have great expectations here. We expect to win soon."

"It's not just about me, it's about the individuals around this building from the personnel standpoint and from the coaches standpoint," new general manager Scot McCloughan said. "I'm very excited, looking forward to it. There's a lot of work ahead of us, but I strive for that. I'm going to outwork the next guy no matter what. I'm going to have great communication with everybody in the building that matters in personnel and

in coaching, and when we make decisions, we'll make them as a group. We'll take ownership for the players and we're going to get better."

Great communication. That was in 2015.

There you have it, people. This is the group that has led this franchise to this point — concussion conspiracies, quarterbacks declaring they "just work here," team officials accused by spouses of leaking information for sexual favors, continued reports of the owner meddling with football decisions and one losing season after another.

This is the group that wants to win, that has declared the principle of football that it is a team, that it is going to take this team to the next level and that will take ownership for the players.

Each one of these Redskins decision-makers stood before you at one point and offered the promise of hope.

Hope?

"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."

• Thom Loverro is co-host of "The Sports Fix," noon to 2 p.m. daily on ESPN 980 and espn980.com.

NFL 2015 PREDICTIONS

ZAC BOYER

Redskins' record: 5-11

Offensive MVP: DeSean Jackson

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Matt Jones

Biggest surprise: Kirk Cousins thrives in starting role

Biggest disappointment: Injuries derail the perpetual rebuilding

NFC playoff teams: Eagles, Packers, Saints, Seahawks, Cardinals, Lions

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Ravens, Colts, Broncos, Steelers, Dolphins

NFC, AFC champions: Packers, Broncos

Super Bowl winner: Packers

NFL MVP: Aaron Rodgers, Packers

Offensive rookie of the year: Jameis Winston, Buccaneers

Defensive rookie of the year: Shane Ray, Broncos

TODD DYBAS

Redskins' record: 6-10

Offensive MVP: Alfred Morris

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Jamison Crowder

Biggest surprise: Contributions from 2015 draftees

Biggest disappointment: Rebuilt safety position

NFC playoff teams: Eagles, Packers, Panthers, Seahawks, Cardinals, Lions

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Bengals, Colts, Broncos, Bills, Texans

NFC, AFC champions: Cardinals, Colts

Super Bowl winner: Colts

NFL MVP: Andrew Luck, Colts

Offensive rookie of the year: Amari Cooper, Raiders

Defensive rookie of the year: Leonard Williams, Jets

ANTHONY GULIZIA

Redskins' record: 5-11

Offensive MVP: Alfred Morris

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Brandon Scherff

Biggest surprise: Tight end Jordan Reed plays all 16 games

Biggest disappointment: Kirk Cousins throws more interceptions than touchdowns

NFC playoff teams: Seahawks, Eagles, Packers, Saints, Cowboys, Cardinals

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Broncos, Ravens, Colts, Steelers, Dolphins

NFC, AFC champions: Packers, Patriots

Super Bowl winner: Packers

NFL MVP: J.J. Watt, Texans

Offensive rookie of the year: Amari Cooper, Raiders

Defensive rookie of the year: Leonard Williams, Jets

THOM LOVERRO

Redskins' record: 5-11

Offensive MVP: Pierre Garcon

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Kysheon Jarrett

Biggest surprise: Colt McCoy will start by Week 5

Biggest disappointment: Robert Griffin III will be on the roster the whole season

NFC playoff teams: Eagles, Lions, Falcons, Seahawks, Packers, Rams

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Ravens, Colts, Broncos, Chiefs, Dolphins

NFC, AFC champions: Lions, Colts

Super Bowl winner: Colts

NFL MVP: Andrew Luck, Colts

Offensive rookie of the year: Amari Cooper, Raiders

Defensive rookie of the year: Leonard Williams, Jets

DERON SNYDER

Redskins' record: 5-11

Offensive MVP: DeSean Jackson

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Matt Jones

Biggest surprise: Jackson Jeffcoat

Biggest disappointment: The secondary

NFC playoff teams: Cowboys, Packers, Falcons, Seahawks, Eagles, Cardinals

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Ravens, Colts, Broncos, Dolphins, Chiefs

NFC, AFC champions: Packers, Colts

Super Bowl winner: Packers

NFL MVP: Andrew Luck, Colts

Offensive rookie of the year: Jameis Winston, Buccaneers

Defensive rookie of the year: Marcus Peters, Chiefs

KEVIN LEITZELL

Redskins' record: 5-11

Offensive MVP: DeSean Jackson

Defensive MVP: Ryan Kerrigan

Impact rookie: Jamison Crowder

Biggest surprise: Robert Griffin III still on roster at end of season

Biggest disappointment: Brandon Scherff fails to hold starting job

NFC playoff teams: Eagles, Packers, Saints, Seahawks, Cowboys, Cardinals

AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Steelers, Colts, Broncos, Ravens, Chiefs

NFC, AFC champions: Seahawks, Colts

Super Bowl winner: Seahawks

NFL MVP: Andrew Luck, Colts

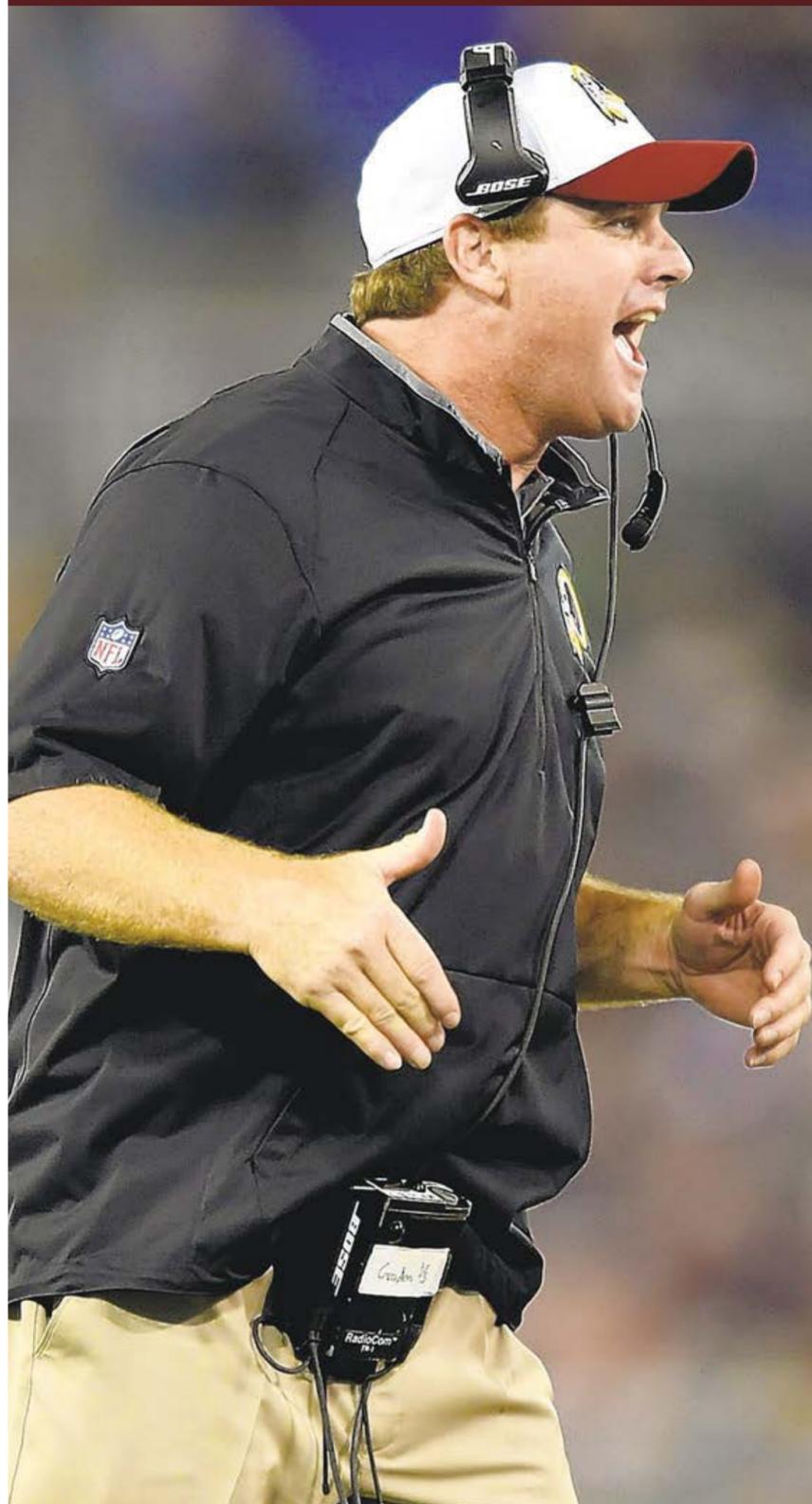
Offensive rookie of the year: Melvin Gordon, Chargers

Defensive rookie of the year: Vic Beasley, Falcons



Wide receiver
Pierre Garcon

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ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

BUILDING IT HIS WAY

Learning from past hiccups, Gruden believes he has Redskins on right path

By ZAC BOYER

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Jay Gruden's first season with the Washington Redskins was trying. He carved out a decorated career as a quarterback at Louisville, then spent the better part of the next two decades playing and coaching in the minor leagues. He made a transition to the NFL as an offensive assistant with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, joining his brother Jon's coaching staff, and later served three years as the offensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals.

That resume couldn't prepare Gruden for the level of scrutiny and continued struggles that would follow the Redskins. The team finished 4-12 last season, dogged by a series of issues — most notably at quarterback, where three players waffled under center for significant portions of the season.

Gruden's hope is that the second season ends up better than his first. Although he was optimistic a year ago that the Redskins would be better than 3-13, their record in the final year under coach Mike Shanahan, one victory proved that prediction to be only marginally true.

The Redskins overhauled their defense, importing not only a new defensive coordinator and coaching staff but four players who are expected to start when the season opens on Sept. 13. They hired Scot McCloughan, a highly regarded former college scout, as their general manager, and he drafted 10 players, seven of whom made the initial 53-man roster.

Just last week, Gruden took his boldest step yet, announcing plans to install Kirk Cousins as the starting quarterback, presumably ending the rocky tenure of Robert Griffin III.

"The No. 1 thing is learning about the guys that you have and learning about the team that you want to build," Gruden said last week. "You've got to understand that this could be your only opportunity as a head football coach, and if that's the case, you've got to make sure you go at it your way and deliver the message you want to deliver and build the team that you want to build."

Those who have been around Gruden in the past have routinely praised his ability to communicate with a variety of players. He was seen as the type of person who could relate to Griffin, helping the former No. 2 overall pick take the next step in his development, while also using his extensive past and his family's pedigree to foster a new era for the moribund franchise.

Instead, there were plenty of hiccups that derailed that progress. Gruden had remained fairly hard on his players all season — the byproduct of losing all but four games, when few pleasantries are exchanged — but drew particular ire for his criticism of Griffin following the Redskins' 27-7 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Nov. 16.

