NFL Draft 2022 - Review
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The 2022 NFL Draft was the 87th annual meeting of National Football League teams to select newly eligible players for the upcoming NFL season. The first round was held on April 28, followed by the second and third rounds on April 29. The draft concluded with rounds 4–7 on April 30th. The NFL held the event live in Las Vegas, Nevada for the first time. They were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2020. All team selections took place from Las Vegas with league commissioner Roger Goodell announcing the early selections from the podium.

Only one quarterback was selected in the first round – Kenny Pickett at the 20th overall pick, the lowest for a draft's 1st QB since 1997. In addition, no running backs were taken in the first round for the first time since 2014. The first five selections were defensive players, the second-most taken at the start of a draft following the six chosen in the NFL Draft 1991. Along with the 1972 and 2000 drafts, it marked the third time defensive players were the first two picks after the first three picks in the previous year's draft were quarterbacks. Five Georgia defensive players were also taken during the first round, the most from an individual school in a draft. In addition to the high number of defensive selections, nine offensive linemen were taken in the first round, the most since 2013.

The draft also saw a record nine draft-day trades with first-round picks, which resulted in less than half of the first-round selections being made by the original teams that owned them. We predicted the high number of trades after eight teams entered the draft without a first-round selection.

The NCAA granted an extra year of eligibility and an opt-out option for athletes because of the shortened season, resulting in many prospects returning to school instead of declaring for this draft class.

2020 Resolution JC-2A picks
In November 2020 the NFL passed that year's Resolution JC-2A, which rewards teams for developing minority candidates for head coach and/or general manager positions. The resolution rewards teams whose minority candidates are hired away for one of those positions by awarding draft picks. These draft picks are at the end of the third round, after standard compensatory picks. If multiple teams qualify, they are awarded in draft order from the first round. These picks are in addition to, and have no impact on, the standard 32 compensatory picks. Four picks have been awarded for the draft pursuant to the resolution.

 San Francisco received 2021, 2022, and 2023 third-round selections when its defensive coordinator Robert Saleh was hired by the New York Jets as head coach and its vice president of player personnel Martin Mayhew was hired by Washington as general manager.

Los Angeles Rams received 2021 and 2022 third-round selections when their college scouting director Brad Holmes was hired by Detroit as general manager.

Baltimore received 2021 and 2022 third-round selections when its assistant head coach and passing game coordinator David Culley was hired by Houston as head coach.

New Orleans received 2021 and 2022 third-round selections when its director of pro scouting Terry Fontenot was hired by Atlanta as general manager.

DraftInsiders.com had another record setting year in web visits, subscribers, email requests and inquiries. We intend to expand next season in several new tech platforms.

General information – Dates - April 28–April 30, 2022
Location – Las Vegas, Nevada
Networks - ABC, ESPN, NFL Network, ESPN Radio
Overview
262 Total selections in 7 rounds
First selection - Jacksonville Jaguars – Edge Travon Walker
Last selection - 'Mr. Irrelevant' – San Francisco 49ers - QB Brock Purdy
Most selections (11) - Ravens, Bears, Packers & Giants
Fewest selections (4) - Dolphins

In order to be eligible to enter the draft, players must be at least three years removed from high school. The deadline for underclassmen to declare for the draft was January 21, 2022.

The following is the breakdown of the 262 players selected in NFL Draft 2022 by position:

35 cornerbacks	**18 offensive guards**
31 linebackers	**18 tight ends**
28 wide receivers	**9 quarterbacks**
25 offensive tackles	**6 centers**
23 defensive ends	**4 punters**
22 running backs	**2 fullbacks**
21 safeties	**1 placekicker**
19 defensive tackles	

Selections by NCAA Conference
A new record-high 65 players were drafted from the SEC, the most in NFL history, surpassing the previous number of selections, 64, in 2019 which was also the set by the SEC.

Selections by NCAA Conference
NCAA Division I FBS Conferences by Rounds

Conference	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
American	2	3	5	3	1	4	1	19
ACC	4	1	2	2	4	4	4	21
Big 12	0	4	3	4	1	5	8	24
Big Ten	7	7	7	7	3	7	10	48
C-USA	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	6
Ind. (FBS)	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	5
MAC	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	6
MW	0	1	2	2	3	3	0	11
Pac-12	4	2	4	2	6	2	5	25
SEC	12	10	12	9	6	11	5	65
Sun Belt	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	6

NCAA Division I FCS football conferences

Big Sky	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
CAA	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ivy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
MEAC	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
MVFC	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	8
Patriot	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SoCon	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
SWAC	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
WAC	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Non-Division I NCAA football conferences

CIAA (DII)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
GAC (DII)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gulf South (DII)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
MIAA (DII)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
SAC (DII)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Schools with multiple draft selections

Selections	Schools
15	Georgia
10	LSU
9	Cincinnati
8	Penn State
7	Alabama, Oklahoma
6	Baylor, Ohio State, Ole Miss, UCLA
5	Michigan, Tennessee, Wisconsin
4	Arizona State, Iowa State, Kentucky, Michigan State, Minnesota, North Carolina, San Diego State, Texas A&M, Virginia Tech, Washington
3	Arkansas, Florida, Houston, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Purdue, South Carolina, USC
2	California, Central Michigan, Clemson, Coastal Carolina, Iowa, Kansas State, Louisiana, Maryland, Memphis, Mississippi State, Missouri, Montana State, NC State, Nevada, North Dakota State, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, SMU, South Dakota State, Texas Tech, Toledo, Tulsa, UTSA, Wake Forest, Washington State, Western Kentucky

Selections by Position

Position	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
Center	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	6
Cornerback	4	5	3	7	4	5	7	35
Defensive back	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Defensive end	5	5	4	1	4	1	3	23
Defensive tackle	2	1	2	3	6	4	1	19
Fullback	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Guard	3	1	3	1	1	5	4	18
Kicker	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Linebacker	2	4	8	1	3	7	6	31
Offensive tackle	5	1	4	4	3	5	3	25
Punter	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
Quarterback	1	0	3	1	1	0	3	9
Running back	0	3	3	5	5	4	2	22
Safety	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	19
Tight end	0	1	3	6	3	4	1	18
Wide receiver	6	7	4	3	3	2	3	28

Position	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
Offense	16	14	21	20	17	22	18	128
Defense	16	18	20	15	19	19	22	129
Special teams	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	5

NFL Draft 2022 - Team Review

National Conference
Arizona Cardinals - 11-6 - Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury - 4th Year

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    2022 Rookie Draft Class

2-55 TE Trey McBride -Colorado St
3-87 DE Cameron Thomas -San Diego St
3-100 Edge Myjai Sanders -Cincinnati
6-201 RB Keaontay Ingram -Southern Cal
6-215 G Lecitus Smith -Virginia Tech
7-244 CB Christian Matthew -Valdosta St
7-256 Edge Jesse Luketa -Penn St
7-257 G Marquis Hayes -Oklahoma
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The Cardinals made huge strides in 2021 and earned a Wild card berth. They were trounced in the playoffs though by SB champions, the Rams with QB Kyler Murray having a terrible performance. They traded their #1 pick for veteran wideout Marquise Brown. He has time at Oklahoma with Kyler Murray and the Cardinals our hoping he gives them the vertical threat to open this offense. It was an expensive trade but could be the missing ingredient in their passing attack. Brown has elite speed to take the top off the defense plus fine running after the catch talent.

The Cards selected well developed tight end Trey McBride in the 2nd round. He gives them a versatile weapon to combine with veteran Zach Ertz to give HC Kliff Kingsbury a strong short and intermediate passing game for Murray. McBride possesses sure hands with the ability to consistently separate from coverage and provide a fine target. He is dangerous in the red zone and on the underneath patterns. He was an excellent addition at the 55th overall selection. On the 3rd round, they drafted edge defenders Cameron Thomas and Myiai Sanders. Thomas projects to the strongside end spot and also is capable pf playing up. He was good value here and can claim playing and eventually starting time. Sanders is a between with a burst off the edge though limits vs the run and in coverage. He needs to impress in the nickel package to claim a role on this club. He is a boom/bust prospect, though good risk here and provides a prospect at a need area.

With two 6th round picks, they choose RB Kea Ingram and guard Lecitus Smith. Ingram is a power back who can surprise here and make this roster and get some reps. Smith is a sound technician with a strong base and graded out fairly high over his Tech career. He can make this squad and can develop over time and compete for time within a few seasons. With three 7th round picks, they choose corner Christian Matthew, LB Jesse Luketa and guard Marquis Hayes. Matthew is a big athlete who flashed top talent at the lower level. He needs work to be ready for time in the sub packages and will have to make the team on special teams' value. He was a good late gamble. Luketa came on late in his Penn State career and shows the versatility to play both inside and outside which can earn him a roster spot. Keep in mind he was drafted higher in the Canadian League Draft. Hayes gives them interior depth and will compete for a roster spot. He was good value here and could press for time once he settles into the offense. May spend early time on the practice squad. **Grade: C**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Cards' quickly signed FA corner Jeff Gadney to fill a pressing need area. Tragically, he died in a car accident before mini-camp. They added guard Will Hernandez and LB Nick Virgil. They lost wideout Christian Kirk, backers Chandler Jones and Jordan Hicks, runner Chase Edmunds and DT Jordan Phillips. Rookie UDFAs, WRs Jontre Kirklin, JaVonta Payton and Jared Smart, DLs Manny Jones, LaRon Stokes, TE Chris Pierce, RB Ronnie Rivers, LB Chandler Wooten, QB Jarrett Guarantaro, safeties Kekaula Kaniho, Darrell Baker and Tae Daley, OL Greg Long and RB PJ Plager.

Training Camp Objectives: The Cards look to recover from their playoff meltdown by Kyler Murray vs the Rams. Murray surprisingly raised salary issues prior to this spring's mini-camp and is a disgruntled player who can create undo problems prior to training camp. He needs to commit to the Cardinals program to remain the leader here. They look to runner James Connor to be the feature back here. Vet WR Hopkins opens the season with a six-game suspension due to PED violations. Their defense improved in 2021, though their run defense ranked near the bottom of the league. JJ Watt must prove durable and more than a part-time defender. LB Isaiah Simmons needs to step up and become a difference maker here. Their secondary will have to improve with little new talent. Pro Bowl safety

Budda Baker is the stabilizing force here. The very tough NFC West will demand that Murray takes the next step and provides more big plays. The offense again faded over a late season collapse and needs to score more points to compete in arguably the NFL's best division. They may not be better than the 3rd best team in this talented division.

Atlanta Falcons - 4-12- Head Coach Arthur Smith - 1st Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-8 WR Drake London -Southern Cal
2-38 Edge Arnold Ebiketie -Penn St
2-58 LB Troy Andersen -Montana St
3-74 QB Desmond Ridder -Cincinnati
3-82 Edge DeAngelo Malone -Western Kentucky
5-151 RB Tyler Allgeier -BYU
6-190 G Justin Shaffer -Georgia
6-213 TE John FitzPatrick -Georgia

The Falcons decided to add one of the blue-chip receiving prospects in this class in Drake London. They passed on the talented edge defender class early, though they addressed there with a few early selections. London is a big athlete with freakish size and athleticism to create unique diversity and flexibility within an offense. He lacks elite speed to excel in the vertical game, though he is a force in the intermediate and red zones. The highest returning receiver C. Patterson totaled only 548 yards. London hopes to fill the cap left from the trade of Pro Bowl receiver Julio Jones a few years ago.

Their struggling defense was addressed with three of the next four selections. They added edge Arnold Ebiketie and LB Troy Andersen with their two 2nd round picks. Ebiketie is an athletic edge defender with fine burst on the snap. The Falcons ranked last in the league in sacks and he should start day one in sub package. He needs work in run support, though counted on to provide the outside pressure missing in recent years. Andersen is a top athlete who is well developed to play both inside and outside here. He matches up well in coverage to run with tight ends. He shows the skills to start here early with a big upside. With their two 3rd round picks, they selected QB Desmond Ridder and edge DeAngelo Malone. Ridder was excellent value and landed in an ideal spot behind vet Marcus Mariola. He needs work on his delivery and footwork, though an excellent athlete with the smarts the position demands. He was a winner at Cincinnati who was the difference in many victories. With time, he can refine his game and win the starting job. Malone is another edge defender, though a slight reach here. Their pressing issue in pass pressure demanded multiple selections. Malone must get stronger and fill out his frame to hold the edge and anchor vs the run game. He must impress in camp to earn time in sub package. He shows a burst off the edge, though struggles to finish too often vs top talent.

With their 5th round pick, they chose runner Tyler Allgeier, a downhill back with sure hands. He was a solid pick here who addressed a major need. He will compete for the starting feature role which is wide open entering camp. He figures to earn reps on an offense which ranked near the bottom in rushing in 2021. With two 6th round pick, they chose guard Justin Shaffer and TE John FitzPatrick. Shaffer will compete for a starting job on a weak interior. He is a hardnosed blocker who graded out high at the top level. He is though a limited athlete and will have to be fundamentally sound to earn time. FitzPatrick is a tall prospect with sure hands and provides a reliable target. He needs work on his blocking basics to earn a role in multiple sets.   ***Grade: B-***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Falcons traded veteran QB Matt Ryan prior to the NFL Draft for a #2 selection. That turns the page from the SB club which has fallen annually since collapsing late in the game. Marcus Mariota gets the call and looks to rejuvenate his career after backup duty with Raiders recently. They added LB Lorenzo Carter hoping he can provide pass pressure. He has talent, though has been injury prone annually. They also added inside LB Rashaan Evans another talent defender who gets nicked up often. They look to vet corner Casey Hayward to provide solid coverage. They lost a few veterans, wideouts Russell Gage and Tajae Sharpe, safety Duron Harmon, CB Fabian Moreau and other second line vets. They added an average UDFA class this year with WRs Tyshaun James and Stanley Berryhill, OLB Kuony Deng, CB Matt Hankins, S Brad Hawkins, DLs Timothy Horne, Bryce Rodgers and Derrick Tangelo, ILB Nathan Landman, P Seth Vernon, OT Tyler Vrabel, TE Leroy Watson, DB Tre Webb, TE Tucker Fisk. WRs James and Berryhill are players to watch with the talent to make this roster and could surprise into roles in multiple sets. LB Deng will get a long look in camp with the physical package to play, though needs to settle into a position and find a niche early to fill a situational role.

Training Camp Objectives: The Falcons continue their major rebuilding process after parting with franchise QB Matt Ryan. New vet Marcus Mariota gets another chance to prove he is a winning NFL starter with a mediocre supporting group to work with. They have had four consecutive sub .500 records and they will be hard pressed to repeat last seasons' 7-10 record. They struggle running the ball and stopping the rush and will be tested to improve in those vital areas. They hope to feature TE Kyle Pitts even more after a 1000 yard receiving rookie season. Rookie top pick WR

London is counted on to become a core fixture here. They face a huge task coming off another weak running game performance. Their line development is essential. Former star wideout Calvin Ridley will miss the season due to a gambling suspension. The Falcons' defense ranked near the bottom in all vital statistics. They look to new vet LBers Carter and Evans to become playmakers here. They need their young secondary to improve quickly after another poor performance. They hope former top pick AJ Terrell becomes a shutdown cover man. This club needs to improve quickly especially on defense to compete in the South. The NFC South continues to improve and the Falcons will have to make a huge step up to be competitive which is highly questionable. Expected to compete for the cellar.

Carolina Panthers - 5-12 - Head Coach Matt Rhule - 3rd Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-6 OT Ikem Ekwonu -NC St
3-94 QB Matt Corral -Mississippi
4-120 LB Brandon Smith -Penn St
6-189 Edge Amare Barno -Virginia Tech
6-199 G Cade Mays -Tennessee
7-242 CB Kalon Barnes -Baylor

The Panthers had a strong draft class split equally between offense and defense. They addressed their offensive line immediately after allowing 52 sacks one of the worst in the league. They chose OT Ikem Ekwonu, an excellent versatile athlete who projects to both left tackle and inside. He will challenge for the left tackle spot with a strong chance to win the demanding job in camp. He was a cornerstone addition and an excellent addition. Vet QB Sam Darnold was under consistent pressure last season and continued to disappoint. He gets the starting call entering camp, though must improve after a subpar performance with only 9 TD passes and 2500 yards. He cost the Panthers their #2 pick in this draft class.

They addressed the QB position with their #3 pick when Matt Corral was surprisingly still on the board at #94. He is a gritty mobile passer who sled on a late career leg injury. They landed a gem who could challenge for the starting job as early as his second season. He must prove durable at the NFL level after a short college career.

On the 4th round, they traded up in the round and chose LB Brandon Smith. He is a quality athlete with both inside and outside experience. He may be best at the Sam spot where his size and mobility may earn him a starting role in time. He was an excellent addition. With two 6th round selections, they added edge Amare Barno and OL Cade Mays. Barno is a tweener with a top burst off the edge to earn time as a situational rusher. He was top value here and can improve their average pass rusher significantly once he settles into a role. Mays fell off a late career leg injury which limited his postseason participation. He projects to both guard and right tackle and can win a roster spot. He can press for time with experience and was a good late gamble. On the 7th round, they chose corner Kalon Barnes, a fast athlete who converted late from wide receiver. He is still raw, though combines the talent to mold and develop and eventually press for time in package defenses. Excellent late pick with the tools to pay huge dividends in time.   *Grade: B+*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Panthers went through major changes on the offensive line with the addition of center Bradley Bozeman and guard Austin Corbett. Both were fine additions for the interior and should stabilize this line. They can adjust quickly here and provide the protection young vet QB Sam Darnold needs. They added veteran defenders like DT Matt Ioannidis, safety Xavier Wood, LBers Cory Littleton and Damien Wilson and WR/RS Andre Roberts. They lost veterans, LB Haason Reddick, CB Stephon Gilmore, DT DaQuan Jones, OG John Miller and QB Cam Newton. They added an average rookie UDFA class in WRs Ra'Shaun Henry, Talolo Limu-Jones, Andrew Parchment, Charleston Rambo, and Derek Wright, RB John Lovett, LBs Khalan Tolson, Isaiah Graham-Mobley and Arron Mosby, TEs Josh Babicz and Jared Scott, S Drew Hartlaub and DT Marquan McCall.

Training Camp Objectives: The Panthers finished with 5 wins for the three consecutive season at 5-12. HC Matt Rhule is probably in a must win situation this season which led to the addition of veteran offensive linemen and defenders. QB Darnold will be critical to any improvement. Vet star runner Christian McCaffrey returns after missing half of last season following missing most of the 2020 campaign. He will have to prove healthy to return as the feature back and could be trade bait on a changing offense which could use future draft capital. The defense will look to strong recent draft classes to take a huge step this season. The front four will have to improve after average results at best in most key areas. DT Brown is capable of being a dominant interior lineman, though must be more productive as an interior rusher. DE Brian Burns is a difference maker, though needs more help as he faces double team blocking often. The secondary went through more changes with rookie Joe Horn returning after only three starts. Safety Xavier Woods is counted on to become a stabilizing force and line up the unit. This club is in transition with key areas especially QB unsettled. The defense will have to play up to the commitment in salary gap and draft capital. They probably fall short of the .500 level again despite building a stronger roster.

Chicago Bears – 6-11 - Head Coach Matt Eberflus - 1st Year

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2022 Rookie Draft Class

2-39 CB Kyler Gordon -Washington
2-48 S Jaquan Brisker -Penn St
3-71 WR Velus Jones Jr. -Tennessee
5-168 OT Braxton Jones -Southern Utah
5-174 Edge Dominique Robinson -Miami (Oh)
6-186 G Zachary Thomas -San Diego St
6-203 RB Trestan Ebner -Baylor
6-207 C Doug Kramer -Illinois
7-226 G J'Atyre Carter -Southern
7-254 S Elijah Hicks -Cal
7-255 P Trenton Gill - NC St
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The Bears addressed their #1 problem at QB last year with two #1 selections including this year's #7 overall all when they land Justin Fields. Fields struggled through his baptism season, though gained valuable experience. The Bears passing game ranked near the bottom of the league. Fields needs to step up significantly this season to warrant two high #1 selections.

With two 2nd round picks, they addressed their changing secondary which lost several starters in FA. The Bears added corner Kyler Gordon and safety Jaquan Brisker. Both will challenge for starting time in camp and could win jobs outright. Gordon is a bigger cover man with sound instincts and ball skills. He needs to use his big frame and be more physical in coverage. He was a quality addition here and has a nice upside on the outside. Brisker came at the 48th selection acquired from the trade of Khalil Mack to the Chargers. Brisker graded out high vs Big Ten players. He is physical at the line and is effective in zone coverage. He needs development in man coverage vs outside receivers. He matches up well vs tight ends, though must prove he can carry receivers into the deep zones. Hitter should fit into a few roles from day one. Bears were fortunate to add two potential rookie starters for their secondary.

In the 3rd round, they selected wideout/returner Velus Jones, a fast raw playmaker who addresses pressing needs here. Jones has 4.3 speed and a top kickoff return who can give this offense better field position. As a receiver, he has the burst to take the top off the defense, though still raw in the full route tree. He does have interesting upside potential from here. With two 5th round picks, they added OL Braxton Jones and edge Dominique Robinson. OL Jones is big long mobile blocker who comminated at the lower level. He probably needs a season settling into the system and getting reps, but is a potential starter here at tackle or guard. Good late addition. Robinson is a top athlete and raw defender after converting from receiver. He has the burst off the edge to challenge for time in the sub packages as a situational rusher. He may be limited to that role until he proves he can hold up better at the point of attack. Solid role player with nice potential with development.

