

Division 1 Prologue:

Two-year outlook: It's been a strong last two seasons for 3 out of 4 teams in this division. While Nick has had a rough go of it, Brett, Manzo and myself have 3 of the best 4 records in the league during that stretch. We'll start with Brett who's had a hell of a run. He went wire to wire as the league's best team and was rewarded with his first ever league championship. Manzo overperformed last season finishing with the second-best record and I do that little thing I do which is win a bunch of games and then lose to in the playoffs not because I am unlucky, but because I simply just never have the better team come that time, ever. It makes me wonder why so many guys from my team always land at the top of the following year's draft. Without looking at any team as of this moment other than my own, I feel like the theme for this Division will be Something's Gotta Give. I think it's time for Nick to climb back to the pack and one of us three to fall from Grace: The question is, "When and where will those dominos fall?"

Team Nick Scimone

Where we last left off: If you read prologue, you get the idea of how bad things have been for Nick. If you didn't read the prologue, let's just say that current value of Nick's franchise lies somewhere between Ocean front property in antarctica, and owning an apartment complex in Chernobyl during the late 80s. Nick, it's time to step up your game as right now you're known as the guy who has a worst record during the last 2-years than the guy that may or may not have gotten his identify stolen from Apple, despite not owning an iPhone. The question for this once great franchise is "Does it have what it takes to get back to respectability?"

QB: Anthony Richardson, Derek Carr, Desmond Ridder: Not a great start for Nick. I get the hype around Richardson, but might I remind everyone just how bad it was for Justin Fields through the first 20 or so games of his career. To put that into better perspective, Fields was a better high school prospect than Trevor Lawrence, and a guy who shined for two years at Ohio State. Richardson had a losing record at a terrible school, culminating with an ugly Bowl loss that occurred just over 8 months ago. To me, it's asking a lot for him to return value on where he was drafted. Carr is a solid, but unspectacular QB2. It was a great move by Nick grabbing a #3 in Ridder as the third QB on his team is likely to be in play. As I was writing, I was going to recommend picking up Heinecke just in case until I remembered our dumb QB limit rule. Sorry Nick, but it was the thought that counts. I'm gonna bump this group up a bit since there seems to be both depth and upside.

Overall Grade: B-

RB: Jevonte Williams, Aaron Jones, Samje Perine, Brian Robinson, Roschon Johnson, Rashad Penny: I get and love the build of this position group. Jones may no longer be a RB1, but he's close and his team

is still heavily invested in him. I wouldn't like Jevonte as much as a #2, except Nick had the foresight to lock in Perine. Not only does this secure the Denver backfield, I can make the case that both guys may be startable in a pinch as Sean Peyton has been known to field two premium options at the position on a weekly basis. To me Robinson is a top option as a RB3. He wasn't great last year, but his team loves him when you can overcome a gunshot wound and still provide a decent rookie season, that says something. The vibes are strong in DC. I'm not sure what to make of Rashad Penny, but Nick isn't heavily invested here, so to me it's an upside play that at worst will be a quick cut for a better replacement. Roschon Johnson is a very talented back that seems to be very unlucky when it comes to who he's rostered with. In college, he sat behind Bijon Robinson and in the pros, it's Kahlil Herbert and a "We paid him so we might as well play him" Donte Foreman in front of him. I love the player, just not the situation. Solid group all things considered

Overall Grade: B+

WR: Stefon Diggs, Devonte Adams, Keenan Allen, Cortland Sutton, Allan Lizzard, : I wasn't tracking Nick's draft, but I must say I'm very surprised he was able to get such high end talent at the position. Diggs is no doubt a mid WR1 and Devonte Adams at worst is a high-end WR2 with WR1 upside. Keenan Allen is an injury risk, but when he's your WR3, the biggest risk I see is that of a loss for the opposing team that has to play Nick that week. I'm surprised Cortland Sutton hasn't been investigated for the mysterious injuries that have upended the Broncos WR corps. If Jeudy's injury lingers, his target share will be off the charts. Allan Lizzard as a WR5 bookends the position group that should overperform at every spot where Nick has him slotted. I'm tempted to give this position group a perfect grade: The only thing stopping me is the fragility of Allen (physically), Adams (Quarterback situation) and Diggs (mentally).

Overall Grade: A

TE: Cole Kmet: You can't win them all. I don't care how many TEs Tom and Ray Finn roster, or how much money the Bears gave Kmet this off-season. He's only borderline startable at best

Overall Grade: C+

What the Magic 8-Ball Tells Me: It's been a while since I've liked one of Nick's teams this much. He's insulated himself the right way at RB and the WRs may turn out to be the best in the entire league in the aggregate. Again, I didn't track Nick's board, but I must assume by the time he took Richardson, he was crushing the board. If it were me, I would have saw that, felt I was ahead and went a little more conservative with that first QB spot. Still, you have to admire Nick's gunslinger approach as he clearly

drafted to win the league and not just make the playoffs. Magic 8-ball will Nick make the playoffs:
"Signs point to yes"

Overall Grade: B+