

Washington Redskins 2014 Roster Evaluation

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CONFIDENTIAL

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Washington Redskins Overall Team and Scheme Evaluation

Defense

The defense played out of 3-4 personnel 54.4% of the time and nickel (2-4-5) 33.1%. Washington played in only 13 snaps (of 1,060) in dime.

Washington blitzed on 33.7% of snaps (NFL avg. 29.7%). Out of 3-4 on 3rd down, Washington blitzed 75% of the time. On 3rd and long, the Redskins only blitzed 38.6%. They also only blitzed 21 personnel 25%. Washington did blitz 11 personnel heavily in passing situations: 2nd and long – 32.2%, 3rd and medium – 47.2%, 3rd and long – 41.7%. 23 of 43 sacks came vs. 11 personnel.

The defense only got pressure on 36.6% of snaps. Basically, if the Redskins weren't blitzing, they weren't getting pressure. Opposing teams had an average of 2.36 seconds to throw. Washington was slightly better than the NFL average when rushing 4 and 5 players. When rushing 4, their pressure percentage was 33.3% (NFL avg. 32%). When rushing 5, they had a pressure percentage of 44.4% (NFL avg. 42.3%).

Against the run, the defense was stout on the defensive left side allowing only 2.9 yards per carry over the offensive right tackle and 3.1 yards per carry over the offensive right guard. The overall total was 4.1 yards per carry against the defense. Runs over the offensive left guard netted 3.3 yards per carry. Runs over the offensive left tackle and outside the offensive left end both netted 4.9 yards per carry.

Coverage was spotty all over the place but the worst was in the intermediate (10-19 yards deep) middle and intermediate right, with 139.4 and 146.5 quarterback ratings against, respectively. The coverage was also bad in the deep (20+ yards) left (135.4 quarterback rating against) and deep middle (132.6). The coverage was good in the intermediate left (55.2) and short right (79.2). Overall, the defense allowed a 108.3 quarterback rating – the worst in the NFL.

The culprits for the defense lie in 2 main areas – the play of the safeties and of the defensive line.

Ryan Clark is no longer a starting safety. He gets lost, misses assignments, over pursues, is a poor tackler, and is generally a bad football player. Bacarri Rambo was cut mid-season. Brandon Meriweather is a hitter and a player in the box but isn't a great deep safety. Biggers only played 14 snaps at safety. Phillip Thomas shows some promise as a safety but is purely a strong safety and not a deep safety. Basically, there wasn't a decent deep safety on the roster all season. Other than Thomas, the entire position needs to be wiped clean.

The same might be said for the defensive line but I believe that unit was misused by having them predominantly 2-gapping when they're built to single-gap and get penetration. Jason Hatcher had a better season than given credit for and got good penetration. Chris Baker was poor in run stopping but when allowed to rush the quarterback he was a wholly different player. Barry Cofield was sufficient on the interior but not great. Stephen Bowen is a backup player who is being paid like a starter. Jarvis Jenkins was not good and is a free agent (and shouldn't be considered for a return).

Washington Redskins Overall Team and Scheme Evaluation

Defense Continued...

The best unit by far of the defense was the linebackers, led by Ryan Kerrigan. While Kerrigan isn't an explosive pass rusher, he was still good enough to rack up double digit sacks while being a stone wall against the run on the left side of the defense. On the interior, Perry Riley was a solid player and played nearly every snap. He has a good football IQ and fills in the run game well. One of the most impressive players on the entire roster is young ILB Keenan Robinson. Robinson is a fluid mover and plays well in both run support and in coverage. He is incredibly athletic and I think he's going to be a future Pro Bowler, and even potentially an All-Pro if he continues to develop and progress. On the right side, Brian Orakpo is a superbly talented player (if under productive the last few years) and the most explosive pass rusher on the roster. He's also a free agent this offseason. While his price tag is probably going to be too high, it would be nice to have a player with his caliber of pass rushing talent. When he went down to injury, rookie Trent Murphy stepped in to fill his shoes. Murphy is a solid football player and performed well as a starter. He isn't a pure pass rusher but is a good all around edge player. It might be best to have him bulk up and slide inside to play defensive end in front of Kerrigan and potentially Orakpo.

The cornerbacks are a mixed bag. Deangelo Hall tore his Achilles (twice) after receiving a large extension last October. He's certainly not worth the \$4M+ that he's due in 2015. David Amerson was supposed to be the replacement for him but struggled as a starter. Amerson has tremendous talent but looks lost as a player and has potential with better coaching. The surprise of the group was rookie Bashaud Breeland. Breeland flashed all the talent necessary to to be a shutdown cornerback. He was rough in the early part of the season but progressed incredibly well towards the end of the year. He showed a tremendous ability to shadow and mirror some of the best receivers in the league (he had a really good game against Dez Bryant). He also showed versatility to move all over the formation and tail his target wherever he went. EJ Biggers was serviceable as a slot cornerback but that's a position that could really use an upgrade as well.

This was a defense that lacked a good front line and had poor safety play. It was also poorly schemed and had a lot of guys doing things that they weren't good at. Better preparation, coaching, and play calling could make an immediate impact on this defense, but the defensive line and safeties have to be upgraded. I would on from Bowen, Cofield, and Jenkins. Also, I would consider cutting Hall as he's expensive, aging, and would simply just take snaps from younger players that could use the reps. He's not good enough in run support and is a poor tackler so he's not a great candidate to move to safety (though if his contract proves prohibitive to cut him, it's worth a shot).

Washington Redskins Overall Team and Scheme Evaluation

Offense

Coach Gruden self-proclaimed his offense to be a “run-first” offense. The actual splits show that wasn’t exactly the case. The Redskins passed 57.7% of the time. Obviously, losing (4-12) contributes to a heavier passing split, but when you consider that Washington passed 67% on first down, their obvious preference was to pass the ball. Washington stayed in 11 personnel 60% of the time (NFL avg. 53%), 12 personnel 15% of the time (NFL avg. 20%), and 21 personnel 13% (NFL avg. 12%). Out of 11 personnel, the Redskins passed 76% of the time. Even out of 12 personnel, the Redskins passed 50% of the time.

The Washington offense was pretty fortunate as they weren’t heavily injured throughout the year. Aside from the QB position, no starters missed significant time other than Jordan Reed (out weeks 2-5). Trent Williams was also injured and out for a game and a half and never seemed fully healthy once he returned. Also aside from the turmoil at QB, only Tyler Polumbus was benched for an extended period of time.

Washington used 21 personnel in 3rd and short only 4 times all season. Used 22 personnel 11 times in the same situation. There were 0 “Wildcat” formations, 4 end-arounds, 1 reverse, and the Redskins rarely used 6 OL. Except for week 12, there were no plays with 6 offensive linemen after week 5.

Runs by running backs were evenly distributed by direction – only slightly more (53.5%) went to the right side of the offensive formation. Only twice all year did the Redskins pull a guard on a run.

On offense, the offensive line doesn’t match the run scheme well. There are big bodies that are better suited for a power run game. Morgan Moses was substituted in for LT Williams when he went down with injury and Moses’s skill set clearly projects to right tackle, not left. Yet while Moses projects as a right tackle, when Tyler Polumbus was replaced, it was by Tom Compton who was atrocious in both the run and pass game as a starter for the final 9 weeks of the season. Moses showed promise and deserved the reps at RT instead of Compton (who played way worse than Polumbus did). Lauvao didn’t live up to his large contract but wasn’t awful. Williams is a franchise player at LT. Lichtensteiger is an above average player at center. The right guard spot is a position that needs to be addressed as Chester is an average starter and is 32. LeRiebus didn’t show enough to be considered a viable replacement at the position.