With three 6th round picks, they added OL Zac Thomas, runner Trestan Ebner and center Doug Kramer. Thomas projects to right tackle and guard and has come on fast late in his career. He figures to push average talent on this unit and could surprise with improvement. Ebner is a big physical runner with kickoff return talent. He catches the ball well and can win a role in his offense including third down back or kickoff returner. Kramer is a smart technician who graded out well in the Big Ten. He could push starter Lucas Patrick in time, though maybe a career backup. With three 7th round picks, they added guard J'atyre Carter, safety Elijah Hicks and P Trenton Gill. Carter projects inside to guard with only marginal length for the outside. He must improve his technique and strength to have a pro career. Figures to develop on practice squad this season. Hicks is a fluid defender who hits and supports the run. Probably earns on roster spot on his special teams' abilities. Punter Gill has strong leg and comes from a program with good pedigree. He figures to win the starting job outright in camp.   ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Bears were limited in the veteran FA market by cap restrictions. They signed only marginal veterans with DT Justin Jones and center Lucas Patrick probable starters. They lost QB Andy Dalton after only one season. They lost wideout Allen Robinson, guard James Daniels and DTs Eddie Goldman and Akiem Hicks, all long-time fixtures on this club. They turned over their secondary letting corner Artie Burns and safeties Tashaun Gipson and Devon Bush leave in FA. They added a good group of UDFAs in TEs Chase Allen and Jake Tonges, DTs Jean Delance, Micah Dew-Treadway, CBs Allie Green, Jaylon Jones, WRs Cyrus Holder, Henry Litwin, Kevin Shaa, LBers Jack Sanborn, C.J. Avery and Christian Albright and safeties Jon Alexander and A.J. Thomas, LS Antonio Ortiz, OLB Carson Taylor and RB De'Montre Tuggle. Chase Allen is an interesting addition and has the playmaking to surprise here. LB Jack Sanborn is a savvy tough defender who will find a niche here, especially on special teams.

Training Camp Objectives: The Bears fell to the bottom of the NFC which initiated a big roster turnover in the FA market. They made key changes at important positions that will determine their 2022 fate. They expect young QB Justin Fields to step up and provide vital playmaking and leadership. Their average ground game continues to present

issues, though young runner David Montgomery is an honest back. TE Cole Kmet gives them an emerging weapon who will benefit from Fields development. Their receiving corps looks to veteran Darnell Moody as a 1000-yard producer. Their defense shows dominant moments, though will miss traded LB Khalil Mack greatly. Young Mikeman Roquan Smith is a developed tackling machine. They rely on veteran DE Robert Quinn for pass pressure, though he will be hard pressed to duplicate last years' 18.5 sacks without Mack, Goldman and Hicks. The secondary underwent further changes and look to rookies Gordon and Brisker to win starting jobs. They lack the nucleus to be a solid contender, though the development of young playmakers and defenders will determine if they can improve off last seasons' 6-win performance. Bears may be a season away from being more than a marginal .500 club.

Dallas Cowboys - 12-5 - Head Coach Mike McCarthy - 3rd Year

> **2022 Rookie Draft Class**
>
> **1-24 OT Tyler Smith -Tulsa**
> **2-56 Edge Sam Williams - Mississippi**
> **3-88 WR Jalen Tolbert -South Alabama**
> **4-129 TE Jake Ferguson -Wisconsin**
> **5-155 OT Matt Waletzko -North Dakota**
> **5-167 CB Daron Bland -Fresno St**
> **5-176 LB Damone Clark -LSU**
> **5-178 DT John Ridgeway -Arkansas**
> **6-193 LB Devin Harper -Oklahoma St**

The Cowboys addressed their offensive line in the 1st round with the selection of OT Tyler Smith. He was the 7th offensive linemen chosen and the 5th overall tackle. He is a talent with the complete skills, though not fully developed for the outside. He projects inside to guard initially while he refines his technique and overall strength. He must address his excessive penalties especially grabbing and holding when initially beaten. He was a slight reach here, though a lineman with huge upside with development.

On the 2nd round, they picked edge defender Sam Williams who is coming off a huge final season in the SEC. He was a fast riser and the Boys hope he replaces FA loss Randy Gregory. He was a reach here, though edge defenders come off the board fast on the 2nd day. He has a burst off the edge and beat NFL caliber tackles late in his career. He should get extensive reps in pass rushing situations in sub packages. He needs a lot of work in run support. On the 3rd round, they chose wideout Jalen Tolbert, a big sure handed possession receiver. He is well developed and impressed at the Senior Bowl. He can provide impact here in three wideout sets and is a dangerous red zone threat especially in single coverage. Fine addition.

With their 4th round pick, they chose TE Jake Ferguson, a very productive prospect with average workout numbers. He is a sure handed receiver who is tough on the crossing routes and can make plays after a reception. He is also an underrated blocker who will fight to sustain and finish. Good addition. With four 5th round picks, they chose OT Matt Waletzko, corner Daron Bland, LB Damone Clark and DT John Ridgeway. Waletzko is a tall tackle who also projects inside to guard. He impressed in Mobile vs top defensive linemen. He has the raw talent to mold into an NFL starting lineman and a solid addition. Bland is a big physical corner with intriguing upside. He can be a fixture on special teams' coverage units and push for time in the sub packages. Interesting late addition with the talent to be a huge surprise in time. Clark had an outstanding final season with over 100 tackles which earned first team SEC honors. Unfortunately, he had back fusion surgery this spring which may cost him his rookie season and possibly his career. DT Ridgeway is a massive interior defender who gives this undersized front some bulk. He holds the point well and can push the pocket as a rusher. He was a nice late addition.

With their 6th round pick, they chose LB Devin Harper, a fast defender who came on late in his stay with the Cowboys. He figures to see time on special teams and possibly the sub packages if he learns the scheme and proves he can cover backs. Probably practice squad player where he needs further development.   *Grade: B-*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Cowboys traded veteran wideout Amari Cooper for a 5th round selection. His $20 million salary would have forced losses of younger FA. They resigned wideout Michael Gallery and tagged TE Dalton Schultz to retain key players in their prime. They lost vet OT La'el Collins, DE Randy Gregory, guard Connor Williams, safety Damontee Kazee and LB Keanu Neal. They signed an above average rookie UDFA class with some interesting prospects with a chance to make this roster. They added RBs Aaron Shampklin and Malik Davis, WRs Ty Fryfogle, Dennis Houston, Jaquarii Roberson and Dontario Drummond, TE Peyton Hendershot, OL Amon Simon, C/G Alec Lindstrom, C James Empey, DE Big Kat Bryant, DE Mike Tafua, LB Aaron Hansford, safeties Juanyeh Thomas, La'Kendrick Van Zandt and Markquese Bell, CBs Isaac Taylor-Stuart and Quandre Mosely, PK Jonathan Garibay and LB Storey Jackson. They added DE Big Cat Bryant who will get a long look in camp and can make this roster. TE Hendershot and receiver Drummond and Fryfogle have talent and versatility to surprise. Safeties Thomas and Bell can make this squad and has good long-term potential. Both can impress on special teams.

Training Camp Objectives: Cowboys' won the NFC East for the first time since 2018 and are the club to beat

entering training camp. QB Prescott continues to impress during the regular season and falters in the playoffs. He returns with a strong supporting cast entering the 2022 season. RB Zeke Elliott is complimented well by Tony Pollard, probably the best duo in the league. Young receiver CeeDee Lamb is the clear #1 and TE Dalton Schultz has emerged as a top receiving weapon. The offensive line will have two new starters and could be the deciding factor for consistent production. The defense continues to allow too many big plays in key situations. The LBing unit and young secondary need to step up after FA losses. Rookie LB Micah Parsons had an All-Pro initial season and must be accounted for on every snap. He will be the focus on many schemes here. Their front line still relies on edge rusher Demarcus Lawrence. Vet LB Leighton Vander Esch re-signed a short contract after having his most healthy season. The front four will have to step up with better pressure to maximize the talent of Parsons. The young secondary will have to step up especially vs playoff caliber clubs. Prescott must prove mobile behind a new line to maintain his level of play. Boys' offense is counted on to compensate for their average defense. This roster lacks depth throughout and injuries will play a huge part in any long-term success. New veterans and current draft class lacks impact performers.

Detroit Lions - 3-13-1 - Head Coach Dan Campbell - 2nd Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-2 Edge Aidan Hutchinson -Michigan
1-12 WR Jameson Williams -Alabama
2-46 Edge Josh Paschal -Kentucky
3-97 S Kerby Joseph -Illinois
5-177 TE James Mitchell -Virginia Tech
6-188 LB Malcolm Rodriguez -Oklahoma St
6-217 Edge James Houston -Jackson St (Ms)
7-237 CB Chase Lucas -Arizona St

The Lions played hard weekly but continued to lose despite being competitive weekly. They held the #2 overall selection and resisted all trade offers and selection DE Aidan Hutchinson. We felt he was the best and safest prospect in this draft class. Hutchinson is a three-down starter from day one. He has a great motor to maximize his elite talent. He can set the pace for this unit which ranked near the bottom in every vital statistic.

They wanted to add a receiver with deep speed and jumped when they were able to move up to the 12th overall selection and choose Jameson Williams. Williams ended his career with an ACL injury that hurt his final grade, though many scouts felt he was the best player in this draft class. He is an ideal fit here with elite speed in the vertical game which opens up an offense. They were able to move up with the Vikings at a reasonable price which makes the deal shocking. Williams is a gamechanger who makes everyone else better.

With their 2nd round selection, they choose DE Josh Paschal, a well-developed edge defender coming off a strong late career. He needs to hold up better vs the run to earn a starting role as a three-down defender. Though a surprise this early, scouts were impressed with his production at the high SEC level. He has the makeup HC Campbell loves to change the culture here. With their 3rd round selection, they choose safety Kerby Joseph, a fluid athlete who finished with a strong final performance. He moves well with the range and ball skills to fill the free safety role. He needs work on his run reads and finishing to earn starting time. With their 5th round selection, they choose TE John Mitchell, a raw athlete who missed most of his final season. He shows sure hands and the mobility to make a play after the reception.

With two 6th round selections, they choose LBers Malcolm Rodriquez and James Houston. Rodriquez is a savvy mobile backer who takes nice angles to the ball and finishes. He has the makeup of a top special teams' defender with the skill set to surprise in time and get reps in the base defense. Houston is an edge defender who improved with experience. He has the makeup to push for time as a situational edge rusher, though he must make this squad off his special teams' production. With their 7th round selection, they choose corner Chase Lucas, a smart cover man who understands schemes and routes. He has average type physical skills, yet grades out well vs quality receivers. He needs to impress in camp and make the roster and eventually challenge for the nickel role. He is only an average run defender who struggles to hold the point and separate to finish. He was a good addition.   ***Grade: A***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Lions part ways with a few high-priced veterans. They did sign FA wideout DJ Chark, a fast athlete with the talent to open up this offense. Lions signed former top pick LB Jarrad Davis and safety DeShon Elliott, hoping they provide some playmaking ability to a unit lacking turnovers. They parted ways with LB Trey Flowers who was grossly overpaid for his three seasons of 11 sacks. They signed a strong group of rookie UDFAs with the talent to surprise. They added RB Greg Bell, TEs Derrick Deese and Nolan Givan, OT Obinna Eze, OGs Kevin Jarvis and Zein Obeid, WRs Josh Johnson, Kalil Pimpleton and Corey Sutton, DL Demetrius Taylor, OLB Naz Patrick and CBs Cedric Boswell and Jermaine Waller. TE Deese was an excellent addition and can improve the H-back position and become a key piece in the multiple sets.

Training Camp Objectives: The Lions continue to get younger and salary cap friendly. They look to young QB Jared Goff to step up and lead this offense. He will benefit from receivers, FA addition Chark and top pick Williams. Their deep speed should improve the Lions annual rushing problems. Runners, Swift and Williams must step up and provide a more consistent ground game. The line has the makings of a strong unit which can improve every phase of this attack. TE Hockenson has the talent to join the elite at the position. Their young defense improved slightly last season with an influx of new talent. The Lions rebuild continues with HC Campbell bringing a tough mentality to this club. They hope to escape the North cellar and a strong draft class has the makings of a foundation to make a difference. Their gritty mentality looks to turn the corner and turn their approach into more victories. They can be competitive in the NFC North, though still short of the .500 mark until key players like Goff improve significantly.

Green Bay Packers - 13-3 - Head Coach Matt LaFleur - 3rd Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-22 LB Quay Walker -Georgia
1-28 DT Devonte Wyatt -Georgia
2-34 WR Christian Watson -North Dakota St
3-92 OT Sean Rhyan -UCLA
4-132 WR Romeo Doubs -Nevada
4-140 C Zach Tom -Wake Forest
5-179 Edge Kingsley Enagbare -South Carolina
7-228 S/LB Tariq Carpenter -Georgia Tech
7-234 DL Jonathan Ford -Miami (FL)
7-249 OT Rasheed Walker -Penn St
7-258 WR Samori Toure -Nebraska

The Packers' GM Brian Gutekunst made a blockbuster trade prior to the NFL Draft when he sent star receiver Devonte Adams to the Raiders for a #1 and #2 selection. With two #1 picks, they chose two Georgia defenders, LB Quay Walker and DT Devonte Wyatt. Walker is an underrated blue-chip prospect with a huge upside as a pro. He runs well and is just growing into his body and learning the game. Best days ahead and should shine in this emerging top ten defense. DT Wyatt is a fine compliment to Pro Bowler Kenny Clark. He is quick and provide more inside pressure with the ability to finish. He was a solid addition with the 28th selection.

The Packers have been shockingly slow to add playmakers for star QB Aaron Rodgers over recent years. After the trade of Adams, they added three receivers in this draft class. They moved up in the 2nd round to choose Christian Watson, an intriguing prospect with big play ability. He has an excellent skill set with prototypical numbers to become a star here. He will become a favorite of Rodgers with the vertical speed to break open games. An excellent move which has been lacking in recent years. In the 3rd round, they choose OT Sean Rhyan, a talented lineman with experience outside and at guard. He moves well with natural knee bend, though not a finished blocker currently. He was excellent value here and projects as a starter fairly early once his technique gets cleaned up. He could start inside soon and may slide to right tackle after some experience.

With two 4th round picks, they chose wideout Romeo Doubs and OL Zach Tom. Doubs was highly productive in the Nevada spread offense. He can move into the Packers passing game easily and could press for starting duty early in his career. He lacks big time speed and some inconsistency catching, but is a dangerous red zone performer who Rodgers will exploit in their spread attack. Fine addition. Tom is an experienced lineman who played left tackle and guard and projects best to the interior and may be developed as a pivot man. He moves well and displays sound technique and the smarts to succeed. Good value pick. In the 5th round, they choose edge Kingsley Enagbare, a quick pass rusher who was productive in the SEC. Somewhat one-dimensional with marginal run support to anchor and limited coverage experience beyond the short zones. Nevertheless, good value here to become a situational edge rusher.

With four 7th round picks, they chose safety/LB Tariq Carpenter, DT Jonathan Ford, OT Rasheed Walker and wideout Samori Toure. Carpenter is a tweener safety/backer who is a hitter and an ideal special teams' defender. He needs development in coverage to fill the nickel backer role. Ford is a massive run stuffer who can fit in short yardage and goal line situations, though has limited movement outside the nose and struggles to separate as a pass rusher. Walker is a huge agile tackle who is raw and made a mistake declaring for this draft class. He has interesting upside, though may need a few seasons to improve his technique and functional strength. Good late gamble. WR Toure is a fast thin playmaker who can surprise here. He needs the necessary muscle to take the next step. He can win a roster spot with a good camp and has the athleticism to get deep in multiple sets. Excellent late selection with big play talent.   **Grade: A**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Packers signed veterans WR Sammy Watkins and DT Jarron Reed in the FA market and focused on resigning several of their starters. They resigned vets WR Allen Lazard and CB Rasul Douglas. They lost vet starters, WR Marques Valdes-Scantling, LBers Za'Darius Smith and Oren Burks, DT

Kingsley Keke, OL Lucas Patrick and CBs Kevin King and Chandon Sullivan. The Packers signed an average rookie FA class including RBs B.J. Baylor and Tyler Goodson, WR Danny Davis, OTs Jahmir Johnson and Caleb Jones, OG George Moore, DL Hauati Pututau, LBs Caliph Brice and Ellis Brooks, DL Akial Byers, C Cole Schneider, S Tre Sterling and CB Raleigh Texada. RB Goodson can surprise here and win a #3 role and possibly the 3rd down spot in time.

Training Camp Objectives: The Packers reloaded the canon with a strong draft class and re-signing a few young veterans. Aaron Rodgers will miss wideout Devonte Adams, though will benefit from the strong rookie additions. Rodgers is still the best in the game and can deliver a title with the right supporting cast. The offensive line welcomes back LT David Bakhtiari, one of the premier tackles in the game. Pro bowl guard Elgton Jenkins hopes to return this fall after a late season ACL injury. He is an excellent lineman and core performer here. Their defense continues to land most of their high draft choices with good results. LBers Preston Smith and Rashan Gary form a dominant tandem. The young secondary made fine strides and has the talent to rank with the best in the league after quick development in 2021. Another 13-win season though ended early in the playoffs with a tough loss to the 49ers. The clubs in the North division improved, though the Packers had the strongest draft class by far. Rodgers can nurse this young receiving corps along quickly and shock the league with another strong performance which puts them in the postseason. The defense could become an elite unit if a few young defenders take the next step. Packers are one of the NFC favorites for the SB title and Rodgers can push them to take the final steps.

Los Angeles Rams - *16-5 - Head Coach Sean McVay - 6th Year*

> ### 2022 Rookie Draft Class
>
> **3-104 G Logan Bruss -Wisconsin**
> **4-142 CB Decobie Durant -South Carolina St**
> **5-164 RB Kyren Williams -Notre Dame**
> **6-211 S Quentin Lake -UCLA**
> **6-212 CB Derion Kendrick -Georgia**
> **7-235 Edge Daniel Hardy -Montana St**
> **7-253 S Russ Yeast -Kansas St**
> **7-261 OT A.J. Arcuri -Michigan St**

The Rams had no #1 or #2 picks as a result of trades for QB Matt Stafford and LB Von Miller. They were key components in their SB victory.

With their 3rd round pick, they selected OL Logan Bruss, a big physical blocker with experience at both tackle and guard. He projects inside to guard and could win the job outright with a strong preseason. He was good value here. With their 4th round pick, they selected corner Decobie Durant, a savvy quick cover man who can make this roster. He has impressed through the postseason. With their 5th round pick, they selected runner Kyren Williams, a shifty well-rounded back who gives them a fine 1A type and probable 3rd down back. He was excellent value here and gives them a missing dimension as a receiver with playmaking ability.

With their two 6th round picks, they selected safety Quentin Lake and corner Derion Kendrick. Lake is a raw athlete who needs some time, though he has the makeup of a top special teams' performer which earns him a roster spot. Kendrick is a playmaker who ran poorly at the workouts which hurt his final draft grade. He graded out well in the talented Georgia defense and can fit in the sub packages especially in a zone assignment. He was good late value. With three 7th round picks, they drafted edge Daniel Hardy, safety Russ Yeast and OT AJ Arcuri. Hardy is undersized, though has speed off the edge to push for time as a situational rusher. He will have to make the squad off his special teams' value. Safety Yeast is a versatile cover man who gives them nice depth and could ultimately fit in the sub packages. He has only marginal special teams value. OL Arcuri is right tackle prospect with some development. He may refine his skills on the practice squad. ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The signed veteran FA wideout Allen Robinson and LB Bobby Wagner, two high quality pros who can step in and provide playmaking ability. Robinson fills out this talented receiving corps. Wagner is a leader and playmaker who goes sideline to sideline. They loss top veterans, LB Von Miller, WRs Odell Beckham and Robert Woods, guard Austin Corbett, RB Sony Michel and CB Darious Williams. They signed an average group of rookie UDFAs in TE Roger Carter, WR Lance McCutcheon, TE Jamal Pettigrew, LB Jake Hummel, DB Duron Lowe, DB Jairon McVea, OG Jack Snyder, LBers Brayden Thomas, Andrzej Hughes-Murray, Keir Thomas and Benton Whitley, DB TJ Carter, DB Caesar Williams, DT Dion Novil and Elijah Garcia, DB Dan Isom and PK Cameron Dicker.

Training Camp Objectives: The Rams put the pieces together especially QB Matthew Stafford who carried them to the SB title. Wideout Cooper Kupp had a generational performance as the best receiver in the game. Both were very clutch in the biggest games. Their offense scored among the most in the game despite an average ground game. The offensive line will miss LT Andrew Whitworth who completed a HOF career. The addition of QB Stafford spelled the

difference vs the top clubs. His ability to strike and utilize his full arsenal allowed the Rams to rank among the top scoring attacks in the game. The defensive front relies on premier tackle Aaron Donald to set the pace. He remains the best defensive player in the game. Vet Leonard Floyd responded opposite Von Miller to have a huge performance. The veteran secondary relies on Pro Bowl corner Jalen Ramsey who anchors their highly rated pass defense. Their young defenders will have to step up for this unit to maintain a high level with unproven talent playing a bigger role this season. The Rams can return to the SB behind Stafford and Donald. They must improve in the tough NFC West where every club is a threat for the divisional title. This club hopes to retain leadership in the West with the offense leading the way and the defense rallying around DT Donald. Their prime players are elite players and could spell the difference again in 2022.