That game was Griffin's second since returning from a dislocated left ankle and the first after the Redskins' bye week. It was presumed that the extra week would have allowed Griffin greater time to recover and heal from the injury; instead, he threw two interceptions, was sacked six times and had a 73.3 quarterback rating in one of only two victories by the Buccaneers all season.

Afterward, Griffin said that Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning "don't play well if their guys don't play well," which was perceived as a shot at the rest of his teammates. A day later, Gruden ran down Griffin's

"At the end of the day, I don't want to lose this job and think, 'Aw, dammit. I wish I had done it differently.' ... I just want to make sure that I continue to go on the path that I believe in," said Redskins coach Jay Gruden.



Redskins coach Jay Gruden's management style has helped foster a collegial, two-way relationship that several players have said they have grown to appreciate.

flaws, noting that his footwork was below average, his eyes were in the wrong place on several throws and that Griffin's performance "was not even close to being good enough to what we expect from that quarterback position."

Gruden said after the press conference that all of those critiques had been shared with Griffin privately, and that the quarterback acknowledged, understood and took them in stride. Instead, he was viewed as having ravaged Griffin in the press conference — a situation that the coach still thinks was unjust.

"It was one instance, by the way," Gruden pointed out, when asked about the criticism. "It was one [freaking] negative thing after the Tampa game. It's not like every day I came out and bashed him. It was one [darn] press conference."

But, Gruden said, he learned from the response to that criticism, and he shared with Griffin his feelings on that exchange. No matter how Griffin felt, he told the quarterback, he needed to be aware that only the message, and not the intent behind it, would carry.

"We get so much publicity around here, that's just the way it is," Gruden said. "That's where we really collided last year. It wasn't so much about him as a player but his words to the media, you know what I mean? He can't alienate himself from the players. When we struggle, when the team doesn't produce, we don't produce. It's not him versus me or me versus him. It's us, and that's ultimately what I want to get across to him. His words, my words, represent this organization — not me, not him, not me versus him, but about what we need to do to get better and improve ourselves. That's the biggest challenge that we have."

Until Griffin was benched early last week for Cousins, Gruden had spent significant time during the offseason building him up and restoring his confidence. That was a planned approach, Gruden acknowledged, understanding that minimizing any doubt surrounding Griffin would work to his benefit.

It was also a chance for Gruden to censor himself, understanding that any slights of anyone could be detrimental in plenty of ways.

"You have to be careful around here,

and I've learned that the hard way, unfortunately," Gruden said. "You know, that's part of being a first-year coach. You get a little naïve, a little too trustworthy, of [the media], so I've learned, but I've got to be careful. I still want to be truthful and be who I am, but I also have to understand that my words will be read by this [player] right here and I don't want it to be taken the wrong way and hurt his feelings. I've got a whole team and a whole organization and a whole fanbase that I have to represent in a positive way, and that's what I'm trying to do."

Players, for the most part, took well not only to Gruden's coaching, but also to his management style. Gruden occasionally joins drills in practice — at one point early in training camp, he grabbed a red foam pad that he used to hit tight ends at the line of scrimmage — and is often joking around with players during the warm-up period.

It has helped foster a collegial, two-way relationship that several players have said they have grown to appreciate.

"Any time you're in a situation with a coach who you know expects something, you've got to go out there and work hard,"

fullback Darrel Young said. "Every system is different. We had a year in the system, and I'm not going to say he has his core group of guys, but I think he knows the guys who he wants who fit his system, and hopefully, we stick together and we stay around long enough to keep that tradition, hopefully, around here a long time."

Gruden has been taking a similar long-term approach. The process has not been easy, he will readily acknowledge, and it has been difficult.

That's not to say that he's not cut out for it. Gruden, who signed a five-year contract when he was hired prior to last season, knows the fickle nature of coaching. He's aware that only one thing, winning, can end all the strife.

"At the end of the day, I don't want to lose this job and think, 'Aw, dammit. I wish I had done it differently. I wish I would have gone at it a different way,' Gruden said. "I just want to make sure that I continue to go on the path that I believe in. I believe this is the right way to build a franchise. Whatever happens after that is fine. I believe in myself, you know?"



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Rookie running back Matt Jones enjoys the role of being a complement to Alfred Morris and supports him 100 percent. "I feel like it could be a big role for me ... I'm like his little brother in the backfield right now."

CHANGING THE PACE

Hard-nosed rookie Jones a perfect complement to Morris at running back

By ANTHONY GULIZIA
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

There's no mistaking Alfred Morris' role in the Washington Redskins' offense.

Ever since his unforgettable rookie season in 2012, when he broke the Redskins' single-season rushing record with 1,613 yards, he's been the team's go-to back and ranked among the NFL's top 10 in rushing attempts the last three seasons.

Yet with the short shelf life and unforgiving nature of the running back position, and Morris entering a pivotal year in which his rookie contract is set to expire, it'd be helpful to spare the 26-year-old a 300-carry season.

Since Morris arrived in Washington, the most any other running back on the team has carried the ball is 62 times, which Roy Helu did in 2013.

This season, the Redskins may have found the right compliment to Morris in rookie Matt Jones. Jones has put together an impressive preseason with a team-best 139 yards while averaging 7.0 yards per carry.

"You have a guy that's outstanding on the collegiate level, but in the NFL, maybe he just falls to the wayside. Not Matt," Morris said. "I have no doubts about him at all. He's developed so much faster than I have. He's made a lot of plays this preseason. It's going to be interesting this year to rotate both of us in there and making it work, and I'm looking forward to it."

Adding a 'violent' runner

Jones, a third-round draft pick out of Florida, quickly established himself in the preseason as a bruising back who ran toward contact, not away from it.

Standing 6-foot-2 and 231 pounds, Jones uses his body to

batter opposing tacklers. His most impressive showing was in the team's third preseason game, against the Baltimore Ravens, when he rushed for 57 yards on eight carries.

In the third quarter, he shed three tacklers on his way to a 13-yard gain.

The following play, on third-and-1, Jones finished a 14-yard run by pin-balling into defensive back Tray Walker.

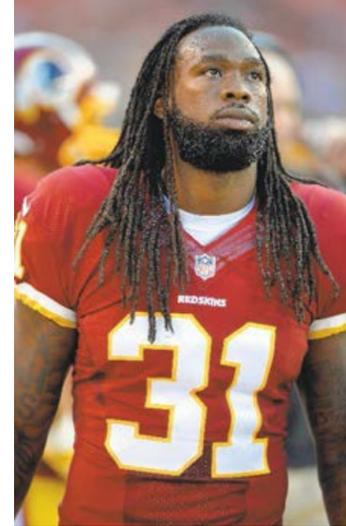
The prior week, during the team's 21-17 win against the Detroit Lions, Jones pounded a one-yard touchdown run. Lions linebacker Tahir Whitehead hit Jones in the backfield around the three-yard line, but Jones kept his legs moving and lurched forward for the score.

If one play encapsulated Jones' preseason development since training camp, that may have been it. As Jones was adjusting to life in the NFL, he was often hesitant to finish runs early in camp.

"A lot of the times in these practices you're not sure how to finish runs, but we want him to finish violently," coach Jay Gruden said. "I just think probably the tempo. [He's] young. That's probably how they did it in college, and he's thinking that he gets five, six yards and he's done for the day, but we want him to finish the runs."

That narrative has since changed. Jones has been running so hard, the team has made an effort to give him rest in order to get his body right. He did not practice on the Monday and Tuesday heading into the team's preseason finale and didn't play in the final game against the Jaguars either — a clear indication of Jones' value to the team.

After Jones sat out the final preseason game against the Jaguars, he reflected on the progress he's made since being drafted and the role he's carved out for himself on the Redskins.



"I feel good man," Jones said. "I feel like I got better this whole preseason, thanks to Alfred, [fullback Darrel Young], Coach. Everyone's got me better. My defense got me better."

"Just being behind Alfred, trying to take a load off him, keep him rolling through the season, I feel like it could be a big role for me and I'm going to be behind him 100 percent. If he goes down, I'll be ready to go, God forbid. I'm like his little brother in the backfield right now."

Making a tough transition

Jones' reputation as a hard-nosed runner preceded his arrival in Washington. He rushed for 1,431 yards and 11 touchdowns in 28 games with the Gators, and his performance during the preseason showed teammates how effective he can be.

"He's a hard runner, he's smart and he makes something out of nothing all the time," Morris said. "I think he can come off the bench, be a good option for us, a good change-of-pace guy in certain ways. He has a unique skill set for a bigger guy. It's just impressive. If I need a breather or anything, he'll be the guy for the job."

In Morris' rookie season, Helu was placed on injured reserve after straining his Achilles and experiencing turf toe. Morris carried the ball 335 times, the third-most in the league. Robert Griffin III rushed 120 times.

In the last two seasons, Helu was a serviceable third-down back who made an impact catching passes out of the backfield. In 14 games last season, he rushed for 216 yards and a touchdown. He also caught 42 passes for 477 yards and two scores. However, Helu, who signed a two-year, \$4.1 million contract with his hometown Oakland Raiders in March, struggled at times in pass protection.

Morris said picking up blitzes is the hardest transition for any rookie running back — something he noted Jones has picked up particularly well.



Redskins rookie running back Matt Jones established himself in the preseason as a bruising back who ran toward contact, and not away from it. At 6-foot-2 and 231 pounds, Jones often uses his body to batter and punish opposing tacklers.

"Some of those backside corners, defenses do a good job disguising and he did a good job of noticing and picking it up," Morris said. "So, I was like, 'This kid, he's good, he's going to be all right.'"

"From me being a rookie to how he's adapted to being a rookie, he's light years ahead of where I was picking up blitzes."

Brian White, Jones' runningbacks coach at Florida, has seen first-hand how physical Jones can be when protecting the quarterback in the backfield. White said that starts with his brain, not his bulking frame.

"He's a very intelligent guy, he processes information extremely fast," said White, now the wide receivers coach at Boston College. "He plays with live eyes, so he understands protections. He's just a really bright guy."

Hoping to find success

Jones has all the motivation he needs to succeed in his rookie season after a college

career at Florida that wasn't exactly what he was hoping it would be.

He entered his sophomore season as the team's lead back, only to tear a meniscus in his left knee. Jones played in five games, injuring himself against LSU and missing the remainder of the season. He needed two surgeries to repair the knee before his junior season.

"That's why I've got a ton of a chips on my shoulder," Jones said. "My college career wasn't what I wanted to be, and I thank God for it, but I really want to have a successful career in the NFL, so that's why I'm really going even harder because I didn't have the college career that I wanted."

It wasn't so much the injuries that bothered Jones. He didn't feel like the Gators' offense was the best fit for his running style.

"I love this offense," Jones said. "I'm more downhill. I feel like I can do what

I want to."

It's difficult to put much stock in preseason numbers, though Jones' stats show promise for his rookie season. Even more encouraging than Jones' preseason performance is the sheer confidence the organization appears to have in the young back.