The tight ends are a solid unit. Jordan Reed has legit potential to be one of the better receiving tight ends in the league. Niles Paul is a multi-talented and good all around player, but is a free agent. He provides both a receiving option and a solid blocker in the run game. He lines up all over the formation – inline, in the slot, out wide, and even in the backfield – and is a contributor on special teams. Logan Paulsen is an h-back type of tight end that is a solid blocker but doesn’t offer much in terms of a receiver and isn’t explosive.

Washington Redskins Overall Team and Scheme Evaluation

Offense Continued...

The wide receiving corps may be the most talented group on the offense. DeSean Jackson is the premier deep threat on the NFL and lifts the top off of the defense. His worth to the offense because of that element is hard to quantify. Defensive backs play in deep off-coverage and he still runs by them with consistency. Opposite of him, Pierre Garcon is another really good receiver who can get deep and also is a weapon vs. man coverage. In the slot, Andre Roberts is a solid player who needs better focus. He has the potential to be a 1st down machine if he gets his head right and keep his concentration consistently on every play. He has to clean up the drops. Beyond those 3, the position lacks depth.

The running backs are all built for the zone blocking scheme. Alfred Morris is the best of the group but lacks homerun hitting potential. Roy Helu is the 3rd down back and is a decent receiver but a very good pass blocker. Silas Redd is a 3rd stringer at best. Chris Thompson has the most juice out of the bunch but is a liability because of his injury history and pass blocking. If the run scheme changes, the entire depth chart at the position will need an overhaul as none of these backs are built for a downhill power run game.

The quarterback position is a mess. Robert Griffin's injuries and inability to adapt to Gruden's scheme makes his outlook not so great. Griffin regressed this year, mightily. The Tampa Bay game was one of the worst displays of field vision that I've ever seen from an NFL quarterback. He looked overwhelmed and unable to process information at all. Taking on a new system may have been too much for Griffin. Kirk Cousins showed that he is a capable backup but incapable of carrying a team on his own. Cousins has a lot of positive qualities but really struggles when the timing of the offense is disrupted. Colt McCoy is a 3rd stringer at best. Let him walk in free agency.

The offense is a lot of square pegs in round holes. There are a few solid pieces but without a QB it's all for nothing. There is a lack of depth at nearly every position.

I would focus on rebuilding the (right side of the) offensive line and finding a running back that can function in a power run game. The defense isn't great and there isn't a reliable quarterback. Right now, the offense has to rely on the run game to carry the offense. Doing so will also eat the clock and help the defense by limiting the volume of plays they have to face.

Baker, Chris

Height
6020

Weight
329

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
October 8th, 1987 (27)

Defensive Tackle

BEST

Arm strength, lateral quickness

WORST

Effort, leverage, lower body and core strength, hand use

PROJECTION

A below average player that gets moved off the ball too easily – a bad thing for a guy who plays nose tackle. Would function much better in a 4-3 penetrating role. Doesn't give the necessary effort on every play. Low level starter that might be productive when allowed to attack up field from the interior.

SUMMARY

Works mainly in run situations. Removed in passing down and distances even though that's where he plays best. He lacks the strength and mentality to play the nose tackle position. Weight is 329 but plays much lighter. Gets pushed around all game but makes a couple of decent plays. Inconsistent. No 2nd move. Waits for contact and doesn't initiate the blow. Inactive hands and doesn't know how to use them well to disengage. Displays the arm strength at times to lock and turn blockers but rarely uses it. Good lateral quickness for a big guy – should use it more often to setup blockers. Gives way more effort in pass rush than in run stopping. Doesn't get good leverage. Does a good job of trying to get his hands in the path of the ball when he can't get to the QB. Hesitant and not explosive but appears to be coached that way. Showed more effort against divisional opponents (Giants/Eagles). Was a bad fit for this scheme. Deserves a shot as a pass-rushing DT in the 3-tech.



Bowen, Stephen

Height
6050

Weight
271

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 28th, 1984 (30)

Defensive End

BEST

Anchor, bull rush, effort

WORST

Slow twitch, weak initial push, awareness

PROJECTION

Rotational player that displays moments of strength to overpower mediocre linemen. Doesn't penetrate much but doesn't get moved off the ball either. Backup player that will be better in a different scheme.

SUMMARY

Defensive end that does his job but not much more. Doesn't get pushed off the LOS but also doesn't penetrate to the quarterback often. Best game was against the Giants and facing a young LG that was originally a center. Very average but consistent player. Slow twitch and doesn't explode in any phase. Gives terrific effort, makes good 2nd moves, and continuously fights to get to where the ball is. Lacks play awareness at times and can get lost if he doesn't keep his head up. If he works on staying low and maintaining leverage he could be more effective. Has active hands but is ineffective – could be taught to use them better. If he were younger the projection would be that he could grow into a fringe starter but at 30, he's likely gone through most of his development. 2-gapping in a 3-4 is not his strength. Might be better as a 1-tech in a 4-3. Scheduled \$5.4M salary, \$8.02M cap. \$5.5M savings if cut pre-June 1. At 30 years old, candidate to ask to take a pay cut.



Cofield, Barry

Height
6040

Weight
303

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 19th, 1984 (30)

Defensive Tackle

BEST

Awareness, tackling, anchor

WORST

Penetration, acceleration

PROJECTION

30 year old who is probably done in his development. Fringe starter that was better when aligning as NT but aligned a lot at DE. Worthy of a roster spot as a backup/rotational player but will want to upgrade ASAP.

SUMMARY

Cofield was one of the better players along the defensive line that was really bad in 2014. He might look better with better talent surrounding him but isn't a guy you want playing every snap. Has very good awareness and football IQ. Disciplined to his duties. Anchors well and doesn't get pushed off the line of scrimmage. Tackles everything he gets his hands on. Has the mentality to play on the interior. Selflessly will eat up double teams to allow teammates to run free. Uses his hands well to disengage from blockers at the POA. Lacks true acceleration. Doesn't penetrate quickly and needs time to get going. Worth a roster spot but it wouldn't be disappointing to rotate him with a younger player trying to improve.



Golston, Kedric

Height
6040

Weight
292

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
May 30th, 1983 (31)

Defensive Tackle

BEST

Size, mediocre strength

WORST

Speed, mental errors, mentality

PROJECTION

JAG. Nothing about this guy makes me want him on the roster.

SUMMARY

Doesn't use his size well. Doesn't fight through blocks. Doesn't get good push up the middle. Shows strength at times but very inconsistent with it. Doesn't attack. More of a "wait and see what hits me" type of player. Doesn't offer much as a player and will be 32 going into 2015. \$1M salary in 2015 plus a roster bonus at start of the new league year. Cut.



Hatcher, Jason

Height
6060

Weight
285

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 13th, 1982 (32)

Defensive Tackle

BEST

Awareness, get off, versatility

WORST

Lane discipline, tackling

PROJECTION

Good starter that can function as a DT in 4-3 or play DE in a 3-4. Gets good penetration but was used in a 2-gap system that negated his best features.

SUMMARY

Hatcher is a very smart football player. He operates and functions with his head up and eyes on the play at all times. Sniffs out screen plays with regular consistency. Active and effective with his hands to keep blockers from locking him out. Good get off on the snap plus his hands makes him hard to handle. 2-gap responsibility limited his potential and projects best as a 1-gap penetrating 4-3 DT. Would also help with his lane discipline issues. Not sure why he was ever used as a nose tackle at 285lbs. Finished the season injured and may be a concern going forward at age 32.