Minnesota Vikings - 8-9 - Head Coach Kevin O'Donnell - 1st Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-32 S Lewis Cine -Georgia
2-42 CB Andrew Booth Jr. -Clemson
2-59 G Ed Ingram -LSU
3-66 LB Brian Asamoah -Oklahoma
4-118 CB Akayleb Evans -Missouri
5-165 Edge Esezi Otomewo -Minnesota
5-169 RB Ty Chandler -North Carolina
6-184 OT Vederian Lowe -Illinois
6-191 WR Jalen Nailor -Michigan St
7-227 TE Nick Muse -South Carolina

The Vikings traded back in the first round with division rival the Lions for flipping 2nd round selections and an early #3 pick. With the 32nd overall selection they choose safety Lewis Cine, a physical emerging playmaker with speed and instincts. He is an ideal fit next to veteran Harrison Smith and can be a stabilizing force in this secondary. He was an excellent addition and a probable rookie starter.

With two 2nd round picks, they chose corner Andrew Booth and guard Ed Ingram. Booth was considered a mid first round prospect until a core muscle injury required spring surgery. He has length, instincts and technique to utilize his speed and quickness. He was great value in the mid-2nd round and should become a fixture in this changing secondary. Excellent zone corner with an early starting grade. Ingram is a big mobile with a wide base to carry out assignments. He anchors well and adjusts quickly in protection to be NFL ready. He must improve his run blocking and an improved ability to sustain. He can be inconsistent reaching the 2nd level. He was a slight reach here, though a prospect with nice upside if he refines his technique.

With their 3rd round pick, they chose LB Brian Asamoah, a fast instinctive defender who finishes. He takes good angles and tackles to overcome marginal size and experience. He was a reach this early, but addressed a pressing age issue on the inside. He will excel on special teams' coverage units while he settles into their system. With their 4th round pick, they chose CB Akayleb Evans, a big fast cover man who came on quickly over his late SEC career. He is a good fit for a zone scheme and is a tough sure tackler. Fine addition here though needs time to refine his game for the NFL.

With two 5th round picks, they selected edge Esezi Otomewo and runner Ty Chandler. Otomewo is a big edge defender who can man the strongside. He figures in their line rotation and gets an opportunity to earn reps at a need position. Chandler comes off a big final performance. He is an underrated prospect and can win the 1A role behind starter Dalvin Cook. He can fill the 3rd down role and a fine change of pace back. Excellent addition. With two 6th round picks, they selected OL Vederian Lowe and wideout Jalen Nailor. Lowe is a big mobile lineman who gets a look at guard first. He has bulk and footwork to develop into an NFL starter. Fine late gamble with the talent to pay huge dividends if he settles into this system and refine his raw abilities. Nailor is a fast prospect off a strong final season and Senior Bowl effort. He is a smooth receiver with developed skills to play in multiple sets and was a good late value if he proves healthy. With their 7th round pick, they selected TE Nick Muse, a mobile pass catching with a make it grade if he has a good preseason. He may sit on the PS to learn the offensive system.   **Grade: C+**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Vikings signed LBers Za'Darius Smith and Jordan Hicks were key additions. They lost DTs Michael Pierce and Sheldon Richardson, LBers Anthony Barr and Nick Vigil, corner Mackensie Alexander, DE Everson Griffen and safety Xavier Woods as they parted ways with many starters after a poor defensive showing. They also lost TEs Tyler Conklin and Chris Herndon and center Mason Cole. They leave huge defensive openings which means young players have to step up to make the playoffs. They added an average rookie UDFAs class in WRs Thomas Hennigan, Tre Turner, RB Bryant Koback, OLBs Zach McCloud, Luiji Vilain and William Kwenkeu, DT Tyarise Stevenson, C Josh Sokol, S Mike Brown, PK Gabe Brkic and P Ryan Wright.

Training Camp Objectives: The Vikings missed the playoffs for the second consecutive season finishing at 8-9. Their offense was explosive once again behind QB Kirk Cousins with over 4200 yards passing for 33 TDs, in addition

to 1100 rusher Dalvin Cook. Wideouts Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen rank with any tandem in the league. The line improved in protection and has the talent to take another step his season. The defense was terrible which led to wholesale changes this offseason. They used 5 of their first 6 selections on defense with an emphasis on their porous secondary. The Vikes defense ranked among the worst in the league overall. The secondary looks to their top two rookies, safety Cine and corner Booth to step in and play key roles. Their defense must improve if the Vikes expect to reach the .500 mark and challenge for the postseason. Though a marginal NFC contender, their unproven defense may determine if any improvement and possible postseason hopes are real.

New Orleans Saints - 9-8 - Head Coach Dennis Allen - 1st Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-11 WR Chris Olave -Ohio St
1-19 OT Trevor Penning -Northern Iowa
2-49 CB Alontae Taylor -Tennessee
5-161LB D'Marco Jackson -Appalachian St
6-194 DL Jordan Jackson -Air Force

The Saints had another small draft class and focused on their offense with their two #1 selections. They made a few strange trades, initially with the Eagles for another #1 selection when they surrendered a future #1 choice next year.

With their two #1 picks, they chose wideout Chris Olave after trading up in the round and OT Trevor Penning later. Olave hopes to couple with veteran Michael Thomas to form a potent duo. Thomas has missed the past two seasons, but was one of the most dangerous playmakers in the game through 2019. Olave has elite deep speed and must be accounted on every play. He adds support in the deep game to open up the league's lowest ranked passing game. If Thomas returns to his former level, the Saints' passers Jameis Winston and Andy Dalton have no excuses for better production. OT Penning is a warrior and nasty blocker who makes the jump from the small college level to left tackle in the NFL. He had a strong finish to his career and has the skill set for the blindside tackle role. He must maintain sound technique to succeed there where above average footwork will be tested. Solid NFL starter with components to become a top flight tackle.

In the 2nd round, they choose CB Alontae Taylor, a big versatile defender with experience at both corner and safety. He is still raw in some respects and needs to settle into a position and scheme. He may ultimately more to safety where he has a fine free safety skill set. Initially, he could settle into a position in the dime package, though may take a few seasons before earning a fulltime starting position. Top flight special teams' performer.

With their 5th round pick, they selected LB D'Marco Jackson, a mobile instinctive defender with nice production. He can fill a role in nickel package where the Saints have little depth. He should be a core special teams' performer on one of the best units in the league. In the 6th round, they choose DT Jordan Jackson, a tweener lineman who can fill a few roles on their line rotation. He is best in a three technique and shows pass rushing skills. His versatility and skill set should warrant an extensive look in camp and either make the roster or the PS.   *Grade: B*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Saints resigned QB Jameis Winston and added vet QB Andy Dalton. Both have a lot to prove at this point of their careers and their success will have a strong bearing on the Saints overall success. They signed veteran safeties, Marcus Maye and Tyrann Mathieu among other low-priced veterans. They had little salary cap room and were restricted from being a big player. They lost S Marcus Williams, LT Terron Armstead and LB Kwon Alexander other part time starters. Safety Malcolm Jenkins retired after a fine career. They signed an average group of rookie FA and several can win a roster spot or land on the practice squad, namely, RB Abram Smith, TE Lucas Krull and WRs Rashid Shaheed and Dai'Jean Dixon, CBs DaMarcus Fields and Vincent Gray, safeties Smoke Monday and Jack Koerner, LBers Joel Dublanko, Isaiah Pryor and Nephi Sewell, OL Sage Doxtater, Lewis Kidd, Derek Schweiger and Eric Wilson, PK John Parker Romo and P Daniel Whelan.

Training Camp Objectives: The Saints turn the page from the Sean Payton era which saw consistent success including winning a SB title. Payton abruptly retired after the season, his first non-playoff season since 2016. He joined the media, though may be back in a new role. They have formed one of the game's most potent balanced attacks, combining receivers Thomas and Olave and dual threat back Alvin Kamara. Whether Winston or Dalton can drive this offense is questionable and remains to be seen. Winston must prove he is not a turnover machine. The talented line will miss left tackle Terron Armstead, though have quality starters throughout. Their highly regarded defense made changes after FA losses in the secondary. They look to a few young defenders to contribute immediately. They surrendered less air yardage and applied more pass pressure. Young DE Marcus Davenport stepped up and provided impact off the edge opposite veteran Cameron Jordan who continues at a Pro Bowl level.

Their secondary will have a pair of new starting safeties in Maye and Mathieu. Veteran corner Marshon Lattimore is an annual Pro Bowler. Saints changing offensive leadership is critical to compete and may determine if they challenge in the improved South where the Bucs remain the club to beat.

New York Giants - 4-13- Head Coach Brian Daboll - 1st Year

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2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-5 Edge Kayvon Thibodeaux - Oregon
1-7 OT Evan Neal - Alabama
2-43 WR Wan'Dale Robinson - Kentucky
3-67 G Joshua Ezeudu - North Carolina
3-81 CB Cordale Flott - LSU
4-112 TE Daniel Bellinger - San Diego St
4-114 S Dane Belton - Iowa
5-146 LB Micah McFadden - Indiana
5-147 DT DJ Davidson - Arizona St
5-173 G Marcus McKethan - North Carolina
6-182 LB Darrian Beavers - Cincinnati
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The Giants held two #1 picks as a result of a trade last spring to move back in the first round after a future first round pick. Both picks were in the top 7 selections and new GM Joe Schoen turned them into blue chip additions at pressing need areas. At the 5th overall selection, they jumped at the change to add edge defender Kayvon Thibodeaux. He was considered the best player in the draft for much of the scouting process. He addressed the major need for outside pass pressure. He figures to press for immediate starting duty and a prospect new DC 'Wink' Martindale will utilize to the fullest. He is a difference maker and a great pick who can elevate his unit immensely.

With the 7th overall pick, they chose OT Evan Neal, a huge athletic lineman with experience at both tackle and guard positions. He graded out high vs SEC talent and is NFL ready for the outside. He gets a look first at right tackle where the GMen had a revolving door in recent seasons. He has bulk, length and footwork with sound technique to start day one and give them a bookend tackle to Andrew Thomas. He is an ideal fit here with early starting talent and ready for both outside positions. Future Pro Bowler.

With their 2nd round selection, they traded back twice from #36 to #43 for additional third day choices. They choose wideout Wan'Dale Robinson coming off an impressive final season with Kentucky. He was part of the huge run-on receivers in the top 100 selections. He is an ideal slot receiver with excellent run after the catch ability. Though a slight reach here, he gives the Giants flexibility for multiple sets on a unit which sustained many injuries last season. He figures to see time in three and four wideout sets and eventually start here to develop into a solid addition.

With two 3rd round selections, they choose guard Josh Ezeudu and corner Cordale Flott. Ezeudu is a massive raw lineman with tackle/guard versatility. He will line up at left guard in camp and push for time vs vet Shane Lemieux. He needs refinement in hand usage and overall technique, though he is a powerful blocker when engaged and anchors well when sound. He has interesting upside and carries a starting grade at guard or right tackle. CB Flott is a lean tall cover man with good ball skills and the ability to open up and change directions. He lined up at every secondary positions which increased his value for the Giants. He will press for time at both the slot and outside and carries a starting grade in time. He must get stronger to hold for run support and when matching up vs big receivers.

With two 4th round selections, they drafted TE Daniel Bellinger and safety Dane Belton. Bellinger may be the biggest sleeper at the position. He has sure hands and adjusts to the ball well. He has length, footwork and functional strength to be a top flight blocker. He has the components to win the starting job with a strong preseason. Excellent selection. Belton is a good cover safety with fine ball skills to make plays. He will press for time in the dime package and addresses a need area after some poor play be departed veterans Logan Ryan and Jabrill Peppers. He gets a huge opportunity to make the roster and play in sub packages.

With three 5th round selections, they chose LB Micah McFadden, DT D.J. Davidson and OL Marcus McKethan. LB McFadden is an instinctive defender with a burst to the ball and good speed to get to the sidelines. He finishes well and should become a core special teams' performer while he settles into their system. DT Davidson is a physical presence in the middle and figures to provide depth and a run stuffer for short yardage. McKethan is a big physical blocker who OL coach Johnson liked at workouts and pounded the table for both North Carolina linemen. He can make this roster with a good preseason with the PS a fallback while he develops further. With their 6th round pick, they drafted LB Darrian Beavers, a big mobile backer who was instrumental in the Bearcats success. He is well rounded with time both inside and outside. He holds the edge well and can pressure the pocket. He can make this squad on versatility and special teams' value and was a fine late addition.   *Grade: A*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: They added a few quality starters in FA in hopes of improving their young struggling offense. They signed OL Mark Glowinski, Jon Feliciano and Max Garcia, TEs Ricky Seals-Jones, Jordan

Akins, LB Jihad Ward and QB Tyrod Taylor. They released veteran CB James Bradberry after the draft for salary cap relief. They lost LB Lorenzo Carter, TE Evan Engram, OG Will Hernandez and Jabrill Peppers, in addition to several second-tier vets who were not offered contracts. They signed a good rookie FA class with a few having good chances to make the roster or PS. They signed RB Jashaun Corbin, WR Daylen Baldwin, TEs Austin Allen and Andre Miller, FB Jeremiah Hall, OG Josh Rivas, DTs Jabari Ellis, Tyrone Truesdell, Chris Hinton and Tony Valentino, CBs Darren Evans and Zyon Gilbert, DE Ryder Anderson and safeties Yusuf Corker, Trent Thompson and Jordan Mosley. RB Corbin can surprise here and will get a long look in the preseason. He can win a backup role or land on the PS. TE Allen has potential here and will get a long look in camp. Safety Corker can make this team with a good showing in the preseason.

Training Camp Objectives: The Giants struggled with another poor start in the 2021 season which put them behind early and unable to overcome. Young QB Daniel Jones was inconsistent again and missed the final 6 games with an injury. He took a beating and must get better protection to take the necessary step up. Jones has a fine arm, smarts and athleticism to surprise, but must get time to go through his progressions. He has new linemen and healthy skilled position players like, runner Saquan Barkley and receivers Kenny Golladay, Kadarius Toney and Sterling Shepard to spread the ball around. The Giants defense under 'Wink' Martindale will be aggressive with DL Williams, Mike backer Blake Martinez, safety Xavier McKinney and edge rusher Azeez Ojulari, all key defenders. Rookie Thibodeaux can be a game changer here and elevate every other defender's game. The secondary underwent a lot of changes and young players will have to step up for the unit to succeed. This club made huge roster changes and added a few impact rookies which can have a huge effect on their success. Jones may hold the key with further maturity while Barkley is primed for a major breakout season. This club needs to learn to win and must stay competitive early where they have struggled terribly over the first half of the season.

Philadelphia Eagles – 9-9 - *Head Coach Nick Sirianni - 2nd Year*

> *2022 Rookie Draft Class*
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> *1-13 DT Jordan Davis -Georgia*
> *2-51 C Cam Jurgens -Nebraska*
> *3-83 LB Nakobe Dean -Georgia*
> *6-181 Edge Kyron Johnson -Kansas*
> *6-198 TE Grant Calcaterra -SMU*

The Eagles made multiple moves in the first round and finished with DT Jordan Davis and veteran wideout AJ Brown plus another #1 pick next year. DT Davis is a dominant interior lineman when right and was a key defender on the Georgia title club. He has conditioning issues which can limit his reps and must play in the 330 lb. range to be effective. He gives them an inside anchor who can make their perimeter rushers more effective. Solid addition at a high price. With their #2 pick, they chose OL Cam Jurgen, a mobile interior blocker who was dominant at times in the Big Ten. He is a sound technician with quick feet to get to the outside or 2nd level. He understands angles and finishes which made him one of the fastest rising linemen in this class.

With their #3 pick, they chose LB Nakota Dean, a fast mobile defender who was very productive in the SEC. He fell in the draft off size issues and possible injury concerns, though his production and intangibles were excellent. He needs to be covered up to run to the ball where he finishes well and also shows coverage skills to be a three-down defender. Early starter and good value. With their two 6th round picks, they added edge Kyron Johnson and TE Grant Calcaterra. Johnson is an edge rusher who comes off a fine 2021 season. He is one-dimensional as a rusher, though has speed and is a big hitter. He should excel on special teams' coverage units which helps him make the team. TE Calcaterra returned to SMU after retirement during injury finish at Oklahoma. He is a sure handed receiver who fills the H-back role. He must prove durable after concussion and neck issues. He was a good gamble and can make this roster.   ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Eagles' traded a #1 pick for wideout AJ Brown to give them another playmaker in their emerging receiving corps. They signed veteran FAs, LB Haason Reddick and WR Zach Pascal. They lost corner Steven Nelson, safety Rodney McLeod, LBers Genard Avery and Alex Singleton. They added an average rookie UDFA class in QB Carson Strong, RB Kennedy Brooks, WR Britain Covey, OG William Dunkle, OT Josh Sills, C/G Jarrid Williams, WR Keric Wheatfall, CBs Josh Blackwell, Mario Goodrich and Josh Jobe, S Reed Blankenship, DT Noah Elliss and LB Ali Fayad.

Training Camp Objectives: The Eagles made the playoffs as a Wild card club, winning four of their final five games. They were bounced in round one by the Bucs. Young QB Jalen Hurts improved behind a solid line and the league's best ground game. HC Sirianni direct this offense nicely and the addition of veteran wideout AJ Brown can allow this attack to become more balanced. Rookie receiver DeVonta Smith came on strong and should be a featured weapon

here. Their defense improved off a poor 2020 performance, though underwent changes. Veteran Fletcher Cox was re-signed on a one-year contract. The addition of edge Haason Reddick is expected on to improve the overall pressure. DT Hargrove had an impressive 2021 effort and is a well-rounded interior lineman. Their LB play gets a boost from savvy Nakota Dean who will improve their speed. The secondary remains questionable though, they resigned vet safety Anthony Harris. Pro Bowl corner Darius Slay is an anchor along with nickel Avonte Maddox. The other starters must prove themselves. They need to show more firepower from Hurts to win close games while their changing defense must improve vs high powered playoff clubs. Player contender with key questions at key positions especially Hurts.

San Francisco 49ers -12 -8 - Head Coach Kyle Shanahan - 6th Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

2-61 Edge Drake Jackson -Southern Cal
3-93 RB Ty Davis-Price -LSU
3-105 WR Danny Gray -SMU
4-134 OT Spencer Burford -UTSA
5-172 CB Samuel Womack -Toledo
6-187 G Nick Zakelj -Fordham
6-220 DL Kalia Davis -UCF
6-221 CB Tariq Castro-Fields -Penn St
7-262 QB Brock Purdy -Iowa St

The 49ers earned a Wild card playoff berth winning the first two playoff games before falling to the SB champion Rams.

They surrendered their #1 pick for Trey Lance. He was an expensive selection who saw only part time duty in 2021. He may get the starting call this season with Jimmy Garoppolo recovering from shoulder surgery.

HC Kyle Shanahan wanted to add a playmaker to improve their pass pressure. With their 2nd selection, they choose edge defender Drake Jackson, an athlete with a good burst and the ability to pressure the edge. The 49ers hope he becomes the bookend to Nick Bosa after development. He needs to fill out and be more than one-dimensional to become a starter. He was good value late in the round with interesting upside if he takes the next step.

With their two 3rd round picks, they added runner Ty Davis-Price and wideout Danny Gray. Davis-Price was productive vs SEC defenders and combines size and speed. He is still raw in areas, but could be a fine addition to the 49ers committee running back situation. He has the talent to surprise. Gray has top speed with the ability to take the top off the defense. He needs to improve his complete route tree and prove he can go over the middle and make the tough catch. His speed gives an offense a nice dimension, though his limited game is a concern. Boom or bust prospect will get a long look here.

In the 4th round, they selected OL Spencer Burford, a mobile wide body blocker who graded out high over his career. He addresses a big need on this line which has some age and limited interior talent. He has a good upside with refinement. He anchors well in pass protection and has the ability to move and adjust. In the 5th round, they selected CB Samuel Womack, a smallish quick cover man who will get a look as the nickel. He breaks on the ball well with good instincts and ball skills. He can eventually win the nickel role, though must prove up to the physicality of the pro game.

With three 6th round picks, they added OL Nick Zakelj, DT Kalia Davis and CB Tariq Castro-Fields. Zakelj is a physical blocker with good technique. He projects inside to guard where there are openings. DT Davis is a raw lineman recovering from an ACL injury. He needs some time, but is a prospect with talent to develop for their line rotation. CB Castro-Fields combines size and speed and best suited for a zone scheme. He can impress on special teams while he settles into a system. With their 7th round pick, they added QB Brock Purdy, a developmental passer who won a lot of big 12 games. He gets a chance here, especially with Garoppolo expected to be traded or released this year. He may sit on the PS for a season, but gives the 49ers insurance with expected changes coming.   ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The 49ers' attempt to trade QB Garoppolo was delayed by his shoulder surgery. They may release him if no bids entering the season. They signed CB Charvarius Ward, a highly underrated cover man to a three-year deal. He can be a fixture here and be their shutdown cover am. They added a few second-tier vets, LB Oren Burks, DE Kemoko Turay and CB Darqueze Dennard. They lost veteran FAs, OG Laken Tomlinson, DT DJ Jones, safety Jaquiski Tartt, CBs K'Waun Williams and Josh Norman. They added a mediocre class of rookie UDFAs including WR Tay Martin and Taysir Mack, TE Garrett Walston, OL Jason Poe and Dohnovan West, DT Kevin Atkins, LB Segun Olubi and Jeremiah Gemmel and S Leon O'Neal.