"I think they'll complement each other very well," offensive coordinator Sean McVay said of Morris and Jones. "We know the type of player that Alfred's been for the last handful of years, and we have a lot of confidence in him. We're very excited about what [Jones is] able to do and the balance that he runs with and how powerful he is, so he's going to be a very big part of what we do as well." Earlier in training camp, Gruden said if Jones earned his reps, then he would get his fair share of carries.

Over a month later, Jones has earned every bit of the work he's gotten in the preseason. Now it's time for Jones to prove he can do it when it really counts.

TOUGH AND HUMBLE

By ZAC BOYER

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

They had been introduced one by one, positionally, then alphabetically, until the public address announcer asked Brandon Scherff to make his way onto the floor of the banquet hall.

Scherff, the Washington Redskins' rookie right guard, deferred. He stepped out of the entryway to make room for three-time Pro Bowl left tackle Trent Williams, who received his own introduction moments later. Scherff respectfully followed, taking his seat at the annual awards luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center only after Williams had done so.

Of all the traits that led the Redskins to select Scherff with the No. 5 overall pick in the NFL draft in April — strength, athleticism, toughness — there may be no better characteristic that has defined his foray into the professional ranks than his humility.

Asked frequently to describe how he's developed through the offseason, Scherff is quick to reply that he's improved everything. Questioned about a change from right tackle to right guard after only a week of training camp, Scherff merely acknowledges that he was told to prepare to play both spots.

And, when recalling the moments that followed the announcement that he had been drafted, Scherff expressed no particular delight. To him, it was merely the acknowledgement that it was time to go to work.

"It was just a huge weight lifted off my shoulders," Scherff said, "and I could finally go on with getting better."

'I'll be happy where I go'

Gripping the lectern under the bright lights of a make-shift press conference at the NFL combine in February, Scherff was presented with the idea that life, as he knew it, was about to change.

The five-sport athlete who had grown up in rural, small-town Denison, Iowa and had become a star at the state's flagship public university would, almost certainly, have to leave the Midwest if he were to play professional football. With a twinkle in his eye and a crooked smile, he chuckled.

"I'll be happy where I go," Scherff said. "A small-town guy in a big city? That's perfect."

For Scherff, whose idea of happiness is sitting alongside a small farm pond with a rod in his hand and a lure in the water, there may be fewer cities that provide a bigger departure from his norm than Washington. Scrutiny can be intense, which is almost certainly why Scherff tries to keep a low profile.

Aside from meeting with representatives from the Redskins during that week in Indianapolis, contact between the two parties was limited. Perhaps it was an attempt by general manager Scot McCloughan to throw off other teams; reportedly, the Redskins had only two players ranked higher on their draft board than Scherff — outside linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. and wide receiver Amari Cooper, each of whom were off the board by the time the Redskins were on the clock.

The 6-foot-5, 319-pound Scherff was, still, a fitting selection. McCloughan, entering his first draft with the Redskins, subscribes to the belief that a team is built from the football out. His preference for strong, tough-nosed



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As scrutiny in Washington can be intense, Redskins rookie right guard Brandon Scherff tries to keep a low profile and bring a humble attitude wherever he goes.

First-round draft pick brings modest Midwestern attitude to Redskins offensive line

offensive linemen is well known; Scherff can hang-clean 480 pounds, and last season, after sustaining a right knee injury in Iowa's season opener, he underwent arthroscopic surgery, practiced the next two days and didn't miss a game.

Redskins coach Jay Gruden had wanted to overhaul the offensive line since he arrived prior to the 2014 season, and he did so by releasing center Will Montgomery, moving left guard Kory Lichtensteiger inside and signing Shawn Lauvao to fill his void. McCloughan took that a step further this offseason, drafting Scherff and cutting right guard Chris Chester, a four-year starter, as well as hiring longtime offensive line coach Bill Callahan to join the staff.

Scherff was viewed by analysts as a player who could play well on the outside, but who would likely excel as a guard, given his abilities as a blocker when teams ran

the football. McCloughan addressed the team's plans for Scherff shortly after he was drafted, saying he would be a right tackle, but when practice began on Aug. 5, not even a full week into training camp, he worked at right guard.

"It's [about] getting the best five on the field," McCloughan said. "It doesn't matter to me [where Scherff plays]. He could play center. He's one of the five. We want the best five out there."

Remaining humble in the East

The third of four children, Scherff grew up playing several sports, but his love was always football. During the spring of his freshman season of high school, in addition to playing baseball, Scherff played tennis alongside his older brother, Justin — "I tried to spin in," he said of his serve, because opponents "never expected it" — and also competed in track and field, throwing the shot put and the discus.

It was during his sophomore year, when Scherff won the Class 3A title in shot put, that Iowa's coaches actually began to take a look at him. Defensive line coach Reese Morgan was stunned by the way Scherff, with poor form, was able to muscle a throw 59 feet, 5½ inches.

"There's a lot of great athletes, but not with the athletic skills that he has and his frame combined with his work ethic," said Dave Wiebers, Scherff's high school football coach. "It's kind of that combination of those things that could get you to that next level. He's our first one that got to this level."

Scherff won the Outland Trophy as the top interior lineman last season, when he earned all-America and all-Big Ten honors. Former teammates have praised his work ethic; Carl Davis, a defensive end who was drafted in the third round by the Baltimore Ravens, said that may be Scherff's greatest attribute.

"There's a lot of things that go into being a good offensive lineman in the NFL," Lichtensteiger said. "He's been blessed to have a lot of tools to help out, but it's not like college. You can't maul somebody every single play. You're not going to get those kinds of knockdown shots with the same frequency that you will in college, so you have to hone in your technique and work every day to become better."

Those long days have, in one regard, inhibited one of Scherff's favorite pastimes. While in college, Scherff would go fishing up to four days a week, spending plenty of time at a fishing hole on land owned by the family of Austin Blythe, Iowa's center. Last year, at another pond, Scherff and a friend reeled in a 45-pound catfish, which they cleaned, grilled and ate.

Such excursions allow Scherff to clear his mind, but as he found at Iowa, they can also draw him closer with his teammates. He has already found a few small holes near Redskins Park, and he said quarterback Colt McCoy has expressed an interest in joining him. So, too, has Lichtensteiger, who joked that he's sure an invitation is coming.

Scherff feels fortunate to be able to pursue doing the things he enjoys, including making a living playing football. That, in a way, could be why he's unwilling to upset the establishment, remaining humble and deferring to the advice, and wishes, of his teammates.

"I think he just has a different level of maturity to him," Williams said. "He's a good player. Obviously, taken No. 5 overall, everyone knows that, so I'm excited just to watch him show [everyone] the reason he was picked at five."

NFL 2015

REDSKINS DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WIDE RECEIVER: DeSean Jackson, Pierre Garçon, Andre Roberts, Ryan Grant, Jamison Crowder, Rashad Ross

The Redskins would like to get the ball to Garçon more frequently after his numbers dipped last season, and Jackson will return as the team's big-play deep threat.

LEFT TACKLE: Trent Williams, Ty Nsekhe

Williams has been selected to the Pro Bowl the last three years and recently signed a contract extension that will keep him around for an additional five seasons.

LEFT GUARD: Shawn Lauvao, Arie Kouandjio

The coaching staff likes Lauvao's off-season progress, but its love for Kouandjio's strength and mobility will make this a position to watch.

CENTER: Kory Lichtensteiger, Josh LeRibeus

Lichtensteiger took over as the starting center last season and played well, with LeRibeus moving to the position for the first time in training camp.

RIGHT GUARD: Brandon Scherff, Spencer Long

The No. 5 overall pick in April, Scherff is regarded as an excellent run blocker, which made the switch from right tackle in training camp a natural one.

RIGHT TACKLE: Morgan Moses, Tom Compton

After getting his feet wet as a rookie, Moses recovered from a season-ending injury and interrupted the plans to have Scherff start here.

TIGHT END: Jordan Reed, Derek Carrier, Anthony McCoy

There's no position more in flux on the roster than this one, with Reed often hurt and the others added late to replace injured Niles Paul and Logan Paulsen.

QUARTERBACK: Kirk Cousins, Colt McCoy, Robert Griffin III

All three played for significant stretches of last season, and if all goes according to plan, Cousins will remain the starter and Griffin won't play another snap.

RUNNING BACK: Alfred Morris, Matt Jones, Chris Thompson

Morris will finally have the change-of-pace handcuff he's missed out on during his first three seasons in Jones, a bruising, menacing third-round pick.

FULLBACK: Darrel Young

Although he played only 20 percent of snaps last season, the focus on the running game will make Young, one of the league's top fullbacks, indispensable.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Redskins left tackle Trent Williams has made the Pro Bowl the last three seasons and recently signed a five-year contract extension.

DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE END: Jason Hatcher, Stephen Paea, Ricky Jean Francois, Kedric Golston, Frank Kearse

The Redskins hope they'll get more pressure and penetration from their defensive line, with Paea stepping in on the left and Hatcher returning on the right.

NOSE TACKLE: Terrance Knighton, Chris Baker

Baker helped recruit Knighton, his childhood buddy, to serve as a run-stuffer in the way that he did the last two years with the Broncos.

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER: Ryan Kerrigan, Trent Murphy, Preston Smith, Jackson Jeffcoat

Kerrigan could have been starting opposite Junior Galette, but a torn left Achilles for Galette means it's back to square one with Murphy as the starter.

INSIDE LINEBACKER: Keenan Robinson, Perry Riley, Will Compton, Martrell Spaight

The structure of the defense makes Robinson and Riley into tackling machines, and the two handled that role admirably well last season.

CORNERBACK: Chris Culliver, DeAngelo Hall, Bashaud Breeland, David Amerson, Justin Rogers

Culliver will start opposite Hall, with Breeland, who had a strong rookie season, rotating in to serve as the nickel cornerback.

STRONG SAFETY: Duke Ihenacho, Jeron Johnson

Although Johnson was signed and handed the starting role, Ihenacho, who played in three games last year before getting hurt, beat him out.

FREE SAFETY: Dashon Goldson, Trenton Robinson, Kyshoen Jarrett

Goldson should provide some pop, but he's got to prove he was the player he was with the 49ers and not the one who was with the Buccaneers.

SPECIAL TEAMS

KICKER: Kai Forbath

Despite a shaky preseason, Forbath has made 88.9 percent of his field goals during his three seasons, which was why he beat out Ty Long.

PUNTER: Tress Way

Way might have been the Redskins' biggest find last season, when he led the league with an average of 47.5 gross punting yards.

LONG SNAPPER: Nick Sundberg

One of the team's staples the last five years, Sundberg hasn't faced any competition in training camp since assuming the job in 2010.

— By Zac Boyer

CAN HE DO IT?

New GM McCloughan faces a tall order in reshaping the culture of the Redskins

By Todd Dybas
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It's a lonely office, hollow and dim. The glass cases are empty. All four TVs are off. A cardboard box in the back corner has its four flaps open, inviting, but is ignored. Scattered objects populate the palatial desk. A phone, cans of chewing tobacco, contact books. Otherwise, just the barrenness.

