

Division 2 Prologue:

Shockingly enough, 3 teams made the playoffs from this Division last season, meaning that if I may be permitted a cliché, “Something will have to give.” Brett had a tough year off a championship run and will be looking to rebound. Tom F. had another solid year making the playoffs and completing a run of 3 consecutive seasons without a losing record. James followed up a monster showing 2023 with a playoff run that could have went longer had he not run into some bad luck. As for myself, more of the same. I lost in the finals for the second straight year, making it 6 losses in in my last 6 finals appearances dating back to 2010.

Team Stein:

2024 Record: 8-6

Last 3 years: 25-17

Where we last left: I know no one probably noticed, but last year was about as frightening as it gets for me. I decided for the second time to go back to back with QBs and low and behold, I drafted one of my worst teams, ever. After starting 3-6, I ripped off 5 straight and managed to get the Finals where I lost for the second consecutive year. Since 2005, I’ve only missed the playoffs one time, but it’s been 15-years since I won a championship... Is this the year?

QB: Allen, Nix, Goff

My love for Josh Allen is noted, but thank you Bo Nix. Not only did he mask my Mahomes mistake from a year ago, but he provided me with one of the best Keeper values in all the league. Goff was a bit of a luxury pick as quite frankly, I was just trying to block a good team from getting a QB on the cheap at that point. With 3 Top 10 QBs, and the possible #1 overall, I was tempted to give myself a perfect grade here, but I won’t. Quite frankly, I think Nix and Goff are in for a little negative regression.

Overall Grade: A

RB: Hampton, Walker, Charbonet, Harris, Mason, Judkins

This is a classic example of how roster construction can affect a group outlook. On the surface, Hampton and Walker would be average, but consider this: The Seahawks (now with Clint Kubiak) and the Chargers (who somehow made JK Dobbins look good) are the two of the highest projected rushing attacks in the league. Securing Charbonet and Harris behind the starters guarantees I'll have a piece of those backfields for most if not all the season. I look at Jordan Mason as my #3, as he'll be the guy I turn to during bye weeks and I am fine with him. The Vikings were desperate to find a copilot for Jones a year ago, and they gave Mason two years of guaranteed money. Judkins is the wildcard of this group. He should sign any day now and when he does it will take about a month to get him up to speed. Once that happens, he still plays for the Browns which could limit his upside. Still, it's a worthwhile dart throw for a guy I don't need to play for me.

Overall Grade: B+

WR: Nabers, Sutton, Diggs, Downs, Rice

Tough group to grade, accurately. Nabers is fine as a middle of the pack WR1 and does have upside if the QB play is more functional. Sutton was WR13 last year, but he was extremely TD dependent. He's due for a bit of negative regression, but should still function as a low end WR2. It gets dicey from here as Diggs is coming off Knee surgery and on his third team in 3 years. I like his QB, and he should have success with the intermediate crossing routes that Josh McDaniels like to run, but he's a bit of a stretch as a WR3. Downs provides good depth as a WR4, but the real value here will be when Rashee Rice returns. His knee tear was clean and he would have been ready for Week 1, so by Week 7 he should be 100%. If he's anything close to the guy he was last year, he slots in as my #2 which pushes Sutton to a high end #3. It's lovely portrait I am painting, but these things rarely work out as planned.

Overall Grade: B

TE: Dalton Kincaid

Honestly, I thought I did pretty well to get Kincaid considering we have teams with Brock Bowers drafting multiple TEs. Still, pretty well isn't worth all that much in the cesspool that is the TE position

Overall Grade: C+

Kicker/Defense: Laugh Out Loud

C+

How I'll fare: Ahhh. I can feel Ryan Curran criticizing me already for liking my own team, but the fact is, I am usually correct with that assessment. The QB/Flex is bullet proof and I full plan on platooning Goff and Nix based on matchup, especially when Goff is at home. I won't have the league's best RBs, but I can't foresee any scenario where it's a problem as I have depth and handcuffs to my Top 2 guys. It's likely the WR group that will make or break me. If Nabers stays healthy, I'll be fine, but it could derail a team that's already a notch below a few others in the league. I will say this for myself... If by Week 7, I am somehow 3-3 or better when I get Judkins and Rice back, consider me Billy Madison with a dodgeball: "Now you're all in big, big trouble."

Overall Grade: A-

Division 2: Epilogue:

Unfortunately, for me, I like this Division as a group. While no team including my own quite measures with the Top 2 teams in Division 3, 3 of us are pretty solid. Much to a lot of people's dismay, I'll put myself out there as the front runner. I constructed the roster, completely, minus the TE and irony there is because so many team's drafted more than one, it actually helps me from a value standpoint. I like James' team right behind me and if his guys pop during the right weeks, he could easily win the division. I'm gonna take the cheese on a Brett rebound here as I like what he did with his team, plus he wasn't nearly as drunk as he usually gets at the draft. Unfortunately for Tom, I think it will be a tough year. Then again, I say that a lot, and low and behold, come late December, he's usually still playing.

How they'll finish

1. Stein (Two-seed first round bye)
2. James (Wildcard Winner)
3. Brett (Wildcard Winner)

4. Tom (Misses Playoffs)