Training Camp Objectives: Veteran Garoppolo actually had a strong performance which was instrumental in their return to the playoffs with both poise and production. Former top pick, Trey Lance gets the call currently on a unit that runs the ball well and has a few playmaking receivers. Wideout Deebo Samuel is an elite playmaker who must be

accounted on every play. TE George Kittle is among the best in the game, though injury prone too often. Center Alex Mack retired leaving the interior suspect after the loss of guard Tomlinson. Their young defense has top talent and were again very effective. Pro Bowler Nick Bosa is one of the best edge defenders in the game and commands double teaming often. Mike man Fred Warner is a relentless playmaker while vet Arik Armstead is highly consistent. DT Javon Kinlaw has been disappointing. The secondary welcomes CB Ward after cover men disappointed in big games. They are a team to challenge the Rams in the NFC West, but they have major unknowns in new QB Lance with some issues on the line. The secondary needs to improve for them to compete with the top clubs while Bosa must be healthy.

Seattle Seahawks - *7-10 - Head Coach Pete Carroll - 13th Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-9 OT Charles Cross -Mississippi St
2-40 Edge Boye Mafe -Minnesota
2-41 RB Kenneth Walker III -Michigan St
3-72 OT Abraham Lucas -Washington St
4-109 CB Coby Bryant -Cincinnati
5-153 CB Tariq Woolen -UTSA
5-158 Edge Tyreke Smith -Ohio St
7-229 WR Bo Melton -Rutgers
7-233 WR Dareke Young -Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)

The Seahawks had extra draft capital after earlier trades on safety Jamal Adams. They used the #9 overall selection on LT Charles Cross. He is a well-developed pass protector who graded out high vs SEC defenders. He needs work on run blocking, though should earn a starting grade with a strong preseason. With two #2 picks, they choose edge Boye Mafe and runner Kenny Walker. Mafe provides an outside pass rusher who emerged over his final season. He is still raw in technique and his reads, but has the physical package to continue to improve. Walker is a fast back with break away speed to change a game. He needs some work on the passing game and blocking to be a complete feature back, though an excellent addition here.

With 3rd round selection, they chose OT Abraham Lucas, a big mobile right tackle. They want him to bookend Cross and give them a young pair going forward. He came on fast in 2021 and should challenge for the RT spot this preseason. Fine addition. With 4th round selection, they chose corner Coby Bryant, a smart long cover man with a good late career performance. He impressed at the Senior Bowl and figures to press for the nickel corner role. He is a sure tackler and fine zone defender who can surprise in time. With two 5th round selections, they chose corner Tariq Woolen and DE Tyreke Smith. Woolen is a big raw athlete which the Seahawks love to mold into their scheme. He converted late in his career and probably needs time, though he has a huge upside from here and carries a starting grade in time. Excellent late gamble. DE Smith is a quick small edge defender with a good burst to fill a situational rushing role. He impressed at the Senior Bowl and figures to develop in this scheme.

With two 7th round selections, they added wideouts Bo Melton and Dareke Young. Melton is a playmaker who displays fine run after the catch ability and return skills. He will push for time as the slot receiver and is capable of winning the role in three and four sets early in his career. Young is a big raw receiver who needs to read defenses and run more sophisticated routes. Type is a year away from seeing playing time, though the tools to surprise with development. Might be headed to the PS.   ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Seahawks traded QB Russell Wilson and released LB Bobby Wagner to close out the playoff era teams which won a SB. Wilson brought high draft picks, plus veterans QB Drew Lock TE Noah Fant and DT Shelby Harris. Wilson was the face of the franchise for a decade. They signed vets, safety Josh Jones and LB Uchenna Nwosu and a few 2nd tier players. They lost OTs Duane Brown and Brandon Shell, RB Alex Collins, center Ethan Pocic, TE Gerald Everett, DT Robert Nkemdiche, DE Rasheem Green and Kerry Hyder and CB DJ Reed. They signed an average group of rookie UDFA in QB Levi Lewis, WRs Jake Herslow and Demetris Robertson, TEs Cade Brewer, John Mitchell, OG Shamarious Gilmore, safeties Joey Blount, Bubba Bolden, Scott Nelson and Deontai Williams, DT Matt Gotel, LBs Levi Jones, Josh Onujiogu and CB Josh Valentine-Turner.

Training Camp Objectives: The Seahawks missed the playoffs for the first time since 2017 which led to wholesale roster changes. They hope to use an improved ground game behind rookie Ken Walker to help young QB Drew Lock. Their receiving corps has talent, though production may be down on the new offensive philosophy. The line will focus on two rookie tackles who go through their NFL baptism. Their once proud defense slipped significantly again especially in coverage. Their front four struggled providing pressure with only safety Jamal Adams playing at a high level. Their changing secondary will be tested to the fullest. They will miss Mike LB Bobby Wagner who was the backbone of this unit recent years. The defense should have at least five new starters with most untested. This club turns the page with more questions than answers entering camp. The line has many questions, in addition to youth.

The defense still has some experience and leadership, though the front four must set the pace here in the tough NFC West. They will struggle to compete for a playoff spot and may be at the early stages of a major rebuilding phase.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers -14-5 - Head Coach Todd Bowles - 1st Year

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        2022 Rookie Draft Class

  2-33 Edge Logan Hall -Houston
  2-57 OG Luke Goedeke -Central Michigan
  3-91 RB Rachaad White -Arizona St
  4-106 TE Cade Otton -Washington
  4-133 P Jake Camarda -Georgia
  5-157 CB Zyon McCollum -Sam Houston St
  6-218 TE Ko Kieft -Minnesota
  7-248 Edge Andre Anthony -LSU
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The Bucs trade out of the first round for an early #2 and #4 picks. With two #2 picks, they drafted DL Logan Hall and OL Luke Goedeke. DL Hall is an inside/outside lineman who can play a few roles here, especially in the nickel package as a pass rushing. He may be best as a strongside end, though moves inside for a three-technique role in passing situations. He was a solid addition. OL Goedeke is a tough mobile blocker with experience at tackle and guard after converting from tight end. He is a battler who gives his all and a very coachable prospect who can surprise and start early in his career. Fast rising prospect seems a slight reach this early, though has the makeup to be an early starter and grade out well.

In the 3rd round, they chose runner Rachaad White, a big athlete with a nose for the end zone. He gives this offense depth and another hard-nosed runner with good skills and production at a high level. With two 4th round picks, they chose TE Cade Otton and punter Jake Camarda. TE Otton is a solid prospect who blocks well and catches the ball consistently. He was a very value addition with Ron Gronkowski retiring. Good starter in time. Punter Camarda had an excellent 2021 with fine distance and ball placement. He gives them a defensive weapon and should win the job outright in camp.

In the 5th round, they chose CB Zyon McCollum, a large agile athlete who had an impressive postseason. He creates rare matchup skills and best vs possession receivers where he wins most jump ball situations. He was excellent value here and a defender with a huge upside as he settles into their defense. With their 6th round pick, they chose TE Ko Kieft, a massive blocking prospect who can win a backup role after they lost two veterans at the position. Decent addition. With their 7th round pick, they added edge defender Andre Anthony, a long mobile tweener with a burst off the edge to developed further. He missed most of 2021 with an ACL injury and could land on the IR or PS initially. He has the tools to develop to play in the sub package, though needs time to get healthy and settles into a role.   **Grade: C+**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Bucs lost two key offensive players to retirement in TE Ron Gronkowski and guard Ali Marpet. Gronk is the best ever at the position and a first ballot HOF. Marpet was at Pro Bowl levels over his late career and surprised the Bucs retiring at 28 years old. QB Tom Brady retired in February and unretired in April. They signed WR Russell Gage and safeties Keanu Neal and Logan Ryan. They resigned RB Leonard Fournette, WR Chris Godwin, OC Ryan Jenson and OG Aaron Stinnie. They lost DE Jason Pierre-Paul, DT Ndu Suh, safety Jordan Whitehead, OG Alex Cappa, TE OJ Howard, RB Ronald Jones and LB Kevin Minter. They did add OG Shaq Mason in a trade with the Patriots for a late pick, an excellent move. They added a good group of rookie FA in QB Aqeel Glass, TE Ben Beise, OLs Curtis Blackwell and Dylan Cook, LBs Olakunle Fatukasi, Joe Ozougwu, Jordan Young and J.J. Russell, CBs Don Gardner and Kyler McMichael, WRs Kaylon Geiger, Jerreth Sterns, Bralon Robinson and Deven Thompkins, DL Ryan Bowman and S Nolan Turner.

Training Camp Objectives: The Bucs' will attempt to make another run at the SB, though they lost a few key players from their roster. Tom Brady returns and always gives his club a chance. They won one playoff game before falling to the SB champs, the Rams. Brady directs an offense with an array of weapons to continue their high scoring attack. The ground game has disappointed and they look to vet Leonard Fournette to continue to improve. Brady directs a talented group of receivers, Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and new Russell Gage. TE Cameron Brate will play a bigger role with top two tight ends gone. The talented line allowed only 23 sacks which gives the immobile Brady plenty of time. HC Bruce Arians retired and left the job for DC Todd Bowles who has prior experience. The defense relies on LB Devin White to continue his Pro Bowl level. He shows dominant skills weekly as the leader and linchpin. Vet backers, Lavonte David, Joe Tryon-Shoyinka and Shaq Barrett are core starters here. Their young secondary added veterans Logan Ryan and Keanu Neal hoping to stabilize an inconsistent unit. An improved ground game is needed to help Brady and the defense. Bucs are the club to beat for the South title with most others in a rebuilding process. Expect the Bucs to make another run with many savvy battled tested vets who are capable of playing with any club in the league. Brady still works his magic to make this club a legitimate threat.

Washington Commanders *- 7-10 - Head Coach Ron Rivera - 3rd Year*

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│   2022 Rookie Draft Class            │
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│ 1-16 WR Jahan Dotson -Penn St        │
│ 2-47 DT Phidarian Mathis -Alabama    │
│ 3-98 RB Brian Robinson -Alabama      │
│ 4-113 S Percy Butler -Louisiana      │
│ 5-144 QB Sam Howell -North Carolina  │
│ 5-149 TE Cole Turner -Nevada         │
│ 7-230 G Chris Paul -Tulsa            │
│ 7-240 CB Christian Holmes -Oklahoma St│
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The Commanders was hoping to land one of the top receivers in this class and added Jahan Dotson in the first round. Dotson is a fast elusive athlete with return skills. He can play outside and in the slot and is developed to give this attack a boost immediately. He was part of a run-on receivers in the 1st round and a solid addition here.

With their 2nd round selection, they chose DT Phidarian Mathis, a powerful interior lineman who anchors well and can push the pocket. He needs technique work and learn to separate quicker from blockers, though he has the components to be every down starter. Another Bama defensive linemen here and probably core performer here. Good selection.

With their 3rd round selection, they chose Brian Robinson, a big downhill runner who comes off a strong final effort. He can be the change of pace runner to starter Antonio Gibson. He is also a good short yardage runner with good ball security. With their 4th round selection, they chose safety Percy Butler, a fluid athlete with good instincts and range. He is a top special teams' performer where he can make a difference. With two 5th round selections, they chose QB Sam Howell and TE Cole Turner. Howell was great value here and can pay huge dividends in time. He has NFL starting ability with development. He has a pro arm and moves well in the pocket to push for starting time fairly early in his career. Turner is a big sure handed receiver with fine body control and route development. He can be a factor here working with new starter Carson Wentz.

With two 7th round selections, they chose OL Chris Paul and CB Christian Holmes. Paul is a wide body with good knee bend and the footwork to move within the box. He was good value here and a blocker who can develop in time with technique work. CB Holmes is a big raw cover man who is a hitter and finishes. He needs work on route recognition and ball skills to earn time in the dime package. He will have to make the team on special teams' value where his speed, tackling and hitting power might earn him a niche while he develops in the base defense. **Grade: B**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: They were aggressive in the trade market for veteran passers and landed Carson Wentz for a #3 pick and exchanging #2 picks. They signed veteran guards Andrew Norwell and Trai Turner. Pro Bowl guard Brandon Scherff left in FA. The lost QBs Ryan Fitzpatrick and Kyle Allen as the revolving door continues at this vital position. They lost safety Landon Collins, WR Adam Humphries, TE Ricky Seals-Jones, DTs Tim Settles and Matt Ioannidis and guard Erik Flowers. They signed a quality rookie UDFA class in QB Cole Kelley, WRs Jequez Ezzard and Kyric McGowan, S Ferrod Gardner, TEs Curtis Hodges and Armani Rogers, OG Tyrese Robinson, DE Jacub Panasiuk, LBs Tre Walker and Drew White and, CBs DeVante Cross, Josh Drayden and Devin Taylor.

Training Camp Objectives: The Commanders finished with a sub .500 record for the fifth season in a row. They made wholesale changes this offseason with both offense and defense ranking poorly in most vital statistics. They turned the page for another QB change and traded for young Carson Wentz. He flashes big time talent at times, but his inconsistencies and injury history have derailed him often. The line will have two new starters after a poor 2021 performance. Wideout Terry McLaurin is a Pro bowl performer. Receiver Curtis Samuel needs to prove durable to justify his contract. Rookie Dotson is counted on to produce here. The defense needs impact edge rusher Chase Young to return to his 2020 form. Their young secondary must improve after allowing huge yardage and scores last season. Changing club after another disappointing season. Hoping to get stability behind Wentz and a return of their once highly regarded defense to compete in the wide-open NFC East.

American Conference
Baltimore Ravens - 8-9 - Head Coach John Harbaugh - 15th Year

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2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-14 S Kyle Hamilton - Notre Dame
1-25 C Tyler Linderbaum - Iowa
2-45 Edge David Ojabo - Michigan
3-76 DT Travis Jones - UConn
4-110 OT Daniel Faalele - Minnesota
4-119 CB Jalyn Armour-Davis - Alabama
4-128 TE Charlie Kolar - Iowa St
4-130 P Jordan Stout - Penn St
4-139 TE Isaiah Likely - Coastal Carolina
4-141 CB Damarion Williams - Houston
6-196 RB Tyler Badie - Missouri
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The Ravens had an outstanding draft class with picks equally divided from both sides of the ball. GM Eric DeCosta directed this process again with an excellent sense of integrating need and value. DeCosta stays with his value board very well and it is reflected in this talented and deep overall class. They wanted to address their offensive line and defense throughout and they were able to hit on all objectives. They selected safety Kyle Hamilton with the 14th overall pick. He addresses a problem area with annual turnover. He will couple with FA addition Marcus Williams to give the Ravens a talented duo both with coverage abilities. Hamilton can play a few positions including nickel backer and gives his DC options in the sub packages. He has rare range and length and can develop into a Pro Bowl defender here.

They traded veteran wideout Marquis Brown to Arizona for their #1 pick and flipped that pick with Buffalo for their #1 pick. They chose center Tyler Linderbaum, a savvy sound technician who graded out very high over his career. He fell on some size concerns, but has all the components to be a quality early NFL pivotman. On the 2nd round, they added edge defender David Ojabo, a fast pass rusher who fell on a pro day Achilles injury. He was considered a mid first round prospect prior to the injury. His rookie may be delayed, though he probably is healthy at some point of the first half. Excellent risk selection. On the 3rd round, they choose DT Travis Jones, a massive powerful interior lineman who can start early in his career. He is a force in the middle and the type of interior lineman the Ravens love to anchor their front seven. He can push the pocket as a rusher and occupy two blockers to free other defenders. He was outstanding value at the 76th overall selection.

With six 4th round picks, they chose OT Daniel Faalele, CB Jalyn Armour-Davis, TE Charlie Kolar, punter Jordan Stout, TE Isaiah Likely and CB Damarion Williams. OT Faalele is a huge prospect who graded out high on the right-side. He probably sits for a year or two before pushing for starting job. He must play in the sub 350 lb. area to be most effective. CB Armour-Davis addresses a need area where little depth leaves their pass defense vulnerable. He must prove healthy which was an area of concern. TE Kolar is a big sure handed receiver who is especially dangerous in the red zone. He is a willing blocker and a smart player who gets it done despite average athleticism. Punter Stout is a strong legged veteran who excelled in the Big Ten. He could adjust easily to the climate and is coached by recently retired starter Sam Koch. TE Likely is more an H-back Flex prospect who creates mismatches and gets open. He is a good piece for an offense in multiple sets. CB Williams is another cover man to compete for a roster spot. He has the makeup of a nickel corner and is a smart tough prospect with a chance to make this roster. On the 7th round, they drafted runner Tyler Badie, a short tough back to was very impressive in the SEC. He was a workhorse and a tough honest runner with sure hands to fill the 3rd down role plus the intangibles to make it.   *Grade: A*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Ravens were aggressive in FA with the signing of safety Marcus Williams one of the premier defenders available. Williams addressed a major need area and a Pro Bowl performer just entering his prime. They signed RT Moses Morgan, Mike Davis and DT Michael Pierce. Morgan is a quality right tackle who can anchor a troubled area. Davis joins an injury riddled backfield and a sold addition. Pierce returns to the Ravens and a tough nose tackle who can stabilize this front. They lost WR Sammy Watkins, RBs Devonta Freeman, Latavius Murray, OT Alejandro Villanueva, OC Bradley Bozeman, NT Brandon Williams, LB Justin Houston, safety DeShon Elliott, CBs Jimmy Smith, Anthony Averett and Tavon Young. They signed a quality group of UDFAs in QB Anthony Brown, RB Ricky Person, WRs Slade Bolden, Shemar Bridges, Trevon Clark, Makai Polk, Raleigh Webb and Devon Williams, OT Aron Johnson, DT Rayshad Nichols, OLBs Jeremiah Moon, Chuck Wiley, LBs Zakoby McClain and Josh Ross, CBs David Vereen, Denzel Williams and S Chris Moore.

Training Camp Objectives: The Ravens missed the playoffs for the first time since 2017, losing their final six games. QB Lamar Jackson was inconsistent and missed six games. Currently, his contract has commanded much attention and is an issue which needs to be addressed prior to the season. Jackson has elite skills, though must improve throwing from the pocket to win vs playoff clubs. He again led the team in rushing with the Ravens passing game mediocre in 2022. The line features new starters, with LT Ronnie Stanley returning after missing almost two full seasons. The defense fell significantly off previous top rankings. Their pass defense ranked last in the league.

Young backers Tyus Bowser, Pat Queen and Odafe Oweh must step up with more edge pressure. The changing secondary looks to new safeties, rookie Hamilton and FA Williams joining vet Clark to form a talented trio. Corners Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters must prove durable at a position with little depth. Lamar Jackson holds the key to this club advancing especially with better production. He must improve and perform better vs top defenses. This club hopes to return to playoff levels in the tough AFC North. They combine a tough smart balance of veterans and young talent to compete for the postseason, though their ultimate success is in Jackson's hands.

Buffalo Bills - 12-7 - *Head Coach Sean McDermott - 6th Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-23 CB Kaiir Elam - Florida
2-63 RB James Cook - Georgia
3-89 LB Terrel Bernard - Baylor
5-148 WR Khalil Shakir - Boise State
6-180 P Matt Araiza - San Diego State
6-185 CB Christian Benford - Villanova
6-209 OT Luke Tenuta - Virginia Tech
7-231 LB Baylon Spector - Clemson

The Bills traded up in the first round to select corner Kajir Elam. He is a long athletic defender with prototypical numbers and the experience to start early in the NFL. He needs refinement in his technique and reads, but has the components to become a fine starter. He figures to see time as either a starter or key piece in their nickel package. Good long-term addition.

On the 2nd round, they chose runner James Cook, a fast sure handed athlete who gives this offense an added dimension. He is a playmaker who changes games and gives this ground game a change of pace runner to open this attack. With their 3rd round pick, they chose LB Terrel Bernard, an instinctive quick defender who fills a few roles on this club. He can fill the nickel backer role early and eventually start. He should become a core performer on special teams. He is very similar to backer Matt Milano and fits HC McDermott's profile for backers.

With their 5th round pick, they chose wideout Khalil Shakir, a sure handed receiver who runs fine routes and comes out of a pro spread offense. He can help in three and four wideout sets and possibly early. He was excellent value here. With three 6th round picks, they chose punter Matt Azaiza, CB Christian Benford and OT Luke Tenuta. Azaiza was surprisingly the 3rd punter chosen after an outstanding 2021 performance. He will have to prove he can punt in the Buffalo weather after playing in the ideal San Diego climate. Strong legged punter and can become a defensive weapon and change field position. CB Benford graded out high at a lower level. He is a tough cover man who can make the step up here. OT Tenuta is a massive prospect with potential. He can make this squad with only marginal backup talent currently. He needs time, but has the raw skills to develop further.

