

### Division 3 Prologue:

Two-year outlook: Aside from an off-year from Gemma in 21, the three returning league members have been strong from a win-loss standpoint. Tommy and he are always in contention while Greg tends to do his Jekyll-Hyde thing depending on the season. Insert new League member Justin Ferna who takes over ownership from our dearly departed Teddy Campbell. I'm not sure what kind of owner he'll be, but luckily for him, Teddy left the measuring stick for success, somewhere in Death Valley, California. Full disclosure: I write these prologues before I look at anyone's team, but it feels to me like it's about time for one of these three teams to win the league: The question is, "Can the new franchise throw a Foo Fighters' sized Monkeywrench into their plans?"

### Team Justin Ferna:

**Where we last left off:** Former owner Teddy Campbell has trapped himself in a digital fortress, as he leaves us in an ill-fated attempt to find the Yaqui Way of life as it pertains to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Insert and welcome brand-new owner Justin Ferna. I'm not sure what to expect from this team as I have no frame of reference to work with. The question for this team is "Can this southern boy hang with all these Yankees?"

**QB: Joe Burrow, Justin Fields, Ryan Tannehill:** Well sir, you have my attention. Great start for Ferna as he has decided to go the Stein route of over drafting his QBs. I can tell you from personal experience that this strategy feels great in the early and middle parts of the season, but also can leave you very frustrated come playoff time when your beat-up team is getting beaten down by 1-3 round league winning RBs and WRs. Still Burrow and Fields should do no worse than QB8 and even if one should get hurt, Tannehill is a fine option to plug and play, short term. Excellent start to this team.

### Overall Grade: A

**RB: Jahmyr Gibbs, Isiah Pacheco, James Connor, Antonio Gibson Devin Singletary:** Having Gibbs as a RB1 is frightening as the upside is that he plays to his slot, and the downside is his stock plummets like Dogecoin should Dan Campbell suddenly mistake him for DeAndre Swift. Still, I can't help but think that Detroit has usage plans for him considering the draft capital that's invested. As far as my feelings about Isiah Pacheco go, I view his career like I view the hot crazy chick you meet at the bar who wants to fuck you: She's good for this moment, but if you hang on to that thought for the next couple of weeks and months, you may regret it. Solid RB2 for now. I've been preaching the value of volume for these RBs and that pretty much sums up my feelings on James Connor. He's old, beat up and plays for a bad team, but as long as he's out there, he'll get volume. Gibson is a high upside play as an RB4. Should Robinson miss time his role will increase and even if he doesn't, he's a pass catching back in an offense that figures to

be trailing in a lot of its game. Singletary is fine as a RB5 and would likely be startable should Pierce miss time. I don't like the high-end talent of this group, but great depth bumps them to respectability.

Overall Grade: B

**WR: JaMarr Chase, Mike Evans, Odell Beckham Jr., Nico Collins, Alec Pierce:** I was wondering exactly when I'd discover the thermal exhaust port (Star Wars fans IYKYK), and by Beckham... I think I've found it. Since the wordplay worked out that way, I'll start with our old friend Odell. He's on the wrong side of the 30, hasn't played in over a year and is part of an offense that has more young mouths to feed than a Section 8 housing project. I don't necessarily hate Mike Evans on a contract year as a WR2, but like Beckham, he's over 30, injury prone and quite possibly playing with the worst QB and O-line of his career. That does not bode well for a guy who makes a living down-field. When it comes to Chase, I won't even waste my time with superlatives to describe how good he is. If he stays healthy, he'll finish no worse than Top 3 at the position. If you plan on trotting out Nico Collins as a receiver that will have to play for you at some point, here's a double entendre to describe how that will go: "Houston, we have a problem!" Alec Pierce is intriguing as he flashed as a rookie, and is the team's preferred downfield threat. If there is one thing Anthony Richardson can do well, throwing the ball, it's throwing it deep. Not a great group, as long as you have Chase, it's respectable.

Overall Grade: B

**TE: Kyle Pitts:** Oh boy. I'm going to go out on a limb and say that Pitts will make or break this entire team. He's got otherworldly talent, but he's also injury prone, and plays with a QB who is about as accurate as the answers on Biff's Series 7 exam. My gut instinct is to lean toward the positive, but it would be unfair to grade him as anything other than what he's being drafted as.... "MID"

Overall Grade: B-

**What the Magic 8-Ball Tells Me:** I sort of like this team, but here's the problem. I'm projecting this division to be very competitive Top to bottom. The QBs almost guarantee that Ferna will not have a bad week, but because he used such high capital there, I wonder if the rest of his roster will synch up. If Gibbs and Pitts both hit, this team can go the way of Manzo last season, but if they don't... Well, they call them expansion teams for a reason: Magic 8-Ball: Will Ferna make the playoffs? "Reply hazy, try again."

Overall Grade: B