

Division 2 Prologue:

Shockingly enough, 3 teams made the playoffs from this Division last season, meaning that if I may be permitted a cliché, “Something will have to give.” Brett had a tough year off a championship run and will be looking to rebound. Tom F. had another solid year making the playoffs and completing a run of 3 consecutive seasons without a losing record. James followed up a monster showing 2023 with a playoff run that could have went longer had he not run into some bad luck. As for myself, more of the same. I lost in the finals for the second straight year, making it 6 losses in in my last 6 finals appearances dating back to 2010.

Team Tom

2024 Record: 8-6

Last 3 years: 23-19

Where we last left off: After a tough first year, Tom has done a fine job over the last 3 seasons, making the playoffs in two of them. Last year was another good season as he’s quietly been one of the better teams in the league over the last 3-years. Now that he’s reached full veteran status, the question, is this guy perennial contender his record suggests?

QB/Superflex: Brock Purdy, Rodgers

Tough start out of the gate. Purdy is fine, a back end QB1, but his upside limited with his inability to run. It also cannot be ignored that the offense is in transition as he’s down several WRs and the Offensive line is completely revamped. Rodgers, simply does not cut it as a QB2 and would be better served as a QB3. An injury to either player would effectively end the season.

Overall Grade: C+

RB: McCaffrey, Kamara, Swift, Skattebo, Tuten

I didn't know who had McCaffrey before I started writing this, but my plan was to rip whoever drafted him as it seemed nuts to draft a 29-year-old guy who had to fly to Germany to get his leg fixed less than a year ago. I get the upside, but oft-injured guys don't tend to age well and as I mentioned above, the offensive line is not what it was in 2023. Kamara was one of my favorite players a year ago, but that was more of a byproduct of having Clint Kubiak as his coordinator. He's another year older, and in one of the league's worst offenses. I doubt he returns RB2 value unless he gets traded to a team that can support him. Interestingly enough, I thought the team he may get traded to was the Bears who are absolutely wheels-up with Deandre Swift. He has virtually no competition for touches and quite possibly the league's most creative mind scheming plays for him. I don't care if he gets any goal-line touches. This guy is a rock-solid RB2 with fringe RB1 upside. I'm not a huge fan of Skattebo as I feel his blaster approach won't work well on NFL sized defensive players, and he's just a little bit too slow to be the dynamic player he was in college. Tuten is interesting as it's been my contention that someone from the Jacksonville offense will greatly outperform expectations. If Tuten gets his hands on Travis Etienne's job, he could be an absolute steal in this draft.

Overall Grade: B

WR: St. Brown, Tee Higgins, McLaurin, Reed, Slayton, Aiyuk

No issues with St. Brown at the top. He's the one guy in Detroit that I feel has a clearly defined role and has the best chance of replicating his numbers, even with a new coordinator and 2 new O-linemen. I may be more down on Tee Higgins than most, but I just don't get the appeal. He's hurt far too often and will disappear in games when Jamar Chase is doing his all-time great thing that he does. He's fine as a WR2, but just fine. Now we're talking at WR3. Good job by Tom not taking the cheese on this one as everyone seems to be worried cause he held out of camp. Jayden Daniels is a first read QB, and McLaurin is his guy. I don't see the TDs repeating from last year, but even if you knock it down 8 or 9, he's still a high-end WR2 playing as a WR 3 for Tom. I'm not sure what to make of Jayden Reed, but I don't like that he's barely on the field and already hurt. Slayton is a fine depth piece and of course fills Tom's insatiable desire to roster NY Giant players. I'm not sure what to reasonably expect from Aiyuk, but he is an interesting stash, considering the ownership of Purdy.

Overall Grade: A

TE: Hockenson:

I may be a little higher on TJ than some, but the reality is he's really only had one complete season as a high end TE1. Still, he's in a great offense and finally fully removed from an ACL injury that handcuffed him a bit last season. I'd bet on a rebound at a position that's just trash

Overall Grade: B+

Def/Kicker: The Lions?

Overall Grade: C+

How he'll fare: I want to like this team, but I don't love what I see here. The RBs are old, and injury prone and the QBs are so far below league value that I think it will be impossible to make up the difference, even with an elite receiving core. The talent and opportunity share exist, but almost nothing could go wrong if this whole thing were to work.

Overall Grade:

C+