Jenkins, Jarvis

Height
6040

Weight
310

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
April 6th, 1988 (26)

Defensive End

BEST

Size, initial push

WORST

Lack of awareness, lack of pass rushing moves, stiff, slow

PROJECTION

Just a guy with a familiar name. Displays very little outstanding characteristics and doesn't show the effort necessary to improve. Cut candidate.

SUMMARY

Will try to maintain discipline but loses complete awareness of the field in doing so. Lacks awareness as a whole. Gets good initial push but has no counter moves, no bend, and gives up easily. Runs himself up field and past the quarterback. Gets himself out of position too often. Slow, stiff, and isn't fluid in a lot of the stuff that he does. Only takes an outside angle and isn't good at setting up blockers. May be strong but doesn't use it to his advantage.



Kearse, Frank

Height
6040

Weight
311

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
October 5th, 1988 (26)

Defensive End

BEST

Mentality, effort

WORST

Speed, inability to disengage, lack of push

PROJECTION

Fringe roster player who can set the edge as a defensive end and that's about it. Not a guy you want playing significant snaps.

SUMMARY

Young player that projects as a bottom of the roster player as a 3-4 defensive end. Does a good job of anchoring but gets zero push off the line of scrimmage. Lacks acceleration and top speed. Has the mentality to play the position and will spend good effort to fight through double teams. Chases down the LOS to get to the ball carrier. Lacks the ability to disengage from even mediocre blockers. Can set the edge in the run game but is unable to get his hands on the runner. Should watch how he competes in camp but is a cut candidate.



Compton, Will

Height
6020

Weight
230

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
September 19th, 1989 (25)

Inside Linebacker

BEST

Vision, zone coverage, play recognition

WORST

Disengaging from blockers, speed, gets hit instead of hitting

PROJECTION

Reserve player who is a competent fill in during injury. Isn't a liability in any single asset but doesn't really excel at anything. If he learns to disengage could function well as a rotational player.

SUMMARY

Will flash with a TFL at times due to his vision and play recognition. Can sift through trash. He's solid when he's able to make blockers miss but when one gets his hands on him he's finished. He can't disengage at all and doesn't fight through blocks. Good awareness in zone coverage but lacks the physical skill set to be exceptional at it. Not a run and chase guy. Lacks top end speed. Not a great tackler. Braces for impact instead of delivering the blow.



Jeffcoat, Jackson

Height
6030

Weight
253

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 26th, 1991 (23)

Outside Linebacker

BEST

Straight line speed, hand strength, anchor

WORST

Awareness, bend, inconsistent effort

PROJECTION

Very good special teams player. Killer speed but plays out of control and with little discipline. There are tools there to make him a spot pass rusher but should serve his team well on STs.

SUMMARY

Probably the fastest linebacker on the entire team. Top end speed is legit. Rushes from the wide 9 at times and runs himself out of the play behind the QB. Zero bend around the edge and no counter moves. Can't get pressure to the inside, only outside. LTs have an easy job because he's a 1 trick pony. Liability in screens. Lacks play recognition and awareness. Doesn't convert speed to power to bullrush. Anchors well when not pass rushing but can't get loose to get to the ball carrier. Doesn't shed blockers well. Love his potential as a special teams player to get down the field and get to the ball but has to learn to break down his steps and tackle well. At 23, potential to develop pass rushing moves to make him a 3rd down specialty.



Kerrigan, Ryan

Height
6040

Weight
267

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 30th, 1988 (26)

Outside Linebacker

BEST

True football player, speed-to-power conversion, athleticism

WORST

Coverage, feel for zone drops, setting up blockers

PROJECTION

Potential perennial Pro-Bowler. Kerrigan was the best player on Washington's defense all season. Strong pass rusher and stout in the run game. All-around great player.

SUMMARY

Possesses very good speed, athleticism, and power for the position. Played 3-4 OLB and spent too much time in coverage and still produced 13 sacks. Excels when converting speed to power and bull-rushing the pocket. Can collapse his side of the LOS in the run game. Maintains good leverage in the run game and is a strong tackler. Works well from both standing up on OLB position and also with his hand in the dirt. Labors in coverage and COD is a little slow in this aspect. Was extremely effective when he and Murphy were lined up on the same side. Needs to learn how to setup blockers from play to play. This kid could be one of the best players in the league with good coaching and correct usage.



Murphy, Trent

Height
6050

Weight
258

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 22nd, 1990 (24)

Outside Linebacker

BEST

Physical, stack and shed, athleticism

WORST

Speed in coverage, no feel for zone drops, lacks pass rushing repertoire

PROJECTION

Rookie who played exceptionally well as an OLB. Very good pass rusher with lots of room to grow. Good speed, bend, and plays extremely physically. Currently has to think about what is happening but will get better with more reps.

SUMMARY

Similar player to Kerrigan in that he played the OLB (after Orakpo injury) and is a physical player on the edge of the line who can get to the QB. Lacks the closing speed that Kerrigan has but is a tad more physical. Will mix it up with interior guards and is hard for them to handle. Does a great job of stacking and shedding blockers. Doesn't just hit blockers but will fight through to get to the ball carrier. Lacks a true top gear in running and doesn't have a good feel when in coverage. Lacks a pass rushing repertoire and once learned will become vastly more effective as a rusher. Not a guy you want covering tight ends. Works from both 2-point and 3-point stance and is effective in both. Slow to process in terms of play recognition and played hesitant early in the season but got better as the season went along. Plays with great effort. Has Pro Bowl potential if he continues to develop.



Orakpo, Brian

Height
6030

Weight
263

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 31st, 1986 (28)

Outside Linebacker

BEST

Game speed, build, raw talent, tough to block

WORST

Lacks multiple pass rush moves, poor in coverage, discipline vs. run

PROJECTION

Perennial Pro-Bowler potential and is a better overall pass rusher than Kerrigan. Talent like this is hard to find. Lacks pass rush moves and seems to be hard to coach but supremely talented. Potential 15-18 sack guy with development.

SUMMARY

Explosive off the line of scrimmage. Great closing speed. Lacks multiple pass rush moves and good left tackles can keep him at bay because he can't mix it up. Has the mentality to take on multiple blockers. Great initial drive and push with legs. Can speed or power rush. Sloppy technique in pass rushing. Not great in zone coverage and really should only be used in coverage in zone blitzes. Lacks discipline vs. run and was exploited during Seattle game in zone read. Gets better as the game goes on as he sets up his blockers well from play to play. Good job getting his hands up when he can't get to the QB. Impressive reaction speed. The raw talent is there and if a coach can get it out of him, Orakpo could be one of the better pass rushers in the NFL. It's really hard to let a player like him go. Try to re-sign to a similar deal as Michael Bennett/Cliff Avril. \$8.5M top end?



Riley, Perry

Height
6010

Weight
238

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
May 3rd, 1986 (26)

Inside Linebacker

BEST

Fill in run game, play recognition, tackling

WORST

Inability to disengage, stiff in coverage, mediocre sideline to sideline

PROJECTION

Good starter who plays in both base and nickel packages. Fills in the run game well but stiff and slow sideline to sideline. Potential to grow into a stud with better coaching.

SUMMARY

Riley is an interesting player. Plays well north and south but slower when playing sideline to sideline. Shows the ability to sift through traffic in the run game and get to the running back. Inability to disengage when getting blocked but displays the physical strength to do so at times. Very good play recognition. Sniffs out screens with ease and gets to the back in a hurry. Does a good job of sitting in zone with his eyes on the QB but struggles some in man coverage. Needs better angle to get to running backs – too often takes the wrong leverage position. Tough mentality and will take on a guard or FB with power. Captain'd the defense while Robinson was out. He's a 26 year old with a good base skill set and real potential to grow. Could be a high-level starter with good coaching and a better DL in front of him.