"That's me," Washington Redskins first-year general manager Scot McCloughan says. "Simple."

The adjacent draft room has life. Game tape of players runs on the screen at the head of the room. Along one wall is the Redskins' depth chart. Filling the other is the roster of every NFL team, in alphabetical order. On the left, offense. On the right, defense. From the ceiling to the floor is a list including the famous and unknown. In the back right, the NFC East is aligned.

This is the simple and delicious for McCloughan. The son of a lifelong scout, given his first NFL job by one of the godfathers of team building, Hall of Famer Ron Wolf, McCloughan thrives on trying to figure out who will be a successful football player. Tape is only the beginning, he'll say. Getting to the crux of the person, what lurks inside, the detriments and potential, that's the key. Big, fast, strong? Fine. Tough, competitive, desperate to be better? Great.

In a way, he's looking for players who mirror himself: The talented grinders. McCloughan stakes his scouting ability not just on his skill to assess, but also on never-ending hours working visits, contacts and tape. An August day that starts at 7 a.m. can end at 10 p.m. The more laborious ones end at 1 a.m. He's trying to operate with success in the inexact world of human assessment. Results with the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks indicated his formula is effective.

"It's one of those things, you either have that ability or you don't," Wolf says. "I'm talking about the ability to evaluate. Some people think they can do it, but they really can't."

"I mean, he's got it. Whatever it is, he has it."

Yet, nothing can be this free and easy in the NFL, in particular at Redskins Park, a swath of land with football fields and hidden bear traps. McCloughan is in Ashburn because of talent and availability.

Typically, someone with so much of the former doesn't have much of the latter. But, here he is, at 44 years old, starting again. He produced with the 49ers and Seahawks, two power franchises of the last five years, then left. McCloughan calls departing the Seahawks in 2014 a "mutual decision." San Francisco CEO Jed York said McCloughan leaving the 49ers in 2010 was a "mutual parting."

This is where things become sticky. You see, this league, this team, this man's past, do not do simple.

Getting his start

Wolf called, and McCloughan said he would take the job for free. Being a regional scout for the Packers paid \$18,500, which was less than McCloughan was making as a fledgling minor league baseball player in 1994, but it paid something, so all the better. When he flew from Seattle to Green Bay to sign his paperwork, he met current Packers general manager Ted Thompson, at the time Green Bay's director of pro personnel. He told McCloughan that he was the first hire Wolf did not vet by asking him to watch tape and write a report.

Wolf and McCloughan's father, Kent, built their bond with the Oakland Raiders. Kent McCloughan was a cornerback out of Nebraska who was drafted in 1965 by the Redskins. The Houston Oilers also selected him in the AFL draft the same year. He ended up in Oakland, was a two-time All-Pro cornerback, then a scout for 39 years. Kent worked a lot, a lesson his son would absorb and apply.

"His dad told me he would do an excellent job, and I couldn't have a better form of reference than that," Wolf says, "from a person himself who was a superb football player and a really good judge of talent and knew what it took inside, *inside*, to be successful as a scout."

McCloughan's intertwining with Seahawks general manager John Schneider began in Green Bay, setting them on a path of friendship that feels similar to the one Wolf and Kent McCloughan went down. Schneider was an intern for the Packers. Both were recently out of college. They loved the road, football and scrapping for some element of advantage. Instead of their like personalities clashing, they blended.

"John and I, always, always will, have a tight bond just because I think we are similar people," McCloughan says. "We

just fight for what we try to get and respect each other from the standpoint that we fight for what we get. He's a great person, a phenomenal man. ... He's a high-, high-, high-character guy and I respect the living crap out of that.

"He'd do anything for me. I'd do anything for him, no matter what. And, he loves football like I love football. He loves building something like I love building something. We're very, very, very similar. He's just shorter."

Schneider did not question if McCloughan was handed a job more because of lineage than talent.

"I think it was pretty evident he knew how to handle himself on the road and knew how to identify football players, ask the right questions and keep probing," Schneider says.

Besides, they were having a hell of a time.

Green Bay was the starting point of an ascension for each. By 2008, McCloughan was the general manager of the 49ers. In 2010, Schneider took the same position with the Seahawks.

'Mutual' partings

Wolf taught McCloughan core lessons

of team building: Go find the competitive person who can still operate in a team environment. Invest in a quarterback, if possible. Find someone who can pressure the quarterback, someone who can protect him, and fill in. With those suggested baselines, McCloughan looks at players and wonders if they can move from average to good, and good to great. Wolf also emphasizes an ego-smashing lesson that is crucial for the talent assessor.

"At some point, you're wrong, and it's how you adjust from that standpoint," Wolf says. "Whether you become a 50-50 guy or whether you grab the bull by the

horns so to speak, realize you made a mistake, [and] realize that not in any form or fashion, is this a scientific event here. It involves human beings. You're going to be wrong more than you're going to be right. It's how you get over that hump that determines how well you can do, and Scot had that ability."

"You can't be stubborn," McCloughan says.

In San Francisco, McCloughan gathered picks and future Pro Bowl players such as running back Frank Gore, tight end Vernon Davis, inside linebacker Patrick Willis and offensive lineman Joe Staley.

He was a first-time vice president, then general manager. The bespoke Mike Nolan was a first-time NFL head coach. There were surprises neither were prepared for, McCloughan says, so they adapted as needed.

As general manager, McCloughan worked with a ubiquitous rule. His hands were in everything. He had to go see every player. Every decision started and ended him. The stress was as perpetual as his desire; the combination created an insatiable, then debilitating loop. "And, it wasn't right," McCloughan says. "I wanted to make sure everything was taken care of no matter

what. So, 24/7, I was thinking about the whole organization. That was tough, that was tough. That's when I got my issue."

A month before the 2010 draft, York described McCloughan's departure as a "private personnel matter," the kind of vague code-wording suggesting something is amiss. McCloughan was forthright in an ESPN The Magazine story in December 2014, admitting an alcohol problem which sent him to the Betty Ford Clinic during his time in San Francisco. He returned from rehab, and a short time later, was served with divorce papers. His demons were fed anew by the news. In the ESPN story, he



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New Washington Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan (left) had known team president Bruce Allen for more than 20 years before being hired. "This is about the Redskins, this is about the whole organization being together, fighting together, good days, bad days," McCloughan said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

New Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan wants to build through the draft before overpaying for a late-career name veteran. "We have to have picks," he says, as he tries to construct a culture akin to the one in Seattle and formerly in San Francisco: A cutthroat camaraderie existed in each place that stars were pushed to maintain.

said he still consumed alcohol.

Schneider, in many ways, temporarily rescued McCloughan by hiring him in 2010 as a senior personnel executive. He worked the drafts that claimed Russell Wilson and Pro Bowl players such as Richard Sherman and Kam Chancellor in the fifth round.

"I was happy to be able to offer him the opportunity for us to be able to work together again," Schneider says.

Things quickly came together in Seattle. Coach Pete Carroll delivered his quirky cultural influence. A team that had so long been an NFL bit player surged to become an audacious force. The Seahawks delivered McCloughan his second Super Bowl ring.

McCloughan's ability to find players is strong and touted. But, after three years with the Seahawks, McCloughan's reliability was rumored to be in question. He had another "mutual" separation, this one from a longtime friend. More vague words as to why followed.

"That is something that I can't, that I should not get into," Schneider says after

a pause. "I think that's a question for Scot. But, suffice to say, we're still very good friends."

"Mutual decision," McCloughan says in the near-empty office. "Very mutual decision. Best for my career; best for my family. I [had] just got engaged at the time. Going forward, that was the best thing to do. I felt like I had opportunities when I left San Fran to go different places — a lot of places. And, I wanted to make sure, because John was in his first year as a GM, I wanted to make sure I could do anything to help him as a general manager and put myself in a situation where I could still see my kids — I [had gotten] divorced.

"It was mutual. And, you know what? I loved it there. Pete Carroll is a phenomenal head coach. The staff is phenomenal. John and his staff's phenomenal. It was incredible. Beat the crud out of Denver [in the Super Bowl], you know? Just seeing everybody, excitement in their eyes, it was incredible. But, it was time for me to go on. It was time for me to change."

'A scout with a title'

After a year away running a scouting service, McCloughan had to come back. Sundays were emotionless. No thrill, no pain, just football on the TV in a quiet town north of Seattle. He says he had options, but the Redskins felt right. He's known team president Bruce Allen for more than 20 years. He did not know Snyder. He had heard what everyone has heard about the Redskins' owner.

"We all have strengths and weaknesses," McCloughan says. "I got the feeling — just meeting him — I was nervous, I didn't know what was going to come out of it, but I knew right away that listen, this is about the Redskins, this is about the whole organization being together, fighting together, good days, bad days, whatever, and he totally understood."

"I'm sure he wouldn't have taken the job if he didn't have the opportunity to do it his way," Wolf says.

McCloughan's hiring seemed to counter the Redskins' recent run of overreach and haphazardness in team building. The list

of things McCloughan would do before overpaying a late-career name veteran, or shipping three first-round picks and a second-round pick for one pick, is expansive. He wants to build through the draft, "We have to have picks," he says, and is trying to construct a culture akin to the one in Seattle and formerly in San Francisco: A cutthroat camaraderie existed in each place that stars were pushed to maintain.

McCloughan, who says he's just a "scout with a title" has begun to delegate, learning from his error in San Francisco. Other scouts can take a first look at a player or first run through tape. When the season starts, McCloughan says he will follow the team closely, trying to decipher how everyone ticks, looking to sniff out angles for improvement. Schneider, who oversees a team that has been to back-to-back Super Bowls, describes this aspect of the job as a dog chasing a car.

"We just feel like there's never, ever any finish line in anything we're doing," Schneider says.

McCloughan will also be on the road

as the leaves change. When he goes, he'll arrive in a college town in the morning. He will not talk to the player he is interested in during the season. McCloughan will instead watch tape, talk to his contacts at the university, watch practice, then take another flight or drive to the next stop as he tries to reconstruct the roster.

The Redskins' attempts to move from quarterback-centric to team-focused are subtle, but telling. There was a reduction in space occupied by Robert Griffin III's jersey in the team store at training camp in Richmond. In addition to Griffin, the jerseys of DeSean Jackson, Ryan Kerrigan, Alfred Morris and Pierre Garcon were available. Many Redskins walk around in a team-issued T-shirts that read, "Stronger together," with the Redskins' logo forming an O. On the back, it reads, "TEAM>i". New strength and conditioning coach Mike Clark put together the slogan.

Were they presented with a blank 53-man roster, Wolf and Schneider would select a quarterback first. McCloughan says he prefers to focus on the offensive and defensive lines. Maybe it's a savvy public relations response, considering the organization is trying to drum out the singular importance of the quarterback and construct a whole franchise. Though, his personnel decisions since taking over show he meant it.