With their 7th round pick, they chose LB Baylon Spector, another hard-nosed defender who takes no prisoners. He can excel on special teams' units and be impossible to cut. He combines instincts, toughness and quickness to make up for average size and speed. Solid late addition.   ***Grade: B***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Bills signed LB Von Miller to improve their big play ability. Miller is a game changer and can elevate the entire units play with his presence. They added RB Duke Johnson, WR Jamison Crowder, TE OJ Howard, guard Rodger Saffold, DE Shaq Lawson, DTs Jordan Phillips, Tim Settle and DaQuan Jones. They lost QB Mitchell Trubisky, RB Matt Breida, WR Emmanuel Sanders, OT Daryl Williams DT Harrison Phillips, Star Lotulelie, OG Jon Feliciano and CB Levi Wallace. They resigned WR Isaiah McKenzie. They added an average rookie UDFAs class including OLs Alec Anderson, Will Ulmer, Tanner Owen and Derek Kerstetter, RB Raheem Blackshear, TE Jalen Wydermyer, WRs Keith Corbin, Neil Pau'u and Malik Williams, DE Kingsley Jonathan, CBs Travon Fuller and Ja'Marcus Ingram and DTs Prince Emili and CJ Brewer.

Training Camp Objectives: The Bills won their second consecutive AFC East title. They won one playoff game before falling to the Chiefs again in a wild AFC title contest. HC Sean McDermott has created a strong tough culture here and it reflects in their ability to prepare and compete in big game situations. QB Josh Allen ranks with any starter in the league after another major performance. He was a huge difference in big games and is the cornerstone performer here. He benefits from vet wideout Stefon Diggs and emerging WR Gabriel Davis and TE Dawson Knox. They return their tough offensive line plus vet guard Rodger Safford. They look to rookie back James Cook to give this attack a spark. The highly regarded defense looks to new vet Von Miller to push this front seven to higher levels. He should make former top picks, DT Ed Oliver, DE Greg Rousseau and LB Tremaine Edmunds better in key areas. LB Matt Milano is a playmaker who sets the pace here. Veteran secondary benefits from corner Tre'Davious White and high-quality safeties Jordan Poyer and Micah Hyde. This club is the team to beat in the AFC East and maybe the AFC in whole with most of their top players just entering their prime. HC McDermott ranks among the best in the league and directs this defense with smart schemes. They look for more playoff victories with maturity and are one of the legitimate SB contenders in the AFC who have gained valuable big game experience the past two years.

Cincinnati Bengals - 13-8 - Head Coach Zac Taylor - 4th Year

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2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-31 S Daxton Hill - Michigan
2-60 CB Cam Taylor-Britt - Nebraska
3-95 DL Zachary Carter - Florida
4-136 OT Cordell Volson - North Dakota St
5-166 S Tycen Anderson - Toledo
7-252 Edge Jeffrey Gunter - Coastal Carolina
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The Bengals focused on defense with five of their six selections. They addressed their secondary with their first two selections. With their first-round pick, they selected safety Daxton Hill, the first of three defensive backs. Hill joins Jesse Bates and Vonn Bell to give them a deep dime package. Hill can drop over slot receivers and gives the Bengals many options in their package defenses. Good late addition. On the 2nd round, they chose corner Cam Taylor-Britt, a big fast aggressive cover man. He graded out high over his final two seasons on a mediocre defense. He improved at every phase of the scouting process and finished with impressive workout. Figures to press for time as the nickel corner and should earn reps in most sub packages.

On the 3rd round, they chose DL Zac Carter, a quick agile lineman with inside/outside versatility. He is an effective pass rusher with quick burst and fast hands to separate. He is most productive in the three technique where he can be disruptive. He needs work anchoring vs the run and may be limited to a situational pass rushing role early in his career. He was a reach this early, though addresses a need area. With their 4th round pick, they selected OT Cordell Volson, a physical blocker with experience at both guard and tackle. He figures to push for a roster spot in camp. He is a tough run blocker and uses his bulk and length fairly well in protection. He figures to line up inside initially and could start there eventually. On the 5th round, they selected safety Tycen Anderson, an aggressive athletic defender with well-rounded skills. He has the LOD to challenge for time in the sub packages, in addition to duty on special teams. He can be a defender to develop and become a solid piece for different roles.

On the 7th round, they chose DE Jeffrey Gunter, a quick tweener edge type. He had a good effort in the postseason that earned him a late selection. He can make this club with a good preseason, though needs to impress on special teams. He has a burst off the edge and can play both up and down.   **Grade: C**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Bengals made a few changes in FA. They added RT La'el Collins, center Ted Karras and guard Alex Cappa to fill pressing needs on their porous line. They resigned safety Jessie Bates and DT B.J. Hill. They lost TE C.J. Uzomah, center Trey Hopkins, guard Quinton Spain, OT Riley Reiff, DT Larry Ogunjobi and corners Trae Waynes and Vernon Hargreaves. They added rookie free agents, G/C Ben Brown, OG Desmond Noel, OT Devin Cochran, WRs Jaivon Heiligh and Kwamie Lassiter, LBs Clarence Hicks and Carson Wells, CB Delonte Hood and Allen George, HB Shermari Jones, S/CB Bookie Radley-Hiles, TE Justin Rigg, DT/DE Tariqious Tisdale and LS Cal Adomitis.

Training Camp Objectives: The Bengals had a major breakout performance in 2021 which earned them the AFC North title. They built momentum through the postseason, earning a SB appearance only to fall short vs the Rams. QB Joe Burrow had an incredible comeback from a rookie season knee injury to direct this offense to one of the best in the game. Burrow did this behind a weak offensive line which will have three new starters this fall. Burrow used a full array of weapons especially former college teammate Ja'Marr Chase who put up record numbers including 13 TDs. Runner Joe Mixon was a dual threat who balanced this potent attack. The ranked defense improved in many aspects of play, though further progress is necessary to beat top clubs. The defense relied on edge defenders Trey Hendrickson and Sam Hubbard to apply consistent pressure. They allowed too many big plays and could have new starters in the secondary. Safety Jessie Bates was impressive in the postseason and signed the franchise tag. Mike man Logan Wilson is a complete defender who is the leader in this young defense. Bengals made amazing progress and gained valuable experience winning three playoff games, two on the road before losing to the Rams. They have one of the premier passers in the game and some elite weapons to build into an annual playoff club. Though they need to continue to improve, they have the nucleus to be the team to beat in the AFC South. Burrow is the difference maker and brings the tough disciplined approach which keeps his club focused on winning.

Cleveland Browns - 8-9 - Head Coach Kevin Stefanski - 3rd Year

The Browns used their first two selections as part of the trade for QB DeShaun Watson. They paid three #1 picks and flipped #2 for a #3 choice. With their three #3 picks, they choose CB Martin Emerson, DE Alex Wright and wideout David Bell. CB Martin is a long tough corner coming off a strong final performance. He will compete for time in the sub packages and best vs possession receivers. He was a solid addition. DE Wright is an athletic edge defender where great length and quickness from the outside. He struggles vs the run and will have to improve his

ability his strength, in addition his ability to separate to earn time as a situational rusher. He has definite upside, though is raw vs top competition and may see limited time in sub package.

WR Bell is a tough savvy receiver with great production. He lacks top speed, but fights for the ball and uses his strong frame well in 50/50 balls. Fine addition here and will compete for time in three wideout sets early and eventually a starting role opposite Cooper.

> **2022 Rookie Draft Class**
>
> **3-68 CB Martin Emerson - Mississippi St**
> **3-78 DE Alex Wright - UAB**
> **3-99 WR David Bell - Purdue**
> **4-108 DT Perrion Winfrey - Oklahoma**
> **4-124 PK Cade York - LSU**
> **5-156 RB Jerome Ford - Cincinnati**
> **6-202 WR Mike Woods - Oklahoma**
> **7-223 Edge Isaiah Thomas - Oklahoma**
> **7-246 C Dawson Deaton - Texas Tech**

With their two 4th round selections, they drafted DT Perrion Winfrey and PK Cade York. Winfrey was the first of three Oklahoma draft picks. He is an inside/outside lineman with nice production. He relies on quickness to win early on the down and has the length to get blockers off his frame to make plays. He was excellent value at the 108th selection and gets an opportunity to win a starting job outright with a strong preseason. PK York was the only kicker drafted and gets a huge chance after the Browns were the worst team in the league in kicking %. He kicked in many big spots, though never performed in a northern cold climate. With their 5th round pick, they choose RB Jerome Ford, a tough physical back who was very productive over his late career. Tough short yardage and goal line runner joins a deep backfield. He is raw as a receiver and needs to impress on special teams' units. He may have to sit for a few seasons.

With their 6th round pick, they choose WR Mike Woods, an underrated prospect with average type measurables. He shows sure hands and the ability to get open and make plays which probably earns him a roster spot. With their two 7th round picks, they choose edge Isaiah Thomas and center Dawson Deaton. Thomas can win a backup job here and possible some reps in a line rotation. He has the skills to surprise in time and push for more time with development. OL Dawson is a big interior blocker at a pressing need area after the release of pivotman Tretter. He needs time to refine his talent, but has the physicality to battle nose tackles. Good late pick. *Grade: C*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Browns were aggressive in the trade market and added QB DeShaun Watson, wideout Amari Cooper and DE Chase Winowich. Watson cost them three #1 picks with a pending long 2021 suspension awaiting a decision. In the FA period, they signed QB Jacoby Brissett, WR Jakeem Grant, C Ethan Pocic, DE Isaac Rochell and LB Stephen Weatherly. They resigned TE David Njolu after tagging him. They lost OC JC Tretter, DEs Jadeveon Clowney and Malik Jackson, DT Malik McDowell, WRs Rashard Higgins and Jarvis Landry, TE Austin Hooper and CB Troy Hill. They added a few rookies from the open market in WRs Mike Harley, Travell Harris and Isaiah Weston, TE Zaire Mitchell-Paden and Malik Smith, OT Ben Petrula, C Brock Hoffman, S D'Anthony Bell, CBs Junior Faulk and Shaun Jolly, LB Silas Kelly, DTs Glen Logan and Roderick Perry.

Training Camp Objectives: The Browns missed the playoffs after making the postseason for the first time in 26 years last year. They were never able to get momentum despite being competitive in many close losses. The injury to QB Baker Mayfield set this club back late in the season when they hit a 2-5 stretch which ended their hopes. HC Kevin Stefanski will direct a new offense that may be without new vet QB Watson while he sits out a suspension. Veteran Mayfield may be traded prior to the season with the Seahawks likely. New vet QB Jacoby Brissett will probably get the call vs a fairly soft opening month. Their highly rated ground game will be the backbone of this unit again with Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt one of the best duos in the game. The line has questions in the pivot with young Harris starting. The receiving corps undergoes changes with vet Cooper being the new #1 weapon. TE Njoku is expected to play a bigger role. Their defense relies on their front four to apply pressure with sack artist DE Myles Garrett, one of the best in the game. Their LBing unit played well with rookie JOK and vet Anthony Walker stepping up in 2021. The secondary has one of the better units with depth to perform well in all the sub packages. Safeties Johnson and Harrison and corners Ward and Newsome improved nicely in coverage and gives them a balanced unit to make a difference. The Browns have some of the building blocks in place to compete in the AFC North, though the unsettled QB position might delay any return to the postseason. This club is still learning how to win and might not be ready to take the next step vs the top clubs. Team does not score enough in big games to win in clutch situations and may be at least a year away from challenging for the North division.

Denver Broncos - 7-10 - *Head Coach Nathaniel Hackett - 1st Year*

The Broncos made the huge trade to acquire veteran QB Russell Wilson that they have been pursuing for a few years. Wilson gives them the leader and playmaker to put them into serous contention in the AFC. He can elevate this offense in all ways after directing the Seahawks to multiple postseason berths. The Broncos completed

their 5th consecutive losing season. Wilson can give this offense which has a very good supporting cast behind a solid line, the general it needs.

2022 Rookie Draft Class

2-64 Edge Nik Bonitto - Oklahoma
3-80 TE Greg Dulcich - UCLA
4-115 CB Damarri Mathis - Pittsburgh
4-116 DL Eyioma Uwazurike - Iowa St
5-152 S Delarrin Turner-Yell - Oklahoma
5-162 WR Montrell Washington - Samford
5-171 C Luke Wattenberg - Washington
6-206 DL Matt Henningsen - Wisconsin
7-232 CB Faion Hicks - Wisconsin

With their #2 pick, they chose LB Nik Bonitto, a quick edge rusher who gives them a well-developed defender for their sub packages. He carries a starting grade in time and was a fine addition here. With their 3rd round pick, they drafted TE Greg Dulcich, a fast-developing receiver who fits this offense nicely. He shows sure hands and nice route development with enough speed to make plays. He needs work on his blocking, though may be used mainly in an H-back role initially. Solid addition here.

With two 4th round picks, they drafted CB Damarri Mathis and DL Eyioma Uwazurike. Mathis is a tough cover man best suited for a zone scheme. He might need some time to adjust to the pro scheme, but could be a key piece in the sub package fairly early. Uwazurike is a big athlete with inside/outside versatility. His length allows him to block kicks and passes and should see time in their line rotation. With their three 5th round picks, they drafted safety Delarrin Turner-Yell, WR Montrell Washington and center Luke Wattenberg. Turner-Yell will compete for the gunner role and coverage units while he develops and settles into the base. He can make this roster. Washington is counted on to win the return duties with big play ability to set up the offense. He has the quickness and speed to be a quality pro returner. Wattenberg is a savvy pivot man who gives them much needed depth on the interior.

With their 6th round pick, they drafted DL Matt Henningsen, a tough versatile lineman with quickness and power. He can make this roster and carve a niche in their rotation. With their 7th round pick, they drafted DB Faion Hicks, a fast raw defender. He will have to show some special teams' skills to earn time to settle into the defensive scheme. He may need time on the PS. **Grade: C+**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The trade for QB Wilson for a few premium draft selections also cost TE Noah Fant, QB Drew Lock and DT Shelby Harris. They left holes they hope are filled by new vets and rookies. DT DJ Jones was a good signing and he can help their run defense. They signed DE Randy Gregory hoping he becomes a bookend to Bradley Chubb. They also added corner K'Waun Williams looking for him to claim the nickel corner role. They lost QB Teddy Bridgewater, OT Bobby Massie, TE Eric Saubert, LBers Kenny Young and AJ Johnson and corners Kyle Fuller and Bryce Callahan. They added a small group of rookie UDFAs, RB Tyreik McAllister, WRs Kaden Davis, Brandon Johnson and Jalen Virgil, OG Michael Niese and TEs Dylan Parham and Rodney Williams, OLB Christopher Allen, CBs Cortez Davis and Ja'Quan McMillan and LB Kaua'i Mauga.

Training Camp Objectives: The Broncos missed the postseason for the 6th season in a row. Both sides of the ball improved in 2021, though the lack of a top flight leader was evident. The move to add Wilson can turn the fate of this franchise which has many components for winning in place. Their talented young offense has a few top playmakers with an improved ground game combining veteran runner Melvin Gordon and young Javonte Williams. WR Courtland Sutton, Jerry Jeudy and KJ Hamler are counted on to step up and play up to their talent. HC Hackett can put the pieces together here. The offensive line played well with vets, Glasgow, Bolles and Risner forming a solid core. Their vet defense played fairly well, though they lost six games by less than 10 points. The secondary made key changes with corner Patrick Surtain showing elite type skills. Safeties Simmons and Jackson are a savvy pair of veterans. The Broncos will look to their ground game to continue to be productive behind a quality line. With the expected production from Wilson, the Broncos can make up their lack of scoring this fall. This club is capable of a huge turnaround and the addition of Wilson could put them in the playoff picture with the overall talent to compete with any AFC club.

Houston Texans - 4-13 - Head Coach Lovie Smith - 1st Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class
1-3 CB Derek Stingley - LSU
1-15 G Kenyon Green - Texas A&M
2-37 S Jalen Pitre - Baylor
2-44 WR John Metchie - Alabama
3-75 LB Christian Harris - Alabama
4-107 RB Dameon Pierce - Florida
5-150 DE Thomas Booker - Stanford
5-170 TE Teagan Quitoriano - Oregon St
6-205 OL Austin Deculus - LSU

The Texans held two #1 and #2 picks as the results of trade for QB DeShaun Watson. They selected CB Derek Stingley and guard Kenyon Green. Stingley was a surprise this early and changed the makeup of the top ten selections. He is a high-quality cover man with a very short resume as a result of injuries and declaring early for the draft. He has the makeup of a shutdown corner with natural skills and top ball skills. His inconsistency tackling and injury history makes him a risky pick, though he is truly

a blue-chip defender. Green is a physical guard who graded out high in the SEC. He figures to be one of their new starting guard tandems along with vet AJ Cann. He addresses a major need and should be a fixture on the interior.

With two 2nd round picks. they selected safety Jalen Pitre and wideout John Metchie. Pitre is a playmaker with top instincts and strong tackling skills. He carries a rookie starting grade and a good addition to their changing secondary which struggled weekly in 2021. Wideout Metchie is a fast playmaker who sustained an ACL injury at midseason. He is a developed prospect with top speed and hands to give this attack a much-needed deep threat which has been missing since the trade of DeAndre Hopkins.

With their 3rd round pick, they drafted LB Christian Harris, a fast outside defender who excelled in big game situations. He will press for starting duty and can be an immediate factor in the sub package as an edge rusher. He was a good addition here. With their 4th round pick, they drafted RB Dameon Pierce, a hard charging tackle breaking runner. He can surprise here and gain touches as a rookie in the worst ground game in the league. He was a solid selection and could pay huge dividends in time. With their two 5th round picks, they drafted DE Thomas Booker and TE Teagan Quitoriano. DT Booker is an experienced edge defender with experience in both fronts. He also can lineup inside in a sub package and provide this unit a few options. He should make this roster and get reps this fall. Quitoriano is a big blocker with developing hands to compete for a backup role. He can make this roster or the PS with the tools to develop further.

With their 7th round pick, they drafted OL Austin Deculus, a big versatile blocker with extensive experience in a big-time program. With marginal backups on their line, he can make the roster or the PS.   ***Grade: B***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Texans traded QB Deshaun Watson for three #1 picks which can change the culture of this troubled franchise. They continued their huge house cleaning with multiple moves throughout. The entire organization continues to make changes – front office, coaching staff and roster. They signed RB Marlon Mack, guard AJ Cann and corner Steven Nelson along with countless 2nd and 3rd tier players. They lost RB David Johnson, LB Jacob Martin, corner Terrance Mitchell and safety Justin Reid. They let another wholesale number of veterans leave in a massive roster turnover. The rookie FA class added WRs Drew Estrada and Johnny Johnson, TE Seth Green, OT Myron Cunningham, DLs Damion Daniels, Troy Hairston, Kurt Hinish and Adedayo Odeleye, DBs Kolby Harvell-Peel and Tristin McCollum and LB Jake Hansen.

Training Camp Objectives: The Texans had another 4-win season as they continue their major rebuilding process. Young QB Davis Mills had a good rookie season and is the leader here who can solidify his role with further improvement. They look to vet Mack and rookie Pierce to provide the run game to more consistency then in recent seasons. WR Brandin Cooks had another 1000-yard season and could be the next veteran traded to help rebuild the roster. The line looks to tackles Tunsil and Howard to protect the edges. Tunsil must prove durable for this line to protect the young Mills. The defense ranked among the worst in the league again and lacked playmakers as rushers and cover men. The secondary will probably provide two new starters in rookies Stingley and Pitre who can provide leadership and playmakers. The Texans turn in a new direction and plan with young players getting the chance to claim many starting jobs as numerous marginal vets only filling gaps. With little expectation to improve in the win column, they continue to be in the running to land the first overall selection next April in the NFL Draft 2023.

Indianapolis Colts *- 9-8 - Head Coach Frank Reich - 5th Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class
2-53 WR Alec Pierce - Cincinnati
3-73 TE Jelani Woods - Virginia
3-77 OT Bernhard Raimann - Central Michigan
3-96 S Nick Cross - Maryland
5-159 DT Eric Johnson - Missouri St
6-192 TE Andrew Ogletree - Youngstown St
6-216 DT Curtis Brooks - Cincinnati
7-239, Rodney Thomas, S, Yale

The Colts addressed their offense with their 1st three selections after a late season collapse. They struggled scoring late in the season and consequently failed to make the playoffs after leading the South early in 2021. They held no #1 pick as the result of final payment for QB Carson Wentz who had a late season meltdown after a strong earlier performance.

With their #2 pick, they selected WR Alec Pierce, a productive playmaker who shows a big level of development to play early. He should become a favorite on new vet QB Matt Ryan. With their three #3 pick this year, they selected TE Jelani Woods, OT Bernhard Raimann and safety Nick Cross. TE Woods is a big athlete who emerged through the postseason as a top prospect. He is a good athlete with sure hands and the power to block ends and backers. He addresses a major need here after the retirement of Jack Doyle. He carries a starting grade in time, though will be an excellent compliment to veteran Mo Alie-Cox. Fine addition with skill set to improve much further. Raimann is a raw tackle with fast development after converting from tight end. He has the feet

for left tackle, though may play right tackle initially while he refines his technique. Excellent long-term addition. Cross is a tough athletic who figures to press for time in the dime package. With the retirement of safety Khari Willis, Cross becomes an even bigger role defender.