Robinson, Keenan

Height
6030

Weight
242

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 7th, 1989 (25)

Inside Linebacker

BEST

Fluidity, intelligence, lateral movement, coverage

WORST

Injury concerns, can be deceived with QB's eyes, can lose gap discipline

PROJECTION

Young player that has Pro Bowl potential. 2104 was essentially his rookie season. Great all-around skill set with tons of potential to be a great player.

SUMMARY

Very good speed both laterally and north and south. Smart player who flies all over the field. Does well in pattern match zone and in man coverage vs. tight end. Enough speed to play with a slot wide receiver. Very good blitzing the a-gaps. Plays well sideline to sideline. Wrap-up tackler and doesn't miss a whole lot. This is essentially his rookie season due to injuries. His progression throughout the season is promising. Stays in on nickel and dime packages. Effective pass rusher with great closing speed. Played slow at the beginning of the season but learned to process info and react faster. Mental errors at times because of his inexperience that were toned down towards the end of the season. Very good player with a potential to be great. I would love to see what he could do with a better defensive line in front of him.



Amerson, David

Height
6010

Weight
205

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 8th, 1991 (23)

Cornerback

BEST

Athleticism, ball skills, size

WORST

Change of direction, top-end speed, awareness

PROJECTION

3rd CB that is a liability against good WRs. Showed promise to go beyond that but either has zero awareness or was extremely poorly coached. There is potential that shouldn't be written off until he gets better coaching.

SUMMARY

Amerson was extremely inconsistent from play to play. At times showed the ability to mirror solid receivers but looked completely lost at others. Lacks awareness and play recognition. Slow to change direction and doesn't possess good top-end speed. He's a long and athletic player and that helps but shouldn't be put into coverage against great receivers in tough situations. Must be protected. Plays mostly off coverage and gives too much cushion. Doesn't get a good jam at the LOS and this is something that could help him immensely as he seems to function better in press coverage. Technique and footwork need major work. Needs to be stronger on the edge in the run game. Size and athleticism dictates that he be given a shot to continue to progress under a better scheme and coaching as he's still very young.



Biggers, E.J.

Height
5110

Weight
180

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
June 13th, 1987 (27)

Cornerback / Free Safety

BEST

Attacks ball in the air, quick feet, good run support for his size

WORST

Balance, recovery, size

PROJECTION

Smaller CB who played some FS as well. Nickel CB that gets beaten too often. Inconsistent and can be a liability without good safety play. Good range in the safety position.

SUMMARY

Watched Biggers in Tampa while he was here. He's a streaky CB that at times can stick with good receivers but will get smoked by others. Not a hitter and not a zone coverage guy. Misses with his hands at the LOS too often. Has good COD but has poor balance at times and that gets him out of position too much. Quick feet but doesn't drive hard to the ball when it's in the air, but will attack it when it gets within range. Will get caught flat-footed and with his eyes in the backfield too often. Struggles against larger WRs who just block him out. He's a liability as a 3rd CB, would be more comfortable with him as a 4th CB. Small frame leaves little room for development. He is what he is at this point.



Breeland, Bashaud

Height
5110

Weight
197

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
January 30, 1992 (22)

Cornerback

BEST

Sticky man coverage, mirrors well, press coverage, fluid transition, good hips, football IQ

WORST

Blitz instincts, could improve in zone coverage, winning jump balls

PROJECTION

Rookie CB that projects as a future Pro Bowler with the right scheme and coaching. Can be moved around, versatile, great in man-press, and can turn and run. Has all the elements necessary to be great.

SUMMARY

Breeland was extremely impressive even without a strong front seven in front of him. I could see the game slow down for him a bit as the season progressed. Began getting used more in press-man and it benefitted. Better there than in off-coverage. Mirrors well and gets a good jam at the LOS. Good size and has mentality to support the run game from the edge. Runs routes for receivers and gets his head around to the QB which will make him an interception machine if teams throw at him. High football IQ and recognizes plays quickly. Has good enough top-end speed (ran stride for stride with T.Y. Hilton). He has to learn to handle rub routes. Could use some coaching in winning jump balls. Zone coverage is above average but could use coaching to make it better. Sometimes drives well on the ball in front of him but that's nitpicking. This kid is going to be a star.



Clark, Ryan

Height
5110

Weight
200

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
October 13th, 1979 (35)

Safety

BEST

Speed, hitting

WORST

Discipline, angle to the ball, tackling

PROJECTION

Waste of a million bucks in 2014. Don't make the same mistake in 2015.

SUMMARY

Clark is overly-aggressive and freelances too much. He leaves his corners out to dry. Has good speed but it often just helps get him out of position faster. He's a poor tackler. Lacks good size as a safety. Takes poor angles to the ball and too often takes the wrong leverage position when supporting in the run game. Not a wrap-up tackler. Hits with his shoulder and falls off. Misses too many tackles for a safety. Liability in just about every phase. Don't waste the time or money.



Hall, DeAngelo

Height
5100

Weight
195

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
November 19th, 1983 (31)

Cornerback

BEST

Top end speed, recovery speed, blitzing

WORST

Tackling, mental errors, awareness, discipline

PROJECTION

It's arguable that Hall was ever a top corner but he's certainly not there now. 2nd CB, at best, who guesses too much and gets burned too often. Re-tore his Achilles 5 weeks after initial injury. Can keep as #2 CB (but I'd prefer starting Amerson to let him grow), consider a possible move to safety, or release.

SUMMARY

Hall has always survived on his pure overall speed. His athleticism is beginning to wane and he's having even more trouble recovering when he gets out of position. He's weak at the LOS in press. When he's not in press he plays too far off (especially with his speed). Lacks good change of direction. Lacks good awareness and plays with his eyes in the backfield which leads to guessing. Gets burned as much as he makes splash plays. Very bad tackler and doesn't play physical – especially in the run game. Solid blitzer off the corner but has to have a free run. Overall he's poor in coverage and gets exposed far too often. At 31, is he able to clean up his shoddy technique? Doubtful. It would save \$2.375M in cap (\$2.44M dead) to cut DeAngelo Hall pre-June 1. He's making \$4M in salary, plus \$812k in proration is counting against the cap in 2015. Is he worth that? Would he block a guy like Amerson from getting the reps he needs? Would Hall consider moving to NCB? I would consider these when analyzing if he's worth a roster spot for 2015.



Ihenacho, Duke

Height
6000

Weight
205

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
June 16th, 1989 (25)

Safety

BEST

Game speed, burst out of break, effort, press technique

WORST

Tackling, mental errors, savvy, needs to finish

PROJECTION

Nickel DB who brings into questions whether or not he relies on his AA to get the job done. Athletic but mentally he seems to struggle on the field. Fits in a press coverage scheme to avoid some confusion.