The Redskins gave a contract extension to Kerrigan, added multiple players to the defensive line, extended the contract of left tackle Trent Williams and selected an offensive lineman, Brandon Scherff, fifth overall. They also drafted Matt Jones to provide bruising support to Morris in the backfield. Griffin was demoted the final week of the preseason and Kirk Cousins was named the starting quarterback.

"The core of your team is built with middle men," McCloughan says. "That's why it's important to draft so well, to have draft picks. To not just be starters, but backups, great special teams players. That's how you build your roster. You're going to have your superstars. You're going to have four or five. The majority of your team is built with good football players. That's why it's so important to me to have smart guys, tough guys, intelligent guys that understand their roles and understand it's about the team."

Who is McCloughan?

In August, Wolf was set to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He had not seen Kent McCloughan for about a decade. Scot McCloughan was making the trip to Canton, Ohio, for the induction despite training camp going on. He called his dad, encouraged him to leave Colorado and go. Kent acquiesced. Scot set up a car to pick up his 72-year-old father in Cleveland and take him to Canton on Friday night. The induction was Saturday.

Scot sent Wolf a text saying his dad would like to chat, face-to-face. They met Saturday morning at a Bob Evans restaurant. Outside, Kent and Wolf talked. Later



"What's so important to me," Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan says, "is to talk to my contacts who have been around [a player] ... and say listen 'Who's this guy? What's he bring as an individual? ... What's he doing when he's not in the building?'"

at the ceremony, Wolf pointed at Kent on his way across the stage. Scot was sitting next to his dad. His father shook his hand and thanked him for the trip afterward. Recounting the day leaves Scot tapping the executive desk in his new office. His voice wobbles. His eyes shine.

"I want to be thought of, when I'm all done with this, as a good person, a good scout and [that] I took care of my guys," McCloughan says. "That's what matters to me. Wins, losses very important. I understand that. But, good person. Ron Wolf was a phenomenal person. My dad is a phenomenal person."

Figuring out what lays inside the person is the last part and hardest of scouting. It's when simple turns to difficult, like McCloughan's time in Washington suddenly did the first week of September.

His second wife, Jessica, used Twitter to accuse an ESPN reporter of exchanging sexual favors for information about the team. She also insinuated McCloughan was having an affair with the reporter. An apology said to be from her was issued through the Redskins. The man here to quiet the Redskins' maelstroms, who is also working to leave behind his, was in the middle of one, insinuating the troubling pull of Redskins Park is unavoidable and re-raising questions about McCloughan's personal side.

Back in the 1990s, McCloughan told Wolf he would work for free, even when they talked about a raise after his first season. It was the job, not the money, that drove him. McCloughan loves football to no end. He loves the constructing, the talent tapping, the good times, the Sundays.

He loves asking questions. He loves trying to find the right players.

"What's so important to me," McCloughan says, "is to talk to my contacts who have been around [a player] for two, three, four years, and say listen, 'Who's this guy? What's he bring as an individual? What's his character? What's his passion? What's he doing when he's not in the building?'"

As he embarks to fix the Redskins, the same questions are being asked about him. Who is McCloughan? A gifted man who can read other souls, but can't control his own? Someone who has learned or someone who repeats? The fixer of Ashburn or another of its victims? The "scout with a title" wants to live his football life. It's just not that simple. It never is at Redskins Park. And it hasn't been yet for McCloughan.

COVER MODEL

Redskins think Culliver has the ideal cornerback makeup: Size, speed, confidence

By Todd Dybas
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Gold, sweatpants and tattoos are the visually expressive things about Washington Redskins cornerback Chris Culliver. He wears multiple gold chains. The sweatpants, gray and puffing out from beneath a jersey or pulled up from the ankle to the knee, complete his daily appearance. Every day, walks with his tattoos from wrist to shoulder telling his tale.

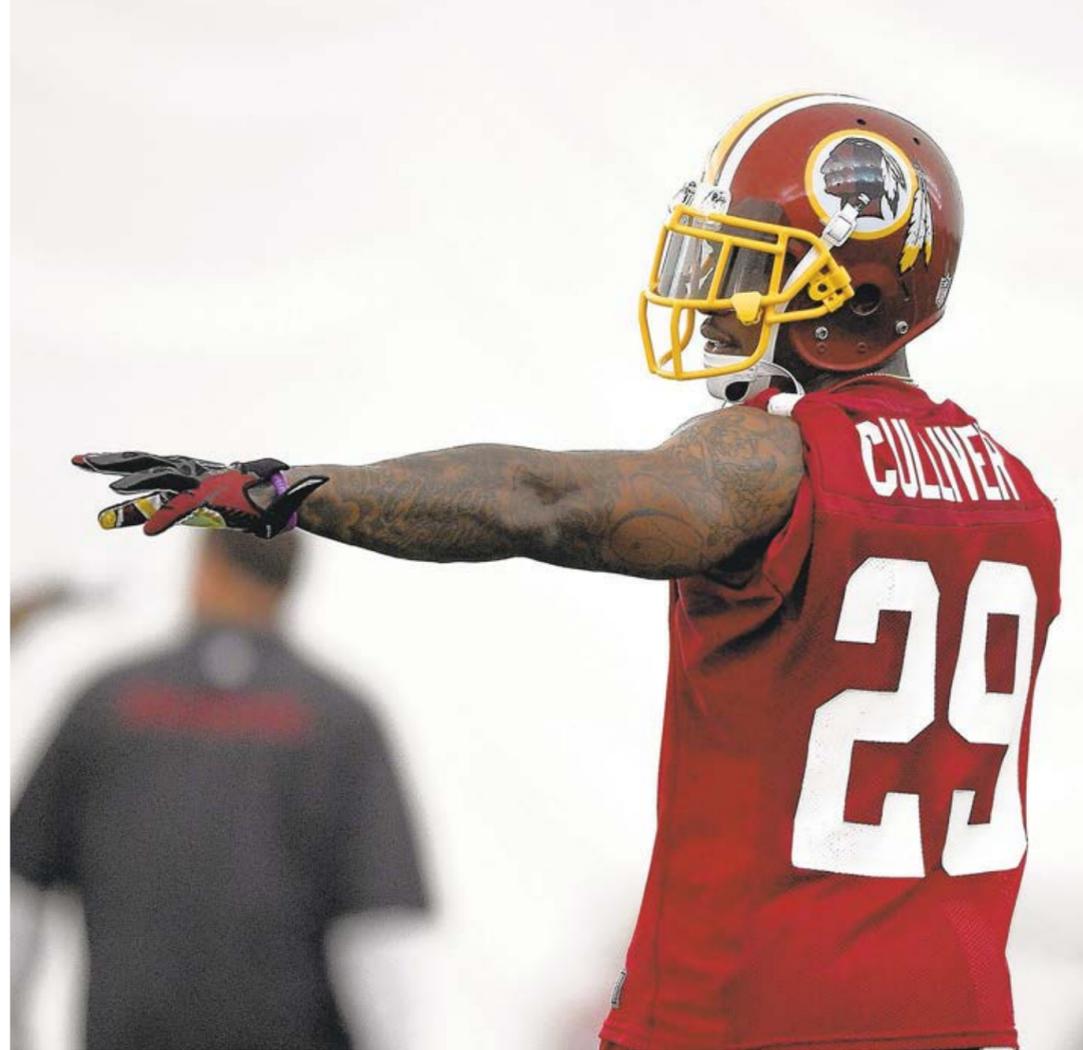
He chose his mother's name, Marie, as his first tattoo when he was 16 years old, mirroring her age when he was born.

His stepfather, James Jefferson, was murdered when he was 8. He was shot on Labor Day weekend in 1996 at Jay's Big Shot bar in Philadelphia. His cousin was also killed in the same fracas. A bullet grazed his mother's chest. A tattoo on his neck memorializes his slain stepfather.

He doesn't want to talk about that, though. Not his mom or his family. The tattooed map of his 27 years that spreads across both arms, his chest and back and even in front of his right ear provide hints of the careening nature of his life. He'd rather leave that and talk about football, focusing on why the Redskins paid him a hefty sum to help shore up a wobbly secondary.

Culliver signed a four-year, \$32 million deal with the Redskins in the offseason. General manager Scot McCloughan said he had liked Culliver since the cornerback left South Carolina in 2011, when the San Francisco 49ers selected him in the third round. His three seasons in the league may be unlike anyone else in that draft class.

His first two seasons, Culliver played in the NFC title game. In his second season, Culliver was the nickel cornerback for a powerful 49ers defense in the Super Bowl. His time at the Super Bowl was an extreme learning experience. Negative comments he made about possibly having a gay teammate preceded an apology and reversal in stance two days later. During the game, he allowed a 56-yard touchdown pass to Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones. Though, that Culliver was in the position of influencing the Super Bowl as



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

As a free agent signee, cornerback Chris Culliver says he felt the Redskins matched him personally — liking the defensive scheme, wanting to learn from defensive backs coach Perry Fewell and being excited to play with DeAngelo Hall, Jeron Johnson and Dashon Goldson.

a second-year player was of note.

"There's a lot that goes on in the Super Bowl," Culliver said. "It's a big, big stage. If anybody going to watch any game of the year, they're going to watch the Super Bowl. ... It wasn't like I was 30 years old in my seventh or ninth year or something like that. You learn and you grow as a player, a person, in general. You've got a rookie that come in wouldn't understand the same thing a fifth-year vet would. I think just experience and growing as a person, that's the biggest thing."

He tore the ACL in his left knee and

missed the 2013 season. In 2014, when the 49ers began to unravel, Culliver had his best season, producing career-high totals in tackles and interceptions. He was considered one of the best cornerbacks available through free agency after last season. It's easy for McCloughan to tick off what he likes about Culliver on the field.

"He has size, he has strength, he has toughness, he has competitiveness and he understands the importance of the game," McCloughan said. "He comes from a really, really good defense. Been to the Super

Bowl. Seen what it looks like. Understands how to practice. Understands what to take care of in the weight room and the tape room. All that stuff, he understands, he's been around it."

Culliver felt like Washington matched him personally. He said in OTAs that he liked the defensive scheme, was interested in learning from new defensive backs coach Perry Fewell and was excited to play alongside DeAngelo Hall, Jeron Johnson and ex-teammate Dashon Goldson.

"I chose here because I felt like it fit my personality," Culliver said. "My

personality's being physical and playing a lot of man coverage and getting to it and helping this team. That's what my mindset was."

Like many current cornerbacks, Culliver prefers playing press coverage. He tries to reroute receivers from the line, using his strength as much as the current rules allow. He said he lets receivers run their routes, then reacts to what he sees. In an ideal world, Culliver is a blend of physical play and consistent coverage. He's 6 feet tall and 199 pounds, not the oversized cornerback that is in vogue in the NFL, but also not a small corner who can easily be bullied. He should have a chance against fade routes, as well as one against shifter route runners.

Culliver's presence gives the Redskins a strong starting point at cornerback. Second-year cornerback Bashaud Breeland will return during Week 2 of the regular season after serving a one-game suspension stemming from a citation for possession of marijuana in Richmond in 2014. Hall is near the end of his career. Third-year corner David Amerson took a large step back in his second season. Quickly, the cornerback room could be Culliver's to run.

