

Division 3 Prologue:

This Division is fascinating to me as it features 3 teams that can be defined on a yearly basis as the haves and the have-nots. Nick, Ferna and Ray have all swung wildly on the winning and losing side in recent years, while the Gemmas have remained relatively steady. A strong showing for Ray or Ferna would move either in the discussion of perennial powerhouse while a good year for Nick, would turn back the clock for the league's most unsuccessful team over the last 3-years. As for the Gemmas, It sort of feels like this year will be a make or break spot as they've landed in the middle far too long.

Gemmas:

2024 Record: 6-8

Last 3 years: 21-21

Where we last left off: The playoff drought extended to a second season for the Gemmas in 2024. They seem to be one of those teams that is always in the thick of things, but never has that dominant season nearly all the league's teams enjoy from time to time. In their defense, they are habitually unlucky when it comes to key injuries and one has to wonder... Are they in for some positive regression in 2025?

QB: McCarthy, Geno Smith, Ward

Well, they're not gonna make this easy out of the gate for me. Let's start with the guy I believe will be their QB1, J.J. McCarthy. Any reasonable person would have their questions, but that same person would be unreasonable if they didn't acknowledge how much Sam Darnold overachieved in this offense. McCarthy is young, playing in what is essentially is his rookie year, but he's a proven winner who has done more than he's been asked to do at every level. I'll bet on a strong season for him. At this point in his career, Geno Smith is a low-end QB2 in an offense that's gonna run the ball. He could overperform ADP if the game script favors garbage time passing for the Raiders, but only slightly. I love Ward as a QB3

for two reasons. He has nuclear upside as the league's highest drafted QB, and his job is safe for the whole season. He was a must get for suspect QB group.

Overall Grade: B-

RB: Robinson, Jacobs, Bigsby, Blue,

It doesn't get much better than the Bijan, Robinson and Josh Jacobs as your bell cow runners. Both offenses run through them and team Gemma will most likely follow suit. Bigsby intrigues me as a RB3 as I just know someone from that team is gonna bust out this season. Tank is perfectly placed as a bye week only option with high upside. Speaking of high upside, I love the pick of Jayden Blue. There are paraplegics I'd rather start than Javonte Williams and Myles Sanders, and Blue could excel with limited work, especially in the passing game. Think Devon Achane. I considered giving this group a perfect grade, but it's just missing a bit of depth to get me there. I would have recommended picking up Tyler Allgeier, but it appears another owner inexplicably drafted him.

Overall Grade: A

WR: AJ Brown, G. Wilson, DK Metcalf, Juan Jennings, Jordan Addison, Cedric Tillman

I'm honestly shocked at how good this group is considering the capital invested in the RBs, but bravo Gemmas on building a solid WR core. The whole world hates AJ Brown, despite the fact that he managed just under 1100 of the roughly 3000 yards Jalen Hurts threw for. It's hard to believe he wouldn't at a minimum maintain those numbers as the Eagles play tougher games, and consider resting Saquon Barkley to keep him playoff ready. Like Brown, the whole world seems to be down on both D.K. Metcalf and Garrett Wilson, but I am not quite sure why. Wilson is the only thing going in New York and before you give me the Justin Fields rebuttal, remember two things: 1. He made DJ Moore receiver 7 in 2003. 2. He played in college with Wilson. I more understand the Metcalf hate as he and Aaron Rodgers combine to make an adorable odd couple. Rodgers is a lot of things, but he's not stupid. He has no choice but to pepper DK with targets. Jennings, and Addison not only provide depth pieces, they would likely start for a lot of teams in this league. I'm surprised how many people forget the 4 games Cedric Tillman had before missing a large portion of the season with concussion symptoms. I could make the case that he's a solid WR4, but as a WR6, he's way over value. Excellent group here Top to bottom, however, I must deduct slightly as no one projects to be higher than a low end WR1.

Overall Grade: A-

TE: Sam LaPorta, Mason Taylor

Cut and paste what I said last paragraph, but just insert the words “and” and “WR”. He’s not one of the Top TEs but it’s hard to argue he’s not better than average at a position that only requires 12 to be rostered. If I wasn’t completely intimidated by this team, I’d probably recommend dropping Mason Taylor, but for my own benefit, I hope they keep him.

Overall Grade: B+

Kicker/Defense

B+

How they’ll fare: If you have been reading this long, you can probably guess that I love this team. The RB/WR combination is best in the league and they still somehow managed to get a plus TE and one of the league’s best Kickers. The season is long and shit happens but it would take a lot for things to go wrong here. Because I am such a delight, let’s play that game, shall we: The QBs are a major question mark and if McCarthy isn’t who I think he is, teams are going to stack points in those spots. Another slight concern is the lack of overall RBs. If Bigsby isn’t the guy and Blue fails, they are one injury away from struggling, there. Still, there is trade capital galore at the WR position so barring something catastrophic, the Gemmas are going to wind up at the top of the league in points.

Overall Grade: A-