With their #5 pick this year, they selected DT Eric Johnson, a physical interior defender who impressed through the postseason. He could press for time in their tackle rotation early with possible starting time within a few seasons. With their two #6 picks, they selected TE Andrew Ogletree and DT Curtis Brooks. Ogletree is a big raw athlete with sure hands and good body control. He gets a long look here on an offense which uses has four TEs on the roster and plays two on most offensive sets. DT Brooks is another interior lineman who shows quickness and production over limited career. Fits the three-technique role, but must get stronger. With their 7th round pick, they selected safety Rodney Thomas, an athlete who is a sure tackler and return specialist. He must impress on special teams to warrant a roster spot or could be headed to the PS. He could develop further in time.   *Grade: B*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Colts traded QB Carson Wentz to Washington for a 2022 third-round pick after surrendering their #1 pick for him. They traded a #3 pick for veteran Matt Ryan. He may be the best deal of the offseason. Ryan is the ideal fit for HC Reich and should benefit greatly behind a quality line where he can shine. They also traded for DE Yannick Ngakoue for corner Rock Ya-Sin. Ngakoue provides a fast edge rusher who has been productive throughout his career. He was a solid addition. They signed vets, CB Stephon Gilmore and safety Rodney McLeod. They resigned vet TE Mo Alie-Cox. They lost DEs Kemoko Turay and Al-Qiadin Mohammad, OT Erik Fisher and Julien Davenport, guards Mark Glowinski and Chris Reed, RB Marlon Mack, WRs T.Y. Hilton and Zach Pascal, CB Xavier Rhodes and safety Andrew Sendejo. They added an average rookie UDFA class in RBs Max Borghi, CJ Verdell and D'Vonte Price, QB Jack Coan, WRs Kekoa Crawford, Michael Young, Samson Nacua and Ethan Fernea, Cs Wesley French and Alex Mollette, OG Josh Seltzner, OT Ryan Van Demark, DB Marcel Dabo, S Trevor Denbow, LBs JoJo Domann, Sterling Weatherford, James Skalski and Forrest Rhyne, CB Dallis Flowers, DEs Scott Patchan and Cullen Wick, and DT McKinley Williams

Training Camp Objectives: The Colts missed the playoffs last season after a late season collapse. They hope to turn the page with the addition of QB Matt Ryan and a few new veterans. Their strong offensive line featuring guard Quenton Nelson looks to step up further. The receiving corps was upgraded after a few changes. Young Paris Campbell has been a disappointment. Michael Pittman emerged as a top playmaker. RB Jonathan Taylor ranks with any back in the league and looks to duplicate his impressive 1800+ yard rushing season. Their defense must improve to challenge for the AFC South leadership. They need to apply more pass pressure and added help for Buckner in Ngakoue. Young Kwitty Paye needs to step up after an average first season. They rely on Pro Bowl LB Darius Leonard for leadership and top production. The secondary gave up too much big yardage and will probably have two new starters. Colts look to challenge Tennessee for AFC South leadership. They must produce in big game situations especially point production and get more pressure on defense to beat contenders. HC Reich has annually brought in new long term veteran passers and he now has maybe his best in Matt Ryan. Colts can win the South outright and become the surprise club in the AFC who can shock contenders with a major turnaround.

Jacksonville Jaguars - 3-14 - *Head Coach Doug Pederson - 1st Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-1 Edge Travon Walker - Georgia
1-27 LB Devin Lloyd - Utah
3-65 C Luke Fortner - Kentucky
3-70 LB Chad Muma - Wyoming
5-154 RB Snoop Conner - Mississippi
6-197 CB Gregory Junior - Ouachita Baptist
7-222 CB Montaric Brown - Arkansas

The Jaguars finished with a 3-14 record and were once again awarded the 1st overall selection. There was no foregone conclusion who they would select this year after choosing QB Trevor Lawrence last year. They debated several prospects on both sides of the ball and choose edge defender Travon Walker. He is an awesome athlete who combines all the skills to excel from the outside in either scheme. He rose up the charts through the postseason off rare measurables plus fine production in big games on the way to the national title. He was a shocking selection, though his raw talent is difficult to ignore off his late fast development. He performed vs top SEC talent where he created consistent mismatches whether playing up or down usually outside. He may have the highest ceiling in this class, though not the finished athlete expected of the first overall selection.

They traded back into the late first round using their 33rd overall pick and a #4 selection. With their other #1 pick, they wanted to add playmaker and choose LB Devin Lloyd. He is a savvy quick athlete who runs to the ball and finishes with sideline-to-sideline speed. He is a leader and shows the versatility to play inside and outside with

the skill set to be an early three down starter. He is the type who can line up a defense and make adjustments along with the motivation to stay focused. Excellent addition to give a defense the leader to unite a defense.

With their two 3rd round selections, they selected center Luke Fortner and LB Chad Muma. The Jaguars will replace their entire interior of line and started with Fortner. He had a strong final season at center, though some questions in matchups in the postseason. He can win the starting center job replacing retired vet Brandon Linder. He was a reach this early, though offensive linemen ran through the 2nd day of the NFL Draft with virtually every team craving blockers. LB Muma was a highly productive defender with well rounded talent. He fits best inside where he takes on well and separates to finish. He can also drop in coverage and matchup with big receivers. He was a solid addition and could be the third front seven rookie defender to earn playing time this fall.

With their 5th round pick, they picked RB Snoop Conner, a physical with a nose for the end zone. He finishes well and gives the Jaguars a quality 1A type backup with good ball security and production. He makes this roster off a good preseason and can provide a solid change of pace back. Good 3rd day addition to assist returning RBs Travis Etienne and James Robinson. With their 6th and 7th round selections, they selected corners Gregory Junior and Montaric Brown. Junior is a long cover man from the lower level. He has the skill set to make an NFL roster with length, speed, quickness and toughness. He is still raw and might need time on the PS. Brown is a smart cover man who graded out well vs SEC receivers. He is well versed in coverage especially passes in front of him. He lacks top speed and must be covered in the deep game. His development may allow him to fit into their sub packages, though he needs some technique and strength development. He can surprise here and a player who will push for time in a changing young unit.   *Grade: B*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Jaguars were aggressive in FA and signed a few starting veterans. They focused on offensive players in FA. They signed veterans, guard Brandon Scheff, wideout Christian Kirk and TE Evan Ingram. Scheff is a Pro Bowl performer who gives them an anchor in the middle. He brings the physicality and toughness this unit needs to improve. WR Kirk is a fast dual threat with experience in the slot and outside. He received an incredibly large contract, but gives this offense the missing deep threat to open up the attack. TE Ingram is a fast receiver with big time talent if healthy. He gives Lawrence a missing dimension here and a good fit along with TE Dan Arnold to provide more options. They lost WRs CJ Chark and Tavon Austin, TE James O'Shaughnessy, DT Taven Bryan, guards AJ Cann and Andrew Norwell and LBers Myles Jack, Jihad Ward, Dakota Allen and Damien Wilson. They signed a solid rookie UDFA class in QB E.J. Perry, WR Kevin Austin, WR Lujuan Winningham, WR Willie Johnson, WR Ryan McDaniel, TE Gerritt Prince, TE Grayson Gunter, TE Naz Bohanaon, OL Denzel Okafor, C Nick Ford, DT Israel Antwine, CB Shabari Davis, CB Josh Thompson, LBers Grant Morgan and De'Shaan Dixon, CB Benjie Franklin and PK Andrew Mevis.

Training Camp Objectives: The Jaguars continued to turn the page in their rebuilding process. They signed HC Doug Pederson after terminating the Urban Meyer fiasco. Pederson is a good offensive coach who can help Lawrence take fast progress in year two. They did a good job in roster building and could may have as many as 50% new starters. The development of the offensive line will have a direct bearing on Lawrence's improvement. Scheff should prove well worth his contract if he becomes a leader and anchor here. Their ground game can also improve with second year former top pick Travis Etienne joining James Robinson to form a quality tandem. Their offense and defense units continue to rank among the worst in the league. The young defense relies on a new young LB unit to make a difference. They look to rookie defenders to join DE Josh Allen to establish a new culture. They need recent draft classes to step up and become core performers. They look for improvement especially from Lawrence, though they may show only a marginal increase in victories in 2022.

Kansas City Chiefs - *14-6 - Head Coach Andy Reid - 10th Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class
1-21 CB Trent McDuffie - Washington
1-30 Edge George Karlafitis - Purdue
2-54 WR Skyy Moore - Western Michigan
2-62 S Bryan Cook - Cincinnati
3-103 LB Leo Chenal - Wisconsin
4-135 CB Joshua Williams - Fayetteville St (N.C.)
5-145 OT Darian Kinnard - Kentucky
7-243 CB Jaylen Watson - Washington St
7-251 RB Isiah Pacheco - Rutgers
7-259 DB Nazeeh Johnson - Marshall

The Chiefs won their 6th consecutive AFC West title, but lost the AFC championship game to the Bengals. They will return most of their supporting cast, though a block buster trade involving star wideout Tyreek Hill doubled their early selections. With two 1st round picks, they choose corner Trent McDuffie and edge rusher George Karlafitis. McDuffie is a highly developed cover man who projects both outside and in the slot. He is quick to react and has the long speed to ride a receiver's hip down field. He figures to press for starting time in either base or sub packages. Fine addition

at a pressing need area. Karlafitis is a relentless defender who sets the edge exceptionally well. He plays both up and down and makes plays as an edge rusher both initially and late on the down. He turns up the volume on every snap and can become a leader here. He should respond to DC Steve Spagnuolo's schemes. Excellent value this late and ideal fit at a need area.

With two 2nd round picks, they choose wideout Skyy Moore and safety Bryan Cook. Moore. Moore is a fast playmaker who emerged off a strong 2021 performance. He is quick into his routes and shows fine hands and run after the catch ability. He can step in immediately in their multiple packages with an early starting grade. Cook is an agile defender with coverage skills which may earn him time in the dime package. He is a sure tackler which probably earns him a role on special teams. With their 3rd round pick, they selected LB Leo Chenal, a big mobile backer with well-rounded skills. He is a physical defender with starting talent in time. He is a smart leader who stuff the run and can also lineup over a tight end and carry them through the middle zones. He was excellent value here and should be an early NFL starter.

With their 4th round pick, they selected CB Joshua Williams, a long-levered cover man with good movement skills. He held up well at the Senior Bowl, which helped his cause. With a run-on corners over the top selections, he is good value here and figures to compete for time in their sub packages fairly soon. With their 5th round pick, they selected OL Darian Kinnard, a massive tackle/guard with solid grades in the SEC. He can compete for the right tackle or guard spots early. He uses his bulk well, but must improve his ability to sustain longer to be ready for NFL play. With three 7th round pick, they selected CB Jaylen Watson, RB Isiah Pacheco and safety Nazeeh Johnson. Watson is another long cover man with limited experience after a JC career and opted out in 2020. Might need a season on the PS. RB Pacheo is a tough sure handed runner who gives 100%. He will push to backup duty here with a make it grade. Johnson lined up at safety in college, though may move to corner in this scheme. His versatility might earn him a roster spot, though probably needs development and probable PS candidate to develop further and define a position.   *Grade: A*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Chiefs made another huge trade prior to the NFL Draft when they added picks for Tyreek Hill. The trade freed up a huge amount of salary cap space to sign other veterans. They added runner Ronald Jones, WRs JuJu Smith-Schuster and Marquez Valdes-Scanting, safety Justin Reid and OT Geron Christian along with second tier veterans. They resigned veteran Frank Clark. They lost CBs Charvarius Ward and Mike Hughes, WRs Demarcus Robinson and Byron Pringle, RB Darrel Williams, DT Jarren Reed, safety Tyrann Mathieu and LBers Melvin Ingram and Anthony Hitchens. They added an average rookie UDFA class in QB Dustin Crum, WR Justyn Ross, RBs Jerrion Ealy and Tayon Fleet-Davis, DB Nasir Greer, TE Kehindeo Oginni, OT Gene Pryor and OG Chris Glass and Mike Caliendo and LBs Jack Cochrane and Mike Rose.

Training Camp Objectives: The Chiefs' look to host their 6th straight AFC title game and return to the SB for the third time in four season. They focused heavy on their key needs in the NFL Draft and were able to address their secondary and front seven with prime picks. They need to improve defensively to earn another SB appearance. Their potent passing game behind Patrick Mahomes ranks with the best in the game. RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire must prove durable to claim the feature back role. Their receiving corps will undergo changes after the trade of Hill and FA losses. New vet JuJu Smith-Schuster and Marquez Valles-Scantling were fine additions which Mahomes will utilize to the fullest. TE Travis Kelce is the best in the game and a difference maker. The defense made some improvement in 2021 in less points allowed, though were unimpressive in yardage overall. They look to new additions to step in and become core starters. HC Reid directs this offense and guides Mahomes with fine results. They made changes on key skilled positions, though are capable of maintaining a high level. The KC defense holds the key to any return to championship games. Their main concerns are in the secondary, though young CB McDuffie and safeties Cook and vet Reid are solid additions. The Chiefs still rule the vastly improving AFC, but need to improve quickly in pass coverage to win in big games. Their offensive line added the depth to withstand injuries after being thin over recent years. Chiefs will make a strong run at another SB especially if they keep the gifted Mahomes healthy and the defense improves.

Las Vegas Raiders *- 10-8 - Head Coach Josh McDaniel - 1st Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class
3-90 OL Dylan Parham - Memphis
4-122 RB Zamir White - Georgia
4-126 DT Neil Farrell - LSU
5-175 DT Matthew Butler - Tennessee
7-238 G Thayer Munford - Ohio St
7-250 RB Brittain Brown - UCLA

The Raiders made a major trade this spring prior to the NFL Draft. They acquired Davonte Adams for their # and #2 picks. Adams has history with QB Derek Carr from college and this union has the potential to provide major impact. Both are still in their prime and proven playmakers.

With their 3rd round selection, they chose OL Dylan Parham, a versatile blocker who gets a look at all the interior positions. He combines footwork, technique and smarts to win a starting job in camp. He moved easily in the All-star action and can win a guard job with a good preseason. With two 4th round picks, they chose RB Zamir White and DT Neil Farrell. White is a big downhill runner who can press for reps as a 1A type. He also is a kickoff returner. DT Logan is a run stuffer who has played in big games and been productive. He is tough within the tackle box.

With their 5th round selection, they came right back with DT Matthew Butler, a mobile lineman who is best suited for the three-technique spot. He was good value here and gives them options for multiple fronts in sub packages. With two 7th round picks, they chose guard Thayer Munford and RB Brittain Brown. OL Munford is a tall phone booth blocker with heavy feet and marginal mobility. He lines up at guard and must improve his technique to make this roster. He might benefit from a season on the PS. Brown could be a sleeper here after few reps in 2021. He has size and good vision and the power to finish. He needs reps this preseason to impress, though he is another prospect who may need a season on the PS. Decent late gamble.   **Grade: C**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Raiders had another huge salary cap cushion and were aggressive addressing needs. They signed a large group of FAs, to key need areas. They traded DE Yannick Ngakoue for corner Rock Ya-Sin to address a problem area. They signed WR Demarcus Robinson, LBers Chandler Jones and Kenny Young and corner Anthony Averett. They lost QB Marcus Mariota, WR DeSean Jackson and Zay Jones, DE Carl Nassib, DT Quinton Jefferson, LB Cory Littleton and KJ Wright and corners CB Desmond Trufant and Brandon Facyson. They signed an average rookie UDFA class QB Chase Garbers, RB Sincere McCormick, WR Tré Turner and Justin Hall, TE Cole Fotheringham, OT Bamidele Olaseni, LB Darien Butler and Luke Masterson, CB Malkelm Morrison, CB Bryce Cosby, S Qwynnterrio Cole and Isaiah Pola-Mao, DE Myron Tagovailoa-Amosa and Zach VanValkenburg and CB Sam Webb.

Training Camp Objectives: The Raiders despite multiple major issues through the season, played tough and made the playoffs by winning their final 4 games. They loss a tough playoff game to the Bengals, but gained valuable experience in their first postseason game since 2016. QB Derek Carr responded with an outstanding season throwing for over 4800 yards. With a few new weapons especially Davonte Adams, he can join the elite passers in the game. Their young changing line must protect him better and perform better in the run game which ranks with the weakest in the league. RB Josh Jacobs faded over the season and must prove he is the feature back. The defense made too few big plays and too many mistakes. They gave up huge passing yardage with marginal pass pressure except for Maxx Crosby. The front four registered only 35 sacks which put enormous pressure on their young secondary. Former top pick DE Clelin Ferrell has been relegated to backup duty after being the 4th overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft. They could have three new starters, in addition to other young defenders for their sub package. The Raiders hope to compete in the much-improved AFC West, though only if the defense takes huge steps up. They could be competitive in this tough division, but must show better fundamentals and fewer mistakes to surpass the .500 level and play with the top AFC clubs.

Los Angeles Chargers - *9-8* - *Head Coach Brandon Staley - 2nd Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-17 G Zion Johnson - Boston College
3-79 S JT Woods - Baylor
4-123 RB Isaiah Spiller - Texas A&M
5-160 DT Otito Ogbonnia - UCLA
6-195 G Jamaree Salyer - Georgia
6-214 S Ja'Sir Taylor - Wake Forest
7-236 CB Deane Leonard - Mississippi
7-260 FB Zander Horvath - Purdue

The Chargers addressed their most pressing problem with their top selection. With their first-round pick, they selected OL Zion Johnson. It is the 2nd year in a row they addressed the line with the outstanding emergence of QB Justin Herbert. Protecting the strong-armed franchise QB is priority #1. Slater was an outstanding pick and made the Pro Bowl as a rookie. Johnson is a versatile blocker with the versatility to start at several positions. He was an excellent addition and carries an early starting grade and probably as a rookie. Probably lines up at right guard.

They traded their #2 pick for edge defender Khalil Mack, one of the premier rushers in the league. He gives the Chargers an excellent bookend edge rusher to Joey Bosa. In the 3rd round, they added safety JT Woods, a large fast defender with developing instincts. He was a slight reach here, though can help their sub packages immensely. He makes big plays in key situations which probably earns him reps.

In the 4th round, they added RB Isaiah Spiller, a tough big back who fell off average workouts. He was

excellent value here and should earn a 1A type to starter Austin Ekeler. He will have to improve his blocking to compete for the 3rd down role and show he can contain a linebacker. In the 5th round, they added DT Otito Ogbonnia, an emerging wide body who looked good at the Senior Bowl week. He is raw as a pass rusher and needs technique work especially when his initial move is contained. Good run defender and figures in their tackle rotation early. With two 6th round picks, they added guard Jamaree Salyer and safety Ja'Sir Taylor. Salyer was a key piece on the Georgia front. He played both guard and tackle and graded out high vs SEC defenders. He was excellent value here and could push for starting time fairly early. Taylor is a smallish safety who was productive and effective in coverage. He has the talent to develop, but may struggle winning roster spot and needs a year on PS.

With two 7th round picks, they added CB Deane Leonard and FB/H-back Zander Horvath. Leonard has size and speed to develop, though probably struggles making roster. He is ideal fit for the PS. Horvath is a versatile performer who gives an offense flexibility to line up in a two-back or two tight end sets creating mismatch situations for this offense. His blocking will determine if he plays a key role in this offense and makes the roster.   *Grade: B*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Chargers made a few key moves in FA, signing CBs JC Jackson and Bryce Callahan, TE Gerald Everett, DT Austin Johnson and LB Kyle Van Noy. The Chargers added rookie free agents QB Brandon Peters, RBs Leddie Brown and Kevin Marks, WR Trevon Bradford, TE Stone Smartt and Erik Krommenhoek, OT Andrew Trainer, C Ike Weaver, LBers Tyreek Maddox-Williams and Ty Shelsy, CB Brandon Sebastian, safeties Skylar Thomas and Raheem Layne.

Training Camp Objectives: The Chargers missed the playoffs at 9-8 losing five games by 7 points or less. They made further progress, but missed the postseason for the third season in a row. This was despite a 5000-yard performance by strong-armed QB Justin Herbert. He is an elite passer and the Chargers are building a consistent contender around him especially a front wall. They are primed for the next step behind another blue-chip OL along with veterans, wideout Keenan Allen, runner Austin Ekeler and new TE Gerald Everett. They need to run the ball better to maximize their weapons and rookie Isaiah Spiller can give this attack a spark. The defense slipped in too many big spots in 2021 and they made the deal for Mack and signed CB Jackson which changes their key playmakers. Vet safety Derwin James is one of the premier defenders and should shine with a strong supporting cast. DE Joey Bosa was double teamed often which minimized him in big situations. He will welcome Mack and can be even more effective. They look to LB Murray to step up after two average type performances. The Chargers are hoping he has a breakout performance which pushes them into leadership in very competitive AFC West. Herbert can make the difference especially with an improve ground attack. The defense added two Pro Bowlers in Mack and Jackson to join Bosa and James. They are definitely improved, though West clubs have aspirations of getting to the show. AFC West games may be the marquee matchups of the season with the Chargers in the midst of many of them.