SUMMARY

5th year DC and former 6th round pick who works mainly in NICKEL. Good athlete with adequate size to play in the slot who displayed great quickness, acceleration and game speed. Great ability to read run/pass from the slot. Adequate run defender who utilizes his great speed to quickly fill his gap. Patient and quick feet at LOS when in press coverage vs. slot. Disruptive and strong with his punch when he gets his hands on the slot WRs. Possess a great feel for WR's lean allowing him to undercut routes. Able to recover from bad positions due to his athleticism. Quick transition from pedal to break and shows a smooth and explosive burst out of his break. Struggles with shed of WRs in the run game; needs to repetition that part of his game. Peaks at QB coming out of his break, which puts him in danger for the whips, jerks and DBL moves. In Cover 1, initially needs to utilize his safety help with his leverage on the WR; Relies too much on his safety/linebacker help as the WR gets into his route;



Merriweather, Brandon

Height
5100

Weight
195

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
January 14th, 1984 (30)

Safety

BEST

Gap fill in run game, hitting, blitz instincts

WORST

Tackling, mental errors, coverage

PROJECTION

Experienced hitter who doesn't cover well and misses too many tackles. Can be exploited by QBs who can manipulate him with their eyes. Free agent that might be welcomed back at vet minimum.

SUMMARY

At this point, Meriweather is what he is – an enforcer over the middle that comes with a lot of penalties and mental lapses. Over aggressive and a hitter instead of wrap up tackler. Can be exploited in one on one coverage as well as by good QBs who move him with their eyes. Can fill a gap in the run game with ferocity and effectiveness. Physical player in all phases. Great blitz instincts coming from the secondary. Meriweather isn't a bad player but isn't exceptional either. Seems a step slower and harder to change direction with every year. Worth vet minimum, but not much more.



Porter, Tracy

Height
5110

Weight
185

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
August 11th, 1986 (28)

Cornerback

BEST

Change of direction, versatility, football IQ, tackling, consistency

WORST

Slow play recognition, balance

PROJECTION

Starting caliber CB who does a good job in all forms of coverage. Can be manipulated a bit when his eyes are in the backfield but is incredibly versatile and can play at any CB position.

SUMMARY

Versatile player who can play both inside in the slot and outside on bigger receivers. Covers TEs well. Slow to recognize plays and can be manipulated when his eyes are in the backfield but a very good cover corner. Can set the edge in the run game but isn't overly physical. Understands scheme concepts and his role within them. Terrific tackler and he plays with good consistency. Has good change of direction but plays off balance too much. Needs to learn to keep his feet under him. Shows ability to jam at the LOS. Solid ball skills but poor hands. Good squat in his backpedal and transitions quickly to driving forward on the ball. Has a good feel for zone coverage but freelances too much because his eyes are in the backfield. Injury concerns are abound but Porter and Breeland are the 2 best CBs on this team right now.



Robinson, Trenton

Height
5100

Weight
193

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
February 16th, 1990 (24)

Safety

BEST

Game speed, effort, penchant for hitting

WORST

Discipline, freelances, stiff

PROJECTION

Solid option as a backup SS that can fill in for extended periods of time. Better and younger than Ryan Clark.

SUMMARY

Plays with solid game speed. Stiff in his movements. Slow backpedal and slow transition but flies to the ball when it's in the air. Played some slot CB. Need to see him used more in man-coverage vs. tight ends. Lacks ability to see multiple things at once – can't track the QB with his eyes and feel his receiver in coverage at the same time. Takes poor angles to the ball carrier. Freelances too much and gets himself out of position. Flies to the ball with authority but is a little reckless and needs to wrap up better. This kid is young and could grow into a solid football player. Definitely a special teams player that deserves a spot on the end of the roster even for just that purpose.



Thomas, Phillip

Height
6000

Weight
210

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 1st, 1989 (25)

Safety

BEST

Physicality, downhill speed, penchant for hitting

WORST

Over-aggressive toward LOS, play recognition, reaction time, tackling

PROJECTION

Capable starter as a box safety only. Too stiff to play sideline to sideline but hammers downhill and can be an enforcer over the middle.

SUMMARY

Plays fast and attacks downhill at the LOS. Can be taken advantage of because of his aggressiveness – too nose towards the run game even when in coverage. Slow to recognize the play and can't handle a lot of information to process. That might change with time. Covers tight ends decently well but can't hang with the fastest and most athletic ones. Gives good effort and can find him near the ball at the end of every play. Lacks technique in coverage and appears to almost trip over his own feet. Plays incredibly deep and it hurts in his ability to make an impact. Fails to sink his hips to help transition his weight from back to forwards. He needs some coaching and is raw but potential to be a capable starter. Can only be used as an in-box safety or in cover 2, cover 4. Don't ask him to play centerfield. Would rather have him in the game than Meriweather and is also younger and cheaper. Absolutely must improve his tackling.



Kirk Cousins

Height
6030

Weight
214

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
August, 19th, 1988 (26)

Quarterback

BEST

Ability to process info, changes speed/trajectory on the ball, gets rid of the ball quickly

WORST

Footwork/mechanics, ability to deal with pressure, ability to improvise

PROJECTION

Solid backup to low-level starter that lacks the anticipation, arm strength, and overall physical ability to grow into a franchise starter. Relies on rhythm and timing and when it's disrupted he deteriorates as a player.

SUMMARY

Mediocre arm strength and lacks anticipation so the ball often ends up a tick late. Understands ball placement but can't always execute with accuracy necessary. Footwork is already poor but disintegrates under pressure. Doesn't step to his target, often to the left which opens his hips too wide causing spotty accuracy. He collapses with the pocket does. More athletic than he gets credit for. Not afraid of tough throws but makes them tougher with poor timing. Gets rid of the ball quickly so he can help negate a poor OL.. Changes touch and velocity on the ball well. Really struggled when teams disrupted timing of the offense. Doesn't have a good feel for back-shoulder throws. Overall he's a mediocre QB that is limited physically. Shows flashes that he has the mental capacity to handle the position but is unable to function without a tightly structured offense that allows him to work on rhythm and timing.



Griffin III, Robert

Height
6020

Weight
223

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
February 12th, 1990 (25)

Quarterback

BEST

Arm strength, athleticism, overall speed

WORST

Decision making, field vision, ability to process info

PROJECTION

Griffin needs an offense tailored to his skill set and athleticism. If a HC/OC isn't going to tailor the offense to him, he's not good enough to carry a team. He lacks field vision and ability to process info quickly. Needs large windows and defined reads (something Shannhan's offense gave him). Most physically talented of all 3 QBs, but lacks mental aspects necessary to succeed consistently.

SUMMARY

Great athleticism and top end speed, but that's not what wins at the NFL level. He doesn't process information fast enough on the field and doesn't see the field well enough to be consistently good. He's a good thrower but not a good passer. Inconsistent accuracy and poor ball placement. Throws a good deep ball. Doesn't have a good feel for the pocket. Steps up at times but sometimes senses pressure that isn't there. Inconsistent decision making. He can make it through a full progression but needs lots of time to do so. Can throw from compromised positions and multiple arm angles. Gun shy. Doesn't pull the trigger and doesn't have the anticipation necessary, that plus slowly processing info is a killer at this level. Needs large windows and defined reads to simplify the game for him. Without it, he's not an NFL level passer, just an NFL level thrower. If we're not going to tailor the offense to his athleticism, suggest a trade. (Game vs. Tampa Bay was 1 of worst games I've ever seen from an NFL QB.)



Colt McCoy

Quarterback



Height
6010

Weight
216

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
September 5th, 1986 (28)

BEST

Athleticism, identifies personnel matchups in presnap phase

WORST

Arm strength, ability to pull the trigger, lack of progression reading

PROJECTION

A below average player with mediocre accuracy, poor arm strength, and ineffective decision making. Shouldn't be starting. 3rd string to backup at best.