Hall has talked about retirement. Breeland is just starting what the Redskins hope is an extended career, which leaves Culliver as a proposed anchor among the team's cornerbacks. He has the most playoff experience of any Redskins cornerback, including Hall. He's also the highest-paid cornerback on the team. The Redskins are relying on Culliver to be a support point at one of the league's most crucial positions.

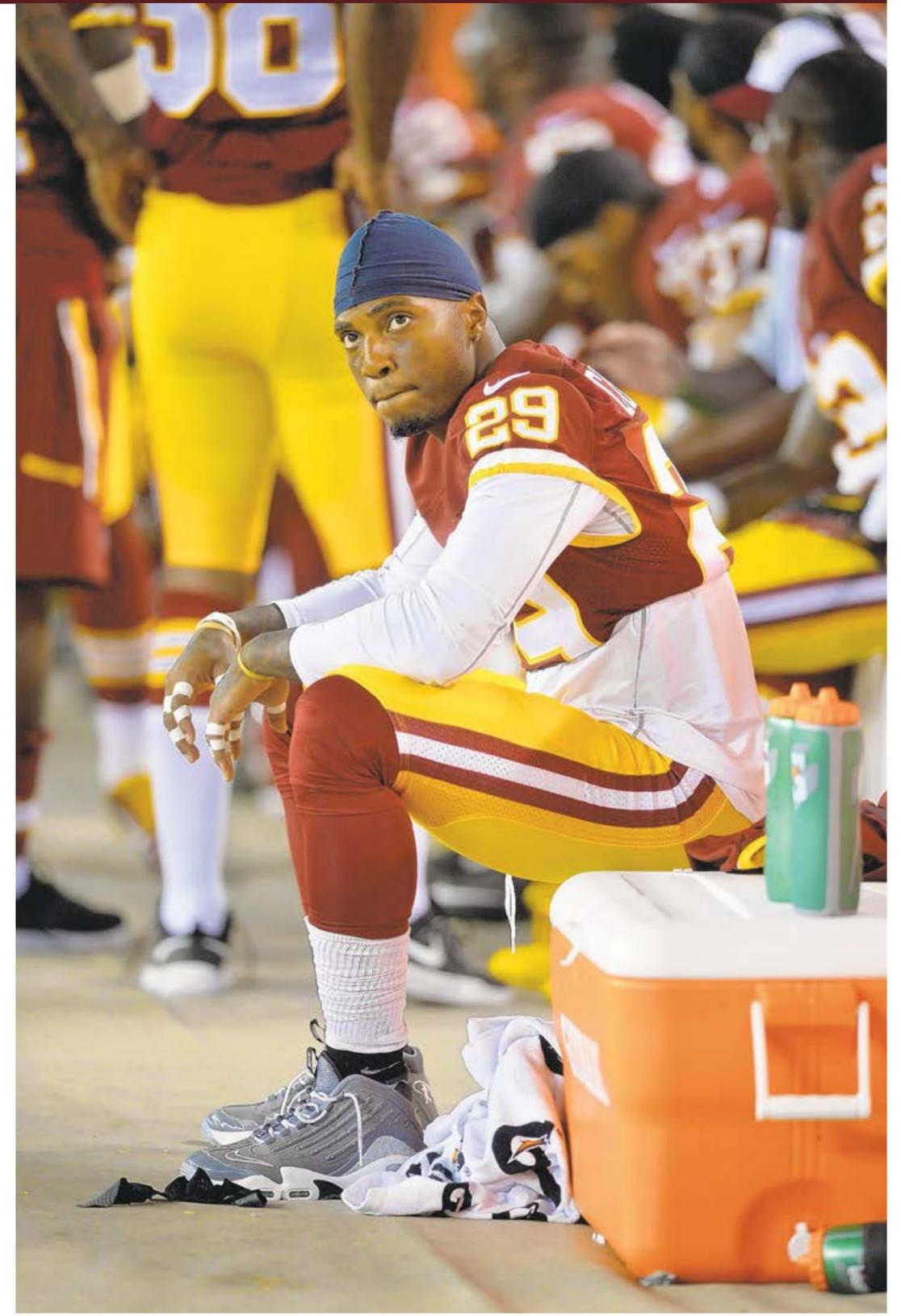
"He's good for the young guys, and he's 27," McCloughan said. "I think he's reaching his prime right now and he's ready to rock and roll."

His ferocity showed in the preseason when he was ejected during the second exhibition game for getting into a fight with Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Steve Smith. It also showed in March 2014, when he was charged with a felony — reduced to a misdemeanor following a hearing nearly a year later — after hitting a bicyclist, fleeing the scene, then allegedly threatening a citizen who followed and cornered his car. He pled guilty to two misdemeanors in June and will be on probation for two years and was ordered to do 40 hours of community service.

"[I told him] this is how we're going to be, and if you're not going to be that way, then you're not going to be here," McCloughan said.

Last year, Culliver was back at the tattoo parlor. Just in front of his right ear, in the slim vertical space behind a narrow sideburn, the word "king" is sunk vertically, in capital letters, into his skin.

The Redskins crowned him with a four-year deal worth up to \$32 million in the offseason. Each is trying to revamp their recent past, believing the best is ahead.



Chris Culliver has the most amount of playoff experience and is the highest paid of any Redskins cornerback. With D'Angelo Hall nearing retirement, the Redskins are relying on Culliver to be a support point at one of the league's most crucial positions.

TAKING OUT THE FUN

Fantasy football industry becoming a get-rich-quick scheme

Turn to ESPN or some other sports-related outlet, any time of day. Doesn't matter whether it's TV or radio. Just wait for the next commercial break.

If there isn't a spot for DraftKings or FanDuel, you're guaranteed to see one the next time. Bet on it.

The rise of daily fantasy sports has led to a surge of hourly broadcast ads. And, if you've somehow, miraculously never seen one, here's their message: You, too, can win \$1 million! It's easy!

Now excuse me while I go take a shower.

What began as a quaint activity between office workers, family and friends has morphed into an insidious industry that seduced and climbed in bed with corporate America. The NFL doesn't quite fit the definition of daily fantasy sports, not with its one-week-at-a-time IV-drip of action. But *The Shield* is poised to domineer DFS, like every other subject in its royal sports kingdom.



DERON SNYDER

At the risk of sounding like an unrepentant moralist with a paternalistic mentality, I'm concerned about the spike in people who view fantasy sports as a get-rich-quick scheme. Methinks those who prosper the most will be the leagues, teams, media companies and other investors that pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into DraftKings and FanDuel.

Those entities are looking for fat returns on investments. They'll be reaped on the backs of ordinary Joes and Janes, filling out lineups like lottery tickets.

This isn't fantasy sports as I remember it. Back in the early '80s, I partook in leagues with co-workers in the USA Today sports department. Yours truly even hoisted trophies after winning championships in the NFL and NBA, though my baseball team, "Arms & Hammers," never finished first.

It was great for fun, camaraderie, competition and trash talk.

I don't remember the cash prize that accompanied titles, but it wasn't much, certainly unlike pots in the NFL Suicide Pool I later ran for the department (which since have grown to \$10,000-plus and won't be discussed ever again).

The money in fantasy was just a little something-something to make it interesting, like NCAA tournament pools or Super Bowl squares.

Contrast that to the DraftKings ad featuring anxious men in agony, watching a game that obviously features someone on their team. We don't see what happens — the kick was good, the touchdown was scored, the



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ads from websites like DraftKings or FanDuel have enabled fantasy football players to turn to get-rich-quick schemes.

turnover was created, whatever — but the reaction is universal. Arms raised, fists pumped, backs slapped, etc.

"This is the feeling of turning a game you love into a lifetime of cash," says the voiceover. "This is what it looks like when real people win a million dollars playing fantasy football."

Please. DFS is what it looks like when sports, gambling and instant gratification have a three-way on the Internet.

According to the latest figures the Fantasy Sports Trade Association, 56.8 million people across North America — 34 percent of whom are women — now play fantasy sports. That's up from 41.5 million a year ago.

But the industry's fastest growing segment is DFS, which has become a multibillion-dollar slice of the pie while comprising just 12 percent of the total fantasy pool. The trade association estimates that the number of daily players has more than tripled over the past year. The rapid, massive growth — with room for much more — is why investors have hopped aboard and the airwaves have been inundated.

According to iSpot.tv, DraftKings has spent \$86.2 million on TV ads since Jan. 1; that's more than quadruple the \$20.9 million that Kantar Media reports the

company spent in 2014. As for FanDuel, iSpot.tv reports it has spent \$23.8 million this year.

It's no wonder when you consider the dollars at stake. The Orange County Register reported that Eilers Research estimated that the total sports handle in Las Vegas during the NFL's opening weekend will be between \$25 million and \$30 million.

FanDuel and DraftKings are expected to top \$60 million in Week 1.

While the NFL turns up its nose at illegal gambling, 15 teams have signed multi-year sponsorship agreements with FanDuel, and teams are doing everything they can to appease fantasy players with enhanced in-stadium features to help them keep track. FedEx Field has a FanDuel Lounge, and it's only a matter of time before stadiums are outfitted with in-seat monitors tuned to NFL RedZone.

If this wasn't such an addictive form of "entertainment" that threatens to ruin countless lives and families, I'd be all for it with no reservations.

I guess it shouldn't bother me because adults are supposed to be responsible for their actions and we don't want a nanny-state telling us what to do. That's true, too.

But excuse me while I go take a shower.

The promise of easy millions has a dirty feel to it.

SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER

Star rusher Murray bolts Dallas for Philadelphia setting up the Eagles as the new NFC East favorite

By **ROB MAADDI**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA | When DeMarco Murray traded the blue star on his helmet for silver and white wings, the balance of power in the NFC East shifted from the Dallas Cowboys to the Philadelphia Eagles.

That might be the difference in a division that's had four different champions in the past four years.

Last season, Murray helped the Cowboys end a string of mediocre seasons with a record-setting performance that catapulted Dallas to 12 wins and its first division crown in five years.

But the All-Pro running back got a better free-agent offer from Philadelphia, where Chip Kelly overhauled the roster following a 10-win season that wasn't good enough for a playoff spot.

Murray is one of five new starters on an offense that has thrived since Kelly's arrival in 2013. He joins new quarterback and former college roommate Sam Bradford, who looked sharp in limited preseason action.

While the Cowboys still have Tony Romo, Dez Bryant and perhaps the best offensive line in the league, they'll miss Murray's franchise-record 1,845 rushing yards.

"We don't say let's take this player over that player because it's going to make that team weaker," Kelly said. "I know Dallas is going to be a tough opponent when we play them this year."

Murray doesn't have to be a workhorse in Philadelphia. The Eagles also signed former Pro Bowl back Ryan Mathews and they have Darren Sproles.

Dallas is counting on Darren McFadden and Joseph Randle to replace Murray's 497 carries.

"I think we'll be just fine," Randle said.