Miami Dolphins *- 9-8 - Head Coach Mike McDaniel - 1st Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

3-102 LB Channing Tindall - Georgia
4-125 WR Erik Ezukanma - Texas Tech
7- 224 Edge Cameron Goode - Cal
7-247 QB Skylar Thompson - Kansas St

The Dolphins made a blockbuster deal for All-Pro receiver Tyreek Hill which cost them their top two draft picks. Hill is the fastest player in the league. He gives this receiving corps an elite track team which young QB Tua Tagpvailoa looks to utilize to the fullest. The had a strong FA class which addressed pressing needs especially on offense. With their 3rd round choice, they selected LB Channing Tindall, a hitter with speed. He runs well and finishes when he reads properly, though he needs reps to improve his instincts and refine his full game. Solid addition with the talent to continue to be better.

With their 4th round choice, they selected wideout Erik Ezukanma, a big physical receiver who fits the possession role. He shows reliable hands and is tough on the intermediate routes, though lacks speed for the deep game. Make it grade. especially inline. With two 7th round picks, they drafted edge defender Cameron Goode and QB Skylar Thompson. Goode is a physical defender with outside/inside versatility. He has quickness and power off the edge, though needs further technique work to be ready for reps. Good developmental type. Thompson is an athletic dual threat who might win the #3 role and some wild card reps. He is a tough athlete with talent to find a niche here, though needs time to settle into this offense. Interesting PS player to fill a role in time.   *Grade: C*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Dolphins were aggressive in FA on both sides of the ball with the addition of LT Terron Armstread, RB Chase Edmunds, Raheem Mostert and Sony Michel, QB Teddy Bridgewater, WR Cedrick Wilson and OG Connor Williams. They lost QB Jacoby Brissett, RBs Phillip Lindsay, Duke Johnson and Malcolm

Brown, WRs Will Fuller, and Albert Wilson, OL Jessie Davis and CB Justin Coleman. They signed a good rookie UDFA class in WR Braylon Sanders and RB ZaQuandre White, OLs Blaise Andries, Ty Clary and Kellen Diesch, DE Owen Carney, DT Jordan Williams and Ben Stille, TE Tanner Conner, CBs Elijah Hamilton and Kader Kohou, P Tommy Heatherly, LB Deandre Johnson and S Verone McKinley.

Training Camp Objectives: Dolphins failed to make the playoffs for the 5th year in a row and all three seasons under fired HC Brian Flores. He had a sub .500 career record here, though they finished 8-1 in 2021. They continued to make major changes on their roster. New HC Mike McDaniel has a good track record with QBs and should benefit young Tua Tagovailoa who was too often overcriticized. McDaniel will refine his game and put in more player options best suited for him. The addition of veteran Hill is a major piece and a huge addition to couple with young wideout Jalen Waddle and TE Mike Gesicki. The line remains the key area which must improve. Their run blocking was weak and they allowed too many sacks. Vet LT Armstead is a top blocker, though must prove durable after annual long down periods. An improved ground game is imperative to create a balanced offense. Vet RB Chase Edmunds can surprise here. Defenders DE Emmanuel Oghab, DT Christian Wilkins, LB Jerome Baker and CB Xavien Howard set the pace for an aggressive defense. The Dolphins hope new veterans leads young players to take the next step. With more consistency from Tua and increased points, they can put their veteran defense in better situations. They should compete for the AFC East and playoffs, though they need marked improvement on offense to win close games. They are still a club learning how to win, though can surprise in the AFC East where only the Bills show more talent.

New England Patriots – 10-8 - Head Coach Bill Belichick - 23rd Year

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2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-29 G Cole Strange, G, Chattanooga
2-50 WR Tyquan Thornton, WR, Baylor
3-85 CB Marcus Jones, CB, Houston
4-121 CB Jack Jones, CB, Arizona St
4-127 RB Pierre Strong, RB, South Dakota St
4-137 QB Bailey Zappe, QB, Western Kentucky
6-183 RB Kevin Harris, RB, South Carolina
6-200 DL Sam Roberts - NW Missouri St
6-210 G Chasen Hines - LSU
7-245 G Andrew Stueber - Michigan

The Patriots earmarked OG Zion Johnson with their #1 selection. When he was taken just earlier in the round, they traded back in the round with the Chiefs and drafted OL Cole Strange. It was the biggest surprise in the first round, though a prospect who continued to rise over the postseason. He addresses a high need area after losing OL Ted Karras this year and Joe Thuney last year in FA. They also traded guard Shaq Mason which created a few needs. Strange is a physical sound technician who matched up well at the Senior Bowl and looks NFL ready. He can start with a good preseason and the type who can have a nice career on the inside.

With their #2 pick, they selected wideout Tyquan Thornton, a long speedster with big play ability. He was another surprise this early, though a prospect who impressed through the All-star and workouts portion and elevated his stock significantly. He gets a big opportunity here where there is no clear #1 receiver. With their 3rd round pick, they added CB/RS Marcus Jones, a quick explosive athlete with terrific return skills. He is quick in coverage with the instincts to break on the ball and blanket receivers. He has the talent to become one of the elite returners in the game with the ability to change field position weekly.

With three 4th round picks, they added CB Jack Jones, RB Pierre Strong and QB Bailey Zappe. CB Jones is a talented cover man with quick feet, instincts and ball skills. Multiple schools are a few off the field issues. Type can win the nickel role if he matures as both a person and player. RB Strong is a tough durable back with an impressive postseason. He can claim reps here and eventually win the starting job. QB Zappe was a surprise this early especially to the Patriots with young QB Marc Jones in place. Zappe was incredibly production in a spread offense and makes the proper calls consistently. He can win the #3 role and possibly move up in time.

With three 6th round picks, they added RB Kevin Harris, DL Sam Roberts and guard Chasen Hines. RB Harris is another hard charging runner who finishes well. He will push for a roster spot and has the raw talent to be a huge surprise here. He could be a steal here. DL Roberts is an athletic lineman who dominated the DII level. He uses his length to blocks kicks and could be a good five technique with development in this system. Good raw athlete. OG Hines is a wide body with good functional strength. He graded out high in the SEC and has some right tackle versatility. With their #7 pick, they selected OL Andrew Stueber, a tall massive experienced blocker. He is best suited for right tackle, though can also slide inside to guard. Type gives them depth to develop and need sit on the PS for a season refining his skills.   ***Grade: C***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Pats added second tier veterans in FA and signed players CBs Terrance Mitchell and Malcolm Butler, safety Jabrill Peppers, WR Ty Montgomery and OL James Ferentz. They traded for WR

DeVante Parker for a late pick and also exchanged DE Chase Winowich for LB Mark Wilson. They lost corner JC Jackson, LBers Dont'a Hightower, Jamie Collins and Kyle Van Noy and OL Ted Karras. The Pats signed UDFA DBs Devin Hafford and Brenden Schooler, P Jake Julian, QB D'Eriq King, DLs DaMarcus Mitchell and LaBryan Ray and OLs Kody Russey and Liam Shanahan.

Training Camp Objectives: The Pats returned to the playoffs winning a Wild card berth. They were bombed by the Bills in the first round which exploited several problem areas. They had an average draft class and FA group signings. They look to young QB Marc Jones to step up further after an excellent rookie campaign. They lack playmakers and will look to new vet DeVante Parker and rookie Tyquan Thornton to provide stability there. The ground game was effective and added two more physical tailbacks to pound the ball. RB Damien Harris is still the starter, though must continue to produce. TEs Henry and Smith will remain a focus of their passing attack. The defense will be retooled again and add at least four new starters. HC Belichick will be tested to fit new players into his defensive schemes, though his ability to place veterans into his schemes is amazing. LB Matthew Judon was a force off the edge, though needs a stronger supporting cast. DT Barmore became an anchor in the middle. They are not the favorites to win the AFC East and will have to push for another playoff spot. They face an improved division and their matchups will go a long way to deciding any playoff appearance. This club knows how to win with Belichick still the master for game plans and schemes to get the most out of his roster.

New York Jets - 4-13 - Head Coach Robert Saleh - 2nd Year

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-4 CB Ahmad Gardner - Cincinnati
1-10 WR Garrett Wilson - Ohio State
1-26 Edge Jermaine Johnson - Florida St
2-36 RB Breece Hall - Iowa St
3-101 TE Jeremy Ruckert - Ohio St
4-111 OT Max Mitchell - Louisiana
4-117 Edge Michael Clemson - Texas A&M

The Jets held a few very high draft pick and went for impact at need areas. With the 4th overall pick, they selected corner Ahmad 'Sauce' Gardner, a long instinctive cover man with very high grades. With Derek Stingley going at the #2 spot, Gardner was a must here with the Jets' pass defense and points allowed at the bottom of the league. Gardner has the makeup of a shutdown corner and a valuable piece to a changing defense which failed in big spots consistently last season. With the 10th overall pick, they added wideout Garrett Wilson, a fast playmaker who gives this vanilla offense some juice. He has excellent run after the catch ability with the burst to separate and hit the home run. He opens up this offense, though must prove he can hold up to the physicality of the game.

With two #2 picks, they traded up with both for higher rated prospect. They moved into the late 1st round when edge defender Jermaine Johnson was still available. He gives them a much-needed edge rusher who can play both up and down. They used an early #2 and #3 to get into the late first round. He will press for starting duty opposite returning vet Carl Lawson. He is physical and uses his hands well to separate and is a prospect HC Saleh will refine into a high-level starter. With their second #2 pick they moved up a few spots when runner Breece Hall was still available. Hall is a well-rounded back with the toughness to make inside yardage and the speed to turn the corner. He should couple with Michael Carter to form a potent one two punch and able to turn around this weak ground game. He has the talent to win the feature back role and be the linchpin here. Excellent move up.

With their 3rd round pick, they selected TE Jeremy Rickert, a talented two-way player who was limited in the deep OSU passing game. His foot injury set him back in the postseason which cost him valuable time. He is a talented receiver who is uncanny in the red zone and capable of being a fine addition for two TE sets. He carries an NFL starting grade in time with his well-rounded talent giving this offense a wide range of options in different sets.

With their two 4th round picks, they selected OT Max Mitchell and edge Michael Clemon. Mitchell gives them an interesting long-term prospect. He has fine length and footwork to develop into an NFL starter, though he needs to sit and refine his technique and improve his overall functional strength. Good long-term selection. Clemons is a power strong side end with five technique experience. He is unrefined and needs technique work to separate when his initial moves are contained. He can earn a roster spot and eventually fit in their line rotation with work on his technique. He has good functional strength and the motor to fill a role with little overall depth. ***Grade: A***

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Jets had a huge salary cap cushion and were very aggressive in FA. They signed FAs, OG Laken Tomlinson, TEs CJ Uzomah and Tyler Conklin, LB Jacob Martin, CB DJ Reed, safety Jordan Whitehead and DEs Vinny Curry and Solomon Thomas. They lost S Marcus Maye, DT Foley Fatukasi, WR Jamison Crowder, LB Jarrad Davis, OT Morgan Moses, guards Laurent Duvernay-Tardif and Greg Van Roten and

TE Ryan Griffin and Tyler Kroft. They signed an average UDFA class in WRs Keshunn Abram, Calvin Jackson and Irvin Charles, RB Zonovan Knight, LB D.Q. Thomas and S Tony Adams.

Training Camp Objectives: The Jets struggled through another disastrous season at 4-13, bringing GM Douglas's three-year record to 8-41. His last two draft classes should be cornerstone groups, though QB Zach Wilson will determine. Wilson struggled through a tough rookie season with weak protection and a subpar ground game. He is expected to have a stronger supporting cast with new additions at the skilled positions. LT Mekhi Becton injured knee in opener and ballooned up to near 400 lbs. over his recovery time. He faces a key camp with his performance determining where and if he starts. New guard Tomlinson joins Alijah Vera-Tucker to form a top pair along with center Connor McGovern. Wideout Elijah Moore had an impressive rookie season and is a fixture in this passing game. New TEs Uzomah and Conklin will upgrade a position with little 2021 production. HC Robert Saleh will have to turn around a battered defense which ranked last in the league in many key areas. The line features DT Quinnen Williams with vet Mike backer CJ Mosley lining up the unit. The healthy return of edge rusher Carl Lawson is crucial for them to improve their pass defense. Jets may continue to struggle through a painful growing season behind a young QB Wilson, though the line and skilled positions are improved. The defense needs to stay healthy, especially Lawson and Mosley while the young secondary will have to mature quickly for this unit to improve over last year. Though improved, there are too many pressing questions to be too optimistic. HC Saleh will continue to change the culture here looking to key veterans to step up and produce in big spots. A tough early schedule may keep them from improving their record over 2021, though they can show some real progress.

Pittsburgh Steelers - _12-4 - Head Coach Mike Tomlin - 15th Year_

> ### 2022 Rookie Draft Class
>
> **1-20 QB Kenny Pickett - Pittsburgh**
> **2-52 WR George Pickens - Georgia**
> **3-84 DL DeMarvin Leal - Texas A&M**
> **4-138 WR Calvin Austin - Memphis**
> **6-208 TE/FB Connor Heyward - Michigan St**
> **7-225 LB Mark Robinson - Mississippi**
> **7-241 QB Chris Oladokun - South Dakota St**

The Steelers addressed their top needs with their early selections with four of their first five picks offensive performers. In the 1st round, they chose QB Kenny Pickett, a Pitt U Panther player who was still on the board at the 20th selection. He is the most developed passer in this class and an ideal fit here. He sits behind vet Mitchell Trubisky initially, but will be in the wings and possibly ready early to midseason. They sat on the pick and resisted trading up for him. He has the makeup of a quality NFL starter and probably gets the luxury of sitting in 2022.

With their #2 pick, they selected wideout Carl Pickens, a big athlete who has the burst to get deep and make big plays. He was excellent value here and gets a chance to play in multiple sets and early starter. Tough red zone receiver who wins the 50/50 balls. With their 3rd round pick, they selected DL DeMarvin Leal, a mobile tweener lineman with good SEC production. He will get a long look on the edge and could earn reps in the base defense on early downs. He has the frame to fill out and add weight and could develop into a starting edge defender. Good value here on a prospect who was considered an early selection, but periods of inconsistencies pushed him down the charts. He is best in a five technique with the versatility to play up and move along the line. Excellent addition with big upside to become a solid piece on this front seven.

With their 4th round pick, they choose WR Calvin Austin, a speedy small playmaker who will press for time in the three and four wideout sets. He can develop into a good role performer with the big play ability to open this offense. He must prove durable to be effective. With their 6th round pick, they selected TE/FB Connor Heyward, the brother of DE Cameron Heyward. Connor is a versatile athlete who gives them a piece on the play clock for different alignments where his receiving and blocking can be maximized. He is a sure handed receiver with the ability to get open along with being a tough inside runner who can move the pile.

With their two 7th round picks, they choose LB Mark Robinson and QB Chris Oladokun. Robinson is a raw backer who converted from running back. His limited experience probably sends him to the PS, though he has the quickness and toughness to improve with reps and time in this system. QB Oladokun was a surprise after taking Pickett with their 1st round selection. He is very athletic and can fill a wild cat role where his mobility gives them a dual threat in different sets. May also move to the PS for a season. **_Grade: B_**

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Steelers lost two key veterans to retirement, QB Ben Roethlisberger and DE Stephon Tuitt. Big Ben's next stop is a first ballot HOF. Tuitt was a fixture on their front line for a decade. They signed a few free agents and added QB Mitchell Trubisky, WR Myles Boykin, OL James Daniels, Mason Cole and Chaz Green, LBers Myles Jack and Genard Avery and safety Karl Joseph. They lost WR JuJu Smith-Schuster, QB

Josh Dobbs, OT Zach Banner, OG Trai Turner, CB Joe Haden and LB Joe Schobert. They added rookie free agents WR Tyler Snead, OT Jake Dixon, RB Jaylen Warren and Mataeo Durant, DL Donovan Jeter, OLB Tyree Johnson, OLB T.D. Moultry, C/G Chris Owens, OT Jordan Tucker, PK Nick Sciba, DE Trevon Mason, CBs Chris Steele and Carlins Platel.

Training Camp Objectives: The Steelers made the playoffs as a wild card team, but were outclassed in the first round by the Chiefs. They were directed by QB Ben Roethlisberger in his final performance with another strong effort despite a suspect offensive line. WRs Chase Claypool slipped after an excellent rookie season. Vet Diontae Johnson is a solid playmaker and enters his contract season. They look to RB Harris to give them continued power running and his production can improve with a stronger front line. The changing line faces key season and it is imperative they improve in pass protection. New FAs, guard Daniels and center Cole should stabilize the interior, though no rookies here were very surprising. Their defense fell significantly and relied too much on All-Pro backer TJ Watt who tied the NFL record with 22.5 sacks. LB Alex Highsmith needs to be more productive after 6 sacks. New Mike backer Myles Jacks is counted on to step in and provide big plays and leadership. S Minkah Fitzpatrick re-signed after an All-Pro effort and anchors this unit. New corner Levi Wallace is counted on to provide consistent coverage. They are in transition without Big Ben and need to run the ball more effectively to move to new starter Trubisky or rookie Pickett. The line may hold the keys to any improved offensive production. The Steelers should be competitive in the tough North division, though their veteran defense must return to prior levels to assist their changing offense with key remaining questions. They must continue to win divisional matchups to return to the playoffs, though may struggle vs top clubs.

Tennessee Titans *- 12-6 - Head Coach Mike Vrabel - 5th Year*

2022 Rookie Draft Class

1-18 WR Treylon Burks - Arkansas
2-35 CB Roger McCreary - Auburn
3-69 OT Nicholas Petit-Frere - Ohio St
3-86 QB Malik Willis - Liberty (Va.)
4-131 RB Hassan Haskins - Michigan
4-143 TE Chigoziem Okonkwo - Maryland
5-163 WR Kyle Phillips - UCLA
6-204 S Theo Jackson - Tennessee
6-219 LB Chance Campbell - Mississippi

The Titans made a major trade adding a second #1 pick moving veteran receiver AJ Brown to the Ravens. With that 18th overall pick, they chose Treylon Burks, ironically a very similar player to Brown physically. Burks is a developed receiver who produced at a high level and double coverage in the SEC. He can be the #1 receiver here and possibly as early as his rookie season. He should become a favorite of QB Ryan Tannehill with the ability to lineup both inside and outside. He is dangerous in the redzone. With their own #1 pick, they traded with the Jets for an early #2 and #3 picks. Their struggling secondary was again addressed early with the selection of CB Roger McCreary at the 35th overall selection. McCreary is a tough savvy cover man who excelled in the SEC and should make an easy transition to the NFL. He is ideal for the nickel corner role and combines instincts, toughness and quickness to succeed.

With two 3rd round picks, they drafted OT Nicholas Petit-Frere and QB Malik Willis. Petit-Frere is a long blocker with good footwork and continued to improve with each game. He graded out well in pass protection vs top talent and was part of a run-on tackles thru the top 100 selections. He will compete for the RT and guard positions with a good chance to start with an impressive preseason. Good sound addition for core piece in their front line. QB Willis fell significantly off level of readiness concerns and changing offensive systems. He can sit here and learn behind Tannehill, though has NFL starting talent and the RPO ability to contribute early as a wild card performer. He has the components to be the future starter here and was outstanding value this late and one of the biggest bargains in the entire draft process.

With two 4th round picks, they selected RB Hassan Haskins and TE Chigoziem Okonkwo. Haskins is a strong tailback with good tackle breaking skills and natural running skills especially between the tackles. He projects as an eventual starter with development, though sits behind Pro bowler Derrick Henry. He could start early as a 1A type while he develops further as a receiver and blocker. TE Okonkwo is mobile prospect who fills a role that the Titans have utilized often with Delonie Wright and MyCole Pruitt. He is a fine receiver and can definitely fill a role early in his career. He moves well, separates and catches easily to win the H-back role and give Tannehill a fine receiver. With their 5th round pick, they selected wideout Kyle Phillips, a tough smallish receiver who works well out of the slot. He can line up in the slot or outside and shows soft natural hands and good run after the catch ability. He was a good late addition and value here and can make this roster and help in the sub packages.

With two 6th round picks, they selected two SEC defenders, S Theo Jackson and LB Chance Campbell. Jackson is a long versatile defender who can impressed on special teams while he settles into the scheme and a position. He may also get a look on the corner where he is best suited for a zone scheme. Campbell is an active backer who runs well and shows sound instincts to take proper angles and close on the ball. He can surprise here and make this roster after extensive FA losses at the position. He has the makeup of a top special teams' performer. *Grade: B*

Rookie & Veteran Free Agency: The Titans added veterans, WR Robert Woods, TE Auston Hooper, LB Joe Jones and safety AJ Moore. They lost WR Julio Jones, RB D'Onta Foreman, TE MyCole Pruitt, OL Rodger Saffold and David Quessenberry, LBers Rashaan Evans and Jayon Brown, CB Jackrabbit Jenkins and S Dane Cruikshank. Titans signed an average group of rookie UDFA in RB Julius Chestnut, WRs Brandon Lewis and Reggie Roberson, OLs Jalen McKenzie, Hayden Howerton, Andrew Rupcich and Xavier Newman-Johnson, CBs Trey Avery, Tre Swilling, and Kenneth George, DTs Garrett Haskell and Sam Okuayinonu, LB Jack Gibbens, David Anenih and Michael Griffin, DL Jayden Peevy, PK Caleb Shudak and P Ryan Stonehouse.