SUMMARY

Solid athleticism. Processes info slowly. Half-field reader. Identifies positive personnel matchups in the presnap phase and attacks them. Decent pocket presence and steps up when necessary. Indecisive with the football. Can have misreads. Couple that with an inability to pull the trigger and he holds onto the ball way too long causing sacks or poor decisions late in the play. Recognizes coverages too late. Doesn't show a good understanding of man coverage and won't force the ball into tight windows. Misses lots of easy reads because he's looking for individual matchups over scheme matchups. Too many flaws for a limited player to overcome. He's a free agent. Let him leave.

Chester, Chris

Height
6030

Weight
305

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
January 12th, 1983 (32)

Guard

BEST

Initial strength off the snap, lateral movement, awareness

WORST

Doesn't stay engaged, needs to finish, struggles getting to 2nd level

PROJECTION

Solid starter who shows solid strength and athleticism. Needs better coaching to help him finish off blocks and engage better. 32 years old so he is nearing the end of his rope.

SUMMARY

Stick and move type of player who doesn't engage and lock out defenders. Shows good agility and lateral movement skills. Doesn't get much help from the center. Struggles to get to the 2nd level in the run game. Lacks a strong anchor and gets pushed back too easily. Does a good job of keeping his head up and switching between defenders in his zone. Stays square to the LOS when blocking. Stays low and gets solid leverage in the run game, especially initially off the snap. Doesn't help out the RT with his long arm in zone left runs. Needs to stick them with his arm to help the RT get better leverage. Solid player in the run game but can be a liability in pass blocking because he tends to bend at the waist and lunges too often. Expensive player who could be considered for a cut (saves \$4M in cap) and let young guys play.



Compton, Tom

Height
6050

Weight
314

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
May 10th, 1989 (25)

Tackle

BEST

Effort, size

WORST

Anchor, coordination, balance, strength

PROJECTION

Poor player that was really bad in all phases. He's a free agent. Let him walk.

SUMMARY

Poor balance. Poor anchor. Seems to lack overall coordination as he has no clue when to punch. Poor timing in everything he does. Bad footwork. Weak with his hands at the point of attack. Misses with his hands too often. Slow to switch between blocks. Doesn't drive through run blocks with his legs. Not great when moving laterally. Really confusing how the coaches let him play over Polumbus, and even then why Morgan Moses wasn't put at RT instead. Bad player. Not worth a roster spot.



Lauvao, Shawn

Height
6030

Weight
315

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
October 26th, 1987 (27)

Guard

BEST

Strong stiff arm in zone run block, strength when playing straight up

WORST

Lets defenders get in his kitchen too easily, doesn't finish off blocks, streaky

PROJECTION

Solid player that is streaky in his play. Gives up too much ground in pass pro, especially initially on snap. Shows the strength to be a great blocker in the run game, but would be a better blocker in a power scheme. Worthy starter but has to get better.

SUMMARY

Gives up too much ground initially in pass pro. Needs to be more aggressive in all phases. Let's blocks come to him instead of initiating contact. Shows physical strength at times to plow through blocks but doesn't finish. Streaky as a player. Gives up ground in the run game when moving laterally. Want to see him be more physical inside in both run and pass pro. Good player when playing downhill. Shows a good stiff arm in zone run blocks. Gets beaten across his face too often. Needs to improve his awareness in pass pro. Needs to engage better before the defender gets into his chest and gets leverage. Wasn't a great player in 2014 but shows ability to be a power blocker on the inside with a scheme tweak and better coaching. He's overpaid for what he's produced.



LeRibeus, Josh

Height
6030

Weight
312

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 2nd, 1989 (25)

Guard

BEST

Leverage in run blocking, leg drive

WORST

Lateral movement, doesn't stay square to LOS, gets beat across his face

PROJECTION

Young player who has a long way to go. Liability in pass pro and streaky in the run game. Chance to be a solid starter as he has the size and strength but not there yet.

SUMMARY

Very poor lateral movement. Gets beat across his face a lot. Get him moving one direction and he can't stop. Doesn't stay square to the LOS. Has to learn better footwork – slide his feet to get in front of his target. Mediocre anchor and gets pushed back too often. Has good leg drive in blocking and can clear the path. Gets solid leverage and can move just about any DT out of the way in run blocking. Slow to recognize defensive concepts and switch off. Has poor hand placement. His lack of ability to move laterally inhibits his progression as a player. If he can fix that, he's got a shot. As he is right now, he's a liability as a player except in heavy packages. Still on his rookie contract so let him play for a spot under a new OL coach.



Lichtensteiger, Kory

Height
6030

Weight
310

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 22nd, 1985 (29)

Center

BEST

Leverage in run game, anchor, strength at POA, physicality

WORST

Blocking in open field, average athleticism, inconsistent play

PROJECTION

Very good starter that is stout at the LOS. Average athleticism limits his growth and he whiffs on open field blocks at the 2nd level but a very good player that still has a couple of years left of good football.

SUMMARY

Good leverage in the run game when moving laterally. Good effort getting to the 2nd level but whiffs when he gets there. Misses blocks in the open field by large margins. Has to work on getting better angles on his blocks in the run game. Good anchor for a center. Always looking for someone to hit. Stout at the POA and does a good job of pivoting after contact to lock out defenders when run blocking. Physical player that disposes of defenders at times and finishes through blocks. Over pursues sometimes on blocks. He's a little streaky/inconsistent at times and can bury a guy on a run block or can let him slip by with a bad angle. Solid in pass pro and uses his hands well. Average athleticism and moves ok laterally. Above average center that is worth his contract but getting up there in age. Time to start thinking about finding his replacement in the next couple of years.



Moses, Morgan

Height
6060

Weight
318

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 3rd, 1991 (23)

Tackle

BEST

Size, strength, handles power extremely well

WORST

Technique, finish, sustaining blocks, hand use, plays high

PROJECTION

Moses is a RT that played LT for some reason. Lacks the athleticism to play LT, but is pure power. Exhibits great strength and played well vs. Justin Smith. All the physical tools are there and he could end up being a very good or even great starting RT but needs to get his butt down, clean up his game, and finish blocks.

SUMMARY

Superb power. Very good leg drive in run blocking. Want to see more physicality and ferocity out of his blocking. Bends at the waist too often. Footwork is poor. Inactive hands and lacks punch for a big guy. Reaches too often and will lunge at blocks at times. Struggled with Michael Johnson's length. Doesn't sustain blocks. Switches between defenders well. Decent athleticism for his size. Lacks awareness but that may come with reps. Need to work on his flexibility. Not explosive as a blocker but powerful, just needs to learn to harness it. Struggles with elusive defenders and speed. Has to learn to finish finish finish. Not sure why he played LT when he's a prototype RT. He could/should compete for the starting RT spot in 2015 against Polumbus but needs to get his game together. Has all the talent necessary to be great but lacks good form and discipline as a blocker. Want to see a more aggressive style from him as well.



Polumbus, Tyler

Height
6070

Weight
300

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
April 10th, 1985 (29)

Tackle

BEST

Size, punch, awareness, effort, understanding of protection calls/concepts

WORST

Anchor, push in run game, doesn't stay engaged in blocks

PROJECTION

Polumbus wasn't awful but wasn't good either. He's a decent backup but isn't a guy that you want to have to rely on heavily. He doesn't blow guys away in either the run or pass game, but shows an ability to close off the edge when running his way. Low-level starter to good backup candidate.