The Cowboys are aiming to become the first repeat champions in the NFC East since the Eagles won four titles in a row from 2001 through 2004.

The New York Giants and Washington Redskins won't be a threat to knock them off.

Eli Manning, Odell Beckham Jr. and the offense will score points, but defense is the big question for New York. The Redskins are a daily soap opera making headlines for the wrong reasons.

Here are a few other things to know

about the NFC East:

CHIP'S IN CHARGE: Kelly gained control of personnel moves and made drastic changes. Gone are LeSean McCoy, Nick Foles, Jeremy Maclin, Evan Mathis, Todd Herremans, Trent Cole, Cary Williams and other players who helped the Eagles win 20 games in Kelly's first two seasons.

Bradford came over from St. Louis and appears healthy after two operations on his left knee forced him to miss the past 25 games. He led the offense to a touchdown in each of his four series in two preseason games.

The biggest improvement for Philadelphia is the defense. Byron Maxwell and Walter Thurmond bolster a secondary that was awful the past two seasons, and Kiko Alonso fortifies a solid front seven.

GETTING DEFENSIVE: Murray's success last season wasn't the only reason the Cowboys beat out Philadelphia in the standings. A vastly improved defense led by coordinator Rod Marinelli was a major factor. The addition of defensive end Greg Hardy should help once he's reinstated after serving a four-game suspension, and outside linebacker Sean Lee is back from a knee injury, but cornerback Orlando Scandrick was lost for the season with a torn ACL in his right knee and middle linebacker Rolando McClain is suspended for four games.

With Murray gone, the offense might have to rely more on Romo's arm. The 35-year-old quarterback still seems capable of carrying the load. He bounced back from back surgery and had an outstanding season in 2014, and now seems healthier than he's been in years.

SPAGNUOLO RETURNS: The most important offseason move the Giants made was hiring defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who was in charge when Big Blue beat Tom Brady and the undefeated Patriots in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season. Spagnuolo has a tough task ahead with a depleted unit. Defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul's status is uncertain, inside linebacker Jon Beason is injured again, and safeties Bennett Jackson, Mykkele Thompson and Justin Currie were lost for the season. Manning and Co. might have to win shootouts if the defense doesn't improve drastically. Rueben Randle filled in nicely after Victor Cruz was injured to give Manning a formidable one-two punch at wideout.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas may have lost leading rusher DeMarco Murray to NFC East rival Philadelphia, but the Cowboys still have Pro Bowl wide receiver Dez Bryant returning to catch touchdowns.

THE COMFORTS OF HOME



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco's seven road playoff wins are the most by any starting quarterback in NFL history, but he'd rather play more postseason games at home.

By DAVID GINSBURG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ravens aim for more playoff games in Baltimore

ROWINGS MILLS, MD. Reaching the postseason isn't a goal for the Baltimore Ravens. It's an expectation.

The Ravens have advanced to the playoffs in six of seven seasons under coach John Harbaugh. They posted at least one victory in each of those six trips and earned a Super Bowl trophy in 2012.

Baltimore has accomplished all this despite playing only two of 13 postseason games at home. Playing on the road in January proved too tough a hurdle last season, when the Ravens won at the Pittsburgh Steelers before losing to the New England Patriots.

This year, the Ravens prefer to take an easier path to the Super Bowl. The first priority is to win the AFC North with the hope of claiming home-field advantage.

"We definitely want multiple home playoff games. That's what we're looking for," Harbaugh said. "If we win more games than anybody else, we'll get them all at home. That's the goal."

Quarterback Joe Flacco has proven that he can win anywhere in the postseason: His seven road playoff wins are the most

by any starting quarterback in NFL history. Given an option, though, the eight-year veteran would prefer performing on familiar turf.

"Obviously, we would love to get some home playoff games in front of our fans," he said, "but at the same time, a playoff game is a playoff game. We'd love to play the way we should and be good enough to get another chance to be there."

Strapped by the salary cap, the Ravens lost wide receiver Torrey Smith, tight end Owen Daniels, and defensive linemen Haloti Ngata and Pernell McPhee during the past offseason.

But they shored up the secondary, a glaring weakness last season, and return several key elements of an offense that last season set franchise records with 409 points and 5,838 total yards.

Other things to know about the Ravens: **SMITH'S SWAN SONG:** Wide receiver Steve Smith said this will be his final season, and Baltimore needs him to go out in style.

Top draft pick Breshad Perriman was supposed to replace Torrey Smith as the Ravens' deep threat, but he's been sidelined with a lingering knee injury. Kamar Aiken,

Marlon Brown and Michael Campanaro are capable receivers, but the 36-year-old Smith is poised to be Flacco's primary target until the speedy Perriman returns.

Although Harbaugh would prefer to limit Smith's snap-counts to keep him fresh, that plan may never be implemented.

"That's something we discussed, but I think it's going to be hard for both of us to do," Smith said.

And why is that?

"Because we're both competitive, and we want to win," Smith said.

LAST LINE OF DEFENSE: Twelve different cornerbacks were on the roster last year, which explains to a degree why Baltimore ranked 24th in pass defense.

Although safety Matt Elam is apparently out for the season with a torn triceps, the backfield appears vastly improved. Jimmy Smith returns after missing the final eight games with a foot injury, and free agent pickups Kyle Arrington and Kendrick Lewis add veteran leadership and depth.

Baltimore had only 11 interceptions last season. This year, creating turnovers is a priority.

"We need to be a defense across the board that people fear in the sense that, if you want to throw the ball out there, there's a good chance it's going to come back the other way," Harbaugh said.

FORSETT'S ENCORE: Justin Forsett started last season as the Ravens' third-string running back. He finished with an appearance in the Pro Bowl.

Forsett had a career-high 1,266 yards rushing last season after playing with four different teams in his first six NFL seasons.

Now that he's a star, and intends to keep it that way.

"Man, I want to be better," Forsett said. "I want to be able to exceed all those things that I had last year."

AN UNBALANCED SCHEDULE: If the Ravens can survive a challenging start to their schedule, they will be rewarded on the back end.

Baltimore plays five of its first seven games on the road, including four games out west, facing the Denver Broncos, Oakland Raiders, San Francisco 49ers and Arizona Cardinals.

After a Nov. 8 bye, the Ravens play five of the last eight games at home. Over the final four weeks, Baltimore hosts the Seattle Seahawks, the Kansas City Chiefs and the Steelers before closing at the Cincinnati Bengals.

ENGAGING THE FAN

NFL teams creating mini-theme parks to get fans off sofas

By **BARRY WILNER**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. | Little kids bounce around on inflatables. Teenagers rock to a local band. Huge screens showing sports from around the country, and celebrities signing autographs.

A fair or theme park? Try MetLife Stadium before an NFL game.

Many hardcore fans prefer watching at home or in a sports bar, where they can watch multiple games on huge screens and keep track of their fantasy stats or gambling results. The league is trying to bring more people to stadiums by turning games into all-day events.

“We have a tremendous TV product and it has been getting better over a long period of time, so the great news for the NFL is to be competing with ourselves,” said Brian Lafemina, the league’s senior vice president of club business development. “Teams have been innovating and creating [a] better game-day experience over the past several years. We’ve stopped thinking about programming a football game and instead we’re focusing on making it a five- to six-hour, driveway-to-driveway experience.”

It’s particularly important families who want to get their money’s worth out of expensive tickets.

“This is a great draw to come in to the stadium early; it will motivate people to want to do more than tailgate and then go into the game,” said New York Jets fan Duane Tomaszewski of Albertson, New York. “Meeting ex-Jets [players], the playground for kids, it’s sure better than having them dodging cars in the parking lot.”

The New Jersey stadium used by the Jets and New York Giants was built with the fans in mind. Between the parking lot and the seats, fans walk through MetLife Plaza, where they can eat, play, dance and watch big screens.

“We have a huge parking area where the fans tailgate, some of them right until game time, and that’s always been a big part of the experience,” Jets president Neil Glat said.

“But we encourage them to spend time in the plaza, particularly if they are bringing along children. We have the kids’ area, ESPN broadcasts, food sampling of all kinds.”

The other 30 NFL teams are trying to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NFL is trying to bring more people into stadiums by improving the game-day experience and turning the games into all-day events.

create similar experiences.

Baltimore has the Ravens Walk, which has become so popular that some fans without tickets will arrive at the stadium simply to take part then head elsewhere to watch the game. Fans can talk to cheerleaders, listen to bands or get a photo with Poe, the mascot. Sponsors have set up booths — including Verizon, which allows fans to recharge their mobile devices and stay connected.

“It’s really special to a lot of us who endured life without football for 13 years, and to now have this game-day experience we didn’t have for those years,” said Francis Preroff, a Ravens season ticket-holder from Towson. “It’s like a celebration of football, with music, vendors, activities.”

When Baltimore plays a late game, the Ravens will put earlier contests on jumbo screens.

“I was speaking with one of our fans on Saturday,” said Brad Downs, the Ravens’ vice president of marketing. “He and a group of people make the three-hour drive from Ocean City, and they arrive early and it’s become a ritual to be a part of what we have.”

Since 2013, Jacksonville Jaguars fans have enjoyed the “Prowl.” The team walks

through a wall of fans from the locker room to the field for pregame introductions.

Once fans get inside any of the 31 stadiums, they obviously want their team to win, but they want much more on the way to that victory. Even in Dallas, with an innovative stadium and one of the biggest screens in the world, fans always expect more.

“How do we create an authentic, unique experience that can’t be replicated at home?” Charlotte Jones Anderson, the Dallas Cowboys’ executive vice president and chief brand officer, asked. “Our big board did most of that for us. It really reinvented the way you experience a game as an engaging interactive. But, our programming, we start from the time you park your car. We even direct you to avoid the traffic and to the best location for your parking area with our app.”

Once parked, fans have plenty of choices: A music corral with live bands, a play area and, of course, the Cowboys’ cheerleaders.

The players control the outcome of the game, but team officials want fans to enjoy the day no matter what the score.

“We’re absolutely focused on the best experience in our stadium, but

the first thing the fans want is to see a Giants win,” said Giants vice president of sales and marketing Kevin Frattura. “We can’t control that, but we can control what is available around the stadium, what they are doing during breaks and timeouts, and before they come through the gates.”

This summer, before preseason games and even prior to a Jets evening practice, MetLife Plaza was packed well before kickoff. Perhaps the most popular spot was the Snoopy statue, where fans stopped to take photos.

Scott and Kathleen Riker, of Hawthorne, New Jersey, and their daughters, Alexa and Melissa, have created a tradition by using Snoopy as a measuring stick.

“I’ve watched her grow up with the team and the stadium,” Kathleen said of Alexa, 9. “Every year, she takes a picture with Snoopy and we can see how much she’s growing.”

Frattura watches such sights with a wide smile.

“Whatever we can provide as an enhancement that is part of the tradition of the Giants, we do,” Frattura said, “so that the fan, young or adult, asks, ‘When can we come back?’”