Training Camp Objectives: The Titans won the AFC South division for the second time in a row despite star runner Derick Henry missing half the season. They were eliminated in the first round by the Bengals in a close game. They played it close to the vest after the Henry injury and over the season won 6 games by three points of less. QB Ryan Tannehill was less effective without Henry and a shaky offensive line with two new starters. They saw their top receivers AJ Brown and Julio Jones miss a few games. GM Jon Robinson and HC Mike Vrabel continue to build a tough smart team around the NFL Draft with selective FA additions. Vrabel improved their defense around DT Jeffery Simmons who had an All-Pro performance. They look to veteran defender Bud Depree to bring pressure off the edge in his second season in the system. Ditto ILB Zach Cunningham. Edge defender Harold Landry had a breakout effort and signed a long contract. They need their top selections to play well in specific roles this season. They hope to build around Tannehill who manages the game very well. RB Henry remains the workhorse. The addition of WR Burks is key after another key loss in Brown via a trade. The defense must produce more big plays especially their rushers and secondary. They look to a young set of corners, Farley, Fulton and McCreary to make plays in coverage. The Titans made changes on both sides of the ball counting on young players to step in and play important roles. This club can win the competitive AFC South again, though must hold off the much-improved Colts. Titans should compete again for the postseason, though a more balanced offense will help keep Henry healthy for the postseason. They will have to improve in several areas especially their rush and secondary to matchup with the elite AFC clubs.

NFL Draft 2022 Selection Order - Seven Rounds
April, 2022 - ** Compensatory Picks*

Pick	Team	Player	Position	School
First Round				
1	Jacksonville	Travon Walker	DE	Georgia
2	Detroit	Aidan Hutchinson	DE	Michigan
3	Houston	Derek Stingley	CB	LSU
4	NY Jets	Sauce Gardner	CB	Cincinnati
5	NY Giants	Kayvon Thibodeaux	DE	Oregon
6	Carolina	Ickey Ekwonu	OT	NC State
7	NY Giants (Chicago)	Evan Neal	OT	Alabama
8	Atlanta	Drake London	WR	Southern California
9	Seattle (Denver)	Charles Cross	OT	Mississippi State
10	NY Jets (Seattle)	Garrett Wilson	WR	Ohio State
11	New Orleans (Washington)	Chris Olave	WR	Ohio State
12	Detroit (Minnesota)	Jameson Williams	WR	Alabama
13	Philadelphia (Cleve-Houston)	Jordan Davis	DT	Georgia
14	Baltimore	Kyle Hamilton	FS	Notre Dame
15	Houston (Miami-Phil)	Kenyon Green	G	Texas A&M
16	Washington (Indy-Phil-New Orleans)	Jahan Dotson	WR	Penn State
17	LA Chargers	Zion Johnson	G	Boston College

18	Tennessee (New Orleans-Phil)	Treylon Burks	WR	Arkansas
19	New Orleans (Philadelphia)	Trevor Penning	OT	Northern Iowa
20	Pittsburgh	Kenny Pickett	QB	Pittsburgh
21	Kansas City (New England)	Trent McDuffie	CB	Washington
22	Green Bay (Las Vegas)	Quay Walker	LB	Georgia
23	Buffalo (Arizona-Baltimore)	Kaiir Elam	CB	Florida
24	Dallas	Tyler Smith	G/T	Tulsa
25	Baltimore (Buffalo)	Tyler Linderbaum	C	Iowa
26	NY Jets (Tennessee)	Jermaine Johnson	OLB	Florida State
27	Jacksonville (Tampa Bay)	Devin Lloyd	LB	Utah
28	Green Bay	Devonte Wyatt	DT	Georgia
29	New England (San Fran-Miami-KC)	Cole Strange	OG	Chattanooga
30	Kansas City	George Karlaftis	DE	Purdue
31	Cincinnati	Dax Hill	S	Michigan
32	Minnesota (LA Rams-Detroit)	Lewis Cine	S	Georgia

Second Round

33	Tampa Bay (Jacksonville)	Logan Hall	DT	Houston
34	Green Bay (Detroit-Minnesota)	Christian Watson	WR	North Dakota State
35	Tennessee (NY Jets)	Roger McCreary	CB	Auburn
36	NY Jets (NY Giants)	Breece Hall	RB	Iowa State
37	Houston	Jalen Pitre	S	Baylor
38	Atlanta (Carolina-NY Jets-NY Giants)	Arnold Ebiketie	OLB	Penn State
39	Chicago	Kyler Gordon	CB	Washington
40	Seattle (Denver)	Boye Mafe	OLB	Minnesota
41	Seattle	Kenny Walker	RB	Michigan State
42	Minnesota (Washington-Indianapolis)	Andrew Booth	CB	Clemson
43	NY Giants (Atlanta)	Wan'Dale Robinson	WR	Kentucky
44	Houston (Cleveland)	John Metchie	WR	Alabama
45	Baltimore	David Ojabo	DE	Michigan
46	Detroit (Minnesota)	Josh Paschal	DE	Kentucky
47	Washington (Indianapolis)	Phil Mathis	DT	Alabama
48	Chicago (LA Chargers)	Jaquan Brisker	S	Penn State
49	New Orleans	Alontae Taylor	CB	Tennessee
50	New Eng (Miami-Kan City-New Orleans)	Tyquan Thornton	WR	Baylor
51	Philadelphia	Cam Jurgens	C	Nebraska
52	Pittsburgh	George Pickens	WR	Georgia
53	Indianapolis (Las Vegas-Green Bay-Indy)	Alec Pierce	WR	Cincinnati
54	Kansas City (New England)	Skyy Moore	WR	Western Michigan
55	Arizona	Trey McBride	TE	Colorado State
56	Dallas	Sam Williams	DE	Mississippi
57	Tampa Bay (Buffalo)	Luke Goedeke	G	Central Michigan
58	Atlanta (Tennessee)	Troy Andersen	LB	Montana State
59	Minnesota (Green Bay)	Ed Ingram	G	LSU
60	Cincinnati (Tampa Bay-Buffalo)	Cam Taylor-Britt	CB	Nebraska
61	San Francisco	Drake Jackson	OLB	Southern California
62	Kansas City	Bryan Cook	S	Cincinnati
63	Buffalo (Cincinnati)	James Cook	RB	Georgia
64	Denver (LA Rams)	Nik Bonitto	OLB	Oklahoma

Third Round

65	Jacksonville	Luke Fortner	C	Kentucky
66	Minnesota (Detroit)	Brian Asamoah	LB	Oklahoma

67	NY Giants	Josh Ezeudu	OG	North Carolina
68	Cleveland (Houston)	Martin Emerson	CB	Mississippi State
69	Tennessee (NY Jets)	Nicholas Petit-Frere	OT	Ohio State
70	Jacksonville (Carolina)	Chad Muma	LB	Wyoming
71	Chicago	Velus Jones	WR	Tennessee
72	Seattle	Abe Lucas	OT	Washington State
73	Indianapolis (Washington)	Jelani Woods	TE	Virginia
74	Atlanta	Desmond Ridder	QB	Cincinnati
75	Houston (Denver)	Christian Harris	LB	Alabama
76	Baltimore	Travis Jones	NT	UConn
77	Indianapolis (Minnesota)	Bernhard Raimann	OT	Central Michigan
78	Cleveland	Alex Wright	DE	UAB
79	LA Chargers	JT Woods	S	Baylor
80	Denver (New Orleans-Houston)	Greg Dulcich	TE	UCLA
81	NY Giants (Miami)	Cordale Flott	CB	LSU
82	Atlanta (Indianapolis)	DeAngelo Malone	LB	Western Kentucky
83	Philadelphia	Nakobe Dean	LB	Georgia
84	Pittsburgh	DeMarvin Leal	DT	Texas A&M
85	New England	Marcus Jones	CB	Houston
86	Tennessee (Las Vegas)	Malik Willis	QB	Liberty
87	Arizona	Cameron Thomas	DE	San Diego State
88	Dallas	Jalen Tolbert	WR	South Alabama
89	Buffalo	Terrel Bernard	LB	Baylor
90	Las Vegas (Tennessee)	Dylan Parham	G	Memphis
91	Tampa Bay	Rachaad White	RB	Arizona State
92	Green Bay	Sean Rhyan	G/T	UCLA
93	San Francisco	Tyrion Davis-Price	RB	LSU
94	Carolina (Kansas City- New England)	Matt Corral	QB	Mississippi
95	Cincinnati	Zach Carter	DT	Florida
96	Indianapolis (LA Rams-Denver)	Nick Cross	S	Maryland
97 (Comp)	Detroit	Kerby Joseph	S	Illinois
98 (Comp)	Washington (New Orleans)	Brian Robinson	RB	Alabama
99 (Comp)	Cleveland	David Bell	WR	Purdue
100 (Comp)	Arizona (Baltimore)	Myjai Sanders	OLB	Cincinnati
101 (Comp)	NY Jets (New Orleans-Phil-Tenn)	Jeremy Ruckert	TE	Ohio State
102 (Comp)	Miami	Channing Tindall	LB	Georgia
103 (Comp)	Kansas City	Leo Chenal	LB	Wisconsin
104(Comp)	LA Rams	Logan Bruss	G	Wisconsin
105 (Comp)	San Francisco	Danny Gray	WR	SMU

Fourth Round

106	Tampa Bay (Jacksonville)	Cade Otton	TE	Washington
107	Houston (Detroit-Cleveland)	Dameon Pierce	RB	Florida
108	Cleveland (Houston)	Perrion Winfrey	DT	Oklahoma
109	Seattle (NY Jets)	Coby Bryant	CB	Cincinnati
110	Baltimore (NY Giants)	Daniel Faalele	OT	Minnesota
111	NY Jets (Carolina)	Max Mitchell	OT	Louisiana
112	NY Giants (Chicago)	Daniel Bellinger	TE	San Diego State
113	Washington	Percy Butler	S	Louisiana
114	NY Giants (Atlanta)	Dane Belton	S	Iowa
115	Denver	Damarri Mathis	CB	Pittsburgh
116	Denver (Seattle)	Eyioma Uwazurike	DT	Iowa State
117	NY Jets (Minnesota)	Michael Clemons	DE	Texas A&M

118	Minnesota (Cleveland)	Akayleb Evans	CB	Missouri
119	Baltimore	Jalyn Armour-Davis	CB	Alabama
120	Carolina (New Orleans-Washington)	Brandon Smith	OLB	Penn State
121	New England (Miami-KC)	Jack Jones	CB	Arizona State
122	Las Vegas (Indianapolis)	Zamir White	RB	Georgia
123	LA Chargers	Isaiah Spiller	RB	Texas A&M
124	Cleveland (Philadelphia-Houston)	Cade York	PK	LSU
125	Miami (Pittsburgh)	Erik Ezukanma	WR	Texas Tech
126	Las Vegas	Neil Farrell	DT	LSU
127	New England	Pierre Strong	RB	South Dakota State
128	Baltimore (Arizona)	Charlie Kolar	TE	Iowa State
129	Dallas	Jake Ferguson	TE	Wisconsin
130	Baltimore (Buffalo)	Jordan Stout	P	Penn State
131	Tennessee	Hassan Haskins	RB	Michigan
132	Green Bay	Romeo Doubs	WR	Nevada
133	Tampa Bay	Jake Camarda	P	Georgia
134	San Francisco	Spencer Burford	OT	Texas-San Antonio
135	Kansas City	Josh Williams	CB	Fayetteville State
136	Cincinnati	Cordell Volson	OT	North Dakota State
137	New England (Houston-Rams-Carolina)	Bailey Zappe	QB	Western Kentucky
138 (Comp)	Pittsburgh (Detroit)	Calvin Austin	WR	Memphis
139 (Comp)	Baltimore	Isaiah Likely	TE	Coastal Carolina
140 (Comp)	Green Bay	Zach Tom	OL	Wake Forest
141 (Comp)	Baltimore	Damarion Williams	CB	Houston
142 (Comp)	LA Rams	Decobie Durant	CB	South Carolina State
143 (Comp)	Tennessee	Chig Okonkwo	TE	Maryland

Fifth Round

144	Washington (Jacksonville-Carolina)	Sam Howell	QB	North Carolina
145	Kansas City (Detroit-Denver)	Darian Kinnard	OG	Kentucky
146	NY Giants (NY Jets)	Micah McFadden	LB	Indiana
147	NY Giants	DJ Davidson	DT	Arizona State
148	Buffalo (Houston-Houston)	Khalil Shakir	WR	Boise State
149	Washington (Carolina)	Cole Turner	TE	Nevada
150	Houston (Chicago)	Thomas Booker	DE	Stanford
151	Atlanta	Tyler Allgeier	RB	BYU
152	Denver	Delarrin Turner-Yell	S	Oklahoma
153	Seattle	Tariq Woolen	CB	Texas-San Antonio
154	Jacksonville (Washington-Phil)	Snoop Conner	RB	Mississippi
155	Dallas (Cleveland)	Matt Waletzko	OT	North Dakota
156	Cleveland (Baltimore-Minnesota)	Jerome Ford	RB	Cincinnati
157	Tampa Bay (Minnesota-Jacksonville)	Zyon McCollum	CB	Sam Houston State
158	Seattle (Miami-New England-KC)	Tyreke Smith	DE	Ohio State
159	Indianapolis	Eric Johnson	DT	Missouri State
160	LA Chargers	Otito Ogbonnia	DT	UCLA
161	New Orleans	D'Marco Jackson	LB	Appalachian State
162	Denver (Phil-Houston)	Montrell Washington	WR	Samford
163	Tennessee (Pittsburgh-NY Jets)	Kyle Philips	WR	UCLA
164	LA Rams (New England-Las Vegas)	Kyren Williams	RB	Notre Dame
165	Minnesota (Las Vegas)	Esezi Otomewo	DE	Minnesota
166	Cincinnati (Arizona-Phil-Houston)	Tycen Anderson	S	Toledo
167	Dallas	DaRon Bland	CB	Fresno State
168	Chicago (Buffalo)	Braxton Jones	OT	Southern Utah

169	Minnesota (Tennessee-Las Vegas)	Ty Chandler	RB	North Carolina
170	Houston (Tampa Bay-New England)	Teagan Quitoriano	TE	Oregon State
171	Denver (Green Bay)	Luke Wattenberg	C	Washington
172	San Francisco	Samuel Womack	CB	Toledo
173	NY Giants (Baltimore-Kansas City)	Marcus McKethan	OG	North Carolina
174	Chicago (Cincinnati)	Dominque Robinson	DE	Miami (O)
175	Las Vegas (LA Rams)	Matt Butler	DT	Tennessee
176 (Comp)	Dallas	Damone Clark	LB	LSU
177 (Comp)	Detroit	James Mitchell	TE	Virginia Tech
178 (Comp)	Dallas	John Ridgeway	DT	Arkansas
179 (Comp)	Green Bay (Indianapolis-Denver))	JJ Enagbare	DE	South Carolina

Sixth Round

180	Buffalo (Jacksonville-Tampa Bay)	Matt Araiza	P	San Diego State
181	Philadelphia (Detroit)	Kyron Johnson	ER	Kansas
182	NY Giants	Darrian Beavers	LB	Cincinnati
183	New England (Houston)	Kevin Harris	RB	South Carolina
184	Minnesota (NY Jets)	Vederian Lowe	OT	Illinois
185	Buffalo (Carolina)	Christian Benford	CB	Villanova
186	Chicago	Zach Thomas	OT	San Diego State
187	San Francisco (Denver)	Nick Zakelj	OT	Fordham
188	Detroit (Seattle-Jacksonville-Phil)	Malcolm Rodriguez	LB	Oklahoma State
189	Carolina (Washington)	Amare' Barno	OLB	Virginia Tech
190	Atlanta	Justin Shaffer	G	Georgia
191	Minnesota (Baltimore)	Jalen Nailor	WR	Michigan State
192	Indianapolis (Minnesota)	Andrew Ogletree	TE	Youngstown State
193	Dallas (Cleveland)	Devin Harper	LB	Oklahoma State
194	New Orleans (Indianapolis-Phila)	Jordan Jackson	DT	Air Force
195	LA Chargers	Jamaree Salyer	G	Georgia
196	Baltimore (Miami)	Tyler Badie	RB	Missouri
197	Jacksonville (Philadelphia)	Greg Junior	CB	Ouachita Baptist
198	Philadelphia (Pittsburgh-Jacksonville)	Grant Calcaterra	TE	SMU
199	Carolina (Las Vegas)	Cade Mays	G	Tennessee
200	New England	Sam Roberts	DT	NW Missouri State
201	Arizona	Keaontay Ingram	RB	Southern California
202	Cleveland (Dallas)	Michael Woods	WR	Oklahoma
203	Chicago (Buffalo)	Trestan Ebner	RB	Baylor
204	Tennessee	Theo Jackson	DB	Tennessee
205	Houston (Green Bay)	Austin Deculus	G	LSU
206	Denver (Tampa Bay-NY Jets-Phil)	Matt Henningsen	DE	Wisconsin
207	Chicago (San Fran-NY Jets-Houston)	Doug Kramer	C	Illinois
208	Pittsburgh (Kansas City)	Connor Heyward	FB	Michigan State
209	Buffalo (Cincinnati)	Luke Tenuta	OT	Virginia Tech
210	New England (LA Rams)	Chasen Hines	G	LSU
211 (Comp)	LA Rams	Quentin Lake	S	UCLA
212 (Comp)	LA Rams	Derion Kendrick	CB	Georgia
213 (Comp)	Atlanta	John FitzPatrick	TE	Georgia
214 (Comp)	LA Chargers	Ja'Sir Taylor	CB	Wake Forest
215 (Comp)	Arizona	Lecitus Smith	G	Virginia Tech
216 (Comp)	Indianapolis	Curtis Brooks	DT	Cincinnati
217 (Comp)	Detroit	James Houston	ER	Jackson State
218 (Comp)	Tampa Bay (LA Rams)	Ko Kieft	TE	Minnesota
219 (Comp)	Tennessee	Chance Campbell	LB	Mississippi

220 (Comp) San Francisco	Kalia Davis	DT	Central Florida
221 (Comp) San Francisco	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB	Penn State

Seventh Round

222	Jacksonville	Montaric Brown	CB	Arkansas
223	Cleveland (Detroit)	Isaiah Thomas	DE	Oklahoma
224	Miami (Houston-New Eng-Baltimore)	Cam Goode	LB	California
225	Pittsburgh (NY Jets)	Mark Robinson	LB	Mississippi
226	Chicago (NY Giants-Denver)	Ja'Tyre Carter	G	Southern
227	Minnesota (Carolina-Las Vegas)	Nick Muse	TE	South Carolina
228	Green Bay (Chicago-Houston)	Tariq Carpenter	S/LB	Georgia Tech
229	Seattle	Bo Melton	WR	Rutgers
230	Washington	Chris Paul	G	Tulsa
231	Buffalo (Atlanta)	Baylon Spector	LB	Clemson
232	Denver	Faion Hicks	CB	Wisconsin
233	Seattle (Minnesota-KC))	Dareke Young	WR	Lenoir-Rhyne
234	Green Bay (Cleveland)	Jonathan Ford	DT	Miami
235	LA Rams (Baltimore)	Daniel Hardy	ER	Montana State
236	LA Chargers	Deane Leonard	CB	Mississippi
237	Detroit (New Orleans-Phil)	Chase Lucas	CB	Arizona State
238	Las Vegas (Miami)	Thayer Munford	G	Ohio State
239	Indianapolis	Rodney Thomas	S	Yale
240	Washington (Phil-Indianapolis)	Christian Holmes	CB	Oklahoma State
241	Pittsburgh	Chris Oladokun	QB	South Dakota State
242	Carolina (New England-Miami)	Kalon Barnes	CB	Baylor
243	Kansas City (Las Vegas-New England	Jaylen Watson	CB	Washington State
244	Arizona	Christian Matthew	CB	Valdosta State
245	New England (Dallas-Houston)	Andrew Stueber	G	Michigan
246	Cleveland (Buffalo)	Dawson Deaton	C	Texas Tech
247	Miami (Tennessee)	Skylar Thompson	QB	Kansas State
248	Tampa Bay	Andre Anthony	ER	LSU
249	Green Bay	Rasheed Walker	OT	Penn State
250	Las Vegas (San Fran-Denver-Minn)	Brittain Brown	RB	UCLA
251	Kansas City	Isaih Pacheco	RB	Rutgers
252	Cincinnati	Jeff Gunter	DE	Coastal Carolina
253	LA Rams	Russ Yeast	S	Kansas State
254 (Comp)	Chicago (LA Chargers)	Elijah Hicks	S	California
255 (Comp)	Chicago (LA Chargers)	Trenton Gill	P	North Carolina State
256 (Comp)	Arizona	Jesse Luketa	OLB	Penn State
257 (Comp)	Arizona	Marquis Hayes	G	Oklahoma
258 (Comp)	Green Bay	Samori Toure	WR	Nebraska
259 (Comp)	Kansas City	Nazeeh Johnson	DB	Marshall
260 (Comp)	LA Chargers	Zander Horvath	FB	Purdue
261 (Comp)	LA Rams (Tampa Bay)	AJ Arcuri	OT	Michigan State
262 (Comp)	San Francisco	Brock Purdy	QB	Iowa State

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