SUMMARY

Polumbus projects as a better player in a power scheme than in a zone scheme. He moves well enough laterally but can never get the angle on his defender when moving to his left. Better down blocking and sealing the edge than moving out and locking out to open up the hole. Understands his assignment within the call and helps out other blockers when he can. Plays a little high and gives up too much ground when pass blocking. Inside-setter in pass pro and almost never lets a rusher to get inside him. Slow hands. Gets hands slapped away too often and doesn't reset fast enough. Can be pushed off balance when he doesn't keep discipline in his footwork. Has to engage better at the POA – defenders get loose too easily and can win with 2nd effort. Struggles vs. spin move. Needs a tougher mentality and to play with more physicality. Will be 30 in 2015 season. Let him test FA and only re-sign for a low-level contract that makes sense. Otherwise, let Moses man the RT spot and add competition for him.



Williams, Trent

Height
6050

Weight
314

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
August 19th, 1988 (26)

Tackle

BEST

Size, great athleticism, active & powerful hands, mirrors well

WORST

Slow to react to inside moves, durability

PROJECTION

Pro Bowler who deserves the nod, though his play was down from his usual level. Seemed like he never came back fully from injury. Can be one of the best LTs in the NFL when healthy. Versatile player who is worth his big contract.

SUMMARY

Terrific at mirroring pass rushers. Strong at the POA. Active and powerful hands and has a devastating initial punch. Stays compact and doesn't reach. Strong kick step. Great size and athleticism (not just for his size). Good at letting rushers run their way upfield and out of the play past the QB. Resets hands with efficiency when swatted away. Injured this season and never really seemed to regain full form after he returned. Still played well but didn't dominate the way he normally does. Terrific player that deserves the accolades he gets. Franchise LT that is the one part of the line that doesn't need to be worried about.



Helu, Roy

Running Back



Height
5110

Weight
219

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
November 10th, 1988 (26)

BEST

3rd down back, solid pass blocking, stiff arm

WORST

Speed, elusiveness, agility

PROJECTION

3rd down back that is a good pass blocker with solid hands. Not a great runner. Backup/3rd down back only. Free agent worth a minimum contract but not much more.

SUMMARY

Only real offering from Helu is his ability in the pass game. Not a great receiver but good enough to support his really good pass blocking. Willing to take on even the biggest defenders and shows power, effort, and fearlessness when blocking. More power than Morris but doesn't break tackles any better. Solid stiff arm. Not explosive. Very little agility and lacks elusiveness. Another 1-cut runner. Slow. Lacks balance. Deciphers blitz schemes well in pass pro. Backup/3rd down back only that is a free agent. Let him walk unless he's willing to sign at a veteran minimum. Otherwise, turn Darrel Young or Logan Paulsen into a 3rd down back for 2015 and/or address the problem with a UDFA or late round draft pick.

Morris, Alfred

Height
5100

Weight
219

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 12th, 1988 (26)

Running Back

BEST

Quick feet, decent vision, presses the hole and sets up blocks well

WORST

Not a HR hitter, lacks top in speed, not elusive, one-style runner

PROJECTION

Solely a 1-cut runner built for the zone scheme. If the scheme changes, he becomes ineffective as a runner. Lacks true agility and elusiveness, and doesn't have the power to break tackles. Solid player and starter in zone scheme but could be upgraded if not for such a cheap contract (\$690k in 2015).

SUMMARY

Shows a willingness to pass block but typically gets beaten, even against linebackers. One cut runner whose only worth is in a zone run scheme. Has quick feet and solid vision but is unable to slip through holes consistently before they close. Can't get skinny through smaller holes. Can't create on his own. Lacks elusiveness and doesn't have the agility to make a cut that covers a full gap. Struggles if there's any penetration at all. Lacks ability to make defenders miss in the hole. Doesn't consistently break tackles. Rarely uses a stiff arm but does keep the ball secure with 2 hands. Almost never runs around the edge of the defense. Fails to follow his fullback. Low top end speed and average acceleration. Struggles in power run concepts. Decent hands but not a good receiver overall. Presses the hole and sets up blocks well. Good player for his contract, but if changing run schemes, he becomes fairly useless. Address this position late in the draft while letting Morris play out the final year of his rookie contract for cheap.



Redd, Silas

Height
5100

Weight
200

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
March 1st, 1992 (22)

Running Back

BEST

Decent agility, hands

WORST

Lack of reps, indecisive runner, lacks burst

PROJECTION

Not sure he's worth keeping around even on a minimum contract. Projects as an end of roster player who offers nothing much more than a special teams player. Has good size but not explosive. Cut or keep as a camp body.

SUMMARY

Solid size for the position. Special teams contributor. Indecisive runner that lacks burst. Fairly agile for his size. Lacks technique in pass pro but shows a willingness to take on even large defenders. Another one cut runner in the mold of Morris and Helu but not as talented. Minimum contract with no bonuses so it won't hurt to let him attend camp, but I can see the desire to cut him now and get it over with as well.



Thompson, Chris

Height
5080

Weight
187

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
October 20th, 1990 (24)

Running Back

BEST

Burst, speed, agility, returner

WORST

Size, injury history, runs upright, pass blocking

PROJECTION

Most burst and juice of any RB on the roster. He's a project but would love to see him more with the ball in his hands in space. Injury concern (broken vertebrae in college) but looks explosive in limited snaps. End of roster body worth seeing how he looks in camp.

SUMMARY

The most explosive back on the roster. Very good burst and top end speed. Looks explosive in limited snaps and shows solid hands as a receiver. Potential special teams contributor as a returner so worth keeping around for camp just for that reason. He runs upright, especially for a smaller back. Dives in pass pro but can't sustain and gets beaten when trying to take on a defender head on. Shows good vision and lateral agility to skip holes. Long injury history dating back to college where he broke vertebrae in his spine. Potentially an ongoing issue.



Young, Darrel

Height
5110

Weight
248

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
April 8th, 1987 (27)

Fullback

BEST

Agility, speed, size, physicality

WORST

Not clean as a blocker, needs to finish blocks off

PROJECTION

Above average fullback who shows good agility and speed for his size and the position. More of a running back who possesses good size. Decent quickness and solid with the ball in his hands. Special teams contributor. If you're going to have a FB on the roster, Young is a good one to have.

SUMMARY

A better runner than he probably gets credit for. Solid with the ball in his hand as he has good acceleration and quickness. Solid hands. Good feet. Can have his momentum stopped in the backfield and still adjust and get moving forward quickly. Good speed for his size. Solid agility, too. Squares up well on LBs in the hole. More of a stoner as blocker rather than blowing guys up and cleaning them out. Would like to see him finish defenders off and take them out of the play completely. Solid pass blocker. Morris almost never follows his lead and would do well to start doing so. Young has a cap# of \$1.53M in 2015 which is high for a FB but is potentially worth it as he is a good special teams player as well. Can serve as a backup running back as well.



Paul, Niles

Height
6010

Weight
224

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 8th, 1989 (25)

Tight End

BEST

Finds holes in zone, good hands, very good blocker for his size

WORST

Mental mistakes, has to finish in blocking and with ball in his hands, not explosive

PROJECTION

Quietly a good starter. Really good blocker for his size even though it regressed from the year before. Also a solid receiver who finds the soft spot vs. zone and runs good routes vs. man coverage. Will continue to be a very good all-around TE and is worth re-signing at the right price.

SUMMARY

Good player in every phase. Actually a better blocker than receiver in previous years. Blocking regressed slightly in 2015 but he was a solid receiver. Has good hands and not afraid to risk his body in traffic for a catch. Finds the soft spot in zone with good consistency. Lacks top end speed and isn't explosive. Could use some sharpening of his routes vs. man coverage but still seems to get open. Willingness and physicality in blocking is above average for the position. He just needs to learn to finish blocks. Inconsistent focus as a football player. Would suggest a speed trainer this offseason to get him quicker feet and add an explosive element to his game. Can line up in-line or in the slot and block or run routes from both positions. Transitions from block to leak-out route with smoothness and deceptiveness. He's a Swiss Army knife in the vein of Delanie Walker but doesn't show the same explosiveness. Multi-talented and an all-around good football player. Re-sign him for the right price (back loaded contract, avg. less than \$3M/year and it's worth it).