NFC WEEK BY WEEK

Arizona Cardinals

Sept. 13 New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 4 St. Louis, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 18 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 26 Baltimore, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 BYE
 Nov. 15 at Seattle-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 22 Cincinnati, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 29 at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 6 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 10 Minnesota, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 20 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

Atlanta Falcons

Sept. 14 Philadelphia, 7:10p
 Sept. 20 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at Dallas, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Houston, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 15 at New Orleans, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 25 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 15 BYE
 Nov. 22 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 29 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Carolina Panthers

Sept. 13 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 20 Houston, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 BYE
 Oct. 18 at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 25 Philadelphia-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 2 Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 8 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 15 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 26 at Dallas, 4:30p
 Dec. 6 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Chicago Bears

Sept. 13 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 20 Arizona, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Oakland, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 18 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 25 BYE
 Nov. 1 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 9 at San Diego, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 15 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 Denver, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 26 at Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 6 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Detroit, 1 p.m.

Dallas Cowboys

Sept. 13 N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 27 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 11 New England, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 18 BYE
 Oct. 25 at N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.

Nov. 1 Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 8 Philadelphia-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 15 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 26 Carolina, 4:30p
 Dec. 7 at Washington, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 19 N.Y. Jets, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Washington, 1 p.m.

Detroit Lions

Sept. 13 at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 Denver, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 5 at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 11 Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 18 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 25 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 vs. Kansas City (London), 9:30 a.m.
 Nov. 8 BYE

Dec. 27 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Minnesota, 1 p.m.

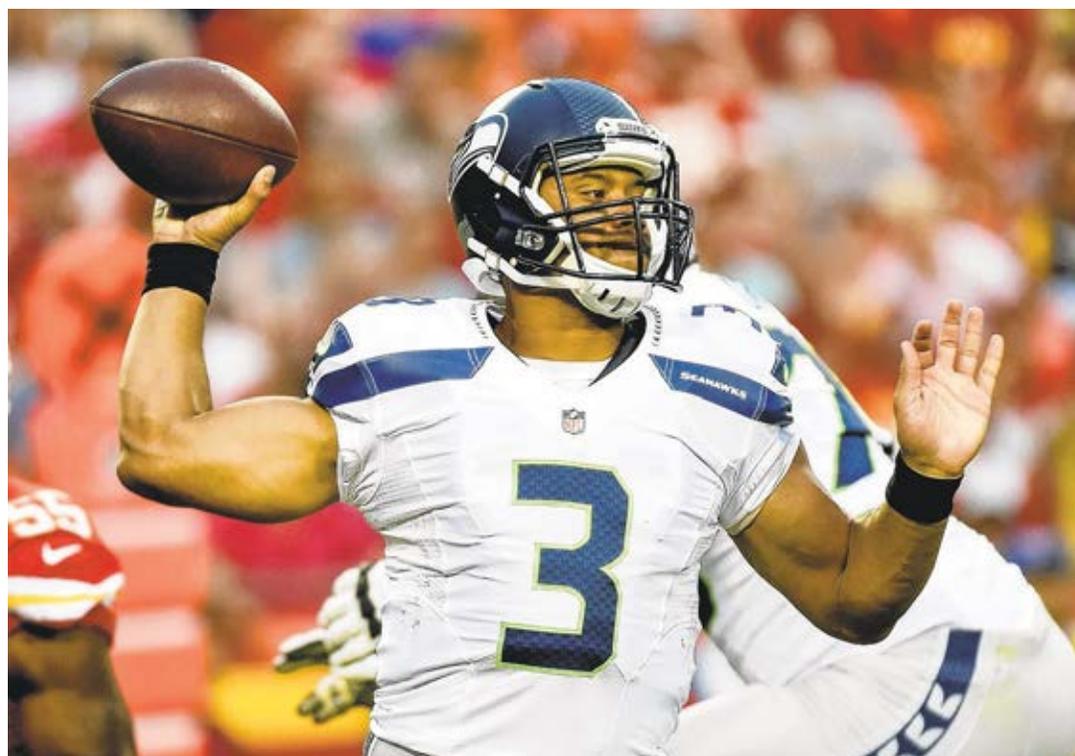
Minnesota Vikings

Sept. 14 at San Francisco, 10:20 p.m.
 Sept. 20 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 San Diego, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 11 BYE
 Oct. 18 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 25 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 15 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 22 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 29 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 Seattle, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 10 at Arizona, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at Green Bay, 1 p.m.

Oct. 11 San Francisco-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 19 at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 25 Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 15 New England, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 22 BYE
 Nov. 29 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 14 at Miami, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

Philadelphia Eagles

Sept. 14 at Atlanta, 7:10p
 Sept. 20 Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 New Orleans, 1 p.m.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Russell Wilson and Seattle open defense of their NFC Championship at St. Louis on Sept. 13.

New Orleans Saints

Sept. 13 at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 20 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 15 Atlanta, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 25 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 15 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 BYE
 Nov. 29 at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 21 Detroit, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 27 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Giants

Sept. 13 at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 20 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 24 Washington, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Oct. 19 N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 25 at Carolina-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 1 BYE
 Nov. 8 at Dallas-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 15 Miami, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 26 at Detroit, 12:30p
 Dec. 6 at New England, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 13 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Arizona, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 26 Washington, 8:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.

St. Louis Rams

Sept. 13 Seattle, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 18 BYE
 Oct. 25 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 15 Chicago, 1 p.m.

Nov. 22 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 29 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 Arizona, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 17 Tampa Bay, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.

San Francisco 49ers

Sept. 14 Minnesota, 10:20 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at N.Y. Giants-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 18 Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 22 Seattle, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 Atlanta, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 15 BYE
 Nov. 22 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 29 Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 6 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Cincinnati-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 27 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 St. Louis, 4:25 p.m.

Seattle Seahawks

Sept. 13 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 27 Chicago, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 5 Detroit, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 18 Carolina, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 22 at San Francisco, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 8 BYE
 Nov. 15 Arizona-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 22 San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 29 Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 6 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Baltimore-x, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 27 St. Louis, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Sept. 13 Tennessee, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 20 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 27 at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 18 BYE
 Oct. 25 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 8 N.Y. Giants, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 15 Dallas, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 29 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 6 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 13 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 17 at St. Louis, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 27 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at Carolina, 1 p.m.

Washington Redskins

Sept. 13 Miami, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 20 St. Louis, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 24 at N.Y. Giants, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 4 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 11 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 18 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 25 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 1 BYE
 Nov. 8 at New England, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 15 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 22 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 29 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 7 Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 13 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 20 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 26 at Philadelphia, 8:25 p.m.
 Jan. 3 at Dallas, 1 p.m.

x-Game time subject to change

AFC WEEK BY WEEK

Baltimore Ravens

Sept. 13 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 27 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 1 at Pittsburgh, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 11 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 26 at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 1 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Nov. 8 BYE
Nov. 15 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Nov. 22 St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Nov. 30 at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 Seattle-x, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 Pittsburgh-x, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Buffalo Bills

Sept. 13 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 New England, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Miami, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 4 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 vs Jacksonville (London), 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 1 BYE
Nov. 8 Miami, 1 p.m.
Nov. 12 at N.Y. Jets, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 23 at New England, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 29 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 Houston, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at Washington, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 Dallas, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati Bengals

Sept. 13 at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 20 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11 Seattle, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 BYE
Nov. 1 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 5 Cleveland, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 16 Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 22 at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 29 St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at San Francisco-x, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 28 at Denver, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 3 Baltimore, 1 p.m.

Cleveland Browns

Sept. 13 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 Denver, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 Arizona, 1 p.m.
Nov. 5 at Cincinnati, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 15 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 22 BYE
Nov. 30 Baltimore, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 6 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 27 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Denver Broncos

Sept. 13 Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 17 at Kansas City, 8:25 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 4 Minnesota, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 BYE
Nov. 1 Green Bay-x, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 8 at Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 15 Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 22 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Nov. 29 New England-x, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 6 at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 13 Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 20 at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 28 Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 3 San Diego, 4:25 p.m.

Houston Texans

Sept. 13 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Oct. 8 Indianapolis, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Nov. 8 BYE
Nov. 16 at Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 22 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Nov. 29 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 New England, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis Colts

Sept. 13 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Sept. 21 N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oct. 8 at Houston, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 18 New England-x, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Nov. 2 at Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 8 Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 15 BYE
Nov. 22 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Nov. 29 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Pittsburgh-x, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 Houston, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Jacksonville Jaguars

Sept. 13 Carolina, 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 Miami, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 27 at New England, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 Houston, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 vs Buffalo (London), 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 1 BYE
Nov. 8 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Nov. 19 Tennessee, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 29 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 Atlanta, 1 p.m.

Dec. 27 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Houston, 1 p.m.

Kansas City Chiefs

Sept. 13 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Sept. 17 Denver, 8:25 p.m.
Sept. 28 at Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11 Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 vs. Detroit (London), 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 8 BYE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

With his 4-game suspension overturned, the Patriots' Tom Brady starts the season against Pittsburgh, at Buffalo, Jacksonville, and at Dallas.

Nov. 15 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 22 at San Diego-x, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 29 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 13 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 Oakland, 1 p.m.

Miami Dolphins

Sept. 13 at Washington, 1 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Jacksonville, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 27 Buffalo, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 4 vs. N.Y. Jets (London), 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 11 BYE
Oct. 18 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 Houston, 1 p.m.
Oct. 29 at New England, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 8 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Nov. 22 Dallas, 1 p.m.
Nov. 29 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dec. 14 N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 20 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.

Dec. 27 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 New England, 1 p.m.

New England Patriots

Sept. 10 Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 BYE
Oct. 11 at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Indianapolis-x, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Oct. 29 Miami, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 8 Washington, 1 p.m.

Dec. 27 New England, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Oakland Raiders

Sept. 13 Cincinnati, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 20 Baltimore, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oct. 11 Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 18 BYE
Oct. 25 at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 1 N.Y. Jets, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 8 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 Minnesota, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 22 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Nov. 29 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 Kansas City, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 13 at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 20 Green Bay, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 24 San Diego, 8:25 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Sept. 10 at New England, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 20 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Oct. 1 Baltimore, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 12 at San Diego, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 18 Arizona, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Nov. 8 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Nov. 22 BYE
Nov. 29 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 6 Indianapolis-x, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 13 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 27 at Baltimore-x, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.

San Diego Chargers

Sept. 13 Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 Cleveland, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 12 Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 18 at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 25 Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Nov. 9 Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 15 BYE
Nov. 22 Kansas City-x, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 29 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 13 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 Miami, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Oakland, 8:25 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.

Tennessee Titans

Sept. 13 at Tampa Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 20 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Sept. 27 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Oct. 4 BYE
Oct. 11 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 18 Miami, 1 p.m.
Oct. 25 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Nov. 1 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Nov. 8 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Nov. 15 Carolina, 1 p.m.
Nov. 19 at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 29 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Dec. 6 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 13 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Dec. 20 at New England, 1 p.m.
Dec. 27 Houston, 1 p.m.
Jan. 3 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 x-Game time subject to change

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