

Division 2 Prologue:

Two-year outlook: It truly is a tale of two different last two seasons for most of the division. In 2021, James and Ed went on strong playoff runs with James ultimately taking the league prize. Tom after a rough rookie season went all the way to the finals while James and Ed had forgettable years. Ray Finn is the only consistent team of the bunch, unfortunately it's not the consistency one would be hoping for. The question for Tom, James and Ray is "What type of season will it be?" and as for Ray Finn... "Is this the year he breaks through?":

Team James Curran

Where we last left off: A rare off-season for James as injuries piled up. Rather than dissect what went wrong, let's talk about what typically goes right. Year-in, year-out James is a playoff contender. One of the worst kept secrets is that his teams tend to overperform once he gets to the playoffs and have resulted in the most league championships to date: For a year or two, you can chalk that up to luck and circumstance, however, when it keeps happening, you have to ask yourself the question, "Does he know something that we don't?"

QB: Tua Tagovailoa, Jared Goff, Josh Dobbs: When it comes to QB, the strategy James utilizes reminds me of the great Rodney Dangerfield in Lady Bugs... "All I know is, I got a lot of balls!" I'll admit that I lean on the boom or bust evaluation a little too much if everyone reading this admits that there is no bigger boom or bust player in the league than Tua: If he stays healthy, I'd put him up there with Burrow and Herbert, but if he doesn't, Jared Goff may wind up feeling more alone than Will Smith in I am Legend. Doubs was a priority grab here despite what evaluators may say. Call me crazy, but the guy can run and will likely be the Day 1 starter for a team that will be playing from behind and against defenses with very little incentive to go full throttle: I see the potential here, but Tua scares the living hell out of me:

Overall Grade: B-

RB: Tony Pollard, Miles Sanders, Alvin Kamara, Jamal Williams, Jaylen Warren: If you look at this RB group, you'll find the difference between someone who's trying to draft good players versus someone who's trying to draft good players with a plan. Pollard and Sanders are solid #1 and 2, but the real value of this group lies in the 3, 3A and 4 spots. I call Kamara and J-Will 3 and 3A because to me they are package deal. For 3 games, Jamal Williams will put up high-end RB2, Low end RB1 numbers and when Kamara returns, he'll likely regain that value for the remainder of the year. Jaylen Warren is an intriguing option as a lot beat writers are entertaining the idea that he could overtake Harris by year's end. Should that come to pass, pull out the Spotify App and fire up the BTS.... This group could be Dynamite!

Overall Grade: B+

WR Tyreke Hill, DeVonta Smith, Chris Godwin, Hollywood Brown, DJ Chark: When considering the Top 3 of Hill, Smith, and Godwin, this is what I'd like to refer to as the upside sandwich with Hill and Godwin representing safe, but high-end #1 and #3 bread, while Devonta has more upside as a #2 than just about anyone in the league. Just like Arby's Smith has the meats! As far as depth is concerned, it's hard to knock a team's #1 option in Brown, and the outside chance that Chark could become the same for Carolina. The WRs are easily the strong suit of this team:

Overall Grade: A-

TE: Sam Laporta, Dalton Kincaid: When two teams draft four of the league's Top 10 TEs, you must get creative: While it might be tough sledding for half a season, Laporta and Kincaid could both present league winning options come playoff time? What was that about James always seeming to overperform come playoff time?

Overall Grade: B-

What the Magic 8-Ball Tells Me: "This one is a prime candidate for the "Egg on my face" award for 2023, but I cannot endorse James as a top team this season. I love the RBs and WRs, but the TEs will be trouble for most of the season, and that's assuming they ever get off the ground at all. The root of my issue with this team is Tua. If he goes down, I cannot see James competing as constructed. That being said, if Tua goes down, there are few people in this league that I feel have the ability to fix the problem the way he can. Then of course there is the possibility that Tua does not get hurt: Under that scenario, think of like a pit boss at the Mirage Casino in Las Vegas after Buster Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson in 1990... "All bets are off!": Magic 8-ball: Will James make the playoffs? "Ask again later"

Overall Grade: B