Paulsen, Logan

Height
6050

Weight
264

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
February 26th, 1987 (27)

Tight End

BEST

Blocking, engages and locks in defenders well, effort

WORST

Slow, not sharp in routes, not explosive

PROJECTION

Run blocking TE but doesn't offer much as a receiving threat. More of an H-back type of player with the potential to transition to FB. Could be a better player if he dropped some weight to gain some quickness in his play. Potential cut candidate if re-signing Paul.

SUMMARY

Very good engager in run blocking and doesn't let defenders get free. Can seal the edge and collapse it down with good power when down blocking. Good strength when blocking and gets good angles. Not a good route runner. Lacks agility. Lacks explosiveness. Doesn't have a good feel for zone windows. Doesn't stretch the field. He's inconsistent as a player. Not a threat to run after the catch. Paulsen might be better as an H-back type of FB. Solid player if you're looking for a TE who specializes in run blocking and isn't even deceptive in chipping and leaking out into the flat. Saves \$1.75M with a pre-June 1 cut. Could use that to re-sign Paul.



Reed, Jordan

Height
6020

Weight
243

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
July 3rd, 1990 (24)

Tight End

BEST

Feet, hands, athleticism, route running

WORST

Effort, focus, run blocking, acceleration

PROJECTION

Terrific receiving TE that is a matchup issue for defenses. Doesn't really stretch a defense but runs good routes and shows good hands. Reminiscent of Aaron Hernandez (on the field). Could be one of the best receiving TEs in the NFL with better effort and focus.

SUMMARY

Creates matchup issues for defenses. Too big to put a corner on him and safeties and linebackers can't keep up with his route running. Strong hands and catches well in traffic. Doesn't attack the ball in the air. Lacks effort in blocking but flashes the ability to seal the edge when he crashes down but doesn't always do so. Sharp routes. Great athleticism. Plays with great game speed. Only average acceleration. Understands how to setup defenders when running routes. Don't bother putting him in pass pro. Lacks focus at times in both blocking and catching. Solid ball skills. Top end speed is good, not great. Fantastic with the ball in his hand – looks like a RB when running. He's a WR in a TE's body and wins a lot when the play puts him in the X-iso position. Young and talented player that looks like the future of the TE position for the Redskins.



Garcon, Pierre

Height
6000

Weight
210

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
August 8th, 1986 (28)

Wide Receiver

BEST

Quick feet, sharp routes, speed, hands

WORST

Catch in traffic, doesn't break tackles

PROJECTION

Top level receiver who can stretch the field with deep speed but gets good separation vs. man coverage because of his exceptionally quick feet. Injury concerns but good enough to be a #1 WR. Cap number is a small issue but worth it for now.

SUMMARY

Garcon has some of the quickest feet in the league. He runs sharp routes and gets good separation from man coverage (increasingly important as the best teams tend to have lockdown CBs). H has very good deep speed which puts even more pressure on the CB. He's a tough cover and catches nearly everything thrown his way. Sets up defenders well before making his cut. Finds the hole in zone. Inconsistent in traffic. Needs better quarterback play to shine. Capable of 100+ catches and 1000+ yards with a better passer throwing him the ball. Can be a young QB's best friend because of his ability to beat man coverage. Keep him around for 2015 and see his production and then make the consideration of what to do with him beyond that.



Grant, Ryan

Height
6000

Weight
193

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 19th, 1990 (24)

Wide Receiver

BEST

Strong hands, sinks hips well to change direction

WORST

Too many steps in route transition, not strong at POA, gets to spots late

PROJECTION

Strong hands catcher that is solely a low-level possession receiver. Doesn't have any traits that jump off the film except for his hands. Better technique would make him a worthwhile player on the roster but as he is, cut worthy.

SUMMARY

Takes way too many steps when making his cuts allowing CBs to jump the route. Slow and late to his spots, also allowing CBs to jump the throw. Footwork is awful in all phases. Doesn't attack the ball in the air. Best trait is that he has sticky hands and the ball doesn't move when he gets his hands on it. Doesn't leverage CBs well. Can't stick his foot in the ground and cut. Bottom of the barrel in terms of technique but shows potential as a backup slot receiver if he can get his footwork under control. Camp body but looking for a way to upgrade the bottom of the WR depth chart.



Hankerson, Leonard

Height
6010

Weight
209

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
May 7th, 1988 (26)

Wide Receiver

BEST

Size

WORST

Speed, heavy feet, bad routes

PROJECTION

Last WR on the depth chart and he's a free agent. Not worth re-signing.

SUMMARY

Big, slow, and runs bad routes. Consider a potential change to TE but he'd need to put on weight to do that. Not worth even a minimum contract at this point.



Jackson, DeSean

Height
5100

Weight
178

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
December 1st, 1986 (28)

Wide Receiver

BEST

Great when the ball is in the air, body control, deep speed, explosiveness

WORST

Injury concerns, size, rounds off routes, needs ball in space

PROJECTION

Premier deep threat in the NFL. Stretches the field better than anyone in the league – an incredibly useful trait. Locates & adjusts well to the ball in the air. Size creates injury concerns but a valuable asset to have.

SUMMARY

Everyone knows about DJax's incredible top end speed, yet he still runs right past CBs in off coverage. One aspect of his game that jumped off the film at me is his ability to locate, track, and (especially) adjust to the ball in the air. Very good body control with the ball in the air. Speed puts CBs in compromised positions which allows only DJax to get his head around and locate the ball while CB is playing catch up. On shorter routes, tendency to round off cuts. Does a good job of finding the space in the zone.

Dangerous and explosive with the ball in his hands and that's why he's so good on tunnel and bubble screens. Small frame means he's always an injury risk. Misses a few plays a game because he's nicked up. Also tends to miss a game or 2 per season because of injuries. His presence opens up the run game because it makes every team play in a 2-deep look. Not that I would suggest it, but his contract makes it prohibitive to cut him, though not impossible if done as a post-June 1 cut. He's another guy who would benefit from better QB play.



Roberts, Andre

Height
5110

Weight
195

DATE OF BIRTH (AGE)
January 9th, 1988 (27)

Wide Receiver

BEST

Sharp and precise route runner, body control, quick-twitch

WORST

Focus, too many drops, not strong at POA, lacks elite top-end speed

PROJECTION

Above average slot receiver who could be a very good player with better concentration. Drops too many passes and doesn't win contested catches but could be a 1st down machine if he gets his head right.

SUMMARY

Terrific route runner that is hard to cover in man coverage. Sharp and precise in his routes. Poor hands – hard to say if it's just concentration or if he doesn't have the hands to consistently make the catch. Quick and sudden in his movements. Lack of focus is a major issue and affects every part of his game. Doesn't win contested catches because he doesn't attack the ball. Doesn't have the speed to really stretch the field from the slot. Slot receiver who ventures to the outside only rarely. Good with the ball in his hand. Sells the screen well and follows his blockers. Very good kick and punt returner. The fact that he's a good returner makes his contract worth it but if he can be coached up to have better concentration, he has a chance to be one of the better slot receivers in the game right now. There isn't another WR behind him on the depth chart that can offer what he does at the position. Roll with him in 2015 and see if he takes his game to the next level.

