

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 Tom and Ryan Gemma:

Where we last left off: A nice rebound year for the Gemma boys as they shook off injuries and a subpar 2021 season to make a strong playoff push. Each year, this duo tends to draft very top-heavy teams and when things go right, they tend to go very right. The problem with this fine franchise has always been depth. The question is, will this be the year they put together a complete roster, or will it once again be nightly prayers to the football God of "Questionable" players?

QB: Deshaun Watson, Dak Prescott, : I've always felt that it's never a problem to roster only 2 QBs if those QBs are the right ones. If you throw out the ACL tear in his rookie year, Watson has been a pillar of health throughout his career. Not sure if I should attribute that to luck, or a frequent massage therapy schedule. Either way, it is more likely than not that Watson will return to his Top 12 form as he's got the strongest supporting cast he's ever had. Dak while seemingly injury prone, tends to suffer freak injuries when they occur. The fact is that he's played every game for the Cowboys in 5 of his 7 seasons with the team. Perhaps I'm being a bit optimistic, but I think the duo will hold, physically and both put up borderline QB1 production for the season. I like the group, but must deduct a half letter grade due to lack of depth:

Overall Grade: B+

RB: Austin Ekeler, Bijan Robinson, Jerrick McKinnon, Eli Mitchell, Kareem Hunt: Austin Ekeler is never a bad way to open up your RB room. A lot has been said of his age and the uncertainty surrounding his role with a new offensive coordinator who may just figure out that Justin Herbert can throw pretty damn well, vertically. Still, even if you give Ekeler a 10% reduction in numbers, he remains a high end RB1. Bijan Robinson enters the league as the best RB prospect in a half decade and will likely feast in a run-heavy Atlanta offense. Even if you want to play the "Rookie-uncertainty" card, it may interest you to know that since CJ Spiller was drafted in 2010, no RB drafted Top 10 in the NFL draft has ever finished

less than RB10 in his first fantasy season. I have no issues with McKinnon as an RB3 other than it's hard to know in which weeks to deploy him. Eli Mitchell is a stash add with little value unless something happens to CMC. Kareem Hunt is moderately interesting as there seems to be a lot of league interest, and a few spots with prominent roles available should they pull the trigger. I'll grade high, here, but the depth is concerning.

Overall Grade: A-

WR: Chris Olave, George Pickens, Brandin Cooks, Jerry Jeudy, Quentin Johnston, Johan Dotson: This is a classic case of the sum being greater than its parts. Chris Olave as a WR1, may be stretching it as is either George Pickens and Brandin Cooks as WR2. Jerry Jeudy could fill that role, however, hamstrings can be tricky and so can starting the season late with a brand-new coach who may start looking at you like you're Kevin Bacon in *Hollow Man*, if his playable pieces overperform in your absence. I'm not a huge fan of Johnston in the short term as he's buried on the depth chart and has hands like Jason Pierre-Paul. Dotson is the interesting piece of this group as he has WR2 upside with his pension for scoring TDs. Unlike the Gemma QB and RB situation, the depth here will keep this group afloat.

Overall Grade: B

TE: TJ Hockenson: Hock leveled up once he got to Minnesota, and now that he has a new contract, I don't see him slowing down any time soon although sometimes, holdout players are prone to injury. The Gemmas have to feel pretty good knowing the floor for a healthy TJ is about TE4, with the upside being TE2 behind Mr. Kelce.

Overall Grade: A-

What the Magic 8-Ball Tells Me: I'll remind everyone once again that I write my prologue's before I even look at a team: It's kind of ironic that I cited team-depth as an annual issue for the Gemmas and here I sit once again wondering if it will be a problem. I absolutely love the starting players on this team. If everyone stays healthy, they can compete with anyone. I can go either way here, but I'll once again go bullish on the Gemma squad because I like their receiver depth and see them as having 3 potential league winners in Ekeler, Bijan and Hockenson. Magic 8-Ball: Will the Gemmas make the playoffs? "As I see it, yes"

Overall Grade: B+